WAY TO NEWS

PRGI No: TGENG/26/A6521

ENGLISH DAILY



Telangana | Vol: 01 | Issue:105 | Tuesday 24 November 2026 | Price:1/- | Pages: 8

India-Nepal ties gain momentum after Modi-Shah Talks

Rs 24,000-crore development package announced; both nations sign MoUs covering security, health, connectivity and other key sectors.

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Way to News): Describing the outcomes as diverse and far-reaching, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that a significant momentum has been added to the India-Nepal friendship following his talks with Nepali counterpart Balendra Shah on Monday. "These outcomes are diverse and far-reaching, reflecting the breadth of our ambitions, the strength of our collective resolve and our unwavering commitment to shared progress. Significant momentum has been added to the India-Nepal friendship," PM Modi posted on X. In another post, while replying to Balen Shah, Prime Minister expressed confidence that the talks and the outcomes of the visit will boost India-Nepal linkages across key sectors.

"It was indeed wonderful to meet you earlier today in Delhi. I am confident that our talks and the outcomes of this visit will boost India-Nepal linkages across key sectors like commerce, connectivity, culture and more," PM Modi said. Earlier on Monday, PM Modi announced a Nepali Rs 24,000 crore development cooperation package for Nepal's reconstruction and lo g-term development.

"We express our deepest condolences over the loss of lives caused by the devastating floods in Nepal in August. And today, to give fresh impetus to Nepal's reconstruction and long-term development, we announce a Development Cooperation Package of 24,000 crore Nepalese rupee," PM Modi said while making a joint press statement with PM Shah. Explaining the aim of the package, PM Modi said, "Our resolve will be that the lives of the affected families get back on track, new opportunities are created, and Nepal's capacity to deal with future disasters is also further strengthened."



PM holds a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Balendra Shah at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi.

Nepal and India also signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) covering cooperation in multiple sectors, including forensic science, security, health, satellite communications, traditional medicine and urban development, following the delegation-level talks between the two leaders.

Nepal and India also signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) covering cooperation in multiple sectors, including forensic science, security, health, satellite communications, traditional medicine and urban development, following the delegation-level talks between the two leaders. One of the MoUs provides for academic and research collaboration between the National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, and Nepal Police's Crime Investigation Department. Similarly, India's Rashtriya Raksha University and Nepal's National Police Academy signed another MoU.

Other agreements cover cooperation in Ayurveda and traditional systems of medicine, sustainable urban development, health and medicine, and livestock and fisheries development.

The development cooperation package is expected to support reconstruction efforts in flood-affected areas while strengthening Nepal's infrastructure and disaster preparedness. The emphasis on creating new livelihood opportunities and improving the country's capacity to respond to future natural disasters reflects the shared focus on sustainable and resilient development.

The agreements signed during the visit are also aimed at expanding institutional partnerships and technical cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. Collaboration in policing, forensic sciences, healthcare, traditional medicine and urban development is expected to deepen bilateral engagement and create opportunities for sharing expertise and resources.

Nvidia Reinstates Jensen Huang as CEO After Brief Ouster

Washington, Nov 23 (UNI): Nvidia's board reinstated Jensen Huang as president and CEO Monday in a surprise move, just days after rejecting his offer to return to the artificial intelligence chipmaker. It was the latest twist in the fallout from Huang's admission of an affair with a woman suspected of being a Chinese spy. "The Board believes Jensen is the right person to lead NVIDIA, and that his reinstatement is in the best interests of our stockholders, employees, partners and customers," board Chairman Harvey C. Jones said in a statement. President Donald Trump said he spoke to Huang on Sunday about the reinstatement, and the CEO assured him that he would work harder than before his fall. Speaking to CNBC, Trump took credit for Huang's reinstatement. "I believe my intervention was very important," he said.



Trump also said his administration assured Nvidia there were no national security concerns about Huang's return.

"The board decided to do what we wanted them to do," the president said.

Trump declined to say whether he called into the board meeting, though he said, "Basically, I was represented at the board."

Huang said in a statement that he was "honoured" to return to the company and that he takes the responsibility "with the greatest humility and renewed commitment." He thanked Jones and interim CEO Colette Kress, who will return to her role as chief financial officer, as well as Nvidia's executive staff for their leadership during the brief period of disorder.

"I am also deeply thankful to our employees, shareholders, leaders across the industry and partners around the world for their extraordinary support," Huang's statement said. "Above all, I am grateful for the love and support of my family. I can't wait to get back to work."

Shares of Nvidia soared 33 per cent to USD 165.57 at the opening bell Monday, moments after Huang's return was announced. That price was far below the all-time high of USD 239.24 that the stock reached just last month.

RBI proposes 'Stop Switch' for bank customers to block digital payments in case of fraud

Mumbai, Nov 23 (Way to News): The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) has proposed that banks provide customers a 'Stop Switch' to immediately block funds to digital payment channels so that they can protect themselves against electronic banking fraud.

The additional feature forms part of the RBI's 'Customer Protection in Fraudulent Electronic Banking Transactions', which strengthened the existing framework for limiting liability of customers in unauthorised transactions.

The RBI said that while the revised framework primarily addresses customer liability in the event of fraudulent EBTs, a need is felt to strengthen the same from a preventive perspective by providing customers with greater control over the manner and extent to which digital payment channels may be used, according to an RBI statement.



"A bank shall provide its customers with a Stop Switch facility for immediate disablement of all outward future debits associated with her or his accounts. However, any debits due to ongoing recurring payment mandates and standing instructions, and marking of lien or debits initiated by the bank to recover due charges, loan instalment, etc., shall be excluded from the scope of Stop Switch," the RBI said.

Further, in order to ensure that customers are protected against specific acts of omission or commission on the part of the banks, it has been decided to expand the scope of the definition of 'negligence by a bank' specified in the new amendment directions.

It also includes bank-side system malfunctions or security breaches, and collusion by bank employees or third parties engaged by the bank, where these facilitate or result in fraud.

SC Rejects PIL on UP Voter Roll Discrepancies



New Delhi, Nov 23 (UNI): The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking directions for rectification of discrepancies in house numbers recorded in municipal electoral rolls across Uttar Pradesh.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana questioned the maintainability of the plea as a PIL, observing that the right to seek correction of an electoral-roll entry was personal in nature and that aggrieved voters must approach the competent authorities individually. "The right to correct an electoral roll is personal. In the municipal list also, there will be certain rules. Let the individuals approach the authorities. But on a collective basis, it can only be when it is done across the state," the CJI Kant-led Bench observed. The petitioner had contended that changes in house numbers had not been appropriately reflected in municipal electoral rolls, resulting in discrepancies in voter lists across UP.

The plea stated that several residents had witnessed changes in their house numbers, but the corresponding corrections had not been incorporated into municipal voter lists. It further claimed that representations submitted to the authorities concerned seeking rectification had failed to yield any corrective action. The PIL also sought directions for aligning municipal electoral rolls with the electoral lists prepared for Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, arguing that consistency between the different electoral databases would prevent confusion and inconvenience to voters.

However, the Supreme Court said that complaints concerning incorrect house numbers or other particulars in electoral rolls should ordinarily be raised by the affected individuals themselves before the competent election authorities under the applicable rules.

CJI Surya Kant Recuses From Supertech Case, Says Applicant Known to Him

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Way to News): Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Monday recused himself from hearing petitions related to Supertech insolvency and homebuyers' dispute, saying one of the applicants was personally known to him. "One of the applicants was incidentally known to me. I will have to constitute a special bench… He is remotely known to me, not my client or my relative, but known to me. Somebody should have been conscious of this fact. Why unnecessarily become a party?" the CJI said, adding he will constitute a special bench to hear the matter.



The Supreme Court on Monday expressed serious concern over flagrant violations of civic bylaws as it questioned municipal authorities over collusion with persons violating such provisions. While hearing a matter related to unauthorised constructions, a bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva said it was concerned that municipal authorities were permitting violations of sanctioned building plans, turning a blind eye to deviations and subsequently failing to enforce demolition orders. "What is the price paid for sanctioning a plan? What is the price paid every time there is a check at every stage of the building? What is the price paid by the person to see that the demolition does not take place?" Justice Nagarathna asked.

The bench observed that unchecked violations of building regulations undermine planned urban development and public safety. It stressed the need for accountability among municipal officials.

Pak-based operatives infiltrate defence WhatsApp groups; Centre issues alert

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Way to News):In a major cybersecurity scare, Pakistan-based intelligence operatives (PIOs) have infiltrated 13 unofficial WhatsApp groups linked to the armed forces, central paramilitary forces and civil defence organisations, prompting the Centre to issue an advisory, urging users to exercise caution on WhatsApp Web, particularly on shared or public computers.

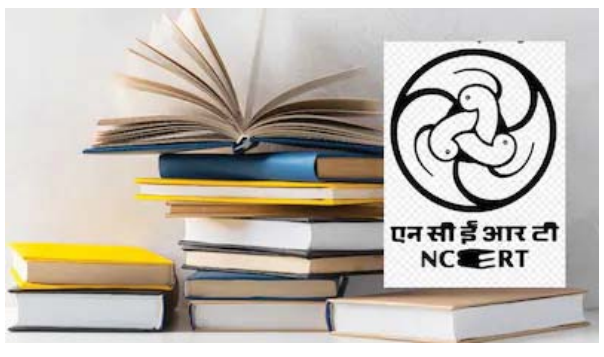
Reports of PIO infiltration in these groups surfaced last week after the authorities uncovered a breach involving a woman operative posing as a DRDO scientist. She had joined one of the WhatsApp groups and managed to access sensitive defence information, sources privy to the details told The Tribune. A PIO named Soniya joined the "All India Defence Civilian Mutual Transfer Posting" WhatsApp group, claiming to be a scientist with the DRDO.



She engaged in extensive conversations with a civilian staff member, gradually drawing the employee into her trap. The employee reportedly leaked sensitive defence-related information to the PIO in exchange for monetary considerations,

NCERT warns printing presses over poor textbook quality, threatens blacklisting

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Way to News): The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has warned empanelled printing presses against supplying substandard textbooks, saying violations of prescribed quality standards could invite penalties, cancellation of work orders, termination of contracts and even blacklisting.



In an advisory issued by its Publication Division, NCERT said it had received numerous complaints from across the country about the poor and substandard printing quality of its textbooks and other publications available in the market.

The complaints relate to inferior printing, which the Council said adversely affects the quality and acceptability of its publications and undermines its reputation and credibility.

Taking serious note of the issue, NCERT has directed all empanelled printing presses to exercise greater care and ensure strict quality control at every stage of printing and book production.

The presses have been asked to adhere to technical specifications, prescribed quality standards and production guidelines issued by NCERT. They must also maintain high standards in printing, colour reproduction, registration, finishing and binding.

The advisory further calls for proper inspection and quality checks at every stage of production to ensure that only books meeting the prescribed standards are supplied to the Council.

Informal Sector Jobs Rise 17%

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Way to News): India's unincorporated non-agricultural sector registered an all-time high growth in the number of establishments and employment during the July–September quarter of 2026, compared to the same quarter of the previous year, according to figures released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Monday.

The estimated number of establishments in the unincorporated non-agricultural sector jumped by 18.81 per cent to 9.47 crore, while employment clocked a robust 16.86 per cent growth to 15.03 crore. The 'other services' sector emerged as a key driver, recording employment growth of more than 33 per cent. Urban areas recorded an impressive growth of 22.05 per cent in the number of establishments, emerging as the key driver of this expansion, while rural areas also witnessed a strong increase of 16.05 per cent. The top five industrial sectors registering the highest year-on-year growth have been retail trade, repair and maintenance services, land transport activities, personal service activities and manufacturing of wearing apparel.

Working owners continued to account for the largest share of the workforce in the unincorporated sector for the July–September 2026 quarter, constituting 61.99 per cent of total workers.

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KCR mortgaged Telangana's water rights to Andhra: CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, Nov 23 (Way to News): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday accused former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and former irrigation minister T. Harish Rao of mortgaging Telangana's rights to Andhra Pradesh in the Krishna River water allocation and utilisation, and of allowing illegal construction of the projects by the neighbouring state.

Addressing a press conference, the Chief Minister cited official records to launch an attack on Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders and accused them of compromising Telangana's water rights during BRS rule.

He alleged that the decisions made by K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) and Harish Rao led to an injustice to Telangana.

Revanth Reddy alleged that after the formation of Telangana, the KCR government failed to protect the state's interests regarding the allocation of Krishna River waters. It was stated that in a meeting held on June 26, 2015, in the presence of the then Union Minister for Water Resources, Uma Bharti, KCR and Harish Rao agreed to a water allocation of 512 TMC for Andhra Pradesh and 298.96 TMC for Telangana. The Chief Minister questioned the BRS leadership for not advocating strongly for the state's interests. The previous government had also agreed to continue this same allocation arrangement on January 29, 2020, the CM charged.

