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CM Revanth Accuses BJP of Undermining Constitution



Hyderabad, Nov 26 (Way to News): Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy remembered the Congress party's significant contribution during India's freedom struggle and in drafting the powerful Indian Constitution. Addressing a rally - " Samvidhan Raksha March" in Hyderabad today, the Chief Minister praised Gandhi, Nehru, Sardar Patel and Dr BR Ambedkar for providing equal opportunities to all through the Constitution. The CM recalled that Congress was formed in 1885 with the goal of achieving independence for the nation and ensuring equal opportunities for all. Many leaders sacrificed their lives to attain independence and also gifted us the Constitution. It was the Congress party which achieved independence through non-violence, without wars or bloodshed. Nehru and Ambedkar recognised the importance of giving power to the people and envisioned the Constitution to check the continuation of the legacy of power from Kings to their kins. CM Revanth Reddy warned that some political forces were attacking the Constitution in an attempt to make their own power permanent and asserted the need to counter such assaults.

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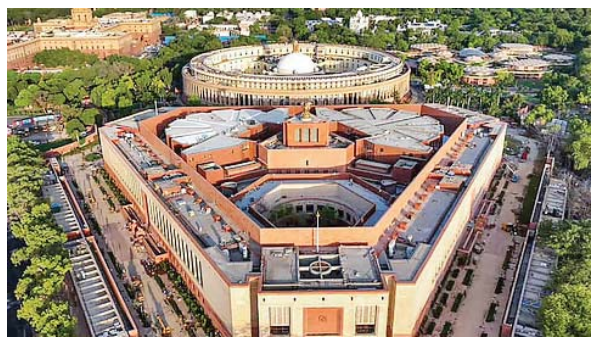
Special Parliament Session Likely from November 30



New Delhi, Nov 26 (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.

Terrorism Cannot Break India's Spirit: President Murmu



New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday paid homage to the victims and the martyrs of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, as she asserted that terrorism can never break the spirit of a nation that stands united.

"On this solemn anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, I bow my head in remembrance of the innocent lives lost and salute the courage of our brave soldiers, police personnel, and all those who stood fearlessly against terror. Their sacrifice and selfless service will forever remain etched in our nation's soul," President Murmu said in a statement.

"Terrorism may shatter lives, but it can never break the spirit of a nation united in courage, compassion, and resilience," she said.

"Today, we stand with the survivors and their families, reaffirming our collective resolve to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and work towards a more peaceful and humane world," President Murmu added. The 26/11 attacks, carried out by 10 terrorists associated with Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, began on the night of November 26, 2008, and continued until November 29. Mumbai witnessed a series of coordinated strikes targeting prominent public places, hotels and other establishments.

The terrorists attacked several locations, including Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station, Leopold Cafe, two hospitals, Nariman House and the Taj Mahal Palace and Oberoi-Trident hotels.

Nadda Slams Congress Over Emergency, Article 356 Misuse



Ahmedabad, Nov 26 (Way to News): Union Health Minister and former BJP national president J P Nadda on Thursday took a swipe at the Congress over its campaign to protect the Constitution, saying an "immature child" of the party is carrying a red copy of the Constitution while the Congress itself has a history of repeatedly insulting and misusing it.

Addressing a citizens' interaction programme organised at Tagore Hall in Ahmedabad on 'Samvidhan Gaurav Diwas', in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and state BJP president Jagdish Vishwakarma, Nadda alleged that the Congress had consistently opposed Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar and failed to respect constitutional values during its years in power. "The Congress has always insulted Babasaheb," he said, arguing that the country's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and the Congress leadership had opposed Ambedkar at several stages of his political career.

Nadda said attempts were made to prevent Ambedkar from being elected to the Constituent Assembly. "The Congress also fielded a candidate against him in the 1952 Lok Sabha elections, in which he was defeated. Nehru campaigned against Ambedkar in the 1954 Bhandara by-election as well," he said.

Akhilesh Unveils SP Manifesto with Jobs, Farm Loan Waiver, OPS Restoration Pledges



Lucknow, Nov 26 (Way to News): Monthly financial assistance for unemployed graduates, caste census, farm loan waiver, 50 per cent reservation in government contracts for Dalits and PDA communities, restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for government employees, meals at Rs 5 are some of the highlights of the Samajwadi Party's election manifesto titled 'Jan-Man Ghoshna Patra' and 'Sattais Ka Sankalp: PDA Ka Pranpatra'.

The manifesto for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls was announced by SP President Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday, who has placed employment, reservation, social justice, and economic security at the centre of the party's electoral agenda. The SP has pledged that if elected, its first Cabinet meeting will approve the immediate filling of one million government vacancies.

Addressing a gathering, Akhilesh Yadav said that if the Samajwadi Party government is formed, it would create new employment opportunities for the youth.

"Vacant government posts would be filled, and recruitment processes would be completed within a fixed timeframe. Unemployed graduates would receive a monthly sustenance allowance of Rs 5,000 until they find employment. To ensure transparency in recruitment examinations, strict action would be taken against paper leak incidents, with accountability fixed on the concerned ministers and officials. Recruitment exams would be conducted within three to six months, and delays in appointments would be prevented," he promised.

SC Orders Red Hexagon Warning Labels on High-Sugar, Fat and Salt Foods



New Delhi, Nov 26 (UNI): The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to ensure that packaged food products exceeding prescribed limits of nutrients of concern carry separate and prominent front-of-pack warning labels declaring "High Fat", "High Sugar", or "High Salt". A bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K. Vinod Chandran directed the food regulator to incorporate standardised pictorial representations of the respective nutrients alongside the corresponding warning declarations in separate red hexagons.

The apex court further directed that each warning hexagon should occupy at least 4-5 per cent of the principal display panel of the food package, unless there are explicit reasons to depart from the requirement.

It also asked the FSSAI to prescribe prominent and readily legible font sizes so that the warnings are clearly visible to consumers under normal conditions of purchase and use. On the nutritional thresholds, the Justice Pardiwala-led Bench directed the FSSAI to treat "total sugars" and "saturated fat", instead of "added sugar" and "added fat", as nutrients of concern, alongside salt.

It said the threshold levels proposed under Table 15.1 of the Dietary Guidelines for Indians (DGI), 2024, should not be adopted in their existing form, as they were calculated with reference to added sugar and added fat rather than total sugars and saturated fat.

The Supreme Court directed that the revised thresholds must be evidence-based and neither too low nor too high.

, warning that excessively low limits could result in almost all packaged food products carrying warning labels and eventually desensitise consumers.

"Thresholds set too low would result in almost all packaged food products carrying a warning label and thereby desensitise consumers and induce 'label fatigue'. The threshold levels presently on record fall in this category," the top court observed.

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



New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday sounded a poll bugle for the upcoming Assembly elections with the 'Khushhaal Punjab Rally' at Matwani village on the Moga-Ludhiana highway. The event was officially organised by the state government as a Smart Ration Card Distribution Function, during which Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched the scheme and distributed smart cards and ration kits to beneficiaries. The rally drew a massive turnout, with AAP leaders attacking political opponents, particularly the newly revived SAD-BJP alliance, while projecting the Mann government's welfare schemes as the party's principal electoral plank. The party has announced 71 of the 117 candidates, much ahead of other parties.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, who addressed a gathering in Punjab after five months, appealed to women voters and assured them that all existing welfare schemes would continue if the party returned to power. He accused the BJP-led Centre of attempting to stop the monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500 to women under the Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana.

Referring to Mann as his "younger brother", Kejriwal claimed that over two lakh people attended the rally. Invoking the significance of November 26, he said it was the day Dr BR Ambedkar's Constitution was adopted and AAP was formed in 2012. "The Constitution is being crushed today. It is an indication from God that this responsibility has been given to AAP," he said. Recalling the 2022 Assembly elections, Kejriwal said he had sought votes by giving guarantees rather than making false promises and credited Mann with fulfilling those commitments.

India's Finished Steel Production Rises 5.2%



New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): India's production of finished steel increased by 5.2 per cent to 13.8 million tonnes during October this year from 13.1 million tonnes in the same month last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Steel on Thursday.

The production of finished steel during April-October of the current financial year now works out to 95.7 million tonnes, which represents a 4.1 per cent increase over the corresponding figure of 91.9 million tonnes in the same 7-month period of the previous financial year.

The country's consumption of finished steel shot up by a robust 7.5 per cent to 14.4 million tonnes during October, from 13.4 million tonnes in the same month last year as demand stayed buoyant. During the first seven months of 2026-27 (April-Oct), the consumption of finished steel went up by 7.5 per cent to 99.4 million tonnes compared with 92.4 million tonnes in the same period of the last financial year as demand from big ticket infrastructure projects taken up by the government in the highways, railways, and port sectors fuelled demand.

The country's production of crude steel during October was recorded at 14.5 million tonnes, which represents a 3.6 per cent increase over the corresponding figure of 14 million tonnes in the same month last year.

India's exports of finished steel during October fell by 32 per cent to 0.44 million tonnes from 0.64 million tonnes in the same month last year.

Manipur CM Respects 36 Communities, Stresses Barak Conservation



Imphal, Nov 26 (Way to News): Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Thursday reaffirmed his commitment to treating all 36 communities residing in the state with equal love and respect, while underscoring the need for the conservation and protection of the Barak River. Chief Minister on Thursday held a discussion with representatives of the Naga People's Organisation (NPO) for the upcoming Barak Festival, 2026 at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Imphal. During the meeting, Khemchand Singh highlighted the importance of carrying the message of peace, promoting indigenous games and culture through the festival, along with celebrating the spirit of Christmas.

The Chief Minister assured the representatives that necessary arrangements would be made for the successful conduct of the festival. Khemchand Singh further expressed that he equally loves and respects all the 36 communities residing in the state and specifically mentioned the need for conservation and protection of the Barak River. The CM was informed by Commissioner (Tourism) Namoijam Kheda Varta that the Barak Festival is funded by the Manipur government's Department of Tourism, and organised by the organising committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner.

The Chief Minister added that, as the festival also includes activities involving other departments, he proposed the inclusion of departments like the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Arts and Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports, and Information Technology of the state government in this year's celebration for wider publicity. Notably, the four-day Barak festival 2026 will be held from December 12 to 15 at Ziilipou village, Senapati District, near the Barak River. The discussion was also attended by Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho, Tourism Minister Khuraijam Loken Singh and NPO leaders.

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CM Revanth Reddy Accuses BJP of Undermining Constitution

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy says 13 crore votes of Dalits, tribals, women and minorities have already been deleted, alleges Modi's fourth-term bid involves removing another seven crore voters.

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" Democracy is the magnificent opportunity provided to us by the Constitution. It granted the right to vote for everyone including tribal communities, Dalits, women, and minorities".

Coming down heavily on BJP, the Chief Minister said that the right wing outfits made arguments against granting the right to vote to the poor and to women. However, Ambedkar ensured the right to vote for everyone. America did not grant women the right to vote for 100 years although the country attained freedom 360 years ago.

The CM lambasted PM Modi for coming to power



by making false promises in 2014. The promise of double the income of farmers and bringing back black money remained unfulfilled. Modi retained power for second and third term by dividing the society on caste and religious grounds and false promises, CM Revanth Reddy charged.

CM Revanth Reddy further warned that Modi, Amit Shah, Adani, and Ambani are conspiring to secure a fourth term by orchestrating the removal of voters from the electoral rolls. "The Constitution is meant to determine who governs. Unfortunately, the rulers themselves are deciding who gets to be a voter. Already, 13 crore votes of Dalits, Adivasi (tribal communities), women, and minorities have been deleted, and the rulers are attempting to remove another 7 crore votes.

Calling all to support the Gandhi family and defeat Modi's 'Kaurava' army, the Chief Minister said that Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi sacrificed their lives to the cause of nation. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Kharge, and K.C. Venugopal is fighting to uphold the ideals of Gandhi. Modi and his coterie are continuing Godse legacy. " Congress was born for India's independence and the BJP for power". Congress is immortal continuing for 100 more years of existence and it is not certain whether BJP exists in the future in the country, CM Revanth Reddy said that he targets Congress wins 90 seats in Assembly elections and 15 MP seats in next Lok Sabha elections from Telangana state. " We are all servants of the people. I stand on this platform today thanks to the opportunity given to me by the people and the blessings of God", the Chief Minister said amid applause from the big gathering of Congress leaders and workers.

Global Summit to Showcase Telangana's Growth and Culture



Hyderabad, Nov 26 (Way to News): Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Thursday directed heads of all departments that the Invest Telangana Global Summit to held at Future City from December 7 to December 9 to focus on the final preparations for the event. Making it clear that the Invest Telangana Global Summit is not only about attracting investments to the state, creating employment opportunities for the people and contributing to the vision of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to making Telangana a $ 3 Trillion economy by 2047, Vikramarka said this is an event where every guest who comes for the Summit experiences top notch hospitality, which is a basic trait of Telangana.

He was speaking during a meeting with Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, the Chief Minister's Advisor and ex-Officio Special Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, special chief secretaries, principal secretaries, and senior officials of all departments at the Invest Telangana Global Summit War Room at Praja Bhavan.

