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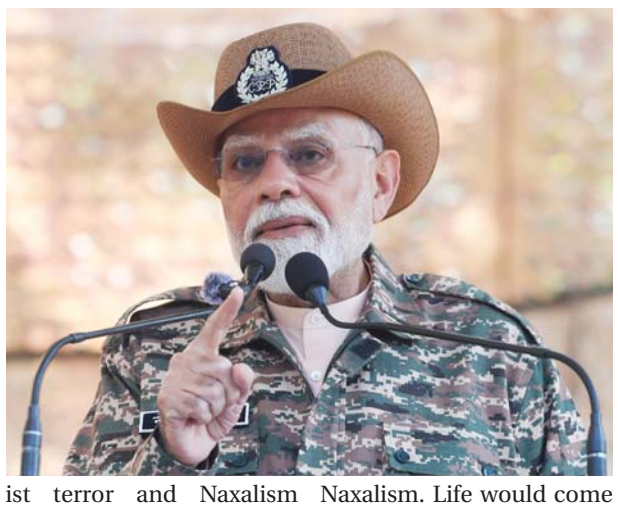
ENGLISH DAILY

We Reveal the Truth



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PM Modi says India's fight against Naxalism has been challenging



- *PM Modi also criticised the approach of previous governments towards tackling Left-Wing Extremism, alleging that Naxalism had been treated as a problem that could not be resolved, leaving affected communities and security personnel to suffer its consequences.*
- *Emphasising the need for strong political determination and a carefully planned strategy to eliminate threats to national security, the Prime Minister said that a decisive change in the country's approach began after 2014.*

Jagdalpur/Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Nov 8 (Open Frame): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the country's prolonged battle against Maoist terror and Naxalism had been extremely challenging, recalling how nearly 230 districts across around 20 states were once affected by Left-Wing Extremism (LWE).

Addressing security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bastar on the occasion of Diwali, PM Modi said that there was a time when the situation in Naxal-affected areas had become so severe that people were unable to step out of their homes after sunset.

"The battle against Maoist terror and Naxalism was not an easy one. There was a time when nearly 230 districts across around 20 states were affected by Naxalism. Life would come to a standstill after sunset, and stepping out of homes became nearly impossible. People were stripped of their voting rights. Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh — a large part of the country was in the grip of Left-Wing Extremism," the Prime Minister said. He further highlighted the scale of violence during that period, stating that the country witnessed as many as 2,000 Maoist attacks in a single year. Recalling some of the deadliest incidents of Maoist violence in 2010, PM Modi referred to the Dantewada attacks in which a large number of security personnel and civilians lost their lives. He said that 76 CRPF personnel were martyred during an encounter with Naxalites in the neighbouring Dantewada region. In another attack in the district during the same year, 44 innocent civilians were killed. "This land was soaked in the blood of our bravehearts. However, not a single tear fell from the eyes of any of the high-born residents of the palaces," he said, criticising the then leadership over its response to the violence.

The Prime Minister said that such deadly attacks were not isolated incidents, as violence continued to occur almost every day in different parts of the country and remained a persistent challenge for several decades. "During this period, over 1,000 security personnel were martyred in Chhattisgarh alone. If one looks at the figures from 2004 to 2013, they will find that every year, the number of our brave jawans martyred was higher than the number of Naxalites killed. The Naxal leaders used to celebrate this," he said.

"Unfortunately, the governments of that time treated Naxalism as an incurable disease and left it unaddressed. My tribal families were left to their fate, and it was accepted that this state of affairs would simply continue — bullets will be fired, soldiers will die, and civilians will be beaten. No nation can function with an approach that simply accepts that things will continue this way in the face of its enemies," he added.

TDP-led NDA wins majority in Krishna, NTR local polls



VIJAYAWADA, Nov 8 (Open Frame): The Telugu Desam Party-led NDA alliance has secured a decisive majority in the rural local body elections in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna and NTR districts, winning 494 of the 619 Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) seats and 37 of the 42 Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) seats. The results give the alliance control of both Zilla Parishads and a majority of the Mandal Parishad president positions in the two districts.

In NTR district, the TDP won 201 of the 276 MPTC seats. Its allies Jana Sena Party (JSP) and the BJP secured 22 and one seat respectively. The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) won 50 seats, while the Bahujan Samaj Party and CPI(M) secured one seat each. Of the 16 ZPTC seats in NTR, the TDP won 13, the YSRCP secured two and the BJP won one. In neighbouring Krishna district, the TDP won 202 of the 343 MPTC seats. The JSP secured 64 and the BJP four. The YSRCP won 63 seats, while independents secured eight and the CPI won two. In the ZPTC elections in Krishna, the TDP won 20 of the 26 seats. The JSP secured two, while the BJP, YSRCP and an independent candidate won one each. Across the two districts, the TDP accounted for 403 MPTC seats, followed by the JSP with 86 and the BJP with five. The YSRCP secured 113 seats, while independents won eight. The CPI secured two seats, with the CPI(M) and BSP winning one each. In the combined ZPTC tally, the TDP won 33 seats, the JSP two and the BJP two. The YSRCP secured three seats and an independent candidate won one.