On February 24, 2022, a GO - 482 was issued, allocating 0.22 TMC of water to the Prakasam district; the Chief Minister alleged that the



previous government acted in a way that increased the scope for diverting water to Andhra Pradesh. Stating that the Congress government is continuously fighting to protect the state's rights in Krishna River waters, CM Revanth Reddy lashed out at BRS leaders K. T. Rama Rao and Harish Rao for misleading the public about the Palnadu Water Grid. The Chief Minister accused them of attempting to tarnish the Congress government's reputation through "lies and half-truths".

Disclosing all the documentary evidence pertaining to the Palnadu Water Grid project, the CM pointed out that the GO No. 56 was issued on February 16, 2022, during the tenures of the then-Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan and Telangana Chief Minister KCR. The Chief Minister explained that the project, aimed at meeting the drinking water needs of the Palnadu and Guntur districts, was undertaken under the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' with an outlay of 1,200 crore, and that proposals were drafted to secure a matching grant of 500 crore from the Central government.

At the time of the finalisation of the project, the CM questioned the then KCR government for not raising any objections either with the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) or under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

CM Revanth Reddy revealed that soon after the matter came to their attention, the state government lodged a complaint with the Krishna Board, and Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy also submitted a complaint to the Central Government, demanding that the works be halted. Recalling that in 2004, 6 members from the TRS (now BRS) served as ministers in Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's cabinet, the Chief Minister alleged that it was during this period permissions were granted to increase the capacity of the Pothireddypadu head regulator from 11,000 cusecs to 44,000 cusecs.

The same issue was also mentioned in the budget demands presented in the Legislative Assembly on March 29, 2005, and the relevant Government Order (GO) was issued on September 13 in the same year. The CM questioned Harish Rao as to why those who were ministers at the time did not raise any objections in the Assembly.

The Chief Minister said permissions were granted in the past for the diversion of water to Andhra Pradesh through projects such as Handri-Niva, Pothireddypadu, Muchumarri, and Malyala. On July 24, 2004, a GO was issued that effectively buried the water rights of the Telangana region, facilitating the diversion of 40 TMC of water through the first phase of the Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi project.

At that time, Harish Rao was a member of the cabinet. Permission was also granted for the Muchumarri project to draw water from the dead storage of the Srisailam reservoir. Permission was granted to draw water through the Rayalaseema lift scheme at an FRL (Full Reservoir Level) of 797.

Vijayalakshmi Stresses Swift Prajavani Grievance Redressal

Hyderabad, Nov 23 (Way to News): State Planning Board Vice-Chairperson and CM Prajavani In-charge Gadwal Vijayalakshmi instructed officials to accord the highest priority to resolving public grievances and respond responsibly to every petition received at Prajavani by taking prompt steps towards their resolution. On Monday, she visited the Hyderabad District Collectorate Prajavani along with District Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala, interacted directly with the public and received their representations.



Speaking on the occasion, she said that people approach Prajavani with the hope and confidence that their problems will be resolved, and that it is the responsibility of officials to uphold that trust.

She made it clear that officials should not consider their responsibility fulfilled merely by receiving petitions, registering online and forwarding to the concerned departments. Instead, they must continuously monitor every grievance and take proactive steps towards its resolution. She particularly stressed that the concerned departments must necessarily take action on petitions received through CM Prajavani, obtain Action Taken Reports (ATRs) and review the progress of their disposal. She instructed officials to fix timelines for resolving pending petitions based on the seriousness and priority of the issues. Grievances that can be resolved immediately must be addressed without delay, while other issues must be resolved within specified timeframes. Unnecessary delays should not be tolerated, she stated. She particularly called upon officials to focus on pendency relating to Housing, Electricity, Gruha Jyothi, 2BHK houses, various categories of pensions and other such departments and work in coordination to reduce the backlog.

She further emphasised that officials must deal with petitioners with sensitivity, patience and a humane approach. They should devote adequate time to every person approaching them with a grievance and listen to their representations attentively. She also instructed officials to coordinate with the concerned departments and ensure that issues which can be resolved immediately are addressed on the spot.

In view of the large number of petitioners attending Prajavani, she suggested introducing a token system at the Hyderabad District Collectorate to ensure systematic receipt of petitions. She

Minister Vakiti Srihari Lays Foundation for 9 Crore Degree College in Makthal

Makthal, Nov 23 (Way to News): State Minister for Sports and Youth Services Vakiti Srihari on Monday performed the foundation stone ceremony for a new degree college building to be constructed at a cost of 9 crore near the Irrigation Office in Makthal. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said education was the foundation of Makthal's development and that his vision was to transform the town into a major education and sports hub. He stated that although the government generally allocates 6 crore for a degree college building, he had secured a special allocation of 9 crore for Makthal with the support of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.



Recalling the difficulties faced by students due to the absence of a degree college in the past, he said many students had been forced to discontinue their education. He pointed out that around 540 students were currently pursuing degree courses in Makthal. He assured that construction work would begin immediately and the new building would be inaugurated during Karthika Masam next year. He also announced that a PG College would be established in Makthal soon, along with a Mini Ravindra Bharathi.

The Minister said development works worth approximately 2,000 crore were underway across the constituency. He highlighted the establishment of a Veterinary Research Centre and improvements in the judicial infrastructure. He further announced that a 150-bed hospital would be inaugurated next month and an Integrated School would begin functioning from the next academic year.

Referring to local development, he mentioned the works undertaken at the Paschima Anjaneya Swamy Temple pond and temple tower, as well as the development of the mosque near the Eidgah. He also revealed that steps were being taken to increase water storage in the Sangambanda Project by an additional one TMC. Clarifying the sand issue, the Minister said locally available sand was being utilised for government development works and was no longer being transported to Hyderabad as in the past.

Ponnam, Uttam Launch Logo Contest for Godavari Pushkaralu 2027

Hyderabad, Nov 23 (Way to News): Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday inaugurated a workshop at Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University in Hyderabad to promote the design of the official logo and tagline for Godavari Pushkaralu 2027.



Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said the Telangana government has invited entries from people across the state to design the official logo and tagline. The competition aims to encourage creativity among Fine Arts and Architecture students while also allowing the general public to participate. He said the logo and tagline should reflect the spiritual significance of Godavari Pushkaralu, which is celebrated once every 12 years, along with the sentiments and traditions of the people. The government is also planning development works along the Godavari river stretch from Basara to Bhadrachalam to ensure grand arrangements for the festival.

Entries for the logo and tagline competition will be accepted from November 21 to November 30, 2026. Interested participants have been asked to submit their designs through email or WhatsApp to the Endowments Department. The top three entries will receive cash prizes of 1 lakh, 50,000 and 25,000 respectively. Participants must email their logo and tagline designs to **godavaripushkaralutg@gmail.com* by *5 PM on November 30, 2026*.

Telangana Police Duty Meet 2026 Begins in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Nov 23 (Way to News): Hyderabad City Police Commissioner Dr. Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat, IPS, expressed confidence that the Telangana Police Department—which has clinched the 'Overall Team Championship' at three consecutive All India Police Duty Meets—will continue its winning streak in the upcoming national-level competitions as well. Attending as the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony of the '3rd Telangana State Police Duty Meet – 2026' held at the RB-VRR Telangana Police Academy on Monday, he formally declared the meet open.



Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner stated that the evidence observed and preserved within the first few minutes by the first officer arriving at a crime scene shapes the direction of the entire investigation. He reminded the personnel that under the new criminal laws (BNS, BNSS, and BSA) that came into effect on July 1, 2024, recording audio and video evidence at the crime scene through 'e-Sakshya' has become mandatory. He noted that responsibilities previously handled by the Clues Team must now be efficiently executed by personnel at every police station level, and the practice gained at this Duty Meet will greatly aid in this regard. He also commended the participants for putting up an impressive march-past with just a single day of practice.

He explained that this four-day meet is being conducted to select the state contingent for the All India Police Duty Meet, scheduled to be held in Mumbai from December 15 to 20 under the aegis of the Railway Protection Force (RPF). Since winners from the past three years are ineligible to participate again as per the rules, new talent will be identified and provided 15 to 20 days of specialized training under the supervision of the CID wing before being sent to the All India Police Duty meet. He advised the personnel to observe how colleagues from other units perform, uphold discipline, and embrace the spirit of learning and teaching one another during the meet. He urged them to bring the same level of care to every event here as they would to an assignment in the field.

Earlier, delivering the welcome address, Additional CP (Crimes & SIT) Sri M. Srinivasulu, IPS, informed that around 500 competitors from 16 contingents across the state (Zones 1 to 7, Commissionerates, CID, Intelligence, OCTOPUS, Greyhounds, Cyber Security Bureau, TGSP, etc.) are participating in the meet.

He detailed that competitions will be held across 21 events under six major disciplines—Scientific Aids to In-

Komatireddy Questions BJP's Contributions to Telangana, Predicts 90 Congress Seats

Hyderabad, Nov 23 (Way to News): Telangana Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Monday launched a sharp attack on the BJP, questioning why its national president Nitin Nabin and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were visiting Telangana despite the Centre's alleged failure to deliver on its promises to the state.



Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan, Komatireddy challenged Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy and BJP MP Bandi Sanjay to explain what the BJP government at the Centre had done for Telangana. He also questioned why the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project was kept pending, stating that despite efforts to secure approval through Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, the project was not placed before the Cabinet. The minister asserted that there was no anti-incumbency against the Congress government in Telangana and expressed confidence that the party would win at least 90 seats in the next Assembly elections. He added that, according to his political strategy, Congress could secure more than 100 seats. He said the next election results would prove his assessment. Komatireddy further stated that the party's immediate priority was to win the upcoming Graduate MLC elections, expressing confidence in Congress's victory. He also said he would discuss with the party in-charge the need to give positions to those who work hard and remain committed to the party.

Referring to allegations of electoral irregularities, the minister pointed out that even a BJP Chief Minister in Uttar Pradesh had raised concerns about vote theft. He alleged that the BJP was attempting to divert public attention from its failure to fulfil commitments made to Telangana by focusing on political visits and criticism of the state government. He said the people of Telangana were aware of the issues concerning the state's development and would question the Centre over pending projects and assurances. The minister also reiterated that the Congress government was committed to fulfilling its promises and strengthening development and welfare programmes across the state.

Minister Jupally Urges Congress Leaders to Strengthen Party Unity in Adilabad

Hyderabad, Nov 23 (Way to News): Minister for Tourism and In-charge Minister for the erstwhile Adilabad district, Jupally Krishna Rao, has called upon Congress leaders and party workers to work collectively with coordination and unity to strengthen the party across the district.

He urged party leaders to extensively publicise the welfare and development programmes being implemented by the State government and take them to the people. He also stressed the need to promote unity, mutual cooperation and better coordination among party cadres to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level.



The Minister held a meeting with prominent Congress leaders from the erstwhile Adilabad district at Tourism Plaza in Begumpet. During the meeting, he interacted with leaders constituency-wise and discussed various issues, including organisational strengthening, enhancing public confidence in the party and improving coordination between leaders and workers.

Regarding the filling of nominated posts, Jupally advised party leaders to work in coordination and prepare a consensus-based list of eligible aspirants. He emphasised that decisions on nominations should be taken collectively, ensuring that those who had worked sincerely for the party were given due opportunities.

The Minister urged leaders to remain accessible to the public, understand people's problems and explain the welfare and development initiatives undertaken by the government. He said that better coordination between the party and the government would help bring the administration closer to the people. Emphasising the importance of collective leadership, he advised party leaders to set aside personal differences and give priority to the party's interests, public welfare and organisational objectives. Every leader, he said, must discharge their responsibilities sincerely to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

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ED Summons Moga AAP Legislator, Aides For Questioning

Chandigarh, Nov 23 (Way to News): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Moga Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator, Dr Amandeep Kaur Arora, and her aides and associates for questioning as part of its investigation into alleged land fraud and money laundering involving government land and compensation funds.

The ED has summoned the AAP legislator for further investigation as part of a money-laundering investigation into alleged fraudulent acquisition of seven land parcels belonging to government and wrongful disbursement of compensation. The agency has sought more details and documents related to these properties from Arora, who has been directed to appear before ED's Chandigarh-based zonal office on November 25. The development comes days after the central agency conducted searches at seven premises linked to Arora, her family members and associates in Punjab in connection with alleged manipulation of revenue records and wrongful disbursement of compensation for land acquired for National Highway 754-A. The probe originates from a Punjab Police FIR registered at Dharamkot police station in June 2024 over alleged fraudulent mutation of government land in Adhraman village in Punjab's Moga district.

