WAY TO NEWS

PRGI No: TGENG/26/A6521

ENGLISH DAILY



Telangana | Vol: 01 | Issue:109 | Saturday 28 November 2026 | Price:1/- | Pages: 8

TG to Follow Kakatiya Model for Development: CM Revanth Reddy



Hyderabad, Nov 27 (Way to News): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday said Telangana would neither replicate the Sabarmati riverfront nor follow the Gujarat development model, but draw on its own history and traditional water conservation systems developed by the Kakatiya rulers to guide its development.

Speaking at the curtain-raiser of the Telangana Climate Conclave 2026 in the city, Revanth Reddy recalled the contributions of Kakatiya rulers Recharla Rudradeva and Rani Rudrama Devi, particularly the chain of interconnected lakes developed for water conservation and distribution. He also invoked tribal leader Komaram Bheem's slogan of "Jal, Zameen, Jangal" (water, land and forests).

The Chief Minister said nearly 700 lakes had disappeared over the years owing to encroachments and urban and corporate development and that his government was "desperately looking to find" them. Defending the government's drive against encroachments on water bodies, Revanth Reddy said influential persons would not be spared despite the criticism and legal challenges faced by the government.

Continued on Page 2

LOK SABHA SEATS SET TO RISE TO 815

Cabinet Clears Delimitation Bill



New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): The Union Cabinet on Friday cleared the amendments to the Constitutional Amendment Bill, linked to the proposed delimitation and women reservation legislation.

This paves the way for an increase in the legislative strength of the Lok Sabha, effectively taking it from the existing 543 to around 815 seats. Also, according to multiple TV reports, the increased strength of the Lower House will remain frozen for the next 25 years, i.e. till 2051. The details or the contours of the delimitation bill are yet to be revealed, but reports suggest that the proportional share of all the states will be retained, to pacify the Opposition-ruled and Southern states, in particular, as they have repeatedly flagged getting treated 'unfairly' due to an increase in LS seats. Being short of numbers, the BJP has been lobbying for support of many 'neutral and unaligned' parties for the delimitation legislation. Many parties, including the DMK, have raised concerns over alleged injustice to the Southern states due to a lower population ratio as compared to their Northern counterparts. The formula of a flat 50 per cent hike is seen as an attempt to address their concerns.

The cabinet approval comes just ahead of the special sitting of Parliament, beginning on November 30, where the government is expected to make a fresh push for allowing delimitation of constituencies and 33 per cent reservation for women in the legislative bodies, including the Lok Sabha.

The government is yet to reveal the agenda for the special sitting of Parliament, commencing from November 30, but Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told the newsmen today that "very important issues" will be taken up for discussion and also advised the Opposition to refrain from making "frivolous" statements. Meanwhile, the INDIA bloc is set to hold a huddle at Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's residence at 11 a.m. on Saturday to strategise and chalk out its plan on opposing the proposed delimitation bill.

The Congress has sought participation of all opposition parties to devise a joint strategy against the Centre's fresh attempt to push the delimitation bill. Earlier in the day, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav termed the delimitation move "BJP's biggest mistake", suggesting that it was being pushed to influence the elections in India's most populous state. Notably, the delimitation bill, aiming to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha from the existing 543 to around 850 seats, had fallen flat in April this year, as the Centre failed to muster a two-thirds majority.

Naidu urges support for delimitation, Women's Quota



Amaravati, Nov 27 (Way to News): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President N. Chandrababu Naidu urged all political parties to support the Delimitation Bill, saying that increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats by 50 per cent would be beneficial for everyone.

Backing the Centre's move to link delimitation with women's reservation, he appealed to all the parties to support the bill in the interest of the nation.

Addressing a press conference along with Central ministers H. D. Kumaraswamy and Ram Mohan Naidu, Chandrababu Naidu said that an increase of Lok Sabha seats by 50 per cent will not do injustice to anyone. The Chief Minister stated that South India currently has 129 Lok Sabha seats and after delimitation, this number will go up to 195. He said the representation of South India in Lok Sabha will remain unchanged at 23.76 per cent. Andhra Pradesh currently has 25 parliamentary constituencies, and after delimitation this will increase to 38. The state's representation will remain at 4.6 per cent after delimitation. Karnataka, which currently has 28 seats, will have 42 seats after delimitation, and its representation will remain unchanged at 5.16 per cent.

The number of Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu would rise to 59, in Telangana to 26 and in Kerala to 30, bringing the total number of seats for the southern states. Chandrababu Naidu pointed out that under the previous delimitation (based on the 2001 census), one MP represented a population of 19 lakh, and this figure has now risen to 27 lakh. He said a new delimitation process could ensure that one MP represents a population of 18 lakh.

Shashi Tharoor 'Disappointed' With DMK's Stance On Delimitation



Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 27 (Way to News): Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, on Friday, said that he was "disappointed" with the DMK over its reported support to the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which includes the Delimitation Bill, 2026 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, adding that the party might be falling into a "trap" laid by the BJP-led Centre. This comes after DMK chief and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, earlier on Friday, asserted that there would be no "compromise" with the state's interests. "If the number of parliamentary constituencies is increased, under no circumstances should Tamil Nadu's share fall below its current 7.18%!" he said.

Speaking to reporters here, Tharoor said the DMK is "surrendering on the specious grounds that the increase is proportionate, without looking at the larger agenda of the BJP behind it". According to the Congress leader, this is an "abdication of responsibility" to the people in whose name the DMK claims to speak.

EC Hears Trinamool Symbol Dispute, Mamata Faction Objects



Kolkata, Nov 27 (Way to News): A crucial hearing was conducted at the headquarters of the Election Commission of India (ECI) office in New Delhi on Friday over the competing claims by two rival Trinamool Congress factions to the original party name "All India Trinamool Congress" and its electoral symbol, "Grass and Flower", where the original Mamata All India Trinamool Congress (MAITC) faction opposed an application from the rebel Democratic Trinamool Congress (DTC) faction, seeking permission to introduce a fresh affidavit containing several additional components.

At the hearing, the MAITC was represented by the Lok Sabha members, Abhishek Banerjee and Kalyan Banerjee, as well as the faction's Rajya Sabha member Derek O'Brien.

On the other hand, two legislators from West Bengal, namely Ritabrata Banerjee and Akhruzzamn, represented the DTC at the hearing.

At the end of the hearing, Kalyan Banerjee told media persons that the Mamata Banerjee-led faction strongly opposed the application from the rebel faction seeking permission to introduce a fresh affidavit containing several additional components.

"The case they are now attempting to establish through their written submissions is completely different from the case presented in their original petition. In accordance with the Supreme Court's directions, they cannot introduce fresh documents beyond the prescribed period for filing counter-affidavits. Several documents and affidavits they submitted have not been disclosed to us.

Bengal HC Sets Aside LoP's Appointment, Sparks War Of Words

Kolkata, Nov 27 (Way to News): A political row erupted in West Bengal on Friday after a single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court, comprising Justice Krishna Rao, set aside West Bengal Assembly Speaker Rathindra Bose's decision appointing Ritabrata Banerjee as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the House. Reacting to the verdict, Mamata All India Trinamool Congress (MAITC) legislator Kunal Ghosh said the Speaker had failed to uphold the sanctity of his chair, which requires remaining above political biases. "The Speaker should not have ignored the party constitution and the decision of a political party in such a matter. But the Speaker, in this case, took his decision just on the basis of the number of available legislators.

India to work with partners in strengthening IOR security: PM



New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met the visiting Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the 23 Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) member states who participated in the IORA 25th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting, held in New Delhi earlier in the day. PM Modi said that as IORA's chair, India looks forward to working closely with all partners to advance Vision Mahasagar and strengthening peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath, Mauritius Foreign Minister Dhananjay Ramful, Maldives Foreign Minister Iruthisham Adam, Seychelles Foreign Minister Barry Faure, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of other IORA member states met PM Modi. Following the meeting, PM Modi wrote on X, "Delighted to meet the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the 23 Indian Ocean Rim Association Member-States participating in the 25th Meeting of the IORA Council of Ministers in New Delhi. "The Indian Ocean has connected our people for millennia. As Chair of IORA, India looks forward to working closely with all partners to advance its vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) and to strengthen peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean Region."

The IORA is an intergovernmental organisation of 23 member states and 12 dialogue partners for regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean region across six priority areas and two cross-cutting issues. The 23 member states of IORA are India, Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Comoros, France, Malaysia.

Nitin Nabin hails SC verdict in Murugan deepam row

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Nitin Nabin on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to issue contempt of court notices against top officials of the Tamil Nadu government over lighting of the traditional Karthigai Deepam lamp at the 'deepathoon' atop Thiruparankundram hill in Madurai district, calling it a "historic victory" for devotees of Lord Murugan.

The Supreme Court on Friday issued contempt of court notices to the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary M. Sai Kumar, the Director General of Police Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal, officials of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department and other senior state authorities over the alleged willful disobedience of its order permitting the lighting of the traditional lamp.

In a post on the social media platform X, Nabin said: "A historic victory for every devotee of Lord Murugan!" The BJP Chief said that through its order, the apex court has "exposed the INDIA bloc's anti-Sanatan mindset".

"By ordering the ceremonial lamp to be lit at the Thiruparankundram Deepathoon tomorrow and pulling up Tamil Nadu authorities for acting at the dictates of their political bosses, the Supreme Court has thoroughly exposed the INDI Alliance government's anti-Sanatan mindset," he said.

Nabin asserted that no political conspiracy can stop the sacred traditions of Bharat.

Chandrashekhar Aazad seeks women's quota for SC, ST, OBCs, targets SP



New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) Chief and MP Chandrashekhar Aazad on Friday called for a separate quota for Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Class (OBC) women under the women's political reservation framework, while questioning the Samajwadi Party's latest manifesto and its past record on reservation promises ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh polls. Speaking to, Aazad said he had come to Delhi to examine the provisions of the new Bill and would write to the Union government after gathering information about its various clauses.

"My stand on the previous Bill is clear. I have already explained my current position. I have come to Delhi to gather information about the various provisions of the new Bill. Based on the information I have received so far, I am going to write a letter to the government," he added. Clarifying his position on women's reservation, Aazad said the media should not confuse the proposed legislation with the Women's Reservation Bill, which was passed by Parliament in 2023.

He said his party had then demanded a separate quota for SC, ST and OBC women within the proposed political reservation framework, adding that the opportunity to introduce a quota within a quota had been missed.

"The Women's Reservation Bill was already passed in 2023. At that time, our demand was that a separate quota for political reservation should be provided for SC, ST and OBC women. I felt that they should not have missed the opportunity to provide a quota within a quota, but they did not," he said. Aazad also expressed disappointment that political leadership had not raised the demand strongly enough at the time.

'Delimitation bill being brought in to win UP': Akhilesh attacks Government



Lucknow, Nov 27 (Way to News): Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, on Friday, hit out at the BJP-led government, claiming that the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which includes the Delimitation Bill, 2026 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, is being reintroduced to "win" the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

According to reports, the government is expected to reintroduce the Bill in the upcoming Special session of the Parliament from November 30, as it was defeated in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session in April.

Addressing the media, Akhilesh Yadav said: "When they realised that the Uttar Pradesh elections were slipping out of their hands, after the theft of donations offered by devotees (in Ayodhya's Ram Temple)… they started bringing in delimitation only to win the Uttar Pradesh elections and are misleading the entire country."

The SP chief reiterated his allegations of discrepancies in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in the state.

"Those who used to talk about 'One Nation, One Election', are unable to create even one voter list. Look at what they are doing to manipulate the voter list. So, I cannot understand whether the CEO, who has the figures, is lying, or the Chief Minister, who wants to change the figures, is lying," he said,

Expressing confidence of victory in the upcoming polls, he said the name of the present Chief Minister, i.e. Yogi Adityanath, has "permanently disappeared" from the list.

Meanwhile, as the tussle over the seat-sharing negotiations between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party continues, Akhilesh Yadav said that the parties will sit together and discuss how to coordinate the alliance and identify the strongest candidates.

CM Revanth Reddy Accuses BJP of Undermining Constitution

CM rules out Gujarat model, calls for reviving traditional water conservation systems and protecting lakes to build a climate-resilient Telangana.

From page 1

"No MLA, MP or celebrity is spared - their houses, function halls or anything will come down according to the law," he said, adding that he "enjoys" the legal battles as he believed he was doing the right thing.

He cited the restoration of Bathukammakunta, where women celebrated Bathukamma around the lake this year, and the removal of encroachments on water bodies across the city.

Revanth Reddy said families belonging to economically weaker sections affected by the lake restoration drive were being rehabilitated under the Indiramma housing scheme. Pollution around some water bodies had made living conditions difficult, he said, adding that the government would provide houses to affected families. Inviting environmentalists and experts to participate in policymaking, the Chief Minister said, "You need not stand outside investment summits and government offices and protest. Come forward and give us your suggestions."



He said Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and water conservationist Rajendra Singh, popularly known as the Waterman of India and chairperson of Tarun Bharat Sangh, had been invited to raise public awareness about conservation and ensure that such efforts were not perceived as "political campaigns". He also said "we didn't want to sit inside four walls and make policies. Rather (we wanted to) get out into the real world and listen to real people that these policies affect to be able to make decisions that benefit them in the most efficient way possible."

