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Merz Calls Modi, discusses strategic ties, global peace



New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Tuesday held a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed ways to further strengthen the India-Germany Strategic Partnership, along with regional and global developments of mutual interest.

During the conversation, the two leaders reviewed the progress of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction over the sustained momentum in engagements between the two countries. They reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation across key sectors, particularly defence and advanced technologies, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The conversation assumes significance as India and Germany are celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations this year. Both leaders emphasised the importance of further strengthening their long-standing partnership and exploring new opportunities for cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The proposed India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) also figured in the discussions. Modi and Merz noted that the agreement would open up several new opportunities for expanding bilateral trade and investment.

In a post on social media platform X, Modi described his conversation with the German Chancellor as productive. He said the two leaders discussed ways to unlock new opportunities in trade, investment, defence and advanced technologies.

"India and Germany will also continue to work closely together to address global challenges and promote peace, stability and a rules-based international order," Modi said. The leaders also exchanged views on regional and international developments and agreed to continue working together to promote global peace, stability and a rules-based international order.

They underlined the importance of continued cooperation at multilateral forums to address contemporary global challenges. The telephone conversation reflects the continued efforts by New Delhi and Berlin to deepen their strategic partnership and strengthen economic and security cooperation amid evolving global developments.

BJP, SAD revive political alliance ahead of 2027 Punjab assembly polls



New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) have revived their alliance ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, ending a six-year separation, with leaders of both parties describing the partnership as an effort to address the state's economic and social challenges. The announcement, made on the occasion of the 557th Prakash Purab of Guru Nanak Dev, brings together the former allies who parted ways in September 2020 over the Centre's now-repealed farm laws.

Speaking to IANS, Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for what he described as his concern for Punjab and its people.

He said the Akali Dal would have the larger share in the alliance and that an Akali Dal leader would be the Chief Minister if the NDA alliance formed the government in Punjab.

Sirsa added that the partnership was important for protecting agriculture, addressing the concerns of young people and traders, tackling drug addiction and gangsterism, and working towards making Punjab debt-free. Punjab BJP President Kewal Singh Dhillon said the alliance had been formed at an important time for Punjab, which, according to him, was facing serious financial and law-and-order challenges.

"Today is a very auspicious day; it is the day of Gurpurab. Today, the alliance has taken place. This alliance has been formed very well for Punjab," Dhillon added. He alleged that farmers, young people, traders and other sections of society were facing difficulties, adding that the BJP and SAD would contest all 117 Assembly seats together. Senior BJP leader Tikshan Sood said people in Punjab had been anticipating the reunion of the two parties. He recalled their previous three terms in government and claimed that the alliance had contributed to Punjab's development, prosperity and social harmony. Sood added that the partnership had a long history and expressed confidence that people would extend their support to the reunited alliance, as they had in the past.

Former MP and Akali Dal leader Prem Singh Chandumajra also welcomed the development, saying it would provide an opportunity to challenge the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab.

He accused the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government of failing to address the state's concerns and alleged that decisions affecting Punjab were being influenced by people who had little connection with the state. The BJP and SAD had maintained a long-standing political partnership before their separation in 2020 over the three farm laws, which were subsequently repealed by the Centre.

The alliance's revival brings the two parties together once again as they prepare to challenge the AAP and the Congress in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Doval, Maldives Defence Minister discuss regional security



Male, Nov 24 (Way to News): National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval on Tuesday met Maldives' Minister of Defence and National Service Hassan Rasheed on the sidelines of the eighth Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) NSA-level meeting and discussed ways to strengthen defence and security cooperation between the two countries, the High Commission of India in the Maldives said. "H.E. Ajit Doval, NSA of India, met H.E. Hassan Rasheed, Minister of Defence and National Service, Maldives, on the sidelines of the 8th Colombo Security Conclave NSA meeting and discussed ways to strengthen defence and security cooperation between the two countries," the High Commission posted on X.

The Maldives' Ministry of Defence and National Security said the meeting reaffirmed both sides' commitment to strengthening their defence partnership. "The Minister of Defence and National Service, Hon. Hassan Rasheed, received a courtesy call from H.E. Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor of India. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on matters of mutual interest and reaffirm the commitment to further strengthening the longstanding partnership and defence cooperation between the Maldives and India," the ministry posted on X.

On September 30, the ninth Deputy NSA-level meeting of the CSC was hosted virtually by India, where the member states reiterated their resolve to further strengthen cooperation on vital matters of security in the Indian Ocean Region.

India warns of global food shortages



New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): India on Tuesday warned that the Russia-Ukraine war could cause food shortage in countries far from the conflict zone, recalling the 1943 Bengal famine that killed over three million people as a reminder of how wars can affect people far beyond the battlefield.

Addressing a UN Security Council briefing, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, drew a parallel between the wartime suffering of millions in India during World War 2 and the present disruption of global food, fuel and fertiliser supplies caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"This current situation is not different from the time of the second World War when peoples not responsible for the start of the conflict became their unintended collateral damage," Harish said.

The envoy cautioned that countries which had no role in starting a war often ended up bearing its worst consequences.

"The current situation is not different from the time of the Second World War when peoples not responsible for the start of the conflict became their unintended collateral damage," he said.

Referring to the Bengal famine of 1943, he said it was a stark reminder of the human cost of distant conflicts driven by unchecked wartime priorities and calculations.

First Industry-Built PSLV Rocket Expected to Launch in Q1 2027: ISRO Chief



New Delhi, Nov 24 (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, sources said.

Subsequently, the armed forces and other organisations were put on high alert and all personnel were asked to immediately exit the compromised WhatsApp groups. All WhatsApp groups' administrators were directed to audit the members' lists and remove unknown and unverified members.

Heads and commanders of all defence and paramilitary forces have been asked to remain cautious about using WhatsApp groups and other social networking applications. They have been strictly asked not to share any sensitive information on WhatsApp groups.

The sources said the PIOs gained access to WhatsApp groups through spoofed or compromised Indian phone numbers and remained as silent members.

Nvidia Probe Continues Despite Huang's Return



Washington, Nov 24 (Way to News): President Donald Trump claimed credit for persuading Nvidia's board to reinstate Jensen Huang, but three Republican congressional committee chairmen said the decision would not end their scrutiny of the chipmaker's dealings involving China.

Speaking to CNBC, Trump said his administration had given the board assurances about the national security implications of Huang's return. He described discussions involving Vice President JD Vance and others, while declining to identify everyone involved.

Asked whether he had called directly into a board meeting, Trump said, "I was represented at the board."

He later told the network that he had spoken to the directors and convinced them to bring Huang back. Asked whether he had assured them Huang would not face prosecution, Trump replied, "I didn't use the word prosecuted," and said he had provided sufficient reassurance.

The congressional response made clear that the company's leadership decision had not resolved lawmakers' concerns.

US panel warns China using India's dependence as leverage



New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): China is using India's dependence on its machinery, technology and industrial supplies to slow the country's manufacturing growth, while seeking to turn this dependence into a weapon against US supply chains, a US congressional commission has warned.

The 2026 Report to Congress of the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, released on November 18, says Beijing is restricting critical industrial supplies, withholding equipment and technical expertise, and using cheaper products to undermine Indian manufacturers competing with Chinese firms.

"China's sharpest tool, however, is economic. Beijing is using its control over critical industrial inputs, technology and expertise to preserve its manufacturing advantages and make it harder for India to build competing capacity," an excerpt from the report read. In a significant finding, the report says China began requiring Indian companies in 2025 to certify that certain Chinese-supplied inputs would not be re-exported to the United States.

US Plans Fresh Tariffs on China, India

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): The US is planning to hike tariffs on China, India and several other countries as early as this week, contending that they supported excess industrial production that hurt American companies, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday.

US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer is expected to unveil the findings of an investigation his office opened on March 11 against 16 economies, including India, under Section 301 of the 1974 trade law, which allows the president to impose tariffs after finding unfair trade practices. Greer has said those subsidies and other governmental support have created excess industrial capacity in the targeted economies, allowing their firms to flood global markets with cheaper goods, undermining US producers, the WSJ reported.

Bangladesh says Hasina can return only as Prisoner, rules out Dec 16 homecoming



Dhaka, Nov 24 (Way to News): Bangladesh's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Humaiun Kobir, on Tuesday said that former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would have to return to the country in handcuffs as a prisoner if she wished to come back on December 16.

Kobir made the remarks while responding to questions from journalists after briefing foreign diplomats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Hasina, who is currently living in exile in India, reportedly wishes to return to Dhaka aboard a state aircraft on December 16, a day celebrated as Victory Day marking Bangladesh's liberation from Pakistan. "This news may be shown and shown by paying money. But we have to distinguish between reality and desire. The reality is that terrorists will be brought back to the country only to face justice. Some may have a wish, some may have nightmares while lying in their bedroom, that they are coming to the airport, boarding a train. But they are not ordinary passengers. They can only be brought back to the country in handcuffs or to face justice. That is the point," Bangladesh's leading Bengali daily 'Prothom Alo' quoted Kobir as saying while responding to a question about media reports on Hasina's planned return. Bangladesh Prime Minister's Advisor on Information and Broadcasting, Zahed Ur Rahman, also ruled out any direct discussions with Hasina over her return, saying discussions on the matter would be held with India.

"Whether Sheikh Hasina will come or not is not a matter to be discussed with her. The discussion will be with India. A serious criminal is in India along with her associates. She has been convicted. So, whether she will come or not.

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Revanth Reddy Directs Officials to Speed Up Urban Development Works



Hyderabad, Nov 24 (Way to News): Chief Minister Mr. A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to accelerate various development works currently underway under the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department. After reviewing the progress of these initiatives, the Chief Minister provided clear instructions to the officials regarding the respective projects.

The Chief Minister held a review meeting with senior officials on municipal affairs and urban development at the Bodhi Pavilion, located within the MCRHRD (Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute) campus.

The Chief Minister inquired about the progress of the Musi River Rejuvenation project and the development of radial roads. Officials explained that, as part of Phase-1 of the Musi Rejuvenation project, the work has been divided into two zones: Zone-1A, covering a 9.20 km stretch from Himayat Sagar to Gandhi Sarovar, and Zone-1B, covering an 11.8 km stretch from Osman Sagar to Gandhi Sarovar.

Officials stated that preparations are underway to commence Phase-1 works by January 2027, and noted that the tender process for this phase has already been initiated.

The Chief Minister also inquired about the progress of the development works at Mir Alam Tank. Officials informed him that the project is targeted for completion by January 2028. The Chief Minister further directed that, alongside the general development of the tank, the long-accumulated silt must be removed. The Chief Minister directed that the construction of radial roads be accelerated. He inquired about the progress of land acquisition for these roads.

He also instructed that the construction of the modern *Goshala* (cow shelter) at Gandipet be expedited to ensure its completion by March 2027.

Officials briefed the Chief Minister on the techno-economic feasibility of Phase-1 of the Personal Rapid Transit System (PRTS) in Hyderabad, as well as the viability of the proposed alignment from Kukatpally through Raidurg to Biodiversity.

Officials presented proposals for an alignment stretching from the Begumpet Metro Station, passing through the Secretariat and Bashirbagh, up to Ranigunj. In this context, the Chief Minister suggested identifying suitable locations for PRTS depots—specifically around Necklace Road, Raidurg, and People's Plaza—and conducting a feasibility study for these sites.

The Chief Minister directed that preliminary plans be prepared to incorporate multi-level parking facilities in the vicinity of the depots. He further instructed that comprehensive plans be finalized only after a thorough study of the routes, depot construction, and other related aspects.

The Chief Minister reviewed the designs for a foot-over-bridge at the IIIT junction (within the Cyberabad Commissionerate limits) and offered several suggestions. He specifically emphasized the need to establish a multi-level car parking facility in the vicinity of the foot-over-bridge.

It was emphasized that the pace of development work for the Integrated Fruit Market being constructed in Koheda must be accelerated, and that there should be no compromise on quality. Instructions were given to ensure that the construction of roads—to provide better transport connectivity—is completed in tandem with the market development works.

The HYDRAA Commissioner presented proposals for the installation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) at necessary locations as part of the restoration of lakes within the HYDRAA jurisdiction. The Chief Minister also directed that appropriate measures be taken for the restoration of stepwells across the city.

IPS Officer's Brother Named Accused

Hyderabad, Nov 24 (Way to News): In a new twist to the sexual assault case against trainee IPS officer Uday Krishna Reddy, Hyderabad police named his brother Pranay Krishna Reddy as the second accused. Uday Krishna Reddy was arrested in a case involving allegations of sexual assault and harassment of a fellow trainee at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA). Police added Pranay as accused number 2 after investigations revealed that he allegedly tampered with the evidence in the case.

Pranay Krishna Reddy had allegedly concealed his brother's mobile phone and tampered with the evidence. Uday Krishna Reddy was arrested on July 28, 2026, following a complaint by a fellow probationary officer at SVPNPA.A 30-year-old married trainee IPS officer from Karnataka, who alleged that Uday Krishna Reddy repeatedly sexually harassed and assaulted her. Police initially registered a case under Sections 74, 75, 77, 78, 79, 127(2), 115(2) and 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with Sections 66E and 67A of the Information Technology Act. Following the recording of the woman's statement, additional charges under Sections 64(1) read with 63(b)(iii) and 109 of the BNS were added. The case was initially registered at the Attapur police station before being transferred to the Women's Safety Wing's She Teams for investigation.

