WAY TO NEWS

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'We have demonstrated what social justice means': PM Modi

New Delhi, Nov 20 (Way to News):: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday recalled his early days as Gujarat Chief Minister, saying his first public programme after assuming office in 2001 was a 'Garib Kalyan Mela' in Deesa, an experience he said later influenced his approach to welfare delivery at the national level.



Addressing BJP workers virtually during a Diwali and New Year Sneha Milan programme in Gujarat, PM Modi also acknowledged the contribution of party workers as he completed 25 years in public life in October. "The 25-year milestone covered his opportunity to serve the people of Gujarat as Chief Minister and subsequently the people of the country as Prime Minister," he said. He said the series of 'Garib Kalyan Mela' programmes launched in Gujarat initially became difficult to organise at the district level because of the response, prompting the government to take them to the taluka level.

"These programmes created tremendous confidence among the poor, and they resolved that they no longer wanted to remain poor," he said. PM Modi said the experience proved useful after 2014, when his government began implementing welfare schemes at the national level. Recalling the initial scepticism surrounding some of the initiatives, he said.

"People had questioned the need to open bank accounts for those who did not have money and had asked how poor families would afford to refill LPG cylinders after being provided gas connections." However, he added that the government continued introducing schemes and ensuring that their benefits reached eligible and needy people. He referred to bank accounts, LPG connections, electricity connections and Ayushman cards as examples of initiatives that reached disadvantaged sections, including Dalit and tribal families, deprived communities and women.

Rahul Gandhi strongly targets BJP, RSS over casteism

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.



"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.

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.

Technology, defence drive India-Netherlands ties



New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar said on Sunday the India-Netherlands partnership, which originally centred on water, agriculture and health, has now expanded to newer areas such as technology, semiconductors, defence and renewable energy, as he co-chaired the inaugural dialogue mechanism for reviewing the strategic partnership with the Netherlands Foreign Minister Tom Berendsen.

Welcoming Berendsen and his delegation in New Delhi, EAM Jaishankar said, "It's a real pleasure to welcome you and your delegation to India. And my colleagues actually reminded me that I believe this is our sixth meeting this year, which I take as a good sign."

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Netherlands, the EAM said the meeting was an opportunity to review the progress made since then and to look forward.

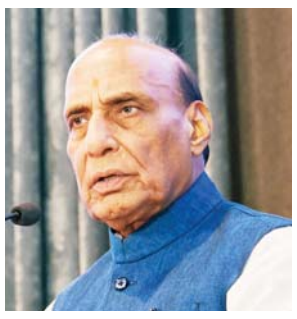
"Now, we had elevated our ties to a strategic partnership, and the roadmap that we have forged allows us a pathway to proceed forward. So today, building on what originally was a strategic partnership on water, but which has now expanded to so many other domains… to now the newer areas to technology, to semiconductors, to defence, renewable energy," he added.

EAM Jaishankar noted that next year will mark the 80th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries and thanked the Netherlands for the care it takes of the Indian diaspora. "I think the diaspora and the Hindustani Surinamese, between them, form a living bridge," he said.

Referring to the broader context, the EAM added that India has progressed enormously with the European Union in the last two years, with the free trade agreement (FTA) as the centrepiece, along with the security and defence partnership, adding that India looks forward to the operationalisation of the FTA.

Not circumstances but efforts shape your future: Rajnath Singh

Lucknow, Nov 22 (Way to News): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday urged students to embrace failures and shortcomings as an essential component of one's growth and advised them not to get overwhelmed by them and rather confront the challenges with full confidence and determination. "It is not your circumstances, but your efforts that will determine your future," Rajnath Singh told the students at the convocation ceremony of Babu Banarasi Das University in Lucknow earlier in the day.



The Defence Minister, invited as the chief guest at the convocation ceremony, spoke of the fast-changing and challenging global environment and asked the students to not to give up to adverse circumstances but rather taking on challenges with firm determination and learn from their own failures while also preparing themselves for evolving technologies. He said that the Artificial Intelligence (AI) has fundamentally transformed the way we work and the youth therefore must acquire new skills and keep pace with technological advancements.

Citing an anecdote from the life of Swami Vivekananda, the Defence Minister recounted an incident in Varanasi where Vivekananda was surrounded by a troop of monkeys. "As he continued to walk forward, the monkeys kept following him. But, when he turned around and confronted them, the monkeys immediately fled.

This is what we should learn from this episode — instead of fleeing from challenges, one should confront them," Rajnath Singh said.

India, China step up efforts to defuse Arunachal tensions

New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): India and China have held another round of military talks aimed at preventing clashes along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh, as both sides seek to lower tensions ahead of the harsh winter, when snowfall blocks several patrolling routes.



Lt Gen Girish Kalia, General Officer Commanding of the Army's 3 Corps, headquartered at Dimapur in Nagaland, led the Indian delegation in discussions with his Chinese counterpart and other officers. An official from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was also present. The 3 Corps is responsible for a major portion of the 1,140-km-long LAC in Arunachal Pradesh.

Sources confirmed that the talks were held in two rounds over 10 days after Diwali. Discussions focused on framing rules of engagement for the two armies, preventing friction between patrolling parties and keeping communication channels open. The latest meetings took place less than two months after the Corps Commander-level meeting held from September 6 to 8. As in previous engagements, the latest discussions were held at the Border Personnel Meeting point at Wacha, north of Kibithoo in Arunachal Pradesh's Anjaw district.

India Moving Towards Preventive, Precision-Driven Healthcare Model: Dr Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): India is steadily shifting towards a futuristic healthcare system focused on prevention, early detection and precision medicine, as metabolic and lifestyle-related diseases increasingly affect younger populations, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh said on Sunday. Addressing THE WEEK Health Summit 2026 in the national capital, the minister said safeguarding the health of India's youth is critical for the country's long-term development and aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.



He noted that healthcare is evolving beyond conventional treatment-based approaches towards scientific interventions, preventive strategies and advanced research at molecular and genetic levels.

"India is moving towards a futuristic healthcare approach with research focus shifting to prevention through futuristic strategies that places greater emphasis on prevention, early detection and advanced research at molecular and genetic levels, as metabolic disorders and lifestyle-related diseases increasingly affect younger populations," the minister stated. Speaking to healthcare professionals, researchers and industry representatives at the summit, Dr. Singh highlighted the growing burden of metabolic disorders such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.

He said these conditions are increasingly being diagnosed among younger individuals due to changing dietary habits, reduced physical activity and the spread of lifestyle-related health risks across both urban and rural India.

"Diabetes, obesity, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases are increasingly affecting younger people, making preventive healthcare and early detection imperative," Dr Singh noted.

TN Govt Seeks SC Review of Deepathoon Order



New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): The Tamil Nadu Government has moved the Supreme Court seeking review of its November 20 order permitting the lighting of the traditional Karthigai Deepam lamp on November 24 as a one-time measure at Deepathoon, a stone pillar atop the Thiruparankundram Hill in Madurai. The review petition was filed by the Commissioner of Tamil Nadu's Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department on November 21.

The Karthigai Deepam controversy at the Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple in Madurai centres is about where and by whom the lamp should be lit on the Thiruparankundram Hill.

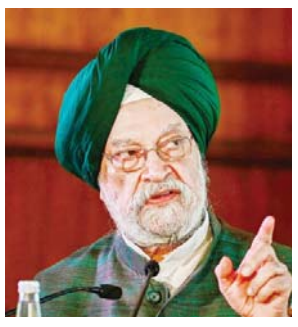
For decades, the deepam was lit at the Deepa Mandapam, near the Uchipillaiyar temple on the lower slopes. Hindu groups had sought permission to light the lamp at the Deepathoon, an ancient stone lamp pillar located higher up the hill, approximately 50 metres from the Hazrat Sultan Sikandar Badusha Auliya Dargah.

The Tamil Nadu Government contended that allowing the lighting of the traditional Karthigai Deepam lamp atop the stone pillar near the dargah could lead to thousands of survey pillars across the country acquiring a religious character. The Supreme Court had on Friday allowed the lighting of the traditional Karthigai Deepam lamp atop Thiruparankundram hill near a Dargah in Madurai on November 24 as a one-time measure.

A Bench of Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice Vipul M Pancholi had, however, made it clear that only authorised persons from Devasthanam (temple administration) and government officials can go for lamp lighting and allowed authorities to deploy the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), if necessary, if needed. Noting that the general public would not be allowed to go to the Deepathoon, it had said that no procession, public congregation.

Fuel prices rose just 7% in India: Puri

Indore, Nov 22 (Way to News): Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Sunday that petrol and diesel prices in India increased by only seven per cent in the four-year period till 2026, compared with a 50-70 per cent rise in other countries during this period.



The Union Minister told journalists that this was made possible despite rising global energy prices as the Union government reduced excise duties on the two fuels and the oil public sector undertakings (PSUs) absorbed some losses instead of passing on the higher cost burden to consumers. "India is a unique case globally. Thanks to the Prime Minister's hands-on policy, the central excise duty has been reduced three times: in November 2021, May 2022, and on March 10, 2026. If you look at a four-year reference period, elsewhere in the world, petrol and diesel prices surged by 50–70 per cent, whereas in India, they increased by only 7 per cent," Puri said.

"Our oil marketing companies such as BPCL, IOCL, and HPCL acted as responsible corporate citizens. They absorbed significant losses and operated at a deficit," the Union Minister added. Puri also dismissed claims of an LPG shortage as rumours spread by opposition parties, saying the country's oil companies had stepped up their daily production from 34,000 metric tonnes to 55,000 metric tonnes.

The supplies remained uninterrupted across all 1,07,000 retail outlets in the country, he added. "Some political opponents tried to spread major rumours; during the last Parliamentary session, they even greeted me carrying cutouts of gas cylinders, claiming there would be a massive shortage and that LPG cylinders would run out.

Ruined state's education system, closed good schools: Akhilesh

Lucknow, Nov 22 (Way to News): Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday tore into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) dispensation and accused it of ruining the education system in Uttar Pradesh. Akhilesh Yadav's scathing criticism of Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government came during an event in Lucknow, organised to mark the birth anniversary of Samajwadi Party founder and former Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav



The SP Supremo claimed that the BJP government closed down many good schools across the state, putting the future of young students in peril. Hundreds of students from 'Abhinav' (model) schools, from various districts of the state, participated in the program.

The SP President distributed laptops and school bags to more than 200 students and also advised them to work hard and stay focused on their studies, terming it as the only means to excel in life.

"We want to send a message that if they (BJP government) shut down schools, we (Samajwadi Party) will provide school supplies and bags to ensure that those children can return to their studies. These children belong to very poor families.

We will work towards building better schools in the future and securing a brighter future for these children," Akhilesh Yadav said while distributing laptops to students.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

CM Revanth targets 90 seats, 15 LS seats for Congress

CM expresses confidence in retaining power for 10 years, urges party leaders to work towards making Rahul Gandhi the next Prime Minister

Hyderabad, Nov 22 (Way to News): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday exuded confidence that Congress will retain power in Telangana by securing 90 seats and one crore votes.

Setting a target of 15 Lok Sabha seats, he affirmed that the Telangana Congress would take the responsibility of making Rahul Gandhi the next Prime Minister.

Addressing the meeting of the Political Affairs Committee and Advisory Committee of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), he stated that the Congress leadership was devising a strategy to win the next Assembly elections.

He also stated that an action plan was being prepared to strengthen the ruling Congress further in Telangana. He said in the 2023 Assembly elections, the Congress party secured 92,35,833 votes and won 64 seats in the 119-member Assembly. Congress party's political partner CPI won one seat. Recalling that the TDP and BRS won assembly elections for two consecutive times in the past, he said, now the Congress will also win and be in power for 10 years.

"Telangana has always stood by the Congress party during its difficult times. Now, we must stand in support of Rahul Gandhi and let us carry the Congress party's flag and make Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister," the Chief Minister said, urging the party's rank and file



to achieve the target of 15 Lok Sabha seats in the next general elections. The Chief Minister recalled that before the 2024 elections, he had predicted that BJP would not win more than 240 seats, and he was proved right.

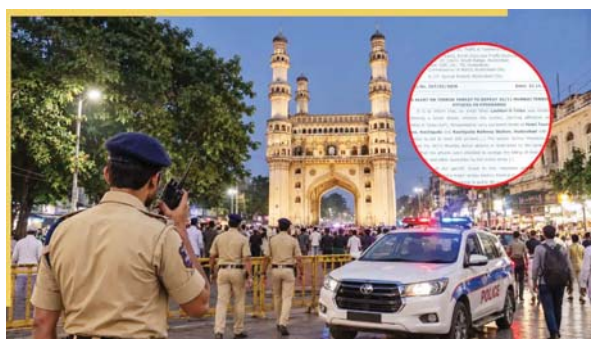
He accused the opposition BRS of running false propaganda against the Congress government. The BRS leadership thinks that such false narratives would help them to return to power. CM Revanth Reddy warned the leaders to stop making negative comments in public against the government. "We are closely observing everyone's behaviour and the way they speak," he said.

Stating that the party is aware of the leaders who are feeling disheartened, he assured them that they will certainly receive recognition in future.

"The party has complete information on what each leader says in public and in private. We will evaluate every leader's hard work during the election period. If the leaders stay aligned with the party line, positions will come to you naturally," the Congress leader said.