Vikramarka was briefed by the Chief Secretary and secretaries of various departments on department-wise progress of preparations for the Invest Telangana Global Summit. The Deputy Chief Minister directed the officials to update all the ministers on department-wise progress being made, and called on them to work from the War Room from now on for increased coordination and solving any potential issues that might arise during the holding of an event at such a large scale.

Vikramarka said that the Invest Telangana Global Summit should also be one - where all the 1,700 plus invitees including industry leaders who have confirmed their participation, with another 1,300 guests set join the event - to reflect the achievements of three years of the present government, its activities, its achievements on welfare and development fronts.

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said the scale and scope of the Invest Telangana Global Summit is set to surpass India's largest convention facility, Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in Delhi. In addition to using the Young India Integrated Residential Schools complex as the venue, will have several other halls and facilities and one of the important aspects with be the Telangana Square, a public space for delegates to relax and interact with each other, and one which will showcase Telangana's culture, crafts, and cuisine.

Family Support Adds Momentum to Kishan Reddy's Drug-Free Mission



Hyderabad, Nov 26 (Way to News): Demonstrating strong family support for his mission to build a drug-free society, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy's family members have actively joined his 'Hyderabad Walk for Nasha Mukt Bharat' campaign, extending their wholehearted support to the awareness initiative. Kishan Reddy's wife, Kavya Kishan Reddy, has been walking alongside him over the past two days, inspiring participants and adding enthusiasm to the public awareness march.

His children have also joined the campaign to carry forward their father's vision. On the first day, his son Tanmay Reddy accompanied him during the padyatra, encouraging young people and members of the public to stand against drug abuse. On the second day, his daughter Vaishnavi Reddy actively participated in the march, spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drugs.

An especially heartwarming moment during the padyatra was when Kishan Reddy, along with his family members, stopped at a roadside tea stall and interacted warmly with local residents. Setting aside formalities, he enjoyed a cup of hot tea with ordinary citizens and enquired about their well-being. During the interaction, he appealed to people to become active participants in the mission to create a drug-free society, emphasising that collective public awareness and participation are essential to eliminating the menace of drug abuse.

The participation of his wife and children has added a personal and inspiring dimension to Kishan Reddy's campaign, highlighting how family support can strengthen the commitment towards a larger social cause.

Bandi Sai Bageerath Summoned in POCSO Case

Hyderabad, Nov 26 (Way to News): Bandi Sai Bageerath, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, has been summoned to appear before a special court in Medchal on Thursday, January 28, in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act case against him. According to local reports, the Medchal POCSO court issued the summons directing the accused to be present on the date.

The case was registered at the Pet Basheerabad police station in May 2026 on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl. She alleged that Bageerath harassed her daughter, made her consume alcohol and subjected her to physical abuse. Bageerath was arrested on May 16 and sent to 14 days of judicial custody by the Medchal magistrate. Police later added rape charges to the case. The Medchal court also granted police three days of custody after they reportedly found data erased from his mobile phone.

On June 20, the POCSO court in Malkajgiri granted him seven days of interim bail to write his final examinations. The Telangana High Court later granted him regular bail on a bond of Rs 1 lakh with two sureties. Police have since filed a chargesheet before the POCSO court in Medchal-Malkajgiri. Bageerath has described the case as a counterblast to a criminal complaint he filed against the girl's family hours before the First Information Report (FIR) was registered.

The court summons marks the next stage in the proceedings following the filing of the chargesheet. Bageerath is required to appear before the special POCSO court on January 28 as the case moves forward. The allegations against him remain subject to judicial proceedings.

Telangana Voters Unable to Track SIR Notice Status

Hyderabad, Nov 26 (Way to News): Voters in Telangana who filled in their forms on time and answered every notice during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls cannot find out where their cases stand, while those who came in late can track theirs online.



Electors whose names were dropped from the draft roll as Absent, Shifted, Duplicate or Deceased (ASDD), and who applied again through Form 6, can check the progress of their applications. There is no such facility for those who replied to SIR notices with the documents asked for.

Five months after Booth-Level Officers (BLO) began going door to door on June 25, the final electoral roll is still some weeks away. The date for publishing the final roll has been pushed back more than once. Initially, it was expected on October 1. The Election Commission of India (ECI) last week moved it again, from November 30 to December 22. The extension, which covers seven states and Union territories, was meant to give voters on the ASDD list one more chance to get back on the rolls. The notice phase, including the disposal of claims and objections, will now continue until December 15. The move was well meant, but it has left voters who followed the rules unsure where they stand.

The draft roll was published on August 17 after an enumeration exercise that ran from June 25 to August 10. It had 2,64,87,213 electors. About 92.8 lakh of them were served notices, either for anomalies in their details or because their entries could not be linked to the 2002 electoral roll.

Officials say nearly all of these cases have since been settled. By November 20, about 92 lakh had been cleared for the final roll. These included 60.1 lakh voters flagged for discrepancies and 31.8 lakh whose entries did not match the earlier rolls. Overall, 2,63,96,341 names on the draft roll, or over 99 per cent, have been cleared. Another 58,772 electors have been found ineligible and 32,100 cases are still pending. Hyderabad accounts for 22,598 of the pending cases, about 70 per cent of the state's total. Ranga Reddy has 29 cases pending and Medchal-Malkajgiri 22. Voters have no way of telling which of these groups they are in. Many who replied to notices are asking why, when the whole SIR exercise can be run on technology, there was no option to track the status of a notice.

TG SAFE Flags 138 Medical Shops for Illegal Sale of Abortion Kits



Hyderabad, Nov 26 (Way to News): The Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) has detected violations in 138 medical shops across the state for the illegal and indiscriminate sale of abortion kits, including Mifepristone and Misoprostol tablets.

During a special enforcement drive conducted on Thursday, November 26, the Drugs Wing, along with Enforcement Wing police personnel, inspected medical shops based on transaction data relating to Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) kits.

Show-cause notices have been issued to all 138 medical shops for violations of the Drugs Rules. The violations included selling abortion kits without valid prescriptions from registered medical practitioners, issuing no bills, failure to maintain sales records and prescription registers, and dispensing the medicines in the absence of registered pharmacists.

TG SAFE said departmental action, including suspension or cancellation of drug licences, would be initiated against the violating establishments under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Rules.

The authority cautioned the public against purchasing and consuming abortion kits without medical supervision, warning that their unsupervised use could lead to serious and life-threatening complications, including excessive uterine bleeding. It also pointed out that these medicines are ineffective in cases of ectopic pregnancy, where the fertilised egg implants outside the uterus. Consumption of such drugs in undiagnosed cases could result in tubal rupture, severe internal bleeding, shock and even death.

TG SAFE clarified that Mifepristone and Misoprostol are Schedule H drugs and can be sold only by licensed pharmacies against valid prescriptions. Their use must follow medical evaluation and applicable clinical and legal protocols.

NALSAR VC Calls for Greater Constitutional Awareness



Hyderabad, Nov 26 (Way to News): The Constitution belongs to every citizen, and its ideals must be understood, protected and translated into everyday practice, said NALSAR University of Law Vice-Chancellor Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao. He was addressing a Photo exhibition & Constitution Day awareness programme organised by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Educational Institution, Hyderabad, today.

Prof. Deva Rao emphasised that the Indian Constitution is not merely a legal document but a living instrument embodying the aspirations of the people. He called upon students, teachers and citizens to understand and uphold its core principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. Recalling the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other members of the Constituent Assembly, he highlighted the extensive debates and deliberations that shaped the Constitution. He also explained the significance of November 26, 1949, as when the Constitution was adopted, and January 26, 1950, as when it came into force. Highlighting the importance of the Preamble, Prof. Deva Rao said that justice, liberty, equality and fraternity form the foundation of India's constitutional values. He also underscored the importance of fundamental rights, constitutional governance, judicial independence and the Basic Structure Doctrine in safeguarding democracy.

Emphasising the Constitution's role in social transformation, he said its provisions seek to address structural inequalities, eliminate discrimination and ensure dignity and equal opportunities for all citizens. Calling for greater constitutional literacy, he urged students and teachers to cultivate the habit of reading the Constitution and understanding the debates of the Constituent Assembly. He stressed that constitutional awareness should extend beyond fundamental rights to include fundamental duties and responsible democratic participation. Appreciating the initiative of the Central Bureau of Communication, Prof. Deva Rao said that awareness programmes and exhibitions play an important role in familiarising young people with the history, values and significance of the Indian Constitution. He urged educational institutions and civil society organisations to actively promote constitutional literacy. Dr. G. Vinod, Secretary, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Educational Institutions, emphasised the need to create awareness about the Constitution and simplify its provisions to help citizens understand their fundamental rights and duties.

He lauded the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and highlighted his institution's commitment to providing quality and affordable education, noting that it has educated nearly 1.5 lakh students. In her inaugural address, Smt. Shruti Patil, Additional Director General, Central Bureau of Communication, said that the exhibition, themed 'Our Constitution, Our Pride', showcases the framing of the Constitution, the contributions of members of the Constituent Assembly, particularly women members, fundamental rights and duties, and the cultural heritage reflected in the original Constitution.

Water works near Puranapul, traffic to be diverted late night

Hyderabad, Nov 26 (Way to News): In view of ongoing water works between Mesco College and Puranapul Crossroads traffic diversions will be implemented from the late hours of November 26 until completion of the work. Commuters coming from Puranapul towards Tappachabutra T-Junction are requested to take alternative route via Puranapul Crossroads, 100 Feet Road, Nehru School and Darbar Maisamma Temple or Gandhi Statue, Rahim Pura, Anita Towers, Lodh Bhavan, and Tappachabutra Hanuman Temple to reach Tappachabutra T-Junction. Traffic from Darbar Maisamma Temple/Tappachabutra T-Junction towards Puranapul is requested to take alternative route via Nehru School and 100 Feet Road to reach Puranapul.

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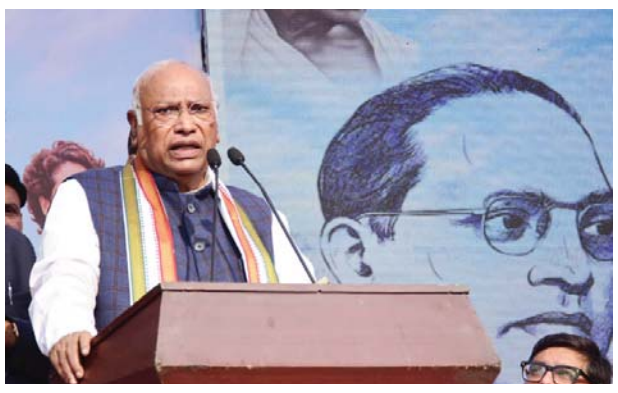
'We have to do more than just talking'

Kharge On Imran Masood's SP-Cong Alliance Remarks

Lucknow, Nov 26 (Way to News): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, on Thursday, took note of party MP Imran Masood's remarks on the ongoing seat-sharing deliberations between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP) ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, urging party leaders to undertake more efforts than just making statements. Kharge made the remarks while addressing the 'Samajik Parivartan Morcha' in Lucknow.



A day earlier, Masood stirred a row by 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 for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

Addressing the gathering on Thursday, the Congress chief said: "Imran Masood ji puts forward his views with great enthusiasm, and I hear him on television. He speaks with a lot of passion. But we have to do more than just talking." "That is why the more we work together, the further progress we will make," he asserted.

Kharge further said: "Imran Masood ji is in Parliament, and he always fights for the party and tries to get his views accepted through his efforts." Earlier in the day, Masood asserted that the Congress would not accept seats it considers unviable amid the negotiations with the Samajwadi Party, saying that his party would contest only those constituencies where it believes it has a realistic chance of winning.

Masood said: "We will not accept unviable seats. If you offer us seats that we cannot win, we will not take them. If you believe you can win those seats, contest them yourself. Why should we contest them? We want to fight only on seats where we can deliver results. No one understands our organisation, leaders and party better than we do. It is our party, not yours, that has the right to assess our winning prospects. You have the right to decide for your own party, so do that."

Reacting to the Samajwadi Party's offer of 26 Assembly seats to the Congress, Masood said the decision on accepting or rejecting the proposal would rest entirely with his party.

Those using constitution for show need to understand its spirit: Amit Shah

New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday attacked the opposition parties, particularly the Congress, saying those using the Constitution "for show" should take time out to read and understand its "spirit".



Paying tribute to freedom fighters, Amit Shah said: "For 90 years, from 1857 to 1947, scores of freedom fighters dedicated their life to ensure the nation's freedom. The result of all those sacrifices were drafted by the Constitution makers into a document. The Constitution carries the hope and aspirations of those freedom fighters."

Addressing a gathering on the 'Samvidhan Gaurav Diwas', HM Shah said the Constitution cannot be understood if it is only looked at as a book, and instead one has to dig deeper to comprehend its true essence. "Human rights were absolutely violated during the 200-250 years of British rule and slowly the golden bird, which Mahakavi Kalidasa famously described as the country whose natives are fond of festivals and celebrations, turned into a group of citizens suffering from an inferiority complex," he said.

He referred to the Constitution as a "roadmap" granted by its makers to restore what the country lost during centuries of British rule.