The results consolidate the NDA's position in the rural local bodies of both districts, with the TDP emerging as the largest contributor to the alliance's tally.

President Murmu urges youth to contribute to Viksit Bharat in Diwali Greetings



New Delhi, Nov 8 (Open Frame): President Droupadi Murmu extended warm Diwali greetings to the countrymen on Sunday and wished for the "patriotic youth" of the nation to contribute "enormously" towards the goal of Viksit Bharat. People across India are celebrating Diwali on Sunday with traditional fervour and enthusiasm, illuminating their homes, streets and public spaces with diyas, decorative lights and colourful decorations.

In a statement, the President said, "On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all Indians living in India and abroad." "The joyous celebrations followed Bhagwan Shri Ram's return to Ayodhya after his victory over Ravana. Bhagwan Shri Ram beheld the beautiful rows of illuminated lamps. This forms the cultural and devotional significance of Diwali. The festival also symbolises the auspicious beginning of Ram Rajya," she added.

President Murmu said that the festival of Diwali marks the "victory of virtues over negative tendencies", while also signifying the "end of suffering and the beginning of a joyful and prosperous life". "On this occasion, people worship Bhagwan Ganesh for auspicious beginnings and well-being, and Mahalakshmi Mata for prosperity. Prayers are offered for the happiness of all," she said.

"I wish good health, happiness and prosperity to every citizen of our country. May we preserve the environment, live with harmony and may our patriotic youth, guided by Indian values, contribute enthusiastically to building a Viksit Bharat," the President added. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also extended heartfelt Diwali wishes to the countrymen, wishing everyone happiness, well-being, and prosperity on the occasion of the festival of lights.

Taking to social media platform X, the Prime Minister shared his wishes with citizens and conveyed his greetings to people celebrating the festival across the country. "Diwali wishes to everyone! Boundless Diwali wishes to my family members across the country," PM Modi posted on X (in Hindi).

Kumaraswamy alleges bribery in clearances



Bengaluru, Nov 8 (Open Frame): Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy has accused officials in Hassan district and Minister Shivalingegowda of involvement in alleged bribery, presenting excerpts from purported WhatsApp conversations of Deputy Commissioner's personal assistant Shashikiran.

The Union Minister claimed that the messages exposed demands for money in connection with the clearance of three files relating to stone crushers. Reading out the alleged exchanges, he said the conversations indicated that payments were being collected and distributed among officials and staff.

In response, the other party allegedly said that the amount collected had to be handed over to the DC, while a smaller share would be distributed among employees in the section. Kumaraswamy further claimed that the messages mentioned an alleged Rs 15 lakh payment for a particular task in April. He also referred to a demand for Rs 60 lakh to settle the three files, followed by an alleged agreement involving Rs 75 lakh.

Ayodhya Glows with 36 Lakh Diyas



Ayodhya, Nov 8 (Open Frame): Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Ram, was illuminated with over 36 lakh earthen lamps on Saturday, November 7, as the city celebrated the 10th edition of Deepotsav along the banks of the Saryu river, officials here said.

This year's celebrations saw nearly 10 lakh more earthen lamps lit than in 2025, when the event earned recognition from the Guinness World Records. In 2025, the ninth edition of Deepotsav set two Guinness World Records, with 26,17,215 earthen lamps illuminated simultaneously and 2,128 people performing 'aarti' together, according to the state government.

According to an official statement issued late Saturday evening, the illumination of over 36 lakh lamps across 56 ghats.

Congress to expand anti-SIR campaign, appoint 'Vote Rakshaks' at every booth



New Delhi, Nov 8 (Open Frame): The Congress will continue its agitation demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, with the party planning to take its campaign to the panchayat level and appoint a 'Vote Rakshak' at every polling booth, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said on Sunday.

Describing the pause in the agitation during Diwali as temporary, Venugopal said the party would withdraw its campaign only after Kumar was removed from office and steps were taken to ensure that India's electoral system was impartial and fair. "We will withdraw from this agitation only after Gyanesh Kumar is removed from the post and steps are taken to make India's electoral system and processes flawless, impartial and fair," Venugopal told reporters. "This is not a struggle that we will abandon midway."

As part of its next phase, the Congress will launch a 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' campaign at the panchayat level over the next month and a half. The party will also appoint a 'Vote Rakshak' at every polling booth to scrutinise electoral rolls, identify deleted names and visit the homes of affected voters to help them get their names restored. Venugopal said Congress units were already organising programmes across states and districts. The party was also working on joint campaigns with other opposition parties, he added.

Bangladesh seeks India's extradition of Sheikh Hasina



Dhaka, Nov 8 (Open Frame): Bangladesh's Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman on Sunday, November 8, described ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina as a "convicted criminal" and said Dhaka has requested India to extradite her, according to local media reports.

Responding to questions from journalists after inaugurating a training workshop in Dhaka, Asaduzzaman said the government was taking all necessary legal steps to bring Hasina back from India and would follow due process. "To me, she is a criminal. A criminal convicted by our tribunal. To us, this is her identity," he said, according to a report on bdnews24 website.