According to police, Uday came into contact with the woman through Instagram in mid-2025 after she responded to a post about his journey towards joining the Indian Police Service. They later exchanged contact details and entered into a relationship. Police said the relationship was marked by frequent arguments, possessiveness and volatile behaviour. Uday allegedly threatened suicide, displayed weapons, insulted the woman and harassed her by damaging her laptop, creating fake social media accounts after being blocked, threatening to release private chats, and contacting her family and colleagues without her consent.

Sridhar Babu reviews arrangements for Telangana Global Summit 2026



Hyderabad, Nov 24 (Way to News): Telangana's Minister for Information Technology and Industries, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, said on Tuesday that 'Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026' is being organised to further elevate the state's brand image on an international scale. The Minister conducted an on-site inspection of the arrangements for the summit which is scheduled to be held from December 7 to 9 at the Young India Skills University campus within the 'Bharat Future City' project. Following the inspection, he held a high-level review meeting with the concerned officials. Sridhar Babu said it was the state government's firm resolve to attract substantial investments to the state and create large-scale employment opportunities for the local youth.

The state government intends to utilise the Global Summit as a pivotal platform for this purpose, he added. He directed officials to ensure that the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026' effectively showcases the diverse opportunities available to investors and entrepreneurs in Telangana. He instructed that national and international delegates be provided with a comprehensive understanding of the state's favourable environment for setting up industries, the progress achieved in the industrial sector, the goals of 'Telangana Rising-2047', and future development plans. Officials were instructed to make meticulous arrangements to impress the delegates attending the summit.

They were directed to follow a clear action plan to ensure that all pending tasks are completed within the stipulated deadlines. The Minister asked them to focus on areas such as security, parking, hospitality, connectivity, transport, traffic management, power supply, high-speed internet, and emergency medical services. It was emphasised that the hospitality provided should reflect the culture and traditions of Telangana, the Minister said. It was also underlined that the expo zones must be designed to international standards, showcasing Telangana's comprehensive industrial ecosystem, talent pool, and skill development capabilities. Particular priority should be given to key sectors, including IT, pharmaceuticals, defence, and aerospace.

Telangana Plans Rs 10,000-Cr El Niño Preparedness Programme



Hyderabad, Nov 24 (Way to News): A five-month El Niño preparedness programme, estimated to cost around Rs 10,000 crore, would be the highlight of the climate conclave at the Global Summit here next month, Telangana Irrigation Minister Uttam Reddy said on Tuesday, November 24.

The three-day Global Summit is scheduled to begin on December 7 at the Bharat Future City. The programme, to be implemented by the Irrigation and Panchayati Raj departments, will include extensive work on restoring tanks, streams and canals, recharging groundwater, conserving rainwater and protecting water resources in rural areas. These works would cost nearly Rs 2,000 crore every month after Sankranti in January, the minister said. Reddy directed officials to use the conclave's presentations to explain the measures the government is taking to ensure drinking water and food security for people even in potential drought conditions. He said farmers were being encouraged to grow alternative crops instead of water-intensive paddy to conserve water in reservoirs until the next monsoon.

The climate conclave will also take up expanding renewable energy generation, reusing treated wastewater in industries and measures to move the state towards net-zero goals. Officials at the review meeting shared that data centres in the state were already required to source at least 51 per cent of their total electricity needs from renewable energy sources. A dedicated investors' platform will be set up to explore opportunities in renewable energy, green credits, ecotourism and the circular economy, including waste recycling. The conclave is expected to advance the government's vision of positioning Telangana as a national model for climate-resilient and sustainable development.

Environmental experts, scientists, water conservation specialists, public representatives, social activists and investors are expected to attend the climate conclave.

Around 125 rural representatives, including sarpanches and other grassroots stakeholders, will also take part in the discussions. Key topics will include water security, climate-resilient systems, biodiversity conservation, rising urban temperatures.

Telangana HC: 120-day filing limit not applicable to ordinary civil suits



Hyderabad, Nov 24 (Way to News): A defendant cannot be denied the right to file a written statement because a court took years to decide a plea to reject the plaint, the Telangana High Court has ruled. Justice Gadi Praveen Kumar also held that the strict 120-day outer limit for filing a written statement applies only to commercial disputes under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, and not to ordinary civil suits.

The High Court allowed a civil revision petition filed by C Rajya Lakshmi and set aside a 2025 order of a City Civil Court in Hyderabad, which had rejected her written statement as belated.

Rajya Lakshmi is the defendant in a suit filed by Thoka Venkateswarlu and others seeking declaration of title and a perpetual injunction. They also want a 2018 trial court decree declared null and void. She moved an application under Order VII Rule 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) for rejection of the complaint. It remained pending for nearly five years before being dismissed in 2024. She filed her written statement in May 2024, which the trial court accepted. The plaintiffs then sought its rejection, contending that it had come five years late and that no written statement could be taken on record after 120 days. The trial court agreed.

Under the CPC, a defendant has 30 days from the service of summons to file a written statement, extendable to 90 days. In Salem Advocates Bar Association (2005), the Supreme Court held that this limit is directory and that courts can extend it in exceptionally hard cases. In commercial suits, amendments made by the 2015 Act fixed a ceiling of 120 days. The apex court ruled in SCG Contracts (India) Pvt Ltd (2019) that this deadline is mandatory. Justice Kumar said the trial court committed an "apparent error" by applying the SCG Contracts ruling to an ordinary civil suit, while ignoring the Supreme Court's 2016 verdict in RK Roja v US Rayudu.

There, the apex court held that a plea to reject a plaint must be decided before the trial proceeds, and that a defendant can file such a plea before the written statement. If the plea fails, the written statement can follow, the High Court noted. "In the present case, the maintainability of the suit was assailed by the revision petitioner at the threshold itself and the court took almost five years to decide the said application," the judge said, holding that this time could not be counted against her. As the suit challenges a decree affecting valuable property rights, courts must take a liberal view of technicalities and decide the dispute on merits, he said. The court invoked the maxim "actus curiae neminem gravabit," which means an act of the court shall prejudice no one.

Dissenting MLAs Meet AICC In-Charge

Hyderabad, Nov 24 (Way to News): Two Congress MLAs in Telangana, who have openly voiced dissent against the state government, met newly-appointed AICC in-charge B. M. Sandeep, last night. Munugode MLA Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy and Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy separately met Sandeep, following direction from the party leadership.

Both the MLAs understood to have given a clarification to Sandeep with regard to their recent remarks, criticising the government. The AICC in-charge has reportedly advised the MLAs to avoid airing their views publicly. He told the MLAs that they can reach out to him if they have any grievances. Sandeep had earlier stated that he would respond to the issues concerning the MLAs after holding discussions with all leaders of the party and understanding the situation in the state. Earlier, the AICC in-charge also discussed the issue with Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud and TPCC Disciplinary Action Committee .

Seven Devotees Killed in Separate Road Accidents in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana



Hyderabad, Nov 24 (Way to News): Seven devotees were killed in two separate road accidents in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on Tuesday, officials said. Five people were killed in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district when a car in which they were travelling rammed into a stationary tanker. The accident occurred near Sunderpeta on the Bhogapuram highway. According to police, four people died on the spot, while an injured person succumbed at a hospital. The victims were returning after darshan of Srimukha Lingam in Srikakulam district. The deceased were residents of Sangivalasa and Madhurawada in Visakhapatnam district.

They were identified as Borra Satish, his wife Shruthi, V. Srinu and his wife Kusuma Ranjini, and Suribabu.

In another accident in Telangana's Khammam district, a couple was killed, and their son was injured when a car in which they were travelling collided with a stationary truck. The accident occurred on the Wyra Greenfield highway. The family met with the accident while returning after darshan at Satyanarayana Swamy temple in Annavaram in Kakinada district in Andhra Pradesh. The victims hailed from Hyderabad. They were identified as Kishore Reddy and his wife Lavanya. Their son Praneet was injured and was shifted to a hospital in Khammam. Andhra Pradesh transport minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy expressed shock over the accident in Vizianagaram district.

The minister expressed profound grief over the loss of lives in the incidents. He conveyed his deepest condolences to the families of the deceased. The minister spoke with Transport Department officials to gather details regarding the accident. He inquired with the officials about the circumstances surrounding the accident and the factors that led to it.

He assured the affected families that the government would stand by them. He instructed officials to identify "black spots" (accident-prone areas) and strengthen road safety measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

He directed that necessary assistance and support be provided to the families of the victims. Minister for Human Resources Development Nara Lokesh and Minister for Agriculture K. Atchanaidu also expressed grief over the accident.

Raghava Rao's Social Reform Legacy Must Inspire Generations: Dr. Kadiyam Kavya



Hyderabad, Nov 24 (Way to News): Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya said that the life and legacy of Pendiyala Raghava Rao, who dedicated his life to the upliftment of marginalised communities, education and social equality, continue to inspire future generations.

She was speaking after unveiling The Forgotten Maverick – A Biographical Fiction, authored by Manu Nellutla, at a programme held at Somajiguda Press Club in Hyderabad. Recalling his contributions during the Nizam's rule, she said Raghava Rao fought caste discrimination and worked to provide education and social dignity to Dalits by establishing schools, colleges and community libraries. Despite facing strong opposition from society and his own family, he remained committed to social reform. His election victory after filing his nomination from prison and his membership in the first Lok Sabha reflected his determination and public support, she added.

Dr. Kavya said Raghava Rao believed that social transformation should begin at home and took initiatives to promote women's education by teaching his widowed sister and ensuring that his wife continued her education after marriage. She observed that the opportunities available to women today were the result of the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and several other social reformers. Appreciating the Pendiyala family for preserving historical documents and sharing them with the author, she praised Manu Nellutla for presenting Raghava Rao as an ordinary human being whose extraordinary efforts brought social change.

Sharing her own journey from a poor Dalit family with no land or property to becoming a Member of Parliament, she said the constitutional rights provided by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had made such progress possible. She also acknowledged the influence of her father, Kadiyam Srihari, whose nearly four-decade political journey and commitment to the rights of the poor, weaker sections, women and minorities had inspired her.

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India's space economy to reach $45 bn by 2036: Jitendra Singh



New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): India's space economy is poised for a major expansion, with its value projected to rise from nearly $9 billion at present to $40-45 billion by 2036, as private enterprises increasingly emerge as key drivers of growth in the sector, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh, said on Tuesday. Addressing the fifth India International Space Conclave 2026 in the national capital, Singh said the country's space ecosystem has witnessed an extraordinary transformation over the past few years, growing from a handful of startups to nearly 400-500 companies.

He attributed the growth to a series of reforms initiated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government that opened the space sector to private participation and encouraged innovation. "India's space economy, currently valued at nearly $9 billion, is set to grow to $40-45 billion in less than a decade, with the private sector driving a major transformation of the country's space ecosystem," the minister stated.

"India's space ecosystem has expanded from single-digit startups to nearly 400-500 companies in just a few years, demonstrating how the reforms initiated under Prime Minister Narendra Modi have unlocked the country's immense entrepreneurial and technological potential," Singh noted.

The two-day conclave, organised by the Indian Space Association (ISpA), brought together industry leaders, startups, researchers and international stakeholders to discuss India's expanding role in the global space economy. The event also saw the release of the report, Space Economy 2036: The India Blueprint. Highlighting key policy initiatives, Singh said the establishment of New Space India Limited (NSIL), the creation of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), and the decision to open the space sector to private players marked a turning point in India's space journey. He described the reforms as among the most significant policy changes in recent decades, enabling private enterprises to enter a sector that had traditionally remained under government control.The minister pointed to the progress of Indian space startups as evidence of the sector's growing maturity.

He cited Skyroot Aerospace's maiden launch vehicle flight, its multi-mission launch agreements and attainment of unicorn status, alongside advances by firms such as Agnikul, which are developing indigenous propulsion systems, rocket engines, earth-observation solutions and satellite imaging technologies.

Intensify search for missing fishermen: CM Naidu



Amaravati, Nov 24 (Way to News): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday directed officials to intensify search operations for a missing fishing boat carrying seven fishermen. He enquired about measures being taken to trace a missing fishing boat from Uppada in Kakinada district. The Chief Minister directed officials to intensify the search operations and ensure that the family members are kept informed of developments on a regular basis.

Seven fishermen from Uppada ventured into the sea for fishing on November 4 in a motorised fishing boat. The boat reportedly reached the vicinity of Paradip Port, after which communication with it was lost on November 19. Immediately after receiving the information, officials contacted Coast Guard stations in Kakinada, Chennai and Odisha and initiated search operations.

The Kakinada District Fisheries Department officials wrote to the Indian Coast Guard seeking assistance. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the mobile phones of the missing fishermen and the boat's transponder were switched off.

