WAY TO NEWS

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Revanth Reddy says Congress fulfilled 65% of poll promises

CM NAMES KCR AS MAIN POLITICAL RIVAL, CRITICISES BRS, BJP

Hyderabad, Nov 20 (Way to News): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday said the Congress government had fulfilled around 65 per cent of its poll promises during its first three years in office and would implement the remaining 35 per cent during the next two years. Speaking at an event in the city, Revanth Reddy criticised the BRS and the BJP, and observed that the BJP was not a political force in Telangana and was not a competitor to the Congress. “The BRS is our primary adversary,” he said.



He alleged that the BJP was involved in “vote theft” in states where it had a political presence and pointed out that the party had forfeited its deposit in the recent Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election. The Chief Minister said he considered former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao his main political rival in Telangana, while he did not regard BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao was a strong political leader. “KTR is a product of the 'management quota'. He became a leader by leaning on his father,” he remarked.

Taking a dig at the BRS leadership, he said its leaders were “living in a fool’s paradise”. “I don’t take the BRS all that seriously. KCR is Ravanasura in my story,” he said. The Chief Minister also took a swipe at Chandrashekar Rao over the defections witnessed during the BRS regime. “We would have wiped out the BRS long ago, but we want to keep the BRS around because there needs to be an opposition,” he said.

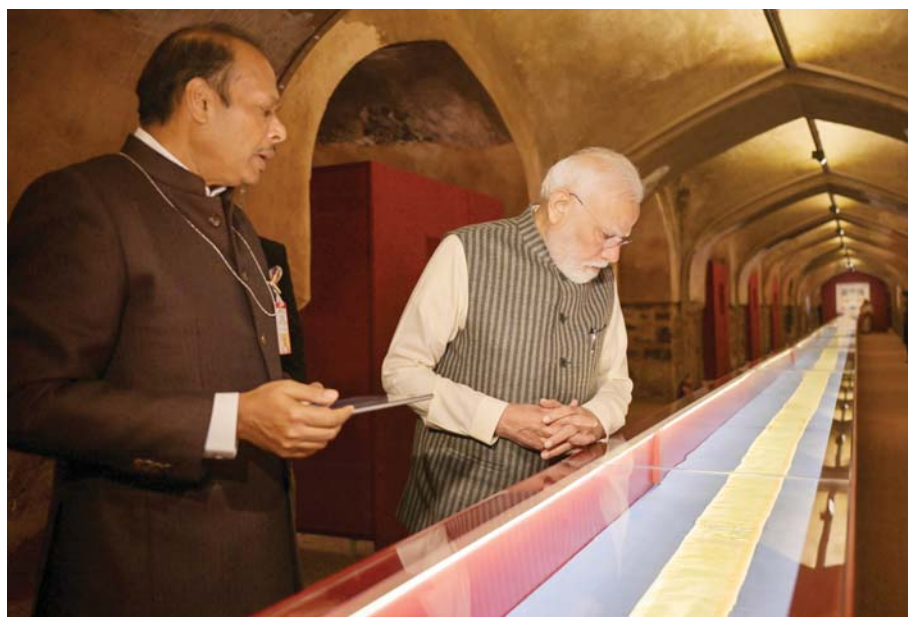
Speaking about football, he said the government was making efforts to bring Portuguese football star Cristiano Ronaldo to the state soon, recalling that it had already brought Argentine football icon Lionel Messi to Hyderabad last year as part of the footballer’s GOAT India Tour. Revanth Reddy had played a friendly football match with Messi at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium on December 13, 2025. “Messi is my favourite athlete. Maradona was also once my favourite football player,” he said.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s possible participation in the upcoming Global Summit and Khelo India Games to be hosted by Telangana, Revanth Reddy said it was his responsibility to invite the Prime Minister for major events. “Modi should take a call on whether to attend the event.

PM Modi Calls for Stronger SCO Cultural Cooperation to Promote Global Peace

AT FIRST CIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE FORUM, PM PROPOSES AI-BASED MANUSCRIPT TRANSLATION, JOINT RESEARCH AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES AMONG MEMBER NATIONS

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday pitched civilisational connections as a foundation for global peace at a time when the world was preoccupied with wars and unrest, calling on Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) members to deepen cultural cooperation through technology, joint research and people-to-people exchanges. Inaugurating the first SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum at Delhi’s historic Purana Qila, PM Modi said cultural connections were the “strongest guarantee for global peace” and argued that civilisational dialogue could help shape global thinking beyond geopolitical boundaries.



PM took a walkthrough of the exhibition showcased at the First Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum at Purana Qila, in New Delhi .

“The SCO Civilisational Summit is not merely a ceremonial platform, it has the potential to become a forum that provides direction to the world,” he said, underlining the need to build on centuries of exchanges among India, China, Central Asia and Eurasia. PM Modi proposed collaboration among SCO countries to digitise and translate ancient manuscripts, rare texts and historical documents, saying artificial intelligence could significantly accelerate the translation of literary and scholarly works that remained accessible in only a limited number of languages. He also called for joint exhibitions by museums, exchange programmes for scholars and researchers, cultural festivals and artist exchanges. The countries could explore heritage circuits linking historical sites associated with the Silk Roads and their shared Buddhist heritage, he suggested. The Prime Minister said 21st-century technology had opened up unprecedented opportunities for cultural connectivity, allowing people in countries once linked by journeys lasting months to connect within seconds.

He urged SCO members to use digital platforms to expand knowledge-sharing and cultural exchange, and to involve young artists, writers, filmmakers and local artisans in taking their shared heritage to new generations. Tracing the history of cultural exchanges across the region, the PM cited trade links between the Indus Valley Civilisation and Mesopotamia around 5000 years ago, followed by networks connecting India, China, Central Asia and Eurasia.

He recalled how Buddhist teachings travelled through Gandhara and Central Asia to China, with places such as Kucha and Dunhuang emerging as important centres. Chinese scholars Faxian, Xuanzang and Yijing travelled to India to study its intellectual traditions, while Nalanda served as a major centre of knowledge exchange.

PM Modi also cited the role of Kumarajiva, born in Kucha, in translating Buddhist texts into Chinese, and said such exchanges had enriched societies across the region.

India Seeks Detained Veteran’s Health Details in Qatar

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News):The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday that India has been in touch with Qatari authorities to ascertain the well-being of naval veteran Purnendu Tiwari and impress upon them to provide him with proper medical treatment if there is a need for it.



Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Friday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that India is seeking details regarding medical condition of Tiwari from the Qatari authorities. He expressed India’s commitment to making best efforts for Commander Tiwari, who remains in detention in Qatar. When asked about reports on Commander Tiwari being hospitalised, Jaiswal responded, “Yes, we have seen some media reports on his health condition. We have gotten in touch with the Qatari authorities so as to ascertain his well-being, as also to impress upon them that if there is a requirement of him getting proper medical attention. , that should be given to him.” “We also understand that he was recently hospitalised, and we are seeking further details in regard to his medical condition. Just to say that we remain committed to doing our best for Commander Tiwari, and we are in touch with his family members as well as the Qatari authorities,” he added.

Constitution Is the Moral Compass of the Republic: VP Radhakrishnan

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News): Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan said on Friday that the Constitution is much more than a legal document and represents the moral compass of the Republic. Inaugurating the 5th Edition of Constitution Week Celebrations 2026, organised by the School of Law of a private university at the Constitution Club of India in Delhi, the Vice President said that constitutional values must not remain confined to institutions and legal texts but must become an integral part of everyday public life.



He observed that democracy flourishes when institutions remain accountable, dissent is respected, and citizens exercise their rights and duties responsibly. Radhakrishnan stressed that duties deserve as much importance as rights, observing that responsible discharge of duties is essential to safeguarding the rights of all citizens. He said that India’s achievements over the last decade reflect the realisation of constitutional aspirations through tangible improvements in people’s lives. Citing the lifting of around 50 crore people out of poverty, the construction of 4 crore pucca houses for the poor, and rural tap water coverage crossing 82 per cent under the Jal Jeevan Mission, he said that even border villages, once at the lowest rung of development, are now emerging as vibrant villages. Radhakrishnan observed that these achievements represent a silent revolution made possible under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Highlighting women’s participation in nation-building, the Vice President recalled the valuable contributions of the 15 women members of the Constituent Assembly. He noted that their vision is being carried forward through initiatives such as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam.

CEC, ECS APPOINTMENT LAW

SC refuses urgent listing of recall plea before original bench

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News): The Supreme Court on Friday declined to entertain a request by advocate Prashant Bhushan for urgent listing of a recall application before the original two-judge Bench that had referred the challenge to the law governing the appointment of Election Commissioners to a Constitution Bench. Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant told Bhushan that the objection to the reference order could be raised before the five-judge Constitution Bench already constituted to hear the matter.



Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner, sought an urgent listing of the recall application before the same Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma, which had passed the reference order. Highlighting that Justice Sharma was due to retire at the end of next week, Bhushan urged the CJI to direct that the application be listed during the following week, arguing that the recall plea should be considered by the judges who had passed the original order.

However, CJI Kant declined the request, observing that the issue could be raised before the five-judge Constitution Bench when the matter came up for hearing. The CJI also indicated that the Constitution Bench could consider the recall application even after the retirement of Justice Sharma, declining the request to separately list it before the original two-judge Bench.

The recall application seeks reconsideration of the September 23 order by which Justices Datta and Sharma delivered a split verdict on whether the petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, warranted reference to a larger Bench.

India, France hold talks to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News): India and France held the 18th meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism (CT) in New Delhi on Friday, exchanging views on the threat of terrorism in their respective regions and globally, including state-sponsored and cross-border terrorism.



According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), both sides unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism and violent extremism. They also reiterated their strong condemnation of the April 2025 heinous Pahalgam terrorist attack and the November 2025 terror incident near Red Fort in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Suhel Ajaz Khan, Additional Secretary (CT) at the MEA, and Olivier Caron, French Ambassador at large and Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism and Organised Crime. “Both sides also discussed addressing the traditional and emerging challenges to counter terrorism, including the threats posed by the misuse of new and emerging technologies and financial technologies by terrorists and terrorist groups. The Indian side also briefed on the comprehensive National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy – Prahaar,” the MEA stated.

“The two sides discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation, including cooperation in countering financing of terrorism and online radicalisation, information sharing, capacity-building and training, and sharing of experiences and best practices,” it added.

Karnataka ASHA Protest Enters Fourth Day

Bengaluru, Nov 20 (Way to News): With the day and night protest by around 41,000 ASHA workers at Freedom Park in Bengaluru entering its fourth day on Friday, senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly R. Ashoka demanded that the Congress government immediately provide a written assurance on their demand for an increase in monthly honorarium to Rs 15,000 and fulfil their legitimate demands without further delay.



The ASHA workers, who are staging a round-the-clock protest, have refused to withdraw their agitation until Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar gives them a written assurance. Braving the biting cold, the workers are continuing their protest along with their young children. With no proper arrangements for rest, several protesters have been forced to use the road as their bed, sleeping in the cold while holding their children close to their chests.

In a statement on Friday, Ashoka accused the Congress govt of betraying the ASHA workers by failing to fulfil their legitimate demands and adopting an insensitive attitude towards their ongoing agitation. He criticised the government’s response to their demand for an increase in honorarium to Rs 15,000, alleging that their demand had been dismissed with the remark that the amount sought was too high and that they should not be “living in the air”.



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Revanth Reddy Reviews Rs 20,000 Crore Urban Development Plans

Proposals Focus on Climate-Resilient Infrastructure, Drainage Systems, Waste-to-Energy Projects and Sustainable Urban Growth in Telangana

Hyderabad, Nov 20 (Way to News): Chief Minister Mr. A. Revanth Reddy reviewed proposals prepared by the Municipal Administration Department for the development of urban infrastructure in the state. Discussions focused on plans to develop cities in a manner that is resilient to climate change and contributes to environmental conservation.

The Municipal Administration Department has prepared proposals for projects worth approximately Rs. 20,000 crore, to be undertaken with the support of international financial institutions—including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and Germany's KfW—alongside domestic financial institutions. The meeting included discussions on several proposals: the underground drainage and stormwater drainage systems for Warangal city, the restoration of the moat surrounding the Warangal Fort, and the development of a Central Business District in Hanamkonda.



Chief Minister provided directives to officials regarding urban drinking water supply, treatment, and distribution systems, emphasizing the need to reduce electricity consumption and integrate renewable energy sources.A proposal to establish a waste-to-energy plant—capable of generating 10 to 12 megawatts of electricity—within the Warangal Mega City Economic Region was reviewed. Discussions were also held regarding the setup of units for bio-CNG production and plastic recycling.