Asked about bringing Hasina back to Bangladesh, the law minister said the government would act in accordance with the law and would not be guided by emotion. "Although the Law Ministry is not directly involved in this matter, the Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned, as it relates to the extradition treaty with India. The matter will be dealt with in accordance with the law, leaving no room for emotions. We have requested her repatriation under the treaty and through due process," Asaduzzaman was quoted as saying by the state-run BSS news agency.

Bdnews24 also quoted Asaduzzaman as saying: "That is a matter for the Indian government. We have made requests to them under the extradition treaty."

"If they hand her over to us, we will hand her over in the due process, as required under the law," he added.

Indian Oil to acquire vessels to strengthen import supply chain



New Delhi, Nov 8 (Open Frame): Oil marketing company Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) plans to buy some ships of its own for importing crude oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in order to establish a more reliable supply chain and minimise disruptions due to geopolitical uncertainties such as the West Asia conflict.

Indian Oil's Director, Finance, Anuj Jain, said during the company's earnings call last week that tenders for the purchase of a few vessels were issued some months ago. The company currently has three crude oil tankers and nine LPG carriers on time charter, which have helped it manage shipping costs during the West Asia conflict when spot rates for shipping have soared.

Freight rates for LPG have also increased sharply. Spot rates have risen to around $160–$180 per tonne from normal levels of about $40 per tonne. The increase comes amid the increasing attacks on merchant ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway through which 20 per cent of the world's energy exports transit during normal times.

Jantar Mantar denotification leaves small protest groups struggling for space



New Delhi, Nov 8 (Open Frame): The denotification of Delhi's Jantar Mantar from the designated protest list has not just impacted the movement by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), but has also paralysed other protests that do not have the same pan-India bandwidth.

On October 12, following the growing intense protests demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over the alleged irregularities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and disagreements between the other two Election Commissioners, the Union Home Ministry denotified Jantar Mantar, the focal point of the protests. It named three alternatives: Burari Ground, Ramlila Ground and CBD Ground.

Small scale demonstrators protesting for big causes have been left scrambling for permissions. At least 15 demonstrations were lined up between October and December. These were Naga Students' Union protests against Manipur violence, LPG Distributors' Association (LDAI), Jaat Mahasabha and Citizen Vote Vigilance Committee, among others. Naga Students' Union protest was scheduled to take place on October 12 with 250 participants. Nearly two weeks ago, they submitted an application at Parliament Street Police Station, only to be rejected.

"We approached the police asking what to do next. They recommended that we go to Burari Ground. We were directed to Ashok Vihar Police Station for permission," said union president Chipika Zhimo.

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English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Revanth Reddy highlights 79,000 cr loans to women's SHGs

Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Open Frame): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the Telangana government was working with the vision of "Women's Progress – Telangana's Progress", aiming to empower one crore women to become financially prosperous and ensuring that every woman lives with dignity and self-respect.

He said the Praja Palana government was striving to make Telangana a role model for the entire country in women's empowerment.

The Chief Minister recalled that in the past, women had to pledge their gold ornaments to obtain bank loans. However, banks have now extended loans worth more than 79,000 crore to women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The government has so far paid 1,903 crore towards interest to women's groups. Revanth Reddy alleged that the previous government had even misused women's savings, whereas his government was regularly paying interest to SHGs every month. With government support, women's groups have established 6.48 lakh businesses with investments amounting to 11,952 crore. The government aims to establish solar power plants with a minimum capacity of two megawatts in every district. Plants have already been inaugurated in Madhira, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Khammam, Vikarabad, Jangaon and Peddapalli districts. Each plant is expected to generate up to 5 lakh in monthly income for women's groups.



Women's Self-Help Groups are also managing a fleet of 1,000 buses, with each bus generating approximately 70,000 in monthly rental income. The government is further planning to establish petrol pumps under the management of women's groups in every district. Four petrol pumps have been inaugurated in Narayanpet, Sangareddy and two other districts, generating an estimated monthly income of 5 lakh each.

An Indira Mahila Shakti Bazaar with 106 shops has been established near Hitech City. Through the sale of products manufactured by women's groups, the bazaar is generating annual business worth more than 11 crore. Under the 10 lakh accident insurance scheme, 23.65 crore has been paid to 237 families. Similarly, under the 2 lakh loan insurance scheme, 23.73 crore has been paid to 3,000 women beneficiaries. As part of the initiative to establish a Mahila Shakti Bhavan in every village, foundation stones have been laid in 8,000 villages, while construction has been completed in 5,000 villages. In addition, 22 district-level Mahila Shakti Bhavans have been completed at a cost of 110 crore. The government has created several employment opportunities through different initiatives: Through this initiative, 12 lakh women are being provided educational opportunities in their respective localities. Special training and encouragement are also being provided to enable them to appear for the Class 10 examinations. The government is also planning to distribute one crore Indiramma sarees to one crore women every year.