Reiterating that the government will reach out to people directly after the Sankranti festival, CM Revanth Reddy said the government was also preparing an action plan to tackle drought conditions amid El Nino weather conditions in the state. Referring to the importance of the Caste Census, the CM said Telangana has emerged as a model for the entire nation in conducting a caste census. Inspired by Telangana's initiative, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge have written to the Central government, urging it to conduct a nationwide caste census.

Security heightened in Hyderabad after email threatens 26/11-style attacks



Hyderabad, Nov 22 (Way to News): Hyderabad City Police on Sunday stepped up security following the receipt of an email warning of bomb blasts and replicating the 26/11 Mumbai attacks in the city. The email, allegedly linked to the Pakistan-based terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), warned of terror attacks similar to the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. Hyderabad Police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat said that after receiving an intimidating email regarding possible bomb attacks at certain locations in Hyderabad, the police immediately initiated precautionary security measures.

Anti-sabotage checks have been conducted at suspected locations, and visible policing has been intensified to ensure public safety and security, he said in a statement on Sunday night. The Cyber Crime Police are actively working to identify and trace the perpetrators behind the threatening email, he said. The police have appealed to citizens not to believe or spread rumours and to remain calm. In case of noticing any suspicious person or unattended object, the public is requested to immediately inform the police by dialling 112. Hyderabad Police are available 24×7 and remain fully committed to ensuring the safety and security of every citizen, the Commissioner added.

According to an alert message sent by Special Branch to all police stations and top police officials, the sender, claiming affiliation with LeT, threatened to carry out bomb blasts at Hotel Tourist Plaza, Kachiguda and Kachiguda Railway Station, Hyderabad with an intention to kill at least 300 people. The send r threatened to replicate the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in Hyderabad on the same day, stating that attacks were intended to avenge the killing of their leader Lateef Bhat and other associates by the Indian Army.

In view of the specific threat to two important public locations, particularly a hotel and a major railway station, there is an immediate security concern and possibility of a threat to public life and property, stated the alert message.

The Crime Branch advised all police officers to remain on high alert and take immediate precautionary measures by strengthening security and surveillance at Hotel Tourist Plaza, Kachiguda and Kachiguda Railway Station, Hyderabad and also at crowded public places, hotels, railway stations, bus stations, religious places and other important installations.

Kishan Reddy Invites Actor Prabhas To Support 'Nasha Mukt Bharat' Campaign



Hyderabad, Nov 22 (Way to News): Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, on Sunday met popular actor Prabhas to seek his support for the 'Nasha Mukt Bharat' (Drug-Free India) campaign—a major initiative launched by the Central Government to build a society free from the menace of drugs.

The Union Minister extended a special invitation to Prabhas to participate in the "Hyderabad Walks – Nasha Mukt Bharat" event, which is being held under the slogan, "Let us all raise our voices for a drug-free India." On this occasion, Kishan Reddy emphasised that film stars play a crucial role in helping to eradicate the drug epidemic that is debilitating the youth.

The minister noted that Prabhas possesses the influence to reach millions of fans—especially the youth—and expressed his belief that a call from him would inspire a powerful awakening among the younger generation. He stressed that a 'Drug-Free India' cannot be achieved by government actions alone; it requires the collective participation of prominent public figures and society as a whole. Prabhas has responded positively, agreeing to take part in this significant mission aimed at securing the nation's future and fostering a healthy society. Hyderabad Walks for Nasha Mukt Bharat are scheduled for November 25, 26 and 27. The walks will be conducted from Amberpet to Jubilee Hills.

According to Kishan Reddy, the drug problem is now plaguing Hyderabad and all rural areas of Telangana. It is not confined to any one social group. "The central government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, is committed to curbing the drug epidemic. We are moving forward with the goal of ensuring that not a single gram of drugs enters the country by 2029. Everyone, from schools to IT companies, must become aware," the Union Minister said.

"A stronger Hyderabad begins with a generation free from drugs. Let us come together, raise our voices and take a collective stand for a healthier future. Every step counts! I invite you all to join this movement and make the message of Nasha Mukt Bharat reach every household," Kishan Reddy posted on X.

Telangana accelerates preparations for Godavari Pushkaralu, expects 8 crore devotees



Hyderabad, Nov 22 (Way to News): Chief Secretary to the Government, Sanjay Jaju, has directed all relevant departments to ensure that all engineering and infrastructure works related to the prestigious Godavari Pushkaralu are completed within the stipulated deadlines. Noting that a massive influx of devotees is expected during the event, he advised that proactive arrangements be made accordingly.

The Chief Secretary held a review meeting today with officials from all concerned departments regarding the preparations and readiness for the Godavari Pushkaralu. During the meeting, officials presented a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation detailing the arrangements and the action plan being implemented for the event.

Officials informed the Chief Secretary that approximately 80 million (8 crore) devotees are expected to visit the Godavari River for the Pushkaralu, which will take place from June 26 to July 7, 2027. They stated that, in anticipation of this large turnout, comprehensive arrangements are being made to ensure the event proceeds smoothly and without any difficulties. They emphasized that special focus is being placed on developing necessary infrastructure, providing essential amenities for devotees, and ensuring effective coordination among all departments.

A total of 67 locations have been identified for conducting the Pushkaralu-related activities and providing facilities for the devotees. These locations have been categorized into three groups based on the expected number of visitors and their significance. The first category includes 11 areas, the second category 13 areas, and the third category 43 areas.

The Chief Secretary to the Government emphasized that proactive planning, coordination among various departments, and continuous monitoring of the works are essential to ensure that all infrastructure and engineering projects are completed within the stipulated deadlines.

HYDRAA Clears Sandapalli Lake Encroachments

Hyderabad, Nov 22 (Way to News): The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Saturday, November 21, removed encroachments on a four-acre area around the Sandapalli Lake in Rangareddy. The agency put a stop to those who wanted to build a wall around the lake and create an empire with lush lawns. It removed encroachments where people had built walls around the lake. The water body covers a total area of 76 acres. A house built within the lake's FTL boundary, covering an area of 100 square yards, was razed down.

After being alerted about encroachments inside the lake, HYDRAA inspected the site with the relevant officials. It confirmed that construction was taking place within the lake's Full Tank Level (FTL) boundary and took action. In the presence of local irrigation officials, HYDRAA officials installed 1,600 metres of fencing. The agency also put up a notice identifying the land as belonging to the lake.

HYDRAA officials said the action was aimed at protecting the lake from further encroachments and preserving its original boundaries. The fencing is expected to prevent unauthorised entry and stop fresh constructions within the lake's Full Tank Level (FTL) limits. The agency has been conducting inspections of lakes and other water bodies across Hyderabad and surrounding areas to identify illegal constructions and reclaim encroached government land. Officials are verifying land records and coordinating with concerned departments before taking enforcement action.

Government to Credit New Pensions to 4.75 Lakh Beneficiaries on November 26: Minister Seethakka

Maheshwaram, Nov 22 (Way to News): Empowering women financially and extending social security pensions to every eligible person are among the primary objectives of the state government, said Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Rural Water Supply and Women and Child Welfare Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka).



The Minister participated as the chief guest in the distribution programme of Cheyutha Social Security Pensions held at Kaki Eshwar Function Hall in Maheshwaram mandal on Saturday. She was accompanied by MLC and Government Whip Balmuri Venkat and local MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy. The programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the distribution of sanction letters to newly approved pension beneficiaries. Earlier, the Minister laid the foundation stone for Phase-I road works under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM).

Addressing the gathering, Seethakka said the government had provided nearly two months for receiving applications for new pensions and extended the deadline several times to ensure that eligible people could apply. Initially, around 4.50 lakh applications were received, while another 13,000 eligible beneficiaries were subsequently identified.

She said pensions were being sanctioned to single women, widows, persons with disabilities, women without husbands and those suffering from medical conditions such as HIV/AIDS, kidney ailments requiring dialysis, leprosy and thalassemia. More than 4.75 lakh new pension beneficiaries across Telangana will receive their pension amounts directly into their bank accounts on November 26.

Highlighting the government's initiatives for women's economic empowerment, the Minister said interest-free loans were being provided to women's self-help groups, with financial assistance of up to Rs. 10 lakh per group and, depending on requirements, up to Rs. 20 lakh. She encouraged women to establish small businesses, mobile tiffin centres, tailoring units, shops and other self-employment ventures. Officials were instructed to extend necessary support and encourage women to become financially indepen-

Scrapping Inter may cost Telangana students local status, says BRS



Hyderabad, Nov 22 (Way to News): Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC Dasoju Sravan Kumar has alleged that abolishing the current Intermediate system and merging it with school education would undermine the local status of Telangana students. In an open letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Sunday, November 22, the MLC claimed that students from other states could legally acquire 'Telangana local' status by purchasing a four-year corporate hostel package, since local status is not determined by birth but by where a student has studied continuously for four years immediately preceding the entrance examination.

This could potentially take away medical and engineering seats meant for Telangana students, he said. He alleged that the decision to abolish Intermediate education was taken without any meaningful consultation with public representatives, educationists or parents and claimed that corporate colleges stood to benefit from it. The BRS shared the letter on its official X handle.

The MLC said that currently, the four-year education from Class 9 to 12 is structured in two separate phases under the purview of two different boards. Classes 9 and 10 are studied in a school and completed with the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Board exam. In classes 11 and 12, students join a junior college and write the Telangana Intermediate Board exam.

Telangana SIR: Over 6L voter names deleted since Jan, 1L in a month

Hyderabad, Nov 22 (Way to News): Over one lakh voter names have been deleted via Form 7 from electoral rolls in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Telangana. From January 1, about six lakh voter names have been allegedly deleted. Since the start of 2026, poll officials have received 79 lakh applications seeking deletion of voter names. Of these, 64 lakh names were rejected, while 8.8 lakh applications are pending. "Most of these are from the claims and objections period," a senior official was quoted. The official refused to divulge further details.



Just three days ago, the Supreme Court observed that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has no power to act against booth-level agents (BLAs) accused of submitting false Form 7 applications. The observation came after election officials reported a huge submission of Form 7 in the Goshamahal and Musheerabad Assembly constituencies. Form 7 is the voter application form for objecting to the proposed inclusion/deletion of names in the electoral roll. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Election Commission Coordination Committee chairman P Rajesh Kumar is stumped by how such a large submission of Form 7 is taking place in the state despite the apex court's observation. "In Telangana, we did our best to stop Booth Level Agents (BLAs) from filing false claims through Form-7 for voter deletions.

National Highway 167 in TG turning accident hotspot

Hyderabad, Nov 22 (Way to News): Six months ago, a lorry-car collision near Peddapappur claimed two lives and left five injured. Four months after, a car hit a motorcycle carrying two youths from Chowderpally, killing one person.

All accidents happened on National Highway (NH) 167. Over the past few months, as many as five people have been killed and six seriously injured in multiple accidents on NH 167. Most occurred on the 68-km stretch of the highway connecting Gurakonda Gate in Devarakadra mandal and Boinipalli in Midjil mandal, raising serious concerns over road safety in Mahabubnagar, reported. Major reasons are driver fatigue, drunk driving and reckless overtaking, coupled with missing road signs, inadequate street lighting and the absence of medians.

Srinivasulu of Ranipet was hit by a car while crossing the road on October 21 and succumbed to his injuries. R Ramesh from Gangapur died while travelling towards Jadcherla. In the latest incident, Gopal of Malleboynapalli died after a motorcycle hit his two-wheeler near Ecopark.

"We have identified Kotikadira stage, Kodur, Enugonda and Hanumanpura junctions as accident-prone locations and submitted a representation to the authorities and deployed additional traffic personnel at the identified spots to ensure the safety of road users," a senior police officer was quoted.

Centre Launches NCS ONE Portal, E-Shram Module To Boost Employment



Gandhinagar, Nov 22 (Way to News): Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Mansukh Mandaviya, on Sunday formally launched the National Career Service (NCS) ONE Portal with new features, including the Voice Bot, Chat Bot, and Occupational Shortage Index (OSI), along with the e-Shram Livelihood Profile Module.

The initiatives aimed at strengthening India's labour and employment ecosystem were rolled out on the second day of the two-day 'Chintan Shivir' here, in the presence of the Ministers of all the states and Union Territories of the country.

The NCS Open Network for Employment (ONE) portal links job seeker apps, employer apps, state employment portals, private job platforms and campuses, while the Occupational Shortage Index (OSI) is a data-driven tool to assess labour market demand and supply gaps.

The OSI will help jobseekers with informed career choices, employers in identifying shortage and plan recruitments, education and training institutions to align skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling with industry demand and policymakers with targeted employment and skilling interventions, according to an official statement. The e-Shram Livelihood Profile tracks a worker's livelihood information alongside five essential social security protections (Panch Suraksha): food security, health protection, life insurance, accident and disability protection, and pension security.

In a significant expansion of the Ministry's Career Lounges initiative, Union Minister Mandaviya virtually launched eight Career Lounges at Jaipur, Ludhiana, Bhubaneswar, Kanpur, Bengaluru, Varanasi, Hyderabad, and Guwahati.

Career lounges are being established as a strategic extension of Model Career Centres (MCCs) under the National Career Service (NCS) framework, with 200 centres to be set up in employment exchanges, universities and educational institutions, particularly in Tier-II and Tier-III cities, in collaboration with industry partners. The Career lounges will provide career guidance, skill and aptitude assessments, mentoring, employability training, industry interactions, internships, apprenticeships and placement support.

They will also provide exposure to international employment opportunities, global labour market trends, international skill requirements and occupational standards, including language and cross-cultural preparedness, thereby enhancing the global employability of India's youth and connecting them with emerging opportunities in domestic and international labour markets.