The alleged irregularities resulted in the disbursement of compensation amounting to Rs 1.01 crore, which was credited to the bank account of a private beneficiary, according to the ED.

Ayodhya-Janakpur train to further boost India-Nepal bilateral ties: Yogi

Lucknow, Nov 23 (Way to News): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, on Monday said that the "roti-beti" ties between India and Nepal will further strengthen with the inauguration of the Saryu-Kamala Express, a new weekly train service connecting Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh with Janakpur Dham in Nepal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Balendra Shah will virtually flag off the Saryu-Kamala Express from New Delhi later in the day.

Taking to X, CM Yogi said, "A new golden chapter is about to be added to the enduring spiritual, cultural and 'roti-beti' ties between Awadh and Mithila. Today, a direct rail service between Ayodhya Dham, the sacred city of Lord Ram, and Janakpur Dham, the birthplace of



Mother Janaki, will be inaugurated by the hands of India's illustrious Prime Minister, Narendra Modi ji, and the Honourable Prime Minister of the friendly nation of Nepal, Balendra Shah ji."

"By the grace of Lord Shri Ram, I have the blessed opportunity to be present in Shri Ayodhya Dham to witness this sacred occasion, which brings the memories of the Treta Yuga to life," he said. Stressing the strong ties between the two nations, the Chief Minister said, "This bond of affection and culture between India and Nepal, unbroken for ages, will now be further strengthened by modern rail connectivity. This historic initiative is a living testament to the esteemed Prime Minister's commitment to 'heritage and development' and 'Neighbourhood First'. It will make pilgrimages easier for millions of devotees in both countries and give fresh momentum to religious tourism, cultural unity and regional prosperity."

Extending heartfelt congratulations to all devotees of Lord Ram, CM Yogi called the railway line a "sacred gift that unites Awadh with Mithila!" The railway service will establish an important link between two destinations deeply associated with the Ramayana tradition.

We want only BS6 vehicles in Delhi, says Supreme Court amid air pollution crisis

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Way to News):The Supreme Court on Monday said it was considering allowing only BS-VI vehicles in the national capital, as it expressed concern over the recurring air pollution crisis in Delhi-NCR during a hearig on air pollution.



A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing a suo motu case examining the regulatory framework governing air pollution.

"We are clear; we want only BS6 vehicles in Delhi, if not NCR," Justice Bagchi remarked during the hearing.

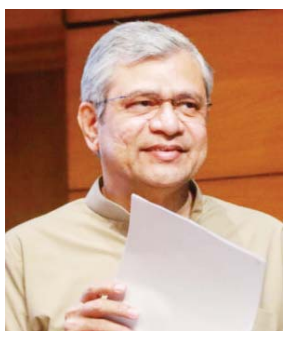
BS6 (Bharat Stage 6) vehicles are motor vehicles manufactured, sold and registered in India that comply with strict emission standards introduced on April 1, 2020. They align closely with Euro 6 norms and significantly cut harmful exhaust pollutants compared to older BS4 vehicles. The top court also stressed the need for a long-term plan to prevent polluting commercial vehicles from entering Delhi while ensuring uninterrupted supplies of essential commodities.

"Why not (and) how to ensure that commercial vehicles don't enter Delhi at all? But it does not mean that Delhi people don't require (those). They have a lot of necessities. They require vegetables, fruits, other day-to-day items. So, everything will have to be available. So what can be the alternative?

"Can there be something that… at the border, some warehouse so that you have some other battery-operated vehicles or non-polluting vehicles to bring them inside the city? This kind of arrangement may not be possible this year, may not be possible next year.

India's 1st bullet train project's trials slated for May 2027 on Surat-Bilimora section: Vaishnaw

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Way to News):India's first bullet train project is moving closer to a key milestone, with trial runs on the 50-km Surat-Bilimora section of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor expected to begin in May 2027, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday. The Surat-Bilimora stretch will be the first segment of the country's maiden high-speed rail corridor to undergo testing. According to the minister, signalling work on the section is expected to be completed by January next year, while electrification has already been finished.



The overhead equipment on the stretch was energised on November 20, covering both up and down lines on the elevated alignment. The corridor is being powered through a 2×25 kV traction system, and installation work at the Bilimora traction substation has also been completed. Vaishnaw said the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project would be commissioned in phases. The Ahmedabad-Vapi section is targeted for completion by the end of 2027, while services are expected to extend up to Thane by 2029. The initial trials will be conducted using the B-28 train, which has been designed to operate at speeds of up to 280 kmph. The minister noted that speeds exceeding 240 kmph fall under the high-speed rail category and require specialised engineering and construction standards.

He said pressure conditions generated by trains travelling at such high speeds present a major design challenge, requiring both rolling stock and infrastructure to withstand significant pressure forces. Vaishnaw said the B-28 train has successfully cleared the squeeze test, in which it was subjected to pressure levels twice the atmospheric pressure expected during regular operations, demonstrating its ability to endure demanding conditions.

Himanta Sarma Inaugurates New Assam House In Delhi, Announces Fourth Bhawan With 100 Rooms

Guwahati, Nov 23 (Way to News): Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday inaugurated the newly constructed Assam House at Dwarka in the capital and announced plans to build a fourth Assam Bhawan in the national capital, featuring 100 rooms, a Namghar and a convention centre. The newly inaugurated facility, located at Sector 13, Dwarka, has been constructed at a cost of Rs 22 crore on approximately 1,000 square metres of land. It has 21 guest rooms, two VIP suites, two dormitories, a conference room and a restaurant.



Speaking at the inauguration, Sarma said the state-of-the-art facility would strengthen Assam's identity in the national capital and provide better accommodation to people from the state visiting Delhi for official, educational and other purposes. He said the new Assam House would particularly benefit students and young people from Assam who need to stay in Delhi for extended periods. The Chief Minister also directed Chief Secretary Ravi Kota to arrange a bus service between the new facility and the existing Assam Bhawan and Assam House in Delhi. The proposed service will leave Dwarka at 9 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. daily. It is expected to become operational within two to three months.

Announcing another major infrastructure project, Sarma said the fourth Assam Bhawan would be constructed on more than one acre of land at Sector 17, Dwarka. Construction is scheduled to begin in February next year, with completion targeted within two years. The tendering process has already started. The proposed building will have 100 spacious rooms and a convention centre for weddings and other social functions organised by people from Assam.

A Namghar, the traditional Assamese place of worship, will also be part of the complex. Sarma said the redevelopment of Assam Bhawan at Sardar Patel Marg was nearing completion and would be inaugurated within the current financial year. He also outlined plans to expand Assam's accommodation facilities in other cities, including Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Vellore.

GEHLOT TARGETS RAJASTHAN GOVT, SAYS PEOPLE MISS CONGRESS RULE

Jaipur, Nov 23 (Way to News): Former Rajasthan Chief Minister and senior Congress leader, Ashok Gehlot, has launched a sharp attack on the BJP government in the state, alleging that governance has deteriorated, public grievances are not being addressed and people are increasingly missing the welfare schemes introduced during his tenure. He also said that the BJP government at the Centre should listen to the Opposition and then take its decisions and that is how democracy should function. He added that repeated personal attacks have created an atmosphere in which the Opposition is being treated as an enemy. He also said the BJP government had discontinued or weakened several Congress-era schemes.

India Sees Fundamental Shift In Removing Barriers That Perpetuate Poverty: Sitharaman

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Way to News): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has witnessed a fundamental shift from temporary relief to removing the barriers that perpetuate poverty. Reflecting on the latest World Bank report which showed that nearly 50 crore Indians had moved out of poverty between 2011 and 2023, while extreme poverty has been almost eradicated, FM Sitharaman said these figures captured the transformation "I had witnessed firsthand".



"The Prime Minister has said that Viksit Bharat, like freedom, is a commitment that every Indian must live. Having achieved in ten years what remained unfulfilled for six decades, India can face the next twenty with confidence. With the resolve of 140 crore Indians, Viksit Bharat by 2047 is within our reach, and we together will get there," FM Sitharaman said in an article posted on LinkedIn.

She said that for over six decades after Independence, eradicating mass poverty remained an unfulfilled promise.

"Even in the early 2010s, India was portrayed abroad as a home of enduring destitution, lagging in sanitation, nutrition, clean cooking fuel and banking. The prevailing prescription was simply to put money into the hands of the poor, and poverty would take care of itself," the Finance Minister mentioned. Guided by Antyodaya, the welfare of the last person in the line, "our Government chose the harder path of addressing deprivations, household by household, ensuring development reached those who needed it most," she noted.

"Our Government made every intervention targeted at those who needed it, focused on measurable outcomes and tailored to the deprivation it was meant to remove. There was no magic wand. Each scheme required careful identification of beneficiaries, effective delivery and follow-up until the last household was reached," said FM Sitharaman. PM Modi has personally and painstakingly monitored implementation, intervened at critical junctures to resolve bottlenecks, ensured follow-ups, and encouraged the use of technology to track delivery.

This sustained attention has helped translate policy into tangible improvements in people's lives, she wrote. Under Swachh Bharat, access to household toilets has improved sanitation and helped avert an estimated 60,000-70,000 infant deaths a year. Jal Jeevan Mission has expanded rural tap-water connections from about 3 crore households in 2019 to nearly 16 crore, sparing women and girls the long walk for water and reducing exposure to water.

SC Rejects PIL on UP Municipal Voter Roll Discrepancies

New Delh, Nov 23 (Way to News):The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking directions for rectification of discrepancies in house numbers recorded in municipal electoral rolls across Uttar Pradesh.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana questioned the maintainability of the plea as a PIL, observing that the right to seek correction of an electoral-roll entry was personal in nature and that aggrieved voters must approach the competent authorities individually.



"The right to correct an electoral roll is personal. In the municipal list also, there will be certain rules. Let the individuals approach the authorities. But on a collective basis, it can only be when it is done across the state," the CJI Kant-led Bench observed.

The petitioner had contended that changes in house numbers had not been appropriately reflected in municipal electoral rolls, resulting in discrepancies in voter lists across Uttar Pradesh. The plea stated that several residents had witnessed changes in their house numbers, but the corresponding corrections had not been incorporated into municipal voter lists. It further claimed that representations submitted to the authorities concerned seeking rectification had failed to yield any corrective action. The PIL also sought directions for aligning municipal electoral rolls with the electoral lists prepared for Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, arguing that consistency between the different electoral databases would prevent confusion and inconvenience to voters.

Foreign Secretary on Boundary Resolution

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Way to News): Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday said that the boundary issue between India and Nepal will be addressed in a forward-looking manner and highlighted that there is already a multi-layered architecture in place between the two countries to look at various issues related to boundary management.

"There is actually a multi-layered architecture in place between the two countries to look at various issues related to boundary management. I think there are, at the most basic level, there are field survey teams which report to a committee of senior officials. And there is a boundary working group in place as well. And as per earlier understandings, the Foreign Secretaries also have a certain role with regard to taking inputs from these various mechanisms that are entrusted with the task of the management of the boundary," Misri stated at the special briefing held by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) after the conclusion of Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah's State Visit to India. He also pointed out that there is a considerable amount of work that has been done at the technical level, essentially to tend to the tasks along the vast majority of the boundary which is settled between the two countries.

"These tasks include things like maintenance of boundary pillars and investigate reports of encroachment, etc. And, this has been going on. It has made actually very good and very smooth progress in recent years," he added.

Delhi Riots Case: SC Likely To Hear Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam's Bail Pleas On Nov 25

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Way to News):The Supreme Court is likely to hear on November 25 the separate petitions filed by jailed student activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam challenging the Delhi High Court's judgment rejecting their fresh bail pleas in the 2020 northeast Delhi riots "larger conspiracy" case. According to the case status available on the apex court's official website, both petitions have been tentatively listed for hearing on Wednesday (November 25). Khalid's petition has been registered as SLP (Crl.) No. 22342/2026, while Imam's plea has been registered as SLP (Crl.) No. 22241/2026. Both matters are currently shown as pending.



Khalid has filed his petition through advocate N. Sai Vinod, while Imam's plea has been filed through advocate Fauzia Shakil. The petitions challenge a common judgment delivered on September 30 by a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court comprising Justices Prathiba M. Singh and Dinesh Bhatt, which had rejected their appeals against the trial court's July 4, 2026, orders refusing them regular bail.

The High Court had held that it could not modify the specific conditions imposed by the Supreme Court while rejecting their earlier bail pleas in January 2026.

