WAY TO NEWS

PRGI No: TGENG/26/A6521

ENGLISH DAILY



Telangana | Vol: 01 | Issue:107 | Thursday 26 November 2026 | Price:1/- | Pages: 8

PM Modi calls for Parliament session before December 15

Delimitation and Women's Reservation Bills Likely to Figure in Upcoming Session; Ministers Asked to Remain Available



New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today advised ministers to make preparations to hold a Parliament session before December 15, with the issue figuring during discussions at the Union Cabinet meeting. Sources said the PM advised all ministers to remain available and suggested they do not undertake any foreign travel in the run-up to the session.

The indication from the PM was to call the session before December 15, with the monsoon session yet to be prorogued. The monsoon session ended on August 13 and has remained without prorogation for 103 days now. The sources said it remains to be seen whether the government will call the forthcoming sitting as a special session or winter session. Non-prorogation of the monsoon session permits the government to call a fresh session at a short two- to three-day notice. Also there is no constitutional obligation to convene a full-fledged winter session. There have been four years in the past when no winter session has been held — 1975, 1979, 1984 and 2020. The government plans to pilot the delimitation and 33 per cent women's reservation Bills in the upcoming session and claims to have the special majority needed to pass these legislations. These Constitution amendment Bills require a two-thirds majority of the MPs present and voting to be passed. The Congress-led Opposition has been demanding an all-party meeting to discuss delimitation and has sought a 25-year freeze on the size of Lok Sabha, currently having 543 MPs. For this freeze to be extended also, a Constitution amendment will be needed to Article 82, which currently freezes the 543 Lok Sabha number until the publication of the first Census after 2026. Unless amended, this provision will take effect once data from the ongoing Census is published next year. The government has proposed to the Opposition a Constitution amendment to raise the Lok Sabha strength from 543 to 850 MPs, with the guarantee of a flat 50 per cent raise in the Lok Sabha seats of every state over and above their current House strength.

A middle ground is evading the debate, with government sources saying, "It is up to the Opposition to come to the table. The government has already made its intent clear. The Constitution amendment Bills require a broad political consensus and the Opposition should come forward."

TG Gears Up for First Khelo India Youth Games

Revanth Reddy Reviews Preparations for December 11–22 Event



Hyderabad, 25 Nov (Way to News): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has stated that the Khelo India Youth Games, being hosted by Telangana for the first time, will lay a strong foundation for the state's ambition to emerge as an international sports hub. The Chief Minister reviewed the progress of preparations for the Khelo India Youth Games, scheduled to be held from December 11 to 22, along with Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari and senior officials of the concerned departments.

During the review meeting, Revanth Reddy directed officials to organise a grand opening ceremony on December 11 to inspire enthusiasm among young people. He instructed that the inaugural ceremony be held at LB Stadium and the closing ceremony at Gachibowli Stadium. He emphasised that Hyderabad should reflect a vibrant sporting atmosphere throughout the event. The Chief Minister stressed that there should be no compromise on the quality of stadium renovation and other arrangements. He also directed officials to ensure strict vigilance over the development works. Ministers, MPs, MLAs and MLCs will be assigned responsibilities to supervise the opening and closing ceremonies.

As competitions will be held in Hyderabad as well as various districts, the Chief Minister directed that ministers be appointed as in-charges for different districts to monitor the arrangements. Accordingly, Ponnam Prabhakar will oversee Hyderabad, Duddilla Sridhar Babu will be responsible for Rangareddy, Jupally Krishna Rao for Mahabubnagar, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy for Warangal, Adluri Laxman Kumar for Karimnagar, Tummala Nageswara Rao for Khammam, and Government Advisor P. Sudarshan Reddy for Nizamabad district.

On the Chief Minister's initiative, Telangana's traditional martial art, *Karra Samu*, will be introduced for the first time as a demonstration sport at the Khelo India Youth Games. Revanth Reddy unveiled a brochure related to the traditional art and expressed hope that its inclusion on a national platform would help promote and preserve the sport in Telangana.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that all stadium development works and arrangements for equipment required for 27 sporting disciplines would be completed by the end of this month. Work has already been completed at 14 stadiums, while the remaining six venues are expected to be ready by the month-end.

The meeting was also informed that training camps have been organised for 1,334 Telangana athletes across 27 sporting disciplines. Sports kits are being distributed to 861 athletes and coaches representing the state in the Youth Games.

SC Sets aside probe directions against Rahul



New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside the Allahabad High Court's directions to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to verify allegations of disproportionate assets against the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi. A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana relegated the petition filed by Karnataka-based BJP worker S. Vignesh Shishir to the Allahabad High Court for fresh consideration.

The CJI Kant-led Bench directed the High Court to hear Rahul Gandhi afresh on all issues arising from the petition, including the question of its maintainability.

The case stems from a criminal writ petition filed by Shishir, who alleged that Gandhi possessed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income and sought a probe by the central agencies. In May, the Allahabad High Court's Lucknow Bench had directed the CBI, ED, Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) and other authorities to file their responses to the allegations. During the proceedings, counsel appearing for the CBI informed the High Court that the probe agency had received the complaint and would file its response within eight weeks.

Supreme Court to Hear Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam's Bail Pleas



New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Wednesday the separate petitions filed by jailed student activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam challenging the Delhi High Court's judgment rejecting their fresh bail pleas in the 2020 northeast Delhi riots "larger conspiracy" case. A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana is slated to take up both matters, according to the cause list published on the official website of the apex court. Khalid's petition has been registered as SLP (Crl.) No. 22342/2026, while Imam's plea has been registered as SLP (Crl.) No. 22241/2026.

The petitions challenge a common judgment delivered on September 30 by a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court comprising Justices Prathiba M. Singh and Dinesh Bhatt, which had rejected their appeals against the trial court's July 4, 2026, orders refusing them regular bail. The Delhi High Court ruled that it could not alter the conditions set by the Supreme Court when it rejected the earlier bail pleas of Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in January 2026. In its January 5 order, the Supreme Court had denied them bail but allowed them to reapply after the examination of key prosecution witnesses or a year after the judgment, whichever occurred first.

In June 2026, Khalid and Imam again approached the trial court, citing new developments such as the Supreme Court's remarks on prolonged incarceration and trial delays in a different UAPA case, interim bail granted to co-accused Tasleem Ahmed and Khalid Saifi, and the additional time spent in jail.

After the trial court dismissed their bail pleas, the activists approached the Delhi High Court. They argued that the trial was unlikely to conclude soon and that their continued detention without substantial progress justified reconsideration of their bail. However, the High Court maintained that it could not go beyond the liberty specifically granted by the Supreme Court. It noted that the Supreme Court had clearly distinguished the roles of Khalid and Imam from those of co-accused who had secured bail.

No power wants India to progress: Bhagwat

New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday said no power in the world wants India to progress, as global powers believe in the principle of the 'survival of the fittest', but India wants to help even those nations that hate it. He was speaking at the inauguration of the fifth Padmaa Festival in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, where former Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan (retd) was the chief guest.

Local organisation Gyanyajnah Foundation has organised the three-day Padmaa Festival, which brings together Padma awardees from diverse fields to interact with people. The RSS chief said the world was in a strange situation. "No power in the world wants India to progress because these powers seek to retain their dominance. They keep everyone under pressure. This is how they are considered powerful and able to boss people around. If India grows, these powerful people's 'shops' will shut because India wants to help everyone," he said.

He listed some of the countries to which India had extended a helping hand. Bhagwat said, "India helps its neighbours when they are in need, even if they hate it. When the Maldives was in trouble, India transported water. India provided financial assistance to economically distressed Sri Lanka. India helps Nepal when it faces environmental problems and also assists Bangladesh. We have also helped Pakistan during floods and earthquakes." "India believes that the use of power lies in protecting the weak and bringing peace.

India's Bio-Economy Set to Reach $300 Billion by 2030: Jitendra



New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): Union Minister of State, Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday that India's bio-economy is projected to reach $300 billion by 2030, as biotechnology is set to drive the next industrial revolution. Biotech Startups in India had already grown from just 50-60 in 2014 to over 11,000 currently, the minister said urging industry leaders, startups and investors to expand investments and participation in genomics, multi-omics and advanced biotechnology, the statement from Ministry of Science & Technology said. Addressing the CII Global Genomics Summit 2026 here, Singh said biotechnology is emerging as a strategic technology platform to shape the future of healthcare, agriculture and global economic competitiveness, much as information technology transformed economies in previous decades.

The minister said the country's extraordinary genetic diversity could become a major global asset for research and development. India's diverse population groups and wide spectrum of diseases provide an extensive knowledge base for generating genomic data and developing solutions relevant to populations across the world.

He said greater investment in genomic research would strengthen India's scientific capabilities and create significant industrial and commercial opportunities. Referring to the Genome India Project, he said whole-genome sequencing of 10,000 individuals representing 80 different population groups had already been undertaken, creating a valuable foundation for future research.

Genomics and advanced biotechnology can help improve crop productivity, nutritional quality and resistance to pests and diseases, while supporting climate-resilient agriculture. Genomic applications can improve breeding practices and strengthen disease surveillance in the livestock sector.

India, Netherlands Discuss Maritime Cooperation, Port Modernisation



The Hague, Nov 25 (Way to News): India and the Netherlands held talks on port modernisation, smart maritime infrastructure, green shipping corridors, sustainable fuels, inland waterways and shipbuilding collaboration as Minister of State (MoS) for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur met Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management Vincent Karremans in The Hague on Wednesday, the Indian Embassy in the Netherlands said.

The MoS led the Indian delegation in the bilateral talks with Karremans. "Advancing the India-Netherlands Maritime & Strategic Partnership! Hon'ble Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Shri Shantanu Thakur, led the Indian delegation in productive bilateral talks with Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, Mr Vincent Karremans, in The Hague on 25 November 2026," the Embassy posted on X.

The Embassy said the talks brought together India's port-led growth plans and Dutch expertise in the sector. "Uniting India's port-led growth under Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 with Dutch global expertise in maritime engineering…," it added.

Earlier on Wednesday, the MoS arrived in the Netherlands for a three-day official visit and was received by India's Ambassador to the Netherlands, Kumar Tuhin.

"A warm welcome to the Netherlands! Ambassador Kumar Tuhin received Hon'ble MoS for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Shri Shantanu Thakur upon his arrival at Schiphol Airport for an official visit from 25-27 Nov 2026," the Embassy had posted on X. The Embassy said the visit will include high-level ministerial engagements and industry interactions.

ECI Orders Voter Roll Verification in 26 States, UTs

New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed election authorities in 26 states and Union Territories to undertake a special verification exercise to identify and rectify probable incorrect or erroneous entries in electoral rolls during the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR), with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date. The move aims to improve the accuracy and integrity of voter databases ahead of future elections.

In a communication issued on November 25, the Commission instructed Chief Electoral Officers of states and Union Territories, including Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and several others, to compare existing elector details with information collected during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process.

According to the Commission, electoral particulars such as names, relationship details.

, dates of birth, mobile numbers and photographs will be cross-checked against data gathered during the revision exercise. Any discrepancies or mismatches found during the comparison will be flagged for field verification and necessary corrective action.

The Commission has made it clear that all flagged entries must undergo physical verification. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have been directed to visit the concerned electors during the ongoing revision process, verify their particulars and obtain duly filled and signed Form-8 applications wherever corrections are required. The applications will subsequently be examined and disposed of by the Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) in accordance with established procedures.

TG to Introduce Single-Window Clearance Policy for Poultry Industry

Revanth Reddy Promises Faster Approvals, Land for Dedicated Convention Centre in Bharat Future City

Hyderabad, Nov 25 (Way to News): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has assured that the Telangana government will soon introduce a comprehensive policy and single-window clearance system for the poultry industry to ensure that permissions are granted without unnecessary delays. He also promised that the government would allocate suitable land in Bharat Future City for establishing a dedicated convention centre for the poultry industry, provided industry representatives submit appropriate proposals.



The Chief Minister asserted that Telangana had no policy paralysis and was continuing the good policies introduced by previous governments over the past three decades while further improving their implementation. He said investors could expect policy continuity and strong government support in Telangana.

The Chief Minister was speaking after inaugurating the *18th Poultry India Expo 2026* at the HITEX Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad. The three-day expo, organised by the Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA), features products and technologies from various companies in the poultry sector. Addressing the gathering, Revanth Reddy said that poultry entrepreneurs had brought to his notice the difficulties and delays involved in obtaining permissions and land conversion approvals for setting up poultry farms in rural areas. He assured them that the single-window clearance system currently being implemented in urban areas through the BuildNow app would soon be extended to rural areas as well.

Referring to the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026, scheduled from December 7 to 9, the Chief Minister invited poultry industry representatives to submit proposals for setting up a world-class convention centre in Bharat Future City. He said the government would consider allocating the required land based on their proposals. The Chief Minister acknowledged that the poultry industry sometimes faces financial difficulties and market fluctuations. He assured government support during challenging periods, particularly in ensuring the availability of essential poultry feed such as maize and soybean.

Referring to the impact of El Niño and drought conditions, Revanth Reddy said the state had sufficient foodgrain reserves and buffer stocks with the Civil Supplies Department. He said the government would examine the possibility of supplying maize and soybean directly to the poultry industry, instead of relying entirely on the open market.

He asked Minister Vakiti Srihari, who was present on the dais, to review the available buffer stocks, possible support measures and pricing in consultation with the Agriculture Minister and arrive at a favourable decision within 48 hours.