A dedicated policy is being formulated for the treatment and reuse of wastewater across the state. By supplying treated water to industries—particularly textile parks—the pressure on fresh water resources can be significantly reduced. The Chief Minister provided directives to officials regarding urban drinking water supply, treatment, and distribution systems, emphasizing the need to reduce electricity consumption and integrate renewable energy sources.A proposal to establish a waste-to-energy plant—capable of generating 10 to 12 megawatts of electricity—within the Warangal Mega City Economic Region was reviewed. Discussions were also held regarding the setup of units for bio-CNG production and plastic recycling.

These projects aim to reduce carbon emissions in urban areas, conserve water resources, mitigate flood risks, and lower the operational costs for municipal corporations. During the review, the Chief Minister stressed that urban development plans should address the growing needs of expanding cities while ensuring long-term environmental sustainability. He directed officials to prioritise modern infrastructure, scientific urban planning and climate-resilient facilities to improve the quality of life for residents.

Revanth Reddy also emphasised the importance of strengthening stormwater drainage networks to prevent urban flooding during heavy rainfall. He instructed officials to prepare comprehensive plans for effective rainwater management, particularly in areas vulnerable to waterlogging, and ensure that drainage projects were implemented with future population growth in mind. The Chief Minister called for coordination among various departments and financial institutions to ensure the timely execution of the proposed projects.

He asked officials to explore innovative financing mechanisms and adopt advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of municipal services and reduce the financial burden on urban local bodies.

He further directed the Municipal Administration Department to prepare clear implementation schedules and closely monitor the progress of each project. The government aims to transform Telangana's urban centres into sustainable, well-planned and economically vibrant cities through improved infrastructure, efficient resource management and environmentally friendly technologies.

Ponnam Prabhakar launches registration for Indiramma family insurance scheme



Hyderabad, Nov 20 (Patriotic Views): Hyderabad District In-charge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday launched the registration process for the Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme at Indira Priyadarshini Auditorium in Public Gardens, Hyderabad.

- **Scheme offers 5 lakh life insurance cover to eligible earning members aged 18-54, with premium fully paid by the State Govt.**
- **Registration open till December 18; Minister directs officials to ensure every eligible family in Hyderabad is covered.**

The programme was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLAs Naveen Yadav and Sri Ganesh, MLC Balamuri Venkat, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, Hyderabad District Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala and constituency in-charges. Speaking on the occasion, Ponnam Prabhakar said the government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was committed to public welfare, financial security, women's empowerment, education and healthcare.

He described the Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme as a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, providing life insurance coverage of Rs. 5 lakh to eligible families. The scheme aims to protect families from financial difficulties in the event of the death of their primary breadwinner. The scheme covers eligible earning members aged between 18 and 54 years, irrespective of caste, religion or income. The entire insurance premium will be borne by the state government, and beneficiaries will not have to pay anything. Families with multiple earning members can choose the individual to be covered and nominate one or more beneficiaries for the insurance amount. The Minister said registration would continue from November 19 to December 18, 2026. Applicants will need an Aadhaar card, ration card, if available, mobile number, family members' details and nominee information.

Highlighting the scale of the registration drive, he said Hyderabad district had 8,43,607 Food Security Cards covering 32,29,131 family members. He directed officials to conduct an extensive awareness campaign and ensure that every eligible family was covered. Special registration camps will be organised at urban ward offices across all nine circles of the district.

Ponnam Prabhakar also highlighted various welfare initiatives being implemented by the state government, including free bus travel for women, free electricity up to 200 units, distribution of fine-quality rice through ration shops and issuance of new ration cards to eligible families. He said houses were being constructed for poor families under the Indiramma Housing Scheme, with 5,000 houses planned per constituency in rural areas for eligible beneficiaries who own land. In Hyderabad, where land is expensive, the government is exploring double-bedroom and high-rise housing models.

He further stated that the government had extended interest-free loans amounting to Rs. 79,000 crore to women's self-help groups, with the state bearing the interest burden. Buses were also being provided to women's groups through their federations, enabling them to generate income by leasing them to the RTC.

Bhavagna Selected for National-Level Volleyball Championships



SANGAREDDY, Nov 20 (Way to News): Santi Bhavagna, a Class VII student of Sri Akshaya Vidyalaya, has brought laurels to her school by earning selection for the national-level volleyball championships. Bhavagna secured third place in the state-level volleyball competitions conducted under the aegis of the School Games Federation (SGF), thereby qualifying for the national-level championships. On the occasion, Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy congratulated Bhavagna on her achievement and wished her success in the national-level competitions, expressing confidence that she would continue to excel and bring further recognition to the district. Speaking on the occasion, Sangareddy District SGF Secretary Srinivas said that the student's dedication, determination and the encouragement extended by her parents had played a significant role in her success. He wished her the very best and expressed hope that she would deliver an outstanding performance at the national level and achieve greater milestones. The school management expressed happiness over Bhavagna's selection for the national-level championships.

MLA Sudheer Reddy lodges complaint with DGP C.V. Anand Over alleged police misconduct at Govt events

Hyderabad, 20 Nov (Way To News): LB Nagar MLA Devireddy Sudheer Reddy met Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) C.V. Anand and submitted a formal complaint regarding alleged protocol violations, police misconduct and discriminatory treatment during various official government programmes held in the LB Nagar Assembly constituency.

During the meeting, Sudheer Reddy brought to the DGP's attention several incidents in which police personnel allegedly prevented the local MLA from participating appropriately in official government functions and failed to maintain the prescribed protocol. He stated that such incidents had been recurring over the past three years, reflecting what he described as a continuing pattern of misconduct and partiality. He cited the following two specific incidents in support of his complaint.



1. Incident at Saroornagar Indoor Stadium (September 19, 2026)

During the distribution of house-site pattas under G.O. No. 118 at Saroornagar Indoor Stadium, several individuals without any official designation were allegedly allowed to occupy front-row seats on the dais.

Despite being the elected MLA representing the constituency, Sudheer Reddy alleged that police personnel failed to maintain the prescribed protocol. While he was addressing the gathering, an individual without any official position allegedly snatched the microphone from his hand.

He expressed concern that the police personnel remained silent spectators and failed to intervene or take appropriate action. He further stated that such incidents caused inconvenience to beneficiaries and disrupted the smooth conduct of public programmes.

2. Incident at Champapet Model Market (November 18, 2026)

Sudheer Reddy also brought to the DGP's notice an alleged incident during the Cheyutha pension distribution programme held at Champapet Model Market on November 18, 2026.

According to the preliminary information provided by GHMC officials, the programme was initially scheduled for 10:30 AM and was subsequently postponed to 4:30 PM. To ensure that pension beneficiaries faced no inconvenience and had adequate access to the venue, the MLA said he reached the location well in advance.

He state that he personally stood at the venue for nearly two hours to facilitate the orderly entry of beneficiaries. However, despite the revised schedule of 4:30 PM, the programme reportedly commenced only around 6:15 PM. He alleged that the delay appeared to have been intended to facilitate the entry of Congress party leaders and workers.

Subsequently, Congress leaders and party workers were escorted by police personnel to the upper floor of the venue. Despite the situation, Sudheer Reddy said that he and his supporters maintained restraint and patience. Later, following an invitation from GHMC officials, he went to the upper floor, where he found that the hall and the dais were already occupied by Congress party leaders and workers.

With the intention of ensuring the smooth conduct of the official government programme, he proceeded to the dais. When officials provided him an opportunity to speak through the microphone, he questioned the concerned Zonal Commissioner about the protocol that must be followed during official govt functions.

At that moment, Congress leaders and workers allegedly began behaving aggressively and disrespectfully towards him and attempted to move towards him, creating a tense and confrontational atmosphere. Instead of controlling the alleged unruly behaviour of the Congress leaders and ensuring adherence to the prescribed protocol, Sudheer Reddy alleged that police personnel acted against him and his party workers. He further claimed that police officers behaved aggressively and high-handedly, ordered them to leave the dais and the premises, and made inappropriate and insulting remarks.

He described the conduct of the police personnel as deeply distressing and completely unacceptable.

The MLA emphasised that official government programmes must be conducted in accordance with established protocol, giving due recognition to constitutionally elected public representatives and duly authorised officials. However, he alleged that a large number of ruling party leaders and workers were allowed to enter the venue well in advance, occupy the hall and dominate the dais.

When he and his party members questioned the alleged violations of protocol and the preferential treatment extended to ruling party members, police personnel allegedly resorted to threats, rude behaviour and attempts to forcibly remove them from the venue.

He stated that such actions not only violated established government protocol but also amounted to the arbitrary and alleged unlawful exercise of police authority. He expressed particular concern that personnel entrusted with maintaining law and order and protecting citizens were allegedly engaging in such conduct. He alleged that these officials were primarily responsible for creating and escalating tensions through their alleged biased conduct and preferential treatment towards ruling party leaders and workers.

He urged the DGP to initiate immediate action against the officials concerned and ensure that the police department functions impartially and treats all political parties equally.

The MLA clarified that, as the elected representative of the LB Nagar Assembly constituency, he was not seeking any special privileges beyond the dignity, recognition and protocol legally entitled to the office of a Member of the Legislative Assembly. He emphasised that elected public representatives must be treated with due respect and that govt programmes should be conducted in a transparent and impartial manner, without allowing unauthorised individuals to influence police personnel or official proceedings.

Responding to the representation, DGP C.V. Anand assured Sudheer Reddy that strict action would be taken against anyone found violating the law. He also assured him that appropriate measures would be implemented to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future.

Police Officials Named in the Complaint

Sudheer Reddy specifically brought the conduct of the following police officials to the DGP's attention:

- 1. Saiulu – Circle Inspector, Chaitanyapuri Police Station.
- 2. Srisailam – Circle Inspector, Saroornagar Police Station.
- 3. Ravinder Reddy – Assistant Commissioner of Police, LB Nagar Division.
- 4. Venkateshwarlu – Detective Inspector, Chaitanyapuri.

Key Demands Submitted to the DGP

- In his representation, Sudheer Reddy sought the following measures:
- Initiate appropriate disciplinary action against police officials found guilty of violating established protocol and engaging in misconduct.
- Issue clear instructions to all police personnel in the LB Nagar constituency to strictly follow government protocol during official programmes.
- Ensure that the local elected MLA is duly informed about the schedules of all official government programmes in the constituency.
- Provide the elected representative with appropriate protocol and an opportunity to participate in official government functions.
- Take preventive measures to ensure that such incidents do not recur in the future.
- Ensure that government programmes are conducted transparently, impartially and respectfully, without interference from individuals who hold no official authority.

Sridhar Babu Highlights Telangana's Technology Vision at UN Global Impact Summit

Hyderabad, Nov 20 (Patriotic Views): Hon'ble IT & Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu addressed the Global Impact Summit at the United Nations, organised by 1M1B, on Friday, highlighting Telangana's growing presence in the global technology landscape and its vision of using innovation and emerging technologies to drive inclusive development. Addressing the summit, the Minister said Telangana has established itself as an important destination for information technology, life sciences and pharmaceuticals, and is now expanding its focus on artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing and other emerging technologies.



He emphasised that technological advancement should go beyond economic growth and help address real-world challenges. Highlighting the State Government's focus on Artificial Intelligence and digital innovation, he said these technologies offer significant opportunities to improve healthcare, education, sustainability and employment. The Minister stressed the need for stronger collaboration among governments, industry, academic institutions, startups and global organisations to build an innovation ecosystem capable of developing solutions with wider social and economic impact.

He highlighted Telangana's strengths in IT, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, and outlined Hyderabad's ambition to emerge as a global centre for Artificial Intelligence, research, talent development and technology-led entrepreneurship.

Sridhar Babu also emphasised the importance of equipping young people with industry-relevant skills and providing aspiring innovators and entrepreneurs with the opportunities and platforms to take their ideas to the global stage. Inviting global technology companies, investors, innovators and institutions to explore opportunities in Telangana, the Minister called for greater international partnerships in developing and adopting emerging technologies. Reaffirming the State's commitment to global cooperation, he said Telangana is keen to contribute to a future in which technological progress goes hand in hand with human development and delivers tangible benefits to society.



The Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant; Member of Parliament, Shri Ravi Kishan; and the Festival Director, 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Shri Ashutosh Gowariker in a group photograph after felicitating the International Competition Jury Members during the Opening Ceremony of the 57th IFFI, in Panaji, Goa.