"The makers of the Constitution had decided that people will have the right to decide whom to bring to power. They had also provided a path for those coming to power to rule within the constraints of the Constitution," he said. "Therefore, it is the responsibility of all Indians to uphold respect to the Constitution. But unfortunately, attempts were made after independence to treat the Constitution just as a manual for governance. The process of strengthening the spirit of the Constitution among the nation's citizens was forgotten," he stated, targeting the Congress' tenures at the Centre.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of the Samvidhan Gaurav Diwas in 2015, HM Shah said it was done to take the values enshrined in the Constitution to its citizens and make them aware of these.

'Will keep fighting for marginalised': Owaisi, Chandra Shekhar Aazad at Lucknow rally

Lucknow, Nov 26 (Way to News): Amid intensifying political action ahead of the 2027 Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and Azad Samaj Party-Kanshi Ram president Chandra Shekhar Aazad, on Thursday, addressed the 'Samajik Parivartan Morcha' rally held in Lucknow, asserting that they will continue to fight for the marginalised sections.



Addressing the gathering, Owaisi said that if speaking about the rights of the poor and marginalised was considered provocative, he would continue to raise such issues. Referring to 26/11 terrorist Ajmal Kasab, he said that when Kasab was punished, "even Muslims in Mumbai had maintained that he should not be buried on Indian soil".

"Despite this, Muslims continue to face repeated questioning," he added.

In a veiled reference to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, he said: "Someone remarked that this is an alliance between the bearded and the moustachioed. This is the truth. Now, I wish to address the one with a clean-shaven face and shaved head: you will not become the CM anymore; it will be someone with a moustache." The alliance has declared Chandra Shekhar Aazad as its Chief Ministerial candidate.

Speaking about his alliance with Aazad, the AIMIM chief said people often question his liking for the leader.

FM Sitharaman gets Gen-Z on board for inputs in run-up to Budget

New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday chaired the first-ever dedicated pre-Budget consultation with youth and Gen-Z representatives as part of the preparations for the Union Budget 2027-28, with participants suggesting an increase in investments to promote emerging technologies, employment generation and skill development. Employment generation remained a key focus of the deliberations, with participants highlighting the need to upgrade training infrastructure and strengthen skilling programmes to prepare young people for technology-driven disruptions in the labour market.



The participants also emphasised the need to link industry requirements and academic curricula, with suggestions to make the PM Internship Scheme more attractive and effective in improving employability.

The two-hour interactive session witnessed around 50 per cent women's participation, with students and professionals from leading institutions and research organisations submitting their suggestions to the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister has chaired a series of pre-budget consultation meetings for the preparation of the Union Budget 2027-28 between 16 and 26 November. These have been expanded to include youth representatives for the first time as part of the government's outreach to get wider feedback.

More than 200 stakeholders representing 13 sectors and stakeholder groups participated in the consultations. These included industry associations, domain experts, leaders of India Inc, and academics.

India, UAE Discuss Geopolitical and Security Issues

Abu Dhabi, Nov 26 (Way to News): India and UAE held the 14th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting in Abu Dhabi on Thursday, where both sides discussed emerging geopolitical realities and the prevailing 'no war, no peace' security environment. During the meeting, the officials of India and the UAE outlined actionable points to translate the leadership's vision into tangible security outcomes. For the meeting, the Indian side was led by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.



"The 14th India-UAE JDCC was held in Abu Dhabi, giving fresh impetus to the Strategic Defence Partnership between the two countries. Both sides deliberated on emerging geopolitical realities and the prevailing 'no war, no peace' security environment. The two countries outlined actionable points to translate the leadership's vision into tangible security outcomes," the Ministry of Defence stated on X.

Rajesh Kumar Singh is currently on a two-day visit to the UAE for the JDCC meeting. On Wednesday, Singh paid tributes at Wahat Al Karama in Abu Dhabi, honouring soldiers who sacrificed their lives in service of the UAE, according to the ministry's statement.

TN introduces 15-day paternity leave for male Govt employees

Chennai, Nov 26 (Way to News): Married male employees of Tamil Nadu government will be able to take 15 days of paternity leave to be with their wives around the time of childbirth, Chief Minister S. Joseph Vijay announced on Thursday. This is the first time the state government has introduced such leave for its male employees. Under the order, an eligible employee may take the leave in the 15 days before the birth of a child or within six months after the birth.

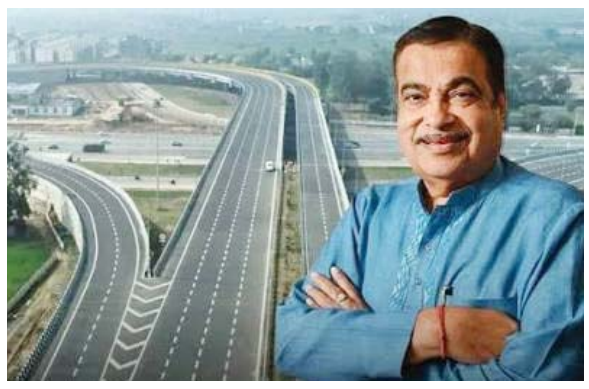


The provision gives fathers the choice of being with their wives in the days leading up to delivery or taking time away from work to help care for the baby in the months that follow. The decision follows a request from government employees who asked the state to consider granting paternity leave to men. Women employees in Tamil Nadu government institutions already receive 365 days of maternity leave.

In a statement announcing the decision, the government said it had considered the employees' request sympathetically and issued an order granting the new leave. Explaining the decision, the government said childbirth remains a critical time for both the mother and the baby.

Union Minister Gadkari announces 1 lakh crore road push for Bengal

Kolkata, Nov 26 (Way to News): Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday announced a massive Rs 1 lakh crore investment over the next five years to transform West Bengal's road and highway infrastructure, promising to bring the state's road network on a par with that of the United States. The announcement, which includes plans for a 250-km ring road around Kolkata, signals a major infrastructure push by the Centre in the state.



Gadkari made the announcement while addressing a programme at Kolaghat in East Midnapore district during the inauguration and foundation stone-laying ceremony for National Highway and bridge projects worth Rs 27,000 crore. The projects include 22 National Highway works involving an investment of Rs 8,700 crore. "Today, I also announce a total investment of Rs 1 lakh crore from my ministry for the development of roads, highways and bridges over the next few years. I promise that in the next five years, the road infrastructure in West Bengal will be like that in the US," Gadkari said.

He sought the state government's cooperation in expediting land acquisition, obtaining environmental clearances and removing encroachments wherever necessary to ensure timely execution of the projects.

Colombo security conclave adopts roadmap to boost regional cooperation in Maldives

New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): The 8th National Security Advisor Level Meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), held in the Maldives, reaffirmed the collective commitment of member states to promote regional peace and security through sustained cooperation. A joint statement issued on Thursday following the meeting said that the CSC member states, including Maldives, India, Mauritius (virtual) and Sri Lanka, signed the Agreed Minutes and adopted the Roadmap of Cooperation for 2026–2027.



The roadmap outlined key deliverables and planned activities under the five pillars of cooperation, namely Maritime Safety and Security; Countering Terrorism and Radicalisation; Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organised Crime; Cyber Security and Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology; and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. "Member States placed emphasis on strengthening collaboration across the five pillars of cooperation, particularly through training, sharing best practices and capacity-building initiatives, while underlining the importance of continued collective efforts towards advancing the objectives of the Colombo Security Conclave," read the statement. The high-level delegations were led by Lt. Col. (Retd.) Ibrahim Latheef, National Security Advisor of the Maldives; Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of India; Sampath Thuyacontha, Secretary, Ministry of Defence of Sri Lanka; and Lieutenant General Faizur Rahman, Commandant.

Jaishankar, Seychelles FM reaffirm commitment to strengthen bilateral ties

New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar held a meeting with his Seychelles counterpart Barry Faure on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers' (COM) Meeting here on Thursday, with both sides reaffirming their shared commitment to further strengthen their people-centric partnership. During the meeting, the two ministers also spoke about cooperation in IORA and regional issues. Faure is currently on an official visit to India to attend the IORA 25th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting set to be held here on Friday.



Following his meeting with the visiting minister, EAM Jaishankar on X wrote: "Delighted to meet FM Barry Faure of Seychelles. IORA 50 Years India-Seychelles. Reaffirmed the shared commitment to further strengthening our people-centric partnership focussing on health, connectivity, skilling, energy, cyber and AI. Also discussed cooperation in IORA and regional issues. Vision MAHASAGAR."

Earlier in the day, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) extended a warm welcome to Faure as he arrived in New Delhi to participate in the meeting. "Warm welcome to a trusted partner in the Indian Ocean Region! Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora of Seychelles, Barry Faure, arrives in New Delhi to participate in the 25th IORA Council of Ministers Meeting," the MEA posted on X. India will host the 25th COM meeting of the IORA on Friday to discuss future policy direction for the Association with an emphasis on reviewing regional cooperation frameworks and identifying new areas of collaboration.

Delhi HC upholds corruption charges against Lalu, family in IRCTC scam

New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): The Delhi High Court on Thursday dismissed the petitions filed by Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi, and son Tejashwi Yadav challenging a trial court order directing the framing of criminal charges against them in the alleged IRCTC hotel scam case. A single-judge Bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma rejected the pleas and upheld the trial court's order framing charges against the accused.



The petitions were filed by Lalu Prasad Yadav, Rabri Devi, and Tejashwi Yadav against the October 13, 2025, order passed by Special Judge (PC Act) Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Courts, which directed the framing of charges against them for offences relating to corruption, criminal conspiracy and cheating. Earlier, the Delhi High Court had issued notice to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on the criminal revision petitions and applications seeking a stay on the trial court proceedings. In their respective pleas, Lalu Prasad Yadav and his family members had questioned the legality and correctness of the trial court's decision, arguing that the prosecution had failed to establish a prima facie case warranting the framing of charges against them.

Rabri Devi had contended that the trial court had erroneously framed charges against her on the basis of presumptions without properly appreciating the material on record.

Tejashwi Yadav had also challenged the findings of the trial court, arguing that there was insufficient material to proceed against him.

Jagan alleges poll rigging in Andhra local elections

Amaravati, Nov 26 (Way to News): YSR Congress Party president and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy alleged that the second phase of urban local body elections and the first phase of gram panchayat elections in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday were once again marred by rigging and violence by the ruling Telugu Desam Party. He accused the TDP of using police and government officials to intimidate YSRCP leaders, candidates, and the people to rig the polls and demanded repolling wherever voting was compromised.



"Voters threatened with death again. Polling agents beaten and barred again. Ballot papers stolen from booths again. Mass rigging with police support again," Jagan posted on X. He asked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu if he was not ashamed of what happened under his government on Thursday. "During the second phase of municipal elections and the first phase of panchayat elections, your party used the police and government officials to intimidate YSRCP leaders, candidates, and the people to rig the polls. Is this how you intend to win elections?" he asked.

The YSRCP chief stated that in Ahobilam, a vehicle, part of TDP MLA Bhuma Akhila Priya's convoy.

Editorial

Chasing votes at the cost of social harmony

It is indeed disconcerting that every aspect of life in India is impacted by the process of garnering votes in the next election, and the unscrupulous politician never hesitates to use it to create a wedge between people of varied religious pursuits. I say this as I reflect upon the Bahraich clashes, these were indeed communal whether we like to use that term or not! And these are a continuation. Reports of stone pelting on religious processions are now considered routine, except by the real victims, no one cares much about what media reports with adequate caution. It is indeed disappointing to recall that the culture of wasting time and human resources that could better be utilised for deliberations on national concerns and issues is deliberately wasted, for presumed petty political gains.

When parliament is disrupted, when the Supreme Court finds time to listen to frivolous repeated petitions from politicians who fight cases on public funds, the national interest ipso facto gets relegated to the background.

One could go on citing instances of the decline in the conduct of leaders - exceptions apart - who enter politics just to look after themselves, their family and their clan! They hardly care for the loss of public credibility of the elected representatives amongst people and the public! Not many would even be aware of the resignations of KD Malaviya, TT Krishnamachari and Lal Bahadur Shastri? Over the last seventy-five years people have learnt to comprehend the real intentions of the politicians of different hues, their proclamations notwithstanding, they know who is communal and who is not! This incisive analytical skill emerges from the realisation that India abounds in the presence of diversity, be it of races, climate, language, cultures, flora and fauna, and most prominently and importantly, of religions and faiths. The beauty lies in the presence of harmony, bonhomie and lasting unity that makes this nation unique in multiple ways. It is a robust democracy that was ushered in after independence and has survived a couple of upheavals, uncertainties and even the dreaded Emergency of 1975-77. What makes India click? It is the eternal strength of the ancient culture that guides the organisation of the personal and social lives of individuals, families and communities through high moral, ethical and philosophical inputs that possess the strength to accept the universal unity of humankind.

It prepares people to value caring for others including nature, the learned of the past and present, and remain ever grateful to the family, parents, community and the nation. The culture so strengthened exhorts the individual to remain ever prepared to sacrifice personal good for the community good. The Indic religions accepted, and propagated the philosophy of the 'Search for Truth' - the ultimate human pursuit of the ultimate perfect- by each religion being one of the many available paths to reach the same goal! If one accepts this premise, then there is no scope for any bitterness or any of the induced, lured or enforced religious conversions! Every Indian, irrespective of his religious persuasion, needs to realize that conversions were not part of ancient Indian philosophy and thought, as acceptance of diversity based on equality makes it irrelevant and irrational.