Highlighting the contribution of the poultry industry to the rural economy, the Chief Minister said it provides direct and indirect employment to farmers and agricultural labourers. He appreciated the industry's role in purchasing maize, soybean and agricultural by-products such as broken rice and rice bran, thereby supporting farmers.

Revanth Reddy said Telangana produces approximately *5.30 crore eggs every day*, making a significant contribution to meeting the nutritional needs of the population, particularly the younger generation. He also highlighted the importance of eggs and chicken in providing protein-rich food.

He said the state government was providing nutritious meals to students in government schools, including three eggs a week and chicken meals, with support from the poultry industry.

Congratulating the organisers and industry representatives for successfully conducting the Poultry and Meat Expo in Hyderabad for 18 years, the Chief Minister appreciated Telangana's position as a leading poultry production centre.

Three-Day Anti-Drugs Awareness Walk Begins In Hyderabad



Hyderabad, Nov 25 (Way to News): A three-day anti-drug awareness walk led by Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy began in Hyderabad on Wednesday as part of 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan'.

A large number of youth and students participated in the walk titled 'Hyderabad Walks for Nasha Mukt Bharat', which began at Amberpet, one of the segments of the Secunderabad Parliamentary constituency represented by Kishan Reddy.

Popular Tollywood actor Daggubati Venkatesh flagged off the walk at Amberpet Municipal Grounds.

The inaugural programme also featured a pledge led by Kishan Reddy, with students and other participants taking a collective resolve to work towards a drug-free India. Students from several educational institutions were participating in the walk. They were carrying placards with the slogan 'Say No to Drugs'. The participants raised slogans against substance abuse. Former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, Rajya Sabha MP Dr K. Laxman and Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao participated in the inaugural programme.

Kishan Reddy called on students, educational institutions, political leaders and citizens to join a nationwide movement against drug abuse. On the first day, the walk will conclude at Gandhi Hospital after passing through various areas like Government Fever Hospital, Osmania University, Arts College and EFLU.

Different parts of the city will be covered by the walk over the next two days. It will conclude on Friday in Jubilee Hills. Kishan Reddy said that protecting the younger generation from drug addiction was essential to achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

He said the campaign was not a political or government programme but a people's movement requiring the participation of all citizens. The Central minister expressed concern over attempts by drug suppliers to introduce narcotic substances among students near schools, colleges and residential areas.

He said more than 25 per cent of India's population comprised students and protecting their future was a collective responsibility. He appealed to parents, teachers, educational institutions, voluntary organisations and political parties to participate in the campaign.

He alleged that external forces were trying to destroy the young generation with drugs. The minister said he would lead the three-day padayatra to spread awareness about drug abuse. He also warned that those involved in manufacturing, supplying, and selling narcotic substances would be brought to justice. Actor Daggubati Venkatesh appealed to young people to stay away from drug addiction. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the responsibility of families, friends and educational institutions in protecting the younger generation.

The actor said that drugs destroy health, education and future. "Life is precious. Don't destroy it by becoming a drug addict," he said and called for moving ahead with the slogan 'say no to drugs, yes to life'. Former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya said drug addiction threatened the future of young people and the country's development. He called for a drug-free Telangana as an important step towards achieving the broader goal of a drug-free India. The former Central minister urged schools, colleges and universities to organise awareness programmes and highlighted concerns about external forces allegedly encouraging drug-related activities.

Telangana Women's Commission Seeks Special Probe Into Illegal Egg Retrieval Racket

Hyderabad, Nov 25 (Way to News): The Hon'ble Chairperson of the Telangana State Women's Commission, Smt. Nerella Sharada, along with Hon'ble Member Smt. Uzma Shakeer, met the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Sri Shiv Pratap Shukla, at Lok Bhavan today and apprised him of the illegal egg (oocyte) retrieval racket involving the exploitation of poor and middle-class women in Telangana.



During the meeting, the Chairperson briefed the Governor on the findings of the inquiry conducted by the Women's Commission. She explained that women from different states were allegedly being brought to Hyderabad in the name of employment and event opportunities and subsequently lured into illegal egg retrieval activities by exploiting their financial vulnerabilities. The Commission has identified that a significant number of women from various states across the country are affected by this racket.

The Chairperson presented details of the investigation undertaken by the Commission so far, information gathered from concerned officials, and several crucial findings that have emerged during the inquiry. She also briefed the Governor on the police investigation and the High Court orders denying anticipatory bail to the accused. Considering the interstate nature and wider ramifications of the racket, the Women's Commission urged the Governor to recommend a special investigation to uncover the entire network behind these illegal activities. The Commission also sought the constitution of a high-level committee to ensure a comprehensive and impartial investigation.

Further, the Commission highlighted loopholes and shortcomings in the implementation of the Central Government's Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Act. It urged the Governor to recommend necessary amendments to strengthen the legislation and ensure better protection of women's rights, health and safety.

The Governor responded positively to the representations made by the Commission and sought detailed information about the matter. He assured the delegation that he would discuss the issue with officials from the concerned departments and consult the State Government to ensure that appropriate action is initiated.

The Chairperson asserted that the Women's Commission is firmly committed to preventing such illegal activities, in which the financial vulnerability of women is exploited and their health and lives are put at risk. She further stated that the Commission would continue its efforts until a comprehensive investigation is completed and those responsible are brought to justice.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy Pitches Inclusive Growth, Minority Empowerment in Telangana

Hyderabad, Nov 25 (Way to News): Hyderabad's extraordinary ability to embrace people irrespective of caste, religion, region or nationality has emerged as one of its greatest economic strengths, making the city a preferred global investment destination, Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said on Wednesday, asserting that the Congress government was committed to transforming minorities from beneficiaries of welfare into stakeholders and leaders in Telangana's growth story.



Addressing the Deccan Icons Awards ceremony organised by Zee Salaam and Zee Network, the Minister said Hyderabad's cosmopolitan character, world-class infrastructure, favourable climate and centuries-old tradition of communal harmony had given the city a distinct competitive advantage on the global stage.

"Hyderabad is the very embodiment of Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb. People from any part of the country or the world find themselves at home here. This remarkable inclusiveness is one of the reasons why Hyderabad is emerging as a favourite destination for global investors," he said.

Beyond welfare, towards empowerment

Reaffirming the Congress government's commitment to minority welfare, Uttam said the objective was not merely to extend financial assistance but to enable minorities to emerge as entrepreneurs, professionals, administrators and leaders in society. He said the government headed by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had made unprecedented budgetary allocations for minority welfare, earmarking approximately Rs. 3,585 crore during the 2025-26 financial year. The government was prepared to enhance allocations further in accordance with emerging requirements, particularly in education, employment, skill development and economic self-reliance.

Congress legacy of four per cent reservation

Highlighting the continuation of the four per cent reservation for eligible Muslim communities in Telangana, Uttam said the initiative introduced by the erstwhile Congress government had continued for nearly two decades. He said poverty should never deprive a minority student of educational opportunities. Residential educational institutions, scholarships, fee reimbursement, overseas education assistance and coaching for competitive examinations were among the measures aimed at creating a new generation of accomplished professionals. Educating one generation could transform the destiny of an entire family, while educating a community could transform its future, he observed.

Rs. 50,000 assistance for vulnerable women

The Minister highlighted the Indiramma Minority Women's Scheme, under which eligible widows, divorced women, orphaned and unmarried women would receive Rs. 50,000 in financial assistance for self-employment.

Panjagutta Police Station Set to Become India's First AI-Based Police Station

Hyderabad, Nov 25 (Way to News): As Panjagutta Police Station is taking shape as the country's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based police station, Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) Sri C.V. Anand, IPS, and Hyderabad City Police Commissioner Dr. Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat, IPS, conducted a surprise inspection of Panjagutta Police Station on Wednesday (25.11.2026) and thoroughly reviewed the ongoing technical works.



Under a pilot project, all policing services at the Panjagutta Police Station will be integrated with state-of-the-art AI technology. On this occasion, the senior officials interacted directly with complainants visiting the station and inquired how the staff were receiving and resolving their issues through the AI system. Subsequently, they personally monitored the performance of every staff member at the station and observed how they were discharging their duties with the assistance of AI technology. Along with Khairatabad Zone DCP, ACP Murali Krishna, and Inspector Jahangir Yadav, they inspected the AI technical infrastructure being established at the station at the field level. The senior officials stated that this AI-based police station will be officially inaugurated soon as a pilot project.

Additional DGP (Law & Order) Sri Akun Sabharwal, IPS, Hyderabad Additional CP (Crimes & SIT) Sri M. Srinivasulu, IPS, Intelligence DIG Sri Bhaskaran, IPS, Khairatabad Zone DCP Smt. Shilpavalli, IPS, SP TSPARK Sri Rupesh, IPS , DCP Sri Aravind Babu (SMIT), and other senior police officials participated in this inspection program.

The AI-enabled system is expected to streamline police operations by integrating complaint registration, grievance monitoring, investigation support and other essential services on a single technology platform. It is also aimed at improving response times, ensuring transparency and reducing delays in addressing public grievances.

TG RERA Slaps Penalties on Builders for Unregistered Project Ads, Disclosure Violations

Hyderabad, Nov 25 (Way to News): Telangana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TG RERA) on Wednesday, November 25, said it has imposed massive penalties on builders for advertising unregistered projects and non-disclosure of pending litigation. Auro Realty Pvt. Ltd. was fined Rs 25 lakh for advertising and marketing its unregistered residential project 'Auro Sapphire' at Kondapur. The proposed project comprises approximately eight acres, four towers, and over 1,300 residential units with prices starting from Rs 2 crore. It was allegedly being promoted through digital platforms without obtaining RERA registration.



The authority rejected the builders' claim that third parties had unauthorisedly used its name and logo. The promoter was directed to pay the penalty within 30 days, failing which further action would be initiated under Section 63 of the RERA Act. A penalty of Rs 10 lakh was imposed on Janapriya Townships Pvt. Ltd. for advertising and marketing its 'Bahithi' project at Chandanagar and 'Altair' project at Sainikpuri without obtaining RERA registration. RERA also noted that the registration numbers of three other registered projects – Nile Valley, Lake Front and Sitara – were displayed in an illegible manner, violating the prescribed advertising guidelines.

It directed the promoter to pay the penalty within 30 days and immediately stop all advertising, marketing, bookings and sales of the unregistered projects until RERA registration is obtained. The promoter was further directed to complete the registration process within 30 days of obtaining the necessary approvals and permissions. A penalty of Rs 6,10,390 was imposed on GKH Properties Pvt. Ltd. for failing to disclose pending civil litigation concerning the land of its 'GK's Pravish Abode' project at Kapra during RERA registration.

Furnishing incomplete and incorrect information at the time of project registration constitutes a violation of Section 4 of the RERA Act, the authority said. It further stated that the subsequent disposal of civil cases, completion of the project and issuance of the Occupancy Certificate do not absolve the promoter of its earlier statutory violation.

India, Georgia hold talks to expand bilateral cooperation

New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): India and Georgia held the ninth round of Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi on Wednesday, with both sides reviewing bilateral ties, including cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, cultural, education and people-to-people exchanges.



During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to further expand cooperation in areas like infrastructure, energy, connectivity and new areas of mutual interest. The officials of India and Georgia also exchanged views on regional and global developments, according to the statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

For the meeting, the Indian delegation was led by Secretary (West) in the MEA, Sibi George and the Georgian delegation was led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Khvitisiashvili. "India and Georgia share warm and friendly ties. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening India–Georgia partnership through high-level exchanges, sustained institutional dialogue and enhanced cooperation across diverse sectors," the MEA said in a statement. The two sides agreed to hold the next session of Foreign Office Consultations in Tbilisi at mutually convenient dates.

In October, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar held a meeting with his Georgian counterpart Maka Botchorishvili in the UAE's Abu Dhabi, where both sides discussed further deepening cooperation in business, connectivity, culture and people-to-people domains. "Glad to meet FM Maka Botchorishvili of Georgia. Our ties, including in trade, tourism and education, have been expanding. Discussed further deepening cooperation in business, connectivity, culture and people-to-people domains. Also talked about current regional developments," EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

PM Modi Shares Sanskrit Verse on Education, Discipline and Salvation

New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday shared a Sanskrit verse on social media platform, highlighting the importance of education, penance, knowledge, control over the senses, non-violence and service to one's teacher as the means to attain an ideal life and ultimate salvation.



In his post on X, the Prime Minister shared the Sanskrit verse, meaning: "Practice of education, austerity, knowledge, control over senses, non-violence and service to the Guru, all these are of ultimate benefit to human beings, that is, they are the means to a good life and salvation." The verse shared by PM Modi is compiled in the 'Maha Subhashita Sangraha', a collection of Sanskrit moral and philosophical verses. Through this verse, the message emphasises that continuous learning, discipline, acquisition of knowledge, restraint over one's senses, compassion and respect for teachers are essential for an individual's highest well-being.

The teachings reflect the core principles of Indian culture and ethical philosophy, which place emphasis on the holistic development of an individual, character building and the attainment of 'Nihshreyas', or supreme welfare and liberation.

The six virtues highlighted in the verse are considered important for leading a righteous and meaningful life and attaining spiritual excellence. The underlying message is that true progress in life cannot be achieved merely through material comforts or external possessions. Rather, consistent learning, self-discipline, compassion, non-violence and respect for teachers help strengthen an individual's character and guide them towards ultimate well-being and salvation.