Supreme Court rejects Tamil Nadu plea for additional cauvery water

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News): The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed applications filed by the Tamil Nadu government seeking directions to Karnataka to release additional Cauvery river water to meet the state's requirements. A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Aparesh Kumar Singh passed the order, declining to direct Karnataka to make further releases of Cauvery water.

"We have dismissed (the application)," the Justice Nath-led Bench said while pronouncing the order.

Tamil Nadu had approached the apex court seeking directions for the immediate release of its due share of Cauvery water, claiming that the shortfall in water supply was adversely affecting farmers and crops in the state.



The applications were filed amid a continuing dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over the sharing of Cauvery River water, particularly in view of concerns over rainfall and water availability in the river basin. Karnataka had opposed Tamil Nadu's demand, maintaining that it was complying with the directions issued by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). The neighbourng state had also highlighted drought-like conditions in several districts, reduced inflows into its reservoirs and the need to prioritise drinking water requirements.

Karnataka had further contended that the CWMA and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) were already monitoring the release and distribution of water between the two states. Earlier, the Supreme Court had permitted Tamil Nadu to approach the CWMA with its grievance that Karnataka was not releasing the state's proportionate share of Cauvery water and posted the matter for further hearing on August 31. Tamil Nadu had sought directions for Karnataka to release 26.954 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) of water. claiming that the quantity being released was inadequate despite the availability of water in the neighbouring state's reservoirs.The state government had contended that it was not receiving its proportionate share in accordance with the prescribed water-sharing arrangement.

The dispute concerns the sharing of Cauvery River water between the two states, with Tamil Nadu repeatedly alleging inadequate releases and Karnataka citing constraints arising from prevailing hydrological conditions and drinking water requirements.

Yogi Announces Regular Distribution of Job Appointment Letters Till January 2027

Gorakhpur, Nov 20 (Way to News): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said there was no shortage of employment opportunities in the state and announced that appointment letters would be distributed to eligible candidates every five to seven days until January 26, 2027. The Chief Minister made the announcement while distributing tablets to more than 50,000 students and trainees from Gorakhpur, Deoria, Kushinagar and Maharajganj at a ceremony held in Gorakhpur under the second phase of the Swami Vivekananda Youth Empowerment Scheme.



During the programme, CM Yogi personally handed over tablets to 23 students and watched a short film highlighting the scheme's achievements. Addressing the gathering on the occasion of Devutthana Ekadashi, the Chief Minister announced that after cracking down on the mafia and eliminating organised crime, the state government was now preparing to launch a strict campaign against drug traffickers.

He urged young people to stay away from all forms of drugs and warned that those involved in drug trafficking would face stringent action. He said the government would not allow anyone to destroy the future of the state's youth.

At the conclusion of the programme, CM Yogi also took a selfie with the students and trainees as they held their newly distributed tablets aloft. The Chief Minister also criticised the incident in which a Class 10 student was trampled during a Samajwadi Party rally in Gorakhpur two days ago, describing it as a blot on Uttar Pradesh's identity. He said the student, who was on his way to pick up his younger sister from school, was the great-grandson of Pujan Singh, a revolutionary associated with the Chauri Chaura incident.

CM Yogi said those who resort to disorder and create chaos during elections would not be spared, adding that the government would deal firmly with such elements.

Responding to the Opposition's criticism with figures, the Chief Minister said the state government had issued 1.75 million appointment letters over the past nine and a half years.

India, Portugal Commit to Finalise Five-Year Roadmap for Bilateral Relations

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News): India and Portugal on Friday underscored their shared commitment to finalise the comprehensive Five-Year Roadmap for India-Portugal Relations (2027-2032), which will serve as a strategic blueprint to guide bilateral cooperation.



Both countries held the sixth round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, which were co-chaired by Secretary (West) in the MEA, Sibi George, and Director General for Foreign Policy, Portugal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Helena Malcata. The last FOC took place in Lisbon in November 2025. "India-Portugal bilateral relations continue to experience robust growth, propelled by sustained high-level political exchanges and expanding commercial linkages across the private sector. Looking forward, both sides underscored their shared commitment to finalise the comprehensive Five-Year Roadmap for India-Portugal Relations (2027-2032), which will serve as a strategic blueprint to guide bilateral cooperation over the coming half-decade," the MEA said in a statement.

Both sides held a comprehensive review of the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including political engagement, trade and investment, defence and security, renewable energy, agriculture, science and technology, digital technologies, tourism, education, mobility and people-to-people ties. "To further strengthen this partnership, both sides reviewed the current status of several bilateral agreements currently under negotiation. Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to expediting these discussions and working closely toward the early conclusion and signing of the pending frameworks," the statement mentioned.

The two sides also expressed happiness on the growing India-EU strategic partnership, welcomed the conclusion of the landmark India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations and looked forward to its proposed signing and implementation.

Congress Secures Majority in Four Jaipur Panchayat Samitis, BJP Leaders Lose Polls

Jaipur, Nov 20 (Way to News): The Congress has secured a majority in four Panchayat Samitis in Jaipur district — Amer, Andhi, Jhotwara and Shahpura — as counting for the Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections continues at the Bhawani Niketan campus. In a major setback for the BJP, both Jaipur Zila Pramukh Rama Chopra and Up-Zila Pramukh Mohan Dagar have lost their respective elections. Rama Chopra was defeated by Congress candidate Sunil Kumawat from Ward No. 18. In the Jaipur Zila Parishad elections, the Congress is leading in 18 seats, while the BJP is ahead in four, indicating an advantage for the Congress in the district.



The Congress has secured a majority in four of the district's Panchayat Samitis. In Amer, the Congress has won 11 of the 21 wards. In Andhi, it has won all 12 seats for which results have been declared out of 19 wards.

In Jhotwara, the party has secured eight of the 15 seats, while in Shahpura, it has won 10 of the 15 wards.

The Congress is also set to form the Board in Jamwa Ramgarh, having won 11 of the 23 wards, with results for only seven seats pending.

Meanwhile, the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) has secured a majority in the Sanganer Panchayat Samiti.

The BJP has failed to open its account in the Phagi and Andhi Panchayat Samitis.

District Election Officer Sandesh Nayak said that five rooms have been designated for counting votes for Zila Parishad members. A total of 98 counting tables have been arranged for all 57 wards. Meanwhile, among the declared results, Congress candidates.

11 Dead, 180 Hospitalised After Suspected Spurious Liquor Consumption in Manipur District

Imphal, Nov 20 (Way to News): At least 11 people, mostly young and middle-aged, have died, while around 180 others have been hospitalised over the past three days, allegedly after consuming spurious liquor in Manipur's Chandel district, officials said on Friday. Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh visited two private hospitals to enquire about the health condition of patients who fell ill after allegedly consuming spurious liquor.



A police official said that a 50-year-old man, identified as Hrangbung Beruwng Anal, first died at his residence in Nungpan village on Wednesday night. Subsequently, ten more people died on Thursday and Friday in different villages of Chandel district. They reportedly died either while being taken to hospitals or at local Primary Health Centres (PHCs) or Community Health Centres (CHCs). Over 180 patients from Chandel district have been admitted to various hospitals after falling ill following the consumption of spurious liquor. Chandel District Superintendent of Police Dharmendra Kumar, in a report submitted to the Deputy Commissioner of Chandel district, Mamoni Doley, said that the adulterated liquor reportedly consumed by the victims had been purchased from Sugnu in neighbouring Kakching district.

The mountainous Chandel district shares an unfenced border with Myanmar. A district administration official said that, in view of reports of deaths suspected to be associated with the consumption of adulterated liquor in Chakpikarong subdivision and adjoining areas of Chandel district, the general public has been advised to exercise utmost caution.

The exact cause of the deaths is yet to be medically established and remains under investigation, the official said. He also said that there was no known local brewing or manufacturing of local wine in Chandel district. The circumstances surrounding the deaths are being treated with utmost seriousness, the official added. "Members of the public are strongly advised to refrain from consuming locally brewed liquor or alcoholic beverages of doubtful origin, particularly from suspected sources in the affected areas, until further notice," an official statement said. It added that the exact cause of the deaths is yet to be medically and scientifically established and is under investigation. The Chandel district administration, as a precautionary measure, has issued seven-point advisories in the interest of public health and safety. The advisory includes refraining from consuming locally brewed liquor or alcoholic beverages of doubtful origin, particularly from suspected sources in the affected areas, until further notice.

India's first bullet train service targeted for late 2027: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News): Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said that India's first bullet train project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad has moved beyond the planning stage and is witnessing rapid progress on the ground, with the first high-speed rail service targeted to begin operations in the last quarter of 2027. Highlighting the scale of construction, the minister said the 508-km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail corridor is one of the country's most ambitious infrastructure projects, aimed at significantly reducing travel time between two of India's largest economic centres. "India's first bullet train is no longer an announcement. It is 508 km of construction, moving at full pace. The first service begins in the last quarter of 2027!" Vaishnaw noted.



Once operational, the journey between Ahmedabad and Mumbai will take less than two hours, compared to the current road travel time of around eight to nine hours.

Vaishnaw said the project is much more than a transportation initiative, as it is expected to integrate multiple fast-growing economic hubs across Maharashtra and Gujarat into a single high-growth corridor.

Cities such as Mumbai, Thane, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Anand and Ahmedabad will become more strongly connected, enabling faster movement of people, businesses and opportunities.

The minister noted that the project received a major push after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Government of Japan laid its foundation stone in September 2017. Japan has provided its renowned high-speed rail technology, which has operated for over six decades without a passenger fatality. However, land acquisition delays in Maharashtra and disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic slowed the initial pace of execution, with full-scale construction gathering momentum from 2021 onward.

Explaining the technological challenges involved, Vaishnaw said high-speed rail systems require a completely different level of engineering compared to conventional railways. The corridor has been designed for speeds of up to 350 kmph, with trains expected to operate at 320 kmph.

Such speeds demand advanced systems for traction, braking, track infrastructure, aerodynamics and passenger safety. The minister said the project is being built largely on an elevated corridor to ensure uninterrupted operations. Around 465 km of the 508-km route is being constructed on viaducts, eliminating level crossings and reducing risks from trespassing or cattle movement on tracks. The elevated design also minimises land-use disruption by allowing roads and agricultural activities to continue beneath the structure. Providing an update on construction progress, Vaishnaw said that as of September 2026, pier work had been completed over 456 km and viaduct construction over 371 km.

More than six lakh noise barriers have been installed along a 299-km stretch, while 9,300 overhead equipment masts have been erected across 206 km of viaduct.

He added that four mountain tunnels have already been excavated, while work is progressing on the 21-km tunnel in Maharashtra, of which about 5 km has been completed through mountain tunnelling methods. The project also includes India's first undersea rail tunnel beneath Thane Creek.

Women Wrestlers' Appeal Against Brij Bhushan's Acquittal to Be Heard on November 27-28

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News): A Delhi court will hear arguments on November 27 and 28 on an appeal filed by four women wrestlers challenging the acquittal of former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in an alleged sexual harassment case.



The Rouse Avenue Court has also scheduled December 5 and 9 for hearing arguments on behalf of Singh, who has filed his response to the appeal before the Sessions Court. The appeal has been filed by four women wrestlers challenging the trial court's judgment acquitting Singh and former WFI Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar.

The appellants have contended that the trial court's judgment was not sustainable in law and that the evidence on record had not been correctly assessed. The appeal also challenges Tomar's acquittal on a charge of criminal intimidation under Section 506 Part I of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), levelled by one of the complainants.

On October 28, the court granted Singh a final opportunity to file his response within one week, making it clear that no further opportunity would be granted. Earlier, on September 28, the Rouse Avenue Court had issued notice to Singh and Tomar, seeking their responses to the appeal. The matter was subsequently listed on October 9, when the court granted the respondents additional time to file their replies. In a judgment delivered on August 3, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Ashwini Panwar acquitted Singh and Tomar, holding that the prosecution had failed to establish the charges against them beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case dates back to January 2023, when several wrestlers, including Olympians Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, staged a protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, accusing Singh of sexual harassment and intimidation.

The wrestlers had demanded Singh's resignation as WFI chief and sought the dissolution of the federation.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Editorial

JNU Students Defend Academic Freedom

A huge gathering of students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) assembled in the open space in the vicinity of the varsity's School of Social Sciences-II building for a discussion on JNU alumnus Umar Khalid's book, Fractured Communities: Adivasi Histories and the Politics of Power on Monday (August 10), after the university cancelled permission to organise the discussion in an auditorium. Khalid has been incarcerated for five years without trial and his book is based on his Ph.D thesis accepted by JNU which conferred the degree on him. Extraordinarily, discussion of his book in spite of the denial of a hall to do so by JNU authorities is reminiscent of the Tennis Court Oath of June 20, 1789, preceding the historic French Revolution anchored on Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. Like the authorities of JNU denying a hall to its students to exercise their constitutional and academic freedom to discuss Khalid's book, the French king refused to allot a room in Paris for meeting of the Constituent Assembly in 1789 for framing a Constitution. So the exasperated people met in a tennis court and took oath to resolutely remain together to complete the framing of a Constitution for France disregarding all difficulties. Eventually the Tennis Court Oath has become an invaluable reference point in the history of constitution making in the world.