The Chief Minister announced that the government was extending financial assistance through new Aasara pensions to another 4.5 lakh beneficiaries. He said pension payments to newly selected beneficiaries would begin from November 19, on the occasion of Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary.

More than three lakh of the new pension beneficiaries are women. Women's Self-Help Groups have identified eligible beneficiaries, including single women and widows in rural areas.

Governor Urges Safe, Compassionate Diwali



Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Open Frame): Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has said that the true spirit of Diwali lies not merely in lighting lamps at home but also in bringing happiness and hope into the lives of others, particularly the poor and those in distress. Extending Diwali greetings to the people of Telangana, the Governor called upon everyone to celebrate the festival with love, compassion, a spirit of service and mutual cooperation.

The Governor and his wife, Janaki Shukla, celebrated advance Diwali with Lok Bhavan employees and their families at Lok Bhavan here on Saturday evening. They interacted with the staff, joined officials in bursting firecrackers to mark the triumph of good over evil, and distributed sweets and festive gifts. Addressing the employees, Mr. Shukla said Diwali symbolised the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. He said the festival should inspire people to eliminate hatred and negative thoughts and spread positivity in society. Even a few comforting words could bring happiness and emotional strength to those facing difficulties, he observed.

Referring to the grand Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya, where around 30 lakh diyas were being lit, the Governor said lighting lamps should become a tradition in every household. He urged people to prefer earthen lamps over candles to support indigenous products and provide livelihood opportunities to traditional artisans. The Governor also called upon people to celebrate Diwali safely, particularly advising parents to take extra care of children while bursting firecrackers. He emphasised the importance of punctuality and discipline in everyday life and official responsibilities.

Special Chief Secretary to the Governor M. Dana Kishore said Diwali symbolised the triumph of good over evil and appreciated the Governor's initiative in bringing Lok Bhavan employees and their families together for the celebrations.

The celebrations were attended by Special Chief Secretary M. Dana Kishore and his wife Aparna, Joint Secretary K. Shashi Kiran Chary, ADC Kanti Lal, Aman Kundu, OSD Seshagiri Rao, Deputy Secretary G. Pallavi, Assistant Secretary K. Murali Charyulu, Press Secretary M. Dasharatham and other officials and employees.

New Silo network to help farmers avoid distress sales: Uttam

Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Open Frame): In a major move to shield Telangana farmers from distress sales and post-harvest losses, the State government is working on plans for building a major scientific silo network, said the Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday.



At a review meeting held in the State Secretariat, the Minister discussed two proposed models for establishing the silo infrastructure. Under the first model, the Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation (TSCSC) would directly establish silos in a big way by mobilising loans from reputed financial institutions.

Under the second model, modern storage capacity would be created through private sector participation. The government would encourage private entrepreneurs to establish silo facilities at around 20 locations to be identified across the State initially, with the Civil Supplies Corporation providing a rental guarantee to make the investments financially viable.

It is aimed at transforming grain storage, preserving quality and helping cultivators secure higher returns from premium paddy varieties. The initiative aims to prevent post-harvest storage losses while protecting farmers from distress sales and enable them to realise better prices for Telangana's increasingly popular premium paddy varieties.

The Minister wanted the proposals finalised expeditiously, including the financial implications, financing arrangements and rental commitments. He wanted possibility of securing institutional finance at competitive interest rates to be explored.

Explaining the importance of the proposed infrastructure, Uttam Kumar Reddy said farmers growing premium varieties of paddy in Telangana were not getting the full value of their produce because of inadequate scientific storage facilities. Freshly harvested paddy generally contains around 25 per cent moisture, making it difficult for farmers to store their produce safely. Consequently, many farmers are forced to sell their harvest immediately, sometimes within 24 hours, regardless of prevailing market prices. The proposed silo system would provide scientific drying and storage facilities, allowing farmers to preserve their produce for longer periods and sell it when market conditions are favourable.

The Minister pointed out that premium paddy varieties currently fetched around Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,500 per quintal when moisture content was approximately 25 per cent. The same produce, after scientific drying to around 12 per cent moisture, could command prices ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 5,500 per quintal.

Uttam Kumar Reddy observed that Telangana had emerged as one of the country's leading paddy-producing States, with several locally cultivated varieties gaining recognition in premium rice markets even overseas. Varieties such as JSR, RNR and HMT were increasingly commanding higher market values.

He cited the example of JSR rice, which was fetching relatively higher price in certain markets, compared with the basmati rice. The growing popularity of Telangana's premium varieties made it imperative to modernise the State's storage infrastructure and ensure that farmers benefited from the higher market value of their produce.

MLA Devireddy Sudheer Reddy visits Bhagyalakshmi Ammavari temple

Special prayers performed on the occasion of Diwali

Attends Programme at Invitation of Temple Trustee Shashikala



Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Open Frame): On the occasion of Diwali, LB Nagar MLA Devireddy Sudheer Reddy participated in a special programme held at Sri Bhagyalakshmi Ammavari Temple, located near Charminar in Hyderabad. At the invitation of temple trustee Shashikala, MLA Devireddy Sudheer Reddy visited the temple, offered prayers to Goddess Bhagyalakshmi and performed special rituals. On this occasion, he sought the blessings of the Goddess. Former Trustee of Karmanghat Hanuman Temple Madhusagar, Lohith, Chandu and others participated in the programme.