Earlier on Tuesday, Prime Minister Modi had shared another Sanskrit verse on the social media platform X. Through a Sanskrit verse, he has prayed that his wisdom, faith, and devotion remain forever dedicated at the feet of Mother Ganga. PM Modi also extended greetings to citizens on the occasion of Kartik Purnima and Dev Deepawali earlier on Tuesday, wishing that the sacred festivals bring reverence.

Rajnath Singh accuses congress of destabilising democracy

Kalaburagi, Nov 25 (Way to News): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday accused the Congress of undermining democratic institutions and spreading political anarchy, alleging that the party was attempting to regain power by creating instability and making baseless allegations against constitutional bodies.



Addressing a gathering in Kalaburagi as part of the BJP's 'Save Democracy, Eradicate Anarchy' campaign, Singh said he had not come to attend a political rally but to participate in an important campaign to protect democracy and reaffirm the commitment to safeguarding the Constitution. Beginning his speech in Kannada, Singh said, "Kannada is a language I love immensely." He said the Constitution was adopted after Independence to protect democracy and ensure that democratic values were upheld. However, the Congress, which ruled the country for nearly 60 years, was now engaged in creating an atmosphere of anarchy, he alleged. Recalling the Emergency imposed during former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure, Singh said she had strangled democracy in the country. He accused the Congress of now questioning constitutional institutions and running a campaign of misinformation against the Election Commission. "The strength of Indian democracy is not understood by Rahul Gandhi. The Congress is eager to come to power by creating anarchy in the country. , but this will never be possible. Congress leaders must understand this," he said.

Referring to a programme organised by the Congress in Hyderabad, Singh alleged that a person from Italy had made remarks about Indian democracy and Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, had applauded them. He accused the party of allowing an insult to the country at an event organised by itself.

He also criticised the use of slogans such as 'Vote Chor, Gaddi Chor', saying Indians would never forgive the Congress for such remarks. Highlighting India's standing internationally, Singh said the country had earned considerable respect across the world and that the international community listened attentively to what India had to say. Questioning Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Singh said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not have become Prime Minister without the Election Commission, he alleged. However, he pointed out that when Modi first became Prime Minister, the CEC had been appointed by the Congress-led government. He said the Congress had been rejected by voters in most states across the country and asserted that the BJP had the strength to protect democracy against any threat.

Iqra Hasan Hits Back at Imran Masood Over UP Seat-Sharing Talks

Lucknow, Nov 25 (Way to News): Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Iqra Hasan, on Wednesday, sharply reacted to Congress MP Imran Masood's remarks over seat-sharing negotiations for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, claiming that the latter may have "personal agendas linked" to the discussions.



Earlier, Masood attacked the SP, saying the Congress was "not a party of beggars waiting for Akhilesh Yadav's handouts", after the SP offered 26 seats to the grand old party and even released its first list of five candidates.

Speaking to IANS, Hasan said: "From our side, there has never been any such bitter or objectionable remark against the alliance, nor will we make any in the future. Those who have objections have personal agendas linked to this somewhere; if they have to give up a few seats in their Lok Sabha constituency as a compromise… obviously they will feel bad as their equations will be disrupted." Without taking any name, she asserted that the alliance is bigger than any one individual's "ego" or political aspirations.

"We can understand that pain, but any alliance is bigger than one individual's ego, bigger than one individual's political aspirations. We will all have to keep this wisdom and understanding if we are uniting to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party in Uttar Pradesh," she emphasised.

Iqra Hasan stated that the Samajwadi Party had already made it clear to everyone that the seats having sitting SP MLAs "will be logically claimed by the party". "We are ready to discuss the seats other than that," she added. She further said that the Congress can claim whichever seats they can win other than those having sitting SP MLAs.

"There is no fixed upper limit—whichever seats they can win, we will give them according to that equation," she said.

Coast Guard, Navy Search for Seven Missing Andhra Fishermen

Amaravati, Nov 25 (Way to News): Intensive search operations continued on Wednesday for seven fishermen from Subbampeta village of Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district, while seven other fishermen from another village in the same district have been found safe. The Indian Coast Guard and the Navy are conducting a joint search operation. They have deployed naval vessels and helicopter for the operation. According to Kakinada District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad, the district administration received information on the evening of November 19 regarding seven fishermen from Subbampeta village, Uppada mandal, Kakinada district, who had gone missing at sea.



Upon receiving the report, the district administration immediately alerted the Coast Guard authorities. According to information received via the Coast Guard's toll-free number, the seven missing fishermen were last sighted near the Paradip Port in Odisha on November 18. Since then, there has been no communication from them via phone or transponder.

The Collector stated that the Kakinada Coast Guard responded promptly upon learning of the incident and intensified search efforts.

The authorities have coordinated with the Coast Guard centres in Odisha and Chennai, and have established synergy among the relevant departments to facilitate the search. He stated that the Coast Guard and the Navy are jointly conducting an extensive search operation to locate the missing fishermen. Information regarding this incident has also been shared with the naval authorities of Bangladesh and Myanmar. The Collector explained that officials are making persistent efforts to gather further details about the missing fishermen and to trace their last known movements. He noted that, based on available information, measures are underway to locate them through various surveillance and intelligence systems. The District Collector expressed hope that the seven missing fishermen would return safely.

He added that search operations will continue, in coordination with the relevant authorities, until they are located. Earlier, agriculture minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said that seven fishermen from Yetimoga in Kakinada district, who went out for fishing and got stranded due to an engine failure, were safe. The boat carrying these fishermen was stranded approximately 3 kilometres off the coast, near Krishnapuram, between Uppada and Tuni. He commended the prompt action of officials in alerting the Coast Guard and the Navy immediately upon receiving the call.

Jharkhand Assembly Seeks Fresh SIR With Revised Guidelines

Ranchi, Nov 25 (Way to News): The two-day special session of the Jharkhand Assembly, convened to discuss the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, began on Wednesday, with the state government introducing a resolution seeking changes to the ongoing SIR process.



On the first day of the session, the state government moved a resolution calling for the suspension of the current SIR exercise in its existing format and demanding a fresh revision after addressing procedural, technical and documentation-related concerns.

The resolution questions the practical difficulties associated with the ongoing electoral roll revision and urges the Central government to hold consultations with all states and political parties before proceeding further. While the state government has agreed in principle to conduct the SIR, it has called for a revised framework that takes into account the difficulties faced by eligible voters. It has proposed developing simple, transparent and universally acceptable SOPs through extensive discussions involving all states and political parties, irrespective of their size.

The resolution further proposes that a fresh SIR be conducted in Jharkhand after the revised guidelines are finalised. Following its approval by the Assembly, the government plans to forward the resolution to the Centre. Citing SIR-related figures in the House, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Radhakrishna Kishore said Jharkhand has approximately 2.64 crore registered voters, while around 2.21 crore names have been included in the draft electoral roll. This means nearly 16 per cent of the voters have been excluded from the draft list.

He further stated that notices had been issued to approximately 27 per cent of voters whose details were considered doubtful. According to the government, more than 75 per cent of these notices were related to logical discrepancies in names and other information.

The government argued that, taken together, more than 38 per cent of the total electorate had either been excluded from the draft list or issued notices, raising concerns about the accessibility and fairness of the process.

India Launches Multilingual AI Models for Diverse Applications

New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News)The IndiaAI Mission, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), today released the indigenous foundation models EKA-1 and Dh r (Dh r 2B & Dh r 5B) developed by Soket Labs Technology and Research Private Limited and ZenteiQ AiTech Innovations respectively.

The release was unveiled today at a press event in New Delhi, in the presence of Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, and senior officials of MeitY and IndiaAI, alongside the leadership teams of Soket and ZenteiQ. These indigenous models are a key milestone under the IndiaAI Mission, showcasing India's progress in creating home-grown AI technology.

Marking the occasion, Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), said, The development of such indigenous models strengthens India's technological and strategic autonomy in Artificial Intelligence. It also opens up opportunities to improve productivity and efficiency across government, industry, research and education. These resources have supported the development of models such as EKA-1 and Dh r, each addressing distinct and relevant use cases. Through platforms such as AIKosh, these models can be made accessible to researchers, students, innovators and the wider public, encouraging further experimentation and innovation.

Speaking on the advancement of indigenous AI capabilities, Shri Sudeep Shrivastava, COO, IndiaAI, said,



"IndiaAI Mission's comprehensive support ecosystem is dedicated to making artificial intelligence more accessible and tailored to India's unique landscape. Breakthrough models like Dh r and EKA-1 showcase the nation's multi-layered progress in AI ranging from lightweight solutions optimized for everyday devices to robust powerhouses engineered for complex enterprise applications." Soket AI and ZenteiQ are among the teams selected under the IndiaAI Innovation Centre (Foundation Models) pillar of the IndiaAI Mission to build indigenous foundation AI capabilities and Large Language Models. Access to subsidized national AI compute infrastructure and support for ancillary research expenses under the mission enabled the development of these models, highlighting how public AI infrastructure can accelerate homegrown innovation. Soket Labs Technology and Research Private Limited has developed EKA-1, a powerful Foundation Model featuring 26.3 billion parameters and trained on approximately 7.5 trillion tokens. EKA-1 demonstrates advanced capabilities, spanning all 22 scheduled Indian languages alongside English. Built as an open, sparse hybrid language model, EKA-1 is designed for math, code, reasoning, and agentic use.

Speaking at the release, Abhishek Upperwal, CEO, Soket Labs Technology and Research Private Limited, said, "With the support of the IndiaAI Mission, we have developed an advanced AI model specifically tailored to India's unique banking, financial services and cybersecurity landscape. It is designed to address sector-specific requirements, understand India's evolving digital ecosystem, and deliver solutions aligned with the country's needs and priorities." ZenteiQ AiTech Innovations has introduced the Dh r 2B and Dh r 5B open-source models. These models can be deployed as secure, on-premise, multilingual assistants supporting English and 10 Indian languages. Dh r 2B and Dh r 5B enable offline-capable, document-grounded automation, knowledge retrieval, and citizen or enterprise services across defence, government, industrial, and educational sectors particularly in low-connectivity or sensitive environments.

Speaking at the release, Prof. Sashikumar, CEO, ZenteiQ AiTech Innovations, said, "Models like Dh r 2B and Dh r 5B offer the flexibility to run across different computing platforms, including GPUs and TPUs. Their lightweight architecture also enables on-device deployment on mobile phones, without dependence on cloud connectivity. This allows users to access AI capabilities locally while keeping data on their devices, enhancing privacy, security and accessibility."

Based on the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to democratize the use of technology, India's AI strategy aims to address India-centric challenges, create economic and employment opportunities for all Indians, and position the nation as a global leader in artificial intelligence. Guided by the vision of "Making AI in India and Making AI Work for India", the Union Cabinet approved the IndiaAI Mission on March 7, 2024.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Editorial

Aravallis, like old parents, can't be abandoned

Now that the warring factions have returned to their tents at the sounding of the retreat by the honourable Supreme Court's (SC) order of December 29, it is time to dispassionately dissect the battle of the Aravallis.

Has the design of vested interests of turning a mountain into a molehill been defeated or have the saviours of the Aravallis succeeded in making a mountain of a molehill? Will the SC holding its own November 20 order in abeyance stop the alleged destructive mining that has been the bane of these mountains or are the crusaders fighting a lost cause?

Before we dig deep (pun unintended), let it be acknowledged that the goddess of Justice, hitherto blindfolded, has demonstrated that it can both 'see' and 'hear' when it is under vehement, largely justified, attack. The SC found itself in the eye of the storm as people believed it turned a blind eye to environment protection, and cleared the way for the Thar desert sands to travel to the national capital, which is unable to carry the burden of its own smog and mortifying air quality.

It may not serve much purpose to ask if the SC reviewed its earlier order in a fit of contrition or it played to the galleries, or if its unprecedented and uncharacteristic concern for public outcry is an apology without remorse? Cynics might argue that the honourable judges want to be seen running with the hare, having failed to hunt with the hounds.

Even if its suo motu review is seen by many as a judicious move to defuse political tension, the material question is whether it can pave the way for a sensible resolution to a knotty problem. The euphoria of temporary triumph shouldn't cloud the larger concern for legal consistency and judicial fairness.

The Aravallis are geologically categorised as 'residual' mountains, their diminishing caused by millions of years of differential erosion due to the constant flow of water and untrammelled blows of winds.

They are among the oldest mountains in the world, giving India the distinction of being home to the oldest and the youngest, the Himalayas, called the 'fold' mountains. The folds are the result of the upward thrust of colliding tectonic plates, while the residual character is due to their gradual losing of height and denudation. Both are distinct geographical features illustrating natural phenomena that can become catastrophic by anthropogenic activities. The Aravallis have seen withering in the face of natural forces. Man, as a vital instrument of Nature, need not hasten that process.

There is an old saying, "If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, then Mahomet must go to the mountain." In modern times, he has been going to the mountain too often, not to worship it, but to bring back with him its riches, the minerals, severely wounding its ecology in the process and upsetting its natural rhythm. The Aravalli hills and range, spread over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi, contain important metallic/industrial minerals such as copper, zinc, lead, silver, tungsten, rock phosphate, gypsum, mica, asbestos and bauxite, and building materials like marble, granite, sandstone and limestone. While there is a complete ban on mining in Delhi and a minuscule portion is mined in Haryana, the bulk of the extractive mining takes place in Rajasthan.