Organised efforts to convert people to one's religion were non-existent before the arrival of the Abrahamic religions. The tragedy of the current-day political discourse in India is its total concentration on irrelevant negativity and its total targeted focus on votes in elections. Gandhi ji had mentioned in 1922 that 'defects of elections' would weigh heavily on our people once the British left India!

Canada Charges Pose Diplomatic Test

Vivek Katju



AS I write these lines, the government has not reacted to the truly unprecedented proceedings of the 126th meeting of the Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security of October 29. The theme of the meeting was 'Electoral Interference and Criminal Activities in Canada of Agents of the Government of India'. The officials who gave evidence before the committee, whose proceedings went on for over two hours, were the country's National Security and Intelligence Adviser Nathalie Drouin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs David Morrison, Canadian Security and Intelligence Service Director Daniel Rogers, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Department's Associate Deputy Minister Tricia Geddes and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Commissioner Michael Duheme. A stronger panel of officials could not have been summoned to give an account on behalf of the Justin Trudeau government regarding its allegations against India.

In her opening statement, Nathalie Drouin gave a detailed account of Canada's version of the interaction between Canadian and Indian officials concerned after the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023 in Surrey, Canada. She alleged that India's "refusal to cooperate led us to where we are today." Drouin's statement went far beyond the Nijjar murder in seeking to paint a picture of Indian interference and promotion of criminal activities in Canada. Her statement, the responses of the officials to the questions posed to them and the comments of some MPs who participated in the committee's proceedings were very negative from the Indian standpoint.

In all, they constitute a grave diplomatic challenge which cannot go without a credible response.

A muscular attitude that powerful states take extra-territorial action to defend their interests will not do because India has always projected itself, including during the tenure of the present dispensation, as a country which abides by international law. Further, it will no longer be sufficient to deny that Canada has not given evidence because the Canadian officials have emphatically stated that they had done so. Hence, India's diplomatic and security establishments will have to ensure that it shows that the material given to them by the Canadians was untenable. Drouin claimed that Canada had proceeded on two tracks: law enforcement and diplomatic. The former involved protecting Canadian nationals from Indian actions and the latter led to engaging India, which was Canada's significant international partner, with important people-to-people ties.

However, Canada could not ignore attempts by the "agents of the Indian government" to promote coercion and violence and "undermine our democracy." She asserted that Canadian officials tried to keep the channels of communication open with their Indian counterparts and had held meetings in 2023 — August and September in Delhi, November in Dubai, December in Saudi Arabia — and 2024 — January in London and March in Dubai. Finally, a meeting was held on October 12 in Singapore.

She said that her predecessor and other Canadian officials had met India's National Security Adviser on six occasions. She also met the Indian High Commissioner. She claimed that the Indian response was spreading the false narrative that Canada had shown them "no evidence and was ignoring its concerns on Khalistan."

Drouin claimed that at the October 12th meeting, the two decided to reconvene by video on the 14th, but on the 13th, stories appeared in the Indian media that Canada had given no evidence. She asserted that India was using its diplomats and consular officers or their proxies to gather information on select Canadian nationals and that this information was passed on to India, where senior officials used it to target Canadians with violence through the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. As part of its media strategy, it went to an international news outlet (The Washington Post) to brief it on what, according to Canada, India was up to. An MP asked if they had informed the newspaper that the senior official involved in these Indian actions was the Indian Home Minister. It was Morrison who said that the newspaper asked him if the senior official they had not named in their briefing was the Home Minister and he confirmed that he was.

The hearing became a bit partisan between the government parties and the opposition, but, significantly, no opposition MP supported India, except one, who asked if criminals in Canada targeted India and the RCMP chief conceded that it could be so. Despite political differences, the opposition does not wish to be labelled as uncaring for public security because the entire thrust of the Canadian officials was that all that they had done was to protect their people from the threat posed by Indian actions.

Canada's record of disregarding India's concerns on Khalistan is undeniable. Canada's entire handling of the Kanishka bombing was racist in nature. Its laws abuse the concept of 'free speech' to permit even the glorification of the violent killing of Indira Gandhi and the calls for the establishment of Khalistan through violence. Its approach on the question of giving visas to Indian officials is intrusive and offensive. At the same time, it has given visas to criminals. All this will, however, not help in meeting the diplomatic challenge posed by the committee hearing. India cannot allow allegations against a senior minister stand. It cannot also allow allegations which are no longer limited to the Nijjar murder case go unanswered. Mere statements will not do.

To begin with, India should be able to show that the material given to it is untenable per se and especially so in a court of law. It also has to take diplomatic action even if that causes trouble to the diaspora and hurts trade. The Canadians have challenged the country's honour and what is left if honour is not defended, even if a cost has to be paid?

Diplomacy always requires a cool-headed approach. That does not mean meekness. The Canadian accusations cannot be dismissed as those that are routinely made by inimical neighbours. India must now use all its diplomatic arsenal to respond to the atrocious charges made by Canada which, significantly, has not made any real progress in the Nijjar murder trial, where it has held four Indian nationals as accused.

A mirage of progress on the LAC

Ashok K Mehta



THE 21st October Agreement to disengage from Demchok and Depsang and resume patrolling as in April 2020, is being hailed as a breakthrough. It's not quite that: now Indian soldiers have to inform the Chinese of the timetable for patrolling and grazing. The government has called this disengagement as a pathway to return to conditions on the ground that existed in April 2020. It is also hoped this will lead to the disengagement of troops deployed in buffer zones, de-escalation, de-induction and return to status quo ante(RSQA) in April 2020. This is wishful thinking. COAS, Gen Dwivedi has expressed fear that the Chinese may encroach into buffer zones, so low is the trust factor.

He has called the latest disengagement a 'low hanging fruit'. But the government has given the impression as if RSQA is around the corner. Far from it.From day one after the intrusions had taken place government has covered LAC in a smokescreen: making unilateral statements and blocking debate in parliament as it would undermine troop morale. But PM Modi's famous statement after Galwan that no one came in and no one is in, took the cake. The government has banned former COAS Gen Naravane's book Four Stars of Destiny as it removes some of the smoke screen. India has its interpretation of the 21st October Agreement and China its own. There were no joint statements after the Agreement and Modi-Xi Jinping bilateral on 24 October.

The Chinese readout of the 21st October Agreement and the bilateral are different from India's like chalk from cheese. In the Agreement, the Chinese say: "two sides have reached a solution to relevant issues which has been evaluated positively. In the next step China will work with India to implement above solution". There is no mention of RSQA April 2020, and no details of "the solution" and "relevant issues". Similarly, on the bilateral which was scheduled for 45 minutes (more than half the time is taken up in translation) Indian readout mentions "complete disengagement"; "properly handling differences and disputes"; "Special Representatives would meet to resolve border dispute". China's readout: "two sides agreed on holding talks between Foreign Ministers and officials to bring relationship back to sound and steady development at early date"; "it notes progress and development on both sides and in border areas and recommends more communication and cooperation" …in short China has shown a vague inclination to implement border agreement.

For China border talks and bilateral relations are separate issues. For India normalcy on the border is linked to bilateral relations. Positions are poles apart.As there is no road map to RSQA with timelines, one will never know the progress on the three Ds: Disengagement, De-escalation and De-induction. Chinese will engage in endless military and diplomatic talks, making India the supplicant. We will continue to grope in the dark as we have for the last five years about the situation along the LAC.

For example, no one knew about the establishment of a Buffer Zone on Kailash Heights after we foolishly vacated it till Ladakhi graziers revealed that the Rezangla Memorial and other man-made forms had been obliterated. The loss of patrolling and grazing rights was revealed at a police conference where an ITBP officer mentioned losing 26 of 65 patrolling sites. The government has said frequently Chinese had amassed troops in violation of border protocols and "attempted to alter status quo". They have altered it. True, there is a difference in the perception of LAC; there is no mutually recognised LAC but an Indian and Chinese perception of it. One precaution above all is paramount. Go by Chinese deeds, not their words, and verify before trust.

Last time verification of the status of the Galwan post resulted in a horrific medieval clash which led to the question of new protocols/agreements. Will troops be armed and have ammunition in their chargers? Former NSA Shivshankar Menon had suggested that a new modus vivendi is required for restoring trust as the one agreed between Rajiv Gandhi and Deng Xiao Peng after the Sumdorongchu imbroglio that took ten years to resolve but compared to intrusions in East Ladakh it was a single point intrusion.

The government has a fair idea of the framework agreement China calls the 'solution' and India's 'RSQA'. It must share it with Parliament as any agreement on full disengagement must not create a 2017 Doklam-like situation where the Chinese hoodwinked India and Bhutan and established full control over the plateau- with fortifications, infrastructure and dual-use villages- which leads to the Siliguri corridor.

India has gone cold over its treaty commitment with Bhutan even as Thimphu was on its way to clinching a Doklam package deal with China which would have been a big strategic setback for India. Our non-strategic economists must be cautious about Chinese FDI contrary to what the Chief Economic Advisor has suggested – a carte blanche inflow of FDI. It must be verified case by case as per Press.

Note 3. Ban on Chinese apps must stay and Chinese 5G, 6G, Huawei and ZTE blocked. The trade deficit with China has rocketed to USD 105bn which is more than India's defence budget of 2025-26. What India has achieved on the LAC is just a baby step in the restoration of RSQA in April 2020.

Chinese have obliged in disengaging from Demchok and Depsang friction points because these pre-date the April 2020 intrusions. Let India not be under any illusion that it has overpowered Chinese coercion through deterrence. Far from it.

Climate Intensifies Asia's 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.

The politics of freebies in India

Col Shiv Choudhary (Retd)

Freebies are nothing new in India. They have been around for a long time. In the past, freebies were given by the government in the form of subsidies, free education, healthcare, and other essential services. However, in recent times, freebies have become an integral part of the Indian political culture. Political parties woo voters with freebies ranging from cycles, laptops, TV sets, sarees, sewing machines, solar lights, health insurance, free power, water, rations, gas cylinders, old age pension, loan waver, cash incentives, travel, Wi-Fi etc. One wonders if such an array of freebies and competition amongst political parties to continue with such largesse are worth ITR filing by 7.28 cr. against 1.45 billion Indian population. It is worth mentioning that tax payers in France, USA, Germany and UK are 78.3 %, 50.1%, 63.3% and 59.7% tax payers respectively of their population.

The idea of freebies is not inherently bad as for instance, free healthcare, education, and essential services can go a long way in improving the standard of living of the people. However, the problem arises when political parties use freebies as a tool to either win elections or stay in power that are neither sustainable in the long run, nor address the root causes of the problems they aim to solve. Ultimately, nearly 5.2% of tax payers with transparent mode of income out of 1.45 billions of Indian population suffer for every such largesse. Typically, a phenomenon of squeezing salary and pension class.

"The first time you give something for free, you create Appreciation. The second time you give for free, you create Anticipation. The third time, Expectation. The fourth time, Entitlement. If the 5th time you don't give, you create Resentment and Hatred".

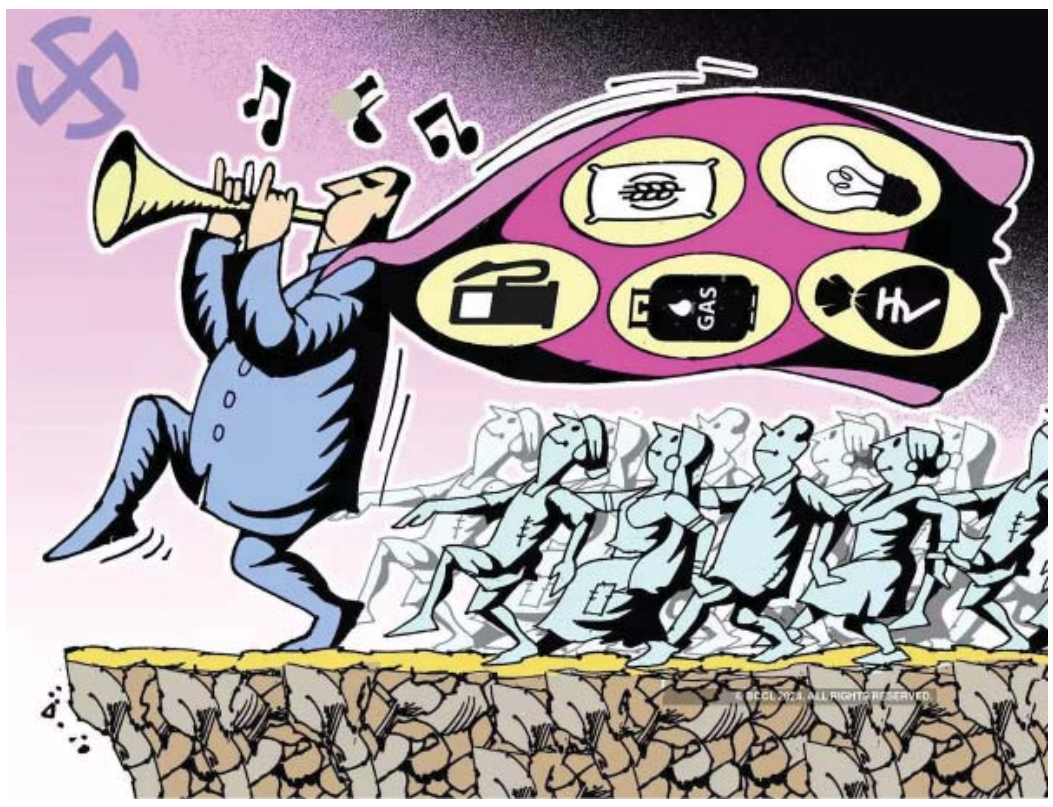
Freebies may seem like a quick fix to win elections, they often have negative consequences for the overall development and economic growth of the country. Freebies are costly, leading to budget deficits and increased Government debt. This can lead to increased consumption, inflation, high-interest rates, and reduced investments. Moreover, freebies can lead to corruption, as officials may siphon off funds meant for the provision of freebies. It is important for governments to focus on sustainable policies and infra that address the root causes of the problems while creating employment opportunities.