They also stated that the boat could not be traced through GPS. The Indian Coast Guard has launched search operations along the Paradip coastal region using its ships and helicopter to locate the missing boat.

Fisheries Department and Coast Guard officials have met the families of the missing fishermen and spoken to them. Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has expressed concern over the disappearance of fishermen. He spoke to the Kakinada District Collector over the phone to gather details about the incident and the ongoing search efforts.

The Collector informed him that the fishermen had set out from Kakinada for fishing, reached the Visakhapatnam harbour on November 10 to sell their catch, and subsequently headed back out to sea. The Collector explained that they remained in contact with their families via phone until November 14, after which there has been no further communication.

Investigations revealed that the boat carrying the fishermen was spotted near the Paradip port as late as the 18th, but has since gone missing. The Collector stated that search operations were launched immediately upon receiving the information. Authorities are coordinating with Coast Guard officials in Kakinada, Chennai, and Odisha to search. He further added that a search operation is also being carried out with the assistance of a Navy helicopter. It was explained that the Coast Guards of Bangladesh and Myanmar have been alerted.

Cong, SP Hope to Finalise UP Seat-Sharing Formula



New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): Congress MP Imran Masood on Tuesday reacted sharply to the Samajwadi Party's (SP) offer of 26 seats to the Congress in Uttar Pradesh, asserting that seat-sharing between alliance partners was a matter of mutual cooperation. He expressed hope that the two parties would finalise a seat-sharing formula during Tuesday's negotiations. Masood said, "I don't know when they (the Samajwadi Party) are making this offer. I am not begging anyone for anything."

"There is no need to ask for anything in an alliance. Within an alliance, it is a matter of mutual cooperation. We will discuss this while sitting together. Hopefully, the seat-sharing formula should be finalised in today's talks," he added.

Uttar Pradesh Congress in-charge Rajendra Pal Gautam also expressed hope that the negotiations would result in an amicable agreement. "We will try to reach an agreement and ensure that it is a cordial and respectable agreement," Gautam said. Samajwadi Party Rajya Sabha MP Ram Gopal Yadav confirmed that the party had offered 26 seats to the Congress during Monday's meeting and that discussions would resume on Tuesday. "Whatever had to be said in the meeting, we said it yesterday. I have given them 26 seats, and today we are going to hold discussions again," Yadav said. He indicated that both parties would put forward their respective proposals during the negotiations.

"When discussions on seat-sharing take place, some proposals will come from their side, and some proposals will be put forward by us. This is how the discussions will move forward," he said. SP leaders Iqra Hasan and Awadhesh Prasad reached Yadav's residence on Tuesday morning ahead of the negotiations.

"So far, the discussions have been meaningful and positive. The leadership of both parties, together with all of us, will take the final decision. The talks have only just begun, and I think they will take another one or two days," she said. She added that both parties had proposals to discuss before the position became clear. Awadhesh Prasad, meanwhile, denied that there was any dispute over seat-sharing. "The meeting currently taking place is about this. There is no dispute over seat-sharing. Everything will be resolved smoothly," he said.

The seat-sharing talks assume significance ahead of the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, with both parties seeking to strengthen their INDIA bloc alliance and avoid any differences that could affect their electoral prospects.

Congress High Command asks Goa unit to keep alliance options open ahead of 2027 Assembly polls



New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): The Congress central leadership has asked its Goa unit to adopt a flexible approach towards alliance negotiations ahead of the 2027 assembly elections, with the party keen to bring smaller regional outfits together to consolidate the opposition vote against the BJP.

According to sources, the message was conveyed during a strategy meeting held in New Delhi on Tuesday, which was attended by Goa Congress and central leaders. Sources familiar with the discussions said the central leadership emphasised the need to avoid any division in the anti-BJP vote and advised state leaders to remain open to accommodating smaller regional parties during seat-sharing negotiations. Sources indicated that the possibility of offering two to three seats to each prospective ally was also discussed as part of the broader effort to facilitate an understanding among opposition parties. The leadership is understood to have conveyed that alliance-building should take precedence over rigid bargaining positions.

Following the meeting, the Congress's six-member Alliance Committee, headed by AICC in-charge Manikrao Thakre, is expected to take forward the discussions with potential partners after the leaders return to Panaji.

The Congress is currently in touch with two regional outfits — the Goa Forward Party, led by Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai, and the Revolutionary Goans Party. The Goa Forward Party has already held formal seat-sharing discussions with Congress leaders, while talks with the Revolutionary Goans Party are also underway. AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, in a post on X, described the meeting as fruitful.

Saurav Das Stopped from Boarding London Flight

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leader Saurav Das was on Monday stopped from boarding a flight to London at the Delhi airport after he reportedly failed to respond to a show-cause notice issued by the Chennai Regional Passport office. Sources said the notice, issued on the day Das was scheduled to travel for an event at the University of Oxford, points to an alleged mismatch between the passport issued in Chennai on August 21, 2019, and identity records, specifically regarding his recorded place of birth.

The CJP founder has been given seven days to respond and advised against using the passport for travel until he submitted his reply, the sources added. The Chennai Regional Passport office has not publicly commented on the notice so far. Speaking on Tuesday, Das accused the Centre of targeting the CJP after failing to silence its supporters through arrests and alleged physical intimidation. He claimed that authorities had found nothing against CJP supporters and were now raising questions about their citizenship and passport documents.

Drawing comparisons with fugitive businessmen Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, Das alleged that he would have received preferential treatment had he belonged to the business elite. He did not, however, provide documentary evidence to substantiate his allegations about the grounds for the travel restriction. Meanwhile, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra tagged Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on X, questioning why Das was prevented from travelling to the UK.

President Murmu Urges Youth to Draw Inspiration from Odisha's Maritime Legacy



Bhubaneswar, Nov 24 (Way to News): President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said the younger generation of the country has much to learn from the courage and skills of ancient maritime traders, urging people to draw inspiration from the past to shape the present and build a brighter future.

The president, who graced the Bali Jatra Festival 2026 at Kataka in Odisha on Tuesday, said that this festival is a unique festival which celebrates the glorious history of Odisha. Speaking on the occasion, she stated, "The history of maritime trade has evolved into a tradition, and the tradition has become a festival. This reflects both the creativity and the historical perspective of the people of Odisha." Murmu said that the merchants from Odisha used to travel to distant lands to engage in trade and commerce. She added that through trade, they accomplished many significant things for the country. They discovered new maritime routes and strengthened international relations. They were also a medium of cultural exchange.

The President noted that the historic connection between Odisha and Bali could be transformed into modern commercial and cultural cooperation. She also expressed happiness that cultural troupes from Indonesia were participating in this year's Bali Jatra and that the Odisha Festival is being celebrated.

in Bali over two days, featuring Odisha's dance and music, handlooms, handicrafts, and traditional cuisine. The President expressed confidence that such cultural exchanges will strengthen the historic ties between India and Indonesia. Murmu said that while it was good to take pride in the glories of the past and celebrate festivals, people should draw inspiration from history to shape the present and build a brighter future. "Building Viksit Bharat is our national goal. India's stature on the international stage has grown. While there is unrest in many parts of the world and instability in the global economy, India's economy continues to remain strong. This is a promising indicator of our journey toward becoming Viksit Bharat," she outlined.

India Transforms from Technology Consumer to Creator: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia



- *The Union Minister also felicitated the winners of the Emerging Technologies Hackathon 2026 (ETH 2026), organised by TCoE India. The Hackathon received over 2,870 registrations and 620 applications across nine technology domains, with participation from students, startups, companies and academic institutions.*
- *The Conclave also featured 11 exhibition stalls set up by startups and MSMEs, providing them an opportunity to showcase their innovative indigenous products, technologies and solutions to policymakers, industry leaders, investors and other stakeholders.*

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia said on Tuesday that over the last decade India has moved from "being a consumer of technology to becoming a creator of technology" with the telecom sector being the most profound example of this achievement.

Addressing the Telecom Startups and MSME Conclave 2026 here, the minister said, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today India has risen as the 4th largest economy and market in the world. From a country that had only a few hundred startups in 2014, India has now gone beyond 2,00,000 startups." "The telecom sector is the most profound example of India becoming a creator of technology due to the volume of testing technology. From a country that only had 25 crore internet connections to now 110 crore internet connections, from 6 crore broadband connections to 104 crore broadband connections. We are the only telecom network market in the world that is growing at double-digit numbers," he added. The conclave brought together telecom startups, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), industry leaders, investors, academia and government representatives on a common platform to showcase indigenous products and solutions, deliberate on challenges faced by domestic innovators and explore opportunities for scaling up Indian telecom technologies. Presentations and discussions across five key thematic areas were made at the conclave, covering the telecom technology stack, namely Radio Access Network (RAN) and Core, Applications, Chipsets, Security and Standards. Each thematic group was represented by the concerned DoT officials, who apprised participants of various Government initiatives, policy interventions and enabling frameworks being undertaken by the Department to support startups and MSMEs and strengthen the overall telecom innovation ecosystem.

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Entra Innovations LLP secured the First Prize for VAAYU, an indigenously designed tyre-pressure sensor system-on-chip; Dawniens International Private Limited received the Second Prize for Cablesmith, a robotic optical patch panel solution enabling remote provisioning of fibre connections; while the Joint Third Prize was awarded to IIT Bombay (Team DRISTI) for KAVACH, a security engine for private 5G networks, and the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (Team RUDRA) for VajraLink, an anti-jamming communication solution for drones.

The sessions also provided a platform for interaction among user agencies, industry representatives, startups and other stakeholders to exchange views on potential applications, implementation requirements and opportunities arising from these frameworks. The conclave underscored the Government's commitment to strengthening indigenous telecom innovation, promoting entrepreneurship and facilitating the development and commercialisation of homegrown technologies.

Editorial

The downside of India's infra push

BY now, you know about the Subhash Chandra payout controversy. The facts are contested, but one thing is clear — several big lenders are unlikely to get back the thousands of crores that they lent to the companies associated with his Essel Group. This is the latest episode of an endless soap opera. Big companies take mega loans for large projects; those projects turn out to be economically unviable; they default on loan repayments; lenders take over whatever assets are left and sell them to recover some of their money; the assets fetch a fraction of the loan amount, and the rest has to be written off. In business lingo, this is called "taking a haircut" — the kind your mother forces you to get when you have let your locks grow fashionably wild. Most commentators blame this continuous loan write-off saga on an alleged corrupt nexus between politicians in power, officials running PSU banks and politically connected corporates. Indeed, that is part of the story. However, the reality is that India would still have this problem of corporate bad loans, and subsequent debt write-off, even if the system were absolutely clean and honest. This is because of the infrastructure-led path of economic growth that we have chosen over the past four decades. It began in the mid-1980s, when Soviet socialism started to falter and fail, and neoliberalism took root in the West. Equally important was the rise of the Asian Tigers — Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Our netas, babus and corporate honchos visited these nations, saw their swanky skyscrapers, glitzy malls, superfast highways, multilayered flyovers and state-of-the-art ports and airports, and came back with a belief that Nehruvian socialism, with its restrictions on the private sector and aesthetic distaste for consumerism, was holding India back.

Economic policies slowly turned right from the mid-1980s, before finally completing a 180-degree turn towards liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation in 1991. The objective was to dramatically increase highway connectivity, build new ports, upgrade airports, generate more electricity, build a world-class communication system and give middle-class consumers fancier homes and bigger cars. Over the next two decades, laws were amended to allow private companies to build, operate and earn from highways, power stations, airports, ports, and mobile telephony and broadband networks. Governments, across the political spectrum, made it easier for builders to acquire land and construct multi-storeyed housing. Tax rebates were given to home buyers to boost the real-estate sector. But infrastructure projects required large capital investments with delayed returns — a highway or power project would take years to complete, and even longer to recover the costs through electricity bills and road tolls. The answer was to reset the banking system, to make it easier to issue large corporate loans for infrastructure projects. Private players had to invest only 25-30% of the project's cost as their own equity. PSU banks were nudged to lend the rest. The government would step in wherever there was a shortfall, either by lending through specialised infrastructure finance institutions or directly through budgetary funding.

While that solved the funding problem, the issue of revenues remained a sore point. Private players realised very soon that it wasn't going to be easy to recover their investments. Indians didn't earn enough to pay the tolls and rates needed to make the projects profitable. The Atal Bihari Vajpayee government found a solution — it handed out highway contracts, private players built the highways and earned tolls for a limited period, and then handed the highways back to the State once they had earned enough. In fact, 90% of the money spent on the much-vaunted National Highways Development Project during the Vajpayee years came from the government.

India-China Border Talks: From Boundary Settlement to Crisis Management

Manish Tewari



TWENTY-FIVE rounds, 23 years, one agreement, and even that has been subject to constant revision through reinterpretation. India counts the rounds held; China counts the ridgelines held.

Conceived in 2003 under then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to bypass diplomatic hair-splitting and forge a high-level political settlement, the Special Representatives framework has slowly degenerated into a procedural exercise in crisis management.