Revanth Reddy called for changes in agricultural practices to conserve water, asking farmers to consider less water-intensive crops. While the state had food reserves sufficient for two years, available water resources had to be managed until the next monsoon, he said. "With the water we have now, we have to live the next eight months," he said. "The future of the state is on the shoulders of our farmers," he added. The Chief Minister suggested that farmers might have to forgo one crop rather than exhaust available water resources. He said the government's objective was to ensure that agriculture was not a "dandanga" (wasteful activity) but a "panduga" (festival).

Revanth Reddy also called for climate considerations to be incorporated into urban planning. He questioned how cities could cope with cloudbursts when drainage and road infrastructure designed to handle 2 cm of rainfall could be overwhelmed by 40 cm of rainfall in two hours. Outlining the government's development approach, he referred to the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE), Peri-Urban Region Economy (PURE) and Rural Agriculture Region Economy (RARE), questioning whether any other state had adopted similar planning.

He recalled former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's investments in education and agriculture, including the establishment of the IITs and IIMs, which, he said, had benefited generations. Revanth Reddy also referred to the government's initiatives to tackle food adulteration through TG SAFE, encroachments through HYDRAA and drug abuse through EAGLE.

MLA Sudheer Reddy conducts sudden inspection of Champapet Government School

L.B. Nagar, Nov 27 (Way To News): L.B. Nagar MLA Sri Devireddy Sudheer Reddy conducted a sudden inspection of the Champapet Government Primary School and reviewed various issues affecting the institution.

During the inspection, the MLA expressed serious dissatisfaction over the incomplete construction of G+2 toilets, which were taken up nearly a year ago at an estimated cost of Rs. 17 lakh. Despite the completion of the construction work, essential facilities such as toilet fittings and water connections have not yet been provided. Expressing his displeasure, Sudheer Reddy contacted the concerned contractor over the phone and questioned the delay in completing the work. He also spoke to the District Education Officer (DEO), explained the situation and urged the officials to take immediate steps to resolve the issue. The officials assured him that the pending works would be completed at the earliest.





Interacting with students, the MLA learned that nearly 700 students are studying at the school, which currently has only eight to nine toilets. He was also informed that the 32 teachers and other staff members working at the institution are facing a shortage of adequate toilet facilities. The MLA emphasised that providing basic infrastructure to students is the responsibility of the government and education department. He stressed that officials should not neglect essential facilities such as sanitation, safe drinking water and adequate toilet facilities in government schools.

Are These the Conditions of Government Schools Under the Congress Government? While the Congress government makes ambitious announcements about "Integrated Schools" and "International Standard Education", the ground reality appears to be different, with students struggling for even basic facilities.

If schools are unable to provide essential infrastructure such as proper classrooms, drinking water, toilets, electricity and digital facilities, questions arise about the implementation of these ambitious promises and who ultimately benefits from such announcements.

The MLA urged the concerned officials to respond immediately and address the problems being faced by students and teachers. School Headmistress Vijaya, BRS leaders Mudupu Rajireddy, Ravi Mudiraj, Gandikota Srinath and others were present during the inspection.

Srihari, Seethakka Launch Alampur Development Works



Jogulamba Gadwal, Nov 27 (Way To News): Telangana Ministers Vakiti Srihari and Seethakka, along with Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi, laid foundation stones for several development works in the Alampur Assembly constituency of Jogulamba Gadwal district on Friday.

The leaders first visited Kanchupadu village in Undavelli mandal and laid the foundation stone for the construction of a BT road connecting the village to the national highway. They later paid floral tributes to the portrait of late former MP and senior leader Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy.

The ministers received a grand welcome from local Congress leaders upon their arrival at Shantinagar, where they continued their tour of development projects. They laid the foundation stone for a BT road from Pacherla village to Pedda Tandrapadu village. They also initiated the BT road restoration works from Aija to Chinna Tandrapadu and the construction of a new BT road connecting Chinna Tandrapadu to Pedda Dhanwada village.

In addition, foundation stones were laid for HAM road construction works in Gadwal constituency and various development projects under the VB-G RAM-G scheme.

At Chinna Tandrapadu, the ministers unveiled the statue of freedom fighter and senior leader S. Ananda Rao. A bus shelter named after him was also inaugurated in recognition of his contributions.

The leaders subsequently laid the foundation stone for a sports complex in the village and inaugurated an open gym facility for local residents.

Governor Calls for AI-Driven Library Services

Hyderabad, Nov 27 (Way To News): Telangana Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla has called for transformative changes in library services through the effective use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technology. He said modern libraries should evolve beyond repositories of books into centres of knowledge creation, research, innovation and social transformation, ensuring equal access to quality information and educational opportunities for every student and researcher.

The Governor was speaking as the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony of the 29th National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN–2026), organised by DELNET (Developing Library Network), New Delhi, at Hotel The Park in Hyderabad on Thursday.



Emphasising the vital role of libraries in building a knowledge-based society, Shri Shukla said digital technology, networking and AI had opened up new avenues for creating, preserving and disseminating knowledge. He stressed that these technologies must be used to ensure access to reliable information and equitable learning opportunities. Appreciating DELNET's efforts in connecting institutions and promoting resource sharing, research collaboration and knowledge dissemination, the Governor called for wider access to digital resources in universities, colleges and rural libraries. He said economic and geographical barriers should not prevent students and researchers from accessing quality information.

Referring to the theme of the convention, "AI-Powered Libraries: Access, Services, Learning and Research", he emphasised the need for ethical AI, data security and responsible use of technology. He said AI should enhance human capabilities, improve research quality and enable libraries to provide better services to readers.

NAGARJUNA JOINS KISHAN REDDY'S DRUG AWARENESS PADYATRA IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad, Nov 27 (Way to News): Veteran actor Nagarjuna Akkineni on Friday, November 27, took part in the padayatra led by Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy here to raise awareness against drug abuse.

He also administered a pledge to work for a drug-free India. Nagarjuna joined the foot march at Ameerpet here on its third and final day along with other film personalities, including actors Sai Kumar, Siva Reddy and director Boyapati Srinivas. Speaking on the occasion, Nagarjuna lauded Kishan Reddy's initiative as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to make India drug-free.

He urged all sections of society to support the mission of 'Nasha Mukt Bharat' (Drug Free India).

"Apart from personally staying away from drugs, I will also make every effort to protect my family and friends and also the surrounding society from falling prey to drugs," the pledge read out by Nagarjuna to the gathering, largely comprising students, said.

Sai Kumar, known for his popular baritone voice, raised slogans, including 'Nasha Mukt Bharat -We Will Do It'.

Vanasthalipuram police arrest three in robbery cases, recover two mobiles



Hyderabad, Nov 27 (Way to News): Vanasthalipuram Police arrested three persons involved in two robbery cases and recovered two stolen mobile phones during vehicle checking at Panama X Road in the early hours of Friday.

The accused were identified as Mohd Faizan (22), Mohd Akbar (20) and Vemula Rakesh (23), all residents of Moosa Nagar in Chaderghat, Hyderabad. Police apprehended them around 6 am on November 27. According to police, the accused targeted auto and cab drivers during late-night and early-morning hours, particularly those resting inside or parking their vehicles. They allegedly stole mobile phones and attacked victims with knives when they resisted or attempted to recover their belongings.

In the first incident, an auto driver, Chinnam Ravi Kumar, was sleeping inside his vehicle near KLM Shopping Mall in Vanasthalipuram on November 25 when three persons allegedly attempted to steal his mobile phone. When he resisted, one of the accused attacked him with a knife, causing an injury to his right wrist, and fled with the phone.

In another incident on the same day, cab driver Meghavath Ramesh was allegedly targeted near Mallikarjuna Nagar Kaman after filling CNG. The accused reportedly opened his car door and stole his Vivo mobile phone. When he chased them, one of them stabbed him in the stomach before escaping.

Police registered two cases under Section 309(6) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Vanasthalipuram Police Station.

The police recovered one Infinix and one Vivo mobile phone in connection with the two cases. They also stated that the accused had been involved in previous criminal cases.

The operation was conducted under the guidance of Malkajgiri Commissioner of Police B. Sumathi, IPS, and the supervision of DCP L.B. Nagar Zone B. Anuradha, IPS. ACP P. Kasi Reddy, SHO S. Ravi Babu, Inspector B. Rajesh, SI V. Ravi, CCS Inspector G. Govind Rao, the CCS team and the Vanasthalipuram crime team participated in the operation.

NIPER Hyderabad conferred Degrees on 225 Graduating Students at its 14th Convocation Ceremony

Hyderabad, Nov 27 (Way to News): The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad, organised its 14th Convocation Ceremony on Friday, November 27, 2026, at its campus in Balanagar, Hyderabad. The ceremony marked an important milestone for 225 graduating students, comprising 15 Ph.D. scholars and 210 Master's students of the 2024–26 batch. Twelve meritorious students were awarded Gold Medals for their outstanding academic performance. The Chief Guest and Guest of Honour conferred degrees upon the graduating students and presented Gold Medals to the meritorious students.



Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary, Senior Economic Advisor, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, he congratulated the graduating students and commended NIPER Hyderabad's growing stature in pharmaceutical education and research. He highlighted Government of India's key initiatives, including the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes, bulk drug parks, Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector (PRIP) and Biopharma SHAKTI, aimed at strengthening domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing, research and innovation. He called upon the graduates to pursue excellence in drug discovery, research and innovation while upholding ethical values and serving society and the nation. Shri DSN Murthy, Managing Director & CEO, Dhanush Group, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. In his address, he encouraged students to look beyond conventional employment and aspire to become entrepreneurs and innovators. He emphasised the integration of science, technology and innovation, continuous learning, and industry-linked research to translate academic discoveries into real-world solutions.

Dr. Shailendra Saraf, Director, NIPER Hyderabad, presented the Institution's Report, highlighting the institute's academic, research and institutional achievements. He highlighted NIPER Hyderabad's 100 percent placement record and achievements in research publications, patents, technology transfers, funded projects and industry collaborations. He also highlighted the ongoing campus expansion, development of the Centre of Excellence for Bulk Drugs, and key academic outreach initiatives, workshops and conferences. Congratulating the graduating students, he reaffirmed the institute's commitment to advancing pharmaceutical research, innovation and excellence in education.

The convocation celebrated the academic accomplishments of the graduating students and acknowledged their dedication, perseverance and excellence in pharmaceutical education and research. Students, their parents, faculty members and staff of NIPER Hyderabad attended the ceremony.

Telangana Launches New Overseas Employment Scheme, Offers Up to Rs 1.75 Lakh Subsidy

Hyderabad, Nov 27 (Way to News): Even as the controversy over alleged irregularities in TOMCOM's overseas placement programme continues to simmer, the Telangana government has launched the Chief Minister's Overseas Employment Scheme (CMOES) to provide financial assistance to economically weaker youth seeking jobs abroad. The scheme has been launched to help youth tackle problems like lack of awareness, inadequate skills, high recruitment-related expenditure and the risk of fraudulent recruitment practices, a government order dated November 19 said. The scheme will be managed by Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM), which operates under the Department of Skill Human Capital and Knowledge Training Initiatives (SHAKTI). The scheme will extend benefits to 7,000 candidates during the 2026-27 financial year.

The government will provide a 50 per cent subsidy on expenditure incurred towards foreign language learning, visa processing and air travel. This will be subject to certain ceilings. Out of the 7,000 proposed candidates, 5,880 will be assisted for direct overseas employment, while 1,120 will be those applying for jobs that require proficiency in foreign languages. Candidates for both pools will be selected based on their educational qualifications, vocational skills, interests and employment opportunities.

Candidates under the first category, who can take up jobs without needing to learn a language, will be considered for assistance of Rs 50,000. The ceiling of expenditure (for visa and travel expenses) has been capped at Rs 1 lakh and Rs 50,000 is being provided as a 50 per cent subsidy.

For the second category of candidates, the expenditure ceiling has been capped at Rs 3.5 lakh, making them eligible for Rs 1.75 lakh subsidy. The assistance will cover either language training or visa and travel expenses, as chosen by the candidate. The scheme covers 10 sectors, including construction and infrastructure, manufacturing, automobile, mechanical and electrical industries, electronics.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

India, EU review strong momentum in ties, discuss deepening strategic partnership

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): India and the European Union (EU) on Friday reviewed the strong momentum in their relations and discussed ways to further deepen their strategic partnership in line with the 'Towards 2030 agenda, as the two sides held the 12th India-EU Foreign Policy and Security Consultations (FPSC) in New Delhi. The consultations were co-chaired by Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Sibi George and Olof Skoog, Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs of the European External Action Service (EEAS).



"The consultations provided an opportunity to both sides to review the strong momentum and current state of play in India-EU relations and to discuss ways to further deepen the strategic partnership, in line with the Towards 2030: A Joint India-European Union Comprehensive Strategic Agenda endorsed at the 16th India-EU Summit in January 2026," a joint press statement issued by the MEA said. In the current geopolitical context, with multilateralism and international law being challenged, both sides underlined their firm commitment to upholding the UN Charter, in particular the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and exchanged views on regional and global developments, including in the Indo-Pacific.

"The consultations reaffirmed India and the EU's shared commitment to deepening their strategic partnership, strengthening cooperation in addressing common security challenges and promoting regional stability. Both sides emphasised the importance of closer coordination in support of a free, open, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific built on international law and mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful resolution of disputes," the joint statement added. The two sides also underscored the need for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine in accordance with international law and the principles of the UN Charter, and exchanged views on the need to restore freedom of navigation in the Black Sea to minimise the negative impact on global food security.