The apex court, while declining bail to Khalid and Imam in its January 5 judgment, had granted them liberty to renew their applications either after the examination of the protected witnesses relied upon by the prosecution or upon the expiry of one year from the date of the order, whichever was earlier. However, the two activists had approached the trial court in June 2026, citing subsequent developments, including the Supreme Court's observations in another UAPA case concerning prolonged incarceration and delay in trial, the grant of interim bail to co-accused Tasleem Ahmed and Khalid Saifi, and the further period of incarceration undergone by them.

The trial court had rejected their bail applications, following which they approached the Delhi High Court. Before the High Court, the duo had argued that the trial was unlikely to conclude anytime soon and that continued incarceration without substantial progress in the proceedings warranted reconsideration of their bail pleas.

Darjeeling tea workers take Indian flavour global: Goyal

New Delhi,, Nov 23 (Way to News):The craftsmanship of India's tea workers lies at the heart of the country's globally renowned teas, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday after visiting Darjeeling's tea gardens. Highlighting the role of skilled tea pluckers and reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening the tea sector through greater opportunities, innovation and value addition, he said that the country's tea workers bring iconic Darjeeling flavour to the world.

"Tea plucking is an art! Two leaves and a bud, and it's ready to be sent to the factories to be processed," Goyal said in a post on social media platform X. "Couldn't stop capturing these breathtaking tea gardens in Darjeeling and our skilled & diligent tea pluckers busy at work to bring to the world the iconic aroma and flavour of India's most celebrated tea," the minister added.

In another post, the Union Minister underscored the need to strengthen India's tea sector by creating greater opportunities for tea growers and workers, saying the country's finest teas have immense potential in global markets. Sharing his experience after visiting the Makaibari Tea Estate, one of the world's oldest tea estates, Goyal described the plantation as a unique blend of heritage, human ingenuity and generations of agricultural knowledge. The minister said the estate's tea factory is a living example of the industry's rich legacy. Built using wood, bamboo and cast iron, the facility is among the earliest tea factories of its kind and has evolved organically over the years, with several original machines still operational.

Editorial

Baloch Crisis Fuels Iran-Pakistan Tensions

The Baloch crisis once again came to the limelight this month. It all happened because of cross-border military strikes by Pakistan and Iran in each other's territories. However, the military intervention in their neighbours' boundaries is largely termed as simply targeting Baloch terror targets. What surprises the international community is that, with a bloody war between the state of Israel and Hamas entering more than three months since October 7 last year, the emerging conflicts between Iran and Pakistan might trigger a new zone of tension in Asia. Iran launched a missile attack on Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan on January 16. Iran attacked the alleged strongholds of the militant group called Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice) in Baluchistan. Precisely, a wider war in West Asia does not guarantee security to Iran. However, it may happen that Tehran gets some temporary outlets to flex its military muscles and warn its counterparts at the same time. The day before the strikes on Pakistan, Iran also launched ballistic missiles at Syria and Iraq. Sources confirmed that Iran was only targeting anti-Iran groups and active spy bases for Israeli forces in these countries.

Meanwhile, Washington is trying to prevent Iran-backed Houthi attacks on ships passing through the Red Sea. This occurred shortly after the Israel-Hamas war started, with the aim of stopping ships heading towards the ports in Israel. The Houthi rebels, who now control more than half of Yemen and the capital city of Sanaa, are a Shia Muslim group fighting against the Saudi-UAE sponsored Hadi Government in exile since 2011, at the onset of the historic Arab Spring. Their conflict with the Saudi-backed Yemeni Government has brought them closer to Iran. However, it is not entirely accurate to say that the Houthis are direct proxies of Iran, as they are largely dominated and guided by locally defined interests. The Houthis are attacking ships in the Red Sea as retaliation against Israel's ongoing war against the Palestinians.

Pakistan's retaliatory military strike inside Iranian territory has heightened regional tension in West and Central Asia. Pakistan states that it conducted military strikes in Sistan and Baluchistan provinces of Iran solely to target the bases of two Baloch terror groups and their camps. The separatist groups that the Pakistan Army focused on were the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) based in these areas. According to reports from Iranian media houses, the Pakistani operation resulted in the deaths of nine people, including women and children. However, Islamabad claims that it targeted and killed a few Baloch terrorists.

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry officials have asserted that they have already informed Iran about the presence of Baloch separatists and their activities in the country, but no actions have been taken against the rebels so far. Consequently, Pakistan justifies its military actions in Sistan and Baluchistan provinces of Iran.

What do these separatists want? The main aim of the Baloch separatist groups is to break their province away from Pakistan. This separatist insurgency has been ongoing for more than 75 years since 1948. To them, the central government based in Islamabad exploits their resources, and in return, the Baloch people are not adequately rewarded. Initially, BLF cadres targeted gas projects, infrastructural projects, and central security agencies, but now they have expanded their operations beyond Baluchistan. They also attack Chinese projects and their workers in the

What India needs to transform to outthink the west

Shiv Visvanathan



Nostalgia is a concept often misused to create distance. It captures with transparency the beauty of an era, and then distances itself from it. Nostalgia distances utopia and perfection from reality. One senses this when one talks about the early days of Indian science. What marked it was the conviviality of the eccentricity, creativity and play. Patrick Geddes, the Scottish biologist and first biographer of Jagadish Chandra Bose, captured one such slice when he said what Indian science needs was good myth. A child fed with powerful myths by five is a potential scientist in two decades. Bose, in that sense, was a legend. I remember a cousin of mine who attended Nobel laureate William Shockley's lectures at Princeton. Shockley said Bose was a genius and then added, "The rest is toilet paper."

The same sense of play and confidence could be seen in C V Raman's career. Few people realise that the Indian Nobel winner declared he was getting the prize six months ahead of the declaration and arranged for his travel to Stockholm. There, with a quiet intensity, he informed the audience that he was receiving the prize on behalf of a free India and not the colonial regime. There is an aftermath to this story that is even more hilarious. After researching flowers for a decade, Raman told his wife he deserved a second Nobel. Lokkasundari looked at him and retorted, "With one Nobel, you were intolerable. With the second you will be impossible."

Raman had a sense of science as play. He was critical of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research when the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) was established—his speech was simple. He merely said, "These are tools for the burial of scientific instruments." He had a different sense of social relevance. He claimed he would rather discover one more property of a diamond than worry about its industrial uses.

Raman's perspective has to be understood in detail in its ethical and aesthetic aspect. It is best to indulge in storytelling. The first is the story of K S Krishnan, Raman's colleague when the NPL was coming up. It was early morning and the architect had ordered a tree to be cut down. Krishnan was driving up from the gate and stopped to ask the workers, "Why are you cutting down the tree?" They replied that it was asymmetrical. Krishnan smiled thoughtfully, saying, "I have also studied symmetry—you create it by adding a third tree, not by cutting one down."

The same spirit prevailed at the Raman Research Institute, where a tree could not be cut down to make way for buildings. But probably a sense of science in its ideal sense was offered by my father after his return from Hiroshima.

He was silent for the first week, then he said, "Maybe the response to nuclear energy was a different technology." He and his professional colleagues thought that the bicycle was iconic of technological thought. It represented both simplicity and caring. It is a pity the next generation worked on bicycles as a product rather than a metaphor. As a result, India failed to offer an alternative to the nuclear world. This sense of play behind science and technology was not naïve. I remember once discussing the fate of hockey with my father. The story begins with the Berlin Olympics. The Indians went to the field wearing canvas shoes and the first minutes were goalless. The scene became different when the play was barefoot. India defeated Germany 8-1. But the West quickly developed astroturf, on which you could not play barefoot. My father said Dhyan Chand scored twice, first by refusing to salute Hitler and second by pummeling the baseline. But my father warned that science, by changing epistemologies, changes the grammar of the game. We need to rethink alternatives to outthink the West. Beyond play, there was a sense of craft, discipline, even an obsession with speed, time and accuracy. I remember my father bought me an electric train when I was nine. I excitedly wrote to my grandfather that my electric train ran at 500 miles an hour. Quick came the reply, "Your train could not possibly run at 500 miles an hour. Please calculate the exact speed and inform me at the earliest." I never wrote a formal letter to him again.

I must add that politicians too had a tremendous grasp of technology. I remember NPL in its first years. Once a week, Nehru would drop in at the NPL canteen to gossip with Krishnan about science. Gandhi and Tagore helped raise money for J C Bose's lab. They even helped create and think of agriculture as a source of livelihood and epistemology.

One forgets Gandhi was no Luddite. The loudspeaker was introduced for the first time in a Gandhian rally. Gandhi's charkha was not outdated but a completely new model developed by Polish theosophist Maurice Frydman. One must add that Madan Mohan Malaviya had an immense understanding of industry and technology. It is a pity one does not encounter these movements when we read the history of science today.

The sense of science was Ludic and civilisational. Patrick Geddes in fact felt India had developed a post-Germanic science and politics. He cited the examples of Bose and Gandhi, as the gumboots of war made little sense for either of them. Their sense of peace went beyond war to non-violence. Geddes and Bose dreamt of how interdisciplinarity could create peace.

The reforms we need to achieve 2047 goal

Chandrajit Banerjee



India needs to grow at around 8 percent a year through the next few decades to become a developed nation by 2047. This is an ambitious goal given the track record of other countries in this regard and India's own historical growth rates. In the past, only a few countries such as China, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore have managed to sustain a growth rate of over 8 percent for a 25-year period. India's own growth rate has been 6.3 percent per annum between 2001-02 and 2023-24 and 6.7 percent excluding the Covid period. Continuous reforms can help unlock India's growth potential and place it firmly on the required 7.5 - 8 percent growth trajectory. India's focus on reforms even during the tumultuous pandemic has been one of the key drivers of the nation emerging as the fastest growing major economy for three consecutive years in a row.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has suggested many reforms and initiatives across multiple sectors of the economy as part of its proposals for the Union Budget 2025-26. Here, I focus on five key ones. One, most of the next-generation reforms lie either in the concurrent domain or in the states' domain, and require consensus building among states and the Centre. The GST Council has been a shining example of consensus building on a very important reform. Therefore, th government could consider constituting GST-like councils or an empowered group of secretaries, chaired by the cabinet secretary and comprising the chief secretaries of the states and relevant central secretaries to take forward factor market (land, labour and power) reforms as well as for reforms related to education, agriculture, climate action and fiscal sustainability.

The Union budget 2024-25 had announced the establishment of a comprehensive economic policy framework focusing on increasing productivity and market efficiency by addressing issues related to factors of production, including land, labour, capital and entrepreneurship. The GST-like councils could be set up under this framework.

Two, unlocking public capital from the central public sector enterprises s and operational brownfield projects will enable the government to raise resources for other developmental needs of the economy, leading to more efficient allocation of the capital. The government had earlier announced a PSE disinvestment policy, under which some progress has been made, the successful privatisation of Air India being one example. The government may like to continue with the calibrated disinvestment of CPSEs. As per CII estimates, bringing down government stake in the 80 listed PSEs to 51 percent can generate about Rs 10.3 lakh crore even while keeping majority ownership and control with the government. This can be done in two phases, with PSEs in which government stake is 75 percent or more can be taken up in the first phase, and the rest in the second phase.

There is always the issue of "when" and "which" as far as PSE disinvestment is concerned, since it pertains to the equity market. Therefore, a task force or expert committee, composed of eminent experts from the private sector/ retired government officials could be set up to suggest which PSEs to disinvest and the timeframe for the same. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management , in consultation with the concerned line ministry of these PSEs, could formulate a 5-year road map, with well-defined targets for each year.

An earmarked disinvestment fund could be set up to collect the disinvestment proceeds, which could be efficiently managed and used to retire government debt and invest in infrastructure with emphasis on social and agri-related infrastructure.

In addition to disinvestment, the government could also consider launching the National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0, building on the success of the NMP 1.0 (2021-2025). Three, like other economies, India faces many geopolitical challenges. To mitigate some of these and safeguard its strategic interests, India could consider creating a Sovereign Wealth Fund for making investments in overseas strategic assets, like ports, logistic corridors, technology, reserves of critical minerals, etc. Part of the disinvestment proceeds could be used to set up this fund. Four is the area of irrigation. The Indian economy is prone to the vagaries of monsoon both in terms of rural demand, food inflation and overall growth. To reduce the dependence of Indian agriculture on the increasingly unpredictable monsoons, investments in irrigation facilities should be enhanced, to bring 80 percent of gross cropped area under irrigation by 2030. This will help improve agricultural productivity and build climate resilience, boosting farmer incomes and mitigating climate-related uncertainties for farmer incomes.

Five, the thrust on ease of doing business must continue. Much progress has been made in this area; however, more initiatives are required. The emphasis should be on simplification, rationalisation and digitisation of all compliances and approvals. In fact, all central and state compliances and approvals should be made through the national single window system. The Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 should be expedited to decriminalise more business-facing laws.