While the locals revere the mountains and depend on them for their livelihood, mining contractors and governments have found different, sometimes devious,

India's Economic Resilience

Amitabh Kant



Multiple shocks over the past five years have brought increased global volatility and uncertainty. 2025 has been marked by geopolitical fragmentation, trade uncertainty, supply chain realignments, and a battle for technological supremacy. Amidst this unsettled global environment, India's macroeconomic stability stands out. Growth came in at 8.2% in the latest quarter, surpassing even the most optimistic estimates. Inflation is low, and the fiscal deficit manageable. In the backdrop of multiple external shocks, India's policy has consistently been to strengthen domestic economic resilience.

The bedrock for any stable economy is domestic demand. For the millions of India's households, tax policy plays an important role in stimulating consumption. India has seen both direct and indirect tax reforms this year. In February, the Budget put more money in people's hands by effectively making salaries up to Rs. 12 lakh tax-free. The complex Income-tax Act of 1961 has been simplified by the Income Tax Act, 2025. Then, in September, reforms to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) introduced a two-slab structure and simplified governance. Consumer sentiment has soared, with festive-period sales reaching Rs. 6 trillion. Importantly, these moves are not revenue losses. By spurring consumption and growth, tax collections stand to be higher in coming years, reflecting their impact on price elasticity of demand. Domestic consumption constitutes 55-60% of our economy. As consumption increases, so does capacity utilisation. As production reaches capacity, it triggers a fresh wave of investment in the economy, which, in turn, generates its own multiplier effects.

Consumer demand will be only sustainable if supported by durable income growth, which reforms to labour laws will ensure. By consolidating 29 fragmented laws into four modern codes, India's labour framework is more transparent for businesses and more secure for workers. The focus is on fair wages, stronger industrial relations, social security, and workforce safety. These laws will ensure that our growing 640 million-strong workforce prospers and drives India's growth story forward.

As household incomes rise, they have a choice between higher consumption or savings, or both. As formal employment rises, contributions to provident, pension, and insurance funds will increase. Importantly, globally, such funds are an essential source of capital in domestic capital markets, as they invest in debt and equity in companies, projects, or government bonds. Allowing 100% FDI in insurance will deepen India's capital markets, enhance competition and the quality of service. Raising FDI limits in insurance is both a financial sector reform and an enabler of social security.

Along with a stimulus to investment through demand, the investment climate has also eased considerably this year. The GST reforms were not just rate rationalisations; they have also significantly eased the registration and compliance process. There has been a 90% reduction in registration time from 30 to 3 days for small firms. The Securities Markets Code will strengthen governance of India's capital markets, enhance consumer protection, and reduce the compliance burden. Independent regulators are also facilitating growth. The RBI, for instance, has consolidated 9,000+ circulars into less than 250. Similarly, the IRDAI has constituted a committee to suggest regulatory reforms in the insurance sector.

Environmental and building codes have also undergone reforms, moving to a risk-based system of compliance rather than a uniform one. For instance, moving away from a uniform 33% green cover will free up 1.2 lakh hectares of industrial land. Units located in industrial parks with comprehensive environmental clearances will no longer require separate clearances. A newly created 'white category' of industries, will reduce compliance costs for low-risk sectors, while freeing up pollution control board resources for higher-polluting, higher-risk sectors.

The Jan Vishwas reforms decriminalised over 200 minor offences and scrapped hundreds of outdated laws. Furthermore, many state governments have also come together to decriminalise over 1000 offences. States have also instituted reforms in land, environmental clearances, and construction, allowing faster project clearances. The next step of Jan Vishwas is now in the offing. These moves represent an important signal: that India is moving towards a trust-based economy, rather than a control-based one.

Despite the surrounding volatility and uncertainty, trade will remain crucial to our growth aspirations. In the Monsoon Session, the Parliament modernised India's maritime governance by replacing the Acts of 1908, 1925, and 1958. With these reforms, India's maritime governance framework aligns with global standards. Reducing documentary requirements and strengthening governance will lower logistics costs, enhancing India's competitiveness. Second, the removal of over 200 quality control orders (QCOs) has lifted a significant burden off MSMEs and exporters. At the same time, we have also opened new markets for our exporters through trade deals with the UK, New Zealand, and Oman, as well as the operationalisation of the agreement with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

Jobs and exports come from scaled firms. For too long, policy encouraged firms to stay small. Staying small meant that firms were unable to reap the benefits of economies of scale. Now, for the second time in five years, MSME thresholds have been revised upwards.

Compared to the pre-2020 definition, the thresholds have grown 10x. Raising these thresholds enables firms to grow whilst retaining government support. A new export promotion mission worth Rs. 20,000 crores will support export growth, especially for MSMEs.

Energy consumption is seeing a massive spike as artificial intelligence (AI) and the associated infrastructure, such as data centres, are seeing increased uptake and investment. In the past few days, India has attracted USD 70 bn worth of investments in this space. Nuclear energy can help power these innovations sustainably. In the Winter Session, the Parliament enacted the SHANTI (Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India) Bill. The signal is tectonic, as India is voluntarily moving away from its state-monopoly model toward a safety-first, investment-friendly regime. The law allows for private and foreign participation in civilian nuclear projects, whilst keeping elements such as fuel, enrichment, reprocessing and weapons under the government's domain.

India Needs Consensus Politics

R Jagannathan



After more than a quarter century of confrontational politics, the deteriorating security and economic environment around India calls for more consensual politics. When external challenges to India pose serious threats, it is important to close ranks internally. More so when internal political, economic and social challenges are also multiplying. The BJP has had two terms of majority rule, and even this time, despite being reduced to 240 seats from 303 in the 2024 General Election, it has re-consolidated political power by winning many Assembly elections after June 2024. However, it has not moved significantly towards building consensus on crucial issues. 2026 is the ideal year in which to begin this process as most of the state Assembly elections due this year — Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal — will not have a significant impact on its predominance.

Internally, we face huge economic and political challenges. They include the coming Census and delimitation of parliamentary constituencies, the need to reduce communal antagonisms, legislating economic reforms (especially in agriculture) to speed up growth with jobs, ensuring a fairer distribution of tax and other resources between rich and poor states and dousing down regional, linguistic and other animosities.

The rise and rise of the BJP, first with the Vajpayee-led coalition, and since 2014, under Narendra Modi, is making political consensus harder as parties seeking to regain relevance feel compelled to oppose everything the government does. The fact that Parliament seldom functions in a democratic manner, with the government repeatedly having to push through important legislation without much discussion, is indicative of fraying political tempers and increasing confrontations over everything. This cannot be good for the country against the backdrop of the challenges we face externally and internally, both economically and geopolitically.

In its third term, the BJP has occasionally tried to use a bit more of consensus — we have seen some contentious Bills (like Waqf Amendments, for example) being sent to joint parliamentary panels — but its decisive victories in Haryana, Maharashtra, Delhi and Bihar now give it less reason to build consensus on contentious issues. More so since the NDA's position in the Rajya Sabha is more favourable to the government than before. However, this would be short-sighted on the part of the BJP. It does not mean everything has to be done by consensus — the Budget and some economic policies, for example, can be exceptions — but in most other cases, the government should seek as wide a consensus as possible so that there is less internal heartburn. An internal consensus is not going to be easy when caste- and community-based polarisations are a reality, with the minorities broadly backing opposition parties and significant chunks of Hindus shifting towards the BJP after 2014. But this is precisely why the BJP has to look beyond mere electoral gains. It has to begin discussions with major opposition parties on everything — from electoral and economic reforms to delimitation of constituencies and sharing of resources between the Centre, states and local bodies. The last is particularly important as our cities, which ought to be drivers of growth and jobs, are poorly governed and disempowered. Air and water quality, garbage management and traffic congestion are only some of the problems cities are yet to find effective solutions to. This happens because state-level politicians use urban wealth to accumulate personal riches and build up electoral muscle, starving cities of resources for effective governance. These are not problems that can be solved only through finance commission devolutions, which, anyway, tend to be influenced by Union government priorities. So which areas need immediate consensus-building? First, we must lower the communal temperature without implicitly assuming that it is the majority community that must make all the compromises. Genuine communal amity cannot be built on one-sided concessions and this is why there is growing belligerence among some Hindu organisations to rake up more mandir-masjid issues. We need Hindus and Muslims, and later Hindus and Christians, to work out compromises they can live with without having to worry about violence and polarisation. Issues like conversions, cow slaughter, mob lynchings, greater Muslim representation in Parliament and mandir-masjid conflicts need dialogue and give-and-take solutions. A history and reconciliation commission — which can put our conflicted past out of today's political discourse — has been suggested by many people. It is long overdue.

Second, we need to give states and the latter, in turn, must give local bodies, more financial and other powers. Citizens are most impacted by local decisions on garbage, potable water supplies and delivery of other civic services and not those taken in New Delhi or state capitals. This means a commission to rework the current legislative and fiscal arrangements is needed, with non-BJP parties holding a significant share of the power in this panel.

Third — and this needs immediate attention — there is the question of the delimitation of constituencies after the next (2027) Census. The Constitution mandates that Lok Sabha seat allocations must be done after the first Census post 2026 and democratic norms dictate that the most populous states must get relatively more representation. The South will argue that it will lose seats merely because it was more successful in reducing its total fertility rates (TFRs) than the North, but this is not the whole truth.

Tehran Faces Water Crisis

R Jagannathan



The history of our cities has been written in water. In Mesopotamia, Egypt and the Indus valley, the first urban settlements were built around irrigated farmland. Flooded terrace fields for rice, corn and quinoa accompanied the spread of civilization in East Asia and the Americas. Without water, the megacities that will define the 21st century would wither and perish. That's looking like a risk factor in an increasing number of locations. Cape Town and Chennai in recent years endured punishing droughts that left them on the brink of crisis. Similar conditions afflicted the upwardly-mobile Indian cities of Bengaluru and Hyderabad last year. Now Tehran (biggest of all, with about 15 million people) is facing the same emergency.

Residents of Iran's capital are having their taps turned off for hours at a time to ration usage, amid a five-year drought and rainfall that's been running at 96% below average levels. The city may have to be evacuated altogether if a current dry spell doesn't break soon, President Masoud Pezeshkian said last month. That underlines a grim fact of modern life: Even relatively affluent and sophisticated cities might be just a few dry years away from "day zero" — the point where life-giving water supplies run out.

Tehran's desperate situation has its origins in the same mania for food and energy security that's causing many nations to raise trade and regulatory barriers to clean power right now. A commitment to food self-sufficiency following the 1979 Iranian revolution — spurning imports of nutritional energy in favor of home-grown wheat and rice — has drained aquifers and reservoirs to feed thirsty crops. More than 90% of water goes to agriculture, leaving precious little left over for the needs of urbanites.

That might be excusable given the widespread sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy for decades, but it's been accompanied by wasteful usage, too. Per-capita water resources are greater than in Germany, India or South Korea, so should be sufficient to supply most of Iran's needs, if they were well managed. That's not what's happened. Flood irrigation, an ancient practice that wastes immense amounts of H2O through evaporation when compared to drip irrigation that uses pipes, is still the predominant method of watering fields. Tariffs and subsidies mean trade with more productive countries is fragile. China and India are the biggest producers of grain, and also major participants in the barter-style oil trade that gets around international sanctions on Tehran. China, however, barely exports food to Iran, while India's basmati farmers have to contend with occasional import bans imposed whenever the Iranian government wants to prop up its local growers.

Comments from energy minister Abbas Aliabadi earlier this month supporting the import of "virtual water" — thirsty crops that should be produced in countries with more abundant rainfall — are a rare official admission that the drive to self-sufficiency is failing, and more food is going to need to come in from overseas.

This crisis is a sign of a planet whose cycles are increasingly slipping out of balance. While a shortage of water is crippling Iran, on the other side of the Indian Ocean an excess from monsoonal rains has caused $20 billion of flood damages from Sri Lanka to Vietnam. Both situations would have been unlikely without the effects of climate change. Whereas Iran can now expect a drought like that of 2025 every 10 years, in a pre-warming world it would have happened as rarely as once a century. As the world's sixth-biggest emitter and one of the largest exporters of oil, it bears much of the responsibility for the warming now making Tehran unlivable. It's not alone. Many of the countries hit by the recent Asian floods could find their current conditions flipping to Tehran-style droughts in future. In a 2020 study of 12 megacities in developing countries at risk of water shortages, the city ranks relatively low. To meet a basic standard of health and hygiene, Lagos, Jakarta, Mumbai, and Kolkata all need at least 50% more water per person than their systems are capable of supplying. Tehran's deficit is a relatively modest 29%.

Evacuation isn't the solution. Like pollution-choked Delhi and the sinking metropolis of Jakarta, Tehran has reached a scale where it will become impossible to move it to another location, regardless of the wishes of businesses or government officials. Better options are available. Reduce the barriers to food imports, to lessen the strain on local fields. Use Iran's vast reserves of oil and gas to churn out hoses and pipes, to ensure the water it does have isn't lost to evaporation. Most of all, use that barter trade with China to switch to renewable energy. Iran's future will only be truly secure when it starts cutting its own carbon footprint.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

India-Oman Ties: A Maritime Partnership Spanning Millennia

Ashwin Parijat Anshu



A sea may seem to represent a vast distance between two frontiers. But when civilisations come close to a sea, it is transformed into a bridge for people and culture to move. Such has been the case between India and Oman, where the Indian Ocean maritime network turned the Arabian Sea into one of the most vital and dynamic zones of interaction in human history.

More than the much-hyped Silk Roads, it is this sea-borne enterprise of people, commerce, and ideas that has been of great significance in the advancement of human civilisation. It is this maritime network that has turned India and Oman relations into one of the most enduring partnerships in the history of international relations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Sultanate of Oman on 17-18 December, accompanied by a high-level delegation, offers a good opportunity to look at India-Oman relations in a long historical perspective.