Indian envoy meets lebanese Defence Minister, discusses strengthening bilateral Cooperation

Beirut, Nov 27 (UNI): India and Lebanon on Friday discussed matters of mutual interest, with a focus on strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries, the Indian Embassy in Beirut said.



The discussions were held during a meeting between India's Ambassador to Lebanon, Noor Rahman Sheikh, and Lebanon's Defence Minister, Maj Gen (Retd) Michel Menassa. "Ambassador Noor Rahman Sheikh called on HE Maj Gen (Retd) Michel Menassa, Defence Minister of Lebanon and discussed matters of mutual interest with a focus on strengthening bilateral cooperation between India and Lebanon," the Embassy of India in Lebanon posted on X.

Earlier this month, India and Lebanon held the first Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in New Delhi, discussing ways to deepen bilateral cooperation across several sectors and exchanging views on regional and international issues of shared interest. The meeting was co-chaired by Sripriya Ranganathan, Secretary, Consular, Passport and Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs, in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and Ambassador Abdel Sattar Issa, Secretary-General of Lebanon's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants. "The meeting reviewed the entire gamut of India-Lebanon bilateral relations and discussed ways to further strengthen it across political-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars. They identified cooperation in trade and investment, digital public infrastructure and pharmaceuticals as priorities. They also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest," the MEA posted on X.

Indian Railways Achieves Breakthrough In 6.59-Km Tunnel On Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Line

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): Indian Railways has achieved the main tunnel breakthrough of the 6.59-km-long Tunnel-14 on the Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Rail Project in Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag district, marking a key milestone in the construction of the strategically important railway project in the state, an official statement said on Friday.



The breakthrough connects two excavated sections of the tunnel, comprising a 4.7-km stretch driven from Portal-1 at Sumerpur and a 1.79-km section excavated from Portal-2 at Marora, the statement from the Ministry of Railways said.

The project is expected to provide better connectivity to the hill regions, facilitate travel for pilgrims and tourists, and support regional development by improving accessibility to important destinations in the state.

A 110-metre stretch of the triple-track tunnel at Portal-1 was excavated through loose soil beneath inhabited areas, with 20-30 metres of soil and rock above it. Specialised techniques, including pre-excavation and multi-drifting, were used to ensure safe excavation, the ministry said. The statement also informed that the slope at Portal-2 was secured through 30–35-metre-deep micro-piles, 15–20-metre-long rock bolts and consolidation grouting. "These measures enabled the launch of the main tunnel drive in March 2024, following the resolution of ground settlement issues at Marora and matters related to land and home acquisition," the ministry said.

India and Philippines review ongoing military engagements, identify new avenues for tri-service cooperation

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): India and the Philippines on Friday jointly held the fourth Service-to-Service Talks led by Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ-IDS) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Ministry of Defence stated.



According to the HQIDS, the talks provided an opportunity to review ongoing military engagements, identify new avenues for tri-service cooperation and strengthen collaboration in training, maritime security, defence technology and emerging domains. The engagement, it said further, reflects the shared commitment of both countries to advancing their Strategic Partnership and contributing towards peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. Both sides had held the third Service to Service (STS) meeting in Manila in September 2024 along with the fifth Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting at the Joint Secretary level. The two countries signed an agreement on defence industry and logistics cooperation in November 2017 and have also set up a separate Joint Defence Industry and Logistics Committee (JDILC) under the MoU. Last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Philippines President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr in Manila as both leaders reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation across several sectors under the Strategic Partnership and also exchanged views on key regional and global issues of mutual interest. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 23rd ASEAN-India summit.

Prime Minister Modi congratulated the Philippines on its successful chairmanship of ASEAN this year. He also appreciated the Philippines' role as the country coordinator for India in ASEAN since 2024 and its continued support in strengthening ASEAN-India relations. The two leaders also warmly recalled their recent meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi in September 2026, which President Marcos Jr attended at the invitation of Prime Minister Modi in the former's capacity as ASEAN Chair. "They appreciated the increased momentum in bilateral cooperation in various areas such as defence and security, space.

Manipur: Seven Kuki Civilians Laid To Rest In Churachandpur; Abducted Man Rescued

Imphal, Nov 27 (Way to News): The mortal remains of seven Kuki civilians, including five women, who were killed in separate incidents by suspected militants in Manipur's Tamenglong and Noney districts in September, were laid to rest at a cemetery in Churachandpur district on Friday, officials said.



The bodies, which had been kept at the mortuary of Churachandpur District Hospital, were taken to the Anglo-Kuki War Memorial at D Vaison village for the last rites, a senior official said.

The mortal remains were wrapped in traditional indigenous shawls as a mark of respect before being buried. Representatives of various civil society organisations and family members gathered at the village to pay their last respects to the deceased.

All seven civilians, including five women, were allegedly shot dead by armed militants in Tamenglong and Noney districts in September. Their bodies were subsequently brought to Churachandpur District Hospital, where they remained in the mortuary pending the final rites. The seven victims are Seineh Singsit, Phalngaih Julie Singson, Lhingjangai Singsit, Nei Esther Gangte, Kimjalhing Singson, Thangroel Gangte and Phalneichong Sitlhou.

Manipur has been witnessing ethnic violence since May 2023, when clashes erupted between the valley-based Meitei and hill-based Kuki communities. The conflict has claimed at least 306 lives, while 49 people remain missing and thousands have been displaced. In a separate development, at least 50 people have reportedly been killed in clashes between Kuki and Naga communities in the hill districts since February this year. The violence has largely been concentrated in Ukhrul, Kamjong, Kangpokpi and Tamenglong districts, Noney district and parts of Senapati district.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Friday interacted with local residents and Kuki women vendors at Kangpokpi Bazar while returning from Senapati district, which is predominantly inhabited by the Naga community. During his visit, the Chief Minister purchased vegetables from the vendors and appreciated the hardworking women for their contribution to the local economy.

Results Come Through Hard Work, Honesty, Not Through Speeches: UP CM Adityanath's Jibe At Opposition

Balrampur, Nov 27 (Way to News): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, took potshots at the Opposition, saying that results are achieved not through speeches or sermons, but through hard work, diligence, and the honest discharge of one's responsibilities.



Addressing a religious event here, the Chief Minister stated that the nation becomes strong and prosperous only when students study sincerely, teachers educate children effectively, farmers work hard in the fields, traders conduct business honestly, families instil values in their children, saints promote social awareness, and cowherds serve and care for cattle.

Without taking any name, he launched a veiled attack on the Opposition, saying, "Results are achieved not through speeches or sermons, but through hard work, diligence, and the honest discharge of one's responsibilities." He also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of "Nation First" should become the guiding principle of every Indian. Emphasising that India and 'Sanatan Dharma' are inseparable and complement one another, CM Adityanath said: "A strong India strengthens Sanatan Dharma, and a strong Sanatan Dharma, in turn, strengthens India."

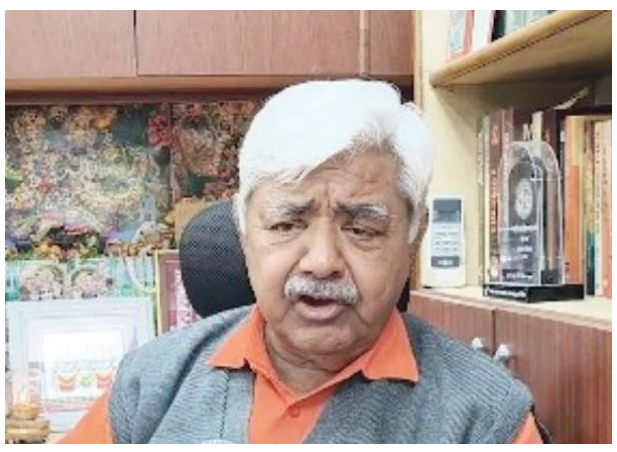
Asserting that 'Sanatan Dharma' upholds a great tradition of gratitude, he referred to the observance of 'Shraddh' and 'Tarpan' during the fortnight of 'Pitru Paksha', pointing that Hindus dedicate 15 days every year to remember and honour their ancestors.

Citing a historical anecdote, the UP CM said: "When Mughal ruler Aurangzeb imprisoned his father Shah Jahan in Agra Fort and gave him only a small pot of water every 24 hours, Shah Jahan is said to have remarked that Hindus were better because they cared for their elders during their lifetime and continued to remember them after death through annual rituals of Shraddh and Tarpan."

Referring to an episode from the Hindu epic Ramayan, CM Adityanath recalled how Lord Hanuman declined an offer to rest from Mount Mainak while on his mission to Lanka, saying, "Ram Kaj Keenhe Binu Mohi Kahan Vishram" (How can I rest before completing Lord Ram's work). He also quoted, "Krite Cha Pratikartavyam Esha Dharma Sanatanah," meaning that expressing gratitude in return for kindness is the essence of 'Sanatan Dharma'.

UCC Must Be Implemented Across India; Akhilesh Yadav Should Apologise Before Visiting Ram Temple: VHP Chief Alok Kumar

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): In an exclusive intervie, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) International President Alok Kumar spoke on a range of issues concerning Hindu religious sentiments, cultural identity and national politics. Hitting out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his alleged silence on the Karthigai Deepam controversy in Tamil Nadu, Kumar accused the Congress of pursuing vote-bank politics and neglecting Hindu concerns. He strongly advocated the nationwide implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), describing it as essential for gender justice and women's equality. He also discussed attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh, the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the Krishna Janmabhoomi dispute and Akhilesh Yadav's proposed temple visit.



I would expect him to take a dip in the Saryu River before visiting the temple. He should apologise for the atrocities and firing on Kar Sevaks during his father's (Mulayam Singh Yadav's) tenure as the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, when several Kar Sevaks lost their lives. He should also apologise for the fact that during his own tenure as the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, he did nothing for Ayodhya. He did not introduce any development plan for the city and did not even visit it. After seeking forgiveness, he can visit the temple. The temple is open to everyone and to all Hindus. Whether he comes out of genuine devotion or for political reasons ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh elections, I believe he should first apologise and undertake an act of atonement.

How do you view the Karthigai Deepam controversy? Do you believe the Tamil Nadu government's actions amount to disregarding the religious sentiments of Hindus?

Alok Kumar: I would like to say that preventing the lighting of the lamp at that pillar, despite the Supreme Court's directions, is not merely a disregard for Hindu sentiments; it is an insult. This insult was deliberate and could not have happened without the consent of the head of the government. Therefore, I hold the entire Tamil Nadu government responsible.

I am very satisfied that the Supreme Court has initiated contempt proceedings against the state's Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, the Secretary of the concerned department, and other officials. They have been directed to be served within five days and have been asked to respond.

I am also satisfied that the Board of Trustees, which had passed a resolution, saying that it would not comply with the Supreme Court's order, has been dissolved. The responsibility has now been entrusted to two retired High Court judges appointed as receivers, and a clear direction has been issued for the lamp to be lit there on Saturday.

The CRPF will provide security to ensure compliance with the order, rather than relying on the local police. This entire arrangement makes it evident that the Supreme Court does not have confidence in the state government. It also shows that the Court is taking concrete steps to ensure the implementation of its order.

If the order is not implemented, it would amount to an insult to the Judiciary and its authority, as well as an attack on Hindu sentiments, traditions and religious practices that are protected by the Constitution.

I am certain that Hindu society in Tamil Nadu will not accept this. It will respond appropriately and hold the state government accountable, while remaining within the Constitutional and democratic framework. The state government will have to start counting its days in office.

You have said that mocking Hindus will not be tolerated. Do you believe that Hindu faith and religious traditions are being deliberately targeted through this controversy?

Alok Kumar: Absolutely. The question is simple: Should a lamp be lit at that pillar once a year, on Kartik Purnima, or not? Is there an established tradition of doing so?

The Single Judge bench said that such a tradition exists and directed that the ritual be performed. The Division Bench affirmed that position and directed that permission be granted. The Supreme Court also issued its directions. Are we to believe that all these judges are wrong?

Hindus are simply asserting their rights—the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and affirmed by the courts. Therefore, an individual cannot be allowed to arbitrarily claim that such a tradition never existed and deny permission for its observance.

Rahul Gandhi carries a red-covered copy of the Constitution, but his silence over the allegations of constitutional violations and non-compliance with Supreme Court directions in Tamil Nadu raises questions. How do you view this?

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Editorial

Quiet confidence & lasting impact of MMS

THE passing of Manmohan Singh, India's Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014, has led to an unexpected eruption of nostalgia and appreciation.

Singh's modesty and low-key style made it easy for many to overlook his achievements in boosting India's economic growth and elevating its global standing. His death, at 92, has thrown a spotlight on an impressive record.

Singh will be remembered as one of the world's most important — and most unlikely — political leaders. I first met him in the late 1980s in the East Delhi housing complex where my family lived at the time. Singh had finished his term as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and was looking to buy a simple apartment in our locality. A friend of mine called to ask if he could bring Singh to see ours. Singh came and met us and chatted with my mother. But he never moved to the area because soon thereafter, he was appointed Secretary-General of the South Commission in Geneva; and, after that, in 1991, he became India's Finance Minister. In 2004, my mother called me, excitedly informing me that the soft-spoken, unassuming Singh had just become India's Prime Minister. In 2009, when I was Chair of the Economics Department at Cornell, Singh invited me — quite out of the blue — to join his government as Chief Economic Adviser. I agreed, but only if he assured me regular, direct access to him. He said he would, and he did. I met with him about once a month and got to know him well during the nearly three years in his government.