Its sole structural milestone, the April 11, 2005, Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles, also essentially lies hollowed out. Article VII of this agreement was intended to protect "settled populations" — safeguarding territories like Tawang. New Delhi read the compact as "Tawang secured". Beijing has spent two decades unreading it. Finally, in March 2017, then Chinese Special Representative Dai Bingguo declared that Indian concessions in the east were key to Chinese "accommodation" elsewhere.

When the two current Special Representatives met in Beijing on August 25 for the 25th round of the dialogue, the mechanism turned 23 with not even a kilometre of the boundary settled.

Since the April-June 2020 Chinese intrusions across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the mandate has inverted: India finds itself negotiating a tactical disengagement and friction-point buffer zones rather than strategic boundary demarcation, effectively trading established patrolling rights to preserve a fragile peace.

The eight points of consensus and outcomes arrived at on August 25 read more like a crisis management mechanism than a boundary dispute settlement process. Even the terms of reference of the Expert Group on Boundary Delimitation and the Working Group on Border Management under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs are yet to be mutually settled. Conversely, the promised "Early Harvest" in sector-wise delimitation, hyped after the 24th round on August 19, 2025, has been given a quiet burial in the latest pronouncements, leaving behind in concrete terms only a scheduled 26th round in India next year.

A device created to deliver a settlement now exists to administer its absence. Is the mechanism working, or is it merely meeting?

The western sector is the oldest wound. The Treaty of Chushul (1842) between the Dogra Durbar, Lhasa, and the Qing dynasty pledged old, established frontiers without defining one. WH Johnson's 1865 survey placed Aksai Chin within Kashmir. Claude MacDonald's note of March 14, 1899, to the Tsungli Yamen offered China most of the Aksai Chin plains. Peking never replied. The silence was weaponised. China drove its Xinjiang-Tibet highway through Aksai Chin, announcing it in 1957. Ten Indian policemen were killed in a firefight at Kongka Pass on October 21, 1959, while roughly 38,000 square km of Ladakh came under unlawful Chinese occupation. Another 5,180 square km of the Shaksgam valley, illegitimately occupied by Pakistan, was signed away on March 2, 1963, to China. All of this territory rightfully belongs to India.

The eastern sector is the newest claim. The McMahon Line was delineated in notes exchanged by Henry McMahon and Lonchen Shatra at Simla on March 24-25, 1914. China's plenipotentiary initialled the draft Convention on April 27, but Peking repudiated it. Britain and Tibet signed a revised version of the Convention on July 3, proceeding without China.

On that repudiation rests Beijing's claim to roughly 90,000 square km of Arunachal Pradesh. Why Tawang, above all? Because the sixth Dalai Lama was born at Urgelling near Tawang in 1683, and whoever holds Tawang holds a veto over the politics of reincarnation, the only legitimising currency of Chinese rule in Tibet. The claim is theological, but the gains sought are territorial. The middle sector, some 2,000 square km from Barahoti to Shipki La, is the only one whose maps were exchanged, in 2000-01, under Article X of the Confidence Building Measures Agreement of November 29, 1996, binding both sides to "speed up the process of clarification and confirmation" of the LAC. When western sector maps were shown in June 2002 during the 14th Joint Working Group meeting, the Chinese side withdrew them within minutes, and the exercise has been dead since then. It was never attempted in the case of the eastern sector.

Why does Beijing refuse to clarify the LAC? Because cartographic ambiguity is a standing licence for coercion, and every unclarified kilometre is a future salami slice. Then Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai carried the original bargain to Delhi in April 1960: China would recognise the McMahon Line in the east if India surrendered its claim over Aksai Chin in the west. India declined. The Officials' Report of February 1961 recorded two irreconcilable cases, and the Lok Sabha resolution of November 14, 1962, vowed to recover every inch of "the sacred soil of India," a parliamentary lock no government has dared to pick since then. By 1985, during the sixth round of the border talks, Beijing upended its own offer, demanding the east, meaning Tawang, as its price.

Vajpayee's China policy bookended the irony. On May 11, 1998, he justified Pokhran-II to US President Bill Clinton by citing "an overt nuclear weapon state on our borders" that had committed armed aggression in 1962. This was leaked to The New York Times in two days, and repairing that damage took five years and came at a price. In the 2003 Beijing Declaration, Vajpayee recognised Tibet as part of China and gained implicit Chinese recognition of Sikkim in turn.

Article VII of the April 2005 agreement was supposed to protect settled populations. Beijing has systematically neutralised this clause on the ground by populating contested frontiers with over 600 dual-use Xiaokang border villages, converting uninhabited buffer zones into State-backed civilian strongholds.

Teachers must rise to save education

Avijit Pathak



I have no hesitation in saying that I feel happy when my students send me their wishes on the occasion of Teachers' Day and recall those beautiful days of working and evolving together. And with deep gratitude, I too recall many great educationists who shaped my ways of engaging with the vocation of teaching. Of course, I invoke Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan — his scholarship and philosophical insights. I recall Savitribai Phule — her courage and dedication to spread the light of awakening among the oppressed and the marginalised in a patriarchal, caste-ridden society like ours.

And in my own way, I engage with the likes of Paulo Freire and bell hooks — the spirit of libertarian education through which they inspired us; or I love to be inspired once again by Rabindranath Tagore's lyrical essay "A Poet's School", Jiddu Krishnamurti's book School Without Fear and Gijubhai Badheka's amazing pedagogic experiment as articulated in his book Divaswapna. I feel happy that it was not the lure of power but the joy of learning/unlearning/teaching that shaped my destiny.

Yet, I must admit that in these turbulent times, some sort of anxiety has begun to confront me. Can I really feel happy and celebrate Teachers' Day when I witness the decline of our academic institutions and feel the agony of our students? I ask myself: is there any reason to celebrate this day anymore?

Think of the anguish of this generation of discontented students. Yes, they are uncertain of their future; and they are stressed and anxiety-ridden. No matter whether one is a student of a highly pampered elite institution or a young aspirant from a small town preparing for a high-stakes standardised test like NEET, the stress that this generation is going through is indeed a matter of concern.

As I write this piece, IIT-Delhi is on edge after the suicide of an MSc student and the administration's cold bureaucratic response to this tragedy. Likewise, it breaks my heart to know that several students died by suicide after the NEET cancellation and rescheduling caused by a major paper leak controversy.

As I look at the data provided by the National Crime Records Bureau — 14,488 cases of student suicides in 2024 — I realise the damage that the race for upward social mobility in this highly uneven and asymmetrical society has caused to the mental health of our students. Likewise, think of the pathetic state of our schools and universities. While English-medium/private schools with fancy names can be seen even in little-known villages and small towns, government schools are in a terribly bad shape. As per a recent report published by NITI Aayog, 94,000 government schools were shut down in a decade. Not only that, see how the establishment devalues and trivialises the vocation of teaching. Otherwise, how do we explain the way government school teachers are often asked to leave their classrooms and perform all sorts of non-academic/administrative tasks such as election work, Census operations and voter roll revisions? Moreover, here is a system that demoralises those who love to teach. How can a teacher teach if young students refuse to attend classes and prefer to be taught by all sorts of coaching strategists? Yes, you and I must reflect on the close relationship between the normalisation of "dummy schools" and India's Rs 58,000-crore coaching industry.

When the traders of "success manuals" decide how physics, mathematics, chemistry and biology have to be taught, is there any space left for those who wish to teach deeply and meaningfully — not merely for NEET and JEE, but for nurturing young minds, sharpening their critical thinking and developing a truly democratic and scientific temper? Frankly speaking, as I see the colonisation of the realm of education by the coaching mafia, I find no meaning in celebrating Teachers' Day. Also, when academic freedom is denied in our universities and an environment of fear and surveillance continues to disrupt the flow of ideas, debates and contestations, Teachers' Day seems to have lost its meaning. I am not sure whether as teachers we are realising the danger confronting the field of education. If the instrumental rationality implicit in the discourse of neo-liberalism reduces education to a mere training for jobs or a set of technical skills the techno-corporate industry needs for enhancing what it regards as "productivity", we cause severe damage to the very spirit of liberal/humanistic education. This sort of instrumental learning erodes the very spirit of democracy. How can we teach critical thinking, gender studies and subaltern histories if we are told that the worth of everything has to be measured in terms of its monetary value? Likewise, as the agenda of hyper-nationalism becomes normal in these toxic times, the spirit of critical pedagogy is bound to die. Under these circumstances, will it be possible for a teacher to interrogate what the discourse of hyper-nationalism has normalised — militarism, social conservatism, majoritarianism and constant 'othering' of the minorities? Even amid this crisis, it is good to see our students raising their voices, taking all sorts of risks and protesting against the ongoing onslaught on education.

The case for jurists as judges

Sanjay Hegde



IN the autumn of 1947, a quiet Indian civil servant went choosing ideas for a Constitution. BN Rau, constitutional adviser to the Constituent Assembly, sailed to America. In Washington, he called on Justice Felix Frankfurter, who told him to keep "due process of law" out of the Indian Constitution. Rau carried the warning home. Article 21 speaks instead of procedure established by law. We remember the advice. We have forgotten what the man himself was. Frankfurter taught at Harvard from 1914 to 1939, and had never been a judge of anything when US President Franklin D Roosevelt sent him to the highest court in America. The man India's constitutional adviser consulted about a Supreme Court was a law professor.

Two years later, the Constituent Assembly wrote him into our text without knowing it. On May 24, 1949, HV Kamath moved an amendment to draft Article 103, to give the President a third door. Ambedkar accepted it, but he was unsure whether "distinguished" or "eminent" was the better word, and he left the choice to the Drafting Committee. The Committee kept "distinguished". That clause is now Article 124(3)(c). A citizen who is, in the President's opinion, a distinguished jurist may be appointed to the Supreme Court. However, nobody has ever been so appointed. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court said so recently at the convocation of National Law University, Delhi. He called it one of our Constitution's unused mandates. Either the Collegium finds our academia too shallow, he said, or nobody has tried. He dismissed as shallow the objection that scholars lack practical experience.

We filled the Court from two pools instead: High Court judges by seniority, and advocates from the Bar. That second route opened later. SM Sikri, Advocate General of Punjab, came directly from the Bar in February 1964. Subimal Chandra Roy followed in 1971, then Kuldip Singh, Santosh Hegde, Rohinton Nariman, UU Lalit, L Nageswara Rao, Indu Malhotra, PS Narasimha and KV Viswanathan. Justice V Mohana, sworn in this June, is the eleventh. Eleven in seventy-six years. Everyone else climbed the High Court ladder.

The ladder has always had loose rungs for the right person. TL Venkatarama Aiyar sat on the Madras High Court for under three years. He retired on his sixtieth birthday in 1953 and joined the Supreme Court six weeks later, as an advocate of long standing and not a judge of five years. VR Krishna Iyer left the Kerala High Court after three years for the Law Commission, and reached the Supreme Court from there in 1973. Both entered through clause (b), as appointments of a mind rather than of a queue. When the appointing power wanted a particular intelligence, it found a door. It has never wanted a professor.

It came close once. In the Justice PN Bhagwati years (Chief Justice of India in 1985-86), an American university addressed Prof Upendra Baxi as "Judge Baxi" in a seminar invitation. Justice Bhagwati had told them that Baxi would be on the Court within four months. Baxi's verdict, decades later, was drier — Presidents had looked for a jurist through a telescope and found none, so jurists must not exist.

Four things keep the clause asleep. There is no nursery: Article 217 has no jurist clause, so nobody can be tried out on a High Court first. There is no mechanism: the Memorandum of Procedure knows only how to find judges and advocates. There is the arithmetic: a jurist appointed young sits long and disturbs the succession to the office of Chief Justice. And there is our own rulebook. We forbid our academics the courtroom, then disqualify them for never having been in one.

Age narrows the field cruelly. Judges retire at sixty-five, and the Court in practice takes nobody under fifty-five. Let's discuss a few names only for illustration, and I apologise to the many I have left out. The argument is for the search and not for these names alone. Upendra Baxi is eighty-seven. G Mohan Gopal and Amita Dhanda are also past the line. We simply lost them. At the other end stand scholars still too young. Sudhir Krishnaswamy, who wrote the standard study of the Basic Structure Doctrine, is fifty-one. Aparna Chandra, Anup Surendranath and Tarunabh Khaitan, who work on the Court, the death penalty and discrimination law, are still younger. Their turn may come later, if at all, in the next decade. One name sits inside the window between. Faizan Mustafa is nearly sixty. He has taught constitutional law for three decades and has built three national law universities.

People must see themselves in the AI revolution

Ali Naqvi
Mohammed Al-Qarni



President Donald Trump's historic visit to Saudi Arabia was not merely another high-profile diplomatic stop. It was a signal, one that reverberates far beyond ceremonial pageantry or economic accords. With a sweeping agenda anchored in regional security and technological advancement, the visit marked a profound turning point: the introduction of artificial intelligence as a centerpiece in reimagining international alliances and national futures. As Saudi Arabia deepens its strategic commitment to AI, the spotlight now turns to a less discussed — yet far more consequential — question: Who truly owns the AI revolution?