The history of this partnership dates back to the Harappan times when ships from western ports like Lothal, Dholavira and Balakot sailed toward the land of Magan (ancient name for the Oman region in Mesopotamian sources) carrying beads, pottery, ivory objects, cotton – both raw and textile and even rice. Archaeological discoveries in ancient Oman ports like Sohar and Sumhuram/Khora Rori and other sites have furnished evidence of a flourishing trade since the third millennium BCE. In return, Oman traders brought copper, frankincense (used for aromatic oils and sticks), certain kinds of stones, and dates, which were an Arabian staple product. Omani ports also served as exchange centres for trans-shipping Indus Valley products to Mesopotamia and further west, greatly expanding the markets for goods from the Indian subcontinent. Stamp seals found in Omani ports, along with weights and measures and button seals found in Indus sites, illustrate the systematic nature of trade between ancient Oman and the Indus Valley civilisation. By the early Christian centuries, Omani seafarers had developed great expertise in shipbuilding (innovations like fast-moving ships called dhow) and sea navigation, having acquired the knowledge of monsoon winds and navigation using stars and simple instruments like the Kamal.

The entire Indian trade with the Roman world, which figures prominently in Roman sources like Natural History by Pliny the Elder and the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, was forged with Arabian-Omani traders acting as intermediaries for both the Indians and the Romans. It was this trade that made Indian spices an item of daily use in both the Roman and the Arabian worlds. One can refer to this classical epoch as constituting one of the first globalisation in human history that had such far-reaching consequences in the progress of human civilisation.

Ports like Sohar and Muscat in Oman, Aden in Yemen and Bharuch (Gujarat), Muziris (Pattanam), Nelcynda (Kerala), Sopara (Maharashtra) and Arikamedu (near Puducherry) became ancient cosmopolises having significant Greek, Roman, Omani, and Syrian presence.

The rise of Islam and the bringing of a large Eurasian region under the Caliphate added new layers to the relationship between Oman and India. By now, Gujarati merchants—Hindus, Jains, Muslim Bohras and Khojas—had a sizeable presence in Oman. These traders were formally welcomed and recognised by rulers in Oman.

On the Indian side, there developed an equally sizeable presence of Omani Muslim traders in India, the greatest being on the Malabar coast. Arab Historian al-Masudi, writing in the 10th century, mentions that 10,000 Arab Muslims, including those from Oman, were residing on the western coast of India. Omani traders were the biggest sources of Arabian horses coveted by Indian rulers, while spices, textiles, sandalwood, teak, Indigo, Sugar, rice and other products reached Sohar and Muscat, which had emerged as international hubs in this period. In the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal period, the Hajj pilgrimage to Arabia also contributed to the constant movement of people between the two realms. The stories of Sindbad, the sailor in the Arabian Nights, highlight the cultural linkages that centuries of relations with the Arab world had forged. Aptly, the fictional home of Sindbad was Sohar, one of the most important coastal cities in Oman. Indian mathematics and science travelled to the Western world through the highway represented by the Indian Ocean maritime network. The Arabs greatly enriched this knowledge and passed it on to the Western world, contributing to the rise of the modern world. This wouldn't have been possible without the dynamism provided by India-Oman linkages.

The establishment of European dominance across the Indian Ocean network from the 17th century onwards brought the Indian and Omani commercial enterprise into closer alliance to resist European dominance. Thus, Omani rulers, like Imam Ahmad Bin Said, collaborated with Indian powers (Marathas, Mysore's Tipu Sultan) to counter Portuguese influence, forming military and political pacts. King Zamorin of Calicut, too, had sought the help of Omani merchants to find alternatives to the Portuguese stranglehold on maritime commerce.

When the Omani rulers succeeded in overthrowing Portuguese dominance and expanding ties with East Africa, Gujarati traders were active participants in rebuilding the trade networks, especially in spices, ivory, and textiles, offering capital, credit and logistical support to Omani efforts. Not surprisingly, Oman has the most sizeable presence of Arabs of Indian origin.

India-Oman relations can proudly look back on millennia of tried and tested partnership. Sultan Qaboos's visit in 1975 and the development of cooperation in many areas were an acknowledgement of this unique partnership between two ancient nations. As Prime Minister Modi visits Oman for the second time since February 2018, it will be a truly fitting moment in India's engagement with the Arab world, reinforcing ties with India's oldest strategic partner in the Indian Ocean arena.

Why district judges almost never make it to India's SC

Gokul Sunoj
Siddarth Raman



A recent analysis in ThePrint on judicial composition underscored how slow career progression and systemic barriers prevent members of the subordinate judiciary from meaningfully entering the higher courts. A bench led by Justice BR Gavai, which flagged this concern, even floated the idea of quotas for district judges. Our analysis of data from major high courts reveals that roughly three quarters of judges are elevated directly from the Bar. The highest percentage composition for service elevated judges is at the High Court of Sikkim. Deceptively at a 50-50 split, the court has just two judges as of 14 December — one of whom has been inducted from service and the other from the Bar. There is not a single case wherein the percentages switch the other way round.

The piece went on to note that judges from the subordinate judiciary were elevated to high courts much later in their careers. We dived into the data to find the claim to be true. As Table 2 shows, judges elevated from service, in most major courts, lag behind their peers from the Bar by about half a decade (Madras being an exception). This has material effects on their seniority thereafter as elaborated below.

The inevitable downstream consequence is that rarely does a judge of any high court elevated from judicial services ever stand a chance at appointment to the Supreme Court. Far too few have had this trajectory. The current apex court composition bears witness to this observation. Of the current 33 judges, 31 were first elevated from the Bar to high courts and then to the Supreme Court, and two handpicked directly onto the Supreme Court bench without even serving as high court judges.

This composition might seem benign. It reflects a classical risk-reward trade-off. Those who venture into the space of private practice with greater risks and show immense potential are presented with opportunities of elevation sooner. This divide strikes at the root of the institutional legitimacy of the judicial system for three reasons.

High court judges oversee the entire district judiciary in their role as 'administrative judges'. In Uttar Pradesh, for example, 67 judicial districts fall under the administrative supervision of high court judges. Yet nearly 85 per cent of the administrative judges have little experience of the system they oversee.

While some of these members elevated from the Bar have experience practicing in trial courts, it is unrealistic to expect that these judges have had sustained engagement with the district courts that they now oversee. Earlier this year, the Supreme Court advised high courts to consider trial court lawyers for senior designation. It suggested reaching out to district court judges and officers presiding over tribunals to seek recommendations. The same applies to elevations as well. As the situation stands, to gain visibility for elevation, lawyers must have substantial practice in the high court or Supreme Court, not careers rooted in district courts. Those who supervise and exercise inordinate control over the district judiciary today do so without the institutional memory or lived experience that is essential for meaningful reform. Diktats from the upper judiciary demanding "expeditious disposal" or "strict timelines" often ring hollow precisely for this reason. A system that rewards star-studded lawyers creates a corrosive imbalance between the Bar and the bench. The symbolic architecture of judicial authority presumes the primacy of a judge within a courtroom. Within its four walls, even the grandest of lawyers bow before the might of the judicial office. In practice, things are far messier. As high court judges are drawn predominantly from the Bar, their professional and social networks remain lawyer-centric. These are the very lawyers who enjoy the greatest visibility, wield disproportionate influence, and frequently appear before those elevated from their own circles.

For members of the subordinate judiciary, this dynamic produces difficult pressures. This is not to say that these judges aren't independent or steadfast in their commitment to their oath of office. They certainly are. But that — issuing adverse orders against powerful senior lawyers may carry unspoken risks for their career progression, particularly when their own pathways to the high court are already narrow — puts them in a precarious spot.

This divide is only set to increase with the minimum practice requirements that have recently kicked in. A person is required to practice for three years before attempting the judicial services exam.

This has two implications for the composition of the higher courts' benches. First, it excludes those who can't afford to practice before district courts. Second, it reduces the chances of district bench members to "make it" to the high court at an earlier age.

Ex-judge Bharat Chugh had raised concerns that such mandates have an exclusionary effect. With guaranteed salaries and largely stable work profiles, judicial services traditionally attracted more first-generation lawyers, students from regional law schools, and candidates who cannot afford the risk profile of private practice. The mandatory practice policy pushes out those who cannot afford the risks of private litigation from the lower judiciary altogether.

Making matters worse, those who do manage to enter judicial services despite these obstacles encounter a near-total glass ceiling when it comes to elevation to the Supreme Court. It offers far too little to the bright and the ambitious. The prestige hierarchy between the two streams becomes even more entrenched. This double exclusion — first at the point of entry and later at the stage of elevation — erodes not just individual aspirations but the social legitimacy of the judicial system itself.

It is known that the system is structured through layers of self-selection that consistently privilege those already proximate while filtering out those from underprivileged backgrounds. Solutions like the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) are politically charged and carry their own challenges. Within the existing framework, however, we offer two suggestions: The first speaks directly to the recurring debate over mandatory practice requirements. Pushing eligibility three years into a litigation landscape notorious for its low or non-existent remuneration does little more than lock out economically disadvantaged graduates. A more creative work-around would be to draw inspiration from the Supreme Court's recent suggestions on inducting law clerks as district judges.

Once fresh graduates clear the services exams, this period of clerkship can be structured as remunerated, rotational immersion across the breadth of the district judiciary. Two to three years of such exposure would equip entrants with the institutional literacy expected of new judges, without forcing them into precarious litigation work or superficial proof of practice. This model preserves opportunity while strengthening competence.

Second, mandate district court judgeship before elevation to the upper judiciary. Quotas for district judge elevations to the high courts, as former CJI BR Gavai suggested, may work as an immediate numerical fix on percentages, but would still do far too little in addressing the age disparity.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Festive Rush Pushes Credit Card Spending to Rs 2.45 Lakh Crore in October



New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): Credit card spending in India rose sharply in October as festive season purchases gathered pace ahead of Diwali as total transaction value climbed close to 20 per cent month-on-month to Rs 2.45 lakh crore, according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data. The spending increase came after credit card transactions amounted to Rs 2.04 lakh crore in September and were also 14.4 per cent higher than the corresponding month last year that highlighted continued strength in consumer spending.

Banks collectively added 14 lakh new credit cards in October, taking the industry's outstanding card base to 12.67 crore, compared with 12.53 crore in September. Digital channels continued to dominate spending patterns. Transactions through online and e-commerce platforms reached Rs 1.54 lakh crore, accounting for nearly 63 per cent of total credit card spending, while point-of-sale (PoS) transactions stood at Rs 90,562 crore. The country's largest card issuer, HDFC Bank, retained its lead in terms of spending volume with card transactions worth Rs 70,115 crore during the month which reflects a 7.6 per cent sequential increase.

However, among major issuers, SBI Card and ICICI Bank also posted stronger growth. SBI Card recorded spending of Rs 45,797 crore, up 31 per cent from September, while ICICI Bank saw transaction value rise 37 per cent to Rs 42,295 crore. Axis Bank reported credit card spending of Rs 30,211 crore, registering a 30.5 per cent month-on-month increase.

In addition, the number of credit card transactions rose 32 per cent year-on-year to 68.3 crore, outpacing growth in transaction value. However, average transaction size declined to around Rs 3,585 from Rs 4,133 a year earlier. The trend of growing usage of credit cards for smaller-ticket purchases, including transactions routed through RuPay credit cards linked to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) which has expanded the use of credit cards in everyday payments.

Industry experts said the surge in credit card spending reflects improved consumer confidence and strong demand for discretionary goods and services during the festive season. Categories such as travel, electronics, apparel, jewellery and dining are expected to have contributed significantly to the increase, with retailers offering attractive discounts and bank-led promotional schemes to encourage card-based purchases.

The steady expansion of the credit card base also indicates growing adoption of formal digital payment methods across the country. Banks have been focusing on expanding their customer base, particularly among young professionals and first-time credit card users, while introducing co-branded cards and reward programmes to attract customers and increase transaction volumes.

However, the rapid growth in credit card usage has also highlighted the need for responsible borrowing and timely repayments. Financial institutions and regulators have been emphasising financial discipline among cardholders to prevent excessive debt accumulation. The continued shift towards digital payments is expected to support further growth in India's credit card market in the coming months.

Cisco CEO Warns of AI-Driven Cyber Threats



New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): Artificial intelligence (AI) is enabling attackers to identify and exploit vulnerabilities faster than many organisations can respond, Cisco Systems Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chuck Robbins said on Wednesday. He urged industry and corporate leaders to accelerate cybersecurity and technology modernisation efforts.

In a post on social media platform X, Robbins endorsed new guidance issued by the Alliance for Critical Infrastructure (ACI) -- a cross-sector industry group on whose board he serves -- saying companies across industries had been given an early warning that should prompt immediate action. "AI is being used to find weaknesses in technology faster than many companies can fix them, and we have been given a warning while there is still time to act," Robbins wrote on X.

Robbins said the recommendations transcend individual technology providers. "It applies to whatever technology you run and whichever partners you choose. What matters is that the work gets done safely, and that it starts now," he said. The guidance argues that years of delaying software upgrades, security patches and technology replacements have left many organisations burdened with significant technical debt, increasing exposure to rapidly evolving cyber threats. According to the report, AI is now helping attackers discover vulnerabilities, develop exploits and automate attacks at a pace that is outstripping many organisations' ability to defend themselves.