Another important reform that should be brought to its logical conclusion is the implementation of the four labour codes, as they balance the interests of both employers and the employed.

India's Long-Term Funding Gap



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.

Five for 2025: Trendspotting in the marketplace

Data analytics and smart tech will give the marketer more power in the new year. How she uses those tools to claim the consumer's time will shape marketing campaigns.

Harish Bijoor

As every Tom, Dick and Harish puts out his trend sheet for 2025, I thought I might as well do it. Here is a list of marketing trends I see in the year ahead and in the years that will roll out thereafter. Do take it with a pinch of salt, if The second currency is the first currency now All of us as consumers carry two currencies that take us through life. The first has typically been money and the second, time. The second currency now overtakes money. While money can be topped up in our lives in myriad ways, we are yet to discover how to top up time. Consumers in 2025 will be that much more demanding when it comes to how their time is used by marketers. This has ramifications for media, entertainment, distribution systems, retail, ecommerce, quick commerce, customer-service and a whole host of arenas.

Gone are the days when patient marketers expected their consumers to be patient as well. Marketers need to brush up their act on how they create time-saving products, services and systems for their consumers. Charge a fee for it if need be, but save time. Remember, we as consumers are not living. We are dying. One day at a time. How I die must be my choice, dear marketer, not yours.

As marketers of yore kept saying the consumer is king, a whole consumer-centric movement fell into place. Customer-journeys, customer-personas and tools of every kind kept being put together by marketers. These tools are there with us, but their use will lessen in the years ahead. The marketer is becoming that much more powerful today. Few consumers will hear this from the marketer. Marketers will at first be sly, and then shy to admit this fact. The point remains though that the marketer is getting more and more powerful. Data analysis and enhanced data-reading tools are helping it all. Data is not the "new oil" anymore. Instead, it is the "new alcohol". It reaches those parts of the marketing organisation the marketer never knew existed even. AI tools of every kind enhance the marketer's power. In many ways, the ownership of personal data is now shared between consumers and marketer. The marketer incidentally has more enhanced tools today to understand every consumer sentiment, mood, tone, tenor, decibel and decision-making journey. I do believe 2025 will see the early signs of quantum computing falling into place. When this happens, expect marketer ability to manage customers (existing and potential) rise by a minimum enhanced factor of 22. Imagine understanding your customer 22 times better than the marketer does today. The thought is exciting, and scary. It is fraught with the positive and negative equally.



As marketers go berserk with data, enhanced consumer knowledge, personalisation and more, a whole generation of folk in the submerged and supra-developed category of markets and nations will host a large mass of people who I call the "marketing-affected people". These are people who suffer silently in the beginning, and hopefully will get more and more vocal as the years go by. They are the ones who lost jobs, livelihoods and the wherewithal to work itself. The small retail kirana grocer is one such. There are hundreds of others.

AI tools will help us analyse consumers , design marketing campaigns, design personalisation in everything and create content that is relevant, original and innovative. Expect a new lingo ahead. I will call it "moment-of-weakness marketing".

The marketer will know your every strength and weakness. She will design campaigns to cater to your moment of weakness. And in your weak moment, you will buy what the marketer's power will get you to. The onus of your decision-making shifts to the marketer. We therefore need responsible marketers or responsible consumer-protection angels who will raise the voice when it needs to be raised.

As the burdens of being in the real world increase, virtual society and its products and services will offer solutions that are craved for. This will include love, companionship, sex, travel, food, friendships, clubbing, and lots more. All simulated, of course. You will be able to take a cruise to the Bahamas on Virgin voyages, just as you might have the same cruise line offer you a virtual voyage in your drawing room. A bit like the virtual arrest trending in 'jugaad'-India.

You can possibly pay, participate, pause, and resume the voyage out at your pace. Product and service discovery will happen for all categories in the virtual world. The real and physical world will be less important for the consumer.

The responsible brand emerges As marketers get the image of being more and more irresponsible with the use of data and technology to their advantage, the responsible brand will emerge. More often than not, this will be spurred on by activist organisations and practitioners of the retro and holistic ways of living. I categorise nations into four segments. Right at the bottom is what I call the "submerged nation". Challenged nations whom we used to dub underdeveloped in the past. Just above that is the "developing nation".

Read the danger signals blinking on economic horizon

We must realise corporate tax cuts don't create jobs to the extent hoped for. With the supply side failing to spur growth, we need to stimulate demand.



K M Chandrasekhar

Many years ago, before Covid struck India, the Indian economy faced severe headwinds. It looked like a repeat of 2011-12, but with greater intensity. Growth fell continuously for eight quarters—except for a 0.08-percentage-point blip between December 2018 and March 2019. What was roaring at 8.2 percent in March 2018 had fallen to 3.1 percent in March 2020. It appeared to be a free fall.

The government responded with supply-side measures. There was a steep reduction in corporate tax rates at a cost of Rs 1.5 lakh crore to the revenues of the state. The expectation was probably that more profit would automatically lead to more investment by the corporate sector and, consequently, more employment, higher incomes and greater consumption. The hope was for a beneficial cycle to strengthen the economy and create sustained growth.

But before the impact of these measures was felt, the pandemic hit. The supply-oriented stimulus measures had little effect; the RBI rescued the economy through some significant monetary policy measures. Following the pandemic, there was a sudden burst of energy in the economy as consumers gave free expression to suppressed demand. The monetary policy continued to be easy, and as a result production could keep pace with the increasing demand. The second quarter of 2024-25 has, however, been depressing. Manufacturing growth stood at just 2.2 percent, while export growth barely reached 2.8 percent. Last year, manufacturing was driving the economy. The GDP growth rate fell to 5.4 percent, the lowest in seven quarters and well below the 8.1 percent recorded a year ago. The first-half GDP growth rate is at 6.05 percent, below the RBI's optimistic projection of 7.2 percent for the year. Now, the expectation is that the economy will grow at 6-6.8 percent. The macroeconomic figures, while they are not yet alarming, do point to a few specific danger signals. Growth of private final consumption expenditure is down to 6 percent in the second quarter of this financial year. The corresponding figure for government final consumption expenditure is 4.4 percent, up from minus 0.2 percent in the first quarter but considerably lower than the previous two years.

Growth of gross fixed capital formation , which had touched double figures in 2021-22 and 2022-23, was 7.5 percent in the first quarter of this financial year and 5.4 percent in the second. Consumer price inflation remains high at over 6 percent in October, leaving little room for RBI action on the monetary front. The most disquieting figure is in foreign trade, where growth rates were 2.8 percent in exports and (-)2.9 percent in imports. India's e onomic policy hitherto has primarily been corporate-oriented. In late 2019, corporate tax rates were cut by 10 percent, with the government incurring a revenue loss of about Rs 1.5 lakh crore, as stated by the Finance Minister.

The insolvency code has primarily benefited the big and the rich, and banks have had to take enormous haircuts. In January 2023, this newspaper said in an editorial: "Before the IBC came into force, average recoveries were 26 percent, and the time taken for resolution was four years. The banking and insolvency regulators, which once hailed the IBC as the biggest reform (bigger than GST) of our times, are now finding it difficult to explain the massive haircuts banks are taking to resolve cases through the IBC. With an average recovery rate of 30 percent, banks lose 70 percent of the debt given to these companies.

Plain Talk About English

Mother tongues are more effective for deep learning and preserving culture. It's also true that Thomas Macaulay, who insisted on imposing English as the medium of instruction in India, knew little about the depth of eastern languages. But we can't avoid English as the lingua franca of global commerce.



Madhavan Narayanan

There is a funny line in the BBC comedy series, To the Manor Born, when a feudal aristocrat fallen on difficult days sells her country mansion to a Czech-born tycoon. Speaking of the responsibility that comes with the English heritage, she says: "Noblesse oblige. I bet you have not heard of that—it's English." Getting your French mixed up with English is understandable for Britons—the French-speaking Normans after all ruled the Anglo-Saxons for more than 150 years. But the English language has been enriched by so many foreign influences that you can have a conversation in pukka English peppered with words borrowed from Hindi, Malayalam or Tamil. There are whole lexicons dedicated to Indian English terms—from Hobson Jobson published in 1886 to Hanklyn-Janklin of 1992.

These things come to mind a week after the news that the lone Kannada-medium student in a Mysuru engineering college has dropped out because he was the only one in his class and there was a shortage of course material. His family and friends advised him to switch to an English-medium course.

The English have gained a lot from India. It's said 'loot' was one of the earliest terms the Company-era Brits borrowed from India because that's what they were busy with. But if we are honest enough to separate colonial tyranny from the coincidental benefits of the Industrial Revolution and modern science, English makes a lot of sense.

Amid murmurs of protest from southern governments, Hindi is sneaking more and more into the lexicon of the Union government, which is set on increasing the Hindi-to-English ratio in lawmaking. The Indian Penal Code has been revised and renamed Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita; the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak aims to replace the Aircraft Act. We are told these are about replacing colonial era laws.

Even while minding the political symbolism of linguistic identity, we can say the English language remains a global currency—or, to mix metaphors and tongues, the lingua franca of national integration. The term 'lingua franca' itself is Italian in origin and refers to the Frankish language, which was once a common tongue among people from different regions. Southern leaders can gladly protest against "Hindi imposition", but none is likely to oppose English. Because it's the language of global business, the lingua franca for science, technology, global travel and, therefore, lucrative careers—as our IT and business service industries have proven. Yet, there are those who fashionably blame Thomas Babington Macaulay for introducing English as the main medium of instruction in India in the 1830s replacing Sanskrit and Arabic. He could be derided for foolishly proclaiming "a single shelf of a good European library was worth the whole native literature of India and Arabia" and for his desire of producing Indians who were "English in tastes, in opinions, in morals and in intellect". But we also need to admit that, because of the shared colonial history, English is today the language of opportunity. Once upon a time, Urdu—Dakhni in the South—was a lingua franca to interact with aliens spouting Persian, Arabic and Turkish who were swirling around during Mughal rule. English could be seen as the new Urdu.

Recently, while marking the Indian language week starting December 4 as Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav, the Union education minister argued that the mother tongue lies at the core of deep learning to preserve folklore, tradition and collective wisdom. He advocated basic education for children in their mother tongues. As someone who started education in Tamil medium, I agree. But equally, as someone who did much of his higher education in English and spoke Hindi in the neighbourhood, I have to emphasise the value of English. Southerners are happy to imbibe Hindi while enjoying Bollywood movies as well as travelling across India, but forcing it on them may not make sense as they may feel a loss of culture. Yet, for many young Tamilians, the American-English "bro" has quietly replaced the age-old "machaan".

India's official education policy laid out in 2020 emphasises a three-language formula with an emphasis on two Indian languages. Southern radicals worry this is a soft imposition of Hindi.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Gender data key to inclusive policymaking: experts at National Conference



Deliberations on women's work, wages, formality and care acknowledged rising female labour-force participation, while highlighting challenges in job quality, wage disparities and unpaid care work. The session on women's livelihoods, enterprises, skills and financial inclusion recognised progress in entrepreneurship and financial inclusion, while stressing the need for better access to credit, markets and sustainable livelihoods, alongside women's agency and safety.

New Delhil, Nov 23 (Way to News): A one-day National Conference on "Gender Data and Statistics: From Evidence to Policy Insights" was organised by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in collaboration with UN Women on 2nd November, 2026 in New Delhi. The conference brought together policymakers, representatives from Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments, statisticians, researchers, academic institutions, technical experts and representatives of UN agencies to deliberate on strengthening the analysis and use of gender statistics for evidence-based policymaking.

The conference was organised to deliberate on and disseminate the findings of Women and Men in India 2025, a flagship publication of MoSPI, with the aim of deepening the understanding of key findings and their interlinkages across sectors, facilitating discussions among ministries and other stakeholders, and identifying opportunities to strengthen the analytical and policy use of gender statistics.

The conference commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Shoko Ishikawa, Country Representative, UN Women India, who emphasised the importance of gender-disaggregated data and bridging the gap between data producers and users. Mr. Jean-Eric Paquet, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to India, highlighted the EU–India Strategic Partnership in advancing gender equality and women's economic participation. Dr. Preetam B. Yashvant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, also addressed the gathering, followed by Dr. Dalip Singh, Director General (Central Statistics), MoSPI, who emphasised identifying gender gaps to inform evidence-based policies. Dr. Shamika Ravi, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, highlighted progress in welfare delivery and women's financial empowerment, while stressing the need for improved employment quality, state-level analysis and stronger gender statistics to guide policy reforms. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Supriya Roy, Additional Director General, MoSPI, who acknowledged the contributions of speakers, participants and UN Women.