Fake death certificate racket busted at Nalgonda DMHO office



14 Arrested in Compassionate Appointment Scam

District SP Sharath Chandra Pawar Cracks Major Medical Department Fraud

Family Members, Relatives and Officials from Municipal and Health Departments Among Those Arrested

13 Lakh Deal Allegedly Struck to Secure Government Job Through Fraudulent Records

5 Lakh Cash, Computer, Printer and 12 Mobile Phones Seized

Nalgonda, Nov 9 (Open Frame) Nalgonda district police have busted a major fraud involving the fabrication of a fake death certificate to falsely show that a government health department employee died while in service, thereby securing a government job for his son under the compassionate appointment scheme. District Superintendent of Police (SP) Sharath Chandra Pawar, IPS, announced that 14 people had been arrested in connection with the case. The accused include family members, relatives, and officials and employees from the Municipal Administration and Medical and Health Departments. The arrested persons were produced before the court, the SP said.

Retired Employee Falsely Declared Dead While in Service

According to the police investigation, Chamakoory Venkateshwarlu, who worked as a Health Assistant at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Shaligouraram, retired from service on May 31, 2025. He had been suffering from kidney-related health complications and died on November 17, 2025, at around 5:10 PM. His family performed the customary tenth-day funeral rituals on November 26, 2025, at Ogodu village in Nakrekal mandal. During the investigation, police found that some relatives and department employees allegedly conspired to falsely establish that Venkateshwarlu had died on May 28, 2025, while still in government service. The alleged objective was to make his son, Chamakoory Raju, eligible for a compassionate government appointment.

13 Lakh Deal Allegedly Finalised

Police stated that the deceased employee's family members and relatives allegedly joined hands with certain employees of the Medical and Health Department to execute the plan. The investigation revealed that the accused allegedly approached Polle Ranjith Kumar, a CC employee at the Nalgonda DMHO office, and entered into an agreement with Venkateshwarlu's wife, Vasantha, for 13 lakh in connection with the fraudulent appointment.

Aadhaar Address Altered to Obtain Fake Death Certificate

As part of the alleged conspiracy, the accused reportedly changed Venkateshwarlu's Aadhaar address through a MeeSeva centre operated by Panasa Chandrasekhar alias Chandu in Gundlapally. The Aadhaar records were allegedly altered to show his residence at Chaitanyapuri Colony, DVK Road, Ward No. 10, House No. 500/1, in Nalgonda town. Using the allegedly manipulated address and supporting documents, the accused obtained a fraudulent death certificate from Nalgonda Municipality, showing May 28, 2025, as the date of death. Police also identified the alleged involvement of municipal personnel, including Ward Officer Shiva Janardhan and Sanitary Inspector N. Pradeep Reddy, along with others who allegedly facilitated the process in violation of prescribed procedures.

Collector, Chevella MLA Celebrate Diwali with Indiramma Housing Beneficiaries

Ranga Reddy, Nov 9 (Open Frame): As part of the state government's flagship initiative, "Diwali Celebrations in Indiramma Homes," Ranga Reddy District Collector C. Narayana Reddy and Chevella MLA Kale Yadaiah participated in Diwali festivities on Sunday at the homes of 'Indiramma' housing scheme beneficiaries—Andalu and Ragichettu Bhaskar—in Kanakamamidi village, Moinabad Mandal.

During the visit, the Collector and the MLA interacted warmly with the family members of the beneficiaries and inquired about their well-being. They joined the families in bursting firecrackers and participated in the Diwali celebrations with great enthusiasm, sharing in the joy of the festival. The beneficiary families expressed their happiness at having public representatives and senior officials visit their homes to celebrate the festival with them.

Speaking on the occasion, District Collector C. Narayana Reddy stated:

The state government is implementing the 'Indiramma' housing scheme as a prestigious initiative, with the goal of realizing the dream of homeownership for poor and middle-class families. He noted that owning a home provides every family with a sense of self-respect, security, and assurance. The government is working to improve the living standards of eligible poor families by sanctioning 'Indiramma' houses for them. It is a matter of great joy to celebrate Diwali at the homes of 'Indiramma' housing scheme beneficiaries; the primary objective of this initiative is to bring light into the lives of poor families through government welfare schemes. Beneficiaries are urged to make the best use of the financial assistance provided by the government and ensure that the construction of their homes meets quality standards.

This initiative is being carried out across all assembly constituencies in the district, with the participation of ministers, MLAs, and other public representatives. In every village, Sarpanches, local public representatives, officials, and villagers are joining the families of the 'Indiramma' housing beneficiaries.