By that point, Singh had already laid the groundwork of India's economic liberalisation, with the most important reforms carried out between 1991 and 1993, when he was Finance Minister.

The transformative effect was evident from the subsequent acceleration in India's economic growth. India's early investment in the sciences and engineering during this period nurtured talent not only in research and development but also in corporate leadership and policymaking. Singh's sharp intellect was guided by a sure moral compass. Former US President Barack Obama rightly described him as a person of "uncommon wisdom and decency." While the electorate often took this to be a sign of weakness, his modesty was rooted in self-confidence. He felt no need to proclaim his talents from the rooftop. He was unruffled by criticism and saw no sense in attacking his critics. In 2005, when he visited Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, well-known for left-wing activism, students with black flags turned out to protest. The university authorities were embarrassed and furious, and offered to take strong action against the students. Show-cause orders were sent to some students and the Delhi police also detained some. It was Singh who intervened on the students' behalf, arguing that they were exercising their "democratic rights."

Later, in a speech at the university, he quoted the famous aphorism attributed to Voltaire: "Every member of a university community, if he or she wishes to aspire to be worthy of the university, must accept the truth of Voltaire's classic statement: 'I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.' That idea must be the cornerstone of a liberal institution."

It was also a cornerstone of Singh's own political career. Because he took ethics seriously, he insisted on the highest standard of honesty. When, in 2010, inflation was raging, some bureaucrats suggested that it might be best not to hurt his political standing by releasing so much price data. But he put his foot down, insisting there should be no compromise on statistical transparency, even if it dented his poll numbers. This raises a puzzling question. In a world where political success seems to depend so much on intrigue, dissimulation and subterfuge, how did such a person make it to the top?

How many times will Telangana's identity get a makeover?



Yunus Lasania

It is no secret that the current Congress government in Telangana, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is trying to undo much of what his predecessor and Bharat Rashtra Samithi supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao established in terms of cultural and political legacy during his tenure (2014-2023).

As a result, Telangana, which was bifurcated from Andhra Pradesh in 2014 after a prolonged statehood movement (led by the Telangana Joint Action Committee and KCR), seems to be undergoing a second image makeover regarding its cultural identity. This shift was perhaps inevitable, given that the Congress has consistently claimed credit for granting statehood (under UPA-2).

It is understandable that KCR's nearly decade-long rule sought to craft a distinct identity for Telangana, born out of its contentious separation from Andhra Pradesh. Despite both being Telugu-speaking states, their linguistic nuances and cultural expressions differ significantly. Revanth Reddy's approach is clear: he aims to either overwrite or erase the marks left by KCR. A prime example is the recently unveiled Telangana Thalli (Mother Telangana) statue, inaugurated at the state Secretariat in Hyderabad on Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's birthday. The statue sparked controversy because the new version depicts a woman in a green saree holding maize in her left hand, while her right hand forms an open palm, closely resembling the Congress's party symbol.

The Congress's intent to shape the statue in line with the party's identity, rather than the state's, could not be more apparent. However, the previous statue was not without criticism. Designed in 2003, the original Telangana Thalli appeared more like a deity, dressed in a pink silk saree representing the state's famous Pochampally sarees. She held a Bathukamma (floral festival) pot in one hand and maize cobs in the other.

The newer version of Telangana Thalli seems to reflect a connection with common folk, possibly aligning with the Congress's narrative. Chief Minister Reddy defended the redesign, saying that statehood activists and intellectuals were consulted during the process. However, this statue is not the only source of controversy since the Congress assumed power. Revanth Reddy's government drew flak when images of a redesigned Telangana emblem circulated on social media. The current emblem features the Kakatiya Thoranam (arch) and the Charminar, representing both the dynasties that once ruled over Telangana and Hyderabad.

Rumors suggested the Charminar might be omitted from the new emblem, stirring discontent among Muslims and prompting criticism from the BRS. Facing mounting pressure, the state government quietly shelved the redesign plans, and the emblem issue appears to be settled for now. Over the next four years, much of Telangana's cultural symbolism will likely be reimagined to fit into the Congress' image. While this was expected, it is rather sad to see that the cultural identity of Telangana can be so easily altered just because of petty rivalry and insecure politics.

I am unsure whether the Charminar's removal was genuinely part of the redesign, but even the thought of it is rather silly, as the monument is integral to Hyderabad and Telangana's identity. Those advising the current government clearly need to do a better job, at least for the sake of optics. While it is true that the BRS and its decisions heavily centred around KCR's family, it is also undeniable that KCR spearheaded the movement that resulted in Telangana's formation. The Congress is trying to downplay this reality, but one cannot erase historical contributions while claiming to do the right thing. In many ways, Revanth Reddy is doing exactly what the previous administration did—reshaping the state's identity to fit his party's image. Since coming to power last December, Revanth Reddy has sought to make his mark by unleashing the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRA) on unauthorised structures. While preserving lakes is laudable, targeting buildings constructed with prior government approval seems contradictory.

As someone who studied at Osmania University (2010-2012) during the statehood movement and witnessed Telangana's formation, I believe we should refrain from continuously reshaping the state's cultural identity. If people were unhappy with the emblem, they would have never accepted it to begin with. Changing everything simply because it was introduced by the previous government feels unnecessary, if not outright ridiculous. Of course, changing something that was done to suit a party is understandable.

TV News Returns to BJP Bias



Shailaja Bajpai

There was one big story about television news in 2024: it glimmered, briefly, with hope before it snuffed itself out.That makes for a glum start to 2025. Midway through last year, Hindi and English news channels found their sense of balance, politically, by giving almost equal coverage to the ruling BJP and the Opposition led by the Congress. Then, as elections in Haryana and Maharashtra were lost and lost by the Congress and won handsomely by the BJP, TV news took a sharp turn right—it returned to openly supporting the Narendra Modi government once again and took aim at Rahul Gandhi, the Gandhi parivar, Congress, and other Opposition parties—in that order. Ho hum, you'll say, what else is new? Nothing, really. As January 2025 rolls in, Assembly elections in Delhi will roll out. Be prepared for the same old shrill, divisive poll campaign with heated, incomprehensible political debates on TV.

You almost wish you could sit it out at Bigg Boss house, throughout the year: at least you know it doesn't take itself seriously. Come back Salman Khan, all is forgiven. And yet, and yet, it could have been so different. In June 2024, general elections gave the Opposition hopes of revival with 234 seats and the BJP a mild rebuke with what many news channels called an 'underwhelming result'. Immediately, TV news remembered India had an Opposition and began to feature spokespersons and MPs from the Samajwadi Party, DMK, TMC, NCP (SP), and Shiv Sena (UBT) in stories and prime-time debates. We got different points of view on the news and questions being asked of the ruling party: A good example was RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's comments after the Lok Sabha election results that a genuine sevak was never arrogant. New channels such as CNN News 18 actually dared, yes dared, to debate Bhagwat's remark, which were widely interpreted as criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During the election campaign, TV remained enthralled by Modi but newspaper coverage of him and the BJP dropped visibly—in mainstream English dailies. When Parliament convened in early July, we saw and heard much more of the Opposition—in the past, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha TV studiously ignored the opposition, focusing their cameras on the BJP. However, this time, Opposition benches were clearly in the frame. In fact, when Rahul Gandhi made his first speech as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, he was the main draw, dominating news headlines—not PM Modi. Usually, TV news reports on Rahul Gandhi only to attack him; last summer, it couldn't get enough of him. When he travelled through the US in August 2024, TV news followed him there—each time he held up the pocketbook copy of the Constitution, they snapped him up. Now, he is back to being the villain of the piece. During the summer months, news anchors spoke less dismissively of and more politely to the Opposition.

They analysed the BJP's losses in the Lok Sabha—Uttar Pradesh especially received wide coverage on Hindi and English news channels. Awadesh Prasad, the SP's newly elected Ayodhya MP, was profiled extensively on news media. KL Sharma, the giant slayer of former MP and Union Minister Smriti Irani, was another TV favourite.

This was a big change from the earlier part of the year with the dazzling display of Ayodhya lit up in festive lights and by PM Modi's inauguration of the Ram Mandir. Beginning with his 11-day religious fast before the Pran Pratistha, he lived in reflected celestial light with TV's entire focus on him.

By the time elections were announced, the media was flooded with BJP advertisements—always featuring Modi prominently. TV news and newspapers alike had 'Modi Ki Guarantee' written all over them. During the campaign, Modi's every speech went live on TV—Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and BJP president JP Nadda were also featured—but the Opposition barely flickered across the TV screens.

UPI, AI to Drive Viksit Bharat



Nivedita Mookerji

The year 2025 has begun with a renewed promise for Viksit Bharat, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi telling the people of India that the government would work even harder to achieve the objective of a $30 trillion economy by 2047. However, transforming India into a developed nation by the 100th year of Independence would mean many bright spots for the country along the way, well before the target year — which is still 22 years away.

Among other sectors, the digital economy, which is growing at a fast clip, should play a critical role in the Viksit Bharat journey. Estimated at around $175 billion in 2023, India's digital economy could grow to $1 trillion in three years, projections suggest. According to published data, the digital economy, which accounted for 4.5 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2014, is expected to account for 20 per cent of GDP by 2026.

With the digital economy leapfrogging, current realities — such as the popularity of UPI transactions, the quick commerce wave, the rise in unicorns, innovations using 5G and 6G technologies, and advancements in artificial intelligence — could grow exponentially. For all this to happen, however, the core communication network and mobile subscriber numbers in rural areas have to strengthen significantly. The digital divide between urban and rural parts of India in the telecom universe has narrowed over the years, but there's a long way to go. As reported in this newspaper, NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer BVR Subrahmanyam recently said that an alternative perspective on India's ambitions to grow tenfold and become a $30 trillion economy by 2047 is that 90 per cent of the country is yet to be built. Similarly, about half of rural India still does not have access to any telecom service for a variety of reasons, leaving that much room for growth. It's this growth that will eventually drive not just the digital economy, but also the Viksit Bharat dreams. The latest figures from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) show rural telephony subscriber numbers moving closer to those in urban India. While urban subscribers stood at 660.42 million as of October 2024, rural numbers were at 527.79 million. In wireless, the gap is even lower — urban at 625.56 million and rural at 524.86 million. But teledensity, which describes the number of telephone connections per 100 persons in a given area, reveals the real picture of the urban-rural divide. Urban teledensity is pegged at 131.31, while rural is at 58.39.

Going back by about a decade, in August 2014, urban teledensity was higher than it is now at 147.54, compared to a considerably lower rural teledensity of 44.67. In absolute terms, the divide between urban and rural was reflected in these numbers—urban telephony subscribers at 566.60 million and rural at 385.25 million, while urban wireless was at 544.69 million and rural wireless at 379.63 million.

The teledensity in the intervening years has moved something like this. In October 2016, urban teledensity was recorded at 160.50, while rural was at 52.43. The following year, in 2017, around the same time, both urban and rural teledensity moved up to 172.98 and 57.73, respectively. Reliance Jio launched its service in December 2015, and the low tariffs disrupted the market, leading to an upward trend in teledensity, including in rural areas.

By June 2019, a few months before Covid-19 hit the world, teledensity had begun to taper down. Around this time, the deep discounts in telecom tariffs were getting rationalised. Urban teledensity at this point was 160.78, against 56.99 in rural areas. Following the lockdown in India, there was a noticeable decline in urban subscribers, but rural areas saw no such dip. By June 2020, urban teledensity had dropped to 137.35 (down from 160.78 the previous year), while rural teledensity had risen to 58.96 (up from 56.99 the previous year).

As for the urban-rural divide in internet connectivity, total subscribers increased from 251.59 million in March 2014 to 954.40 million in March 2024, according to a government statement last year. The statement had said that, as of April 2024, 95.15 per cent villages had access to the internet, with 3G/4G mobile connectivity. This would likely have been shared access, rather than individual subscription, based on the numbers given here.

Even with several flagship schemes of the government such as Digital India and Startup India, policymakers should understand the needs of both the industry and the end users to make a real difference on the ground. For the Viksit Bharat goal to be realised, rural teledensity needs to increase along with other infrastructure and socio-economic measures. For this to happen, many silos will need to be broken—whether it's for satellite telecom to take off, the unicorn universe to flourish, or quick commerce to expand.

Trump's America: Challenge and Opportunity for India

Rajeev Chandrasekhar



Unlike any other time in recent history, 2025 represents much suspense and hope for governments, economies and people around the world. The post-Covid years have been difficult for the world and the scars of the pandemic on global economies are yet to heal fully. The healing process was delayed because of the conflicts in Europe first, and then in the Middle East.Many of the "big" economies, especially in Europe, have slipped into a kind of declining spiral—caused by Covid, and then exacerbated by the war in Europe, high energy prices, and immigration from the Middle East. These factors have converged into almost a perfect storm. Recent results from the previously unassailable German automotive industry— where every major auto company has shown deep declines—highlight how deeply disruptive technology and energy prices have been, wreaking havoc on these economies.

Call it fate or the good sense of voters in India, but from 2014 onwards, India embarked on a very different direction economically compared to the 10 years of profligacy that Manmohan Singh's government had journeyed. The focus on the financial sector strengthening, in particular the public sector banks, meant that when Covid hit India and the world, the country had built up its strength from the weak days of 2014. God forbid, if we had stayed on the UPA course, a very different history would have been written about India today – rather than the one about the fifth largest economy now poised to become the third largest.