Mandaviya also unveiled two publications — the Addendum to the National Classification of Occupations (NCO-2015) and Compilation of Existing and Emerging Green Occupations – at the event.

Delivering his closing remarks, the Union Minister said that the two-day Chintan Shivir brought forward a wide range of practical insights, field experiences, and policy perspectives from states and Union Territories. He noted that acting decisively on these deliberations in alignment with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision will guide the nation forward along the path to 'Viksit Bharat', while empowering India's Shram Shakti.

NDRF has saved over 1.61 lakh lives through 11,000 operations: Shah

Itanagar, Nov 22 (Way to News): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the prompt response and advance preparedness of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) had helped ensure that no lives were lost during several cyclones that struck the country in recent years.

"This is a direct outcome of our advanced preparedness," Shah said, highlighting the country's improved disaster response capabilities and the NDRF's crucial role in saving lives during natural calamities.



The Home Minister said that the NDRF had so far conducted more than 11,000 rescue and relief operations and saved the lives of over 1.61 lakh people.

Shah was speaking after inaugurating the 12th Battalion Campus of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at Hollongi near Itanagar. He said that soon NDRF would have emerged as a leading disaster response force among all such agencies across the world. Northeast India is an extremely important part of the country, and it shares borders with several countries and plays a crucial role in many important national initiatives, Shah noted.

"Our NDRF personnel will be capable of protecting the entire Northeast from disasters, demonstrating their valour and ensuring positive outcomes. The Central government will extend all possible assistance to the entire Northeastern region, and round-the-clock operations will be conducted throughout the year to save the lives of thousands and lakhs of people in the region," he stated. The Home Minister said that the NDRF has not only carried out rescue operations in India but has also extended its services to several countries, including Japan, Nepal, Türkiye and Sri Lanka, bringing honour to NDRF and the Tricolour.

He said that earlier, whenever a disaster struck India, disaster response agencies from across the world would come forward to assist the country.

Today, whenever a disaster strikes anywhere in the world, our NDRF proudly represents India and reaches the affected areas to save lives. This is a significant achievement of the Government of India, Shah pointed out. He said that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has paid special attention to three key areas concerning the NDRF — expansion, resources and training. Resources do not merely mean budgetary allocations; the Ministry has also played an important role in ensuring the availability of modern equipment, Shah stated.

EAM Jaishankar, Nepal PM Balendra Shah Discuss Strengthening Cooperation

New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar called on Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah in New Delhi on Sunday, holding discussions on various aspects of bilateral ties and further strengthening cooperation. Following the meeting, EAM Jaishankar said that India cherishes its special friendship with Nepal.



"Prime Minister Balendra Shah was called on by the External Affairs Minister of India, S. Jaishankar at Hotel Taj Mahal in New Delhi. On the occasion, various aspects of Nepal-India relations, including co-operation in the areas of connectivity, trade, transit commerce, energy, culture, education, sports especially cricket and football, and people-to-people ties, were discussed. They also exchanged views on further strengthening bilateral cooperation," Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on social media platform X.

EAM Jaishankar said that he looked forward to Balendra Shah's engagements with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Privileged to call on PM Balendra Shah of Nepal on his visit to New Delhi this evening. India cherishes the special friendship with Nepal. Look forward to his engagements with PM Narendra Modi tomorrow," the EAM said on X.

Earlier in the day, Balendra Shah arrived in New Delhi for a two-day State visit at the invitation of PM Modi. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada welcomed him at the airport.

Delhi's Air Quality Remains 'Poor', City Records AQI Of 236

New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): Delhi's air quality remained in the 'poor' category on Sunday, with the city recording an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 236, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Several areas of the national Capital continued to report elevated pollution levels. The AQI near ITO stood at 292, while Anand Vihar recorded an AQI of 251, both falling in the 'poor' category, as per CPCB data.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperature in Delhi was recorded at around 14 degrees Celsius, indicating the gradual onset of winter conditions in the national Capital.

The deteriorating air quality comes amid growing concerns over pollution levels across Delhi-NCR as winter conditions intensify. Lower temperatures and changing weather conditions during this period often contribute to the accumulation of pollutants in the atmosphere.

Earlier on Saturday, Delhi's air quality had deteriorated further, with the national Capital recording an AQI of 327 at 8.20 a.m., placing it in the 'very poor' category.

Several monitoring stations across the city reported very poor air quality, with Sirifort recording the highest AQI of 368, followed by Chandni Chowk at 366, Commonwealth Sports Complex at 362, Punjabi Bagh at 360, CRRI Mathura Road at 355 and Pusa at 353. Meanwhile, the construction ban imposed by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) across the National Capital Region from November 5 to 20 was lifted.

UAE ambassador discusses technology, investment ties with Karnataka leadership

New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is seeking to deepen its engagement with Karnataka in areas ranging from technology and innovation to investment and startup collaboration, as UAE Ambassador to India Abdulla Saif Al Nuaimi held a series of high-level meetings with senior state leaders during his visit to the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026, it was announced on Sunday. During the visit, Al Nuaimi met Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and discussed opportunities to strengthen economic cooperation between the UAE and the southern state, with a focus on technology, innovation and investment-led growth.



The ambassador also held talks with Karnataka Minister for Home, Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and E-Governance Priyank Kharge and KEONICS Chairman Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda. Discussions centred on the use of artificial intelligence in public services, collaboration between start-ups, and advancements in digital governance.

In a separate meeting with Medical Education and Skill Development Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, the UAE envoy explored avenues for cooperation in healthcare education, skills development and entrepreneurship. He also met Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byregowda to discuss urban infrastructure projects and Bengaluru's growing appeal as a destination for UAE investment.

CJP launches election outreach, Dipke Targets BJP

New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): With Goa heading towards Assembly elections in 2027, the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) on Sunday launched its nationwide citizen outreach campaign, Kya Bolti Public, from Panaji, marking its first public campaign since the October 10 anti-Gyanesh protests in Delhi. The campaign aims to engage citizens on local issues, with CJP leader Abhijeet Dipke using his visit to Goa to raise questions about the BJP government's development priorities and its alleged preference for builders over local communities.

Ahead of the campaign launch, Dipke visited Karapur-Sarvan village in North Goa's Mayem Assembly constituency, where at least seven people were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash on Thursday night involving residents opposing a private company's proposed mega housing project.

Alleging that the attack was intended to intimidate those resisting the project, Dipke claimed that Gaurish Ghadi, who sustained serious injuries, had been specifically targeted because of his opposition. Ghadi reportedly suffered a fractured hand and head injuries after allegedly being assaulted with a sickle. Dipke claimed that seven to eight people were involved in the assault, but only one person had reportedly been arrested. He questioned the government's response and alleged that the interests of local residents were being overlooked. Targeting the BJP government, he said villagers were struggling with basic amenities such as water and electricity even as infrastructure was being developed.

Shared civilisational heritage key to stronger SCO cooperation: Shekhawat

New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): Shared cultural heritage serves as a powerful bridge connecting countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and can play a vital role in strengthening mutual understanding, trust and cooperation, Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on the second day of the 'First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum' in New Delhi. The three-day forum, being hosted by India from November 20 to 22, has brought together ministers, senior officials, scholars, historians and cultural experts from SCO member states and dialogue partner countries to discuss civilisational ties, cultural exchanges and historical linkages.



The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who emphasised the importance of cultural dialogue in promoting regional cooperation and understanding.

Addressing the joint sessions on "Civilisational and Cultural Expressions", Shekhawat said that historical connections among nations have long contributed to friendship and cooperation. Referring to the Vedic prayer highlighted by the Prime Minister during the inauguration, he stressed the importance of moving forward together through dialogue and shared understanding. "Our civilisations are not merely legacies of the past but living traditions that continue to guide the present and inspire future generations," he said.

Manipur Liquor Tragedy: Death Toll Rises To 17, Around 230 Undergoing Treatment

Imphal, Nov 22 (Way to News): The death toll in the suspected spurious liquor tragedy in Manipur's two districts rose to 17 on Sunday after one more person succumbed to his illness, while around 230 others have been undergoing treatment at various hospitals since November 18, officials said. A high-level probe is underway into the incident to ascertain the circumstances leading to the suspected consumption of spurious liquor and identify those responsible.

A senior police official said that of the 17 deceased, 16 were from Chandel district and one from Kakching district. The affected persons have been undergoing treatment at various hospitals since November 18, with medical teams closely monitoring their condition.



Manipur government Spokesperson Thokchom Radheshyam Singh on Sunday informed that samples of the suspected spurious locally produced liquor have been sent to the National Food Laboratory (NFL) in Kolkata for laboratory testing. He told the media that besides NFL in Kolkata, the samples have also been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory and State Public Health Laboratory, both in Imphal.

Singh further informed that a high-level enquiry team has been constituted under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary R.K. Dinesh to look into the unfortunate spurious liquor incident. The Committee, which is now investigating the happenings, will submit its report within a month to the government, he added.

The spokesperson maintained that raids are continuing on the sale of illegal liquor across the state while 4600 litres of illicit liquor were seized.

He, on behalf of the state government, appealed to the public and all stakeholders to extend their support and cooperation to ensure the smooth discharge of duties by the concerned authorities.

Responding to queries raised by media persons, Singh informed that six persons have been arrested so far in connection with the spurious liquor incident. He added that investigations are underway to identify and apprehend others who may be involved in the incident.

Sanjay Raut levels 'Horse-Trading' charges to pass delimitation Bill, BJP says 'Stop Spreading Fake News'

Mumbai, Nov 22 (Way to News): Shiv Sena-UBT MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of "buying" Members of Parliament (MPs) from other parties in order to pass the Delimitation Bill, claiming that the party's "national stock exchange is offering Rs 150 crore" in exchange of one MP. However, the BJP hit back at Raut, asking him to stop spreading "fake news".



Addressing reporters here, the Shiv Sena-UBT MP said: "The Union government has become stubborn and arrogant. The Parliament's Winter Session is not being held, which is a very dangerous development." Raut claimed the reason for the Winter Session of the Parliament not being announced yet is that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah want the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026 (alongside the Delimitation Bill) to be passed if the session takes place.

"This is their (BJP government's) ego, and they are sacrificing the Winter Session for it. They have no concern for the country, the Constitution or Parliament. They have decided to get the Delimitation Bill passed at any cost," he alleged.

"They (BJP) will break or suppress smaller parties in order to reach the one-third mark (required in the Lok Sabha to pass the Bill). And if they are unable to break the parties, the MPs will be bought," the Shiv Sena-UBT leader said. Raut also claimed, "The worth of BJP's national stock exchange is Rs 150 crore for one MP." He alleged that MPs are not disqualified from the House even if a political party's whip is defied. Under the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution (the Anti-Defection Law), breaking or defying a political party's whip in India is grounds for disqualification from the Legislature.

"The BJP's national stock exchange is offering 150 crores for breaking away MPs and no one is disqualified despite defying a party's whip. Even agents have been appointed to tap MPs and the entire money is going from Maharashtra," Raut claimed.

"A senior Minister from Maharashtra has taken the responsibility to fund this," he added.

However, BJP spokesperson TR Srinivas criticised Sanjay Raut, holding him accountable for the splitting up of Shiv Sena.

Editorial

Medical Education crisis in India

Andia has crossed a historic milestone in 2026 when across 823 medical colleges when MBBS intake capacity was increased to 1,36,939 per year as per NMC data. At first glance, this looks heartening, hope that more seats, more doctors and best healthcare for 1.4 billion people of this great nation and the ultimate victory. But a closer look at the data tells a different story. The expansion of medical education in India is no longer being driven by public policy or social need. It is being driven by the private sector. And the repercussions of this shift will shape Indian healthcare for the next two decades. Mere increase in number of seats shall not make the dream come true of best healthcare and medical education for socioeconomically disadvantaged lot whose figure after more than seven decades of independence is still whooping high. The following narrative shall tell the real story. In 2026, NMC added 9,911 new MBBS seats with 7,800 seats (79%) going to private medical colleges. Only 2,111 seats were added in government institutions. Practically it means that 54% of all MBBS seats in India stands earmarked for private colleges and the Government colleges share, once the backbone of affordable medical training, now hold just 46%. It means in clear terms that the majority of India's future doctors will now train in institutions run for profit, not in institutions run for public service.

In order to get an MBBS degree from private vs Government College, the cost difference is staggering. In government medical colleges, tuition remains between 10,000 to 1 lakh per year. A full MBBS degree can be completed for touching 5 lakh, including hostel and other expenses. In private colleges, the picture splits in two. Now only 46% seats are under the "government quota" and cost 6-15 lakh rupees for the entire course. That is still expensive, but manageable with loans and scholarships to a selected lot. The remaining 54% are management and NRI quota seats in private institutions takes from 90 lakh to 1.5 crore rupees for completing MBBS. In some of the top private colleges in south India, the total cost with donations can cross 2 crore. For a middle-class family in Jammu, and other such cities, this is not a fee but generational debt after doing MBBS. The message is brutal but clear: if you miss a government seat, your dream of becoming a doctor now depends on your family's bank balance.

India's 1.3 lakh annual MBBS graduates face a grim reality: with only 75,000 to 80,000 post-graduate seats available, over 40% cannot immediately specialise. These graduates must choose between years of NEET-PG preparation, low-paying ad-hoc rural bond service, or corporate hospital jobs offering just ?40,000-?60,000 per month. This creates a severe crisis for middle-class families who take out ?1 crore loans for private medical education. Faced with immense financial pressure and years of uncertainty, graduates are forced to treat medicine purely as a business. Many buy expensive seats in lucrative specialities like radiology, dermatology, or orthopaedics, aiming solely for high-income corporate or private practice to recover their investment. Consequently, vital but lower-paying fields like family medicine and public district hospital service are completely abandoned. Policymakers must urgently re-look at this unsustainable system.