The conference featured four thematic technical sessions, focusing on health and survival across the life course; girls' education, learning and transition; women's work, wages, formality and care; and women's livelihoods, enterprises, skills and financial inclusion. The sessions brought together experts, policymakers and practitioners to examine key findings from Women and Men in India 2025, identify differences in outcomes between women and men, and explore opportunities for translating statistical evidence into actionable policy insights. Discussions on health and survival recognised progress in maternal healthcare and essential health services, while highlighting nutritional and adolescent health challenges. The session on girls' education, learning and transition noted improvements in enrolment, while emphasising gaps in learning outcomes, STEM participation and employment pathways.

Deliberations on women's work, wages, formality and care acknowledged rising female labour-force participation, while highlighting challenges in job quality, wage disparities and unpaid care work. The session on women's livelihoods, enterprises, skills and financial inclusion recognised progress in entrepreneurship and financial inclusion, while stressing the need for better access to credit, markets and sustainable livelihoods, alongside women's agency and safety.

During the valedictory session, Ms. Suhela Khan, Country Programme Manager, Women's Economic Empowerment, UN Women India, and Ms. Geeta Singh Rathore, Director General (NSS), MoSPI, highlighted the need to address persistent gender disparities in health, education and economic participation, with particular emphasis on quality of employment, unpaid care work and financial inclusion.

Special Campaign 6 Strengthens Sustainable Practices Across Mines Ministry Offices and Organisations



New Delhil, Nov 23 (Way to News): The Ministry of Mines, along with its attached and subordinate offices, Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and autonomous bodies, has successfully concluded Special Campaign 6, with a particular focus on the effective collection, segregation and disposal of e-waste. The campaign also focused on cleanliness, efficient record management, disposal of pending references, resolution of public grievances and improving administrative efficiency, reaffirming the Ministry's commitment to sustainability and good governance.

A key highlight of Special Campaign 6 was the extensive drive for the collection and disposal of e-waste. During the campaign, a total of 134.92 tonnes of e-waste had been collected/ disposed across 96 locations, generating revenue of approx 1.2 crore. The initiative covered offices of the Ministry of Mines / field offices as well as other government offices, promoting the responsible disposal of electronic waste, resource recovery and environmentally sustainable practices.

During the campaign period, 465 cleanliness campaign were conducted across the Ministry and its organizations. The campaign generated total revenue of approximately 6.19 crore from disposal of scrap and e-waste, and freed approximately 47881 square feet of office space. These efforts contributed to improved workplace conditions, better utilization of office space and the promotion of a culture of cleanliness and sustainability.

Under the record management initiative, 13067 physical files were reviewed, of which 9470 were weeded out. In the electronic records category, 3270 e-files were reviewed and 1812 were closed. Overall 11282 files were weeded out or closed, contributing to streamlined record management and improved administrative efficiency. The Ministry also achieved its targets in disposing the Public Grievances/ Public Grievances appeals, references received from Members of Parliament, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) and State Governments reference. In addition, 7 rules/ processes were simplified during the campaign to promote ease of governance and administrative.

Ministry Focuses on E-Waste Segregation and Efficient Workplace Management



New Delhil, Nov 23 (Way to News): The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), along with its Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies (ABs), has successfully concluded the Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters 6 (SCDPM 6). This year, the campaign placed special emphasis on "Effective Collection, Segregation and Disposal of E-Waste", alongside cleanliness, reduction of pendency and improved workplace management.

During the implementation phase of SCPDM 6, observed from 2nd October to 31st October 2026, MHI and its CPSEs/ABs undertook various activities including comprehensive review of old physical and electronic files, identified unserviceable items, scrap and e-waste, and initiated measures for their proper disposal. These activities aimed at freeing up office space, improving record management and promoting cleaner, well-organised and efficient workplaces.

In line with this year's theme, special attention was given to the effective collection, segregation and disposal of e-waste across offices and industrial units under MHI. The CPSEs/ABs identified e-waste generated at their respective establishments and took necessary steps for its segregation and disposal in accordance with the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022.

The initiative helped to ensure proper handling of e-waste and promote responsible waste management practices across the CPSEs/ ABs under the Ministry.

Cleanliness and plantation drives were also organised across office campuses and industrial units. These activities helped in maintaining clean, safe and organised workplaces while encouraging a culture of cleanliness, accountability and responsible waste management.

To raise awareness and to give wide coverage, 2108 social media posts were posted on different social media handles i.e X(Twitter), Instagram, Facebook, Youtube, LinkedIn etc. highlighting the significant activities undertaken by the Ministry along with its CPSEs/ABs under the Special Campaign 6. Under Special Campaign 6, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), HPEP Hyderabad organised a mass cleanliness drive at Rayasamudram Lake and the adjoining road, with active participation from leadership, employees and the public.

Special Campaign 6 Strengthens Efficiency Across DPIIT Offices



New Delhil, Nov 23 (Way to News): The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), along with its attached and subordinate offices, is implementing Special Campaign 6 under the guidance of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). The campaign aims to institutionalise Swachhata and minimise pendency in official work across all offices.

During the implementation phase, DPIIT has made significant progress across multiple parameters. All categories of pending references, including those received from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Cabinet, Members of Parliament, State Governments and Public Grievances (PG)/PG Appeals, have been identified and are being systematically addressed to ensure their timely and effective disposal.

As of 28 October 2026, DPIIT has successfully disposed of more than 50% of references received from the PMO, around 75% of references from the Cabinet/Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) and State Governments, over 99% of Public Grievances and more than 80% of Public Grievance Appeals. The Department has also closed around 83% of the identified e-files, reflecting its efforts towards efficient record management. These initiatives have contributed to improving workplace cleanliness and the overall working environment for officials and staff. The implementation phase of Special Campaign 6, being conducted from 2 to 31 October 2026, was preceded by a preparatory phase from 15 to 30 September 2026. The campaign has helped raise awareness among government officials .

about the importance of cleanliness, efficient record management and the timely disposal of pending matters. DPIIT remains committed to institutionalising Swachhata and minimising pendency across its attached and subordinate offices, thereby fostering a cleaner, more efficient and responsive working environment.

Star rating awards celebrate excellence across coal mining sector



New Delhil, Nov 23 (Way to News): The Ministry of Coal today successfully hosted the Annual Star Rating Awards Ceremony for FY 2024-25 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, recognising excellence and outstanding performance in India's coal and lignite mining sector. The ceremony was graced by the Union Minister of State for Coal and Mines, Shri Satish Chandra Dubey, in the presence of senior officials of the Ministry, representatives of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries, NLC India Limited, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), and other stakeholders from the coal industry.

A total of 50 coal mines received Five-Star Ratings for FY 2024-25. Among these, 10 mines secured the first, second and third positions in their respective categories, with scores exceeding 93 per cent. Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) and NTPC secured the First Prize in the Opencast category, while Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) secured the First Prize in the Underground category. Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) received special appreciation for achieving the highest number of Five-Star Rated mines among all Coal India subsidiaries. Northern Coalfields Limited and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) were also appreciated for consistently maintaining high performance in Star Rating evaluations as well as production.

Addressing the Star Rating Awards Ceremony for FY 2024-25, the Union Minister of State for Coal and Mines emphasized that the Star Rating Programme serves as an important instrument for maintaining proper records and embracing modern and safer technologies to enhance overall mining performance.

Congratulating the award-winning mines and their teams, the Union Minister of State appreciated their dedication and commitment towards achieving higher standards. He also acknowledged the consistent performance of mines in various categories and encouraged other mining establishments to draw inspiration from their achievements. Calling for wider and more active participation in the Star Rating Programme for FY 2025-26, he stressed that healthy competition, continuous self-improvement and the exchange of good practices would help raise performance standards across the coal sector and advance the vision of safe, efficient and sustainable mining.

Jitendra Singh Inaugurates Seismological Observatory in Kishtwar, Boosts Disaster Preparedness



Jammu, Nov 23 (UNI): Inaugurating the new Seismological Observatory in the high seismic zone of Kishtwar today through the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today highlighted the significant expansion of meteorological and weather monitoring infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir after 2014, particularly in the erstwhile Doda district, with additional installations brought in after the Chasoti cloudburst tragedy last year.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the India Meteorology Department (IMD) had strengthened the weather monitoring network in the region from not a single Doppler Weather Radar in 2014 to 4 installed in last 12 years and 4 more being installed making it total 8; Automatic Weather Stations from 3 to 12 out of which 4 for Kishtwar and 2 each for Doda and Ramban.

Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India, Senior Scientist Suresh and others came specially from Delhi for the event.

MLA Padder-Nagseni Constituency and Leader of Opposition, J&K Legislative Assembly, Sh. Sunil Sharma; MLA of the Kishtwar Assembly Constituency and Ms. Shagun Parihar also spoke on the occasion. Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Sharma and SSP Kishtwar Sunny Gupta were also present among others.

The Minister said, the expansion of scientific and weather monitoring infrastructure has also strengthened the region's disaster preparedness in an area that is vulnerable to earthquakes, landslides and other weather-related challenges.

The new observatory at Kishtwar is equipped with state-of-the-art digital seismic equipment and will transmit data in real time to the 24x7 Earthquake Monitoring Centre of the National Centre for Seismology in New Delhi. With the establishment of the new facility, Jammu and Kashmir now has four Seismological Observatories, including those at Jammu, Srinagar, Udhampur and Kishtwar.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the observatory would continuously monitor earthquake activity in the region and contribute to a better understanding of its seismic hazards. The information generated would also support the district administration and rescue teams in responding more effectively, besides helping in planning safer infrastructure.

Highlighting the transformation in meteorological infrastructure since 2014, Dr Jitendra Singh said that there was no Doppler Weather Radar coverage in the region earlier. After 2014, four Doppler Weather Radars have been installed at Banihal, Jot, Jammu and Srinagar, significantly expanding weather monitoring capabilities.

He further informed that four more Doppler Weather Radars are set to be commissioned in 2027 at Doda, Kishtwar, Anantnag and Baramulla, further strengthening weather surveillance and extending coverage across the region.

The Minister also highlighted the significant expansion of the Automatic Weather Station network. From three Automatic Weather Stations earlier at Udhampur, Kathua and Ramban, nine additional stations have been added, taking the total number to 12. These include four stations in Kishtwar, two each in Doda and Ramban, and one in Kathua.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the expansion of scientific infrastructure has been guided by the needs and geographical vulnerabilities of the region. He noted that administrative boundaries may change, but geographical challenges remain, making it essential to strengthen weather monitoring and early warning systems across vulnerable areas.

The rainfall monitoring network has also been expanded, with the number of Rain Gauge Stations increasing from nine to 15 across the five districts of the parliamentary constituency. These stations provide regular rainfall information and strengthen local-level weather monitoring.

Highlighting the reach of weather and agromet services, the Minister said that weather forecasts are now disseminated at the Panchayat level across all Panchayats in the five districts. The weather forecast and agromet advisory services have reached 5,467 beneficiaries, enabling wider access to weather-related information.

He also referred to the strengthening of specialised meteorological facilities in the region, including the High-Altitude Cloud Physics Laboratory at Patnitop, Jammu and Kashmir.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

New Zealand hold India to draw in first test, dent WTC hopes





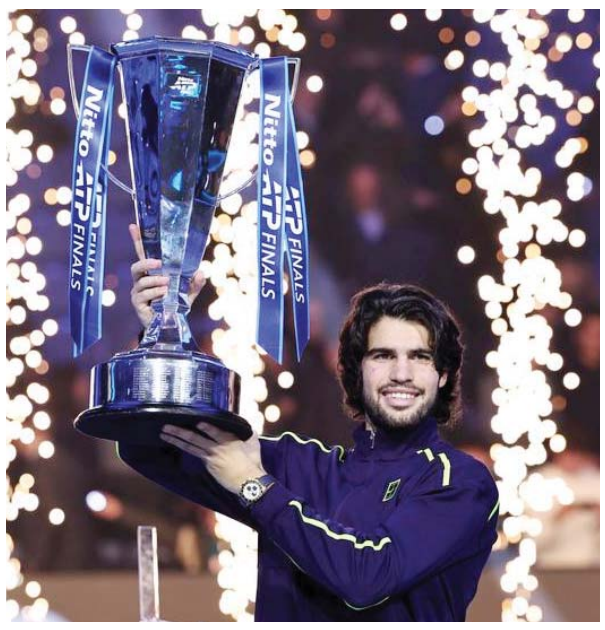
Wellington, Nov 23 (Way to News): Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips produced a stubborn rearguard act to deny India an improbable victory as New Zealand escaped with a draw in the first Test at the Basin Reserve here on Monday. With India's commanding first-innings total having ruled out any hope of a home win, the Black Caps dug in for 75 overs on the final day to complete their great escape, as their second innings ended at 239/5 in 120 overs.