But the scars remain—of not just the pandemic but more significantly the war in Europe and the 7 October terror attack by Hamas on Israel that plunged the stabilising Middle East into chaos and war yet again. And the list of collateral effects included supply chain disruption, increased risk in trade routes, and energy prices among others. The endless stream of illegal migrants to Europe and the US, attracted by liberal governments, loose borders, and the mindless woke idealogy-driven Left Liberals who have shrilly normalised this has caused havoc and more so in democracies.

US President Joe Biden's Administration was seamingly at sea through most of this time, sending a mixed bag of confusing messages to the world and these hot spot events. A country that, in the post-World War II era, represented most of what the world hoped and aspired for, seemed lead-footed and uninspiring at a time when the world needed decisive leadership. And during this period of economic weakness and conflict, a few countries have gained. Oil and energy-producing nations have accumulated an additional windfall exceeding $ 1 Trillion in just four to six months after the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. China, which dominates the electronics Global Value Chains (GVC), enjoyed the rapid growth of digital and electronics products as digitalisation expanded before the China Plus One started kicking in.

Certainly, as we look ahead to 2025, the event that could reset and redraw the world is US President-elect Donald Trump's second term. He was voted in with a mandate to deal with the global hot-button issues, he has promised no more war and conflict, peace in the Middle East and lower energy prices. A clear firm approach to dealing with illegal migration, rein in government spending (and so to taper down the printing of US dollars), addressing China, economic growth, and cementing US leadership in technology and innovation.

Truth be told, we can expect Trump's "America First" but in many ways, the issues that drive such policies could also spur global recovery. His presidency threatens to upend the global status quo. In the last few months, trade-ists and almost every government have looked at the arrival of the Trump Presidency with anticipation (not all good) President Trump's America will certainly be a challenge but it also presents opportunities to growing economies like ours. On 10 November, a few days after the Trump win, I was invited to a video conference chat with some of the big boys of US Tech – most of whom had become Trump supporters. It was a light-hearted celebratory chat but there was a new confidence in US tech and as one of the iconic tech names in the call told me, "If you think US is anytime going to give up leadership of tech, AI, semiconductor or anything anytime soon, perish the thought – because we are back. Bigger and more confidently." I am one of those who have been predicting India's rise and growth in tech and innovation – and so it was clear I was invited into the chat for that message to be heard.

Tech and innovation will also be a big part of India's ambitions both to grow our economy as well as to create a globally competitive and efficient economy. Our own momentum of growth can increase in the coming year. With almost no election to slow down governance and investments, Budget 2025/26 can set off the next stage of growth for India's economy. The start of our national mission is to transform India into a Viksit Bharat, with the first stop being the #3 global economy. That will be a subject of my next musing. Buckle up – 2025 is going to be an interesting ride.

India must approach this changing global environment with a clear strategy that combines economic resilience with technological ambition. While global trade uncertainties and shifting geopolitical alliances may create short-term pressures, they also offer India an opportunity to strengthen its position as a preferred destination for manufacturing, investment and innovation. The country's large domestic market, skilled workforce and expanding digital infrastructure can become major advantages in attracting global businesses.

One of the most important areas will be strengthening India's semiconductor and electronics manufacturing capabilities. The global race for control over critical technologies is intensifying, and countries are increasingly seeking to diversify supply chains beyond China. India can benefit from this shift by accelerating domestic manufacturing, encouraging technology transfers and building strong partnerships with global companies. A robust semiconductor ecosystem will also support sectors such as automobiles, telecommunications, defence and artificial intelligence.

Artificial intelligence is another transformative opportunity that India cannot afford to overlook. With its vast pool of technology professionals, expanding startup ecosystem and growing digital public infrastructure, India has the potential to emerge as a major player in AI development and deployment. However, achieving this ambition will require sustained investment in research, computing infrastructure, data availability and advanced skills. Collaboration between government, industry and educational institutions will be essential to ensure that Indian innovations compete globally.

At the same time, India must continue improving its business environment, strengthening infrastructure and creating employment opportunities for its growing workforce. Simplifying regulations, ensuring policy stability and expanding access to affordable capital can encourage entrepreneurs and investors to take greater risks. Particular attention must be given to small and medium enterprises, which have the potential to become important contributors to exports, manufacturing and job creation. Economic growth must translate into wider opportunities and improved living standards across regions.

Ultimately, the emerging global order will reward countries that can adapt quickly, innovate consistently and maintain economic stability. India must remain confident about its strengths while recognising the challenges posed by protectionism, technological competition and geopolitical uncertainty. The coming years will demand bold decisions, effective execution and a long-term vision. If India can convert these challenges into opportunities, the ambition of becoming a developed nation by 2047 can move closer to reality.

Rich Indian taxpayers deserve return on investments. Shaming them for emigration is unfair

Ajay Mallareddy



India's economic growth has always been marked by contradictions: optimistic entrepreneurs on one side and failing public services on the other. In a recent opinion article in The-Print, titled Rich Indians can't complain about taxes—move abroad all you want, but you must give back, the author criticises high earners who choose to settle abroad, framing their departure as an abandonment of moral obligations. I find this stance fundamentally flawed and overly simplistic.People rarely make emigration decisions in a moral or social vacuum. These choices are typically the result of careful evaluation of fundamental living conditions, economic opportunities, and quality of life factors. If another country promises a more predictable business environment, reliable infrastructure, and transparent governance, wouldn't people, regardless of their income bracket, want to move there? Dismissing this as "selfish" ignores the complex cost-benefit analysis that drives most migration choices.

High earners in India face a punishing reality: a maximum tax rate of 39 per cent and surcharges of up to 25 per cent. But they receive minimal returns on this substantial contribution. From unreliable public transportation to potholed roads, many wealthy Indians find themselves paying twice. First through steep taxes for basic infrastructure the state claims to provide, then again for private alternatives when those services fail to materialise. The government's incompetence is not limited to failure in delivering on its core functions. It extends to actively disrupting private solutions when its own systems fail. Take Bengaluru's recent water crisis. When private water tankers stepped in to fill the gap left by inadequate public infrastructure, the government chose to take over them. The move was aimed at curbing exploitation by the 'tanker mafia' & addressing inequitable water distribution. However, it ended up destabilising even the private sector's attempts to solve problems the Karnataka government couldn't handle.

A similar pattern emerged with ride-sharing services, when aggregators stepped in to improve mobility amid unreliable public transport. The government imposed regulations such as caps on surge pricing, removing the financial incentive for drivers to operate during high-demand periods like rush hour or heavy rains, ultimately leaving commuters stranded.

Even more fundamentally, the state has failed at its most basic function, which is protecting property rights. Land and property ownership in India is a byzantine maze of unclear titles, overlapping claims, and endless litigation. Property disputes languish in courts for decades, sometimes spanning generations, while property owners remain trapped in legal limbo. This failure to protect basic economic rights drives away both talent and capital. Compare this to Singapore, where a maximum tax rate of 24 per cent buys not just world-class infrastructure, but also robust property rights, efficient courts, and clear, consistent governance. In the UAE, zero personal income tax comes with strong property protection and reliable public services. In these countries, governments protect basic rights, provide quality services, and allow private enterprise to fill gaps efficiently. When high earners in India look at these alternatives, the choice becomes one of simple arithmetic rather than moral failing. The opinion article suggests these high earners "climbed the ladder of success" thanks to India's slow but steady social mobility. In reality, most successful entrepreneurs and professionals succeed despite the system, contending with relentless red tape and bureaucrats who gleefully flex their power. It is not that India cannot foster growth; it is that the environment is actively hostile to those who create wealth.

A common argument is that India's privileged have "low-cost domestic labour" at their disposal. However, as many Indians living abroad prove, the easy availability of cheap cooks and cleaners isn't a powerful incentive to endure what they see as a dysfunctional system. Better infrastructure, cleaner air, and transparent governance overseas often outweigh the conveniences at home. Moreover, domestic labour is cheap precisely because we have a massive unemployment problem. Had our economy been allowed to grow at its full potential, labour costs would have naturally risen alongside wages, increasing overall standards of living. Social mobility is not advanced merely through redistribution of wealth via taxes. It is advanced by unleashing innovation and enterprise that grow an economy comprehensively. India has been independent for over 77 years. At what point do taxpayers have the right to demand returns on their contributions? The real question we should ask is why the government is not providing better services and infrastructure despite its hefty tax haul.

Insisting that the rich have an unending moral duty to pay more, especially within a system that offers little transparency, is unfair. Individuals should have the freedom to choose how and where they allocate their resources. Voluntary philanthropy, targeted investments, and private charitable initiatives often deliver more tangible benefits to those in need than bloated government programmes plagued by inefficiencies and corruption. The state operates without genuine accountability, yet demands ever more from its citizens.

Next, the opinion article argues that the departure of wealth creators will not stop India's growth. However, the truth is that a steady exodus of entrepreneurs, innovators, and job creators can and does impede economic development. When the state neither provides services nor allows private solutions to flourish, investment that could have spurred Indian startups gets redirected elsewhere. These individuals find more welcoming environments abroad, and naturally choose to invest there instead. The author argues that "giving back is a moral obligation" and criticises those who "glorify" leaving. However, this fundamentally misunderstands the power of exit as a form of protest. When wealth creators vocally choose to leave, citing specific failures of governance and regulatory overreach, they are not just making a personal choice – they are sending a powerful message that echoes through society.

"Voting with your feet" is perhaps the strongest feedback a citizen can give to a dysfunctional system. Far from being self-serving, openly discussing why talented individuals leave India helps spotlight systemic issues that hurt everyone from entrepreneurs to labourers. The more publicly and clearly this exodus is documented and discussed, the greater the pressure on the state to reform. Silently departing while paying lip service to "giving back" might ease some consciences but does nothing to drive the structural changes India desperately needs. The decision to migrate for better opportunities and transparent governance is not abandonment – it is rational self-interest in its most basic form. Ultimately, nobody wants to leave behind friends, family, and cultural ties unless they feel the trade-off is worthwhile.

A mass departure of wealth creators could be an impetus for real change, forcing the government to adopt more business-friendly, citizen-focused policies. Until then, it is unrealistic to shame taxpayers and entrepreneurs for exercising their right to build a life where their contributions are valued rather than squandered.

The debate over wealthy Indians moving abroad also raises important questions about the relationship between taxation, citizenship and government accountability. Taxation should not be viewed merely as an obligation imposed on citizens; it must also represent a social contract in which the state delivers measurable improvements in public services, infrastructure, education, healthcare and security. When this relationship becomes one-sided, public confidence in institutions inevitably weakens. Citizens need to see where their money goes and how effectively it is being utilised.

India must also recognise that retaining talent requires more than emotional appeals to patriotism. Highly skilled professionals and entrepreneurs operate in a global economy where opportunities are no longer restricted by geographical boundaries. Countries competing for investment and talent are offering simplified regulations, attractive tax structures, better research facilities and predictable policies.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

STPI Inaugurates its 75th Centre in Bareilly to Strengthen UP's IT/ITeS and Startup Ecosystem

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), a premier S&T organisation under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, inaugurated its Bareilly Centre in Uttar Pradesh. The centre was inaugurated by Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, and Commerce & Industry, Government of India, in the presence of Dr. Arun Kumar Saxena, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Forest & Environment, Zoological Garden and Climate Change, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar, Member of Parliament, Bareilly and Smt. Shruti Gangwar, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Shri Arvind Kumar, Director



General, STPI among other dignitaries. The inauguration marks an important milestone for STPI as Bareilly becomes its 75th centre in the country, further expanding its nationwide network and commitment to strengthening India's technology ecosystem beyond established metropolitan hubs. Of STPI's 75 centres, 67 are located in Tier-II and Tier-III cities, reflecting its sustained focus on decentralising technology infrastructure and enabling regional entrepreneurship. Developed with an investment of approximately 18.25 crore on a 2-acre land parcel, the Bareilly Centre will strengthen the regional IT/ITeS ecosystem by providing an institutional platform for technology enterprises and emerging entrepreneurs.

Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, and Commerce & Industry, Government of India, said, "The inauguration of the STPI Bareilly centre is a landmark gift not only for Bareilly, but for the youth of the entire Rohilkhand region especially Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, and Badaun so they no longer have to migrate to major hubs like Mumbai, Noida, and Hyderabad for IT, startups, incubation, innovation, and research, instead gaining world-class technical facilities right at home while shaping the future of coming generations and driving local job creation. Under the visionary leadership and long-term policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, just as center-state coordination drives growth.

SAP may cut nearly 10 pc of workforce amid AI restructuring

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): German software giant SAP is considering cutting at least 10,000 jobs as it recalibrates its business strategy in response to the rapid adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), according to a report. A report by Financial Times citing sources said the company is evaluating a reduction of roughly one-tenth of its workforce as part of a broader restructuring effort. The deliberations are still at an early stage and have not yet been formally presented to employee representatives, it added.



The decision would make SAP the latest major European company to examine significant workforce reductions amid changing market dynamics driven by AI adoption and economic pressures. In addition, several large corporations have announced restructuring measures in recent months as they navigate slowing demand and intensifying global competition.

The reported review also comes as global technology firms increasingly seek operational efficiencies from AI. Major US software companies such as Microsoft, Oracle and Salesforce have announced workforce reductions over the past year while accelerating investments in artificial intelligence technologies.

SAP has been undergoing a strategic transformation focused on expanding its cloud-based services and integrating AI capabilities across its software portfolio.

The company has shifted away from its traditional software licensing model toward subscription-based cloud offerings and AI-enabled enterprise solutions.