The Great AI Gamble: Who pays when computation becomes cheaper?

Soumyajit Bhar



The artificial intelligence (AI) boom is often narrated as a story of technological inevitability. Recurrent unease in technology markets tells a more complicated story. Nvidia is not an unprofitable company sustained only by speculation: its latest quarterly revenue was US$ 81.6 billion, 85% higher than a year earlier. Yet, present profits do not dissolve the wager.

The scale of investment and market valuation also depends upon expectations that AI will become much cheaper, more capable and more widely used. Extraordinary capital has already been committed to chips, data centres and electricity infrastructure on that basis. There is real technology and real revenue, but also a collective wager on how quickly its future will arrive.

We have always speculated on new technologies. What is distinctive about the present moment is the degree to which financial valuation has become tied to improvements that must continue almost in real time. Chips must improve; models must become more efficient and reliable; data centres must secure electricity and grid connections; and firms must find applications for which people are willing to pay. Inference cost – the expense of running a trained model – is not the only variable, but it is among the most consequential: mass adoption requires computation to become cheaper even as its capabilities expand.

The efficiencies on which this wager rests are already arriving. According to Stanford's 2025 AI Index, the cost of querying a model performing at roughly the level of GPT-3.5 fell from US$ 20 per million tokens in November 2022 to US$ 0.07 by October 2024, a decline of more than 280 times. Hardware costs have also fallen while energy efficiency has improved. The conventional inference is that continuing gains will widen adoption and vindicate the investment.

Ecological economics, however, asks a different question: what happens to total energy and material use when each unit of computation becomes cheaper?

The history of industrial efficiency gives little reason for complacency. A more efficient technology does not necessarily reduce aggregate resource use. By lowering the cost of a service, it can encourage that service to be used across many more activities. This rebound effect, associated with the Jevons paradox, is especially important for AI.

A cheaper token may not mean that society undertakes the same amount of computation with less electricity. It may mean that AI is inserted into every search, email, classroom, office, hospital, financial transaction and bureaucratic process. Energy use falls at the level of a particular operation, while the number and complexity of operations expand much faster.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that electricity consumption by data centres rose to around 485 terawatt-hours in 2025 and could reach about 950 TWh by 2030. Electricity demand from AI-focused data centres may triple over the same period. The IEA also notes the apparent contradiction directly: power consumption per AI task is declining rapidly, yet wider adoption and more energy-intensive applications continue to push total electricity demand upwards.

AI is, therefore, not an immaterial technology residing somewhere in the cloud. Beneath every prompt lies a physical system of semiconductor fabrication, mines, power plants, transmission lines, cooling systems and data centres. It requires land, water, minerals, specialised equipment and a continuous supply of electricity. Technological progress can shift particular constraints, but it cannot remove computation from this material metabolism. The relevant question is not whether further efficiencies are possible. It is whether they can produce absolute reductions in resource use while the scale of computation continues to expand.

This is where the financial and ecological dimensions of the gamble meet. According to the IEA, capital expenditure by five of the largest technology companies exceeded US$ 400 billion in 2025, with a further sharp increase anticipated in 2026. Financial markets require AI to grow rapidly enough to justify this infrastructure. Yet, that requires an equally rapid enlargement of material systems.

When transformers are unavailable, grids cannot supply connections, advanced chips face constraints, or communities resist the diversion of land and water, a technological problem becomes a material and political one. Ecological limits return to a financial calculation from which they had largely been excluded. The outcome is a double bind. If capability, efficiency, reliable applications and paying demand do not advance quickly enough, expectations may be revised and losses may spread well beyond a few start-ups. If they do advance, cheaper computation may validate the financial wager while intensifying the ecological one. Commercial success and ecological success are not the same thing. Efficiency also tells us nothing about justice. Markets ask whether cheaper computation can generate profitable products; they do not automatically ask which applications meet a social need, whose resources sustain them, or how benefits and burdens are distributed.

The burdens of expansion are dispersed, while ownership and decision-making remain concentrated.

Communities may provide land, water and electricity; workers may annotate data and moderate content; public institutions may subsidise infrastructure. Yet, a small group of corporations retains disproportionate authority over which applications are developed and who benefits from them. Nor can a more efficient chip decide whether scarce electricity should support household cooling during a heatwave, a rural health centre, or another data centre producing automated advertising and synthetic entertainment. That remains a social and political choice, even when presented as the inevitable consequence of innovation.

The BJP's Politics of the 'Ideal' Citizen

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?

If the confrontation could ultimately be resolved through discussion, why was it allowed to escalate to a breaking point before the government was forced to choose the path of reason? This is precisely the distinction between governance and political management. The right thing is not always to defeat an agitation; sometimes it is to understand why it began. More recent politics provides repeated warnings. Seven of AAP's 10 Rajya Sabha members crossed over to the BJP this year. Similar with the Uddhav Bal Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena and the Trinamool Congress in various forms. The moves may be legally defensible under the anti-defection law, but democracy is not merely about what is legally permissible. It is primarily about who ultimately owns the voter's mandate, and what is the spirit behind the legislation. In summary, if 2023 was about the failure to intervene, 2024 was about the failure to protect, 2025 the failure to prevent and 2026 about the ease of exploiting the system within existing laws.

Change gears to build capabilities



THE Union government's recent decision to bring another 405 defence items under domestic production signals a broader shift in Indian economic policy: from removing barriers to building capabilities. While welcome, the real challenge lies in creating the conditions for investment in sectors whose returns may take years to materialise.

For decades, India's economic reforms focused on the ease of doing business. Liberalisation dismantled the Licence Raj and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code strengthened creditor rights. Tax reforms simplified compliance and digital governance reduced transaction costs. Investments in physical and digital infrastructure improved connectivity. These reforms were necessary and removed many obstacles that hampered private enterprise. Yet today's economic challenge differs from that of 1991. The conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia, the US-China technology rivalry and growing competition over energy, semiconductors and critical minerals have shown how quickly trade and supply chains can become instruments of geopolitical pressure. The question is no longer how easily a business can be started or expanded, but whether firms have the incentives, financing and policy certainty to build capabilities that may take years to pay off.

The wider global context has changed. An economic order that rewarded efficiency is giving way to one that prizes resilience, technology and industrial capability. Supply chains are being redesigned not simply to lower costs but also for security. A shortage of a mineral, a disruption in shipping or a restriction on access to a critical technology can now have consequences far beyond trade. India's decision to establish critical-mineral processing parks for lithium and nickel reflects its recognition of this shift. The next step should be to build integrated regional value chains, linking resources and processing with research and manufacturing.

Like India, the major powers and blocs are making efforts to confront this challenge. The US is rebuilding industrial capacity through large-scale incentives for domestic manufacturing. The European Union is pursuing strategic autonomy in critical technologies. China continues to integrate finance, industry and technology behind long-term national priorities. What was once treated largely as a matter of commercial competitiveness is increasingly becoming an issue of national security. Countries that fail to adapt risk remaining consumers of technologies developed elsewhere, not producers of technologies that shape the future.

Earlier reforms reduced friction. The next generation must reduce uncertainty and reward long-term commitment. With this aim, the new reform agenda must address five priorities: deeper capital markets; incentives to mobilise money that does not demand quick returns; stronger links between research and industry; procurement that rewards innovation; and greater regulatory predictability.

Capital markets do not naturally favour such investments. Where regulatory uncertainty is high and policy appears prone to frequent change, financing tends to be short-term. Investors naturally prefer businesses that show returns sooner and with greater certainty. India's financial system reflects this bias. Banks are the principal source of corporate finance, but are designed primarily for secured lending, not long-duration innovation. This needs to be addressed. Corporate bond markets are relatively shallow, while pension and insurance funds play only a modest role in financing industrial assets. Venture capital has flourished in consumer technology and digital services, but deep technology, advanced manufacturing and clean energy continue to face funding gaps once they move beyond the startup stage.

Mobilising patient capital must be a priority. India has substantial household savings, yet only a small proportion reaches long-duration productive investment. Measures to deepen corporate bond markets, expand the role of pension and insurance funds, encourage innovation-focused investment vehicles and reduce regulatory barriers to long-term institutional investment can help channel more capital into long-gestation industrial projects.

Finance alone, however, cannot create technological capability. India's research institutions, expanding startup ecosystem and growing manufacturing ambition provide a strong base to build on, yet translating laboratory research into commercially successful products remains an exception. Universities, laboratories and industry frequently operate in silos. Our universities need stronger technology-transfer departments, incentives to patent and commercialise discoveries and deeper industry partnerships. They also need closer alignment with the skills that emerging industries require. Public research funding should increasingly reward commercial outcomes alongside academic excellence.

Another log in the funeral pyre of indian journalism

Rajesh Joshi



"Kya Nathuram Godse deshbhakt the? (Was Nathuram Godse a patriot?)" an anchor asked as part of rapid-fire questions to his guest, singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya, who was holding a placard with 'yes' and 'no' options printed on either side. Given Bhattacharya's previous remarks, he answered in an emphatic 'yes'. The captive audience – mostly media students – sitting on the stalls was prompted to clap, and they burst into thunderous applause. The anchor quickly distanced himself and said, "This is your personal opinion; I don't agree with it." It was his feeble attempt to save himself from any future accusation of quietly accepting the glorification of Gandhi's assassin. We all understand that questions do not always carry innocuous journalistic queries – sometimes they carry the burden of ideology.

However, before the anchor could move to the next rapid-fire question, as one of the five editors invited to quiz the celebrity, I raised my hand and directly addressed the young students: "Are you even aware who you people are clapping for? Do you know who Nathuram Godse was and what he did to earn your applause?" There was pin-drop silence in the glitzy TV studio. "Godse pumped three bullets into the frail body of a 79-year-old unarmed man the world knows as Mahatma Gandhi." Sensing the gravity of the situation, the celebrity guest immediately flipped the placard and showed the 'No' side and said, "I am sorry."

But the matter did not end there. One of the five invited editors sitting beside me, directly pointed a finger at me and said, as if accusing me of a heinous crime: "He is a Marxist; he is Urban Naxal." I replied: "Say it aloud that you are for Godse and not for Gandhi. Why are you attacking me?" The exchange led to chaos on the floor, and later I learnt that the entire spat, but for the celebrity guest's praise for Godse as a 'patriot', was edited out.

That day, I witnessed first-hand how the television news media slowly sow the seeds of doubt in the collective consciousness of the nation and create mind space for hitherto unacceptable things like communalism, condoning Godse's act of killing Gandhi, othering of Muslims and their harassment by sundry vigilantes, rejecting secularism and so on.

That was my first, but alas, not last, lived experience of why India's compliant media has earned the unflattering moniker 'Godi media'. The proverbial last straw came when I was recently invited to another TV channel to comment on the crackdown on the Gen-Z movement at Jantar Mantar. I was not told that it would be a pre-recorded programme, nor was I informed about the topic of discussion beforehand. Once I reached the studio, I realised that the entire programme was designed to defend the Delhi Police and the Rapid Action Force of the CRPF, who unleashed unspeakable violence on the young people at Jantar Mantar and surrounding areas of New Delhi. And the rather dramatic title of the discussion screamed from the giant video walls: 'Lahu-luhan khaki par khamoshi kyon?' (Why such silence over the blood-soaked khaki uniform?). Wives, mothers and children of the injured policemen were invited to participate in the programme, holding photos of their male relatives in bandages. Among the panellists were a retired judge, a Supreme Court lawyer, a high court lawyer and a retired police officer, and all of them vehemently and collectively asserted that the police were the actual victims of the violence unleashed by the protesters. Obviously, they got unqualified support from the invited families. There was no one in the studio to speak for the young protesters who bore the brunt of police brutality on July 20. No one was there to hold the photos of the 21 young NEET aspirants who committed suicide after paper leak and rescheduling of the exam. Neither was there anyone representing the protesters who suffered pellet gun injuries only a few hundred metres away from the country's parliament. There was not a single person on the panel to talk about why a policeman in Siwan opened fire on the young protesters from an AK-47 rifle, as if he was chasing away a group of armed terrorists.

Being the only journalist on the panel, I thought it was important to question the framing of the topic, and asked why the other side was missing, and why there was no one to speak for the young protesters? Where is editorial balance and objectivity? I also questioned the use of the pellet guns on the protesting students, holding political leadership responsible for ordering the forces to use the lethal weapon. I narrated the story of the 14-year-old Kashmiri girl, Insha Mushtaq, who sustained pellet gun injuries in 2016 and was blinded in both eyes. I said it did not bother many people living outside of Kashmir because they were convinced that the government there was dealing with an armed insurgency and was handling a very delicate situation. "But why is the use of the pellet gun on the young students protesting in New Delhi not bothering anyone?", I asked.

Then I questioned the absence of the Union home minister Amit Shah from parliament and criticised the high-handedness of the armed forces, at the same time acknowledging that it's the cops who come face-to-face with the agitated crowd, while the politician who actually orders the crackdown remains safe behind his security cordon.