In a RBI report in 2022, freebies have been defined as "a public welfare measure that is provided free of charge". It adds that freebies are different from public/ merit goods which have wider and long-term benefits. Freebies are well thought-after plans aimed at improving the standard of living and access to resources, and a way of promoting social justice, equity, and human development. PDS, MGNREGA and Mid-Day Meal Scheme are apt examples.

As per Oct 2024 report of the World Bank, approx. 129 million Indians are living in extreme poverty, earning less than Rs181 per day against the set threshold of Rs 576 per day. Thus, it is important to have all the affected people accommodated in the development plan of the country. Thus, some expenditure outlays are basic necessities, and not a wasteful expenditure.

The big question is why are freebies connected with elections or political parties? Thus, it becomes becomes essential to distinguish between subsidy and freebies. Subsidies are justified and specifically targeted benefits against demands, while freebies are more for political reaping. Whatever, the judicious and sensible offering may be accommodated in the states. Both have advantages and disadvantages.

Freebies are not always bad as they lead to public outreach and engagement adding to increased public trust and satisfaction.



ECI must ask political parties to disclose the financing and trade-offs of election jhumlas to the voters before announcing them along with their impact on fiscal balance, the opportunity cost of public spending, and the sustainability. ECI must act as an unbiased tough autonomous body to promptly and transparently de-register parties, impose penalties, or take contempt action for violating the MCC or the court orders.

Freebies such as bicycles given to schoolgirls in Bihar and West Bengal stimulated economic growth and productive capacity of work force, mobility, increased students enrolment, learning outcomes, and reduced dropout rates as reported by NITI Aayog. Similarly, freebies such as food subsidies under the PDS reduced the poverty ratio in India by 7% in 2011-12 as per a study of World Bank. The returns against health insurance under RSBY was on similar lines for BPL households as per NSSO. Freebies can reduce income inequality and alleviate from poverty.

Schemes such as loan waivers, or cash transfers can empower the indebted. The loan waver relief by the government reposed public faith in the government. RBI opined that loan waivers relieved the debt burden and improved the credit worthiness of farmers. A study by the Centre for Policy Research reveals that freebies had a positive impact on voter turnout, political awareness, and satisfaction with the Government in UP and Tamil Nadu a long side enhancing the skills, and income opportunities. Freebies can also act as incentives for desirable social behaviour, such as female education, family planning, or environmental protection through renewable energy sources.

We cannot overlook the fact that everything good comes at a cost, and a debate on benefit and curse of freebies continues unabated. "The freebie culture is not a road to prosperity. It is a passport to fiscal disaster," says NK Singh, chairman of the 15th Finance Commission. Thus, it is imperative to distinguish between what is right and what is not. Freebie politics is effectively electoral insurance paid for with taxpayer money . Freebies influence all people and "shakes the root of free and fair elections to a large degree", observed the Hon'ble SC in a case during 2013.

Freebies can create a culture of entitlement, over/ misuse and dependency in society. Free electricity, water, or public transportation undermine the credit culture, distort prices, and disincentivize work at the current wage rate, leading to a drop in labour force participation. A report by the CAG revealed that free electricity for farmers in Punjab led to wastage of power, reduced ground water level, higher pollution, low tax compliance, and poor quality of service delivery by the state power utility. Such freebies might also not interest everyone thereby diluting the engagement from target audience.

Freebies can be used to mask performance and promises made by the politicians. Freebies can create disparities and divisions within society. Those not receiving them feel discriminated against leading to resentment and social unrest. Freebies create an added sense of desire, dependency, unresponsiveness and entitlements among the recipients or pay taxes. Freebies and subsidies can have adverse consequences on the fiscal health, debits, inflation, macroeconomic and political stability of a nation. The recent collapse of the Sri Lankan economy show that freebie culture can lead to chaos, public outcry, emergency state and default on commitments.

Promises of freebies compels state to diversion of funds meant for more productive schemes and compromise of quality. A report by the NITI Aayog revealed that committed freebies of laptops compelled UP state to divert funds meant for other urgent school infrastructure needs, quality, or learning outcomes. The promise of irrational freebies from public funds before elections are against free and fair elections and macroeconomic stability. They are unethical, and unduly influences the voters, disturbs the level playing field and vitiates the electoral process.

There is an urgent need for remedial measures both by the ECI and establishment to call for fixing the gaps in design, execution and accountability. The intended solution, its cost and where the additional moolah will come from, must be spelled out. The finance commission must devise a mechanism to limit expenditure on populist schemes for much needed basic public services. A periodic implementing monitoring reports on freebies needs to be instituted for accountability.

ECI must ask political parties to disclose the financing and trade-offs of election jhumlas to the voters before announcing them along with their impact on fiscal balance, the opportunity cost of public spending, and the sustainability. ECI must act as an unbiased tough autonomous body to promptly and transparently de-register parties, impose penalties, or take contempt action for violating the MCC or the court orders.

A massive awareness campaign must be launched for the voters about the consequences of freebies. Judicial involvement may be sought in order to implement measures since any debate on this subject in parliament would serve no purpose. As suggested by the Hon'ble SC, an expert committee consisting of all stake holders to control freebies and their impact on the economy and democracy must be in place quickly.

Focus on inclusive development, would address the root causes of poverty, inequality, and exclusion. We need to remember this quote – "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." Political party aim to make us dependent upon them for each fish.

Indian business families have grappled with succession. Lesson for leaders at helm today

Although 80% of Indian businesses are family-owned, only 21% have a succession plan in place. There are enough examples for today's helmsman to draw lessons from.

Suveen Sinha

Okay, true story. Years ago, in 2007, I was bringing out two management magazines for Business Standard. Though I tried to infuse them with a dash of practical realism, the two mags retained an unhealthy component of theory, rendering my job lugubrious to the point of being mournful.To make the most of a turbid situation, I convinced my boss to let me attend a conference on family businesses at the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad, purportedly to learn more about the theory part of management. The conference turned out to be surprisingly useful, as much for the sessions as for the impromptu group chats during the breaks.

During one such break, I heard the well-known head of a family-led enterprise say: "They (meaning the expert speakers) want us to plan family succession, but what if we have a family idiot?" His audience, other heads of business families, were nodding vigorously. The speaker had come into his own during the 1990s, while the country unshackled businesses and ushered in an era of competition and near-free markets. But he appeared to have serious misgivings about passing on the baton to the next generation.

The 1990s saw an entire posse of businessmen flower. Ratan Tata went on from being the fledgling head of a sprawling empire to a player on the global stage. N R Narayan Murthy and Azim Premji rode the information technology outsourcing wave to the extent that "Bangalored" became a term to describe those who had lost their jobs in the United States. Birla and Modi, entrenched business houses well before the onset of liberalisation in 1991, grew bigger, with their many shoots and branches. Rama Prasad Goenka established acquisition as a bonafide business strategy for growth. Bajaj took foreign competition head on and morphed into a motorcycle company, leaving behind its storied legacy of scooters — essential dowry items at one point — for which buyers waited years. Above all, Dhirubhai Ambani built up the cult of equity in India, helping Reliance Industries dramatically climb the ladder of revenue and put it on track to joining the list of Fortune magazine's 500 largest companies in the world (which happened in 2004). Surprisingly, though, many of the formidable businessmen who became bigger in the 1990s did not adequately address the one ticklish issue that has plagued family businesses around the world and one that has played a critical role in the widely held belief that a majority of family businesses begin to disintegrate in the third generation. A research paper on mckinsey.com, dated August 2, 2024, lists five points that differentiate top performing family-owned businesses from others. "Effective transition from one generation to the next" is listed at number two, right behind "core operational excellence". Yet, according to a Grant Thornton article of March last year, though 80 per cent of Indian businesses are family-owned, only 21 per cent have a succession plan in place. It seems unbelievable that so many of the great men who built formidable empires in the 1990s were not fully on top of this. The intent is never to speak ill of those who have passed on, but Ratan Tata, who died on October 9, was not able to ease into his retirement as he may have wanted to.



He made way for Cyrus Mistry as Tata Sons Chairman in 2012, only to oust his young successor four years later and return as interim chairman. But that is recent history. If you go back, you will find that Tata implemented a policy in 1992 requiring directors to step down upon turning 75, nudging some so-called satraps into retirement. Eight years later, the retirement age was lowered to 70 for non-executive directors. But it was raised back to 75 in 2005, which extended Tata's tenure at the helm.

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That does not look like strong evidence of succession planning. Murthy did have a succession plan at Infosys, a curious one. It involved the founders taking turns at the top, one after the other. The thing fizzled out, bringing in Vishal Sikka as the first non-founder chief executive officer (CEO). But Sikka quit amid none-too-pleasant circumstances. Wipro went through a series of CEOs and there was a phase in which it experimented with two CEOs, only to jettison the model. Things seem calmer now though Thierry Delaporte resigned as CEO this year before completing his term — with Premji's son Rishad as executive chairman.

Many other business families have grappled with succession. Battles among people answering to surnames Birla and Modi are now part of the folklore. But the most astonishing battle was fought by Dhirubhai's sons, Mukesh and Anil, until their mother divided the empire vertically in 2005. Goenka was so shaken up by the Ambani feud that he initiated a division of his business between his two sons, Harsh and Sanjiv. A Bloomberg interview quoted Harsh as saying: "It (the split) is something my father desired.

It was literally thrust upon us…" Rahul Bajaj endured an unsavoury episode when his nephew, Kushagra, wanted his own slice of the empire. But the senior Bajaj was adroit in managing the rest of his clan. In fact, way back, when his son Rajiv wanted to convert Bajaj Auto into a motorcycle maker, Rahul was opposed to the idea but did not stand in the way. Eventually, Rajiv got full control of the two-wheeler giant and his brother Sanjiv would thrive in financial services.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

India's 100 GW Nuclear Power Target by 2047 Opens Global Investment Opportunities



New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): India's plan to expand nuclear power capacity to 100 GW by 2047 could reposition nuclear energy from a niche contributor into a key pillar of the country's low-carbon power system, creating huge opportunities for global technology providers, investors and industrial users who seek long-term partnership, a new report has said. "Nuclear energy is being positioned as a firm power source that can complement renewables and support energy security, grid stability and decarbonization," the report from Gulf Today said citing an EY-Parthenon study.

India currently has about 8.9 GW of nuclear power capacity and plans to increase it to 100 GW by 2047, implies a substantial expansion over the next two decades supported by a diversified reactor mix. The report said global nuclear companies would be better served by compliant partnerships involving technology, localisation and project execution rather than pursuing direct ownership opportunities.

"The country's emerging nuclear ecosystem will likely reward players that bring technology, capital, localization, safety culture and long-term partnership intent. The most credible strategies may be those that align with India's sovereign priorities while solving real project-level challenges – cost, execution, financing and industrial demand," the report noted. While emerging models such as small modular reactors and Bharat small reactors could be key for industrial decarbonisation providing 24x7 clean power, international nuclear companies should not view India as a short-term vendor market, the report suggested. India has set an ambitious goal of installing clean power to power over 1 billion homes by 2035.

The country has also approved nearly $20 billion in power grid upgrades to ease bottlenecks that prevent some solar and wind energy from reaching consumers. India announced the 900-gigawatt ambition in late September comprising non-fossil power sources , such as solar, wind, hydropower and nuclear energy, nearly twice its existing target of 500 gigawatts of clean power by 2030. The shift mirrors a global trend toward cleaner power, even as India's current clean power capacity of just over 300 gigawatts ranks it third behind China and the United States.

India's Major Infrastructure Projects Face Rs 3.28 Lakh cr Cost Overrun in October



New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): India's big infrastructure projects recorded a cumulative cost overrun of Rs 3.28 lakh crore in October this year, bringing their revised total cost to Rs 38.11 lakh crore, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Thursday.

Total expenditure on these large projects, worth over 150 crore each, across 17 Central ministries and departments reached Rs 17.87 lakh crore, accounting for approximately 46.88 per cent of the project cost and indicating steady progress in project implementation, MoSPI said.

A significant proportion of projects are at advanced stages, with 649 projects (35 per cent) having achieved over 80 per cent physical progress, while 326 (18 per cent) have crossed 80 per cent financial completion. The data also reflects a balanced pipeline, with projects distributed across early and advanced stages of implementation.