India, dominant throughout the game, could prise out only three wickets on the final day's play. The teams shook hands when it was clear that India would not get the remaining five wickets in the next hour. With both teams getting four points, the result has hurt India's World Test Championship (WTC) final hopes, with their points percentage (PCT) at 50, while New Zealand drop out of the top two standings. Mitchell batted 186 balls for an unbeaten 49 while Phillips stayed not out on 26 off 126 balls. Their unbroken sixth-wicket partnership of 63 runs lasted 258 balls. Rather than lunging forward, the duo kept playing the ball under their eyes and trusted their defence to be rock-solid on a lifeless pitch.

India entered the final session needing five wickets in 39 overs. Rishabh Pant stood up to the stumps for Anshul Kamboj, and the pressure showed when India conceded a no-ball for three men stationed behind square on the leg side. Mitchell occasionally hit back by pulling Washington Sundar onto the grass banks for six and reverse-sweeping him for four. After Kamboj finished his spell, Akash Deep took over, even as Mitchell warned Phillips about his bowling angles.

Mitchell endured 43 balls without a run, and it helped that Jasprit Bumrah was well short of his best pace and managed to bowl only two overs. KL Rahul took charge while Shubman Gill was in the dressing room with head coach Gautam Gambhir. Washington Sundar was sure he had Mitchell trapped lbw and talked KL Rahul into taking a review despite Pant's view that the ball pitched outside leg. Pant's view was right as India lost the review. The signs of the game inching towards a draw came when Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel were brought on to bowl. Jaiswal bowled off-spin, even though Pant jokingly reminded him that leg-spin was the agreement and that he could turn himself into an all-rounder. Gill accepted Mitchell's handshake offer as the batting all-rounder walked off two short of a fifty. It was only the second drawn Test at the venue in 15 games since 2015, and India's second stalemate in a row after drawing the clash against Sri Lanka in Colombo in August.

Carlos Alcaraz Beats Zverev to Win Maiden ATP Finals Title



Turin, Nov 23 (Way to News): Carlos Alcaraz brought his season to a memorable close by defeating Alexander Zverev 6-2, 7-6(6) in the ATP Finals title clash on Sunday, claiming the prestigious year-end championship for the first time in his career. The Spaniard produced a commanding display against the German, combining aggressive baseline play with tactical variation to secure his 30th career title and sixth of the season. The victory also made him only the third Spaniard, after Manuel Orantes (1976) and Alex Corretja (1998), to lift the ATP Finals trophy.

While the opening set was largely dictated by Alcaraz, the contest took a dramatic turn in the second-set tiebreak, where the 23-year-old found himself staring at three consecutive set points. Trailing 3-6, he responded with remarkable composure, winning six of the next seven points to shut the door on Zverev and seal the championship in two hours and one minute. Alcaraz's victory was particularly significant given the physical concerns surrounding him during the tournament. Playing with heavy strapping on his left leg, the Spaniard showed little restriction in his movement, covering the court effectively and repeatedly troubling Zverev with his return game.

The German had entered the final without dropping a set and had not conceded a break throughout the tournament. However, Alcaraz changed that in the opening set, breaking him for the first time in the third game before adding two more breaks to establish a commanding advantage. Zverev had opportunities to make the contest more competitive, particularly during a lengthy fourth game when he earned three break points. Alcaraz saved all three, using his crosscourt backhand to turn defence into attack and preserve his lead. The second set began in a similar fashion, with Alcaraz breaking Zverev to love. However, the German gradually raised his level, recovered from the early setback and capitalised on a dip in the Spaniard's consistency to erase a 2-4 deficit. At 4-5 and 0-30, Alcaraz faced another difficult moment but found his range with the first serve and forehand to prevent Zverev from taking control. The contest subsequently headed into a tie-break, where the Spaniard's ability to deliver under pressure proved decisive.

A backhand winner on his second match point completed the victory, prompting Alcaraz to drop to the court in celebration before embracing his team. The triumph also places Alcaraz in an exclusive group of players to have won all four Grand Slam titles and the ATP Finals, alongside Andre Agassi, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

Alexandra Eala to Make Third Appearance at Abu Dhabi Open 2027



New Delhi, Nov 23 (Way to News): Alexandra Eala is set to mark her third appearance at the Mubadala Abu Dhabi Open, having been confirmed to feature in the tournament in 2027. The 21-year-old has already been a history-maker for the Philippines as she is the highest-ranked Filipina player in WTA history and is currently ranked No.15 in the world. She heads to the UAE capital for the third time, after having featured twice in the WTA 500 tournament in 2024 and 2026.

Eala has been one of the fastest-rising stars in recent times, having climbed from No.140 in 2025 to No.15 now. During this time, she won her first WTA Tour-level singles title in Washington earlier this August and also marked her best Grand Slam campaign, when she reached the Wimbledon fourth round for the first time earlier this year. "Returning to Abu Dhabi for my third Mubadala Abu Dhabi Open is something I'm really looking forward to, especially as they celebrate the tournament's fifth anniversary. The energy from the Filipino community and the fans across the UAE makes competing here that much more special. "I've continued to grow and develop myself as a player, and I'm excited to bring that experience back to Abu Dhabi this year on my favourite surface on tour.

Vasseur Slams Ferrari Drivers After Las Vegas GP Clash



Las Vegas, Nov 23 (Way to News): Ferrari team principal Fred Vasseur has flayed his drivers Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton for another costly tangle in the Las Vegas Grand Prix and said it was a case of lack of respect for the team on the part of both drivers. Just two races ago in Mexico, Leclerc and Hamilton had clashed in the first lap of the race, which cost the Maranello team a shot at a potential victory.

That incident was followed by a summit meeting in Vasseur's hotel room on the Thursday evening before the Sao Paulo Grand Prix, during which both drivers and their team boss aired their views.

It was felt after the meeting that the air had been cleared and there was a new understanding between Hamilton and Leclerc. That was proved correct when they briefly ran together on track early in the race in Brazil, and there was no issue. In Las Vegas, they both worked their way up the field after a poor qualifying session where both exited in Q2, and once again they found themselves fighting for the same piece of track lap after lap. Leclerc was heard asking for Hamilton to be "careful with the squeezing because it's not going to end well," while Lewis said, "Can you tell him to back the **** off because I'm trying to catch the guys ahead." The team in turn urged Leclerc to be cautious with Hamilton.

However, on Lap 37, everyone's worst nightmare came true when they were battling for P6, and Leclerc knocked Hamilton into a spin, costing the latter four places. Hamilton managed to recover to seventh by the flag, while a 10-second penalty saw Leclerc fall back to P10. It was obvious that the results could have been a lot better, but there was a much bigger picture for Vasseur.

"I don't know what could have been the outcome of the race, because it was quite difficult to imagine," said Fred Vasseur afterwards. "But it's not the issue. The issue is, once again, it's unacceptable. It's a lack of respect for the team, for the sponsors. The same speech as after Mexico. "I think we had a clear discussion in Sao Paulo. We passed the message to Charles during the race to think about the team when he was fighting. It's not the right word, but you can't freeze the position in this kind of race, because when you are in the slipstream, if you slow down, the guy who is behind you is overtaking you.

"And all the other teams were able to overtake each other 20 times during the race – Antonelli/Russell.

, Piastri/Norris, even Isack overtook Max. Honestly, you can't imagine the frustration for me, but more important for all the guys at home," he was quoted as saying by the Formula 1 website.

At the end of the race, Vasseur took the unusual step of coming onto the radio and telling Leclerc that he wanted to speak to him before he attended any media activities. Asked what was discussed, Vasseur made it clear that he'd voiced his opinion.

"No, it was not a discussion – I spoke!" he continued. "I think he apologised, he understands, blah blah blah. But the result is there: you make a mistake, you say my mistake, I'm sorry, but you did the mistake. Yeah, it's tough."

He also explained that he spoke to Hamilton following the race in Nevada: "Lewis, what can he say in this kind of situation? I told him that we passed the message during the race to Charles, that he was aware."

Formula 1 fans will be eagerly looking forward to the next race to see how much effect the chat with the team principal has on the drivers.

Rabada, Jansen Lead South Africa's Dominant Bowling Show



Centurion, Nov 23 (Way to News) South Africa seized control of the second Test against Bangladesh in Centurion after their fast bowlers dismantled the visitors for just 91 on the opening day. Despite losing the entire morning session to rain, the hosts made up for lost time with a ruthless bowling performance before finishing the day just three runs short of Bangladesh's total at 88 for 1. All five South African bowlers contributed to the collapse, with Bangladesh lasting only 33.3 overs after being sent in to bat under overcast conditions. Play eventually began more than three hours behind schedule, with South Africa winning the toss and choosing to exploit the conditions.

Marco Jansen wasted little time in making an impact, drawing an outside edge from Tanzid Hasan Tamim in the second over. Mahfijul Islam briefly counterattacked against Kagiso Rabada, finding the boundary twice in the third over, but struggled to deal with the movement on offer. A few more streaky shots brought him some runs before Anrich Nortje ended his stay in the 14th over. Nortje, returning to the side after another spell on the sidelines with injury, struck again almost immediately. The fast bowler removed Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto just two deliveries after dismissing Mahfijul, leaving the visitors in trouble. The wickets continued to come at regular intervals. Wiaan Mulder forced Mominul Haque into chopping the ball onto his stumps in the 21st over, before Jansen returned to send Litton Das back with an edge behind the wicket. Simon Harmer then joined the party, having Towhid Hridoy caught at slip in the final over before Tea after the batter had struck him for a six.

Bangladesh went into the break at 85 for 6, and their hopes of mounting a recovery were quickly extinguished after the resumption. Rabada took charge of the lower order, dismissing Shoriful Islam, Jaker Ali and Taskin Ahmed in successive overs. Jansen completed the job by removing Khaled Ahmed, bringing Bangladesh's innings to an end at 91.

Tilak Varma's Century in Vain as Pakistan A Beat India A by 48 Runs



Doha, Nov 23 (Way to News): Skipper Tilak Varma waged a valiant battle with a second successive century but could not prevent India A from slumping to a 48-run defeat against archrivals Pakistan A in the Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament at West End Park International Cricket Stadium, Doha, on Sunday. Chasing a target of 314 in 50 overs, Varma scored 100 off 149 balls and raised hopes of acing a tough chase made Herculean by a batting collapse, raising 112 runs for the seventh wicket with Shahbaz Ahmed, who scored a half-century. However, it proved too good to be true, and Shahbaz's departure helped Pakistan A get back into the match.

India A were eventually all out for 265 in 49.1 overs, slumping to a 48-run defeat in their second match after starting the competition with a win against Nepal.

Despite a blazing 42-ball 70 by opener Abhishek Sharma (4×6, 6×6), India A were soon staring down the barrel at 129/5 at the halfway stage in the 50-over contest, with Ayush Badoni (0), Kumar Kushagra (2), Rinku Singh (6) and Suryansh Shedge (6) failing to fire. Opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi managed only 11. However, Varma found a willing partner in Shahbaz Ahmed as they repaired the innings and took India A to 241/7. Shahbaz got out in the 43rd over just when it looked like he and skipper Varma would script an unlikely miracle. Vipraj Nigam and Harshit Rana got out for zero each, and India's hopes were over but for the century by the skipper. Varma reached his century in 147 balls, hitting seven fours and one six, but in the end his heroics were not enough. For Pakistan A, Ali Raza (3-56) and Hasan Nawaz (3-45) caused the maximum damage while Mohammad Imran (2-69) added to their misery with some fine pace bowling.

Earlier, electing to bat first, Pakistan A rode on half-centuries by Maaz Sadaqat, Hasan Nawaz and Farhan Yousaf to reach a challenging total of 313 before being all out in 49.2 overs.

Maaz Sadaqat struck 59 off 63 balls (4×6, 6×1) and shared a 66-run partnership with Shamyl Hussain, who blasted a 23-ball 33, for the opening wicket in just 7.2 overs. Rohail Nazir was out for a duck, but Hasan Nawaz top-scored with 79 in 82 balls (4×5, 6×4) and added 54 runs for the third wicket with Sadaqat. Farhan Yousaf held the middle order together as he scored 56 in 48 balls, and Pakistan A crossed the three-hundred-run mark with Mohammad Imran giving the score some late push with a 14-ball 23 (4×1, 6×2).

For India A, Harshit Rana (2-72), Prince Yadav (2-60), Suryansh Shedge (2-55) and Vipraj Nigam (2-46) claimed two wickets apiece as the bowlers failed to contain the Pakistan A batters.