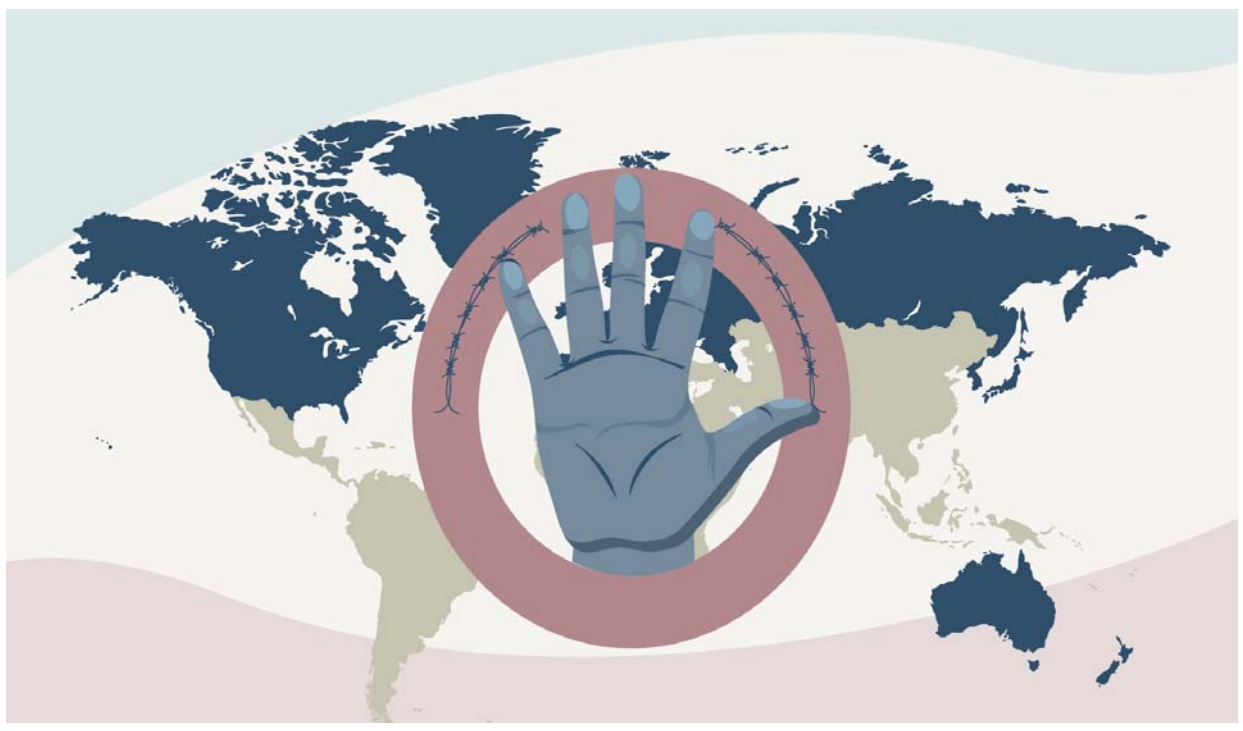
The whole recorded programme was about 40-45 minutes long, but it was edited down to 30 minutes before being put on air.

All my interventions in the programme, lo and behold, were edited out lock, stock and barrel, barring a small 17-second clip – that too badly spliced – in which I too appear to suggest that the police were the victims: "The crowd control is the most challenging thing for the armed forces, whether it is in a disturbed area or in a peaceful area. The politician takes the decision and tells the policeman to carry out his orders. So, it's the policeman who faces the crowd. Police become the victim." What I witnessed was nothing less than a complete mutilation of internationally accepted editorial practices of fairness, balance and objectivity. I thought that Gen Z protesters at Jantar Mantar had schooled the journalists who obediently take dictation from the authorities, but alas, they don't seem to have learnt a lesson.

Supporting and even actively campaigning for a particular party or ideology is common for newspapers in western democracies like the UK and US, but completely censoring the other side of the picture is probably practised only in countries where Supreme Leaders reign. The difference is that in authoritarian countries censorship is enforced by law, but in India the compliant media is more than eager to censor itself so as not to upset the people in power. Having worked as a journalist in the media industry for over three decades, I know the editor is the final authority in such matters. But when stealth editing is done to please the powers that be, the editor knows he is placing one more log on the funeral pyre of ethical journalism.

The Global South Was Once a Project of Solidarity

Hans Kundnani
Srirupa Roy



In a response to a question following a speech at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., in 2019, Indian external affairs minister S. Jaishankar described his country as a 'Southwestern' power. He said that, 70 years after independence, it was now clear that India was a democracy and in that sense was a 'Western' rather than an 'Eastern' power – in other words, he took completely at face value the equation of democracy with the West.

Yet, he said, India was also a 'Southern' power in the sense that it was part of the developing world and would continue to maintain a strong bond with it.

Taking Jaishankar's striking but problematic formulation as a starting point, this short essay thinks the ideas of the Global South and the West together. The two concepts have both been discussed extensively – but mostly separately. By juxtaposing the two concepts, we consider whether they are commensurable.

Although the Global South emerged much later than the idea of the West, it is similarly ambiguous in terms of scope and meaning. But as a normative project, the Global South seems to have largely disappeared during the last several decades as the sense of solidarity between the countries it once included has eroded and the term has increasingly been instrumentalised, especially by the four BRIC countries. As Giorgios Varouxakis has recently shown, the idea of the West as a "political entity based on civilisational commonality" emerged in the middle of the nineteenth century, though the term had of course been used in many different ways at earlier historical moments. The idea of the Global South emerged much later – the first documented use of the term was by the American political activist in 1968. It was popularised by the report of the Independent Commission on International Developmental Issues, chaired by Willy Brandt, which introduced the wavy horizontal line separating the rich north from the poor south that became known as the "Brandt line".

The idea of the Global South clearly also drew on, and is related to, a series of adjacent and precedent concepts that refer to formal as well as informal collectivities in world politics: the non-white world, Afro-Asia (the grouping of countries that met at the Bandung conference in 1955), the Non-Aligned Movement (created in 1961), the G77 bloc (created in 1964) and, perhaps most importantly, the Third World.

Each of these groupings of countries overlapped partially, but not completely, with what would be imagined as the Global South. Thus, just as the scope and boundaries of the concept of the West depend on how we define the concept (is Japan, for example, part of the West?), so too do the scope and boundaries of the Global South. In particular, just as we can differentiate between geographic, strategic, developmental/technological, normative and civilisational versions of the West, there are also different versions of the South. Most straightforward is what Nikita Sud and Diego Sánchez-Ancochea call the "territorial" (i.e. geographic) South, which "comprises the continents of Asia, Africa and Central and South America."

But the South can also be understood in historical terms as consisting of formerly colonised countries or in developmental terms as a collection of countries that are counterposed to the "northern" advanced economies of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The high-water mark of the Global South idea was in the 1980s, when the term first gained currency in the context of the late Cold War. In the early phase of the Cold War (1950s-1970s), the world had been conceptualised as consisting of two halves: a democratic West and a communist East. Some also saw other fault lines – for instance, in his dispatch from Bandung, Richard Wright built on earlier ideas of a global colour line and proposed the idea of a "colour curtain" hanging perpendicular to the Iron Curtain.

But it was really with the idea of the Brandt line in 1980 – an economic fault line rather than a political one – that the world was divided into four quadrants, though whereas the northwest (the First World) and the northeast (the Second World) were thought of as distinct, the southwest and southeast (the Third World) were fused into a single/singular South.

With the end of the Cold War, the "second world" disappeared and the world was once again conceptualised as consisting of two halves. However, instead of a world that was divided into east and west (that is on the basis of differences of political and economic ideology) as in the early phase of the Cold War, the post-Cold war world was divided into north and south (that is, on the basis of economic development). Yet far from further focusing attention on the problem of global inequality and solidifying a sense of solidarity between Global South countries, the grouping seemed increasingly incoherent as the countries imagined as belonging to this category diverged quite sharply in developmental terms. During the period of the US-led "war on terror" in the early decades of the 21st century, there seemed to be a new fault line based on religion. But since the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, there has been a growing sense within the West that it is fighting a new Cold War – that is, a global struggle between democracies against authoritarian states. This has led to a revival not just of the idea of the West, which until then had been in decline, but even of the idea of the "free world" in contrast to an "unfree world". Meanwhile, some on the left have hoped that this new Cold War-like situation might lead to a new iteration of the non-aligned movement that would bring together neutral countries in the same way as during the Cold War.

In the second decade of the 21st century, we seem to be reverting once again to a world that is imagined as consisting of four quadrants – though in a new context of strategic competition between a rising China and a declining United States. This is the context for Jaishankar's description of India as a "southwestern" power. According to his logic, if democracies in Global South are southwestern powers, authoritarian states in the Global South would presumably be "southeastern" powers. But the application of these geographical categories from the Cold War makes little sense in a post-Cold War world in which the boundaries between authoritarianism and democracy and between developed and developing economies have become blurred. The South as a normative project?

The South seems to have resonated most as a developmental concept. As the China example suggests, it may be precisely because the boundaries between developed and developing countries have now blurred so much that group has lost whatever coherence it might have had during the latter phase of the Cold War. Despite attempts like the NAM and the G77, the Global South never really cohered into a strategic project in the way that the West did, with its institutional/strategic embodiment in NATO. It is also clear that the South was never a unified civilisational project in the way that the West was. But can we speak of the South as ever having been a normative project reflecting universal values in the way that the West is imagined to be?

It is tempting to think that in contrast to the West, the South was always a purely negative project – that is, one which was defined in opposition to the West (or the North), whether that is understood in racial terms (i.e., the non-white world), economic or developmental terms (i.e., developing economies). In other words, whereas the West was active, the South was reactive. However, the concept of the West also emerged as a response to a sense of threat – in particular from Russia, as Varouxakis reminds us – and its more recent return clearly takes place in a context of anxiety about relative decline. However, that itself may illustrate an important difference between the two concepts: whereas the West resonates in a context of decline, the South resonates in a context of emergence. As a result, the South may also have a different sense of moral purpose than the West. In particular, in so far as we can speak of a set of "southern values" that informed a normative project – that is, the equivalent of purported Western values – they might include anti-racism and a sense of solidarity. It is easy to point out that Global South countries have rarely lived up to these values. But neither have the countries of the West, however it is defined, lived up to what are claimed to be Western values.

Over the course of the last several decades, this normative project of the South, such as it was, seems to have largely disappeared. The four so-called BRIC states – that is, Brazil, Russia, India and China – now instrumentalise the concept of the South to make leadership claims and project power. The concept of the BRICs is sometimes imagined as a kind of successor to earlier concepts like the Global South, but it is in reality quite different from them – the concept was coined by Jim O'Neill, the chief economist at Goldman Sachs, simply to designate the four largest "emerging markets".

Thus although, like the developmental idea of the Global South, it was based on economic criteria, it was a term that was meant merely to guide investment decisions rather than inspire political action of any kind and has subsequently been instrumentalised for economic and strategic purposes by the countries themselves. If anything has demonstrated the disappearance of anything resembling a normative project of the South, it is the response to Israel's destruction of Gaza since October 7, 2023. It has often been said since then that the West's complicity in the genocide has destroyed its credibility and in particular its claim to stand for a set of positive Western values. But there has also been little sense of Global South solidarity with, or support for, the Palestinians. Perhaps most striking of all is the lack of support from India, which during the Cold War, was especially forceful and vocal in condemning Israel along with apartheid South Africa.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Crypto investors seek govt action against WazirX, Binance over alleged fraud



New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): Thousands of cryptocurrency investors have approached central investigative agencies, including the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), alleging that crypto exchanges WazirX and Binance caused significant financial losses to them, as per multiple reports.

Reports claim that complaints submitted by investor groups and users have reported alleged unauthorised access to accounts and loss of crypto assets.

Regulatory authorities have been unable to take decisive action due to the absence of a comprehensive legal framework governing cryptocurrency-related frauds in India, they added. The petitioners said WazirX, which had marketed itself as one of India's largest and most secure cryptocurrency platforms with around 16 million registered users, operated for several years while maintaining business links with global crypto exchange Binance. Investors claim that Binance, which announced the acquisition of WazirX in 2019, benefited from the rapid growth of India's cryptocurrency market and generated substantial revenues through trading activity and token-related business.

However, they alleged that questions over the ownership of WazirX emerged after enforcement authorities in India began scrutinising the platform and issued notices under foreign exchange regulations in 2022. According to the complaints, Binance subsequently stated that it did not own WazirX, while WazirX's user agreement continued to reference Binance as a wallet service provider for users' crypto assets, the reports said. The petitioners contend that these developments created confusion among customers regarding responsibility for safeguarding user funds. The investors further alleged that after a major cyberattack on WazirX in July 2024, the exchange proposed measures that effectively distributed losses across both affected and unaffected users. Users whose holdings were not compromised in the breach also faced restrictions on access to their assets, according to them.

The complaints also questioned WazirX's decision to seek court approval in Singapore for a restructuring scheme through its Singapore-based entity, Zettai Pte Ltd. Petitioners argued that the move made it more difficult and costly for predominantly Indian users to challenge decisions affecting their investments. However, trading on the WazirX platform remained suspended for an extended period following the cyberattack, preventing users from accessing or trading their holdings during periods of market volatility, the reports said.

FSSAI to act against Bisleri over unsafe water



New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): The FSSAI on Sunday said it has initiated prosecution proceedings against popular packaged drinking water manufacturer Bisleri International, after a laboratory examination found its water sample unsafe.

The food safety regulator said in a statement that the initial analysis of the Bisleri water found that the sample did not meet the prescribed limits for bromate, following which it was declared unsafe under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The company subsequently exercised its right to appeal, and the sample was forwarded to a referral food laboratory for further examination.