Adluri Reaffirms Six Guarantees Commitment

Dharmaram, Nov 9 (Open Frame): Telangana Social Welfare Minister Adluri Lakshman Kumar has reiterated that the Congress government will fulfil every promise made to the people during the elections, including the implementation of the Six Guarantees. The minister participated in Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's birthday celebrations and Diwali festivities at Dharmaram mandal headquarters in Peddapalli district. He cut a birthday cake near the Ambedkar statue and took part in a blood donation camp organised by the Congress party.

Later, he celebrated Diwali at the Indiramma houses sanctioned to beneficiaries Nagamani Banesh and Saritha-Rajalingam. He said the Chief Minister was committed to the welfare of poor families. Adluri stated that 2,500 Indiramma houses had been sanctioned in the first phase in Dharmapuri constituency, while another 2,000 houses would be taken up in the second phase. Around 275 crore was being spent on housing in the constituency to fulfil the dream of owning a house for poor families. The minister also announced plans to provide central lighting at Dharmaram mandal headquarters and complete the construction of a sports ground. He assured farmers at the tail-end areas of the constituency that irrigation water would be supplied. He further said that a government order had been issued allocating 350 crore in compensation for Chamanpalli village, which would be treated as a 100 per cent submerged village.

Why the debt of India's States is rising



Deepanshu Mohan
Geetaali Malhotra

In what seems to be a growing friction between fragmented fiscal realities within Indian states, distinct financial realities are playing out under a single national fiscal umbrella. National debates over what really constitutes a legitimate social safety net versus an irresponsible electoral "freebie" have shaped policy and welfare discourse in recent years and assembly polls. The debates signalled a loud, deeply polarising argument involving clashes over the fiscal health of the public exchequer i.e. for the states polling and also for the Union government supporting those where its own party is in power for a 'double-engine' fiscal governance push.

To see past the noise and uncover the underlying structure of sub-national public finance, it is impertinent to analyse state budgets by applying advanced tools of assessment. One also needs to understand the growing concerns emerging from the rise in hidden debt or off-budging borrowings plaguing the macro-fiscal landscape.

For analysing the former, we use cluster modelling based upon three core variables to analysing India's state budgets: fiscal stress, welfare intensity, and capital investment ratios. The result of this analysis helps in going past political rhetoric, signalling the emergence of a hidden taxonomy shaped by four unique financial regimes where we see states operating in two different economies.

The first regime consists of the high-stress economic engines, the demographic heavyweights and industrial powerhouses that produce the vast majority of India's wealth and industrial output. Economists refer to the "fly paper effect" as the structure of the economy, where the tax revenue will be allocated back to the areas it is generated from.

The result of this effect is that all of the new tax revenues from growing manufacturing centres (such as Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Karnataka) will be fully allocated to either growing social programmes, which continue to build huge demands upon state agencies, or to meet existing demands within the social major general area. In Tamil Nadu, with its extensive welfare state system (which was first started with its world famous midday meal programme), social programmes operate to create stability for its industrial labour market.

In order to expand into the future however, states such as Karnataka and Gujarat must borrow heavily in the market to finance their expansion (for example through issuance of state development loan bonds), only to see future revenues consumed by the mounting interest costs. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, both have large dollar value submerged irrigation projects and cash transfer programs for farmers in agriculture, competing for the same balance sheet. In West Bengal, fixed costs of administration, pensions and interest on accumulated debts eat up about 50% of revenue receipts, entirely freezing the state's capacity for new capital formation.

The demographic giants in northern India find themselves in a different kind of fiscal stranglehold. Uttar Pradesh has been able to formalise its economy by deriving over 41% of its own tax revenues from the State Goods and Services Tax (SGST), but its low per capita income prevents it from having a sufficient revenue base.

This fiscal strain is compounded by the millions of dollars of debt owed by the power distribution corporations in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, creating enormous contingent liabilities that are steadily eroding the states' credit ratings. The second regime presents a paradox with respect to high levels of capital expenditure and low headline amounts of fiscal stress. However, this is only an illusion driven by two diametrically opposed realities. On one hand, special-category border states like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim, and Jammu and Kashmir possess virtually no local tax base. They survive because the Union government entirely underwrites their existence, covering up to 90% of the costs for flagship national programmes. Conversely, legacy states such as Punjab and Himachal Pradesh remain restrained. Punjab's budget continues to be adversely affected by agricultural power subsidies for which there are no clear criteria for access. These subsidies were originally intended to encourage agriculture in order to ensure food security for the nation.

Compounding this is the political temptation to revert to the unfunded Old Pension Fund (OPF) which will result in immediate cash flow benefits by ceasing to contribute to pension funds, but will also create a wall of unbacked future pension obligations for the subsequent generation. Across these trapped economies, committed costs consume over 60 percent of all revenues, completely crowding out real long-term investment.

The third regime has a capital deficient trajectory and exhibits a structural tendency towards immediate consumption rather than asset creation. Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram are examples of such states. They receive a significant portion of their budget from transfers from the central government.

In the event of a declining share of tax revenues, local infrastructure budgets will typically be the first to be altered in order to maintain cash income assistance programs (by dropping projects from future funding consideration or delaying funding requests for projects).