Brief scores: Pakistan A 313 all out in 49.2 overs (Maaz Sadaqat 59, Hasan Nawaz 79, Farhan Yousaf 56; Vipraj Nigam 2-46, Suryansh Shedge 2-55) beat India A 265 all out in 49.1 overs (Tilak Varma 100, Abhishek Sharma 70, Shahbaz Ahmed 56; Ali Raza 3-56, Hasan Nawaz 3-45, Mohammad Imran 2-69) by 48 runs

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Chiranjeevi releases the trailer of 'Alochana'.. Sudhakar's son Benny in a key role



The latest Telugu film 'Alochana' is based on the theme of old age problems, family relationships and the emotions of elders. Megastar Chiranjeevi released the official theatrical trailer of the film today. On this occasion, he wished the film team a great success. Senior actor Sudhakar's son Benny is playing a key role in the film Alochana.

The film is directed by Surender Chacha and jointly produced by Pradeep Kumar and Srinivas Gundaboya. Viaan S.A. has composed the music. Senior actors G.V. Narayana Rao, Narasimharaju, Prasad Babu, Maharshi Raghava, Jayalalitha and others are playing the lead roles. The trailer seems to have heartily revealed the family ties and the mental conflicts faced by the elderly in today's society. The censor board has granted the film a 'U/A' certificate. The film 'Aalochana', which has completed all the activities, will be released on November 27. On this occasion, the film unit has announced a special decision for senior citizens. The producers said that those above 60 years of age can watch the film for free in theaters on November 27, 28 and 29 by showing a valid identity card. The film team said that this decision was taken with the intention of giving a good message to the society. The makers are confident that 'Aalochana', which is a family-friendly film, will impress the audience. Meanwhile, Prasad Babu and Narayana Rao, who acted in this film, are known to be close to Chiranjeevi. Moreover, young actor Benny's father Sudhakar is also close to Chiranjeevi.

Meenakshi Chowdhury says that both love and breakup are difficult



Tollywood heroine Meenakshi Chowdhury has once again impressed the audience with her witty words. She is actively participating in the promotions of her latest film 'Vrushakarma' starring Naga Chaitanya, and her comments on her personal life have now gone viral on the internet.

In an interview given as part of the film's promotions, the anchor asked Meenakshi... 'Do you have a crush on anyone right now?' To which she replied without flinching and laughing. "I don't have any crush on anyone.. In fact, my life has been crushed (torn)," she joked. She playfully explained that she is unable to devote time to her personal life due to consecutive projects, hectic shootings, and promotions.

Similarly, responding to another question asked about love and relationships.. "I don't know but.. falling in love and getting over a breakup are both difficult," Meenakshi commented. This beauty, who is riding high with hits like 'Lucky Bhaskar' and 'Sankranthikii Yaalaan', is currently focusing her full attention on films.

Directed by Karthik Varma Dandu and jointly produced by Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra and Sukumar Writings, the supernatural thriller 'Vrushakarma' is set to hit the screens worldwide on December 4. The film team is making arrangements to launch the trailer of the film in a grand manner on November 25 in Nellore.

Raashii Khanna Shares Fun Moments From 'Farzi 2' Sets

Actress Raashii Khanna provided netizens with some glimpses of her fun time on the sets of the eagerly anticipated show 'Farzi 2', with her co-stars Shahid Kapoor and Vijay Sethupathi. 1On Monday, Raashii took to her official Instagram handle and uploaded a picture of herself smiling on the sets of 'Farzi 2'. This was followed by a photo of Raashii enjoying some tea and cookies with Vijay Sethupathi.

We could also see Raashii clapping while Shahid Kapoor addressed the crew with a mic. "Just another day on set.. (Brown heart emoji) #farzi2 (sic)," the caption on the post read.

Meanwhile, Shahid Kapoor wrapped up the shoot of the second season of the crime thriller series in October. Commemorating the occasion, the filmmaker duo Raj & DK dropped a behind-the-scenes video of the 'Haidar' actor from the sets of 'Farzi 2'.

The clip showed Shahid Kapoor breaking his character as Sunny and being his goofy self.

The post also included the text, "It's a wrap on the Artist and he promptly breaks out of character! Fantastic job @shahidkapoor. We got some crazy shit done this time! To the Fakers!" Coming back to the video, the 'Jab We Met' actor was seen giving some funny expressions and also flaunting his crazy dance moves. As Raj & DK asked him what was happening, Shahid Kapoor gave another goofy expression and said, "Mera khatam (My work is done)," before going back to his playful antics. The creators of 'Farzi 2' also applauded the performance of Shahid Kapoor while spilling their excitement over the work they have done for 'Farzi 2'. Shahid Kapoor made quite an impression as Sunny in the primary season, an artist who is drawn into the world of counterfeiting. Featuring Shahid Kapoor, Vijay Sethupathi, Kay Kay Menon, Raashii Khanna, and Bhuvan Arora in the key roles, the eight-episode series premiered on Amazon Prime Video on 10 February 2023.





Vishnu Manchu to play lead in Prabhu Deva's next directorial!

Popular Telugu actor and producer Vishnu Manchu is to play the lead in well known actor and filmmaker Prabhu Deva's upcoming Tamil and Telugu bilingual film. The film, which will be an action thriller, is being tentatively referred to as #VM24.

Prabhu Deva took to his social media timelines to make the announcement on a day actor Vishnu Manchu celebrated his birthday. Greeting Vishnu Manchu on his birthday, Prabhu Deva wrote, "Happy Birthday, to my Hero and little Brother @iVishnuManchu (heart symbol)!. Making this celebration even more special and colourful with VM 24! PRABHU DEVA × VISHNU MANCHU #VM24 #PrabhuDeva."

Sources say that shooting for the film is expected to begin soon. While details about the film's title storyline and supporting cast are yet to be revealed the project has already drawn attention for bringing together the two names. The film will mark Vishnu's debut as an actor in Tamil cinema. The move into Tamil cinema comes with a familiarity that goes beyond his work in films. Born and educated in Chennai, the actor is fluent in Tamil and has previously spoken about his comfort with the language and the city's culture.

He has built his career primarily in Telugu cinema, with films such as Dhee, Denikaina Ready, Doosukeltha and Ginna. He was last seen in 'Kannappa', the mythological drama directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, which featured a star cast including Prabhas, Akshay Kumar and Mohanlal. His upcoming project with Prabhu Deva will give him an opportunity to take his work to Tamil audiences.

Prabhu Deva, meanwhile, brings experience across acting, choreography and direction to the project. He made his directorial debut with the Telugu film Nuvvostanante Nenoddantana in 2005 and went on to direct films such as Pokkiri, Rowdy Rathore and Wanted. His work across Tamil, Telugu and Hindi cinema has seen him explore different commercial genres, making him a familiar name across film industries. With this project Prabhu Deva returns to Telugu cinema as a director while also exploring a bilingual format with Tamil and Telugu audiences in min

Sobhita Shares Romantic Moments With Naga Chaitanya on Birthday

Actress Sobhita Dhulipala celebrated her birthday by sharing a series of romantic moments with her husband, actor Naga Chaitanya.

She gave a glimpse into their personal life. Taking to Instagram, Sobhita posted pictures and videos capturing some affectionate moments with Chaitanya. The couple was seen enjoying each other's company, with the actress offering a glimpse of their bond through the birthday post. The pictures featured the two sharing cosy moments, reflecting their love and companionship.

A carousel of photographs shared by Sobhita featured some romantic moments with Naga Chaitanya. In one of the pictures, the couple was seen sharing a passionate kiss, while another captured them posing together. The pictures offered a glimpse into their affectionate bond as they celebrated the special occasion.

Sobhita and Naga Chaitanya got married on December 4, 2024, in a traditional Telugu ceremony held at Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad, attended by their close family members and friends. The two were reportedly in a relationship since 2022. The wedding celebrations were attended by several prominent personalities from the Telugu film industry.

On his special day, Chaitanya paid a heartfelt tribute to his grandfather, legendary actor Akkineni Nageswara Rao, by wearing a traditional pancha, reflecting the timeless style associated with him.

Sobhita, meanwhile, adorned herself with traditional jewellery belonging to her mother and grandmother for the Raata ceremony, an important pre-wedding ritual in Telugu customs.

As part of the ceremony, a bamboo pole is planted along with leaves from mango, jamun and Jammi trees. These are worshipped with sacred offerings, including pancha loha, navaratna (nine gems) and navadhaanya (nine grains). A sacred potli is then tied to the pole, followed by prayers to the five elements and the deities governing the eight directions. The ritual is believed to bring purification, blessings and good fortune to the bride as she prepares to begin her married life.

Earlier, Naga Chaitanya was married to actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu. The couple tied the knot in 2017 but announced their separation in 2021, after four years of marriage.

The birthday post quickly caught the attention of fans, who responded to the pictures with warm wishes and comments. Several social media users appreciated the couple's affectionate moments, while others wished Naga Chaitanya happiness and success in the year ahead.

Both Sobhita and Chaitanya have continued to keep fans updated about special moments from their personal lives through social media. Their latest pictures offered followers a rare glimpse into their time together away from their professional commitments.



Ram Gopal Varma: The six-pack in cinema is less a symbol of power and more of a decoration!

Pointing out that unlike the tough guys in films who sport toned biceps with six-packs, none of the tough guys of real life had any muscles, well known filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma on Monday opined that in real life, the man who owned a six-pack always worked under the man who never bothered to have a six-pack!

Taking to his X timeline to pen his thoughts on the issue, Ram Gopal Varma, in a post titled "The irony of tough heroes hiding behind bullet proof glasses" wrote, "Starting from before, or even #Bahubali onwards, one fact the mainstream films ignored, is that unlike the tough guys in films who sport toned biceps with six-packs, none of the tough guys of real life have any muscles."

He went on to claim, "Mostly, the real life muscled six-packers work under thin, short , fat, lanky or pot bellied guys. In films, the guy with the toned biceps and six packs is automatically the toughest. In real life, that same guy is usually the one standing behind the short, balding, pot bellied man who has never seen the inside of a gym and is also paying the salary for the six-pack guy to live!"

Citing Napoleon's case to make his point, Ram Gopal Varma wrote, "Napoleon was 5'6" with the physique of an overfed clerk, but still had most of Europe's tough guys doing his work. The super short five feet four inch Stalin looked like a sleightly fit potato while his actual NKVD enforcers and military officers who carried out his orders were much fitter but whose impressive physiques were irrelevant next to the man who could have them shot."

The filmmaker went on to give more examples to further validate his statement. He wrote, "Most mafia bosses from Capone onwards including Pablo Escobar and our own dear Dawood Ibrahim were not known for their beach toned bodies. The real tough ones who killed for them tended to be the lowest level guys who get paid the least and the most dispensable."

Pointing out that the Indian political scene was "full of the same", he said, "You regularly see lean, soft, or outright pot bellied men who have never lifted anything heavier than a phone being flanked by the six foot, gym built guards surrounding them like slaves."

Ram Gopal Varma said that even in the military, the generals who actually moved armies were never the ones who could pass a fitness test. "The extremely fit ones are the lowest paid soldiers while fat pot bellied men above them decided on how the fit men should fight , while they themselves stayed out of the bullets way," he explained.

He concluded his post saying, "So, the six-pack in cinema is less a symbol of power and more of a decoration. In real life, the man who owns the six pack always works under the man who never bothered to have a six-pack!"



Nani wishes birthday to the 'oldest kid' in the house, wife Anjana



Telugu star Nani penned a sweet birthday wish for the 'oldest kid' in the house, his wife Anjana Yelavarthy.

On Monday, the 'Dasara' actor uploaded a black-and-white picture of Anjana on his account in which she was seen flaunting her precious smile while posing at a dining table. She had both her hands placed below her chin, as she rested on the table. "Happy birthday to the oldest kid in our home. (Red heart emoji) @anjuyelavarthy (sic)," Nani's lovely birthday wish for his better half went. Nani's social media feed is full of such heart-melting moments with his wife. The lovebirds celebrated 14 years of marital bliss on October 28. Marking the milestone moment, Nani termed their journey together as a "blockbuster family love story." Taking to his official Instagram handle, Nani dropped a couple of photographs with his wife, Anjana. The post also had a heartfelt message for his wife that read, "14 years for this Blockbuster Family Entertainer/ Love story. @anjuyelavarthy." Anjana also posted a video of enjoying a lovely meal with Nani. Expressing her love and admiration for her husband, she mentioned on her handle, "Anyone who knows me knows that fun is always a little more fun for me when this man is around. 14 years later we've learnt to agree on one very important thing - how to belt like calories don't exist on days we decide to go all out!""So find a man who loves food as much as he loves feeding you (certain combinations are questionable but I'll let it pass) Happy 14", she added.

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