When Nehru invoked tennis court oath It is educative to note that when Jawaharlal Nehru moved the Objectives Resolution in the Constituent Assembly of India on December 13, 1946, he invoked Oath of Tennis Court and recalled how French people in defiance of that decision of the King took a vow in a tennis court of never separating until a written constitution had been established for France.

Nehru stated that like people in France taking an oath to remain united for framing the Constitution of that country, "we, too, whether we meet in this chamber or other Chambers, or in the fields or in the market-place, will go on meeting and continue our work till we have finished it."

The spirit of the Tennis Court Oath of 1789 and those ringing words of Nehru resonated in the actions of the JNU students who convened themselves in open space to reflect on Khalid's book by not succumbing to the decision of JNU authorities who withdrew their earlier permission to hold the event. The Tennis Court Oath constituted a revolutionary act and expressed the exertions of authority of people's choice against the imposition of the will of a monarch which eventually gave way for the Revolution.

That is the reason why JNU students, in summoning courage and conviction to carry forward the constitutionally enshrined rights, to discuss a book of Khalid has upheld constitutional morality which B.R. Ambedkar

The students are looking for education's lost key

Anilkumar Payyappilly Vijayan



Years ago, Dr Cyriac Mathews, formerly additional director of Collegiate Education, Kerala, shared with me a story that has remained with me ever since. A teacher was dictating notes to his students with enormous confidence. Halfway through the lecture, one of the brighter students interrupted him politely. "Sir, the last sentence you dictated is structurally incorrect. There is a grammatical problem."

The teacher did not pause for even a second. "There is no possibility of that," he declared. "These are the notes given to me in my student days by Father Peter, who had studied in Rome." (Name changed) The joke is not really about Rome. It is about a civilisation's relationship with authority – and about the remarkable durability of its notes. The world may change. Knowledge may change. Society may change. Yet the notes remain untouched, sanatan, because they were once authorised by someone who supposedly knew better. The teacher does not examine the sentence. He does not ask whether it is correct. For him, its authority lies in its provenance: Fr Peter studied in Rome; therefore, the note must be right. That is learning for many: The world changes, but the notes do not.

Knowledge ceases to be knowledge when its truth derives not from argument but from pedigree. A sentence does not become grammatically correct because it travelled from Rome. Nor does an educational policy become intellectually sound merely because Delhi has stamped it. But sadly, we have increasingly constructed a system in which authority, rather than inquiry, determines what counts as knowledge; and in which conformity to a prescribed standard is mistaken for learning. Perhaps we should therefore begin with the Constitution. The constitutional question

The word concurrent is not an obscure constitutional technicality. It implies acting together, occurring together, sharing authority. A Concurrent List presupposes a relationship between the Union and the States in which neither is simply expected to dictate to the other. Education was not originally placed there. When the constitution came into force, education was in the State List. This reflected an important understanding of its nature in a country as extraordinarily diverse as India. Education is inseparable from language, culture, local history and social experience. The educational needs of Kerala cannot simply be assumed to be identical to those of Punjab, Assam or Tamil Nadu. Then came the 42nd Constitutional Amendment in 1976, during the Emergency. Among its many centralising provisions, it moved education from the State List to the Concurrent List. This did not create NEET, NET, NAAC or NIRF. Nor did it automatically transform education into a centrally administered subject. But it altered the constitutional location of educational authority. The Union was no longer confined to the limited role it had previously occupied.

To understand what that earlier limitation meant, we have to return to the Constituent Assembly.

The debate of August 31, 1949 (p 789) concerned the Union's legislative power over certain institutions of higher education, scientific and technical education and research. Ambedkar's proposal concerned "Co-ordination and maintenance of standards." V. S. Sarwate objected that even this might become an unnecessary interference in the provincial sphere, defending "diversity and variety" and freedom for educational experimentation.

Dr P. S. Deshmukh raised a related question: if university education remained with the Provinces, what exactly would the Union's power to coordinate and determine standards authorise Parliament to do? (p 792) Then Basanta Kumar Das proposed something much closer to what we would today call a National Education Policy: coordination of the educational activities of the States "for the purpose of maintaining a uniform national educational policy", together with financial assistance to maintain a uniform standard of education throughout the Union. (p 793) The possibility of a centrally coordinated national educational policy was therefore not something the Constituent Assembly had failed to imagine. They imagined it – and did not incorporate it. Das withdrew the proposal. (p 797) Ambedkar's own concern was considerably narrower. He was worried about universities lowering standards or manipulating results in ways that would make qualifications meaningless. His example was almost comically mundane: if one university treated 15% as a pass mark for a B.A. degree and another treated 20% as the standard, what would the word "graduate" actually mean? (p 796)

His concern was with protecting the credibility of qualifications, not with designing a uniform national educational philosophy.

The framers were concerned with protecting standards, not standardising education. They could distinguish between the credibility of a qualification and the diversity of the institutions that produced it.

Sarwate's insistence on diversity was not an argument against standards. It was an argument against confusing standards with uniformity. That is the constitutional imagination from which we have travelled so far. When the state changedBut something else changed alongside the constitutional shift: the old language with which we had construed the world. The Friedmanite turn supplied capitalism with a new language. In his celebrated 1970 essay, "The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Its Profits", Milton Friedman argued that the corporate executive's responsibility was to conduct business in the interests of its owners – generally, to make as much money as possible – while conforming to the basic rules of society.

The shift was subtle but profound. The question of an institution's ethical purpose could increasingly be displaced by a question of its permitted conduct: not what ought an institution to do but what it is permitted to do. The state no longer had to stand simply outside the market as its regulator, as an ethical principle. It could become the maker of the rules through which markets were created, measured and monetised. Standards, examinations, accreditation, rankings and certification could themselves become markets.

India does not need another slogan



Prabal Basu Roy

As I enter the twilight years of my life, I often wonder what kind of country we are bequeathing to the next generation. Nothing is more distressing than the quality of our public life the frightening decline in political discourse, the inability to remain objective in the face of facts, and, above all, our growing inability to distinguish between people, party and issues when seeking solutions to difficult problems.

Independence Day provides a unique opportunity for calm, non-partisan reflection – a mixture of nostalgia, pride, hope, apprehension and poignancy. We have undoubtedly made extraordinary progress since 1947. Yet Tagore's exhortation in Gitanjali to let reason prevail should make us ask some uncomfortable questions. Where are we going as a nation? And why have we made it so difficult simply to do the right thing?

In 2021, as part of an 'India@75' series for the national edition of a major publication, I had written with considerable optimism about India's trajectory, although I also identified warning signals. Five years later, I find myself considerably more concerned. The problem is not that politicians disagree, or ruthlessly and unscrupulously seek power. These are inherent in democracies though the paths could be more refined. The deeper problem is that we have reached a point where doing the right thing has become politically more difficult than doing the politically expedient thing. Consider major events over the last three years. Let's reflect on Manipur. It should not have required an extreme step of a no-confidence motion in 2023 for the prime minister to speak at length about a devastating internal conflict involving displacement, destruction and horrific violence against women – indeed an abject surrender of the state with constabularies being looted in broad daylight. Instead of becoming a moment for national introspection and bipartisan problem-solving, parliament descended into accusation and counter-accusation. Doing the right thing was obvious: acknowledge the suffering, establish accountability, restore security and rebuild trust. Political discourse across the spectrum in the 2024 elections increasingly revolved around identity, fear and emotive symbolism — mangalsutra (a necklace worn by married Hindu women), mandir (temple), 'mandi mein kya bhav (what's the market price)' and competing narratives designed to divide the electorate. There was remarkably little sustained conversation about the issues that determine what kind of India we leave behind: polluted air, unsafe cities, collapsing infrastructure, railway safety, education, employment and widening economic disparities. The structure of political incentives is increasingly rewarding what is electorally effective rather than what is a national necessity. The R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder in Kolkata in 2024 is again in the news today. The tragedy was especially disturbing because it involved the state's most sacred duty — ensuring security and justice. The crime on a young doctor at her workplace, followed by serious questions over the initial institutional response, investigation and subsequent vandalism of the crime site, severely eroded public confidence in governance. In 2025, even the avoidable became normal. At the Maha Kumbh, where the scale and risks of an unprecedented gathering were known in advance, a crowd crush killed pilgrims. The scale of the gathering was known; crowd behaviour was predictable; previous Kumbh stampedes were part of history. Yet basic risk management still failed. The issue isn't merely that an accident happened—it is why known risks weren't acted upon beforehand. The pattern repeated itself in the Bengaluru stampede after the Royal Challenger's Bangalore's Indian Premier League victory event, and the Lionel Messi fiasco in Kolkata. Increasingly, governance seems to be hostage to either repeated incompetence or political interference and prevents us from doing the right thing. The recent student agitation in 2026 over examination irregularities provides an even simpler illustration of the failure to do the right thing.

Thousands of young people protested after repeated examination controversies and alleged paper leaks. Instead of engaging them early with sincerity, the confrontation escalated into brutal police action. The Supreme Court subsequently sought a fair and independent investigation into allegations of excessive force. Whatever one's view of the protesters' methods or demands, why could engagement and dialogue not be the government's first response?

India's Delimitation Must Ensure Federal Fairness

Mano Thangaraj



Few constitutional questions have generated as much public debate in recent years as the prospect of the next delimitation exercise. Often described as a routine administrative process to redraw parliamentary constituencies after the first census conducted following 2026, delimitation is in fact far more than that. It touches India's constitutional architecture, the balance of power between the Union and the states, and the future of cooperative federalism itself. Public discourse has too often reduced the issue to a contest between northern and southern States, as though it were simply a struggle for political advantage. That framing misses the real constitutional question, which is not whether one region should gain at another's expense, but whether India can reconcile two equally important principles of democratic equality and federal fairness without sacrificing either.

Every democracy must ensure citizens enjoy fair representation; every federation must ensure its constituent units retain a meaningful voice within the Union. How India resolves this tension will shape not just the composition of future Lok Sabhas, but the character of the republic for decades to come. Through the 1960s and 1970s, successive Union governments treated population stabilisation as a national priority, urging every State to invest in family planning, maternal healthcare and women's education. States responded unevenly. Several southern states, along with a few others, invested heavily in healthcare infrastructure, female literacy and family welfare, and saw fertility rates fall and human development indicators improve as a result.

Other states, working under differing historical, economic, and social conditions, saw much higher population growth, though many have narrowed that gap considerably in recent decades. Recognising this divergence, parliament passed the 42nd Constitutional Amendment in 1976, freezing the allocation of Lok Sabha seats among the States. The logic was straightforward: States that had faithfully pursued the national goal of population stabilisation should not lose parliamentary representation simply because they had grown more slowly. The 84th Amendment, in 2001, extended that freeze until the first census after 2026, and the National Population Policy of 2000 reaffirmed the same assurance that pursuing population stabilisation would not leave a State politically disadvantaged. Taken together, these were not just temporary political compromises. They amounted to a constitutional understanding between the Union and the States, one that States understood as doing what the nation asked of them would not eventually cost them their voice in parliament. That expectation is the foundation of the present debate.

The democratic case for periodic reallocation is real and cannot simply be waved away. Population change must eventually be reflected in political representation, and citizens in fast growing States have a legitimate claim to effective representation of their own. But democracy is not the constitution's only organising principle. India is not merely a democracy of numbers; it is a Union of states, and the constitution deliberately combines representative democracy with federalism, recognising that national unity rests on equality among citizens and on meaningful participation by every state. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held federalism to be part of the constitution's Basic Structure, which places it among the foundational principles that define what kind of republic India is meant to be.

So the real question is not whether population should matter; it plainly should, but whether population alone should determine how political power is distributed in a federal Union. If representation is redrawn purely on today's population figures, states that succeeded at the very policy the Union asked them to pursue would see their influence in parliament decline relative to others. That is a genuine paradox: success at national policy producing a political disadvantage. Governments routinely ask states to commit to long-term national objectives, and cooperative federalism depends on states trusting that meeting those goals will not later become a liability.