Kerala represents a very different demographic variant of such a situation. With the most advanced longevity and lowest birth rates in the country, Kerala has become very similar to the aging European welfare states.

E20 Policy: Public as Guinea Pigs in Experiment



Anand Teltumbde

In July 2025, the Union government announced with considerable fanfare that it had effectively reached the E20 milestone, reporting ethanol blending of 19.93% during the month and presenting it as the fulfilment of the target advanced from 2030 to ESY 2025-26 under the National Policy on Biofuels. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed it as a landmark in India's energy transition. The announcement, however, triggered consumer backlash, online campaigns, RTI applications seeking disclosure of actual blend ratios at retail outlets, and a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court, filed by advocate Akshay Malhotra, seeking mandatory labelling of ethanol content at fuel stations and continued availability of ethanol-free petrol. On September 1, 2025, a bench comprising Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran dismissed the petition, with the Attorney General characterising the petitioner as a "name lender" acting for a "huge lobby" – a striking response to a plea for basic consumer information.

The controversy resurfaced on June 30, 2026, during the hearing of a Special Leave Petition filed by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited against a Karnataka high court order concerning ethanol allocation. Attorney General R. Venkataramani reportedly told a bench of Justice M.M. Sundresh and Justice Sheel Nagu that "20 per cent ethanol blending is something that the government is experimenting with" and that results would be available the following year. His office promptly issued a clarification denying that the national E20 programme had been described as an "experiment", maintaining that the submissions related only to the commercial dispute before the Court.

Whether or not the word was used in the broader sense attributed to it, the episode exposed the opacity surrounding the programme. A policy affecting roughly 300 million vehicle owners was implemented without public consultation, independent peer-reviewed assessment of its effects on the existing vehicle fleet, consumer choice of ethanol-free petrol, or any compensating price reduction. The ensuing controversy, official clarification and the Supreme Court's order maintaining status quo on ethanol allocation together illustrate the political context in which the E20 programme has unfolded. The policy, on its own terms, makes sweeping promises. But what does the independent evidence suggest it delivers? Who bears its costs? Who captures its benefits, and does it survive a rigorous social cost-benefit analysis? A timeline of E20 policy India's Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme began in 2003 but progressed slowly, with blending reaching barely 1.5% by 2014. The National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, targeted 20% blending by 2030, but in 2021, Modi advanced the deadline to Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025-26. Oil Marketing Companies achieved 10% blending in June 2022, five months ahead of schedule, followed by averages of 14.60% in ESY 2023-24 and 17.98% in ESY 2024-25. The roadmap envisaged expanding ethanol production capacity from 700 to 1,500 crore litres, introducing E20 in phases from April 2023 and making it available nationwide by April 2025.

A critical feature of this timeline received little public attention. Vehicle manufacturers were expected to introduce E20-compatible models only from April 2023, with engines fully optimised for E20 arriving from April 2025. Yet the country's vast existing fleet – designed largely for E10 or lower – was effectively required to use E20, without any option to purchase ethanol-free petrol. The impact of E20 must be assessed against India's already high fuel prices. On June 29, 2026, E20 petrol retailed in India at about Rs 108.71 per litre (US$ 1.15), compared with a global average of US$ 1.36 for mostly E5 to E10 petrol.

The comparison, however, is misleading because the global average is inflated by high-income countries. Brazil provides the most economically meaningful benchmark because consumers routinely compare fuels on a cost-per-kilometre basis. More relevantly, regular (non-ethanol) petrol was cheaper in Pakistan (US$0.90), Bangladesh (US$1.03) and marginally costlier only in Nepal (US$1.19) and China (US$1.24), despite India's large refining capacity and access to discounted Russian crude since 2022.

Measured against incomes, the burden becomes starker. At the national floor wage of about Rs 350 per day, a worker spends nearly one-third of a day's earnings to buy a litre of petrol. Fuel taxation remains among the principal reasons. Between 2014 and 2020, as global crude prices fell sharply, the Union government repeatedly increased excise duties instead of passing the gains to consumers. Excise duty was raised again by Rs 10 per litre in May 2020, pushing central excise collections from Rs 2.38 lakh crore to Rs 3.84 lakh crore in 2020-21 – a 67% increase.

Against this backdrop, consumers receive no price advantage from E20 despite its lower energy content and lower production cost. While ethanol blending may reduce the national oil import bill, those savings are not reflected in retail prices. Consumers thus pay the same price for a fuel that delivers less energy per litre, effectively increasing the cost of mobility while the fiscal gains accrue elsewhere.