The transport and logistics sector accounts for the highest number of ongoing projects (1,324), with a cumulative cost of Rs 20.37 lakh crore, underscoring the priority given to connectivity-driven infrastructure growth.

The report said physical and financial progress broadly move in together, with a large number of projects clustered at the initial (0-20 per cent) and advanced (81-100 per cent) stages, indicating a pipeline of newly started projects alongside many nearing completion.

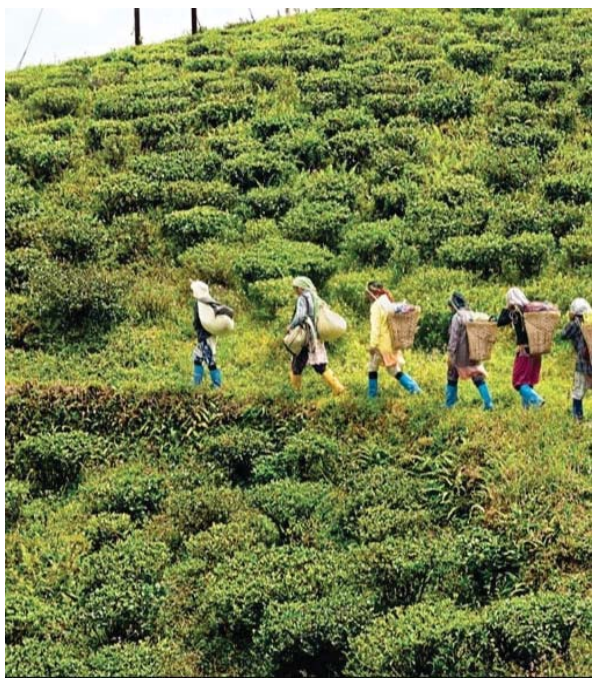
While physical progress exceeds financial advancement in the 81-100 per cent range, financial progress is relatively higher in the early stages, reflecting upfront expenditure patterns in project implementation.

The Ministry of Railways has 288 ongoing projects (15 per cent), with a total revised project cost of Rs 7.38 lakh crore (19 per cent). The Coal Ministry accounts for 121 ongoing projects (7 per cent), with a total revised project cost of Rs 2.22 lakh crore (6 per cent). The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and the Department of Water Resources, River Development & GR are implementing 117, 108, 50 and 33 projects, respectively, with associated project costs of Rs 4.42 lakh crore, Rs 6.55 lakh crore, Rs 3.44 lakh crore and Rs 1.93 lakh crore, respectively.

The remaining 173 projects (9 per cent), with a total project cost of Rs 2.63 lakh crore (7 per cent), are distributed across various ministries and departments, including Higher Education, Civil Aviation, Steel, Telecommunications, Labour and Employment, Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Health and Family Welfare, Mines, DPIIT, and Sports.

The Finance Ministry is asking detailed explanations from ministries for cost escalations exceeding the tolerance limit by 10 per cent on capital and infrastructure projects above Rs 5 crore. Ministries must specify whether overruns stem from implementation delays, higher input costs, or other factors, and revised timelines are sought before additional funds are allocated.

Centre to Promote Darjeeling Tea, Support Exporters



New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal after consultations with tea industry stakeholders in the Darjeeling hills said on Thursday that the central government will launch an international marketing campaign to promote Darjeeling tea, and introduce freight support measures for exporters. "To increase exports of our tea, so that the tea industry here gets better prices, we are announcing an international level marketing campaign under the exports promotion mission and a decision has been taken on that," Goyal said in Kurseong. The minister also announced support for tea exporters facing high inland freight costs. He announced a scheme under the Export Promotion Mission.

Goyal has also announced measures to improve auction transparency and share, curb misuse of the Darjeeling geographical indication (GI) tag (such as cheaper imported tea sold under the Darjeeling name), and streamline Tea Board processes. Goyal shared suggestions he received during a Chai Pe Charcha session with stakeholders. "Some suggestions were related to the Tea Board and chat changes we can bring about so that in the future business becomes easier and decisions have been taken immediately. Some suggestions were related to the issue of increasing exports, and what steps can be taken," a report from NDTV Profit cited Goyal. Known as the world's best tea, Darjeeling Tea in 2004 was the first Indian product to win a geographical indication (GI) tag.

However, the tea industry in the area is currently facing challenging times with the fall in production in the hills. "India is the world's largest producer of black tea and second largest producer of tea and India makes all kinds of tea and sells it across the world," Goyal said stressing stronger research to improve the quality of tea. India exported tea worth around Rs 8,718 crore during FY 2025-26, up 16 per cent on an YoY basis.

Centre Holds Workshop to Boost Urban Infrastructure Financing



New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): The Department of Urban Development (DoUD) under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), organised a national workshop here on Thursday to help cities prepare bankable projects and move towards market-based financing of urban infrastructure.

The workshop provided handholding to cities on different aspects of preparing and financing urban projects. The sessions covered the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) architecture, international examples of how projects under each vertical were financed, the statement from the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs said. Further, the event discussed reforms and enablers such as means to improve own-source revenue, the urban road reform initiative, city economic plans, carbon credit markets and the expectations of private investors. Another session on public–private partnerships (PPP) covered project screening, structuring, risk allocation, revenue streams followed by city specific experiences. Municipal Commissioners and Chiefs of Development Authorities from over 25 million cities and State Mission Directors attended the workshop, along with sectoral experts and senior officials from the department. Financial institutions, including Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO), also participated in the event.

Satendra Singh, Secretary, Department of Urban Development (DoUD) stressed the need to change the government's approach towards urban development and build capacities in order to conceptualise and ground transformative projects across the urban landscape.

IndiaAI Mission Launches Indigenous Chariot-1 Foundation Models



New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): In a significant milestone towards strengthening India's indigenous Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem, Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), inaugurated the launch of Chariot-1 Foundation Models, developed by Chariot Artificial Intelligence Pvt. Ltd., under the IndiaAI Mission. The launch and research showcase took place at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, highlighting India's growing capability to develop sovereign AI technologies through homegrown research and innovation.

Chariot Artificial Intelligence Pvt. Ltd. is among the first four teams selected under the IndiaAI Mission to develop sovereign foundation models. The initiative reflects the Government of India's commitment to nurturing indigenous AI capabilities, supporting advanced research and enabling the development of AI models that address India's unique technological, linguistic and societal requirements. The Chariot-1 model suite comprises Chariot-1 Large Language Model (LLM) and Chariot-1 Text-to-Speech (TTS), developed through pre-training from scratch in India. Designed to advance language understanding and speech generation, the models incorporate novel research innovations aimed at improving computational efficiency, multilingual capabilities and adaptability across different deployment environments. A key highlight of the launch was the presentation of three research innovations developed.

by the Chariot team and integrated into the training of Chariot-1 models. These innovations address fundamental challenges in language processing and model training, particularly in the context of India's diverse linguistic landscape.

IndicShift, an open-source innovation, introduces a shared alphabet for Indian scripts, enabling AI models to leverage similarities across languages rather than treating each script independently. Covering 1,012 characters across 12 Indian scripts through 350 letters, the approach achieves up to 2.5 times fewer tokens on Indian text compared to OpenAI's GPT tokeniser. The research also reports a 5% to 8% improvement in model performance on Indian languages on the same compute, while maintaining performance in English and code.

Nested Training enables three complete model sizes to be trained simultaneously through a single training run and one set of weights. This innovation addresses the challenge of developing separate models for different computing environments, enabling deployment across data centres, laptops, smartphones and edge devices. The approach delivers a reported 62 % improvement in training speed compared to training the three model sizes separately.

The third innovation, Mixture of Vocabularies, optimises the model's word-selection process by dividing its vocabulary into 11 groups and scoring only the relevant group at a time. This approach reduces the number of vocabulary entries scored per word by 5.7 times and delivers a 38 % improvement in training speed on the same GPUs, with negligible change in model loss.

The Chariot-1 LLM is an 11-billion-parameter mixture-of-experts model, with 4 billion active parameters per token. Pre-trained from scratch in India, it is available in three model sizes-10.7 billion, 1.7 billion and 745 million parameters-catering to varying computational requirements and deployment environments.

India Records 378.5 Million Tonnes of Foodgrain Production in 2025-26: Chouhan



New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, today released the final production estimates of major agricultural crops for 2025-26 and the first advance estimates for the 2026-27 kharif season, sharing the historic achievements of India's agriculture sector. Addressing a press conference in Delhi, he said that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the hard work of farmers, supported by the government's policies and initiatives, had enabled India to secure the top position globally in the production of rice, pulses, jute, millets and spices. The country has recorded an all-time high foodgrain production of 3785.38 lakh tonnes in 2025-26. Further, despite serious weather-related challenges, including El Niño and a delay in the monsoon, kharif foodgrain production in 2026-27 is estimated at 1671.43 lakh metric tonnes. This is 97.67 lakh tonnes higher than the average production recorded over the previous five years, reflecting the resilience and determination of the country's farmers.

Addressing the press conference, Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that India was not only meeting its domestic food requirements but was also making a substantial contribution to feeding the world. In global agricultural rankings, India holds the first position in the production of rice, pulses, jute, millets and spices. It ranks second after China in wheat, cotton, groundnut, fruits and vegetables, and second after Brazil in sugarcane production. Expressing satisfaction over the country's achievements, Shri Chouhan said that India had adequate stocks of both rice and wheat. Indian rice was now making its mark across international markets, with exports registering a growth of 5 per cent. The aroma and quality of Indian basmati rice were reaching consumers across the world, including the United States, Canada and countries in the Middle East. He said that this growing global presence reflected the strength of Indian agriculture and the country's ability to contribute to international food supplies while meeting its own requirements.

Union Agriculture Minister Shri Chouhan made it clear that, having achieved a surplus position in rice and wheat, the government's focus was now firmly on crop diversification and making the country self-reliant in pulses and oilseeds. He said that domestic demand for pulses and edible oils was continuing to rise, making it important to increase production and reduce dependence on imports. To address this requirement, concerted efforts were being undertaken on a mission mode through the National Pulses Mission and National Oilseeds Mission. These initiatives are aimed at strengthening domestic production and meeting the country's growing requirements. Shri Chouhan said that the positive impact of these efforts was now becoming evident in the final production figures, particularly in the improved output of pulses and oilseed crops.

The emphasis on diversification would also help broaden the agricultural production base and support farmers in taking up a wider range of crops.

According to the final estimates for 2025-26 released by Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the country's total foodgrain production has reached a record 3785.38 lakh tonnes. This represents an increase of 208.06 lakh tonnes over the production of 3577.32 lakh tonnes recorded in 2024-25. The increase marks a significant expansion in the country's foodgrain output and reflects the contribution of farmers across different crop-growing regions.

Rice and wheat: Total rice production has increased by 49.70 lakh tonnes from 1501.84 lakh tonnes in 2024-25 to a record 1551.54 lakh tonnes in 2025-26. Wheat production has also reached a historic level of 1220.64 lakh tonnes, registering an increase of 41.19 lakh tonnes over the 1179.45 lakh tonnes produced in 2024-25. These figures underline the continued strength of India's two major foodgrain crops and the country's capacity to maintain high levels of production. Maize, Shri Anna (millets) and pulses: Maize production has risen sharply from 434.09 lakh tonnes in 2024-25 to 550.25 lakh tonnes in 2025-26.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Indian Racing Festival Returns to Buddh Circuit for 3-Day Racing Showdown

Hyderabad, Nov 26 (Way to News): Bringing together motorsport, automotive spectacle and live entertainment, The Indian Racing Festival, powered by JK Tyre, will offer three days of high-octane racing action at the Buddh International Circuit (BIC) from November 27 to 29. The weekend will be headlined by the FIA-certified F4 Indian Championship, alongside the Indian Racing League (IRL), with JK Formula LGB 4 featuring as a support race. Spectators will also get to witness a showcase of high-performance supercars, superbikes, vintage cars, adrenaline-fuelled drifting displays and motorsport stunts led by Arjuna Awardee Gaurav Gill and India's drift champion Sanam Sekhon. The racing action will get underway on Saturday, November 28, with drivers taking to the track in the F4 Indian Championship and Indian Racing League. Sunday, November 29, promises an added spectacle for fans, with motorsport stunts and entertainment activities bringing together high-octane racing, entertainment and star power for an action-packed weekend at the Buddh International Circuit.

The upcoming race weekend follows an exciting outing at the Buddh International Circuit, where the Indian Racing League and F4 Indian Championship delivered closely contested races and several standout performances. In the F4 Indian Championship, the opening weekend at Buddh has thrown the title fight wide open. Goa Aces JA Racing's Luviwe Sambudla continues to lead the standings with 156 points, followed by Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru's Aris



Kyriakou on 131. Kyriakou finished second in Sunday's first race. However, the biggest movers are close behind. Speed Demons Delhi's Ntiyiso Mabunda won Saturday's opening race after an intense battle with Sambudla and followed it up with two more podium finishes on Sunday. This lifted him to third place with 125 points, just 31 behind the leader.

Sambudla added only 18 points over the weekend after engine trouble forced him to retire from Sunday's action. His teammate Aryan Narola capitalised on the setback with two victories on Sunday, including a win in the final race ahead of Arjun Chheda and Mabunda, to climb to fourth place with 106 points. With 60 points available at every race weekend and two rounds still to go, the top four are separated by just 50 points.