TRAI extends use of 1601-Series for service, transactional voice calls to more sectors

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Friday issued a direction extending the use of the 1601-series to the eligible entities in the sectors other than BFSI sector and government, exclusively for making service and transactional voice calls to their customers. The series is allocated by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and under the second phase of implementation of 1601-series, entities will be eligible for the allocation of numbers subject to the specified eligibility criteria, the statement from the Ministry of Communications said.



Entities from sectors such as retail chains, e-commerce, hospitals, diagnostic laboratories, telecom service providers, internet service providers (ISPs) can apply for allocation of this series.

Further, firms indulging in automobile sales, automobile repair and servicing, travel agencies, commercial airlines, food aggregators, ride-hailing aggregators and lending service providers (LSPs) are also eligible for application. Only the entities having an annual turnover of Rs 500 crore or more in at least one of the preceding three financial years shall be eligible, the statement noted.

Distribution Platform Operators (DPOs) such as Direct-to-Home (DTH), Headend-in-the-Sky (HITS), Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) service providers and Multi-System Operators (MSOs) applying for the series must have a subscriber base of one million or more in any month during the preceding twelve months.

The 1601-series numbers shall be assigned only to the companies registered in India under the applicable law, the statement said. Earlier, under the first phase of implementation, TRAI allowed allocation of 1601-series numbers to the utilities, and logistics and courier services sectors.

India has unique strengths to lead affordable healthcare AI for Global South

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): India's capability to develop affordable, scalable and clinically relevant artificial intelligence solutions could transform healthcare delivery across resource-constrained developing economies and create a new avenue of South-South cooperation, a new report has said. The report from India Narrative said India's advantage stems from a combination of engineering talent, entrepreneurial capital and extraordinary clinical diversity. It cited achievements by Indian companies such as Qure.ai and DeepTek in developing AI-assisted radiology tools for tuberculosis screening.



A government-funded health technology assessment published in 2025 found Qure.ai's technology to be cost-saving compared with conventional radiological interpretation, while DeepTek's solution was assessed as cost-effective.

The report cited a report by Venture Intelligence, saying Indian AI startups attracted $1.2 billion in investment in 2025, marking a 58 per cent increase from the previous year and if such scale of investments is directed to healthcare, it could generate significant economic and developmental dividends. "Unlike technologies developed primarily for sophisticated Western hospitals, Indian healthcare innovations must frequently accommodate overcrowded facilities, intermittent connectivity, linguistic diversity and limited purchasing power. These constraints, often regarded as developmental disadvantages, can become drivers of globally competitive innovation," the publication said.

Nestle India gets EPFO demand notice of Rs 36 Lakh

Mumbai, Nov 27 (Way to News): FMCG major Nestle India has received a demand notice of Rs 36.36 lakh from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), including damages and a penalty exceeding Rs 20 lakh for the period between 2012 and 2019, the company said in a regulatory filing on Friday. According to the filing, the order was issued by the Regional Office of EPFO, Mysuru, under Sections 7Q and 14B of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

"Pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 30 read with sub-para 20 of Para A of Part A of Schedule III of the Listing Regulations, we hereby submit that the company is in receipt of an Order from the Regional Office of Employees' Provident Fund Organization, Mysuru-19," it said. 1The total demand amounts to Rs 36,36,548, of which Rs 20,09,516 relates to damages and penalty under the company's provident fund code for the period 2012-2019.

"The company has received an order from the Regional Office of Employees' Provident Fund Organization demanding an amount of Rs 36,36,548 which includes an amount of Rs 20,09,516 on account of damages/penalty for the period of 2012-2019 under PF Code KNMYS0011967000," it added in its exchange filing.

Nestle India said it received the order on November 26, 2026, and added that the demand would not have any material impact on its financial position, operations or other business activities.

SEBI examining Tata Steel-APL Apollo deal amid shareholder concerns: Chairman Pandey

Mumbai, Nov 27 (Way to News): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is examining the proposed Tata Steel-APL Apollo transaction and giving high priority to the interests of minority shareholders, Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Friday.

Addressing a 17th Capital Market Conference organised by ASSOCHAM, Pandey said investor protection remains a key consideration as SEBI reviews the deal.

"We take minority shareholders' rights very seriously. Minority stakeholder protection is very important in the Tata Steel-APL Apollo deal," he said. The proposed transaction has come under scrutiny from institutional investors and proxy advisory firms, which have raised questions over the deal's structure, valuation and financing arrangements.



Under the proposed plan, APL Apollo Tubes will acquire Tata Steel's steel tubes and colour-coated steel businesses for about Rs 28,000 crore. The acquisition is expected to be financed largely through debt.

Tata Steel will acquire controlling ownership in the expanded APL Apollo in the second phase of the transaction through the purchase of promoter-held shares and a subsequent open offer to public shareholders, in a deal valued at around Rs 32,267 crore. The transaction has sparked concerns over the debt burden that APL Apollo may take on to fund the acquisition and whether adequate safeguards exist for minority shareholders as Tata Steel moves to take control of the company.

Investor concerns intensified after APL Apollo shares witnessed a sharp decline following the announcement of the deal with the stock losing around 30 per cent of its value earlier in the month.

Proxy advisory firms which analyse corporate actions and provide voting recommendations to institutional investors have also highlighted issues related to valuation, governance and disclosure standards surrounding the transaction. In addition, Stakeholders Empowerment Services (SES) has questioned certain aspects of the transaction structure.

Rebuilding forex reserves key to easing elevated rupee forward premiums

New Delhii, Nov 27 (Way to News): India needs to rebuild its foreign exchange reserves as it is a more sustainable solution to ease elevated rupee forward premiums and strengthen external sector resilience, a report said on Friday. The report from Axis Bank Economic Research said near-term RBI balance sheet swaps could help moderate forward premiums but forex reserve strengthening is a more durable solution. India's effective foreign exchange reserve adequacy has eased to its lowest level since 2013 under traditional reserve adequacy measures, highlighting the need to rebuild reserves.



The report noted that rupee forward premiums remain significantly elevated, with the 12-month forward point at 4.74 per cent and the three-year forward point at 6.48 per cent, reflecting a sustained divergence between forward premiums and interest rate differentials. Heavy intervention by the Reserve Bank of India to contain rupee depreciation has suppressed spot currency movements, while forward premiums have remained elevated amid expectations of INR weakening. The report also pointed to surplus US dollar liquidity in the financial system, driven by strong foreign portfolio investor inflows, particularly amid the global AI-driven equity selloff, coupled with past RBI interventions, have contributed to a surplus of US dollar liquidity in the system.

Placing funds consumes limits and capital, but deploying through Sell/Buy (S/B) FX swaps raises forwards, it added. "Elevated forwards have been a result of expectations of INR weakening, given the relative sizes of OIS vs forward markets, and heavy RBI intervention to suppress INR depreciation," the report noted. Elevated forward premiums are feeding into interest rate expectations, with OIS pricing indicating an increase of around 75 bps from current levels, largely driven by forward market dynamics. The Indian rupee climbed to its highest level of the current financial year this week, supported by record foreign portfolio inflows into domestic equities, lower crude oil prices and improved dollar supply-demand conditions.

India's capital markets with greater depth, liquidity key to Viksit Bharat

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): India's capital markets will play a key role in mobilising the long-term investment required to achieve the country's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, a report said on Friday, stressing that the focus must shift to greater market depth, inclusiveness, liquidity and institutional participation. A statement from ICRA & Assocham said reforms from the government and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), including digital onboarding, UPI-enabled public issues, streamlined SME listings and the development of REITs and InvITs, enhanced market accessibility, transparency and investor confidence.



Saurabh Sanyal, Secretary General of ASSOCHAM, said India's emergence as a leading economic power has been supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, structural reforms, digital transformation and a growing entrepreneurial ecosystem. Deepening the corporate bond market, strengthening corporate governance, mobilising long-term capital for infrastructure, manufacturing and innovation, and promoting sustainable finance will be important priorities, he said.

Further, technological advancements, investor education, cybersecurity, robust investor protection and wider retail participation will shape the next phase of market development, he added.

Centre revises investment rules for exempted PF trusts, sets equity cap at 15 pc annually

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): The Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified a revised investment framework for provident fund accumulations managed by exempted establishments and allowed their trusts to invest between 5 per cent and 15 per cent of their portfolio in equities while introducing stricter safeguards for retirement savings. The new rules that were issued through a Gazette notification replace the investment pattern notified in 2015 and will apply to establishments and employees exempted from the statutory Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) system.



Exempted establishments are organisations permitted to manage provident fund contributions through their own trusts, provided they offer benefits comparable to or better than those available under the EPF scheme.

Provident fund trusts will be required to maintain 45-65 per cent of their investments in government securities and related instruments under the revised framework. While 35-45 per cent can be invested in debt instruments. Investments in short-term debt instruments have been capped at 5 per cent, while asset-backed and other permitted investments can account for up to 5 per cent of the portfolio. For equity exposure, the ministry has prescribed a 5-15 per cent range. Trusts can invest in shares listed on the BSE or NSE with a minimum market capitalisation of Rs 5,000 crore, as well as in exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and index funds tracking benchmark indices such as the Sensex and Nifty 50.

However, investments in equity mutual funds will be restricted to a maximum of 5 per cent of the portfolio. Employers must transfer monthly contributions to the trust within 15 days after the end of each month, while trustees are required to invest the funds within two weeks of receipt.

In addition, the government has introduced additional safeguards. Trusts must ensure adequate diversification across companies, corporate groups and sectors, undertake periodic risk assessments, maintain transparency in investment decisions and keep management costs under control.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

WOMEN'S ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Defending Champions India Outclass Malaysia 6-2 To Set Up Final



Bhopal, Nov 27 (Way to News): Defending champions India produced a commanding attacking display to defeat Malaysia 6–2 in the semi-final of the Madhya Pradesh Women's Asian Champions Trophy Bhopal 2026 at the International Sports Complex in Nathu Barkheda on Friday, and secured their place in the tournament's final for a sixth time. Tournament's top-scorer Deepika scored twice, while Mumtaz Khan, Navneet Kaur, Sunelita Toppo and Ishika found the mark once each as the hosts showcased the depth and variety of their attacking resources. Malaysia, meanwhile, showed some fight with Nur Azhar and Nuramirah Shakirah Zulkifli producing moments of individual brilliance to score two goals for their team, but it was in vain.

India began on the front foot, pressed high and sought to establish control through measured midfield circulation. Malaysia, however, displayed a very good positional discipline along the right flank with defensive interventions to disrupt India's forward movements.

As the opening quarter progressed, India began to find greater penetration in the attacking third, with Sunelita earning a penalty corner. Although Deepika's initial effort did not yield a direct conversion, Sunelita reacted intelligently and allowed Mumtaz to find a close-range finish and put India ahead in the 10th minute. The second quarter witnessed a decisive surge in India's attacking intensity. Navneet doubled the advantage in the 18th minute with an accomplished individual effort by taking on two Malaysian defenders before beating the goalkeeper. The hosts continued to stretch the Malaysian defence through incisive stick-work and combinations in the final third. Deepika then converted a penalty corner in the 25th minute into the bottom-left corner of the post to extend India's lead. Malaysia responded through Nur Azhar, who scored off a penalty corner in the 27th minute, but India swiftly reasserted their authority. Deepika struck again from a penalty corner in the 30th minute to restore India's three-goal cushion for a 4-1 lead at half-time.

India carried their momentum into the third quarter with Sunelita extending the lead to 5–1 in the 33rd minute. Following Deepika's penalty-corner attempt, Sunelita reacted sharply to the rebound. Her initial effort was saved, but she remained alert to the loose ball and lifted it past the goalkeeper. India continued to dictate midfield exchanges with Lalremsiami contributing effectively to their circulation and transitions into attack. Ishika came close to producing a spectacular individual goal with an impressive solo run but failed to produce the finishing touch.

India maintained their attacking intent in the final quarter. Malaysia, however, produced an individual moment of brilliance when Zulkifli unleashed a superb reverse-stick effort from the left side to score in the 52nd minute. The goal offered the visitors a measure of encouragement, but India remained composed and continued to seek openings.

Blundell's fifty lifts NZ to 246/5 at stumps on day 1

Christchurch, Nov 27 (Way to News): Debutant Gurnoor Brar made an immediate impact with the ball and India's bowlers produced a strong middle-session comeback, but Tom Blundell's unbeaten half-century helped New Zealand recover to 246/5 at stumps on Day 1 of the second and final Test here at Hagley Oval on Friday. After being asked to bowl first, India made early inroads through Brar before Akash Deep and Anshul Kamboj struck in the second session to reduce the hosts to 110/4. However, a fifth-wicket partnership between Daryl Mitchell and Blundell steadied the innings, and Glenn Phillips joined the latter to ensure New Zealand finished the day with momentum.

New Zealand had made a steady start after India captain Shubman Gill won the toss and elected to field. Tom



Latham and Devon Conway negotiated the early movement on offer, putting together 77 runs for the opening wicket. Latham, who had endured a difficult outing in the first Test, looked assured and reached 42 not out at lunch, while Conway contributed 31. Brar provided India with a breakthrough on the final ball before the interval, trapping Conway lbw to claim his maiden Test wicket. The New Zealand opener reviewed the decision, but ball-tracking confirmed the delivery was hitting the top of leg stump. The hosts went into lunch at 77/1 after 26 overs.

India took control after the break, picking up three wickets in a productive spell. Akash Deep first removed Latham for 59, ending the opener's resistance after he had built a solid platform.