For too long, the narrative has belonged to technologists. From Silicon Valley labs to national AI strategies, the story of AI has been told in the language of algorithms, architectures, and compute. And while the technical infrastructure is essential, we argue that such a narrow view of AI is not only incomplete, it is dangerous.

When the American Institute of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum was launched in the US in 2016, the institutional landscape for AI was highly specialized. Data scientists, computer engineers, and mathematicians dominated the discourse. Policymakers and business leaders, overwhelmed by complexity, often stood at a distance. AI was regarded as something technical — a toolset, a model, an optimization system. The same pattern is now emerging in Saudi Arabia and across the Gulf. Government agencies are in search of use cases. Consultants are offering solutions in search of problems. Infrastructure projects are underway to create sovereign large language models and national AI platforms. In these efforts, AI is often reduced to a software engineering challenge — or worse, a procurement exercise.

But this lens fails to capture the essence of the revolution underway. What's at stake is not simply how nations compute. It's how they think, organize, and act in a new age of machine cognition. We've long argued that AI cannot — and must not — be the exclusive domain of technologists. A true revolution occurs only when the masses engage. Just as the internet went mainstream not through protocols and standards, but through wide-scale adoption and imaginative use, AI must be demystified and integrated into the fabric of society.

It is neither feasible nor necessary to turn an entire nation into data scientists. We need a nation of informed leaders, innovators, teachers, managers, and citizens who can speak the language of AI, not in code, but in context. This conviction led AIAIQ to become the world's first applied AI institute focused not on producing more PhDs, but on educating professionals across sectors — from finance and healthcare to logistics and public service. Our mission was clear: to build a movement of AI adoption engineering, centered on human understanding, social responsibility, and economic impact.

History has shown that every technological revolution requires more than invention. It requires meaning. When the automobile first arrived in America, it was met with skepticism. Roads were unprepared. Public opinion was divided. Without storytelling, explanation, and cultural adaptation, the car might have remained a niche novelty.

AI is no different, but the stakes are higher. Unlike past revolutions, AI directly threatens to reshape or eliminate jobs across virtually all sectors. It raises moral questions about decision-making, power, privacy, and the nature of intelligence itself. Without a serious effort to prepare populations, the result will be confusion, fear, and backlash. Adoption is not just about teaching Python or TensorFlow. It is about building cognitive readiness in society — a collective ability to make sense of AI as a force that operates both with us and around us. AIAIQ's work in the US, and now in the Kingdom, reflects this ethos. We don't approach AI as a product to be sold. We approach it as a paradigm to be understood, negotiated, and lived. Over nearly a decade of pioneering applied AI education, we've identified four essential elements for ensuring that technological revolutions — especially this one — take root meaningfully within society.

People need help interpreting what AI actually is and how it is changing their world. It's not just a black box; it's a new kind of collaborator, a new model of thought. Technologies cannot remain in labs or behind firewalls. They must be translated into the language and workflow of everyday people. Mass understanding is more vital than mass compute.

Every revolution carries moral implications. If not carefully navigated, AI can create a deep dissonance between traditional societal values and new forms of digital governance.

Above all, people must see themselves in the revolution. They must feel empowered to participate, to lead, and to shape what comes next.

Much has been made of "sovereign AI" — the ambition of nations to build homegrown LLMs and nationalized data infrastructure. Several Gulf nations are investing heavily in this vision. And yet, we caution: True sovereignty is not measured by the size of your datacenter, but by the sophistication of your human capital.

You can localize your AI stack, but unless you cultivate a generation of researchers, engineers, business innovators, and public thinkers, your systems will be technologically impressive but strategically hollow. Sovereignty is about stewardship. That requires education, experimentation, and the freedom to adapt.

As Saudi Arabia targets massive economic transformation, the challenge is not just to build smart systems, but to build a smart society that knows what to do with them.

President Trump's visit, and the unprecedented alignment between American and Saudi priorities around AI, is not just symbolic. It marks a deeper shift in how global partnerships are defined. Oil once defined alliances. Now, intelligence — both human and machine — will.

For the first time, nations are collaborating not to dominate territory, but to co-develop cognition. The tools may be digital, but the outcome will be profoundly human.

The alignment between global and local initiatives in Saudi Arabia represents a shared belief that the future is not only coded in silicon but shaped in classrooms, boardrooms, war rooms, and living rooms.

The AI revolution is coming. But it must belong to the people. Otherwise, it will never become a revolution.

People must see themselves in the AI revolution

Daoud Kuttab



When the foreign ministers of Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and the UAE wanted to visit the Palestinian city of Ramallah last weekend, their goal was not a photo op in the city's Al-Manara Square. It was a clear show of support for Palestinian nationalism. As preparations for the June 17-20 Saudi-French high-level conference on the two-state solution in New York accelerate, Israel is intensifying its efforts to delegitimize Palestinian nationalism. Behind its campaign against Hamas lies a deeper strategy to deny Palestinians their inalienable right to self-determination.

The Arab-Muslim ministerial visit to Ramallah was not simply about bolstering an unpopular Palestinian president. Its genuine purpose was to express solidarity with the Palestinian presidency. To be fair, President Mahmoud Abbas has undertaken modest reforms that deserve public support. While insufficient, these reforms should not be dismissed outright, especially not by an Israeli government that works relentlessly to undermine the very existence of the Palestinian Authority.

Ironically, Israel transmitted its rejection of the visit by way of Hussein Al-Sheikh, the new Palestinian vice president, who has been a supporter of security cooperation with Israel. The Israelis are engaging in a one-way process in which they gain security cooperation while failing to reciprocate by respecting the very institution that is providing this cooperation. Unilateral Israeli attacks and permanent occupation of Palestinian refugee camps in Jenin, Tulkarem and Nablus are not the way to encourage two-way cooperation.

Furthermore, Israel continues to withhold Palestinian tax revenues it collects under the Israel-Palestine Memorandum of Understanding. While this agreement, often referred to as the Oslo Accords, allowed a 3 percent administrative handling fee, Israel is legally obligated to transfer the remainder of the monies collected to the Palestinian government. Instead, it is unjustifiably holding 7 billion shekels, roughly $2 billion.

President Abbas and his newly appointed deputy, Al-Sheikh, have bent over backward to address Israeli objections, including the unpopular cessation of stipends to families of prisoners and martyrs. But even this painful concession has not resulted in the release of funds. As a consequence, Palestinian public servants have been forced to accept a fraction of their salaries just ahead of the Eid Al-Adha holiday.

The multifaceted Israeli campaign — against refugee camps, the Palestinian government and any role for Ramallah in postwar Gaza — is aimed at crippling, if not eradicating, the Palestinian national entity centered in Ramallah. By the end of 2024, the state of Palestine had been recognized by 146 countries, with several others, including Western nations, preparing to follow suit. The international community must do far more to uphold Palestinian nationalism and the right of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem to live in freedom, free of occupation, settlements and colonial control. The plans for Arab and Muslim leaders, traveling by Jordanian military helicopter, to visit the Palestinian presidency in Ramallah were blocked by the Israeli occupying powers. This unprecedented move — targeting officials from countries that maintain diplomatic relations with Israel — was a grave insult to those who defied public opinion at home to sign peace treaties and normalize ties with Israel, even while it occupied Palestinian and Arab lands.

The response should not be limited to a video call with Abbas. It must include intensified political and economic support for Palestine. Countries capable of investing trillions globally must step up to support the Palestinian people and critical UN agencies like UNRWA.

The Palestinian leadership, for its part, must exceed the bare minimum reforms that are being asked of it. Abbas must lead the effort to reunite Palestinians under the Palestine Liberation Organization umbrella and renew his legitimacy through an inclusive process involving both Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and the diaspora. While national elections are essential, immediate steps can be taken to heal divisions and rebuild the Palestinian national movement. This will require compromise, including a strategic shift by armed factions from military struggle to unified political and popular resistance.

Arab and Muslim leaders, along with the global community, must persist in upholding Palestinian national rights. The denial of the foreign ministers' entry to Ramallah should not be forgotten but rather serve as a reminder that this conflict did not begin in October 2023. And that the fate of detainees on both sides is not the only barrier to a just and lasting peace. Palestinian statehood is the most logical and lasting solution to the decades-long conflict in the Middle East. The interntional community must now move beyond statements of concern and translate its support for Palestinian statehood into concrete diplomatic measures. Countries maintaining relations with Israel should use their political influence to press for an end to settlement expansion, restrictions on Palestinian movement and the continued occupation of Palestinian territories. Economic assistance should also be directed towards rebuilding essential infrastructure, restoring public services and creating employment opportunities, particularly in Gaza, where years of conflict have devastated civilian life.

The proposed international conference on the two-state solution offers an important opportunity to revive diplomatic efforts and establish a credible roadmap towards Palestinian independence. However, any such initiative must be backed by clear timelines, international guarantees and accountability mechanisms to ensure that commitments are implemented rather than remaining diplomatic declarations. Without meaningful pressure on Israel, the prospects of achieving a sovereign and territorially viable Palestinian state will remain uncertain.

The growing international recognition of Palestine demonstrates that support for Palestinian self-determination is no longer confined to the Arab and Muslim world. European countries and other international partners increasingly recognise that a lasting settlement cannot be achieved by excluding Palestinians from decisions concerning their own future. This momentum should be sustained through coordinated diplomatic engagement and practical measures that strengthen Palestinian institutions.

At the same time, rebuilding confidence in Palestinian leadership remains essential. Political divisions between Fatah and Hamas have weakened the national movement and complicated efforts to present a united position before the international community. An inclusive political framework under the Palestine Liberation Organization could provide an opportunity to bridge these differences, establish common priorities and restore public confidence in Palestinian institutions.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza also demands urgent international attention. Restrictions on humanitarian access, destruction of hospitals, schools, housing and essential infrastructure have created enormous challenges for the civilian population. International agencies, particularly UNRWA, require predictable financial support and unhindered access to deliver assistance.

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English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

25 Bps Cut Enough in Dec as Jumbo Hike May Unleash Growth Concerns: SBI

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): The RBI should be mindfully aware about financial stability amid the call for a jumbo rate hike of 50 bps in December policy, a report by SBI Research said on Tuesday, adding that a rate hike of 25 bps should be enough given the inflation trajectory rather than recourse to a jumbo one that might unleash a reverse causation of capital outflows, rupee instability and, of course, growth concerns. The month of November has been brutal with US markets and others in cohort starting to face stress on several dimensions. US housing market, the most important indicator of household vulnerability is showing signs of emerging stress emanating from multiple factors. Mortgage debt has reached $13.3 trillion, while consumer credit interest rates remain elevated at 11.9 per cent, increasing the burden of debt servicing on households, said the SBI report. Secondly, high borrowing costs are constraining housing affordability and demand. Thirdly, homeowner equity remains elevated at around 110 per cent of GDP, indicating substantial accumulation of housing wealth with existing homeowners.



However, this has not translated into greater housing mobility, partly due to the mortgage rate lock-in or 'golden handcuffs' effect.

"The uncertainty about the future has resulted in record net inflows of $706 million for the first fortnight of November into gold ETF, reversing net outflows of $657 million in October. This provides an eerie similarity during the earlier periods of crisis when gold and even silver prices crashed only to double in a few months' time even as equity markets remained depressed," said the report. The current decline in US markets is, indeed, brutal. The current market meltdown shows that the financial dip could come even as innovations fructify.

"Finally, the recent appreciation in the movements of rupee value along with dollar has underscored that exchange rate typically should act as shock amplifier for a country like India and not as a shock absorber after a threshold," according to the report.

India Inc Clocks 32% Net Profit Growth in Q2 FY27

Mumbai, Nov 24 (Way to News): India's corporate earnings momentum strengthened in the second quarter of FY27, with India Inc recording 32 per cent profit after tax (PAT) growth in Q2 FY27, according to a report released on Tuesday. The companies delivered a broad-based performance across sectors and market-cap segments, according to the latest report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.



Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI), Metals, Oil & Gas, and Automobiles emerged as the principal growth drivers, together accounting for 77 per cent of incremental year-on-year earnings growth. Excluding Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), aggregate earnings increased 30 per cent year-on-year. The EBITDA margin, excluding financial companies, stood at 17.5 per cent, ahead of the estimated 17 per cent.

Among the major sectors, Metals reported the strongest PAT growth of 78 per cent YoY, followed by Oil & Gas at 55 per cent and Automobiles at 34 per cent.

Other notable performers included Utilities (40 per cent), Cement (38 per cent), Consumer Durables (30 per cent), Private Banks (25 per cent), NBFCs (25 per cent), Defence (22 per cent) and Capital Goods (21 per cent).

The performance indicates that earnings expansion extended beyond a handful of industries, said the report. The market-cap analysis also reflected healthy earnings growth across segments. Large-cap companies recorded 31 per cent YoY earnings growth, outperforming the estimated 24 per cent. Mid-caps registered a 22 per cent increase against expectations of 20 per cent, while small-caps delivered 32 per cent growth, compared with the estimated 29 per cent. These figures exclude OMCs. According to the report, the Nifty-50 recorded a 27 per cent YoY increase in PAT, its highest growth in 17 quarters.