Several southern states have long argued that they contribute disproportionately to India's growth through industrial output, exports, direct tax collections, GST revenue and stronger human development outcomes even as their share of fiscal transfers under successive Finance Commissions has, in their view, not kept pace. Not every element of that argument commands universal agreement, but the underlying concern is genuine, constitutionally serious, and widely shared. If delimitation now reduces these states' parliamentary influence, many will reasonably feel they face a fiscal and political double disadvantage.

Federal systems endure not because the relevant clauses exist on paper, but because every constituent unit continues to believe it remains an equal stakeholder in the Union. A framework that gradually leaves some states feeling that demographic change alone decides.

The Good Indian's Guide to Generations

Mrinal Pande



English speaking cultural icons in India have always made a lot more money than those who can't. Their self assured regal presence, their grey-edged laconic attitudes and witty asides in the vernaculars have been in demand everywhere in the media, in literary fests and as emcees on stage – until in 2026 they suddenly can't. They are dazed immigrants in this new digital world where the young control the social-media communicating in a new 'khichdi' language with limited number of words propped up with music and memes.

Problem with the old (read boomers and Gen-X-verging-on-boomerdom), is that they are used to an era of talking emotionally to vast audiences but without actual feeling. Saying for example, 'Ma aaj bhi bahut yaad aati hai (I still remember Mother a lot)' in a choked voice to find emotive resonance within their traditional audiences. Their bête noire, the cockroaches, have already sensed this. Their antennae share this gift with actual roaches whose sense of self preservation helps them overcome greed. When faced with new sugar-coated pesticides, the roaches cut out sugar altogether. Gen Z does this too. Threatened by the acute power differential between the system's controllers and their generation's vulnerable existence as citizens, Gen Z are impervious to sweet condescending speeches about India's 'youth dividend'. Older generations 'forgiving' the protesters as if they were children have no currency either. What if our leaders had realised the young see it as public humiliation and taken a deep breath and invited the Cockroach Janata Party leaders and their self chosen representatives while there was time. They could even have offered that the young come to hear the parliament discuss these issues just for one day in a session no political party could choose to ignore in their own interest, if nothing else.

Instead the lady in pearls called them 'generation gutter'. And the Power Pack either bad mouthed them or receded into silence. All the while also giving police forces in some areas a wink and a nod to use physical force and then milking it to create another narrative with whataboutery.

As things stand after the somewhat inglorious end of the Monsoon Session of the parliament, this is a position that the CJP and its followers maintain steadily. To them, identities of their deemed adversaries have become opinions and opinions their sole identities. Like all generations of children growing up surrounded by overpowering domineering elders, the CJP and its supporters stand armed with intuitive knowledge about the tricks employed by The Other as also their trigger points that when employed, will help bare their true faces and intent to hang on to power.

So India is at the moment close to an emotionally charged Hindi family drama on OTT that has multiple generations locked in conflicts straight out of Ekta Kapoor dramas. Each side claims to be right and unwilling to concede an inch of ground. Each side holds meetings in huddles strategising on how to suppress the revolt against vital discipline that holds things together and/or to snatch back their independence and walk out.

God knows who inspired the ruling group to celebrate International Youth Day on August 12, as a last ditch effort to pour oil over troubled waters. This was preceded by the usual flurry of one sided messages in the media heaping praises on our youth. The PM posted a message in Hindi, praising India's youth, "the present and the future of the nation" and praised how the young have created an image for themselves with sensitivity, a service ethic and capabilities.

The by now globally famous cockroaches took it in waving their antennae slowly. Then they became more inclusive and spoke of Gen Alpha's outstanding problem, a dysfunctional and opaque school system. Their leader Abhijeet Dipke noted how a post about Nagpur girl students demanding bus transport because their school is 7 km away surfaced in social media. After CJP's two-day strategy session in Maharashtra, the outfit not only announced a list of its office bearers but it also brought out an agenda that said that on Independence Day, the CJP will launch a 'School Theek Karo (set the school system right)' movement. Come September this will be followed by the launch of a flagship national listening campaign 'Kya Bolti Public? (What is the public saying)' on September 1. During this the leadership of the party will travel all over India "to shape a citizen-driven youth Reform Charter." Periodic updates will follow. As is obvious, in days to come, the CJP will take the Gen Apha in its fold and go on to invite Boomers and Gen X to a direct public confrontation using social media instead of mainstream reporters and anchors they no longer trust.

In those midnight's children boomers in the Ved Vyas-mode like this columnist, living in self-imposed exile in their retirement pads with their phones and TV remotes in hand, a certain hope-laced curiosity about what-happens-next is being seen. Today unbelievable things are happening. Our screens, in a series of firsts in 75 years of Independence showed the ruling party protesting against the opposition outside the Parliament with placards asking the opposition to apologise for the violence in Ranchi against student protesters. This was followed by scenes of the last day of the Monsoon Session where the opposition was outside and forlorn looking treasury benches stood singing Vande Mataram with sad faces.

Should we pity the challenged vanishing power of old lions a bit, so close to us in age ? Given how some of the frostiness of their political lives seems to have bled into their often messed up personal lives as well? Isn't Gen X's confusion about cause and effect of misrule of last decade, a little too harsh and dismissive? Can they call themselves 'we, the modern ones', or 'Vayam Adhunikah,' like the philosopher Udayanacharya of 10th century Mithila, forgetting the six great philosophers who gave them the Shad Darshan, or six branches of philosophy?

Scene by scene as this Mahabharat of 2026 unfolds, we may glimpse the answers partially and maybe just once.

How Indian Communists Built a Mass Movement Feared by the State

Rashi Agrawal



In March 1929, communist organisers and trade unionists were arrested across India and charged in what became the Meerut Conspiracy Case. The colonial government was not simply prosecuting individuals. It was attempting to break the networks through which communists had begun organising workers across factories, cities and trade unions.

Nearly a century later, the state continues to use laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to prosecute political activity as a threat to national security. The legal framework is different, but the underlying question remains familiar: what happens when the state begins to treat political organisation itself as a form of threat?

The answer can be found in the archives.

Inside the Ajoy Bhawan Archives in New Delhi and the P.C. Joshi Archives at Jawaharlal Nehru University are hundreds of photographs, conference resolutions, party journals, courtroom records and sketches documenting the history of the communist movement in colonial India. Read individually, they appear to record familiar moments: a conspiracy trial, a strike, a peasant meeting, a cultural performance. Read together, they tell a different story. Rather than recounting the rise of the Communist Party of India through its leaders or ideological debates, they reveal how a small revolutionary current built the organisations that transformed it into a mass movement of workers and peasants. Between the first communist groups formed in 1920 and the peasant uprisings of the late 1940s, Indian communists confronted a recurring challenge: how could a movement survive repression while continuing to expand? Colonial prosecutions, party bans and censorship repeatedly disrupted the organisation, but they also forced it to develop new forms of political work.

Trade unions, peasant associations, cultural organisations and underground networks were not separate chapters in this history. They were successive responses to the practical problems of organising under colonial rule. The photographs and documents that follow trace that process: how a revolutionary organisation was built, how workers and peasants were organised, how the movement survived illegality, and how it reproduced itself across workplaces, villages and cultural institutions.

The photograph captures the scale of the Second Congress of the Communist International in Petrograd in 1920, where delegates from across the world gathered to debate the future of revolutionary politics. Before a communist party existed inside India, its earliest organisers had already entered a transnational political network linking anti-colonial struggles to an international socialist movement. It was here that M.N. Roy argued that colonial revolutions could not simply follow the trajectory of European socialism but had to develop through their own historical conditions.

For Indian communists, the significance of the Comintern extended beyond ideological debate. It provided organisational connections, strategic coordination and an international framework through which a revolutionary movement could begin to take shape before it possessed a formal organisational structure within India.

Colonial repression unexpectedly accelerated the public visibility of the communist movement. The Kanpur Conspiracy Case of 1924 brought four leading organisers to trial on charges of conspiring to deprive the King Emperor of sovereignty over British India. In the photograph, they stand formally dressed, looking directly into the camera.

The proceedings that followed received extensive press coverage, and the accused used the courtroom to explain socialist politics, anti-imperialism and the conditions of Indian workers before a national audience. A trial intended to suppress communist activity instead helped transform scattered groups of revolutionaries into a movement with a recognisable public identity.

The First Indian Communist Conference, held in Kanpur in December 1925, marked an important step in transforming dispersed revolutionary networks into a political organisation with a public programme. The presidential address reproduced here situated the communist movement within the struggles of industrial workers and agricultural labourers, arguing that national liberation and class struggle could not be separated.

Rather than responding only to immediate political circumstances, the conference sought to establish an organisational framework capable of uniting workers and peasants across colonial India.

The conference also adopted a resolution barring members of communal organisations from joining the party, a founding commitment that explicitly refused the religious divisions fracturing the broader nationalist movement.

Creating a revolutionary party did not, by itself, create a mass movement. During the 1920s, communists moved beyond small circles of revolutionaries and entered the expanding industrial centres of colonial India: the textile mills of Bombay, the railway yards of Bengal, the docks and jute factories that sustained colonial commerce. The question was whether dispersed workers, divided across factories, occupations and regions could be organised into institutions capable of sustaining collective struggle.

On May 1, 1923, India's first May Day celebrations were organised in Madras under the leadership of M. Singaravelu Chettiar, who raised the red flag before workers assembled under the banner of the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan. The event marked the public emergence of working-class politics in colonial India.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

India's capital markets raise Rs 10 lakh crore annually, M-Cap tops $5 trillion: SEBI Chairman

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News): Shares of artificial intelligence startup Anthropic fell more than 9 per cent on Friday, a day after making a record-setting stock market debut, as a broad sell-off in AI-related stocks overshadowed enthusiasm surrounding the company's public listing. The Claude chatbot maker had delivered a strong debut on Thursday, with its shares surging as much as 39 per cent above the IPO price before giving up a significant portion of those gains. The stock eventually ended its first trading session 17 per cent higher at $97.17, briefly making Anthropic the world's seventh-largest publicly traded company by market capitalisation.



Friday's decline came as the IPO's underwriters exercised their over-allotment, or greenshoe, option, allowing them to sell additional shares following the listing. With the move, the total proceeds raised by Anthropic and its co-founders reached $119.5 billion, including $93.5 billion from the initial public offering and another $26 billion through a concurrent private placement.

Despite the strong market debut, Anthropic's listing has so far failed to reignite investor confidence in the broader artificial intelligence sector. The weakness came after Wall Street's major indexes closed sharply lower on Thursday, while stock futures pointed to further losses at the start of Friday's session. Several leading AI-linked technology stocks also came under pressure in premarket trade. Nvidia and Meta Platforms declined more than 2 per cent, while Amazon and Microsoft lost over 1 per cent each. Chipmakers Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) and SanDisk dropped around 7 per cent, and Intel fell more than 5 per cent.

Market participants are now closely watching the prospect of a potential OpenAI public offering next year, which is expected to serve as another key test of investor appetite for artificial intelligence stocks.

While Anthropic's IPO had been viewed as a possible catalyst for a broader revival in AI-related equities, analysts said near-term volatility may persist as investors reassess the stock's sharp valuation. The company is currently valued at roughly 40 times its trailing 12-month sales, a level that some investors consider difficult to justify without sustained high-growth performance.

However, the stock could find support later this year. According to index-rebalance analytics firm Intropic, funds that track major stock indexes could purchase as much as 30 per cent of Anthropic's shares by the end of the year, potentially providing additional demand for the stock. The sharp reversal reflects growing caution among investors over the pace of artificial intelligence investment and the sustainability of high valuations.

RBI clarifies forex rules for services exports and imports

Mumbai, Nov 20 (Way to News): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) clarified on Friday issued a clarification on the of foreign exchange reporting rules for services imports and exports that came into effect on October 1. The list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) issued by the RBI clarifies that service exporters other than resident individuals need to file an Export Declaration Form (EDF) only when the value of an inward remittance exceeds Rs 10 lakh, or its equivalent in foreign currency. Resident individuals are exempt from separate EDF filing irrespective of the value of the inward remittance.



The central bank said exporters of services other than resident individuals need to file an EDF only when the value of an individual inward remittance exceeds 10 lakh or its foreign currency equivalent. The declaration must be submitted before the proceeds are credited to the exporter's account.

The RBI also clarified that services export invoices raised before October 1 will not require an EDF even if payment is received after that date. Resident individuals exporting services are exempt from filing a separate EDF; it will be deemed submitted once they provide the necessary information to their authorised dealer (AD) bank for crediting the inward remittance. Authorised dealer (AD) banks cannot insist on an EDF before crediting inward remittances of up to 10 lakh for non-individual service exporters or any amount received by resident individuals.