"AI is helping attackers find vulnerabilities, develop exploits, and automate attacks faster than many enterprises can reduce their accumulated risk. Defence is not keeping pace with the speed of the threat," it added. The warning comes as businesses increasingly integrate AI into operations while relying on interconnected digital and physical infrastructure such as data centres, telecommunications networks, water systems and power grids.

The ACI report also highlighted growing concerns that cyberattacks on critical infrastructure could have direct physical consequences, affecting public services and economic activity.

India Auto Retail Sales Rise 13.3% in November



Mumbai, Nov 25 (Way to News): India's automobile retail market maintained strong momentum during the first 25 days of November, with overall vehicle registrations rising 13.3 per cent year-on-year, driven primarily by robust demand for two-wheelers and passenger vehicles amid the festive season, according to a report released on Wednesday. Total vehicle retail registrations rose to 33.36 lakh units during November 1-25, compared with 29.45 lakh units in the corresponding period last year, as per analysis of Choice Institutional Equities.

Two-wheelers emerged as the strongest contributor to growth, with registrations increasing 19.4 per cent year-on-year to 27.33 lakh units, while passenger vehicle sales rose 6.8 per cent to 3.61 lakh units. The brokerage attributed the improvement to festive buying, GST-led affordability benefits and improving consumer sentiment. However, demand remained uneven across segments. Commercial vehicle registrations declined 5.8 per cent to 74,548 units, while three-wheeler sales fell 14.7 per cent to 96,190 units during the period. The sharpest decline was recorded in the tractor segment, where retail sales dropped 47.4 per cent year-on-year to 56,213 units.

According to the report, tractor demand remained under pressure due to below-normal monsoon rainfall, weaker kharif sowing activity and stress on rural incomes. Delayed agricultural cash flows also weighed on purchase decisions in rural markets.

Despite the softness in rural-related segments, the brokerage said demand conditions in the broader automotive market remain favourable. Choice Institutional expects the industry's outlook for the second half of FY27 to remain positive, supported by continued affordability benefits, healthy financing availability, replacement demand, new product launches and rising premiumisation trends.

The report also highlighted growing electric vehicle adoption, infrastructure spending, freight activity and fleet expansion as additional factors that could support industry volumes in the coming quarters.

MSME Registrations Cross 10-Crore Mark on Udyam Portal, Women Entrepreneurs Contribute Significantly



New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector has crossed 10 crore registrations on the Udyam Registration Portal and Udyam Assist Platform (as of the end of October 2026), advancing the country's journey towards building a more formalised, inclusive and digitally empowered MSME sector, an official statement said on Wednesday. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises said registrations grew from 1.02 crore in 2020 to over 10 crore, reflecting the increasing adoption of digital platforms and the government's sustained commitment to bringing enterprises into the formal economic framework.

The Udyam Registration Portal, launched on July 1, 2020, introduced a fully online, paperless and self-declaration-based registration process for enterprises, eliminating the requirement for physical documents or proof uploads. Integration with Aadhaar and PAN-based details, along with GST and Income Tax databases, further streamlined the registration process. The system also eliminated the requirement for renewal and made registration completely free of cost, making formalisation simpler and more accessible for entrepreneurs across the country. Udyam Assist Platform facilitates the formalisation of eligible informal micro-enterprises through a simplified mechanism involving designated financial institutions and other partner agencies.

Udyam registration supports the identification of enterprises by banks and financial institutions, facilitating the implementation of initiatives such as the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), Priority Sector Lending and other credit and Finance related programmes.

Further, formal recognition through Udyam supports the broader objectives of various Government initiatives, including the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), National SC-ST Hub, Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises and other entrepreneurship development programmes, subject to applicable eligibility requirements. Women-led enterprises accounted for 3.76 crore registrations, accounting for 37.8 per cent of all registrations across the Udyam Registration Portal and Udyam Assist Platform.

Foxconn India Unit Faces Rs 143-Cr Insolvency Plea

Mumbai, Nov 25 (Way to News): Foxconn's Indian manufacturing subsidiary is facing an insolvency petition filed by Bengaluru based contractor BCD Emprasa LLP, which is seeking nearly Rs 143 crore in alleged unpaid dues, interest, service charges and damages. The case has been filed before the Chennai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). The petition names Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development Pvt Ltd, an entity involved in the company's manufacturing operations in India.

The claim relates to alleged non payment of rent and utility charges for accommodation provided to employees working at Foxconn's Bengaluru facility. According to the filing, the amount was calculated up to July 8, 2026. BCD Emprasa had entered into an agreement with Foxconn in April 2024 to lease 700 residential units for the company's female employees. Under the arrangement, Foxconn was required to pay rent regardless of whether all the accommodation units were occupied. The agreement also included a lock in period extending until July 2026. BCD alleged that Foxconn failed to clear an invoice due in May 2025 and did not agree to appoint an arbitrator to resolve the payment dispute. The contractor said the alleged defaults caused significant financial losses and commercial difficulties. It also confirmed that the matter is currently before the NCLT.

SEBI proposes shorter tenures for stock market executives



Mumbai, Nov 25 (Way to News): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed sweeping changes to the governance framework of stock exchanges, depositories and clearing corporations, including shorter tenures for managing directors and senior executives, as part of efforts to reduce concentration of authority and strengthen institutional independence.

In a consultation paper, the market regulator proposed reducing the maximum tenure of a managing director (MD) at a single market infrastructure institution (MII) to eight years from the current 10 years, while introducing, for the first time, a cumulative cap on service across multiple MIIs. Under the proposal, an MD would be allowed to serve a maximum of 12 years across market infrastructure institutions, subject to a limit of three terms. Executives already holding office when the revised framework comes into effect would be permitted a higher cumulative cap of 15 years and would be allowed to complete their current terms. SEBI said the proposals are aimed at addressing "key man risk" arising from prolonged dependence on individual executives at institutions that play a critical role in market regulation and oversight.

According to the regulator, lengthy tenures can result in concentration of institutional knowledge, decision-making authority and industry relationships, potentially weakening board oversight and governance standards. The consultation paper also proposes tenure restrictions for executive directors.

An executive director would be permitted to serve a maximum of eight years at one institution and up to 16 years across multiple MIIs. For individuals who serve as both executive director and managing director during their careers, SEBI has suggested combined limits of 12 years at a single institution and 20 years across market infrastructure institutions. In a separate governance-related proposal, the regulator has recommended reducing the maximum age limit for public interest directors from 75 years to 70 years and lowering their permissible tenure from three terms to two three-year terms.

SEBI said public interest directors increasingly require expertise in areas such as cybersecurity, operational resilience, technology risk and investor protection, making periodic board refreshment important for effective oversight. The regulator has additionally proposed extending restrictions on simultaneous directorships.

Coal Ministry Launches SUVIKALP Tool for Sustainable Mine Repurposing



New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): Mine closure is an integral part of the mining lifecycle. However, the responsibility towards a mining region does not end with the completion of mining operations. Ensuring productive utilisation of post-mining land, environmental restoration and sustainable socio-economic development requires a structured approach to mine repurposing. Recognising this need, the Coal Controller Organisation (CCO), under the Ministry of Coal, Government of India, has developed SUVIKALP – Mine Repurposing Tool, a digital decision-support platform aligned with the Mining Plan Guidelines for Coal and Lignite Mine, 2025. SUVIKALP aims to establish a scientific, transparent and standardised framework for identifying suitable post-mining land-use opportunities. It addresses the challenges associated with fragmented assessments, independent evaluation of multiple parameters and limited integration of community priorities in conventional mine repurposing decisions.

SUVIKALP brings together geo-mining characteristics, environmental conditions, infrastructure availability, resource constraints, financial considerations and socio-economic factors within a unified digital platform. Users can create a comprehensive site profile by entering relevant mine-specific information, enabling systematic assessment of potential repurposing alternatives against the characteristics and constraints of individual mine sites. The platform employs a Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) methodology based on TOPSIS (Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution) to evaluate and rank potential repurposing options. This approach facilitates objective comparison of alternatives against multiple parameters, providing stakeholders with transparent, consistent and evidence-based recommendations.

The assessment process follows a structured sequence comprising factor selection, generation of potential options, integration of community priorities, suitability assessment and final ranking. This enables mine owners, project proponents and government agencies to make informed decisions based on site-specific conditions rather than relying exclusively on subjective assessments.

Sustainable mine repurposing must address the aspirations of communities residing in mining regions. Accordingly, SUVIKALP integrates RECLAIM – Community Engagement and Development Framework to incorporate local priorities into the project evaluation process. The framework facilitates systematic consideration of community preferences alongside technical feasibility, environmental suitability and economic considerations. This helps ensure that proposed redevelopment initiatives are aligned with local development needs, employment generation, livelihood opportunities, infrastructure development and long-term community benefits.

By bringing community perspectives into the decision-making process, SUVIKALP promotes a participatory approach to post-mining development, strengthening the linkage between mine closure, regional development and inclusive growth. From Project Identification to Implementation: PRISM

A distinguishing feature of SUVIKALP is its PRISM (Post-Mining Repurposing Implementation Strategic Model), which extends the platform beyond the identification and ranking of potential projects.

PRISM provides a structured approach to exploring implementation pathways, including project vision, repurposing strategies, investment dynamics, strategic structuring and monitoring. It is supported by an integrated knowledge repository comprising project concept notes, national and international case studies, sample tender documents, details of implementation agencies and best-practice resources.

This integrated approach enables stakeholders to move from identifying suitable opportunities towards understanding the practical requirements for project development and execution. It also facilitates knowledge sharing and provides reference materials to support informed planning and implementation.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Indian Women's Hockey team climbs to historic World No. 4 Ranking

Bhopal, Nov 25 (Way to News): A 4-0 victory over Japan in the ongoing Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2026 helped the Indian women's hockey team reach unprecedented heights, climbing to World No. 4 in the latest FIH World Rankings. With this, the Indian women's hockey team improved on its highest-ever ranking with 24 hours of setting a record for achieving its best-ever FIH Ranking of No. 5 with a win over China at the International Sports Complex in Nathu Barkheda. The latest achievement comes just a day after India had broken into the top five for the first time in its history, reaching World No. 5 following an emphatic 6-2 win over China.

The back-to-back victories against two of Asia's strongest teams propelled the team to its highest-ever position in the international rankings. The 4-0 win over Japan also extended India's unbeaten run in the tournament to five consecutive victories, ensuring a perfect league-stage record and a place in the semi-finals.

India's 6-2 triumph over China was particularly significant, marking its biggest victory against the Chinese side in the history of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy since the 4-2 win in the 2013 edition. The subsequent victory over Japan further underlined the team's growing confidence, consistency and ability to deliver.



With victories over Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea, China and Japan, the Indian team has been in outstanding form throughout the tournament. Led by captain Salima Tete, the defending champions are now firmly focused on securing a record-extending fourth Women's Asian Champions Trophy title and their third consecutive crown.

India's rise to World No. 4 is also a significant moment for women's hockey in the country. Since the introduction of the FIH World Rankings in October 2003, the team's previous best positions included World No. 9 in 2018 following its quarterfinal appearance at the World Cup, World No. 8 after finishing fourth at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, and World No. 6 in May-June 2022 following an impressive FIH Pro League campaign, a position it also achieved in 2023. The latest achievement caps what has been a phenomenal 2026 for Indian hockey. The team won the FIH Nations Cup, secured a historic fifth-place finish at the FIH Hockey World Cup (its best-ever performance since 1974) and claimed the Asian Games gold medal after a gap of 44 years. Its latest ascent to World No. 4 adds another landmark to a year that has firmly established India among the leading forces in international women's hockey.

Congratulating the team on its historic achievement, Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh said, "Reaching World No. 4 is a proud moment for Indian hockey and a testament to the hard work, discipline and determination of our players and support staff. Achieving this milestone within 24 hours of reaching World No. 5 makes it even more special. The team has made the nation proud, and we are confident they will continue this momentum and bring home another Asian Champions Trophy title." India's remarkable rise in the rankings reflects the team's consistent performances, improved attacking strength and disciplined defence under pressure. The players have demonstrated their ability to compete against top-ranked international sides, raising expectations ahead of the upcoming knockout matches.

The achievement is also expected to provide a major boost to women's hockey in India, inspiring young players to take up the sport and pursue international careers. With the Asian Champions Trophy semi-finals approaching, the Indian team will look to maintain its winning momentum and convert its impressive campaign into another historic title.

Gukesh, Sindarov Remain Level at I-I After Second Game Draw

Geneva, Nov 25 (Way to News): Defending champion Dommaraju Gukesh continued to play solidly but failed to get any advantage against Javokhir Sindarov in the second game of the 14-game FIDE Clasical World Chess Championship Final Match 2026 as the players remained tied 1-1 in Geneva. For the second game in succession, Gukesh surprised his opponent with his tactics, opting for the London System with white pieces. While the first game was a complicated tactical battle, the second ended in a quick draw in just 02 moves as both players failed to gain any advantage. It was quite a boring game and was over well before the first time control.

The London System is a solid, flexible chess opening with white pieces which helps build a sturdy pawn pyramid that helps in tackling anything played by black. However, Uzbek Grandmaster Sindarov played precise moves and did not allow Gukesh to gain much advantage. The game remained equal throughout, and the players agreed to the draw in just 20 moves. The players agreed to share the point after threefold repetition in the second game.



In this game, Gukesh lost a bit of the psychological advantage he gained by using the Berlin Defence and drawing the opening game.