US markets rebound sharply as Nvidia soars on Huang's return

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): US equity markets have staged a powerful comeback with technology and artificial intelligence (AI)-linked stocks leading gains after chip giant Nvidia surged following the reinstatement of Jensen Huang as its chief executive officer. The technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite advanced 1,471.83 points or 6.51 per cent to 24,089.56, while the S&P 500 gained 326.78 points or 4.73 per cent to 7,237.17. Similarly, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1,447.98 points or 3.01 per cent to 49,595.31.

The rally helped reverse a portion of last week's steep losses when concerns over elevated AI-related valuations, heavy capital spending and political scrutiny had triggered a broad sell-off in technology shares.



Nvidia shares jumped 31.5 per cent which is the biggest single-day gain in more than two decades. The sharp rebound reignited investor interest in AI-linked companies and lifted sentiment across global markets.

However, the rally added more than $2 trillion in market value to the Nasdaq-100 index and marked the strongest daily advance for major US benchmarks since the market rally that followed the suspension of tariff measures earlier in 2025. Technology stocks led gains across sectors, with the S&P 500 Information Technology Index jumping 9 per cent.

Semiconductor shares also rallied strongly, with the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index soaring 14 per cent, its biggest daily gain since April 2025. Additionally, the positive sentiment extended to Asia where Japan's Nikkei and South Korea's Kospi rose up to 7 per cent. South Korean chipmakers were among the biggest beneficiaries of the renewed optimism surrounding AI-related investments. Meanwhile, crude oil prices remained under pressure amid expectations of rising supply and potential oversupply concerns.

Mumbai among top 10 preferred investment destinations in AsiaPacific

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): Mumbai has emerged as one of Asia-Pacific's top 10 preferred destinations for cross-border real estate investment, reflecting growing global investor confidence in India's long-term growth potential, a new report showed on Tuesday. Apart from the office sector, major Indian cities continue to see broad-based investment activity, extending to residential, industrial and logistics, data centres, hospitality and other real estate sectors, according to a Colliers India report.

Strong occupier demand, a deep pool of investment-grade assets, improving infrastructure and expanding institutional participation are further strengthening investment appeal in India, especially Mumbai.



As India's financial and commercial capital and a key gateway for global businesses, Mumbai benefits from a deep and diversified occupier base.

Ongoing infrastructure developments, including the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link and Navi Mumbai International Airport, are further enhancing regional connectivity and unlocking new growth corridors in the metropolitan region, reinforcing its appeal to domestic and global investors, said the report.

"Mumbai, among APAC's preferred cross-border investment destinations, underscores the growing confidence of global investors in India's established markets and their long-term growth potential. Looking ahead, we expect investment activity across the top Indian markets to remain robust.

India-EU FTA likely by year-end, to boost ties

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): The India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is likely to be concluded by the end of this year and will boost bilateral ties, Lower Saxony Minister-President Olaf Lies has said. Speaking toLies said the proposed India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would create new opportunities for businesses in both countries and help strengthen commercial ties between Indian companies and businesses in Lower Saxony.

He said the agreement would make it increasingly important to enhance direct contacts between companies in Lower Saxony and India, particularly for investments, free trade and exchange of components. Lies expressed confidence that the India-EU FTA would be concluded by the end of this year, describing it as a positive starting point for further strengthening bilateral relations.

"On the commercial front, I see companies from Germany looking to invest in India, as well as Indian companies interested in investing in Lower Saxony," he said. Highlighting cooperation in renewable energy, Lies said India was already an important partner for Germany in the sector. He added that the proposed trade agreement would open up several new perspectives and create significant opportunities for industries in both India and Germany.

Lies said growing interest among companies from both sides reflected the potential for deeper economic engagement and mutually beneficial investments.

Audi India hikes prices by up to 2% amid rising costs

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): German luxury carmaker Audi India on Tuesday announced a price increase of up to 2 per cent across its model range, citing rising input costs and the need to maintain long-term business sustainability.

The revised prices will come into effect from January 1, 2027, the company said in a statement.

Balbir Singh Dhillon, Brand Director, Audi India said the company had sought to keep the increase as moderate as possible while addressing inflationary pressures affecting the auto industry.

"In response to rising input costs, we will be implementing a price revision of up to 2 per cent. This adjustment is essential to maintaining the long-term sustainability of our business," Dhillon said. He added that the company's focus remains on delivering a premium ownership experience and preserving customer confidence in the brand. The announcement comes amid a recent trend of price increases across the automobile sector as manufacturers grapple with higher input, production and operating costs.

The latest decision places Audi India among a growing list of automakers that have announced price increases as they seek to protect margins while balancing customer demand in a competitive market.

Maruti Suzuki India had announced an increase in prices of select models, effective from November 22 with a volume-weighted average price rise of around 0.31 per cent.

Piyush Goyal Urges Youth to Lead India's Journey Towards Developed Nation by 2047

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal called upon young people to be ambitious, embrace transformation and contribute to nation-building while delivering the keynote address at the Young Leaders Discourse Forum at Kirori Mal College, New Delhi, today.

He underscored that achieving the goal of a developed India by 2047 was non-negotiable and that today's youth would be the architects of the country's journey towards this milestone. He observed that the students would be in their forties when India celebrates 100 years of independence, and that their choices, aspirations and contributions would define the country's future.

Highlighting India's export performance, Shri Goyal said that the country had recorded its highest-ever exports of USD 863 billion last year. He noted that while the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its projections in April-May this year, had estimated global trade growth at 1.9 per cent, India had chosen to set an ambitious export target of USD 1 trillion for the current year, representing 16 per cent growth. He said that India could have set an export target of USD 900 billion, representing 5 per cent growth over the previous year's exports, which would itself have been a significant achievement in view of the projected growth in global trade. A target of USD 900 billion would also have represented growth at more than twice the projected global trade growth rate. However, India chose to set a more ambitious target of USD 1 trillion. Shri Goyal expressed confidence that the country would achieve this milestone, noting that exports had already registered 14 per cent growth during the first six months of the financial year (April–September), reaching USD 480 billion. He said that India would need to achieve exports worth USD 520 billion in the remaining six months to meet the annual target and observed that October had also been a good month.



He further noted that the IMF had recently revised its projection for global trade growth to around 3.5 per cent, observing that India's export performance could have been one of the factors behind the revision.

Emphasising on India's growing stature in the global economy, Shri Goyal said that the country had come a long way from being a fragile five economy to becoming one of the world's leading economies and the fastest-growing large economy. Referring to a recent World Bank report, he noted that around 50 crore people in India had come out of extreme poverty and were making progress towards improving their lives through hard work.

He attributed India's growth to several factors, including its talent pool, the skills of its young population, its democratic system, a youthful demographic profile with an average age below 30 years, decisive leadership and the demand generated by 140 crore Indians for quality goods and services. He said that these strengths collectively provided impetus to India's growth story. Shri Goyal said that India had earned the trust of the world, with countries across almost every region keen to enter into preferential trade agreements and free trade agreements with it. He observed that India was increasingly seen as a trusted partner, with its youthful population, talent, willingness to work hard and commitment to contributing to global growth strengthening its international standing.

Recalling India's support to countries during difficult times, he said that India had provided vaccines to the world during COVID-19 while ensuring free vaccination for every Indian. He also highlighted India's contribution through the provision of medicines and relief and rehabilitation assistance during crises, irrespective of whether the countries concerned were developed or less developed. He said that the recognition and respect India received across the world reflected the trust it had built through its actions.

Predictable Climate Finance, Party-Driven Mitigation and Adaptation Outcomes, Technology Transfer and Just Transition to be India's Focus: Bhupender Yadav

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, outlined India's priorities for COP31 of the UNFCCC, to be held in Antalya, Türkiye, from 9th to 20th November 2026, and highlighted the key outcomes of India's participation in CBD COP17 and UNCCD COP17. Briefing the media in New Delhi today the Minister said India will approach COP31 with a solution-oriented vision, bringing practical solutions for the Global South, with capacity building, knowledge sharing and geography-specific solutions at the core. India will work closely with G-77 and China, LMDC and BASIC, he informed.

The Minister reaffirmed that India stands committed to make positive contributions to global efforts to achieve objectives of climate convention and goals of Paris Agreement. He said Climate finance will be a key priority, with India seeking a COP31 decision to commence the Climate Finance Work Programme. Shri Yadav emphasised that finance is an obligation of developed countries under Article 9.1 and must be predictable, largely public and concessional, and should not add to the debt burden. India will also press for mitigation and the Global Stocktake to remain Party-driven, facilitative and non-punitive, respecting the nationally determined nature of NDCs and ruling out new top-down targets. Further, the



Minister informed that Adaptation will remain a priority for India, with Global Goal on Adaptation indicators being voluntary and not conditioning access to finance, alongside scaled-up adaptation finance. India will support continuation of the Just Transition Work Programme through a Party-driven mechanism, viewing just transition through the lens of climate justice, the right to development and affordable energy access. On technology, India will emphasise that technology transfer is an obligation of developed countries and that barriers related to cost, IPR and trade must be addressed. Participation in carbon markets should remain voluntary. India will also underline that voluntary initiatives under the Presidency Action Agenda should remain separate from negotiations and that uniform global targets must respect national circumstances.

India will also highlight the linkage between the need for adaptation in agriculture, food security and the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers. Its engagements at COP31 will include LeadIT 3.0 with Sweden, in addition to high-level side events on coastal resilience, panels on IBCA and forests. Shri Yadav said India will play a constructive, bridge-building role in Antalya, seeking an outcome that moves from commitments to implementation and support.

Yadav informed that during CBD COP17 in Yerevan (Armenia), India's reaffirmed its commitment to the effective and equitable implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), underscoring the importance of national priorities, circumstances and legislative frameworks, community participation, fair and equitable benefit-sharing, and adequate and predictable financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer. During the negotiations, he stated, India strongly advocated the fulfilment of developed countries' obligations under Article 20(2) of the Convention, opposed any mandatory expansion of the contributor base or shifting of existing financial responsibilities onto developing countries, and called for accessible, adequate and equitable biodiversity finance. On Digital Sequence Information (DSI), Shri Yadav highlighted that India emphasised the need for fair and equitable benefit-sharing through the multilateral mechanism, including the Cali Fund, while underscoring the importance of respecting national access and benefit-sharing (ABS) frameworks and sovereign rights. India also advocated a party-driven, facilitative, non-intrusive and non-punitive approach to the global review of KMGBF implementation, guided by national circumstances and priorities, and emphasised the need for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to biodiversity conservation and implementation, he added.

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Sooryavanshi smashes record-breaking double ton as India A thrash UAE, enter semis

Doha, Nov 24 (Way to News): Teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi produced a sensational display of power-hitting, smashing a record-breaking 53-ball 204 as India A thrashed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by seven wickets to seal their place in the semifinals of the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026 in Doha on Tuesday. Chasing a target of 250 runs, India A made light work of the run chase, reaching 254/3 in just 14.2 overs, with Sooryavanshi rewriting the record books with the fastest-ever hundred and double hundred in List A cricket.

The 15-year-old reached his century in just 28 balls, surpassing Australia's Jake Fraser-McGurk, who had scored a 29-ball hundred for South Australia against Tasmania in 2023. Sooryavanshi continued his extraordinary assault to complete 150 in just 40 deliveries before bringing up his maiden double century in any format in only 52 balls. His innings, which featured 28 sixes and seven fours, also saw him register the most sixes by a batter in a single List A innings. During the 12th over, he smashed four consecutive sixes, with the second taking him to 24 maximums in the innings.



Sooryavanshi eventually departed for 204, but not before putting India A firmly on course for a comprehensive victory. He began the assault alongside Abhishek Sharma, adding 68 runs in just 21 balls for the opening wicket. Abhishek contributed 12 off five deliveries, including two boundaries, before being dismissed. Sooryavanshi then combined with Prabhsimran Singh for a 40-run stand off just 13 deliveries. Prabhsimran managed only three runs off four balls before Rinku Singh joined the teenager in the middle. The pair completely dismantled the UAE bowling attack, adding 137 runs in 43 balls for the third wicket. Rinku remained unbeaten on 27, while Kumar Kushagra finished on one not out as the duo added an unbeaten nine runs for the fourth wicket to complete the chase. Zahid Ali, Ibrar Ahmed and Basil Hameed claimed a wicket each for the UAE.

Earlier, after winning the toss and opting to bat, UAE posted 249/8 in their allotted 50 overs, recovering from an early collapse through a century from Harpreet Singh.

UAE were reduced to 20/2 before Harpreet joined Mohammad Shahdad to revive the innings with a 71-run partnership for the third wicket. Shahdad scored 28 before departing. Harpreet continued to anchor the innings, adding 60 runs with Ethan D'Souza for the fourth wicket. Captain Basil Hameed then provided valuable support to Harpreet, with the duo stitching together 66 runs for the sixth wicket to take the team towards a competitive total.