Anthropic Slides Nearly 10 PC After Blockbuster IPO Debut

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Piyush Goyal outlines 'TRUST' agenda for India-US partnership

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has outlined five-point 'TRUST' agenda for a stronger India-US partnership. Under the first 'T', the minister called for transforming supply chains into resilient and trusted supply chains. Under 'R', he called for raising talent together with friendly and partner countries. Goyal reiterated his strong support for dual-degree programmes and stronger educational partnerships.

The minister said that India and the United States had built considerable talent partnerships through their universities over the years and that these relationships should be further strengthened. He said that he was working with some US universities to explore bringing them to India and invited



American universities and students to consider India as part of their academic programmes. Under 'U', Goyal called for unlocking Bharat beyond the metropolitan cities, stressing that development should not remain confined to certain regions or urban centres.

He recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, upon assuming office in 2014, had emphasised equitable development across all parts of India, particularly eastern and northern India, which had not received their due share of development over the decades.

The minister said that the Government had focused on the development of the Northeastern states, resulting in significant progress in infrastructure, electricity, water supply, incubation centres and quality education, alongside efforts to bring industry to the region.

Similarly, the eastern belt, including Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, had witnessed substantial transformation and development in recent years. Under 'S', the minister called for stakeholders to speak candidly with each other and flag the hurdles and difficulties they faced.

Gold Slips Below Rs 1.30 Lakh; Silver Trades Higher

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Way to News): Gold prices remained under pressure on Thursday, slipping below the Rs 1.3 lakh per 10-gram mark as a stronger US dollar and expectations of a tighter monetary policy stance by the US Federal Reserve weighed on bullion sentiment. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (December) were trading at Rs 1,29,331, down Rs 483 or 0.37 per cent from its previous close of Rs 1,29,814. During the session so far, the yellow metal touched an intraday high of Rs 1,29,796 and an intraday low of Rs 1,28,310 by 12:30 pm.

Meanwhile, silver futures (December) were trading at Rs 1,61,500 per 1 kg, up Rs 768 or 0.48 per cent from its previous close of Rs 1,60,734. Silver touched an intraday high of Rs 1,62,175 and an intraday low of Rs 1,59,321 so far. In the international market, gold prices also remained weak, while silver posted modest gains. COMEX gold was down 0.24 per cent at $3,730 per ounce, while silver rose 0.37 per cent to $45.22 per ounce.

Market analysts said gold prices continued to face selling pressure amid growing expectations that the US Federal Reserve could maintain a restrictive monetary policy stance for longer. According to analysts, hawkish remarks from Federal Reserve officials have strengthened expectations of additional interest rate increases, pushing Treasury yields higher and supporting the US dollar. Higher yields and a stronger dollar typically reduce the appeal of non-interest-bearing assets such as gold and silver by increasing their opportunity cost.

Wedding season to generate Rs 6 lakh crore business across India, Rs 1 lakh crore in delhi-NCR: CTI

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Way to News): After a successful Diwali festive season, traders across the country are now gearing up for the upcoming wedding season, expecting business worth Rs 6 lakh crore from approximately 5.2 lakh weddings nationwide, according to the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI). The wedding season will begin on November 21 with Devuthani Ekadashi and Tulsi Vivah. In Delhi-NCR, around five lakh weddings are expected to generate business worth nearly Rs one lakh crore, the traders' body said.

The festive season began on October 11 with the commencement of Navratri, bringing increased commercial activity across the country. Following encouraging business during the Diwali festivities, traders



are now looking forward to the wedding season, which is expected to provide another significant boost to the economy. CTI Chairman Brijesh Goyal said approximately 5.2 lakh weddings are expected to take place across the country during the upcoming season, generating an estimated business of Rs six lakh crore. In Delhi-NCR alone, around five lakh weddings are expected to contribute nearly Rs one lakh crore to the economy.

Goyal, along with CTI General Secretary Gurmeet Arora, said consumer purchasing patterns had undergone significant changes following GST rate reductions and the relief provided to consumers. People are increasingly showing a preference for Indian products over imported alternatives, they added. The traders' body said its 'Vocal for Local Weddings' campaign had helped reduce the presence of imported products, particularly Chinese lighting equipment, artificial decorations and gift accessories. Traditional artisans, jewellers and textile manufacturers are consequently receiving substantial orders.

The wedding season is also expected to generate business opportunities for decorators, caterers, florists, artists, transport operators and hospitality service providers. Several micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), particularly those engaged in textiles, jewellery, handicrafts, packaging and logistics, are also expected to benefit from increased demand. According to CTI General Secretary Ramesh Ahuja and Vice President Rahul Adlakha, wedding-related expenditure is broadly divided.

California probes Nvidia over alleged China chip transfers and investor disclosure

Washington, Nov 19 (Way to News): California Attorney General Rob Bonta served an investigative subpoena on Nvidia, seeking to determine whether advanced chips or confidential information reached China and whether the company misled investors and the public about the risks. The California Department of Justice said information obtained through the subpoena would help it assess whether Nvidia's actions violated state law. Bonta said the inquiry would examine the conduct of both Nvidia and its former chief executive, Jensen Huang, including whether their actions enabled China to obtain sensitive technology or information. "Companies cannot mislead their investors," Bonta said, describing investor protection as the central principle underlying the inquiry. His



office linkd the investigation to reports of Huang's relationship with a suspected Chinese intelligence operative. The announcement did not establish that espionage occurred or that Nvidia's technology or confidential information had been improperly transferred. The Los Angeles Times reported that Nvidia did not immediately respond to its request for comment. Nvidia had previously announced its own independent investigation into reports that Huang was targeted by a foreign intelligence operation.

In a November 8 statement, the board said it had no reason at that time to believe national security or company secrets had been compromised, while committing to examine the available information. The company said a committee of independent directors, supported by independent outside counsel, would oversee that investigation and that Huang had committed to cooperate. That statement preceded California's subpoena and was not a response to it. The company has since changed its leadership. According to its filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the board accepted Huang's resignation as president, chief executive and director on November 11, effective immediately.

Chief Financial Officer Colette Kress was appointed interim chief executive while retaining her finance responsibilities. Harvey C. Jones became board chair. On November 17, Nvidia also established a standing National Security and Export Control Oversight Committee to supervise its security policies, export-control compliance and global trade risks.

ICE Paid Millions For Empty Beds: US Audit

Washington, Nov 19 (Way to News): US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) paid an estimated $13 million a month for unused detention beds at four facilities, according to a federal audit release that questioned the planning and cost-effectiveness of its detention expansion. An average of 9,733 beds covered by those commitments remained empty each day during the period examined, Government Accountability Office said.

The four facilities in the monthly cost estimate were California City Correctional Facility, North Lake Correctional Facility, Folkston D. Ray Processing Center and Diamondback Correctional Center. Diamondback accounted for about $5.84 million a month and California City for about $5.02 million. GAO's calculation included facility-wide charges as well as applicable daily bed rates.

Guaranteed payments can help ICE secure space urgently and protect operators from financial losses. But they also leave the government paying for capacity it does not use. The audit's concerns extended to the agency's purchases of detention properties after Congress provided $45 billion for immigration detention in July 2025. ICE bought 11 warehouses for approximately $1.07 billion before substantially reducing its conversion programme. It now plans to sell seven of those properties. The agency also purchased four existing detention facilities for approximately $2.2 billion in July and August 2026.

NITI Aayog Calls for Major Urban Governance Reforms to Achieve Viksit Bharat 2047

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Way to News): Rajiv Gauba, Member, NITI Aayog in his address during the valedictory session of the 2nd National Urban Conclave, highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive reforms in urban governance, planning and financing to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Emphasising the scale of India's ongoing demographic and urban transition, Shri Gauba noted that India's population would continue to grow for several decades, stabilising at approximately 165 crore around 2060. With nearly half of India's population expected to live in urban areas by 2050, the urban population is projected to increase from approximately 50 crore at present to 85 crore. Meeting the infrastructure, housing and basic service requirements of the urban population will need a



fundamental change in how cities are planned, governed and financed.

Describing cities as crucibles of economic growth where talent, capital and ideas converge, he observed that, despite India's rich history of planned urban settlements, cities had experienced relative neglect post-independence. Post 2014, there have been concerted efforts through several large missions like Smart Cities, AMRUT, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat and the Urban Livelihoods Mission. The budgetary outlay for urban sector has grown 10-fold. Huge investments of about 3.7 lakh crore have been made in metro rail and bus systems.

He outlined NITI Aayog's Growth Hub initiative, pointing to the 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund announced in the 2025-26 budget to develop cities as growth hubs, and this year's budget allocation of 5,000 crore each for 7 city economic regions over five years.

Gauba underscored that having empowered City Governments, in the true sense of the term, is essential to improve service delivery and ensure effective citizen participation. Referring to the report Moving Towards Effective City Governance, jointly developed by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), he called for cities to have directly elected mayors with 5-year terms, introduce Mayor-in-Council system and ensure timely municipal elections. He emphasised the need for States to devolve all 18 functions to urban local bodies in line with the 74th Amendment, including master planning, water supply, fire services and traffic. He stressed that cities cannot be effectively governed from state capitals and City Governments must have the authority and institutional capacity to respond to local needs. This alone will ensure meaningful citizen participation.

Gauba noting that municipal revenues remain low, called for improving property tax and user-charge recovery. He pointed out that while Central Finance Commission grants to ULBs have more than doubled the previous allocation, with their share has increasing to 45% from 36%, fund devolution from states to cities remains low. He said that State Finance Commissions should be regularly constituted and that adequate fiscal transfer to urban local bodies must be ensured.

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Jaiswal's 85, Rahul's Unbeaten Fifty Puts India In Charge

Wellington, Nov 19 (Way to News): Henry Nicholls struck a determined unbeaten century and Glenn Phillips came close to a hundred as New Zealand recovered from a precarious position to reach 243/5 at stumps on the opening day of the first Test against India at the Basin Reserve here on Thursday. After India's pace attack made the most of helpful conditions to reduce the hosts to 60/4 at Lunch, and then 70/5, Nicholls and Phillips put together a commanding partnership to turn the contest around. The duo remained unbeaten at the close, having added 173 runs for the sixth wicket to put New Zealand in a position of strength. Nicholls was unbeaten on 113 off 221 deliveries, registering his fifth Test century at the Basin Reserve in just 15 innings at the venue. Phillips, meanwhile, finished the day on 94 not out off 182 balls, having combined resolute defence with an attacking approach to put the Indian bowlers under sustained pressure.

The recovery gathered momentum in the second session, when New Zealand added 80 runs for the loss of one wicket. India managed to remove Tom Blundell, caught by Shubman Gill at first slip off Anshul Kamboj, but could not make further inroads as Nicholls and Phillips settled into their partnership. Phillips brought up his half-century with a cut behind square off Jasprit Bumrah in the 50th over, while Nicholls continued to build his innings with patience and well-timed strokes. The pair took the attack to the Indian bowlers in the final session, adding more than 100 runs without losing a wicket. Nicholls reached his hundred in the 70th over, getting there with a single off Prasidh Krishna. He was given a reprieve on 102 when India failed to hold a top-edged pull, with Devdutt Padikkal and wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant converging on the catch and failing to complete it.



Phillips capitalised on the opportunity to keep the pressure on India, moving to 94 by stumps. His counterattacking approach complemented Nicholls' measured innings, with the pair finding boundaries and rotating the strike regularly. Bumrah was India's most effective bowler, finishing with 3/52 from 17 overs, while Kamboj took 1/57 and Akash Deep 1/33. Washington Sundar went wicketless for 38 runs, while Prasidh Krishna conceded 58 in his 16 overs.

India had made a strong start after opting to bowl, with Bumrah dismissing Tom Latham and Mitchell in the morning session, while Kamboj and Akash Deep also struck to leave New Zealand in trouble. However, Nicholls and Phillips ensured the hosts ended the day firmly back in the contest. The unbeaten stand between Nicholls and Phillips not only rescued New Zealand from early trouble but also shifted the momentum in the hosts' favour. With five wickets already down, India will look to strike early on the second morning to prevent the pair from extending their partnership and taking New Zealand towards a commanding first-innings total. The partnership also highlighted India's inability to sustain pressure after making early breakthroughs. Despite Bumrah's impressive spell and support from the other seamers, the visitors struggled to find the right lengths as the pitch became easier for batting. The Indian bowlers created opportunities but were unable to break the growing sixth-wicket stand, allowing New Zealand to regain control of the proceedings.