The second race weekend at Buddh from November 27 to 29 could determine whether Sambudla can protect his lead or Mabunda and Narola have the momentum to turn the championship into a title battle that goes down to the Navi Mumbai finale. The Indian Racing League also witnessed competitive action at Buddh. Goa Aces JA Racing's Raoul Hyman dominated the opening race, securing victory ahead of Kolkata Royal Tigers' Sai Shiva Sankaran and Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru's Jemma Moore. In the second race, Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru's Ruhaan Alva emerged victorious after a closely fought contest. Hyderabad Blackbirds' Mohamed Ryan finished second, while Speed Demons Delhi's Alister Yoong completed the podium. With multiple teams and drivers demonstrating strong pace at Buddh, the upcoming weekend presents another opportunity to build momentum and make their mark in their respective championships.

The F4 Indian Championship heads into the upcoming weekend with several drivers looking to build on their recent performances. Narola will be among the drivers to watch following his double victory at Buddh, while Mabunda will be looking to build on his consistent podium finishes and opening-race win.

Goa Aces JA Racing's Luviwe Sambudla leads the championship standings after Round 4 with 156 points, but the previous weekend at Buddh did not go his way. After winning the first two races in Chennai, he finished second in Saturday's opening race at Buddh before engine trouble ended his Sunday campaign. He will be keen to return to winning ways. Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru's Aris Kyriakou is second with 131 points, 25 behind Sambudla, and will be looking to strengthen his title campaign. Close behind, Speed Demons Delhi's Ntiyiso Mabunda is third with 125 points, 31 behind the leader, while Narola is fourth with 106 points following his double victory.

Sindhu Targets First-Ever Uber Cup Crown for India

New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): Having won medals and titles in all major competitions, two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu still has some unfulfilled dreams -- one of which is to help India win gold in the Uber Cup team badminton competition. Sindhu wants another chance to play for India in the Uber Cup and for the country to bag its maiden title in women's team badminton on home soil when India hosts the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals in 2028.



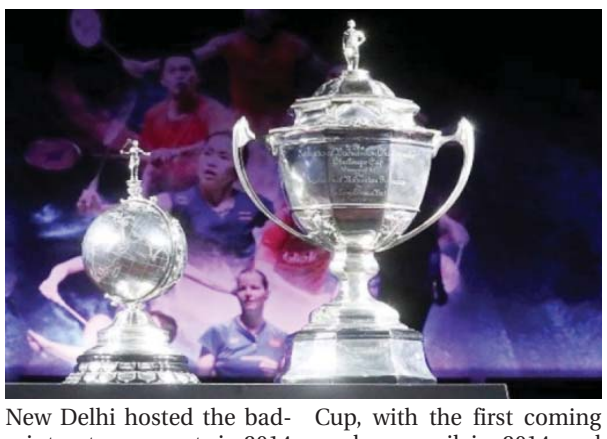
Sindhu talked about her aim after the Badminton Association of India (BAI) secured the 2028 BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals for New Delhi. Sindhu helped India win its maiden Uber Cup medal, a bronze, the last time the capital hosted the championships in 2014. "I am proud of the bronze we won in Delhi in 2014. If I get another chance to play the Uber Cup at home, I want us to go all the way. I know what it meant to stand on that podium with my teammates. To lift the trophy together in front of an Indian crowd would be one of the proudest moments of my career," Sindhu was quoted as saying by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) in a release.

The hosting award follows BAI's staging of the 2025 BWF World Junior Championships in Guwahati and the 2026 BWF World Championships in New Delhi. Sindhu said the work led by Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and Sanjay Mishra had given Indian players and fans more opportunities to experience badminton's biggest events at home. "At the World Championships in Delhi, players from other countries told me how much they enjoyed walking out to that crowd. I felt proud that my generation got to play at the World Championships at home. Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Shri Sanjay Mishra, and the team at BAI have put a lot of work into bringing these events to India. In 2028, an Olympic year, young shuttlers will get to see Team India take on the world's best. I hope they leave the stands determined to earn their place on that court and play for India one day," she added.

Indian shuttlers have won a record nine BWF World Tour titles at Super 300 level or above outside India in 2026. Over the next two years, BAI will look to build on those results and the support seen at the New Delhi World Championships. When the Finals return in 2028, fans will have their first chance in 14 years to cheer on India's men and women in badminton's world team championships on home soil.

India to Host Expanded 2028 Thomas and Uber Cup Finals as BWF Announces Major Format Changes

New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): India will host a new-look BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals in 2028, with the Badminton World Federation (BWF) announcing a series of major format changes to its flagship championships, including an Olympic-style structure for the World Championships from 2027. The announcement places India among the major hosts of international badminton events over the next four years, with the BWF also confirming Mississauga in Canada as the host of the 2027 World Championships, Korea for the 2029 Sudirman Cup Finals and Paris for the 2030 Thomas and Uber Cup Finals. Beijing will host the 2027 Sudirman Cup Finals.



This is the second time that India will stage the Thomas & Uber Cup Finals. New Delhi hosted the badminton team events in 2014 as well. New Delhi also hosted the BWF World Championships earlier this year and the junior variant last year.

India have won the Thomas Cup once in 2022 and finished with a bronze medal in this year's edition hosted in Horsens, Denmark. The women have bagged two bronze medals at the Uber Cup, with the first coming on home soil in 2014 and the next two years later.

Alongside the hosting announcements, the world governing body unveiled significant changes to the competition formats of its major championships, aimed at increasing participation, strengthening competition and making the sport more engaging for players and fans. The Thomas and Uber Cup Finals will expand to feature 24 men's teams and 24 women's teams, divided into four groups of six. Each team will play four league-stage ties, with the top 12 teams advancing to the knockout rounds.

A revised best-of-three match format will also be introduced for the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals in 2028. Under the new points-based league system, teams will earn points for individual match victories, irrespective of the overall tie result, while winning a tie will bring an additional two bonus points. The Sudirman Cup Finals will also feature 24 teams divided into three groups of eight, with each team playing three league-stage ties under the traditional best-of-five-match format.

Mohammed Shami Urges Young Cricketers to Trust the Process and Stay Patient

Mumbai, Nov 26 (Way to News): Veteran Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami has urged young cricketers to be patient and keep faith in the process, saying success arrives only after a player has gone through the grind that every career demands. Shami, who retired from Test cricket earlier this month, played through knee pain during the 2015 Men's ODI World Cup, where India reached the semifinals, before undergoing surgery. After an extended rehab, Shami was back to playing international cricket.



Shami also dealt with minor swelling in his left knee due to increased bowling loads in 2024, when he returned to action after undergoing right Achilles tendon surgery for an injury sustained while playing in India, securing a runners-up finish in the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup. "Everything takes time, and you have to trust the journey. It is important to stay committed, keep working with dedication, and remain loyal to your efforts. Keep putting in the hard work, and one day, you will get your platform," Shami said while attending KDAH APEX (Athlete Performance & Excellence), an annual educational conclave by Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital. The right-arm fast bowler, who picked four wickets for Bengal in their recently concluded Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy group stage games, also spoke about how the support system for sportspersons in the country has changed over the years, with medical and fitness help now far easier to access than before for cricketers.

"The facilities available today have improved a lot, whether it is physiotherapists or training centres. Across India, there are several centres where athletes can reach out for consultation and guidance whenever they face a problem," he added. Around 200 delegates from across the country took part in the inaugural edition of the two-day gathering titled 'The Sports Knee Conclave'.

15-Year-Old Delhi Sprinter Amieyra Khoslla Wins Three National Bronze Medals in a Month

New Delhi, Nov 26 (Way to News): Delhi's 15-year-old sprinter Amieyra Khoslla has won three national bronze medals in the 60m, 100m and 200m events within a month, delivering an impressive set of performances at the National Junior Athletics Championships and the 70th SGFI National School Games.



Amieyra began her medal-winning run at the 41st National Junior Athletics Championships, organised by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) in Chennai in October, where she secured bronze in the Under-16 girls' 60m event. She clocked 7.74 seconds in the semifinals, recording the fastest time of the event, before finishing third in the final, where the winning time was 7.79 seconds. The young sprinter continued her impressive run at the 70th SGFI National School Games, held in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh, from November 19 to 23. Competing in the Under-17 category against older athletes, she claimed two more bronze medals. She clocked 12.07 seconds in the 100m final and 24.71 seconds in the 200m final, after running 24.69 seconds in the semifinal.

Her 200m timing is also noteworthy as it is faster than the previously published Under-19 school athletics benchmark of 24.97 seconds set by the Delhi Directorate of Education. However, the comparison does not constitute a new record claim.

Reflecting on her performances, Amieyra said she enjoyed expressing her love of speed on the track as well as on the sport-climbing wall.

"I love speed, and I am happy that I can express that on the track just as much as I do on the Sport Climbing wall. The past few weeks, starting with the Delhi State Junior Athletics Championships, have been memorable," she said. She also credited her coach, former Indian sprinter Amit Khanna, for helping her prepare for competitions and guiding her development.

"I am grateful to my coach, former Indian sprinter Amit Khanna sir, for guiding me through the season with his immense knowledge and passion," she added. Amieyra had earlier represented India at the World Youth Climbing Championships in Italy in July, finishing sixth.

Services, UP Win Team Titles at Youth Artistic Gymnastics Nationals

Mumbai, Nov 26 (Way to News): Services and Uttar Pradesh continued their dominant medal-winning run at the inaugural Youth Artistic Gymnastics National Championships at INS Hamla, Malad, on Tuesday, adding two more team titles to their growing collection on the second day of competition. Services produced a commanding performance to emerge champions in the Grade 8 Out-Age category, while Uttar Pradesh showcased their depth and consistency to top the Grade 8 In-Age section.



In the Out-Age category, Services delivered a commanding all-round team performance, accumulating 184.634 points to secure the gold medal. West Bengal put up a spirited challenge to finish runners-up with 175.400 points, while Uttar Pradesh settled for third place with 173.634 points, as per a press release. Services gymnast Sumit Singh produced an outstanding individual display to clinch the all-around title with 62.433 points. Uttar Pradesh's Sanchit Srivastava gave him a close fight, finishing a mere 0.032 points behind with 62.401 points. Services' Jaswin completed the podium with a commendable third-place finish on 62.301 points. The apparatus finals witnessed several impressive individual performances. Sanchit Srivastava showcased his versatility and technical precision to capture gold in the floor exercise and parallel bars. Maharashtra's Gaurang Haldankar delivered a strong routine to top the still rings, while Dhwji Shah emerged victorious in the vault. Services' Jaswin demonstrated his prowess on the pommel horse, and Manipur's Md Mukhtadir Alibukhs produced a winning display on the horizontal bar. Uttar Pradesh were equally impressive in the In-Age team competition, combining consistency and quality across the apparatus to accumulate 186.535 points and clinch the title. Services put up a determined challenge to finish second with 182.765 points, while Maharashtra secured third place with 177.667 points.

Uttar Pradesh's Arpit Prajapati delivered a superb all-round performance to claim the individual gold with 64.534 points. Services' Birendra Patra impressed with a score of 63.466 points to finish second, while Maharashtra's Shrihaan Valimbe completed the podium with 63.099 points. Prajapati continued his exceptional form in the apparatus finals, displaying his versatility by winning gold in the pommel horse and vault. His Uttar Pradesh teammate Anubhav Singh also enjoyed a productive outing, claiming the parallel bars and horizontal bar titles. Odisha's Om Sahoo produced the best floor exercise performance, while Manipur's Diamond Kamei topped the still rings.

The men's competition concludes at INS Hamla on November 26, followed by the senior and junior men's selection trials on November 27. The women's artistic gymnastics championships will be held from November 28 to 30. (ANI) (This content is sourced from a syndicated feed and is published as received. The Tribune assumes no responsibility or liability for its accuracy, completeness, or content.

15-Year-Old Danish Verma Maintains Three-Shot Lead at IGPL Invitational Mumbai

Mumbai, Nov 26 (Way to News): Teen star Danish Verma of Green Fuels Vizag Dolphins GC continued to make a strong impression in his maiden season as a professional, maintaining a three-shot lead after the second round of the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) Invitational 2026 Mumbai presented by Mumbai Garudas GC. The 15-year-old Verma followed his opening eight-under 60 at the Par-68 Bombay Presidency Golf Club on Tuesday, with a four-under 64 to reach 12-under and stay firmly in control.



While Verma kept the pole position, there were two superb rounds during the day, and the biggest charge came from Pukhraj Singh Gill OF Unico Gurugram Tuskers GC, who fired a bogey-free 10-under 58 at the Par-68 course to climb from one-over to nine-under and sole second place. Gill, who has played close to 30 weeks this year, was followed by Shiv Kapur of RVR Delhi Blue Bulls GC, who added a three-under 65 to his opening five-under to move to eight-under and sole third. Kapur has now recorded four Top-10 finishes in his last five starts. Sachin Baisoya of Phoenix Firebirds Hyderabad GC, Samarth Dwivedi of Vimtra Chennai Lions GC and veteran SSP Chawrasia of Green Fuels Vizag Dolphins GC were tied fourth at five-under. Chawrasia, despite missing several putts on the slow greens, remained in contention for a solid Top-5 finish. Verma's round had its share of ups and downs. An early bogey on the second was followed by three consecutive birdies.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Dhanush's D56 Second Schedule Begins



Director Tamizharasan Pachamuthu on Thursday confirmed that the second schedule of Dhanush's next film D56 had now begun and was underway. Responding to the demand for an update about the film from a fan on the social media platform X, the director said, "Second schedule start pannitten brother (I have started the second schedule brother)."