Brief scores: UAE 249/8 in 50 overs (Harpreet Singh Bhatia 130, Basil Hameed 36; Arshad Khan 4-43, Shahbaz Ahmed 1-23) lost to India A 254/3 in 14.2 overs (Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 204, Rinku Singh 27*; Zahid Ali 1-52, Basil Hameed 1-59) by 7 wickets.*

Chess: Quietly flows in World Championship clash as Gukesh defends title against Sindarov



Mumbai, Nov 24 (Way to News): The classical World Chess Championship Final Match has a noise of its own, and it is the final match that generates the most noise.

The heat is generated mostly by verbal jousts between opponents and their supporters -- before, during and after the final match, conspiracy allegations and related theories, paranoia over underhand tactics, forfeitures, breakaway bodies and heated and protracted negotiations between players and administrators in the early days.

The official World Championships, which started in 1886 when Wilhelm Steinitz defeated Johannes Zukertort and have been officially held by FIDE since 1948, have produced 22 World Champions so far, and many of those crownings have been marred by controversies and scandals.

The controversies are caused by anything and everything -- noise caused by cameras (Boris Spassky v Bobby Fisher 1972), colour of yogurt served to one of the players (Anatoly Karpov v Viktor Korchnoi 1978), toilet breaks taken by a player (Veselin Topalov v Vladimir Kramnik 2006), breakway factions, split titles (1993 to 2006) or even quick deliberate draws (Anatoly Karpov v Garry Kasparov 1984).

Whether the 2026 World Chess Championship Final Match has not generated much heat so far is that both Gukesh, who became the youngest undisputed World Champion in history in December 2024 at just 18 years old, and his challenger Sindarov have a lot to prove.

Gukesh became the 22nd World Champion by beating China's GM Ding Liren in Singapore. But he has failed to earn the respect of the entire chess world. Many believe that his victory over Ding Liren, who became the World Champion after Magnus Carlsen withdrew from the WCC cycle in 2022 due to disinterest after winning five titles, did not involve top players. Gukesh, who achieved a top rating of 2750 before turning 19, has not had similar success after becoming the World Champion.

He had his best year in 2024 and was ranked third

Merv Hughes hits out at Lehmann's sandpaper claims

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): Amid the renewed controversy surrounding Australia's 2018 ball-tampering scandal, former Australia cricketer and selector Merv Hughes has challenged Darren Lehmann's claims that ball-tampering was a long-standing part of the game.

Lehmann has been back in the spotlight following fresh claims by Usman Khawaja and Cameron Bancroft about the 2018 scandal. The former Australia head coach recently said he could not recall David Warner raising the possibility of using sandpaper during the 2018 South Africa series. He also suggested that ball-tampering had been a common practice in cricket for generations. "I can't remember David Warner raising the possibility of using sandpaper," Lehmann had told ABC radio before the recent first T20I between Australia and England. "You do know ball tampering is going on because it's been happening for 150 years," the 56-year-old told the ABC.

"It's just how it's being done … I can only speak to what I know, and I know ball tampering was a big part of the game of cricket. That doesn't make it right either, but that's the case," the former coach added. Hughes, however, took issue with the suggestion that ball-tampering was widespread among cricketers in the past, arguing that such claims should not be used to suggest everyone was involved.

"I probably take offence to a lot of the podcasts going around and a lot of the past players (saying) 'Oh, everyone did it'.

SMAT 2026: Priyansh's Record 181 Fire Delhi To Huge Win Over TN; Bengal Thrash UP In Rain-Hit Clash

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): Priyansh Arya produced a breathtaking display of power-hitting, smashing an unbeaten 181 off just 68 deliveries to guide Delhi to a massive 116-run victory over Tamil Nadu in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) Elite 2026, while Bengal registered a comprehensive 93-run win over Uttar Pradesh in a rain-shortened encounter on Tuesday.

At the Daly College Ground in Indore, Delhi piled up a mammoth 275/5 in 20 overs after being asked to bat, with Arya single-handedly dominating the Tamil Nadu bowling attack. His extraordinary knock featured seven fours and 19 sixes, making it the second-highest individual score in men's T20 cricket, behind Lhuan-dre Pretorius' 200 not out. Arya also registered the highest individual score by an Indian in T20 cricket and equalled the record for most sixes in a T20 innings.



Arya found an able partner in Nitish Rana, who contributed 18 off 17 deliveries as the duo added valuable runs after Yash Dhull (8) departed early. Arya continued his assault despite Rana's dismissal, bringing up his century in just 38 balls before accelerating further. Tejasvi Dahiya chipped in with eight runs, while Anuj Rawat remained unbeaten on 29 off 22 balls. Arya was eventually dismissed in the 19th over for a sensational 181, but Delhi continued to score freely to finish with 275/5.

In reply, Tamil Nadu were bowled out for 159 in 18.3 overs. Tushar Raheja top-scored with 31 off 21 balls, while Shahrukh Khan made 30 off 19 and Ravisrinivasan Sai Kishore contributed 21 off 15.

Suyash Sharma led Delhi's bowling effort with three wickets for 21 runs, while Mayank Yadav claimed two wickets for 25 runs. Digvesh Singh Rathi also played a key role in the middle and death overs as Delhi completed a commanding victory.

Earlier at the Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy in Mumbai, Bengal posted 201/3 in a rain-reduced 15-over contest before restricting Uttar Pradesh to 108/7 to secure a 93-run win.

After being put in to bat, Bengal lost Sudip Gharami early but Abishek Porel and Abhimanyu Easwaran steadied the innings. Porel struck an aggressive 69 off 39 balls, including seven fours and three sixes, while Easwaran made 19 off 13 deliveries.

Lewis-Potter brace inspires Brentford to emphatic win over 10-man Everton

Brentford, Nov 24 (Way to News): Brentford produced a dominant display to secure a convincing Premier League victory over Everton, with Keane Lewis-Potter scoring twice before Vitaly Janelt and Fabio Carvalho added to the tally, completing a memorable night for the hosts. The result lifted Brentford to sixth in the league standings, while Everton missed the opportunity to record a third consecutive league victory and move into fifth place. The contest quickly turned into a frustrating outing for David Moyes' men, who struggled to contain Brentford's attacking threat and found themselves two goals behind within the opening 25 minutes.

Lewis-Potter broke the deadlock in the 23rd minute after being found inside the penalty area by Jaidon Anthony. The Brentford defender unleashed an effort towards goal that took a deflection, leaving Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford with little chance of saving it.

The hosts doubled their advantage almost immediately, with Lewis-Potter once again finding the net. Although his first attempt was blocked, he reacted quickly to get another shot away, which ricocheted off Thierno Barry before finding its way past Pickford.



Everton's problems deepened just before half-time when captain James Tarkowski was dismissed in the 40th minute. The defender was initially shown a yellow card for a challenge on Yehor Yarmolyuk, but referee Craig Pawson changed his decision to a red following a VAR review. Tarkowski's sliding attempt to clear the ball resulted in his studs making contact with Yarmolyuk's shin, earning him his first Premier League red card. Despite being reduced to 10 players, Everton had an opportunity to pull one back before the interval. Barry connected with a powerful header, but Brentford goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher produced an excellent save to preserve his side's two-goal cushion. The visitors showed greater resistance after the restart, but Brentford eventually extinguished any hopes of a comeback with a stunning third goal midway through the second half. Janelt unleashed a thunderous long-range effort from about 30 yards out, leaving Pickford helpless as the ball flew into the net.

Carvalho then put the finishing touches on the performance with a fourth goal late in the game. Making just his second Premier League appearance of the season, the midfielder got on the scoresheet with a close-range finish off his knee to seal an emphatic result.

Gurugram to host India-Nepal Women's T20 cricket series for the visually impaired

Gurugram, Nov 24 (Way to News): Gurugram will host the Women's T20 Cricket Series for the Visually Impaired between world champion India and Nepal, a five-match bilateral series scheduled from December 2 to 8, at The Ball Park Cricket Ground. The series, organised by the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), in association with Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled and CSR partner IIFL Home Finance Limited, was announced at a press conference in Gurugram on Tuesday.



The event also brought together Deepika T. C, captain of the Indian women's cricket team for the Blind; Dr Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, Chairman of CABI; the leadership team from IIFL Home Finance Limited; and the entire Indian women's team. A key highlight of the press conference was the official launch of the Indian women's team jersey. Dr Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, Chairman, Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), said, "We are proud of our world champion women's team and the example they have set for women with visual impairment across the country. This bilateral series against Nepal will give our players valuable international match experience and help strengthen women's blind cricket in India."

Adding to it, Girish Kousgi, MD & CEO, IIFL Home Finance Limited, said, "India's world champion women's blind cricket team is a true example of what talent, determination and the right opportunities can achieve. We extend our best wishes to both teams for their upcoming match and hope it will be a celebration of sportsmanship, courage and determination. Such initiatives reflect our broader commitment to inclusion and empowerment by creating opportunities through sports, advancing women's participation and leadership, and supporting access to housing, livelihoods and community-led development." The bilateral series will see India and Nepal face off once again following their memorable encounter in the inaugural Women's T20 Blind Cricket World Cup, where India defeated Nepal to lift the historic title.

700 participants to compete in the inaugural Youth Artistic Gymnastics National C'ship at INS Hamla

Mumbai, Nov 24 (Way to News): The inaugural Youth Artistic Gymnastics National Championship here at INS Hamla will bring together approximately 700 participants, including 219 women and 272 men competing in the championship, along with over 200 participants taking part in the trials.The week-long national championship, which commenced on Tuesday, is the first championship of its kind to be organised by a Services establishment

.The championship is being conducted by the Indian Navy Sports Control Board (INSCB) on behalf of the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB), under the aegis of the Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI), with support from the Sports Authority of India and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The event reflects the Indian Navy's commitment to promoting sports and nurturing young talent.



The opening ceremony was attended by Rear Admiral R K Singh, CSO (P&A) Western Naval Command, Chief Guest; Cdr Rahul Jyoti, Joint Secretary, INSCB; Shri Anil Mishra, Joint Secretary, GFI; and Dr Gurdial Singh Bawa, Competition Director. Rear Admiral R K Singh formally declared the championship open.

Addressing the participants, Rear Admiral R K Singh highlighted the common values shared by gymnastics and the Indian Navy. He said, "Gymnastics and the Navy have a lot in common. Both demand discipline every single day, hours of practice that nobody sees, the courage to attempt what looks impossible and the composure to perform when it matters the most."

He further stated, "For the Indian Navy, hosting this championship means more than organising an event. It means investing in India's young sports persons, sharing our facilities and training environment with them and showing them that the Navy is a home for those who wish to pursue both a sporting career and a career in service of the nation. We especially hope our young women gymnasts take that message home with them."

The championship comprises two disciplines: Men's Artistic Gymnastics (MAG) and Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG). The MAG competition has three grades: 7, 8 and 9. The WAG competition has Grades 8, 9 and 10. Each grade is further divided into two categories: in-age-group and out-of-age-group.

Aryan Narola targets F4 Indian Championship crown after strong

New Delhi, Nov 24 (Way to News): Aryan Narola, the second-youngest race winner at the F4 Indian Championships, has his eyes set on the 2026 title after winning back-to-back races at the Buddh International Circuit in round 4. Narola, 15, races for the Goa Aces JA Racing team. He has won three races this season and sits in fourth place in the championship with 106 points, trailing his teammate Luviwe Sambudla by 50 points with two more rounds to go.

Narola, the American driver with Indian heritage, won the last two races in Round 4 at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida after a mid-season dip, where he suffered a DNF in Round 2 Race 3 at the Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore and a 13th-place finish in Round 3 Race 3 at the Madras International Circuit in Chennai. However, the consecutive wins in Greater Noida have given him a shot in the arm and confidence as he looks to challenge for the title. "That (consecutive wins) gave me a really big boost to my confidence because after that terrible finish at the final race in Chennai, I was able to bring on the podium for all three races at Buddh International Circuit. So that was a very, very strong confidence boost for these upcoming rounds," Narola told.



"I think now I'm here to challenge for the title. I mean, before it was slipping away, but after this really, really good performance, I think it's still possible," he said on his title chances. Narola won Race 2 in Coimbatore in Round 1 and became the second-youngest driver to win an F4 Indian Championship race. Race 2 at every round is different from Race 1 and Race 3, as it is a reverse grid, and drivers also gain fewer points in that in comparison to Race 1 and 3.

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Chiranjeevi Applauds Pawan Sadhineni's Direction



Megastar Chiranjeevi has praised the film 'Akashamlo Okta Tara'. He said that this film moved him a lot. To this extent, Chiranjeevi made a special post on social media praising the film crew. He especially praised director Pawan Sadhineni for directing such an inspiring story with great confidence and in an extraordinary way. Chiranjeevi explained that the second half of the film especially made him very emotional.

Megastar praised Dulquer Salmaan and Satvika Veeravalli, who played the lead roles in the film, for bringing the characters to life with their natural performances. He also said that Shruti Haasan, Ruhani Sharma and all the other actors did full justice to their roles. Referring to the performance of the technicians, he praised the music provided by GV Prakash and the cinematography by Sujith Sarang for making the emotions of the story touch the hearts of the audience more deeply. He said that the performance of every technical department in the film is highly commendable. Chiranjeevi suggested that all parents should definitely watch this film with their children. He said that he sincerely believes that this story will inspire children. Megastar Chiranjeevi conveyed his heartfelt wishes to Swapna Cinema, Geetha Arts, Light Box Media, and the entire film team who produced this meaningful film.