New Zealand's recovery was built on the contrasting batting styles of Nicholls and Phillips. While Nicholls focused on preserving his wicket and capitalising on scoring opportunities, Phillips displayed positive intent, regularly finding gaps and putting away loose deliveries.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 243/5 in 82 overs (Henry Nicholls 113, Glenn Phillips 94*; Jasprit Bumrah 3-52, Akash Deep 1-33, Anshul Kamboj 1-57) against India.*

Asia Cup Rising Stars: Tilak Varma, Kushagra, Prince Yadav Star As India Dominate Nepal For 306-Run Win

Doha, Nov 19 (Way to News): Prince Yadav claimed a fifer after Tilak Varma and Kumar Kushagra's centuries as India A came up with a domineering performance to thrash minnows Nepal by a massive 306 runs in their opening league match in the four-team Group B in the Asia Cup Rising Stars (50 Overs) tournament at the West End Park International Cricket Stadium in Doha on Friday.



Skipper Varma (107 off 113 b, 4×6, 4×6) and wicketkeeper Kushagra (117 off 102, 4×10, 6×5) struck centuries and shared a massive 206-run partnership for the fourth wicket to help India A recover from a difficult position and reach a massive total of 332/9 in 50 overs after Nepal elected to field first.

Pacers Prince Yadav (5-6) and Harshit Rana (4-16) then got into the act and bundled out Nepal for a paltry 26 in just 11.3 overs to help India win the match by 305 runs, securing their first win in Group B, which also has Pakistan A and United Arab Emirates as other teams. Eight teams have been divided into two groups of four each in this continental competition for emerging talent and players on the fringe.

With players like Tilak Varma, Harshit Rana, Ayush Badoni, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh and Prince Yadav, who have been part of the senior national team, in their ranks, the India A side was expected to dominate against Nepal. But things did not start well for them as they lost sensational youngster Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (26), Abhishek Sharma (9) and Ayush Badoni by the 11th over and were looking in a bit of trouble at 42/3. But Varma and Kushagra produced a brilliant partnership, raising 206 for the fourth-wicket partnership, which took them to a fighting 248/4 and into the slog overs to give the scoring a final push. They eventually ended up with a score of 332/9 in 50 overs, with all-rounder Suryansh Shedge blasting a 14-ball unbeaten 36 studded with four sixes.

Brief scores: India A 332/9 in 50 overs (Kumar Kushagra 117, Tilak Varma 107, Suryansh Shedge 36 not out; Lalit Rajbanshi 3-61, Sandeep Lamichhane 3-61) beat Nepal 26 all out in 11.3 overs (Prince Yadav 5-6, Harshit Rana 4-16) by 306 runs

CABI Rejects Pakistan As Sole Blind Asia Cup Champions, Demands Joint Title For India

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Way to News):The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) on Friday strongly condemned the decision to declare Pakistan the sole champions of the Men's Blind Cricket Asia Cup 2026 after the final between India and Pakistan was washed out due to rain, demanding that both teams be recognised as joint winners. CABI alleged that the decision was influenced by questionable intervention from officials and claimed that an initial agreement by the World Blind Cricket Council (WBCC) Technical Committee to declare both teams joint winners was subsequently overturned in favour of Pakistan.



The association said it rejected the declaration of Pakistan as sole champions and maintained that the tournament's regulations supported joint winners in the event of a tied final.

According to CABI, Section 27 of the tournament's technical regulations specifically deals with a tied final, with both sentences in the provision referring to such a situation. CABI said it had raised its interpretation of the rule with the WBCC Technical Committee, which initially agreed to recognise India and Pakistan as joint winners. However, the association alleged that the Director of the Technical Committee and the President of the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) subsequently influenced the match referee and umpires to announce a decision favouring Pakistan, overturning the committee's initial agreement. Calling it an unacceptable attempt to manipulate the outcome of an international championship, CABI questioned the credibility, impartiality and integrity of the decision-making process.

"This is a disgraceful decision and a blatant injustice to the Indian team. When the Technical Committee had already agreed to declare both teams joint winners, how can that decision be overturned to favour Pakistan? Such actions raise serious concerns about manipulation, unfair practices and the integrity of international blind cricket," said Dr Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, Chairman of CABI and Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled.

Jayawardene Joins GMR Sports As Director Of Cricket, To Oversee WPL Operations

Colombo, Nov 20 (Way to News): The franchise, one of the five founding WPL teams in 2023, has reached the final in all four editions of the tournament so far but finished runners-up each time. "Delhi Capitals has a strong identity and an exciting vision for the future of women's cricket. I am delighted to take on the role of Director of Cricket for the WPL team. "The competition has enormous potential to shape the future of the women's game, and I look forward to working with an established group of talented players and an experienced support team.



"My focus will be on building on the team's existing strengths, bringing greater consistency to performances and ensuring we continue to evolve and compete for the title. I am excited about what we can achieve together," Jayawardene said in a statement on Saturday. Jayawardene recently left his role as head coach of Mumbai Indians, whom he coached to three IPL titles. From 2022–2024, Jayawardene was also MI's Global Head of Performance, where he oversaw cricketing operations across franchise teams in different leagues. DC was the last team Jayawardene represented as a player in the IPL in 2012 and 2013 seasons and even captained them.

Across the GMR Sports cricket teams portfolio, Jayawardene will give strategic direction on cricketing operations, talent identification, player development and performance management and work closely with the leadership, head coaches and cricket management teams at each franchise.

He will also work with Giles White, Hampshire's Director of Cricket, to share knowledge, expertise and best practices across the group's teams. One of the finest batters of his generation, Jayawardene played 149 Tests and 448 ODIs for Sri Lanka, scoring 11,814 and 12,650 runs respectively.

Giri takes the lead in total Chess Final

Budapest, Nov 20 (Way to News): Anish Giri won the opening day of the final of the Total Chess World Championship Tour Pilot in Budapest on Thursday, defeating Alireza Firouzja by 11 points to 9.



Giri's advantage in blitz proved decisive after the players exchanged rapid victories and drew their Fast Classic game. A win or draw on Friday would secure Giri the Budapest pilot title without a tiebreak. The scores reset overnight, so Firouzja must win the second day to force an Armageddon tiebreak. Each knockout day has seven games: four Blitz games, two Rapid games and one Fast Classic. A Blitz win is worth one point, a Rapid win four and a Fast Classic win eight, with half for a draw. Winning both days, or winning one and drawing the other, decides the match. One win apiece, or two drawn days, leads to Armageddon. Fabiano Caruana also took an 11–9 first-day lead against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in the match for third place. All 24 players were in action as the finals and placement matches began across the six knockout brackets.

Giri drew the opening blitz game before winning the second with White and the third with Black, the latter after a long battle. A draw in the fourth gave him a 3–1 lead. Firouzja responded by winning the first rapid game with White. However, Giri immediately answered with a White victory in the second rapid game to regain the lead at 7–5.

Four points apiece from the Fast Classic draw preserved Giri's advantage and completed his third successive daily victory in the knockout stage, following his two wins against Vachier-Lagrave in the semifinals.

Antonelli Gets Five-Place Grid Penalty in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Nov 20 (Way to News):Newly crowned World Champion Kimi Antonelli will be taking a five-place grid penalty for further exceeding his engine allocation for the 2026 season. Antonelli took his sixth internal combustion engine (ICE) of the season during the opening practice sessions at the Las Vegas Street Circuit, breaching the limit of four for the second time this season. For this, he has been hit with a five-place grid penalty, and the Mercedes driver would not start from anywhere above P6 even if he takes pole in qualifying.

Antonelli had started from the back of the grid at his home Italian GP for exceeding several of his power unit elements, which also included the ICE. He took a sensational win from P19 in that race. Along with the ICE, Antonelli also has an upgraded turbocharger, but the Italian won't be hit with penalties for that as he is within the limits of allowed units.

Elsewhere, Ollie Bearman will be starting the Saturday race from the back-of-the grid. Bearman has taken a fifth ICE, turbocharger, exhaust and motor generator unit-kinetic (MGU-K) of the season as he exceeds the permitted amount for each, along with a new power unit ancillary component (PU-ANC). This will see him start the race on the back. Moreover, Aston Martin's Lance Stroll will get a 10-place grid penalty for running a ninth energy store unit (ES) and an eighth control electronics unit (PU-CE), which has exceeded the allocation of three each.

Aaryavir Sehwag: Huge Virat Kohli Fan

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News):Young India batter Aaryavir Sehwag has identified Virat Kohli as a major inspiration behind his approach to batting, saying he wants to adapt to match situations and deliver what the team requires rather than confining himself to a particular style of play.

The son of former India opener Virender Sehwag, Aaryavir enjoyed an impressive campaign in the ACC Under-19 Asia Cup in Oman, finishing as the tournament's leading run-scorer with 361 runs in five matches, including a century and three half-centuries. He was also named Player of the Tournament as India clinched their ninth title with a thrilling one-wicket victory over Pakistan in the final. Aaryavir's standout performance came against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on November 10, when he struck a magnificent 160 off 168 balls, hitting 17 fours and seven sixes to help India post 309/7. India went on to win the contest by 70 runs and secure a place in the semifinals.

Reflecting on the innings, Aaryavir said he drew inspiration from Kohli's ability to assess situations and play according to the team's requirements. He added that negotiating the challenging initial overs and adjusting to the unexpected turn on the Oman surface were crucial to his knock. "I don't label myself as a stroke player or any kind of player. I just want to play according to the situation. As I've said earlier, I am a huge Virat Kohli fan, and I want to do what the team requires and needs at that time. I'm glad that I could play the way I did," he told Jio Star.

Hardik's arrival gives Punjab Kings a 'very well-rounded squad': Ponting

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News):Punjab Kings head coach Ricky Ponting believes Hardik Pandya's arrival has given the franchise a very well-rounded squad for IPL 2027, adding that the side's depth of all-rounders, in both pace and spin, would hold them in good stead. PBKS brought in Hardik in one of the two biggest trades ahead of the auction happening on December 16, while sending left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh the other way. The all-rounder joins a group that already includes Marco Jansen, Suryansh Shedge, Marcus Stoinis and Cooper Connolly. "I have been really happy with the squad that we put together a couple of years ago. I've been really conscious of trying to keep the majority of our players together through this three-year cycle, leading into another mega auction next year. So we've decided just to release the six players going into the IPL for this season and have retained 19.



"We've obviously brought in, through trade, Hardik Pandya, and traded out Arshdeep Singh. So yeah, we've got a very well-rounded squad. Obviously, there's been a lot of talk about how many all-rounders we've got in our group. "With Hardik coming in and Marco Jansen, Marcus Stoinis, Azmatullah, Shedge, Shashank, Cooper Connolly, there are a lot of all-rounders there, which I think will hold us in really good stead. We've got a lot of bases covered there as far as spin bowling all-rounders and fast bowling all-rounders are concerned," Ponting said to JioStar. With the squad largely settled, Ponting said the first aim of PBKS at the auction, to be held in Goa on December 16, would be to strengthen their playing eleven, before looking at young Indian players they could retain in future.

"We'll definitely go into the auction with the overall view of how to make our starting XI better first. That's got to be the priority. And then we'll have a look at whether we need to add any really exciting young Indian talent to our group as well.

Satwik-Chirag storm into Hong Kong Open semifinals; Rakshitha exits

Hong Kong, Nov 20 ((Way to News): India's top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the semifinals of the Hong Kong Open 2026 with a hard-fought three-game victory over China's Hu Ke Yuan and Lin Xiang Yi on Friday. In their quarterfinal match, the Indian pair registered a 21-12, 13-21, 21-16 win. They lost the second game but bounced back to win the third to book their spot in the semis.



Satwik and Chirag quickly found their ground, as they led 6-3 and then 9-6 and raced to 11-7 at the first interval. After the change of ends, the pair sprinted ahead to 15-10 and took just 13 minutes to win the opening game 21-12.

The second game was a lot more competitive, and there was nothing between the teams at 4-4 before the Indians were a little ahead at 9-9. Hu and Lin took the game at 13-11 and moved out to 15-11 before winning it 21-13.

The Indians made a strong comeback in the third game and led 11-7 at the interval. They kept the winning momentum going to surge ahead 15-9 and 17-10, and though the Chinese duo pulled some way back towards the close, Satwik and Chirag kept their composure to win the game 21-16 and enter the last four.

On the other hand, India's Rakshitha Ramraj was ousted in the women's singles quarterfinals following her 19-21, 16-21 defeat by Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in 53 minutes.