However, the second laboratory assessment also classified the water as unsafe, identifying the presence of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). "A regulatory sample of 'Packaged Drinking Water (other than Mineral Water)' was collected from the premises of M/s Bisleri International Pvt. Ltd. for analysis. The sample was found non-compliant with the prescribed bromate limits and declared unsafe under the FSS Act, 2006. Upon appeal by the FBO, the sample was referred to the Referral Food Laboratory, which also declared it unsafe due to the detection of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)," the FSSAI said in a statement.

"The laboratory findings established violations relating to unsafe food under the FSS Act, 2006. Sanction has been granted to launch prosecution under the FSS Act, 2006, against M/s Bisleri International Pvt. Ltd," it added.

Aluminium Goods Makers Seek Customs Duty Waiver On Metal Import



New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): Aluminium products manufacturers have, as part of their wish list for the Union Budget 2026-27, requested the Union government to waive customs duty on the imports of raw metal which would bring down their input costs and enhance the competitiveness of small enterprises. Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association of India (ALEMAI) has urged the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to reduce the customs duty on primary aluminium to zero from the current level of 7.5 per cent levy, which works out to 8.25 per cent after the addition of a social welfare surcharge.

The industry body has said in a letter to the Finance Minister that the zero customs duty would enhance the competitiveness of the country's downstream manufacturing ecosystem, encourage greater domestic value addition, support MSMEs, improve export competitiveness, and expand aluminium consumption across the economy. India has established a globally competitive primary aluminium industry and has significant potential to expand domestic aluminium consumption. However, the downstream aluminium sector, comprising a large number of MSMEs, continues to face a structural cost disadvantage due to the prevailing tariff structure on primary aluminium, the principal raw material, the letter said. Domestic primary aluminium prices are influenced by international prices and import-parity considerations.

India-EU free trade agreement likely to be signed on December 16



New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): India and the European Union (EU) are likely to sign their long-pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on December 16, marking a significant milestone in efforts to deepen economic and trade ties between the two sides. The agreement is expected to be signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to Brussels in December, according to reports. The development is expected to provide fresh momentum to India-EU economic cooperation and strengthen trade relations between India and the 27-member European bloc.

Meanwhile, earlier this week, President Droupadi Murmu had said that the implementation of the India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) presents significant new opportunities for India and Bulgaria to further strengthen their trade, investment and technological partnerships.

President Murmu emphasised on the growing India-EU partnership during her meeting with Bulgaria's visiting Foreign Minister Velislava Petrova-Chamova at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. "H.E. Mrs Velislava Petrova-Chamova, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," Rashtrapati Bhavan posted on X. Highlighting the opportunities offered by the trade pact, the President's office said, "The President noted that the implementation of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement presents significant new opportunities for India and Bulgaria to further strengthen

India's Oil, Gas import bill rises $6 billion in October

New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): India's net import bill for oil and gas rose to $16 billion in October from $10 billion in the same month last year due to the sharp rise in global prices, according to data compiled by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell. The average price of the Indian basket of crude oil imports worked out to $119.91 in October, compared with $65.08 in the same month of the previous year, the figures showed. India imports over 85 per cent of its crude oil requirement and any increase in global prices results in the import bill shooting up.

During October, crude oil imports accounted for $19.5 billion, LNG imports for $1.3 billion, while exports amounted to $6.3 billion.

In volume terms, the country's crude oil imports rose 11 per cent to 23.31 million metric tons during the month, from 21 million tons in October last year. The import in October was also 4.7 per cent higher than the previous month. The net import bill for the first seven months of the current financial year (April-Oct) touched $97.7 billion, up from $70.3 billion in the same period last year.

The quantity of crude imported during April-Oct was 2.7 per cent higher during FY 2026-27, compared to the corresponding periods of the previous year. India's exports of petroleum products registered a growth of 4.7 per cent during October 2026, while recording a de-growth of 13.2 per cent during April-Oct FY 2026-27, compared to the corresponding periods of the previous year. The decline in product exports during FY 2026-27 was primarily due to lower exports.

ESIC notifies new rules for to speed up claims for sickness, maternity benefits



New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on Sunday notified new regulations allowing eligible workers to receive sickness, maternity, and work-related injury benefits directly into their bank accounts without needing to file separate claim forms. The regulations replace the existing Employees' State Insurance (General) Regulations, 1950, and give effect to provisions under the Code on Social Security, 2020.

Under the new Employees' State Insurance (General) Regulations, 2026, eligible claims will be processed through direct benefit transfer (DBT), reducing paperwork and easing access to cash benefits. The regulations provide for automatic processing of sickness and maternity benefit claims, without a separate application, if three conditions are met: the medical certificate is generated through ESIC's information system; the employer submits the required monthly return through its portal; and the worker has an Aadhaar-linked bank account, with the insurance number also linked to Aadhaar. The rules also make it easier to get claims for employment-related injuries.

Earlier, workers with temporary disabilities had to file separate claims, while those with permanent disabilities and families of deceased workers had to apply for the first payment of benefits, even after the employer had reported the accident to ESIC. Once an injury is recognised as work-related, the employer's accident report will itself serve as the claim for temporary and permanent disablement benefits, as well as dependants' benefits in case of death.

ESIC can initiate payments on the basis of the report without waiting for a separate application.

Workers will retain the option of filing claims themselves, electronically or otherwise, even if they qualify for automatic processing.

However, the facility will not become operational immediately upon notification.

The regulations leave it to the ESIC Director General Ashok Kumar Singh to specify the date from which the deemed-claim and employment-injury provisions will take effect. The regulations extend the period before the expected date of delivery during which maternity benefits can be claimed from 50 days to 56 days.

Sugar output jumps fourfold in India as ethanol shift ban supports availability



New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): India's sugar production rose more than fourfold in the first month of the 2026-27 ethanol supply year (ESY2027), aided by the government's decision to prohibit diversion of sugar for ethanol production, a report said on Saturday.

Domestic sugar output reached 1.3 million metric tonnes (MT) during the first month of ESY2027, significantly higher than the corresponding period a year earlier even as industry estimates point to relatively tight inventory levels in the ongoing sugar season, a report by ICRA showed.

It also expected that the restriction on sugar diversion towards ethanol will bolster domestic availability at a time when carry-forward stocks are projected to remain below historical norms.

In addition, net sugar production in sugar year 2027 (SY2027) is estimated at 28-29 million MT, compared with about 27.6 million MT in SY2026, when nearly 3 million MT of sugar was diverted for ethanol production.

Against an estimated domestic consumption of 28.3 million MT, closing inventories are projected at 3.5-4.5 million MT by the end of SY2027, lower than the 4.8 million MT estimated for SY2026 after accounting for the permitted import quota of 1 million MT, according to the report. The projected stocks would represent less than two months of national consumption, below the historical benchmark of two to three months.

However, domestic sugar prices remained firm in November amid strong festive demand and supply constraints. In Maharashtra, sugar prices increased to Rs 51.4 per kg in November from Rs 49.1 per kg in October, while prices in Uttar Pradesh rose to Rs 54.8 per kg from Rs 51.1 per kg. "Consequently, all-India prices rose to Rs. 54.7 per kg from Rs. 51 per kg amid heavy festive demand and slower production from Uttar Pradesh," according to ICRA.

Moreover, international sugar prices also strengthened during October 2026.

Raw sugar prices rose to $445 per MT, compared with $395 per MT in September 2026 and $343 per MT in October 2025. Similarly, white sugar prices advanced to $540 per MT in October 2026 from $519 per MT a month earlier and $440 per MT a year ago. The premium of white sugar over raw sugar narrowed to $94 per MT from $97 per MT in October 2025.

Gold, Silver plummet as fed rate fears trigger selloff

New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): Gold and silver recorded steep weekly losses as rising expectations of a US Federal Reserve rate hike and a stronger American dollar caused heavy selling across commodity markets.

Gold dipped 8.77 per cent to a 14-month low and silver plummeted 14.31 per cent on a weekly basis, marking one of its steepest weekly declines in recent years, also because global risk sentiment weakened after crude prices eased. Commodity market sentiment weakened after US Federal Reserve officials reinforced concerns that persistent inflation may require further monetary tightening. On Friday, MCX gold futures expiring in December declined 4.32 per cent while MCX silver futures for December gained 0.74 per cent. Gold futures stood at Rs 1,21,949, while silver futures stood at Rs 1,48,900 per kg.

The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,23,893 on Friday, down from Rs 1,35,809 seen last week's close, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). The price of 1 kg of 99.9 per cent pure silver dropped from Rs 1,78,000 to 1,52,528, down 14.31 per cent. WTI crude slipped to around $83-84 a barrel, roughly 5 per cent below last week's highs in the upper $80s, as recovering Middle East export flows and expectations of a global supply surplus outweighed renewed concerns over attacks on regional energy infrastructure.

How India's investment is growing despite higher interest rates



New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): The decade of cheap money that facilitated corporate expansion in the global economy appears to have changed with loans turning more expensive due to higher interest. The challenge for businesses is no longer simply how to obtain financing, but how to maintain cash flow, manage liabilities, and ensure that investments remain economically viable as capital becomes more expensive, according to an article in India Narrative.

It highlights that the scale of this challenge is reflected in global debt figures. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), total public and private debt reached approximately $251 trillion in 2024, equivalent to more than 235 per cent of global gross domestic product. Public debt stood at $99.2 trillion, while private debt amounted to approximately $151.8 trillion. These obligations must be managed in an increasingly challenging financing environment. The article by economist Eko Setiobudi points out that pressure is also becoming visible in corporate bond markets. As bonds issued during periods of low interest rates mature, companies may face higher refinancing expenses and reduced financial flexibility.

Government bond markets add another dimension to this challenge. A Federal Reserve study published in September 2026 estimates that an additional $100 billion in US Treasury supply could raise five-year Treasury yields by approximately three basis points under current market conditions. The investment decisions of corporates are closely linked to the cost of capital. When the cost of capital shoots up even projects that are expected to generate positive cash flows may no longer remain attractive. Consequently, projects that appeared profitable during an era of cheap money may become less viable, the article observes.

The article cites India's experience as showing that strong economic growth does not automatically eliminate capital cost pressures. Companies still need to manage debt maturities, credit ratings, interest rate structures, and foreign exchange exposure.

Businesses with stable cash flows and stronger credit profiles may have broader financing options, while higher-risk companies need to manage leverage and working capital more carefully. Treasury is therefore not merely a fund management function; it is central to corporate competitiveness and financial sustainability, the article states. "India illustrates how companies in emerging economies are navigating changing financing conditions. Its economy requires substantial capital to support industrialization, infrastructure development, and private sector expansion. Yet investment needs are increasing alongside differences in borrowing costs across corporate credit ratings," the article observes.

India's financing market is not simply contracting. According to the RBI Bulletin for September 2026, total resource flows to the commercial sector reached Rs 25.29 lakh crore in the first half of fiscal year 2026–2027, through September 30, compared with Rs 16.26 lakh crore during the same period a year earlier.

Both bank credit and non-bank financing contributed to this increase. The challenge, therefore, is not merely securing funds, but identifying financing sources that match companies' risk profiles and cash flow capacity, the article further states.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Pant, Rahul tons put India on top; Conway's unbeaten fifty keeps NZ alive

Wellington, Nov 22 (Way to News): Devon Conway made a gritty unbeaten 59 to keep New Zealand in the fight at 119/2 at stumps on day four, after centuries from KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant powered India to 720/9 declared in the first Test at the Basin Reserve here on Sunday. The hosts still trail by 233 runs with a full day to go. With victory no longer on the cards, New Zealand batted out 45 overs for the loss of two wickets. Conway soaked up 137 balls for making 59, laced with six boundaries, and found help from Henry Nicholls (31) and Rachin Ravindra (27 not out) to keep New Zealand's hopes of escaping with a draw alive.

Records tumbled during India's first innings, which they declared during the second session. Their score of 720/9 in 166 overs is the highest total ever made in New Zealand, and for the first time in Test history a side saw each of its first seven partnerships go past 50. Pant's 128 off 153 balls – his ninth Test hundred and first in New Zealand – also carried him past Brendon McCullum to be at second spot among Test cricket's six-hitters. India had seemed to be building towards a declaration from the middle of day three. Shubman Gill's purposeful 98 on Saturday had put them 118 runs ahead, and on Sunday Pant thrilled a packed, sun-drenched crowd as nightwatchman Anshul Kamboj and Dhruv Jurel helped India pile on 234 runs in 41 overs.

Resuming after tea on 33/1, Conway and Nicholls faced a disciplined Indian attack on a slow, low surface. Kamboj and Akash Deep bowled round the



wicket to the left-handers, attacking the stumps with catchers in front of the bat and just one slip. India's patience paid off when Prasidh Krishna, touching 144kph without a slip in place, got one to climb at Nicholls. The left-hander's inside edge ballooned off the thigh pad, and Jurel dived forward at short leg to scoop a stunning one-handed catch. Nicholls, who had scored 206 runs in the match before being dismissed for the first time, departed for 31 to end a stand that lasted almost 22 overs.

Rachin needed 15 balls to get off the mark, while Conway reached his 14th Test fifty off 112 balls by pulling Prasidh for a boundary. Earlier, Bumrah struck in his first over for the second time in the match, removing New Zealand skipper Tom Latham for a pair as the hosts reached 33/1 at tea.