The film had officially gone on floors in Madurai with a traditional pooja ceremony in September this year. Written and directed by Tamizharasan Pachamuthu, the film, which is being tentatively referred to as #D56, brings together an exciting combination of acclaimed performers and emerging talents.

Dhanush leads the ensemble, with Vadivelu and SJ Suryah joining him in prominent roles. The cast will also feature actors Vijay B Kumar and Preity Mukundhan, who will be seen playing pivotal parts in the film. What has added to the excitement of fans is the fact that the film will have music by Sai Abhyankkar who will be collaborating with Dhanush for the second consecutive time after 'Om'. The film is being jointly produced by Sithara Entertainments, Srikara Studios and Primark Productions, bringing together three prominent production banners for this ambitious venture. The makers had announced the launch of the film with a poster that further amplified the mystery surrounding the film. Featuring an imposing traditional doorway covered with numerous bells, the poster carried a distinct visual identity and introduced Dhanush with an intriguing character design, while keeping several aspects of the film under wraps. The visual, coupled with the announcement "Paari Vettaikku Pandakaal Nattachu", has added another to the mystery surrounding the project.

Sources close to the unit say that further updates regarding the supporting cast and technicians will be officially announced soon. The film is slated to arrive in theatres in summer 2027. For the unaware, Tamizharasan Pachamuthu had, in March this year, announced that he had begun the recce for the film. Taking to his X timeline, the director had posted a monochrome picture of himself seated in a temple and wrote in Tamil," Kelambiyaachu (Have started) #Recce #D56." Tamizharasan Pachamuthu is best known for his critically acclaimed superhit film 'Lubber Pandhu', which featured Harish Kalyan, Attakathi Dinesh, Swaswika and Sanjana Krishnamoorthy in the lead.

Amala Paul Confident of 'Half' Success From First Narration



Actress and producer Amala Paul revealed that she was sure that her movie 'Half' would go places ever since the first narration. As the movie screened at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Amala recalled the time she first heard the story of 'Half'. She said, "I remember having the first video call with the director, and he narrated the story to me, and then he was explaining the whole, you know, the process of the project and everything. Then only, I feel like I knew that this film was going to go places." "With some projects, you know, right, we have great producers who are extremely passionate about making this film and actors like them who have put their heart and soul into it. So, yeah, I think this is just, we all knew it. Yeah, that's the feeling," Amala went on to add.

While speaking to the media, the actress opened up about the movie and her character Sophia. Amala also talked about how the Malayalam film industry is coming up with compelling stories. She also went ahead and expressed her love for Bollywood. Made under the direction of Samjad, the core cast of the drama includes Ranjith Sajeev, Aishwarya, Abbas and Srikant Murali. Talking about the technical crew, the project has the National Award-winning editor Mahesh Bhuvanend on board, who is known for movies such as 'Aattam', 'Vela', and 'Madhuram', with Mohandas credited for '2018', 'Ayyappanum Koshiyum', and 'Lucifer' as the production designer.

The camera work for 'Half' has been handled by Pappinu, who has been a part of 'Matinee' and 'Konthayum Poonoolum'.

The tunes for the drama has been composed by Midhun Mukundan, who received a lot of acclaim for his work in 'Rorschach' and 'Abraham Ozler'. The screenplay for the movie has been co-written by director Samjad and Praveen Viswanath. The team also included National Award-winning sound designer Vishnu Govind.

Nithiin's 'Alias Rukmini' Trailer Unveiled Ahead of Dec 4 Release



The makers of director Murali Kanth Devasoth's upcoming Telugu entertainer 'Alias Rukmini', featuring actor Nithiin in the lead, on Thursday released an entertaining trailer of the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. Actor Nithiin, who took to his social media timelines to share the link to the trailer of the film, wrote, "A story that has its heart in the right place. This is Krishna and Rukmini's tale. #AliasRukminiTrailer out now! #AliasRukmini in cinemas worldwide December 4th.Written & Directed by @Afilmby_Murali. @nameisnani." The trailer shows Krishna (Nithiin), who works as a stenographer in a family court, getting weird dreams. When he seeks psychiatric help, the psychiatrist says that he is hiding something. The trailer shows that Krishna is secretly a writer who writes under a pen name called Rukmini. The books he writes are erotic in nature or at least the titles of the books give that impression.

It is under these circumstances that Krishna's family looks out for a suitable match for him. Already, Krishna has been turned down by three prospective brides. The fourth prospective bride (played by Aafiya Sayed) interviews him. He tells her that he writes books on awareness and that this would be their little secret.

While Krishna takes a liking for the bride, she appears to keep him waiting. Eventually, they get married after he replies in the affirmative to her question on whether he will take good care of her after their wedding. The trailer gives the impression that Krishna's wife eventually finds out about the books he writes and questions him about his pen name. The couple part ways and a heartbroken Krishna is seen weeping, only to be told not to cry. He replies, "I will cry. My feelings, my choice. What is it to you? I'm the one hurting. I will cry all I want." It may be recalled that the makers of the film had on November 9 this year announced that shooting for the film had been wrapped. Taking to its timeline on Instagram, Unanimous Productions, the production house producing the film, wrote, "It's a shoot wrap for #AliasRukmini. In 25days, let's celebrate a beautiful film with unspoken emotions in theatres . In cinemas worldwide December 4th.Natural Star @nameisnani presents @actor_nithiin in #AliasRukmini. Written & Directed by @murali_kanth449." Only a day before Deepavali, the makers had released a video clip of actor Nithiin's look as the young Krishna in the film.

Taking to his X timeline, Nithiin shared the video clip that showed him appearing as a youngster in the film. He wrote, "Every love story has a 'before'. Young Krishna. A dreamer. A whole new me. Reintroducing Krishna from #AliasRukmini. In cinemas worldwide December 4th." In the video released, Nithiin was introduced as Krishna in a new avatar. The video showed what Krishna's life was like before Rukmini came into his world.

The video begins with director Murali Kanth Devasoth talking to Aafiya Sayed, who plays Rukmini in the film, about the young Krishna. He explains to her that the place they are seated is the place that made Krishna who he was. The conversation ends, with the director asking Aafiya if given a chance, whether she would want to see how Krishna looked 10 years ago. She replies "yes" and actor Nithiin, looking several years younger, appears on the scene. The film, which is being presented by well known Telugu actor Nani, is being produced by Deepthi Ganta. The film has a sound technical team backing it. Cinematography for the film is by Jomon T John while music is by Vijai Bulganin. Srujana Adusumilli is the editor of the film which has costumes by Rekha Boggarapu. The film has been co-directed by Ramana Madhavaram.

SRK Denies Sending Defamation Notice to Influencer



Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan's legal team has denied sending out any defamation notice to any social media influencer. The actor's legal representative took to their social media, and shared a clarification saying that the actor has not sent out any legal notice.

They wrote, "A purported "legal notice" dated 23 November 2026, said to have been issued on behalf of Mr. Shah Rukh Khan, is being circulated on social media and in some news reports. As authorised attorneys of Mr. Shah Rukh Khan, we clarify that this notice was not issued by him or on his behalf. Mr. Khan has not instructed any advocate or law firm, including us, to issue it". "We request media houses and social media pages to verify before reporting, and to correct or remove content that attributes this notice to Mr. Khan", they added. Earlier, a Reel of SRK from an event alleged that the actor was allegedly shut down by the son of a billionaire. Later, media reports stated that the superstar has sent out a legal notice to the content creator, who uploaded the Reel on Instagram.

Meanwhile, on the work front, SRK will be next seen in the upcoming film 'King', in which he stars opposite Deepika Padukone. The film practically stars the entire industry including Suhana Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Jaideep Ahlawat, Abhay Verma, and Arshad Warsi in key roles. The film marks SRK's 2nd collaboration with director-producer Siddharth Anand after 'Pathaan'. Directed by Siddharth Anand and produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and Marflix Pictures, 'King's is set to arrive in cinemas worldwide on December 24, 2026.

Shweta Bachchan Shares Rare Family Moment With Jaya and Abhishek

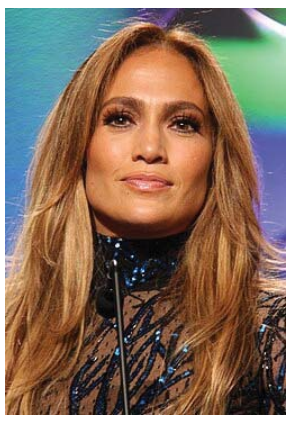
Amitabh Bachchan's daughter Shweta Bachchan treated social media to a rare and candid family moment as she shared a picture featuring her mother, veteran actress Jaya Bachchan, and brother Abhishek Bachchan. In the photograph, Jaya is seen standing in the centre in a heavily embroidered traditional outfit, while Abhishek, dressed in a navy blue bandhgala with white trousers, stands beside her. Shweta is seen dressed in a colourful traditional ensemble, and is seen playfully raising her hand above her mother's head, while Abhishek mirrors the gesture on the other side. The sibling duo are seen striking a fun pose for the camera, capturing a warm family moment. The picture was shared by Shweta on her social media account with the song 'Alfaaz' by Hamza Malik and Zain Zohaib playing in the background. Shweta captioned the story with a simple yet apt note, "The song is my caption." Talking about Jaya Bachchan, the actress made her screen debut as a teenager in Satyajit Ray's Bengali film Mahanagar before making her adult Hindi-film debut with Hrishikesh Mukherjee's Guddi in 1971.



She went on to establish herself as one of the leading actresses of the 1970s with films such as Uphaar, Koshish, Abhimaan, Chupke Chupke, Mili, Zanjeer and Sholay. Jaya married Amitabh Bachchan in 1973, and the couple went on to have two children, Shweta and Abhishek. After the birth of her children, she stepped away from acting for an extended period.

Jennifer Lopez Recalls Son's Question About Stage Outfits

Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez has shared that her son questioned the outfits she wore for the opening show of her debut Las Vegas residency in 2016.



JLo was expecting her then 7-year-old son Max to be full of praise immediately after she got off stage following the first night of the 'All I Have' show, which ran from January 2016 until September 2018. However, much to JLo's surprise, he asked why she decided not to cover herself up more while singing her hits to her legion of fans. The actress-singer appeared on the latest episode of 'The Drew Barrymore Show', and recalled the hilarious moment when Max and his twin Oskar, who was previously known as Emme, supported her at the concert. She said, "It was the opening of my first night in Vegas 10 years ago. The kids were like, seven years old. They were just about to turn eight years old. After the show, my son Max comes up to me. He's like, 'Ma'. I thought he was going to be like, 'The show was so good!' But he was like, 'Why don't you ever wear pants on stage?'. I was like, 'Oh yeah, that must be bizarre for you'". Jennifer shares Max and Oskar with her 58-year-old ex-husband, singer and actor Marc Anthony. She went on, "I just say, 'I'm a showgirl. I'm a dancer, baby, I'm a showgirl.

Akshay Kumar Defends 60-Day Film Shoots, Cites Nolan and Tom Cruise



Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar has hit back at criticism over the pace at which he completes his film shoots. He further pointed out that even filmmakers and actors associated with some of Hollywood's biggest productions complete their films within relatively short shooting schedules.

During an appearance on Koffee with Karan, Akshay spoke about the complaints surrounding filmmakers wrapping up movies in a matter of weeks. Referring to filmmaker Christopher Nolan and Hollywood star Tom Cruise, he argued that even they wrap up the shoot of their high octane movies in the similar time period as his. "When I was reading the interview of Nolan (Ji). All the films he has made till date, he makes such big films. He doesn't make more than 90 days. Tom Cruise's film, one of the best action films he made, Mission Impossible. He took just 55 days," Akshay said. His comments came amid discussions around the actor's quick shooting schedules, and with the length of time taken to complete films. His comparison seems to have not gone down well with some social media users. One user wrote, "Akshay Kumar is so delusional and out of touch with reality that he genuinely thinks finishing a film in 40 days is comparable to Christopher Nolan and Tom Cruise making a film in 90 days." Another post said, "Akshay Kumar comparing his 40-day shoots to Nolan making The Odyssey and Tom Cruise making Mission: Impossible in 90 days... does he realise actors spend months preparing for their roles? Filmmaking isn't just about how many days you spend shooting." Akshay, known for his hectic yet disciplined work schedule, has frequently spoken about maintaining discipline and completing films within tight timelines.

Akshay also explained that his approach to filmmaking is rooted in discipline and efficient time management. He has often maintained that shorter shooting schedules help control production costs and allow filmmakers to complete projects without unnecessary delays. His work routine has become a talking point in the industry, particularly as he continues to take up multiple projects each year. The debate has also highlighted the distinction between shooting schedules and the overall filmmaking process. While the number of days spent on set is one factor, film preparation, rehearsals.

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