Kamboj then dismissed Henry Nicholls for 16 before Akash Deep struck again to send Rachin Ravindra back without scoring. New Zealand had slipped to 110/4, losing three wickets without adding to the total.

Blundell and Mitchell prevented further damage before tea, negotiating a testing period as India looked to press home their advantage. The pair added valuable runs to take New Zealand to 131/4 at Tea with Blundell unbeaten on eight and Mitchell on six.

The partnership gathered greater substance in the final session, with the two batters taking New Zealand past 180. Mitchell, who made 31 off 74 deliveries with four boundaries, looked set before Washington Sundar broke the stand. The off-spinner drew an inside edge from Mitchell's attempted flick, and Dhruv Jurel held a sharp catch at leg slip to leave New Zealand at 184/5.

Blundell, playing his 50th Test, continued to bat with composure and brought up his half-century off 117 balls. He found an able partner in Phillips, who came in after Mitchell's dismissal and gradually grew in confidence.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 246/5 in 85 overs (Tom Latham 59, Tom Blundell 53 not out; Akash Deep 2-52, Gurnoor Brar 1-52) against India.

Rohit Sharma Returns As Mumbai Indians Skipper Ahead Of IPL 2027

Mumbai, Nov 27 (Way to News): Rohit Sharma is back as Mumbai Indians (MI) captain as the five-time champions said on Friday that he would lead the side in IPL 2027. had previously reported on November 3 and 26 that there was a possibility of Rohit, who led India to 2024 Men's T20 World Cup triumph, being reappointed to the top role at MI. Rohit's return comes after seam-bowling all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who had captained MI from 2024 to 2026, was traded to Punjab Kings (PBKS) earlier this month. The 2027 edition will also be the franchise's milestone 20th season in the league.

Rohit, who first joined MI in 2011, is the most successful captain in the franchise's history. He led the team to the IPL title in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020. The



date of the announcement also has a special place in his career – exactly nine years ago, on November 27, 2017, Rohit was named India captain for the first time, as stand-in skipper for the ODI series against Sri Lanka. "Mumbai Indians has been a huge part of my life, and leading this team has always been something I have always taken great pride in. The conversations with Nita Bhabhi and Akash about the season ahead have been exciting, and I have a lot of belief in what we can achieve.

"I am ready for the 20th season, to the challenges ahead, and to giving our Paltan plenty of moments to celebrate. The focus will be on playing our brand of cricket, competing together and enjoying the game," Rohit said in a statement issued by the franchise. The franchise said it was handing the side back to one of its most popular players who built MI's winning culture, backed young players and formed a close bond with the team's loyal fans.

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Gukesh plays rare variation in Berlin defence as game 3 ends in a Hard-Fought Draw



Geneva, Nov 27 (Way to News): Defending champion Dommaraju Gukesh put up another display of his fighting ability in another complicated and tactical battle with challenger Javokhir Sindarov in the third game of their World Chess Championship Final Match in Geneva, Switzerland.

With the draw on Thursday, the score remained tied 1.5-1.5 from three games. Though it ended in a stalemate, Game 3 was an exciting affair and kept the chess world glued to the screen till late into the evening. In a long-drawn game in which the two players crossed the 40-move time control for the first time in this 14-game encounter, Gukesh had a huge time advantage at one time but could not convert that into a win as Sindarov played accurate moves under tremendous time pressure, and they agreed to a draw after 60 moves.

After the quick draw in the second game on Wednesday, Gukesh once again opted for the Berlin Defence to Sindarov's Ruy Lopez opening. This time he went for the ultra-sharp and extremely rare Rio de Janeiro Variation, which is considered a bit more aggressive for the player with black pieces. However, Sindarov was not rattled by this novelty and handled the pressure with accurate moves. The game looked equal throughout.

Both players showed their mental toughness and fought hard for the draw. Sindarov made the 40th move with just around eight seconds on the clock, as he spent a long time on his moves while Gukesh rattled off the first 15 moves in about two minutes. The Indian reigning World Champion played some exciting moves like 31…Kf5!, followed by 32…Ke6 and 33…c5 that impressed many experts. The 20-year-old Grandmaster from Chennai also had his troubles with the clock but extricated himself from it. At one time he rejected a draw offer from Sindarov but in the end, the position was such that agreed to draw despite enjoying a pawn advantage in Bishop ending.

Friday is a rest day, and the two players will meet again on Saturday for the fourth game. The 14-game match, which will end on December 12 with the closing ceremony, has a total prize fund of $2.5 million. Each decisive victory will be worth USD 200,000, while the remaining prize money will be divided equally. If the match goes into tiebreaks, the winner will take home USD 1.3 million and the runner-up USD 1.2 million.

Overton Leads England to 7-Wicket Win Over Australia

Brisbane, Nov 27 (Way to News): England produced a dominant all-round performance to defeat Australia by seven wickets in a rain-affected third T20I at the Gabba, taking a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

Jamie Overton took a five-wicket haul as England bowled Australia out for 108 in just 16.5 overs. England then comfortably chased a revised target of 98 runs in 17 overs. Overton took 5-12 in just four overs, bowled 17 dot balls and was only the second Englishman to pick up a five-for in T20 internationals. Overton also picked up two catches as the Australian top and middle order fell apart. Liam Dawson was good support, taking 3-16 including two top-order Australian wickets.

Australia's total of 108 was their lowest in a T20I at home. They had looked aggressive in the opening stages but Marsh, Harper and Fraser-McGurk all failed to build on their starts.

James Coles, who had the new ball on his international debut in the last game, received the new ball once again. Marsh greeted his delivery by hitting the fourth ball of the over straight for six. Unfortunately for Australia, it was the only ball of the over that went for a boundary as Dawson caught Marsh at mid-on from a top edge on the fifth ball of the over. Harper then shifted his focus back to England, lofting a boundary over the long-on and long-off positions to end Coles' second over, which conceded 16 runs in total. He also inadvertently flicked a ball to Crocombe behind the wicket, giving up a six.

Prasad Salap's four-gold flourish powers Maharashtra's triumph at youth artistic gymnastics Nationals

Mumbai, Nov 27 (Way to News): Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh continued their impressive medal-winning spree at the 1st Youth Artistic Gymnastics National Championships, stamping their authority on Day 3 by clinching the Grade 9 Out-Age and In-Age team titles, respectively, at INS Hamla.

Maharashtra produced a commanding display of precision, power and consistency to top the Grade 9 Out-Age team standings with 177.400 points. Uttar Pradesh put up a spirited challenge to finish runners-up with 173.199, while West Bengal secured third place with 154.035.

Maharashtra's Prasad Santosh Salap was the standout performer in the Out-Age category, combining technical finesse



with remarkable execution to capture the individual all-around crown with 63.633 points. His teammate Aadesh Waghchoude delivered a strong performance to finish second with 61.501, while Services' Ayush Nath claimed third place with 60.900.

Prasad further underlined his dominance in the apparatus finals, displaying exceptional control, strength and composure to sweep four gold medals. He topped the Pommel Horse, Still Rings, Parallel Bars and Horizontal Bar events, showcasing his versatility across the apparatus. Haryana's Ritik impressed with his floor routine to claim the Floor Exercise title, while Services' Tushar Khanra emerged victorious in the vault. In the Grade 9 In-Age competition, Uttar Pradesh produced an equally impressive team performance, accumulating 194.533 points to secure the championship. Services finished a close second with 185.466, narrowly edging Odisha (GFI-2), who finished third with 185.366. Maharashtra's Jeet Santosh Chavan delivered a polished all-around performance, blending fluid transitions, assured landings and technical precision to clinch the individual title with an impressive 67.034 points. Uttar Pradesh's Yatharth Kesharwani finished second with 65.634, while his teammate Kush secured third place with 65.533 in a closely contested battle.

'Ganguly, Yuvraj have put their thoughts into DC's retention list': Abhinav Mukund

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): Former Indian cricketer Abhinav Mukund believes Sourav Ganguly and Yuvraj Singh have had a significant influence on Delhi Capitals' retention and release decisions ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2027 season, suggesting that the franchise's new management is looking to bring in fresh talent and build around its young Indian players.



Ganguly was appointed head coach of Delhi Capitals in October, while former India all-rounder Yuvraj has taken up the role of assistant and batting coach ahead of the upcoming season.

"There has been a change in the way the new team management of Delhi Capitals thinks. Sourav Ganguly and Yuvraj Singh have clearly put their thoughts into this retained and release list. Nitish Rana was traded just a year back, and it is not like he performed badly. He played good knocks, but maybe Ganguly and Yuvraj want to bring in some young blood in place of him," Mukund told Jio Star. Delhi Capitals retained 16 players from their previous squad while releasing nine, including Nitish Rana, Karun Nair, Pathum Nissanka, Abhishek Porel and Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc, who had informed the franchise and the BCCI about his unavailability for the 2027 season. Mukund also spoke about Porel's release, saying that factors beyond on-field performances can sometimes influence a franchise's decision to retain a player.

"Abishek Porel is a really talented individual too, but some of the off-the-field things can influence the way a franchise keeps faith in you, and that has led to his release," he said. Starc's release, meanwhile, was understandable given his unavailability, while the franchise's purse of Rs 39.50 crore puts it in a strong position to make significant additions at the auction, Mukund noted. 'Mitchell Starc is unavailable, so him getting released makes a lot of sense, and they have a huge bank balance of 39.50 crores," he said. "Batting-wise, they look sorted. They have highly talented Indian individuals in Sameer Rizvi and Ashutosh Sharma, and the new support staff are backing these young Indians, which means they are going to build their team around them.

Zverev joins Federer, Nadal, Djokovic in elite 70-win club after landmark 2026 season

New Delhi, Nov 27 (Way to News): World No. 1 Alexander Zverev capped another landmark chapter in his career by becoming the 12th player this century to register at least 70 tour-level victories in a calendar year, reaching the milestone with his straight-sets win over Arthur Fery in Germany's Davis Cup Finals quarter-final against Great Britain in Bologna on Thursday.

The German's achievement places him alongside some of the biggest names in men's tennis, including Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, who have all crossed the 70-win mark during their respective dominant seasons. Zverev had previously recorded 69 victories in 2024, but went one step further this year to set a new personal benchmark. The 2026 campaign has been particularly rewarding for the German, who captured his maiden Grand Slam titles at Roland Garros and the US Open before ascending to the top of the ATP Rankings earlier this month. He became the 30th player in history to reach the world No. 1 position. His latest milestone came in a challenging Davis Cup encounter, where Cameron Norrie had put Great Britain ahead by defeating Jan-Lennard Struff. Zverev kept Germany in contention with his victory over Fery, forcing the tie into a deciding doubles contest. However, the German team eventually bowed out after losing the final rubber. Zverev finished the season with a 70-19 win-loss record, according to the ATP Win/Loss Index, adding another distinction to a year in which he also secured the ATP Year-End No. 1 honour for the first time. The achievement made him the first German player to finish a season at the summit of the men's rankings. Speaking at the Year-End No. 1 presentation ceremony during the ATP Finals last week, Zverev described the recognition as the defining accomplishment of his career. "It's a great honour to be holding this trophy, to be part of this celebration. Last year, playing this tournament I thought, 'Maybe I can win a Grand Slam. Maybe I can do well during the year'. But I didn't imagine I could be standing here holding this trophy. To be the Year-End No 1 is the most special thing. It's the biggest achievement of my career," Zverev was quoted by ATP.



WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Kalyan Ram Begins Dubbing for Anil Ravipudi's Film



The work of director Anil Ravipudi's family entertainer 'January 12 Release' starring Victory Venkatesh and Nandamuri Kalyan Ram in the lead roles is progressing at a rapid pace. Actor Kalyan Ram has recently started dubbing for his character in this crazy project that will be released before the audience as a Sankranthi gift. Film sources say that Anil Ravipudi is presenting him in a completely new, stylish avatar like never seen before. On the other hand, GV Prakash Kumar, who is composing music for the film, shared the background music update of the film on social media. He expressed confidence that half of the BGM work for the film has already been completed and the blockbuster art is clearly visible if you look at the output of the film. This will be his fourth film in Telugu after 'Akashamlo Okta Tara', 'Irumudi', and 'Vishwanath and Sons'. Recently, the film team successfully completed a crucial schedule in Kazakhstan. There, high-voltage action scenes were shot on Venkatesh and Kalyan Ram under the guidance of renowned stunt choreographer Real Satish. Unit sources said that this action episode, shot in the magnificent locations there, will be the main attraction of the film. Also, a special song on the two heroes was also shot in Kazakhstan

under the choreography of Shekhar Master. Before this foreign schedule, shooting was also done in Mysore and Ooty in Tamil Nadu. The four lead actors Venkatesh, Kalyan Ram, Keerthy Suresh and Kriti Shetty participated in the Mysore schedule. There, a song was shot under the guidance of renowned choreographer Brinda Master. Actor Sriman revealed through social media that it was a great pleasure to act in her choreography after almost eight years.

It is known that the film unit recently released the first look of Venkatesh on the occasion of completing 40 years in the film industry. Venkatesh will be seen in the role of 'Lieutenant Colonel Venkat Reddy' of the Indian Army. Venkatesh's look as an army officer who is an expert in counter-terrorism and hostage rescue operations has greatly increased expectations on the film. Produced by Sahu Garapati under the banner of Shine Screens, the film is jointly presented by Suresh Productions Archana and Zee Studios. Sameer Reddy is handling the cinematography and Tammiraju is editing, while AS Prakash is working as the production designer. S. Krishna is working as the executive producer. This full-fledged entertaining film, starring Keerthy Suresh opposite Venkatesh and Krithi Shetty opposite Kalyan Ram, will be released worldwide on January 12, on the occasion of Sankranti 2027.