The third game will be played on Thursday with Sindarov having white pieces. It will be interesting to see whether Gukesh continues to opt for the Berlin Defence despite knowing that his opponent's trainers might have looked for some tactical surprises following the first game. The 14-game match, which will end on December 12 with the closing ceremony, has a total prize fund of $2.5 million. Each decisive victory will be worth USD 200,000, while the remaining prize money will be divided equally. If the match goes into tiebreaks, the winner will take home USD 1.3 million and the runner-up USD 1.2 million.

Winning a game earns one point, while a draw gets both players 1/2 of the point. In case the score is tied after completion of 14 games, the two players will engage in tie-break games with shorter durations rapid followed by blitz if needed. Gukesh became the World Champion in Singapore in 2024 by defeating China's Ding Liren. He is the second Indian after five-time winner Viswanathan Anand to win the World Championship. The early stages of the championship have highlighted the cautious approach adopted by both grandmasters, with neither willing to take unnecessary risks. Gukesh will be keen to regain the initiative in the third game, while Sindarov will look to capitalise on his advantage of playing with the white pieces.

1,220 players register for IPL 2027 auction

New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): A whopping 1,220 players have been named in the IPL 2027 Auction Register, the tournament's statement said on Wednesday. The list includes 939 Indians and 281 overseas players, but only 66 of them can secure contracts when franchises bid in the auction to be held in Goa on December 16.

The ten franchises have already retained 184 players ahead of the auction, and no more than 25 of the open slots can go to overseas cricketers. The register is heavily tilted towards uncapped talent, with 994 players who have not played international cricket registering for it. The rest are 184 capped players and 42 cricketers from Associate nations.



The list is divided into six categories. Capped internationals are at 170, and capped Indians are at 14. The other four are the 42 Associate players, the 127 uncapped Indians with IPL experience, the 798 uncapped Indians who have never featured in the league before and the 69 uncapped overseas players.

Australia has the most overseas players on the register, with 53 representatives. South Africa have 40, while West Indies 36, New Zealand 25, Afghanistan 23 and Sri Lanka 21 players respectively. England followed with 16, Bangladesh with 12, Ireland with seven and Zimbabwe with six, respectively. Thirteen players from the USA are on the register, the most from any Associate nation. The UAE and Nepal have 10 each, the Netherlands three, and Canada, Japan and Scotland two each.

Punjab Kings Appoint Paras Mhambrey as Bowling Coach

New Delhi, Nov 25 (Way to News): Punjab Kings (PBKS) on Wednesday named former India bowling coach Paras Mhambrey as their fast-bowling coach for the 2027 Indian Premier League (IPL) season. had previously reported on November 19 that the move was underway. Mhambrey, 54, arrives at PBKS after leaving five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians (MI). "Welcome to the den, Paras paaji!" wrote Punjab Kings on its social media accounts on Wednesday. Mhambrey fills one of several gaps in the backroom staff of the two-time runners-up. Fast bowling coach James Hopes and fielding coach Brad Haddin have moved on from the set-up, while spin bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule left right after IPL 2026 to take up the same role with the Indian men's team. The appointment also reunites Mhambrey with PBKS head coach Ricky Ponting. The duo worked together at MI in 2015, when Ponting led the support staff, and Mhambrey was the bowling coach as the franchise won the title. That season also marked the emergence of Hardik Pandya, who has since become a leading pace-bowling all-rounder and will play for PBKS in 2027, after leaving MI via a trade deal earlier this month. Mhambrey was India's bowling coach from 2021 to 2024 and worked under Rahul Dravid. That stint ended with the T20 World Cup title in 2024, after which he went back to MI for a second bowling coach spell.



Mhambrey is currently in Dubai as bowling coach of ILT20 side MI Emirates. PBKS are also expected to announce former Jharkhand player Rajiv Kumar as their new fielding coach. Rajiv recently left five-time IPL winners Chennai Super Kings (CSK), who just like MI overhauled their entire support staff.

Led by India T20I captain Shreyas Iyer, PBKS head into the December 16 auction in Goa with 19 players retained, Rs 18.60 crore purse and six slots.

Odisha Naval Tata HPC, Ghumanhera and Naval Tata Secure Fourth Straight Wins

Mohali, Nov 25 (Way to News): Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre (HPC) continued their fine start, posting a comfortable 8-0 win over the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) and secured their fourth straight win of the league, maintaining pressure on table-toppers Roundglass Hockey Academy on Day 7 of the Punjab Hockey League 2026 in Mohali on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Ghumanhera Risers Academy, New Delhi, and Naval Tata Hockey Academy, Jamshedpur, also secured their fourth win in the tournament to make it a four-way tie for the top spot in the standings.

Both sides, along with Roundglass Hockey Academy and Odisha Naval Tata Hockey HPC, have 12 points each, sitting in third and fourth spots respectively on goal difference, with Ghumanhera Risers and Naval Tata, Jamshedpur having played five matches each, while Roundglass Hockey Academy and Odisha Naval Tata Hockey HPC have played four. Following a tightly contested, goalless opening quarter, Odisha Naval Tata HPC broke the deadlock in the 20th minute when Deonath Nanwar converted a penalty corner to give his side the advantage at half-time. The Bhubaneswar outfit then shifted gears after the restart, as Bilkan Oram converted two penalty corners (37 , 42) either side of a field goal by Deonath Nanwar in the 39th minute to extend the lead to 4-0 by the end of the third quarter. The onslaught continued in the final quarter, with Rohit Ekka converting a penalty corner (47) and Nanwar netting his third goal in the 49th minute to complete his hat-trick, before Abhinas Lakra struck twice from open play (53 , 58) to seal a commanding win. Ghumanhera Risers Academy, Delhi, produced a strong second-half surge to register a 6-3 victory over Major Dhyanchand Sports College, Saifai, in the opening match of the day. Major Dhyanchand Sports College made an early impact, taking the lead in the 10th minute through a field goal by Sunil Pal. Ghumanhera Risers Academy responded in the second quarter, with Sukhdev Singh converting a penalty corner in the 18th minute before Shershubjit Singh added a field goal in the 25th minute to put the Delhi outfit ahead.



However, Shivam converted a penalty corner in the 27th minute to bring the team from Saifai level at 2-2 heading into half-time. Ghumanhera Risers Academy seized complete control after the restart, as Sukhdev Singh converted another penalty corner in the 35th minute to complete his brace, followed by a Varinder Singh field goal in the 37th minute. The Delhi side extended their advantage in the final quarter through an Om Rajnesh Saini penalty stroke (50) and an Ashu field goal (54), before Himanshu Yadav pulled back a late consolation penalty corner for Major Dhyanchand Sports College in the 55th minute.

India Wins Six Gold Medals on Opening Day of BIMSTEC U-23 Athletics Meet

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25 (Way to News): India's Mrithika T and Sri Lanka's Dineth Induwara Weeraratna ran away with the women's and men's 100m sprint gold medals, respectively, on Day 1 of the BIMSTEC Under-23 athletics meet at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Of the eight gold medals decided on Wednesday, hosts India won six and Sri Lanka two.

In the women's 100m, Mrithika clocked 12.02 seconds to relegate Sri Lankan K. Risansa Hirupama (12.07) to the silver. Bangladesh's Dewan Sumaya (12.24) won bronze.

In the men's section, Weeraratna (10.35) was a convincing winner. He opened up a handy lead from the very start and did not look back. India's Rushiprasad Desai (10.46s) was left chasing the winner while Saad Jamaldeen of Sri Lanka also finished on the podium with a time of 10.57. Neil Samraj of India, a favourite to finish among the top three, finished fourth, clocking 10.67.



India's other gold medals came from men's shot put (Anurag Singh Kaler, 18.34 m), men's triple jump (Daksh Bishnoi, 15.58m) and 1500 metres (Hitesh – 3:56.72 sec). Priya (52.03 metres) and Nikita Kumari (50.02 metres) led an Indian one-two in the women's discus throw. In the final race of the day, the women's 5000m, India's Sonam Parmar (17.31.12 sec) and Sunita Devi (17.31.66) fought a tight race to win gold and silver, respectively.

Sri Lanka's K. Niduki Prarthana (17.47.07) was third. Earlier in the day, the inaugural edition of the BIMSTEC Under-23 athletics championships was declared open by Bhupendra Singh Poonia, commissioner-cum-secretary of Sports and Youth Services Department, Odisha government.

Among those present at the opening ceremony were Adille Sumariwalla, a former Olympian and ex-president of the Athletics Federation of India, and Colonel Nachhatar Singh Johal, the Chief Executive Officer of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, Sports Authority of India. Poonia welcomed the athletes and officials at the opening ceremony. Saying Odisha was a hub of global sports activity in India, Poonia said.

Galatasaray Beat Aston Villa 1-0, Extend Villa's Winless Run to Six Matches

Istanbul, Nov 25 (Way to News): Aston Villa's struggles continued in the UEFA Champions League as Galatasaray secured a narrow 1-0 victory at the RAMS Park, courtesy of Deniz Gul's late header, extending Unai Emery's side's winless streak to six matches across all competitions. In a contest where clear-cut opportunities were scarce, the Turkish side found the breakthrough in the 79th minute, punishing Villa's failure to deal with a corner to claim all three points and strengthen their position in the league phase standings.

Villa arrived in Istanbul looking to revive their European campaign but struggled to impose themselves against a Galatasaray side that had to cope without injured striker Victor Osimhen. The visitors defended resolutely for much of the contest, with Tyrone Mings and Victor Lindelof keeping the home side's attacking threat largely under control. However, Villa offered little going forward. The first half passed without either goalkeeper being seriously tested, as both teams found it difficult to establish an attacking rhythm in a scrappy encounter. The visitors showed some attacking promise after the restart when Ian Maatsen found an opening, but Galatasaray's defenders reacted quickly to prevent the opportunity from developing into a goal.



With Villa still struggling to create meaningful openings, the hosts gradually increased the pressure and eventually made their dominance count through a set-piece situation. A Galatasaray corner caused confusion inside the Villa penalty area, and Nicolas Jackson's attempted clearance failed to remove the danger. The loose ball fell invitingly for Gul, who rose to head home from close range, registering his first Champions League goal and giving the hosts a decisive advantage.

The goalscorer was caught in the face by Jackson's boot during the incident, prompting a VAR review for a possible red-card offence. However, the referee decided against taking further disciplinary action.

Villa were unable to find a response in the closing stages, suffering consecutive defeats in the Champions League for the first time under Emery.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Naga Chaitanya Calls Director Karthik Dandu the Real Hero of 'Vrushakarma'

"I am not the hero of the movie Vrushakarma.. The real first hero of this movie is our director Karthik Dandu," Yuvasamrat Naga Chaitanya clarified. He participated as the chief guest and spoke at the 'Vrushakarma' film festival organized in Nellore with great pomp. He expressed confidence that many great directors from the Telugu film industry have shown their mettle across the country, and Karthik Dandu will definitely join the list of those great directors very soon.

Sharing his experiences from the beginning of this project.. "When Karthik first told me the story, there was no reference to compare it to. He wrote a completely original story with a very new idea and never-before-seen visuals. If anyone asked me about the story, I would not even understand where to start and where to end. But I believed that everyone would understand the hard work we put in for this movie after watching the trailer. Now, I am very happy to see the response from the audience," said Naga Chaitanya.



Chaitanya revealed that director Karthik could not come to the event due to the intensity of the film's post-production work. "If the film is 2 hours and 50 minutes long, there is amazing VFX work in every frame for about 2 hours and 40 minutes. The director, editor Naveen Nooli and the visual effects team are working tirelessly to bring such a huge visual wonder to the screen," he explained. Referring to the talent of the co-stars, Naga Chaitanya said that Sparsh Srivastava's role in the film will impress the audience. "Sparsh played a monster-like role. For that character's appearance, he would wear makeup for six hours every day, sleep with the same makeup and come to the shooting early in the morning. Similarly, the heroine Meenakshi Chowdhury also came out of her comfort zone and chose this different role without any routine love track or songs, which is a great thing," he congratulated.

He expressed special gratitude to BVSN Prasad for producing such a huge concept-based film with great courage. He praised him for patting him on the back and encouraging him with a smile no matter how difficult it was. This mythological spectacle, which is taking the level of Telugu cinema to another level, will be released in front of audiences worldwide on December 4. Cinematography by Rahul D. Herion and music by B. Ajaneesh Loknath, this film is jointly produced by Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra and Sukumar Writings. Naga Chaitanya assured that this film will not fall short of the expectations of the audience and will provide a new experience in theaters.

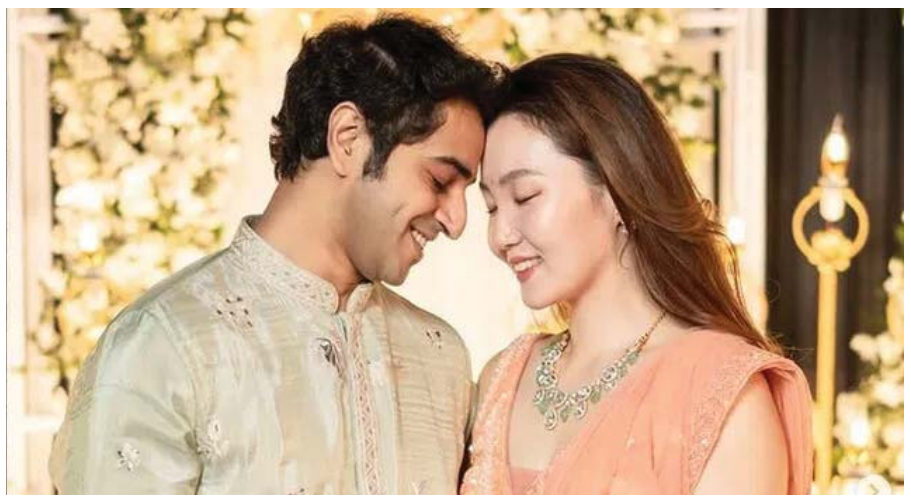
Nithya Menon Prioritises Relationship Over Marriage

Popular actress Nithya Menon has clarified the news coming out about her personal life and marriage. She revealed that she is not against the institution of marriage and will definitely get married if she finds the right person. Speaking in a podcast interview, she shared many interesting things about her marriage plans and past relationships.