Latham, who was castled while shouldering arms against Bumrah in the first innings, survived an inswinger first ball. But the next ball, a touch shorter and wider, straightened away off the seam, and Latham pushed at it to give a catch behind to Pant. Latham became only the third New Zealand captain to bag a Test pair. Bumrah joined S Sreesanth and Zaheer Khan as the only Indian bowlers known to have taken a wicket in the opening over of both innings of a Test.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 368 and 119/2 in 45 overs (Devon Conway 59 not out, Henry Nicholls 31; Prasidh Krishna 1-20, Jasprit Bumrah 1-33) trail India 720/9 dec in 166 overs (KL Rahul 136, Rishabh Pant 128; Glenn Phillips 3-154, Rachin Ravindra 2-44) by 233 runs

Women's ACT 2026: Defending Champions India Cruise Past Thailand 7–0, Seal Semis Berth

Bhopal, Nov 22 (Way to News): Deepika slammed a hat-trick, and Navneet Kaur scored a brace as defending champions India confirmed their place in the semifinals of the Madhya Pradesh Women's Asian Champions Trophy with an emphatic 7-0 victory over Thailand at the International Sports Complex in Nathu Barkheda in Bhopal on Sunday.



Deepika struck in the 10th, 11th and 56th minutes for her triple, Navneet Kaur converted two penalty strokes in the 4th and 56th minutes, while Mumtaz Khan (28') and Sunelita Toppo (32') scored a goal each to help India register their third successive win, maintaining their unbeaten record in the tournament.

As chief coach Sjoerd Marijne cut an increasingly assured figure on the sidelines and beamed with pride, India began with considerable attacking intent, moved the ball down the flanks with fluidity and immediately put the Thai defence under pressure. A succession of circle entries and crisp short-passing combinations brought the hosts an early opportunity in the form of a penalty stroke in the fourth minute, which Navneet converted with ease. Thailand goalkeeper Siraya Yimkrajang offered resistance as the hosts continued to probe. India eventually doubled their advantage in the tenth minute when Deepika converted a penalty-corner opportunity. She struck again in the next minute, converting another set-piece chance to extend India's lead to 3-0.

Navneet subsequently had a reverse-stick effort ruled out for backstick, but India had already established a firm hold on proceedings by the end of the opening quarter. Thailand offered a more disciplined defensive performance in the second quarter. The hosts, meanwhile, kept their approach simple as they relied on controlled possession rather than forcing openings.

Courtesy of a well-constructed move that involved Rutuja Dadaso Pisal and Navneet, Mumtaz displayed excellent close control in the striking circle and added India's fourth goal in the 28th minute. The hosts went into the half-time break with a commanding 4–0 advantage.

India maintained their midfield rotations and attacking pressure in the third quarter.

SMAT 2026: MP Hold Maharashtra For Close Win; Abdul Samad Shines For J&K Against Punjab

New Delhi: Madhya Pradesh held Maharashtra for a close five-run win in their fifth Group C match as they defended a strong 208-run target in Mohali on Sunday, while Abdul Samad starred in Jammu and Kashmir's win over Punjab in the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2026.



Chasing 209, Maharashtra were on course for a win as they were 118/1 in the 11th over after Prithvi Shaw and Sahil Parakh had scored fifties. However, they lost their way as Kumar Kartikeya picked up a couple of wickets, while Shivang Kumar scalped one as Maharashtra batters Ramakrishna Ghosh and Siddhesh Veer were run out.

Rushikesh Sonawane and Ruturaj Gaikwad scored 26 from 25 balls collectively as Maharashtra lost their way. They needed 14 from the final over as Arshin Kulkarni was doing the damage. However, he made 54 from 26 balls but could not take the team home.

Batting first, Harsh Gawali (55) and Akshat Raghuwanshi (50) had scored half centuries for MP. The Rajat Patidar-led MP are on top of Group C with four wins in five matches, while Maharashtra are sixth with two wins in five games.

Elsewhere, Samad starred in a five-wicket win for J&K over Punjab in Group B. The middle-order batter made an unbeaten 64 from 27 balls to help his team chase down 196 in their Group B clash in Indore. Qamran Iqbal had earlier scored 53 from 33 balls, while Lone Nasir Muzaffar also made an unbeaten 23 from 15 deliveries in the win.

Earlier, Punjab captain Ramandeep Singh had scored an unbeaten 50 from 27 balls, while Vihaan Malhotra had made an impressive and unbeaten 85 from 59 deliveries.

Meanwhile, Chandigarh also beat Karnataka in their fifth match after chasing down a meagre 96 in a Group A clash in Mumbai. Chandigarh bowlers did well to nail Karnataka down for only 95.

Hardik Chowdhry and Bhagmender Lather picked up three wickets each, while Jagjit Singh and Chiragvir Dhindsa also scalped a couple each.

NATIONAL SHOOTING

Danish Khan Wins Master Men Skeet Gold; Jayeshchand, Hammad Meer Complete Podium



New Delhi, Nov 22 (Way to News): Uttar Pradesh's Danish Khan won the gold medal in the Master Men Individual Skeet at the 69th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges near New Delhi on Saturday.

The shotgun competitions, organised by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) under International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) rules, have been underway since November 12.

Danish, who qualified second with 109 (20, 22, 23, 22, 22), shot 29 in the eight-man final to finish two targets clear of the field. Telangana's J. Jayeshchand, who entered the final in sixth place with 103 (21, 20, 22, 21, 19), took silver with 27. Delhi's Syed Hammad Meer claimed bronze with 25 after qualifying fourth with 106 (23, 22, 20, 21, 20).

Telangana had three more shooters in the final. Rahul Rao finished fourth with 20 after making the cut through a shoot-off for the last final berth, having tied on 99 with Punjab's Gurvinder Singh Gill. E. Chetan Reddy was fifth with 16 and Viqar Ahmed Shafeeq sixth with 14. Qualification topper Haris Ul Islam of Uttar Pradesh, who led the field with 111 out of 125 (21, 21, 24, 22, 23), could manage only 5 in the final and placed seventh after a tie-shot with Rajasthan's Pratap Singh, who also finished on 5 and took eighth.

Chetan Reddy and Hammad Meer were level on 106 in qualification, with Chetan taking third spot on a tie-shot. Earlier on Wednesday, Punjab shooters Zorawar Singh Bedi and Parmeet Kaur clinched the youth men's and youth women's skeet gold medals respectively.

In the Youth Men Individual Skeet event, Zorawar Singh Bedi shot a consistent 119 out of 125 across five rounds (24, 25, 23, 25, 22) to claim the gold medal by a two-target margin. Rajasthan's Anjaneya Singh Mandawa took silver with 117 (25, 23, 22, 24, 23).

Rafael Nadal Elected To Real Madrid Board Of Directors With 99.5 Per Cent Votes

Madrid, Nov 22 (Way to News): Tennis legend Rafael Nadal has been elected as a member of Real Madrid's Board of Directors after receiving 99.5 per cent of the votes at the club's Extraordinary General Assembly on Saturday. A total of 1,713 votes were cast, with 1,704 members voting in favour of Nadal's appointment, four voting against and five abstaining. Nadal, a lifelong Real Madrid supporter and honorary member of the club since 2011, received a standing ovation from the representative members following his election.



Speaking after the appointment, the 22-time Grand Slam champion described the opportunity as a great honour and said he was aware of the responsibility that came with joining one of the world's biggest sporting institutions. "It is a great responsibility to be part of the Board of Directors of Real Madrid. This club is passed down from parents to children and unites people. For me, it connects me with family and friends to watch matches together. It is an immense joy and a great satisfaction," Nadal said in an official statement. He added that he hoped to contribute to the club's continued success while learning from his new role. "I am very aware of the responsibility because Real Madrid is a global brand. It is an infinite responsibility, and I take it on with the hope of learning and contributing so that this club continues to be the best in the world," he said.

Nadal also expressed his commitment to helping Real Madrid maintain its position among the leading clubs in world sport. "I will work to ensure that things continue as they are: a successful club that remains so for years to come. Hala Madrid!" he added. Real Madrid president Florentino Perez welcomed Nadal's appointment, describing him as one of the greatest sporting figures in Spanish and global history. Perez said Nadal's achievements, personality and commitment to sporting values had earned him respect across the world. He also highlighted the tennis great's long association with Real Madrid and his attachment to the club.

"We all know the extraordinary dimension of Rafa Nadal. His name is already part of the universal history of sports.

Stasya Pandya Tops FEI Youth Dressage Challenge

Mumbai, Nov 22 (Way to News): In another significant milestone in her career, young Indian equestrian Stasya Pandya has secured 1st place in the Youth Category of the FEI Dressage World Challenge (FEI WDC) 2026, achieving an impressive score of 70.825% riding her horse, GO FOR IT TC, competing from the South Zone at the Surge Stables, Bangalore. With this, Stasya, who trains with the Amateur Riders Club (ARC), Mumbai, became the youngest Indian to bag first place in the world equestrian challenge. The achievement reinforces the young rider's growing presence in the Indian dressage circuit, and there were strong performances from other participants too.

The overall Youth Category podium saw strong performances from North Zone competitors. Abhiraj Bansal, riding IL Divo HM, secured second place with a score of 69.875%, while Swara Thirani, riding Quorum Y, finished third with 69.775%. Both riders delivered commendable performances, making the 2026 edition a closely contested competition among the country's young dressage talent. The FEI Dressage World Challenge is an international developmental competition conducted by the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) through its FEI Solidarity Department. Designed to provide riders from developing and geographically remote countries with opportunities to compete at an international level without having to travel abroad , the competition serves as an important bridge between national and full international dressage events.

Shaina Retains Junior Badminton Crown, Dattu Wins

Gangtok, Nov 22 (Way to News): Top seed and defending champion Shaina Manimuthu of Karnataka once again underlined her class to pack off state-mate Lakshya Rajesh to retain the girls' singles crown, while Gnana Dattu TT came up with a triumph in an all-Telangana boys' singles final against Akhil Reddy Bobba in the 49th National Junior (U-19) Badminton Championships in Gangtok on Saturday. Shaina was in control throughout against Lakshya as she won the final 15-10, 15-12 to retain the crown she had won last year in Imphal, Arunachal Pradesh.



The boys' singles final witnessed a neck-and-neck contest in the opening game, but once Gnana Dattu edged past Akhil, he took control of the second to win 17-15, 15-11 in just under half an hour. Chhattisgarh's Divyansh Agrawal began his quest for a double crown with a convincing win in the mixed doubles final as he and Varna Prabhuanand of Tamil Nadu defeated Amitb Raj Natraj and Suhina Roy 15-12, 15-8.

However, the combination of Divyansh and Amarjit Singh Khwairakpam could not find a way past second seeds Punith S and Pavan S. The Karnataka twins won the boys doubles final 16-14, 15-9.

Top seeds Diya Bheemaiah B and Baruni Parshwal clinched the girls doubles crown, beating seventh seeds Aanya Bisht and Angel Punera 10-15, 15-12, 15-12 in the only match of the day that went into a decider.

Indian Men Held 2-2 By New Zealand In Final Of Century Of Sporting Unity Event

Aucklandm, Nov 22 (Way to News): The Indian men's hockey team played out a 2-2 draw against hosts New Zealand in the third and final match of the 2026 India/New Zealand Century of Sporting Unity Event at the Lloyd Elsmore Hockey Stadium in Auckland on Sunday.



With this result, India concluded the three-match series unbeaten, having registered a 3-2 victory in the opening encounter on 19 November, followed by two successive 2-2 draws. New Zealand got off to a strong start, taking the lead in the 9th minute through Dylan Thomas, who converted a penalty corner to put the hosts 1-0 ahead.

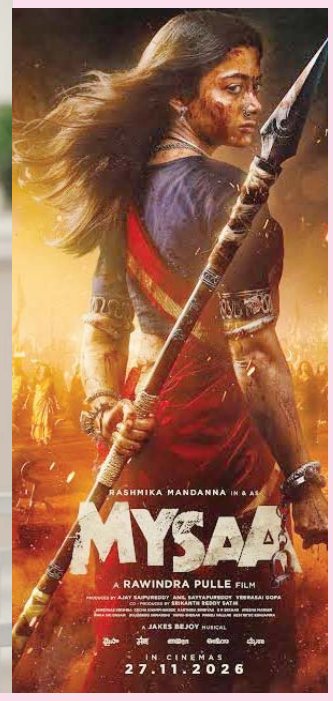
India responded well and found the equaliser in the 16th minute when Captain Sanjay converted a penalty corner to bring the scores level at 1-1. The visitors then took the lead just two minutes later, with Karthi Selvam finding the back of the net with a field goal in the 18th minute, giving India a 2-1 advantage. India carried their lead into the latter stages of the match, but New Zealand continued to push for an equaliser. Their efforts paid off in the 55th minute when Benji Culhane scored a field goal to make it 2-2.

Both teams looked to find a late winner, but neither side managed to break the deadlock as the match ended in a 2-2 draw.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Rashmika Mandanna starrer 'Mysaa' postponed ahead of release: Dunno to when





Rashmika Mandanna starrer 'Mysaa' has been postponed, that too only 5 days before its scheduled release on November 27. The 'Animal' actress confessed that even she didn't know the new release date of her next. Rashmika promised her Insta Fam that she would share the new release date as soon as she knows. The makers, Unformula Films, and the director, Rawindra, released a joint statement on Instagram, sharing the update. The statement read, "Telugu cinema has entered an exciting phase, consistently raising the bar with films that showcase exceptional craftsmanship and technical excellence, as seen in this week's releases. In the same spirit, Mysaa is envisioned as a technically superior, one-of-its-kind action spectacle from Telugu cinema, crafted to deliver an immersive big-screen experience. (sic)"

"To ensure we bring this vision to audiences without any compromise, we have collectively decided to POSTPONE THE FILM'S THEATRICAL RELEASE FROM NOVEMBER 27TH." The filmmakers have not announced a new release date, "The new release date will be announced very soon, thank you for your continued love, patience and support. We assure you that the wait won't be a long one," they went on to add. Re-sharing the official statement on the Stories section of her Instagram Stories, Rashmika penned, "Apparently the release is getting pushed (Two sobbing emojis) dunno to when but pakka when I know I'll let you also know (Two red heart emojis) (sic)."