The film is said to blend family emotions, comedy, romance and high-octane action, offering a complete festive entertainer for audiences. The combination of Venkatesh and Kalyan Ram, along with Anil Ravipudi's trademark entertainment, has generated considerable excitement among moviegoers. The film's promotional campaign is expected to gather momentum as the makers move closer to its release. With major shooting schedules completed in India and abroad, the team is now focusing on the remaining production and post-production work.

Virat Karrna's next film with Kanishka Gandham titled 'Rustum'



Director Kanishka Gandham's upcoming film, starring actor Virat Karrna in the lead role, has now been titled 'Rustum', its makers announced on Friday. Primeshow Entertainment, the production house producing the film, took to its social media timelines to share a Title glimpse teaser on Friday on the occasion of actor Virat Karrna's birthday. It wrote, "A new world. A RAMPAGE like never before. Presenting the Title Glimpse of #Rustum - An intense tale of action, drama & inner conflict. Starring @ViratKarrna. Written & Directed by @GandhamKanishka. Produced by @Niran_Reddy, @Chaitanyaniran."

Actor Virat Karrna, for his part, responded to the title glimpse put out by the production house with a post of his own. He wrote, "A birthday made even more special with the announcement of #Rustum! A promising subject and a passionate team. Looking forward to this exciting journey!"

The upcoming film is being produced by K. Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy under the Primeshow Entertainment banner.

Interestingly, Rustum is a title that carries its own legacy, having been associated with Megastar Chiranjeevi's blockbuster in the past. Now, the makers are looking to bring the title back with a fresh vision, promising an intense and distinctive action drama.

The title glimpse introduces various facets of the film's world, building intrigue with its stylized animation, striking visuals and impressive background score. It culminates in the introduction of Virat, seen from the back without revealing his face. His chiselled physique and imposing presence make the reveal intriguing, leaving audiences eager to see more. Sources say Rustum has been envisioned as an intense action drama that aims to go beyond conventional action filmmaking, promising striking action sequences, a meticulously crafted world and a compelling visual experience. Blending powerful storytelling, gripping drama and deep human emotions, the film explores a man's battle with himself, with guilt emerging as his greatest adversary. With an intriguing title, an impressive glimpse and an ambitious vision, Rustum seems to have set the stage for an engaging cinematic experience. The title glimpse, sources in the know claim, will mark the beginning of an exciting journey.

RGV: AI Users Will Replace Non-Users

Dropping what he called the "AI Truth bomb", ace director Ram Gopal Varma on Friday opined that people who use AI will replace people who don't. Taking to pen his thoughts on the employment scenario undergoing a drastic change with the advent of AI, director Ram Gopal Varma put out a lengthy post that was titled " The AI Truth Bomb". In it, the director said that company employees were protesting loudly that AI was stealing their jobs while in fact, the truth was that the employees were "stealing themselves". He said, "The software engineer who used to write the actual code now pastes the requirements into Claude, gets the function in twelve seconds, changes two variable names, and pushes it as his own. The marketing executive who was paid to think of campaigns now feeds the brief to ChatGPT, copies the three options it spits out, picks the least obvious one, and presents it in the Monday meeting as "my idea." " He went on to point out, "The analyst who was supposed to crunch numbers and find the insight now uploads the spreadsheet, asks the AI to "spot anomalies and write the executive summary," and forwards the output with his name on it."

"The designer who once spent hours on layouts now describes the mood in Midjourney, generates twenty options, and tweaks the best one just enough so no one notices it wasn't made by hand. The customer support lead who was meant to understand tone and context now runs every reply through an AI that makes it sound empathetic, then hits send," he claimed. The director further said, "They do it secretly. In a corner, out of sight, with the door closed and browser history cleared, pretending that their own hands and mind were still doing the work. Everyone does it. No one admits it. And the company dosesn't need spies or cameras or a conspiracy. It only sees the numbers." Stating that the spreadsheets revealed the secret, the director said the humans were still on the payroll while the actual work was being done by AI.



Vijay Sethupathi's Train Trailer Promises Thrills



The makers of director Mysskin's eagerly awaited action thriller 'Train', featuring actor Vijay Sethupathi in the lead, on Friday released a gripping trailer of the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. The film, which is among the most eagerly expected films this year, is to hit screens on December 4 this year. Vijay Sethupathi, who took to his social media timelines to share the link to the just released trailer, said, "Witness the high-octane action unfold now. Presenting you the trailer of #Train." The trailer begins with a super fast train departing from a crowded railway station. Soon after the train hits full speed, it becomes evident that the brakes are not functioning. Efforts by railway personnel to apply mechanical brakes to stop the train too don't bear fruit. The train hurries at a frenzied pace towards its doom.

As news of the impending disaster spreads, railway officials begin to worry, passengers begin to panic, cops begin to strategize. Fights begin to erupt as tempers begin to rise. In the midst of all this chaos, we realise a group of vicious villains, one of whom happens to be a character played by Nasser, is busy carrying out a sinister plan. We hear Nasser say, "Find them all, delete!"

As everything starts to fall apart, there is one man (played by Vijay Sethupathi) who seems to have his head in order and his feet firmly on the ground. How he and a group of other people on train avert a disaster is what Train is all about.

The film has already been cleared by the Censor Board for release with an U/A certificate. A couple of months ago, Thanu had announced the news that the film had been cleared by the Censor Board for release. He had then said, "Train censored U/A." For the unaware, director Mysskin's fast-paced action thriller, 'Train', featuring actor Vijay Sethupathi in the lead, has triggered huge interest in fans and film buffs ever since the makers released a teaser recently.

Train, which is being produced by V Creations and directed by Mysskin, will feature a host of stars including Nasser, Shruti Haasan, Yugi Sethu, Narain, KS Ravikumar, Sampath Raj, Kalaiyarasan, Ira Dayanand and Preethy Karan. The film has cinematography by Fowzia Fathima and music by Mysskin himself.

Interestingly, Narain in a post on social media last year had released pictures of himself on the sets of Train. The pictures revealed that he was playing a police officer in the film. The disclosure led to speculation if whether Mysskin was attempting to build a Mysskin Cinematic Universe with Train. The reason for the speculation was that Narain had also played the role of a cop in Mysskin's superhit film 'Anjaathey'. However, there has been no confirmation regarding this.

Prabhudeva, AR Rahman Star in 'Moonwalk'



Actor Prabhudeva, who plays the lead in director Manoj NS's upcoming comedy entertainer 'Moonwalk', plays a character called Babootty in the film, while Oscar award winning music director A R Rahman makes a cameo appearance as a film director! On Friday, the makers of the comedy entertainer released a trailer of the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs.

Prabhudeva, who took to his social media timelines to share the trailer of the film, wrote, "Presenting the Official Tamil Trailer of Moonwalk, starring Prabhudeva, Yogi Babu, Aju Varghese, and Arjun Ashokan, with music by A. R. Rahman and directed by Manoj NS. A. R. Rahman and Prabhudeva reunite after 30 years for a full-length comedy movie packed with music and dance! Moonwalk is a complete family entertainer. Watch, comment, like, share, and celebrate Moonwalk with your family! @moonwalkthefilm #FamilyLaughter #HolidaysLaughter." The just released trailer begins with a voice over that tells Prabhudeva that the bride must first okay him. Soon, Prabhudeva is identified as Babootty. The audiences are informed that there are two women in his life called Nagma and Smitha, and among other relations, a half-baked friend and a cranky father-in-law. A R Rahman plays an angry director in the film, while Yogi Babu plays both the mother in law and the father in law of Prabhudeva in the film. The trailer also gives a glimpse of some fantastic dance sequences in the film. The film is slated to hit screens for Christmas on December 24 this year. The film has triggered huge expectations among fans and filmbuffs as the film will also mark the acting debut of Oscar award winning music composer A R Rahman. Sources say that the ace music director will make a fun cameo appearance in the film. It may be recalled that the film had originally be scheduled for release for Deepavali.

Sanjay Kapoor Touches Wife Maheep's Feet During Dinner Outing

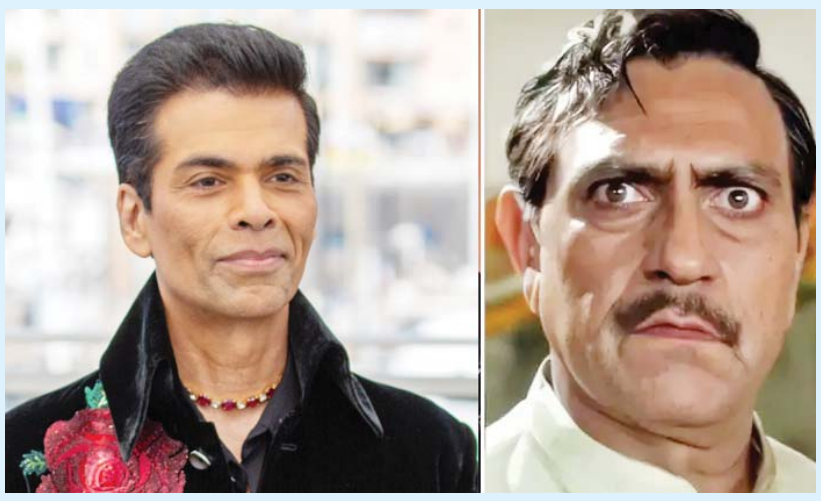
Actor Sanjay Kapoor gave social media a glimpse into his playful equation with wife Maheep Kapoor as he shared a series of pictures from his recent outing. He included one picture on his carousel in which he jokingly appeared to touch her feet and another featuring his daughter Shanaya Kapoor.

In the first picture, Sanjay is seen wearing a black leather jacket, blue jeans and sunglasses while bending down and appearing to touch Maheep's feet. Maheep, dressed casually in a brown jacket, blue jeans, sunglasses and boots, stands beside a decorated Christmas tree. Sharing the picture on his social media account, Sanjay wrote, "Jug Jug Jeeyo @maheepkapoor , I respect my Elders". In another social media post, Sanjay had reposted a picture shared by Shanaya on her social media account, from a dinner outing with her. The father-daughter duo can be seen sitting across from each other at a restaurant overlooking Dubai's Burj Khalifa. Shanaya captioned the post, "dinner date with dad (ps: we didn't plan the matching denim I swear!)". For the uninitiated, Sanjay and Maheep have been married for nearly three decades. Their relationship began in the 1990s after a chance meeting at a party. In a 2024 interview, Maheep recalled that she had gatecrashed a party in Delhi, where she met Sanjay. She later described the encounter as beginning with what she thought was a "one-night stand". The two went on to date for around five years and the couple tied the knot in 1997 and later welcomed daughter Shanaya in 1999 and son Jahaan in 2005. Before marriage, Maheep had appeared in the 1994 music video for Ila Arun's popular song "Nigori Kaisi Jawani Hai" and was also associated with the shelved film Shivam.



She later established herself as a jewellery designer and entrepreneur before gaining wider recognition through Netflix's Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives. Sanjay, meanwhile, is the youngest brother of producer Boney Kapoor and actor Anil Kapoor. He made his acting debut with Prem in 1995 and went on to feature in films including Raja, Auzaar, Sirf Tum, Luck by Chance, Merry Christmas and Murder Mubarak. The couple's marriage has also seen its share of challenges. On Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives, Maheep had spoken openly about infidelity by Sanjay early in their marriage and revealed that she had walked out with their newborn daughter Shanaya. She said she eventually chose to give the marriage another chance, and explained that she wanted the family home to remain a place of peace for her children.

When Karan Johar revealed he was traumatised by Amrish Puri



As Ajay Devgn and Rohit Shetty appeared on season 8 of 'Koffee With Karan', filmmaker Karan Johar recalled his early days as an assistant director on 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge'. KJo revealed that he was traumatised by the late legendary actor, Amrish Puri, on the set of the iconic drama. Talking about the unique connection between his father, Yash Johar, and Amrish Puri, he shared, "I have to tell you, my father and Amrish ji (Amrish Puri) come from the same village, so the first person my father told me whose feet I had to touch was Amrish ji's." Karan further shared that the only person whose feet he has touched is Amrish Puri. "The only person whose feet I have touched is also Amrish ji's because the first shot I took with him, I touched his feet," he said.

Sharing his experience working with Amrish Puri in 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge', KJo admitted that he used to be extremely scared of the veteran actor while he was working as an assistant director. Karan shared that Amrish Puri was extremely particular about things such as detailing and punctuality, leaving him absolutely traumatised. "So I used to be very scared of him. When I was an AD on Dilwale, he was particular about detailing. He would come and say, 'Time kya hai?' I gave the time. I thought he was asking me the time. He said, 'London mein iss waqt time kya hai? Scene ka time kya hai? Taaki mein ghadi ko uss time mein set karu.'" KJo further added, "About the continuity, he said, 'Shawl kis tarah mein drape karu?' I used to be traumatised by him. He was such a wonderful man." Known for his deep voice and powerful screen presence, Amrish Puri has worked in more than 450 films, such as 'Meri Jung', 'Mr. India', 'Shahenshah', 'Ram Lakhan', 'Tridev', 'Ghayal', 'Damini', 'Karan Arjun', 'Jeet', and 'Koyla', to name just a few.

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