The 19-year-old Indian fought hard in the first game which saw the scores remain level at 13-13. Chochuwong edged ahead at 17-15 but Rakshitha fought her way back to even at 17-17. Thai shuttler, however, kept her cool to clinch it 21-19. In the second game, Chochuwong again carried a narrow lead and then scored four in a row to go 14-10 up. She continued to hold the Indian at arm's length and claimed victory in the 21-16 semi-final.

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Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas's pan-Indian film Haindava's release postponed



The makers of director Ludheer Byreddy's upcoming pan Indian film 'Haindava', featuring Telugu star Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas and Samyuktha in the lead, on Friday announced that they had chosen to postpone their film's release.

The film was to originally hit the screens on November 27 this year.

Moonshine Pictures, the production house producing the film, took to its social media timelines to share the announcement.

It wrote, "#HAINDAVA has been postponed from its scheduled date to give you all the best experience with high technical standards. A new release date will be announced soon. Stay tuned." The makers also shared a poster through which they made it clear that they remained committed to delivering the film to the highest standards of quality. Thanking audiences for their patience and continued support, the makers said that they would announce a new release date soon. A teaser tha the makers had released last month had triggered great excitement among fans and film buffs. The teaser showed that the story was set in the village of Rangapuram. The story takes a mysterious turn when all the idols from an ancient temple go missing and a villager is found murdered.

The temple priest however believes that all the idols will return within a stipulated timeframe. An atheist police officer is assigned the task of investigating the unusual case, setting the stage for a compelling clash between faith, reason, and the unexplained. Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas plays an atheist police officer who places his faith in humanity rather than God. Samyuktha plays the female lead, while Mahesh Manjrekar appears in a pivotal role as the temple priest. Saurabh Sachdeva, JD Chakravarthy, Shivaji Raja, and Getup Srinu feature in other significant roles. Producedby Mahesh Chandu, the film boasts of a fine technical team. Production design for the film has been handled by Siva Kamesh D while cinematography for the film is by Harish Kannan. Music director Sam CS has scored the music for this occult thriller while Karthika Srinivas has handled its editing.

Kayadu Lohar scales her first summit; says "many more to come"



Actress Kayadu Lohar on Friday announced that she had scaled her first summit, adding that there were "many more to come." The actress, who has shot to fame in Tamil cinema in a relatively short period of time, took to her Instagram page to post pictures of her atop the Dayara bugyal Bakaira, a small summit. She wrote, "The first of many summits. Dayara bugyal Bakaira Top 3,700 metres - a small summit to begin with, but many more to come." The actress went on to say that she had always been a mountain girl and that she would continue to be so. "Always been a mountain girl, always will be! There's just no place I'd rather be," she wrote.

On the work front, Kayadu Lohar will be seen in a number of eagerly awaited upcoming films including ace director Mari Selvaraj's 'Manjanathi', in which she plays a pivotal character. Last month, the actress had disclosed that the unit of the film ad wrapped up its ongoing schedule.

Taking to her Instagram page to drop the update, the actress had said, "A different world. A different school. A different me. And a storyteller who made me see things a little differently. Schedule wrap for Manjanathi. @mariselvaraj84 @navvi_studios."

The film has music by Ilaiyaraaja and features actor Kathir in the lead. Apart from Kayadu Lohar and Kathir, the film will also feature actors Priyanka Mohan, Poornima Ravi, Vidhu, Kaaka Muttai Vignesh and Rahul (of 'Vaazhai' fame) in pivotal roles.

The film, which has triggered huge expectations among fans and film buffs, has a gifted technical team. Cinematography for the film is by Ezhil Arasu while editing is by Selva R K. Art direction for the film is by Ramu Thangaraj. Stunts in the film have been choreographed by Dhilip Subbarayan while dances in the film have been choreographed by Sandy Mast The Dayara Bugyal region in Uttarakhand is known for its scenic alpine meadows and breathtaking mountain views, making it a popular destination among trekking enthusiasts. Kayadu's achievement reflects her interest in exploring nature and taking on outdoor challenges beyond her busy film schedule. Her social media post received attention from fans, who congratulated her on completing her first summit and wished her success in future adventures.

Vijay Sethupathi releases gripping teaser of Aadi Saikumar, Sathish's 'Paththu Naal Raja'



Well known Tamil film actor and producer Vijay Sethupathi on Friday released a gripping teaser of director Guru Saravanan's upcoming financial crime drama 'Paththu Naal Raja', featuring Tamil actor Sathish and Telugu actor Aadi Saikumar in the lead.

Taking to his social media timelines to release the teaser, Vijay Sethupathi wrote, "Elated and happy to release the teaser of #PathunaalRaja! My heartfelt wishes to the entire team for a grand success! A @GhibranVaibodha Musical."

The teaser released begins with an introduction to not the protagonists of the film, but its antagonists.

The teaser shows that while the world runs after money, its antagonist (played by Garuda Ram), who is known as the Digital Devil, is not one among them. The teaser gives away the fact that the Digital Devil has a loan app and his mission is to make anybody who owns a smartphone to take a loan from him through his app. The teaser also shows that his target base is the average middle class person who draws a monthly salary or in other words, the common man. Sathish, we realise, is one such common man, who draws a monthly salary.

The Digital Devil is seen searching for a rowdy sheeter to scare, threaten and control the common men he cheats. Aadi Saikumar plays the role of the local rowdy sheeter picked by the Digital Devil. The teaser gives the impression that the story revolves around actor Sathish, whose character is seen visiting a police station. The cops are seen chiding Sathish's character for first borrowing money from unknown people and then turning up at a police station to lodge a complaint against the lender for sending collection agents who behave in an unruly manner.

The film, apart from Sathish and Aadi Saikumar, will also feature Sharanya Ramachandran, Aadukalam Naren, Paruthiveeran Saravanan and others. On the technical front, the film will have music by Ghibran Vaibodha and cinematography by ace cameraman Manoj Paramahamsa. The film has been produced

Samantha Ruth Prabhu welcomes baby boy



Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has embraced motherhood and welcomed her first child with filmmaker Raj Nidimoru.

The actress shared the happy news on her social media account, revealing that the couple has been blessed with a baby boy, whom they have named Dev Nidimoru. Samantha shared a tender glimpse of her newborn son, with the picture capturing the baby's tiny fingers gently wrapped around her finger. Sharing the pivotal, Samantha wrote, "Our beautiful baby boy DEV NIDIMORU 19.11.2026 The happiest our hearts have ever been. Samantha & Raj" The arrival of their son comes days after Samantha and Raj held an intimate traditional puja at their home ahead of welcoming their first child.

On November 17, Samantha and Raj gathered with members of their families for the ceremony, which featured prayers, chanting and traditional rituals seeking blessings for the mother and baby and a smooth delivery.

Pictures from the ceremony showed Samantha dressed in a red traditional outfit, while Raj was seen in a cream-coloured kurta paired with white pyjamas. The couple was also seen seeking blessings from elders and participating in the rituals. Samantha's sister-in-law shared a detailed account of the ceremony, along with behind-the-scenes pictures. She described the gathering as a coming together of family members who had helped raise them.

She wrote, "When can we do this, Babu?" I'd been asking my annayya for so long. And finally, it was time. Our pinnammas and peddamma who helped raise us came from near and far for Matru Shishu Mangala Ashirvadam, to bless Sam and the precious little one already reigning over our hearts and soon, our Samrajyam."

She added, "In our family, gathering at the home altar to chant and sing was part of everyday life. We grew up doing it with our grandparents, and aunties. Amma and Nanna made sure we continued. Whatever had happened that day, we sat together in prayer. It reset the home, and us. I'm grateful they gave us that."

She further added, "I saw it all come alive in our aunties. They had travelled without their families and were together again, chanting, singing, laughing like girlfriends, and doting on my brother and me. This time, Sam and the baby to be born were receiving all that affection too. We offered the Sri Suktam and Gayatri Devi homam, chanted Gayatri 21 times, and shared our familiar family prayers."

She further added, "Then came a song just for them :). Padma Shri Shobha Raju pinnamma composed it with love and a little mischief. I sang, Padma Shri Vidushi Sumitra Guha peddamma added her beautiful ragas.

Big B credits writers over actors, says writers have bigger role in crafting characters



Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan recently shared insights into the craft of acting, and the relationship between an actor and a writer.

In an latest episode of the quiz based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' season 18, the actor engaged in a masterclass on acting with contestant Kedarnath Sahu from Raigarh.

During the episode, the show host asked Kedarnath what he pursues beyond his UPSC preparations. Kedarnath spoke about his passion for acting and shared that he studies books on the craft, particularly Constantin Stanislavski, the pioneer of method acting.

He then asked the senior actor if he follows a specific method or when he first felt he had truly mastered his craft. Big B credited writers over performers, as he said, "Bhaisahab sach mein kahe toh main yeh vishwas rakhta hoon ki kalakar koi nahi hota hain, jo hero hota hai film ka wo asal mein lekhak hota hain kyunki wo kahani likhta hain aur wo sochta hain characters ke baare mein aur kahani ke baare mein, toh ek tarah se method acting toh lekhak kar raha hai (Honestly, I truly believe that there are no artistes; the hero in a film is actually the writer because he writes the story and thinks about the characters and the narrative. In a way, the writer is doing method acting)".

"Toh humne toh keval aake sirf joh likha hota hain script mein usse hum keh dete hain bass aur kuch nahi karte, shuruvat ke dino mein kasta hota tha ki kahi baar joh likha hota tha voh hume samaj mein nahi aata tha lekin samay laga aur fir dheere-dheere hum jaise acting kar rahe the voh logo ko acha lagne laga aur kaam milne laga. Lekin humne aisa koi method acting nahi sikha hain (So we just come and say what is written in the script, that's it, and we don't do anything else. In the beginning, it was difficult because sometimes what was written didn't make sense to us, but with time, gradually, the way we were acting started to please people, and we began to get work. But we haven't learned any method acting like that)", he added.

Big B's remarks validate the long-running industry conversation around his rise to superstardom, and the role of legendary screenwriters Salim-Javed who crafted the iconic template of the Angry Young Man, in shaping up his career. 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' season 18 is available on Sony Entertainment Television and Sony LIV.

Namrata Shirodkar wishes sister Shilpa Shirodkar on 53rd birthday, shares throwback moments with daughter Sitara



Actress Namrata Shirodkar turned nostalgic as she wished her sister and actress Shilpa Shirodkar on her 53rd birthday on Friday. She shared a collage featuring a series of pictures capturing their bond, including moments featuring Namrata's daughter Sitara Ghattamaneni. The birthday post offered a glimpse into the sisters' close relationship. In one picture, Namrata, Shilpa and Sitara can be seen posing together at a restaurant. Shilpa also reshared a picture from Namrata, thankimg her 'chintukli' for her wishes. Shilpa Shirodkar, who turned 53 on November 20, is one of the familiar faces of Hindi cinema's 1990s era. She made her Bollywood debut with Ramesh Sippy's Bhrashtachar in 1989, sharing screen space with Mithun Chakraborty and Rekha.

She then went on to appear in films including Kishen Kanhaiya, Trinetra, Hum, Khuda Gawah, Aankhen, Pehchaan, Gopi Kishan, Bewafa Sanam and Mrityudand. At the peak of her career, Shilpa stepped away from acting after marrying UK-based banker Aparesh Ranjit in 2000 and moved abroad with her family and stayed away from the entertainment industry for more than a decade. She returned to acting with television. In 2013, she made her comeback with the television show, Ek Mutthi Aasmaan, followed by shows including Silsila Pyaar Ka and Savitri Devi College & Hospital. She later participated in Bigg Boss 18, which brought her back into the spotlight. Shilpa then returned to films with Guns of Banaras and was seen in the 2025 Telugu-Hindi bilingual supernatural thriller Jatadhara. Namrata, meanwhile, carved out her own place in the Hindi film industry after being crowned Miss India in 1993. She appeared in films including Kachche Dhaage, Vaastav: The Reality, Pukar, Astitva, Dil Vil Pyar Vyar, LOC Kargil and the British film Bride & Prejudice. She married Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu in 2005 and stepped away from acting, choosing to focus on family life. The couple have two children, son Gautam and daughter Sitara. Namrata's birthday tribute highlighted the strong bond shared by the Shirodkar sisters, with fans and well-wishers joining in to extend their greetings to Shilpa. The post also brought back memories of their journey in the entertainment industry, while offering a glimpse of their family moments. Shilpa continues to remain connected with her audience through social media and her acting projects. Over the years, both sisters have followed different paths in their personal and professional lives, but have continued to share a close relationship. While Shilpa gradually returned to acting after her long break, Namrata has remained actively involved in supporting Mahesh Babu's career and family commitments. Their occasional social media posts offer fans glimpses of their enduring family bond.

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