Nithya Menon said that some people are misrepresenting her views. "When I said I would not get married, many people thought I was against marriage. But that is not my intention. I also want to get married. However, the goal is not just to get married, I want to have a good relationship with the right partner who understands me. I will get married only if I find a person who gives me freedom. Otherwise, I will not get married," she clarified.



Siddharth Galla, a housemate, wedding photos with a South Korean girl go viral



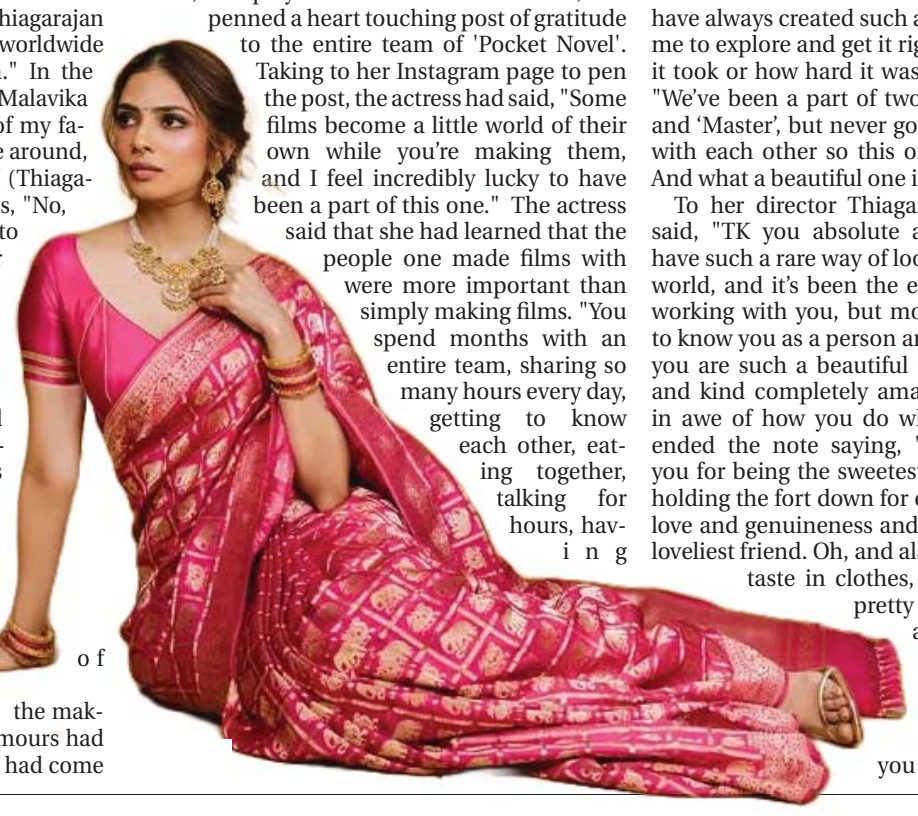
Superstar Mahesh Babu's nephew and former MP Galla Jayadev's second son Siddharth Galla has become a household name. He has been in love with South Korean Hyein Kim for some time now and today he entered into married life with her. Their destination wedding ceremony was held on Wednesday in a grand manner. Their engagement took place recently, and the pre-wedding photos released at that time were particularly impressive.

The wedding ceremony was attended by only the Ghattamaneni and Galla families, as well as the bride's family members and close friends. They blessed the newlyweds and wished them well. Mahesh Babu's sister Manjula Ghattamaneni shared the photos of the ceremony with her fans on social media. The bride and groom looked very beautiful in traditional and modern attire at the wedding. As these photos have come out, fans and netizens are showering their best wishes on social media for the newlyweds. However, it is noteworthy that superstar Mahesh Babu is not seen in the photos that have come out so far. He is currently busy shooting for his big adventure film 'Varanasi', which is being directed by his director SS Rajamouli. There is a discussion among fans that Mahesh Babu could not attend the ceremony due to the shooting schedules of this international project, which stars Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran in key roles. MM Keeravani is composing the music for this film.

Malavika Mohanan Begins Dubbing for 'Pocket Novel'

Actress Malavika Mohanan, who plays the lead along with Vijay Sethupathi in director Thiagarajan Kumararaja's eagerly-awaited film, 'Pocket Novel', has now begun dubbing for her portions in the film. TDKF, the production house producing the film, took to its social media timelines to put out a video clip that showed the actress dubbing for the film and wrote, "A little laughter, a little drama, and a whole lot of emotion. Here's @malavikamohanan_ dubbing for Thiagarajan Kumararaja's #PocketNovel, releasing worldwide on January 14th #PocketNovelTheFilm." In the video put out by the production house, Malavika said, "As an actor, dubbing is not one of my favourite parts of the process but this time around, its been surprisingly fun because of TK (Thiagarajan Kumararaja)," and laughingly adds, "No, no, don't take all this!" The film is set to hit screens worldwide on January 14 for the harvest festival of Pongal next year. Music director and actor G V Prakash, who had only recently come on board as the music director of the film, shared the release date announcement poster put out by the makers that confirmed that the film would hit screens on January 14. It may be recalled that the makers had originally announced Isaignani Ilaiyaraaja as the music director of the film. Rumours about Ilaiyaraaja opting out of the film had emerged last month. What strengthened the rumours was the fact that Ilaiyaraaja's name was missing from the list of technicians' names in the wrap up announcement put out by the makers on October 9 this year. Although rumours had been doing the rounds that G V Prakash had come on board in place of Ilaiyaraaja, the makers, for the first time, officially confirmed the news only recently. The unit of the film had wrapped up filming only recently.

The makers of the film had announced the completion of shooting by putting out a video that had BTS clips from the sets on different days of shooting. Last month, actress Malavika Mohanan, who plays the female lead in the film, had penned a heart touching post of gratitude to the entire team of 'Pocket Novel'. Taking to her Instagram page to pen the post, the actress had said, "Some films become a little world of their own while you're making them, and I feel incredibly lucky to have been a part of this one." The actress said that she had learned that the people one made films with were more important than simply making films. "You spend months with an entire team, sharing so many hours every day, getting to know each other, eating together, talking for hours, having good days and bad days, and going through emotional highs and lows together. Before you know it, they become your home away from home," she explained. Thanking Vijay Sethupathi, she wrote, "@actorvijaysethupathi thank you for being the most caring and giving co-actor. Having been through this journey with you, I cannot imagine having been a part of this process with anybody else. You have been so encouraging, sweet and yet have always created such a comfortable space for me to explore and get it right no matter how long it took or how hard it was." She went on to add, "We've been a part of two films together- 'Petta' and 'Master', but never got to share screen space with each other so this one has been long due. And what a beautiful one it's been."



To her director Thiagarajan Kumararaja, she said, "TK you absolute absolute cool cat. You have such a rare way of looking at people and the world, and it's been the experience of a lifetime working with you, but more importantly getting to know you as a person and a friend. As a maker, you are such a beautiful combination of strong and kind completely amazing and I am forever in awe of how you do what you do." She then ended the note saying, "@ezhilmadhi16 thank you for being the sweetest anchor through it all, holding the fort down for everyone with so much love and genuineness and care and for being the loveliest friend. Oh, and also for sharing the same taste in clothes, textiles and all things pretty which makes pottering around with each other so much more fun. Pocket Novel- you've been so much more than just a film. See you in cinemas soon."

'Aachi Aachi' First Single From Mani Ratnam's 'Inji Vellam' Released



The makers of ace director Mani Ratnam's eagerly awaited Tamil entertainer 'Inji Vellam', featuring actors Vijay Sethupathi and Sai Pallavi in the lead, on Wednesday released the foot tapping first single 'Aachi Aachi' from the film, much to the delight of fans and filmbuffs. The film is slated to hit screens worldwide on January 29 next year. Madras Talkies, the production house of Mani Ratnam and one of the production houses producing the film, took to its social media timelines to share the link to the first single. It wrote, "#AachiAachi is Out Now. Puyal fans assemble." The song that has been set to tune by A R Rahman has lyrics by Ilango Krishnan and rendered by Vaishali Samant and Sharanya Srinivas. The Malayalam lyrics have been penned by Vinayak Sasikumar. The song has been picturised on actress Sai Pallavi, who sports cropped hair in the number. The song shows women, all of whom are in the family way, dancing to the number. Jointly produced by Lyca Productions and Madras Talkies, the film has music by Oscar winner A R Rahman. In March this year, Madras Talkies had confirmed that A R Rahman was composing the music for the film.

The film has cinematography by well known cinematographer Avik Mukhopadhayay and editing by Mani Ratnam's trusted editor Sreekar Prasad. Costumes for the breezy entertainer have been designed by Eka Lakhani. Art direction for the film is being handled by Sharmishta Roy.

While the stunts in the film have been choreographed by Dhilip Subbarayan, dances in the film have been choreographed by Brinda Gopal. Make-up is by Ranjith Ambady. The makers had announced the title of the film in September this year, with a cute clip that only had voiceovers. The brief clip featured a conversation between Sai Pallavi and Vijay Sethupathi. Sai Pallavi says that he (Vijay Sethupathi) is the inji (ginger) and that she is the vellam (jaggery) in the title. She then changes it to she being the inji and he being the vellam. Eventually, Vijay Sethupathi ends the confusion saying that he is the ginger and she is the jaggery. It may be recalled that Vijay Sethupathi, in an interview to a media house, had disclosed that he found Mani Ratnam to be very fast and that he had requested the ace director that he would come whenever he got time to read the script along with him and try to understand what it was that the ace filmmaker expected from him for this role.

Shruti Haasan to play the lead in 'Asvins' fame director Tarun Teja's next!

Actress, singer and song writer Shruti Haasan, who is also the elder daughter of renowned Tamil actor and producer Kamal Haasan, is to play the lead in director Tarun Teja's upcoming film, its makers announced. The film is to be produced by Arun Viswa for Shanthi Talkies, the production house known for making superhit films like 'Maaveeran', starring Sivakarthikeyan and directed by Madonne Ashwin, and '3BHK', starring Siddharth and directed by Sri Ganesh. The production house took to its social media timelines to make the announcement. In a statement that began with Banksy's quote - 'Art should comfort the disturbed, disturb the comfortable', producer Arun Viswa said, "As we embark on our next film, we are delighted to announce our association with the multi-faceted artist Shruti Haasan, whose versatility spans across various creative fields."

The producer further said, "Written and directed by Tarun Teja, the film brings together his distinctive writing sensibilities and imagery to create a unique and compelling cinematic experience."

Stating that from fantasy to family drama to rural rom-coms, each of his films had taken him on a different creative journey, the producer said that with this upcoming project, they were excited to explore yet another genre and a story that would appeal to audiences globally. "We look forward to this exciting association and sharing more de- tails about the film with you in the days to come," he signed off. For the unaware, the yet-to-be-titled film is to be written and directed by Tarun Teja, who made his mark with the critically acclaimed horror thriller 'Asvins'.

Shruti Haasan, who has established herself as one of the most versatile performers across Tamil, Telugu and Hindi cinema, is recognised for her talents as an actress, singer and musician. Sources close to the unit said that further details about the film's cast, technical crew, storyline and shooting schedule will be revealed by the team in the near future.



Pooja Hegde asks 'Does working out in GTA count as a workout?'

Seems like the GTA fever has gripped actress Pooja Hegde as well. On Wednesday, Pooja uploaded a candid photo of herself posing in a breezy orange dress. "Does working out in GTA count as a workout for the day? Asking for a friend...(sic)," the 'Beast' actress went on to ask.

It must be noted that Pooja is known to be a fitness enthusiast and often also uploads glimpses from her intense workout sessions on her social media, motivating other fitness junkies. For those who do not know, GTA VI (Grand Theft Auto VI) was launched on 19 November 2026 after Rockstar Games' official announcement. Rockstar Games had reportedly planned an earlier release for GTA VI, however, it got delayed to November 2026 to incorporate some additional developments.

On the professional front, Pooja was seen sharing screen space with Varun Dhawan and Mrunal Thakur in the laughter ride, 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai'. As Pooja turned a year older on October 13, her co-star Varun took to the Stories section of his official handle and dropped a photo of himself posing with Pooja. The duo was seen standing in the middle of the water. The 'October' actor called Pooja the 'brightest soul' in a heartfelt birthday post that read, "Poooooja it's ur bday so I have to be only nice for one day but in all seriousness I wish u get everything u want and keep being the brightest soul I know too many more Aarti's together (Hug emoji)." Talking about 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai', the supporting cast of the drama also includes Mouni Roy, Kubbra Sait, Maniesh Paul, Rohit Saraf, Rajeev Khandelwal, Nitish Nirmal, and Sreeleela, along with others. Released on June 5, 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai' is believed to be David Dhawan's final directorial venture.



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