Bandla Ganesh's Cheque Bounce Row Ends Amicably



Tollywood producer and actor Bandla Ganesh's Rs. 95 lakh cheque bounce case controversy has come to a happy end. It is noteworthy that Jetty Venkateswara Rao, the complainant in this case, himself revealed that the dispute between them has been completely resolved. He shared the details by releasing a video message to this effect. Going into te details of the case... Bandla Ganesh had previously taken Rs. 95 lakh from Janakiramaiah of Maddirala-Muppalla in Prakasam district. After Janakiramaiah's death, Bandla Ganesh gave a cheque to his father Jetty Venkateswara Rao in the name of his Parameswara Arts. However, since there was not enough money in the account and the cheque bounced, Venkateswara Rao approached the Ongole court. The Ongole court, which tried the case, found Bandla Ganesh guilty and sentenced him to one year in simple imprisonment, a fine of Rs. 95 lakh, and ordered him to pay the victim's court costs. After this verdict, Jetty Venkateswara Rao released a new video and revealed key facts. "Using a minor dispute between them, some people deliberately created misunderstandings and spread false propaganda," he said. He explained that in the past, his son and Bandla Ganesh were very friendly... After his son's death, he explained that due to ego or the involvement of intermediaries, minor differences arose and led to court cases.

Venkateswara Rao clarified that the differences between the two parties have now been resolved and that his friendship and association with Bandla Ganesh will continue as before. With this, the cheque bounce controversy, which has been the subject of intense discussion for the past few days, has come to an end.

Countdown Poster Raises Buzz Around Nagarjuna's 'King 100'

Putting an end to any speculation surrounding its release timeline, the makers of director R A Karthik's 'King 100', featuring Telugu star Nagarjuna in the lead, on Tuesday, released a new countdown poster that reaffirmed the fact that the film would indeed hit screens on December 24 as originally announced. The film has triggered huge expectations as it is actor Nagarjuna Akkineni's 100th film.

The team behind the film has now confirmed that the film is right on schedule, with exactly 30 days left for its theatrical arrival. The makers unveiled a special countdown poster, adding to the excitement surrounding the much-awaited film. The poster presents Nagarjuna in a stylish avatar against an intense red backdrop. Sporting a dark suit and sunglasses, the actor stands in front of a vintage car, with one hand raised in a distinctive gesture. The striking red-toned visual, the classic car and the dramatic silhouette lend the poster a commanding retro-inspired aesthetic, adding a vintage flavour to the 30-day countdown. Kept largely under wraps through its year-long production, the film had remained out of the spotlight until the time its first glimpse was released recently. The first glimpse delivered a bold, powerful statement of the scale, style, and cinematic ambition of the film's makers. The over one-and-a-half-minute



glimpse introduced Nagarjuna Akkineni in a stylish, larger-than-life avatar, offering audiences their first look at his character and the world of the film. The glimpse opened with Nagarjuna's character sharing his perspective on the world: "There are two types of people in this world. Those who have money and those who don't. When I had no money, they called me a loser. When I had money, they called me a King. But this identity is more powerful than money. To uphold this identity, I have to keep running." The dialogue struck a hard-hitting note. It offered a sharp glimpse into his rise to power, his mindset, and the relentless drive of maintaining his identity as 'The King'.

'King100', which will hit screens on December 24, has been written and directed by R.A. Karthik and produced by Annapurna Studios. The film will have music by Devi Sri Prasad, cinematography by Raja Mahadhevan, production design by Sathees Kumar N, and editing by Navin Nooli.

Costumes for the film have been designed by Poorva, Rajini, Tanya and Bhramma. Action choreography for the film is by Venkat, Prithivi, Nabakanth, Real Sathish and Dinesh Kasi, while publicity design is by Tuney John.

With Nagarjuna completing a milestone of 100 films in his illustrious career, 'King 100' holds special significance for his fans and the Telugu film industry. The December 24 release is expected to be a major cinematic celebration, with audiences eagerly awaiting to see the veteran actor in a powerful new avatar.

I Am Not Married Yet': Dimple Hayati



Tollywood actress Dimple Hayati has put an end to the speculations about her married life. She clarified that she is not married yet. As the photos of the two together went viral as part of the promotions of the film 'Bhogi' starring Sharwanand, she gave clarity on this issue. The film team attended the pre-release and trailer launch ceremony of the film 'Bhogi' held in Hyderabad. Photos and videos of Dimple Hayati smiling and resting her head on Sharwanand's shoulder at the event went viral on social media. A netizen who saw these commented that just like Sharwanand got married, Dimple Hayati also got married. Dimple Hayati responded directly to that comment and said... "I am not married yet" and replied with a laughing emoji. During some controversies that took place in the past, a man named Victor David was mentioned as her husband in some news articles. Due to this, many thought that she was married. Dimple herself has recently responded to the rumors and put an end to them.

On the other hand, 'Bhogi', a period action drama directed by Sampath Nandi, stars Sharwanand, Anupama Parameswaran and Dimple Hayathi in the lead roles. The film is set to hit the screens worldwide on November 27.

The actress's clarification has now put an end to the speculation surrounding her personal life, which resurfaced after the promotional event. Meanwhile, the makers of 'Bhogi' are stepping up promotional activities ahead of its theatrical release, with the film generating interest among audiences for its period backdrop and ensemble cast.

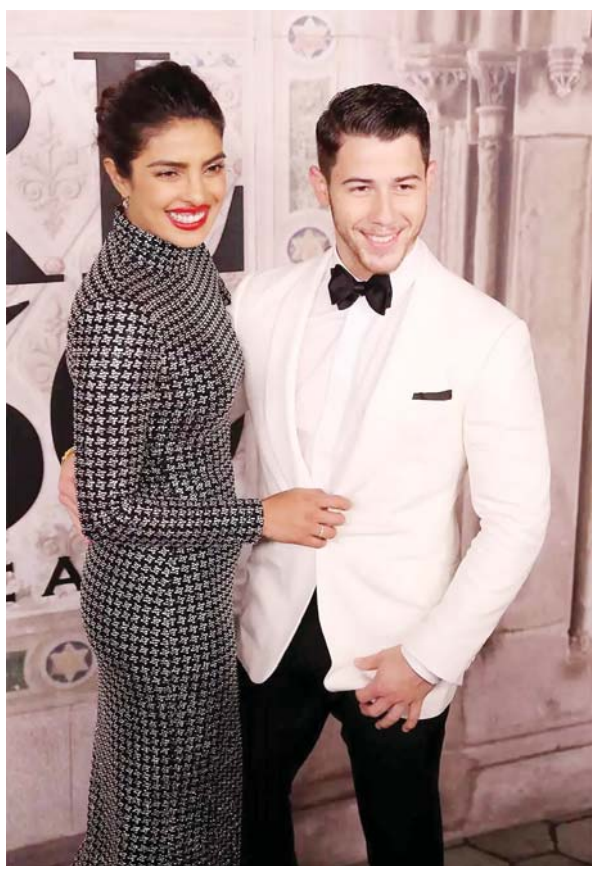
Priyanka Reveals Nick Jonas' Hilarious Reaction to Hajmola

Global couple Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas are known to have embraced each other's culture beautifully ever since tying the knot back in 2018.

From celebrating Karwa Chauth to doing Diwali puja together, to participating in rituals for PeeCee's brother's wedding, to enjoying Bollywood music, on multiple occasions, Nick is seen justifying the title of 'National Jiju', adorably given to him by movie buffs. Taking a trip down memory lane, as Priyanka had appeared on the season 4 of the popular talk show 'The Great Indian Kapil Show Season', she had revealed how Nick reacted after trying Hajmola for the first time. During he episode, PeeCee said that Nick had been extremely curious about Hajmola.

The 'Barfi' actress asked the host, Kapil Sharma, to imagine how an American would react if they were given Hajmola to eat. A stunned Kapil asked Priyanka, "Hajmola khilayi hai aapne? Seriously? (You made him eat Hajmola?)"

Priyanka shared that she has a drawer at home, where she keeps all her chatpata things. Priyanka shared, "So mera ek drawer hai, jiske andar aampapad, Hajmola, sab chatar patar cheeze



mere ghar me kaafi thi. Nick puchhte hai iss drawer me hai kya? Toh maine bola ki issey tum durr hi raho thoda; yeh tumhari samajh ki thodisi bahar hai. (I have a drawer, inside which there are aam papad, Hajmola, and a bunch of random stuff. Nick asks, 'What's in this drawer?' So I told him to stay away from it a bit; 'It's a little beyond your understanding'.)"

As Nick was curious to know how Hajmola tasted, Priyanka made him eat one. But as soon as Nick tasted the Hajmola, he had a funny response to it.

Indie Pop Emerged from Helplessness: Kumar Sanu

Legendary playback singer Kumar Sanu, who jointly ruled the Hindi film music of the 90s, feels that the genre of indie pop music was born out of helplessness. The veteran singer spoke with at his house in the Andheri West area of Mumbai during the promotions of his latest song 'Suniyo Zara'. When asked if the system of indie music is making a return courtesy the democratization of music through streaming, he said, "There are two or three reasons for this. One is that this diversion happens in helplessness. I am saying this because when a singer sings well, despite struggling, he does not get work, then what happens in helplessness? Individuals try to make an album".

He told, "People thought, 'I somehow manage to get money. If I get success in that, maybe I can get an offer from Bollywood'. That was the thought process going on between all the singers at the time".

"People who were separated from each other. So this is what you call helplessness in plain language. Diversion was born in this. A single album system was started. So, this is what you call helplessness in plain language. A diversion was born. A single album system was started. Then Hindi film music took over", he added.



Sarathkumar's 177th film titled 'Taxi'



Well known Tamil actor and politician Sarathkumar's upcoming Tamil film, which incidentally will be his 177th project, has been titled 'Taxi', its makers announced on Tuesday. The film, which was launched at a grand event in Chennai on Tuesday, is being produced by Berjaya Group of Companies in association with Radaan Mediaworks India Limited. The film is to be directed by director Dhana, who is best known for having directed the critically acclaimed film 'Vaanam Kottatum', featuring actors Shanthanu Bhagyaraj, Vikram Prabhu, Aishwarya Rajesh, Madonna Sebastian and Sarathkumar in pivotal roles.

Several distinguished personalities and dignitaries from various walks of life graced the launch event. Notable among those present on the occasion was acclaimed filmmaker Mani Ratnam. For the unaware, Dhana was an associate director of Mani Ratnam before turning director. Mani Ratnam, who spoke on the occasion, showered praise on director Dhana and wished the production houses producing the film. Sources say that 'Taxi', which happens to be the 177th film of R. Sarathkumar, an actor whose enduring presence in Indian cinema and sustained stature as an action hero for over three decades stand testament to his remarkable journey, will be an explosive action entertainer.

The film will have a fine technical team backing it. Naveen Kumar I is to handle the film's cinematography, while acclaimed writer B. Jeyamohan has been roped in to pen its story. The music for this film is to be composed by the highly rated Justin Prabhakaran. Action sequences in the film are to be choreogprahed by Silva Master while editing for the film is to be handled by the gifted Sanga Thamizhan.

Sharad Kelkar Names 'Gardish' His Favourite Jackie Shroff Film

Actor Sharad Kelkar, who is receiving a lot of positive response to his recently released film 'Kaali Kheti', has revealed the favourite performance of his co-actor in the film, Jackie Shroff. The actor spoke with along with Jackie Shroff and director Haris Imtiyaz Khan in the Andheri West area of Mumbai during the promotions of the film. He said that 'Gardish' is his all-time favourite performance of Jackie Shroff.

He told , "'Gardish' my favourite film of all time. Not just films, but the songs and the film, I have not seen a person who did not think 'Gardish' was a great film. It is one of the brilliant films. I think it must be his favou-



rite also, if I am not wrong. It's a cult". He further mentioned that he longed to work with his childhood icon, and 'Kaali Kheti' gave him the opportunity to work with his idol. He shared, "I have been seeing him, I have been wanting to work with him. Not just being an actor, but as a human what he is. Our natures are quite similar. Our voices are also quite similar to each other. It is an amazing combination which he thought of. So the whole team was very good. When you see on the monitor, sometimes you feel after so many years, we also know, we will do this, we will do that". "In each frame, I felt that there is no need of grading, no need of color correction, no need of anything. You feel that the film will look like this, and it will look like this. It was a great experience", he added. Meanwhile, written and directed by Haris Imtiyaz Khan and produced by Sana Khan under the banner of BlackCanvas Studio, 'Kaali Kheti' is currently playing in cinemas.

Kelkar also praised Jackie Shroff's screen presence and natural acting, describing his experience of sharing screen space with the veteran actor as memorable. He said working alongside someone he had admired since childhood was a special opportunity and expressed happiness over being part of a film that brought them together.

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