'Mysaa' was initially slated to reach the audience on November 27 in multiple languages, including Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada.

Led by Rashmika, the ancillary cast of the drama also includes Easwari Rao, Rahul Ravindran, Samuthirakani, Rao Ramesh, Shiva Kandukuri, Karthik Ranjini, Tarak Ponnappa, and Nidhi Singh, along with others.

'Mysaa' has been helmed by Rawindra Pulle, who has also written the script, along with Raj Kumar Kandamudi

Nithin changed his route.. this time he trusts in his strength!

Young hero Nithiin, who has been struggling with a series of flops, is now completely changing his route in the selection of his films. He once went towards big action stories to gain a mass image and increase the market, but those experiments did not work out at all for him. 'Macharla Kumbhola' and 'Extraordinary Man' disappointed, while last year's 'Robin Hood' and 'Thammudu' also flopped at the box office.

With the budget increasing and the openings decreasing, the pressure on the producers increased. With this, Nithin is now determined to put aside the action elements and get into the love and family comedy track that he is very fond of. With this idea, he is now going to join hands with Ram Abbaraju, who has become a carafe for full-length entertainers. Ram, who made his directorial debut with 'Vivaha Bhojanbu', showed his trademark comedy timing with 'Samajavaragamana'. This year, he scored another clean hit with 'Nari Nari Nadu Murari' with Sharwanand for Sankranthi. Ram's style is to bring family audiences to theaters with situational comedy instead of big fights and buildup shots. It can be said that such stories are a perfect set for Nithin's body language. All the biggest hits that Nithin has received in his career have been fun romantic comedy films.

The ease and comedy timing he showed in films like 'Ishq', 'Gundejaari Gallanthaiyinde', 'A Aa' and 'Bheeshma' connected well with the audience. Fans also believe that Nithin looks more natural in such light-hearted characters than in mass roles. That is why it seems that Nithin will return to his old form with a film with a director like Ram Abbaraju. However, before this new project, Nithiin is going to test his luck with the film 'Alias Rukmini'. Directed by Muralikanth, this film is presented by Natural Star Nani. The film, which has already completed shooting, will hit the theaters on December 4. Regardless of the result of 'Alias Rukmini', Nithiin is in the process of setting the line-up of his next films in advance.

On the other hand, Ram Abbaraju is currently busy completing the film 'Family Pack' starring Sri Vishnu. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, this movie will hit the theaters for Sankranthi 2027. Nithin's project will be



launched as soon as the release of that movie is completed. It is reported that regular shooting is planned to start from February next year. At present, an official announcement is yet to be made on this crazy combination. It seems that Nithin has trusted his strength at a time when the market has become a bit dull due to consecutive failures. Now, it remains to be seen in what range this step that Nithin is taking with Ram Abbaraju will work out at the box office.

Tiger Shroff Returns to Stage After Firing Incident

More than a month after the firing incident, Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff made his first public appearance as he performed on 'Deva Shri Ganesha' at the Global Peace Honours 2026 event in Mumbai. Following the performance, Tiger expressed his gratitude to Maharashtra Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis for giving him the opportunity to be back on stage.

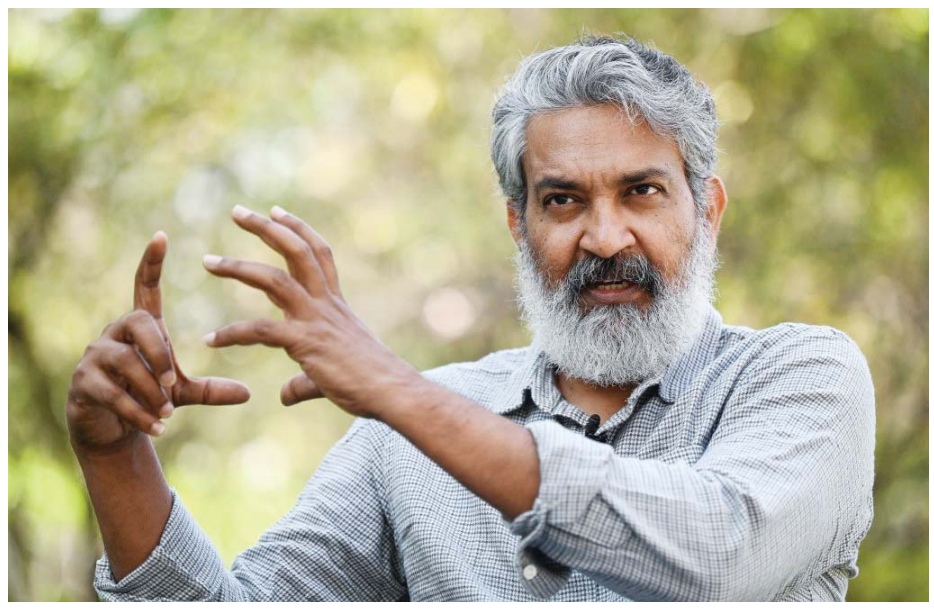


Saying that he is grateful to be 'out there again', the 'Baaghi' actor wrote on the photo-sharing app, "Happy to be out there again (Red heart and high voltage emoji). Thank you to the cm @devendra_fadnavis and @amruta.fadnavis ji for inviting me to open their show again this year. Always a privilege (red heart emoji) (sic)."

Tiger was seen performing on stage wearing only a red dhoti-style trouser. He accessorized his look with multiple necklaces and metallic arm cuffs. He also had an ornate drape across his shoulders. Recently, Tiger also made a comeback to social media, that too almost a month after the firing incident. Tiger dropped the teaser for his latest song "Tenu Leke Jaana" on Instagram. "One more chance, one more dance," he added the text. Reacting to his post, Tiger's sister Krishna Shroff commented, "He is back." For the unaware, Tiger was shot at on the evening of October 18 as his car was leaving a football ground in the Juhu area of Mumbai. Three men on a motorcycle fired at Tiger's car. Luckily, Tiger was able to escape the unfortunate incident unhurt; however, his driver sustained injuries. Professionally, Tiger will next be seen in Karan Johar's 'Lag Jaa Gale', where he will be sharing screen space with Janhvi Kapoor and Lakshya Lalwani. Directed by Raj Mehta, 'Lag Jaa Gale' will arrive in the cinema halls on May 14, 2027. Additionally, Tiger also has a film directed by Remo D'Souza in the making.

What is Rajamouli's plan this time?

After Mahesh Babu announced that the shooting of 'Varanasi' has been completed, Rajamouli's team has become busy with another work. Although there is still more than four months left for the April release, Jakkanna does not want to wait for the technical work to end. After 'RRR', Rajamouli's films have a good market abroad as well. This time, Jakkanna has also given the team a deadline to reduce the rush before the release.



The plan is to complete the entire post-production by January 2027. Producer SS Karthikeya had earlier said this. It seems that the shooting has already been completed. Currently, CG work and re-recording are underway. Dubbing is yet to begin. If all these works are completed on time, the final copy of the film will be ready more than two months before the release.

'Varanasi' is not an ordinary action film. The story involves time travel and the backdrop of different countries. That is why a lot of work has to be done on visual effects. Karthikeya explained that some CG work has been started while the shooting was going on. In such a huge project, if VFX is started only after all the shots are completed, the pressure will increase near the release date. To avoid that situation, the work has been divided beforehand.

There is also an IMAX release. In addition to normal theaters, we also have to see how the film will look on big screens. Dubbing, sound mixing, and preparing final versions in different languages are another task. The arrangements required for a release in one country are not the same as the tasks required in another country. That is why, once the film is ready, the material also needs to be provided to the distributors as soon as possible.

On the other hand, Jakkanna is likely to allocate a little more for promotions. After 'RRR', interest in Rajamouli's films has increased even from the Hollywood media. Now Mahesh Babu and Priyanka Chopra can promote it internationally together. If we get bogged down in CG and mixing work till the end, the time for events will be reduced. If we achieve the January target, we will have more flexibility for promotion in February and March.

'Varanasi' release date is April 7, 2027. This date was officially announced in January this year. Although there have been rumors of a delay in the middle, the makers have been clarifying in some way or another that there is no truth to it. Mahesh Babu is playing the role of Rudra, while Priyanka Chopra is playing the role of Mandakini. Prithviraj Sukumaran is playing another lead role. Keeravani is composing the music. The makers have said that they will give another update soon once the shooting is completed.

Kailash Kher Recalls Father's Final Moments



Singer Kailash Kher has opened up about the emotional story behind his popular song 'Piya Ghar Aavenge.' He revealed that it was inspired by his father's final moments in 2008. In an interaction wit, the singer recalled how his father passed away peacefully, describing the experience as one in which he appeared to be leaving the world in a state of bliss. Kailash said the moment of his father's soul moving towards the Supreme inspired him to create the song, which reflects the spiritual journey of a soul towards God. "My mother was alive, she died later. Father died earlier, father died in 2008, mother died in 2012. So, it is like this. But when father was going, when he was on his death bed, when he was dying, when he was going to heaven, when he was leaving the body, then the state of meeting God with the soul, on that I made this song, that how father is going in bliss," he told .

Recalling his father's final moments, the singer said that unlike the usual perception of a person experiencing pain or distress while dying, his father appeared peaceful. "Because a dying man is never less in bliss. A dying man is either in pain or shouts, shouts, then he is calm. And father went in bliss, like singing, then I wrote this song," he added. Kailash also clarified the inspiration behind the song in view of claims circulating on social media, explaining that it was his father's peaceful departure that led him to write it. 'Piya Ghar Aavenge' remains among the singer's popular devotional compositions, known for its spiritual theme and soulful rendition. 'Piya Ghar Aavenge' is a 2009 Indian fusion song by Kailash Kher, Paresh Kamath and Naresh Kamath. The track was released on June 11, 2009, as part of the album 'Chaandan Mein', also known as 'Kailasa Chaandan Mein'

Malvika Raaj Celebrates 25 Years of 'K3G'



Actress Malvika Raaj, who played young Poo in the 2001 film 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham', has revisited memories of the iconic character as she celebrated 25 years of the film. Taking to Instagram, Malvika shared her experience of stepping into the recreated Raichand House, saying it felt surreal to return to the world of the film as a guest. "Poo's homecoming, 25 years in the making! If someone had told the little girl who played Poo in Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham that one day she'd get to walk into the Raichand House as a guest, I don't think she would have believed it," she wrote.

Reflecting on the character's lasting popularity, Malvika said Poo had lived a life of her own, from her iconic outfits to her unforgettable dialogues. She added that the visit, facilitated by Airbnb India, was more than just a stay and gave her an opportunity to celebrate a character that wold always remain a part of her. "Walking into the Raichand House was surreal. It was more than just a stay; it was a chance to celebrate a character that will always be a part of me," she said. Malvika also invited fans of the film to experience the recreated Raichand House, adding that Poo would surely approve. She also shared pictures from her visit, posing with filmmaker Karan Johar and striking different poses inside the Raichand House. In one of the photographs, Malvika was seen holding a balloon with the words "Good Looks" written on it.

Malvika alo shared a video of herself getting ready and captioned it as, "25 years of "Good looks, good looks and good looks!" Growing up happened, but a little Poo will always be a part of me. Here's to 25 years of K3G and a character that will forever be PHAT P.S. The Raichand house recreated by @airbnbindia is taking me on the sweetest trip down memory lane. So much nostalgia, so many beautiful memories #25yearsofk3g #nostalgia #malvikaraaj." 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham', directed by Karan Johar, featured Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, Hrithik Roshan and Kareena Kapoor Khan in key roles. The family drama remains one of Hindi cinema's most memorable films, with its characters, dialogues and music continuing to resonate with audiences.

Diljit Questions Song Bans

Singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh has questioned the restrictions imposed on his songs during his concert at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium. He alleged "double standards" towards Indian artists while comparing the criticism with the reception given to international performers such as Coldplay. Before taking the stage, Diljit told the audience how special it was for him to perform at the venue, which he referred to as the world's largest stadium. He also expressed gratitude to his fans for making his long-cherished dream come true.



"We should be proud that we are at the Narendra Modi Stadium, the world's largest stadium. We have performed at Wembley too, but performing at this place was something I had always wished for. You people have fulfilled that dream. Thank you so much. I love you," he said. The singer also brought up Coldplay's performance at the stadium last year, saying it had inspired him to perform at the venue. Drawing a comparison, he questioned why his songs attracted objections when the British band's tracks did not face similar criticism. "Last year, when the entire band came here and Coldplay performed, I decided that day that I wanted to perform here. But let me tell you something. When Coldplay sings, 'I'm feeling drunk and high', nobody has a problem. I like that song. When Coldplay comes here and sings it, nobody has an issue. But when Diljit does it, there is a problem. Why these double standards?" he asked. The 'Udta Punjab' actor further questioned why Indian artists were subjected to restrictions while international performers were seemingly treated differently.

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