Invest in Public Healthcare, Do Not Privatise it

In 2013, my father got pancreatic cancer and insisted on leaving Memorial Sloan Kettering, the high-profile cancer hospital in New York City, to return to Paris for treatment. He had been born there and wanted to go back for the summer as he always did. Terrified though I was of his being far from home in New York, I went along and learned about all the ways that French public healthcare beats US care. This summer I learned the lesson again. My husband had a procedure at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City in February and came home bleeding and in pain. Soon a scary rash and swelling started. For weeks we messaged the doctors to tell them but no one seemed to take it seriously as we did. The original doctor said it wasn't his area and sent us to a specialist. Our regular specialist sent us to another specialist and a dermatologist. Our GP told us to try cream for diaper rash. Over a three-month period, my husband's specialist doctor sent us to two dermatologists, two more experts, then tried four rounds of antibiotics and a PET scan. They tested for cancer (negative) and noticed my husband had developed anaemia, so his new haematologist gave him injections into the bone marrow. Rarely did they examine him. Mostly they asked questions and entered replies onto their screens.

Coordinating all of this during a busy spring at work was a huge burden. I estimated that I was spending at least 10 hours a week scheduling my husband's care and accompanying him to the medical appointments. Every Tuesday we would go to a doctor at Union Square, another one on 60th st and then take a taxi to the University to teach our classes. We cancelled nearly all of our work travel, instead going to doctor after doctor hoping for an answer as to what ailed him. Finally, a long trip was coming up and my husband was still in pain. Before flying, we went to see two of our New York doctors and they cleared him for travel, took a last look and said: "Maybe it will go away on its own."

I was sceptical but not sure what else to do, and so just in case, I gathered a list of doctors we could call on as needed. I also looked up the best hospital near where we would be in Spain and asked a nurse I knew to check on him as soon as we arrived. We thought maybe travelling and a new set of doctors' eyes would make a difference. Did it ever!

Soon after arriving in Catalunya, the swelling got worse, so we called the nurse and he took a look and immediately told us to go to the emergency room of Hospital Joseph Trueta in Girona. We also saw a doctor in Girona who said the same thing. In other words, every level of Spanish healthcare worked. On arrival at the urgencias door of Trueta, we were taken seriously. They pored through the medical notes we had brought with us from New York, asked detailed questions and took a history of what happened. They quickly told us that my husband had a serious infection, did a scan, found the evidence (no idea why the NY doctors missed it in their scan) and admitted him immediately. At some point the doctor said: "I know who you are", since my husband is Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in Economics, "but here we treat everyone equally". They put him on a strong antibiotic drip and then came to work on a Sunday in order to operate to clear out the collections. I think they saved his life.

"It's the serendipity of life. You think you have the best doctors in New York, and then you come to a regional hospital in Spain and they are actually giving me healthcare", my husband said. He stayed for 18 days and we could not believe the quality of nursing and the kindness and the attention he got. Coming from New York City, it was shocking. Our US friends were amazed when we described how the Trueta doctors worked together and coordinated with each other. Our friends came to visit and saw for themselves the way the nurses showed their humanity. One hot afternoon I was sitting in a chair with my eyes closed, exhausted by all the anxiety and drama of the previous weeks. A nurse saw me resting, pulled down the blinds, offered me a juice and said: "Take care of yourself. I'm looking after my dad too. It's exhausting." "Girona hospital has spoiled you. Stay there," my college buddy visiting from New York said. She had just waited three hours in New York with her 93-year old mother for a 10-minute appointment for mom's glaucoma checkup.

I'm sure medical errors and misdiagnoses happen in Spain. But the whole character of our experience in Girona here has been different than at home. In New York we have famous doctors who have written the textbooks used in medical schools, but they don't look at and listen to patients any more. They're too busy filling out forms online, ruling out possible illnesses and ordering scans.

We got so accustomed to Trueta that I worried about leaving the hospital and not sure what kind of care we'd be able to arrange. It was interesting to learn about the primary care system in Catalunya and how outpatient care is done after a hospital visit. In the US, hospitals try and get patients out the door as quickly as possible, partly for health reasons and largely to save money. As I stressed about where we would go and what date my husband would leave, I was impressed when the surgeon explained to us: "We're a public hospital," he said, taking pride. "We don't throw you out on the street."

Spending so much time in Girona, I got to love the city. Some 40 years ago I had written a travel piece about Girona's Call and it has been terrific getting to know Girona again. I have had many conversations with cab drivers, hotel clerks and others about the terrible housing shortage and how the city has changed. But one thing I noticed immediately: how many people love Trueta hospital. Inevitably, people told me "it's an old building but it's a wonderful hospital." I heard many stories about people who had been born there or treated there. In the late afternoons when the patients would practice walking in the hallways, we'd talk to others and inevitably people were happy to be in Trueta.

In the US, the first thing that happens when you seek medical care is a conversation with the billing department. People without insurance (or even those with) avoid the hospital and avoid calling an ambulance because it's easy to get a bill for hundreds of thousands of dollars from the hospital. In fact, medical debt is the leading cause of personal bankruptcies in the US. I recently became a Spanish citizen, but we're not part of the healthcare system in Europe yet so, naturally, the first thing I did on arrival was present my credit card and discuss how we would pay for my husband's care. I met the billing office in person to discuss payments. It's been seamless. I've been able to talk to a real person, email them and get an answer. When I needed medical records, I just popped up to the records floor and filled out a form. By contrast, calling Mount Sinai Hospital in New York is an experience in "voice mail hell" as we call it in the US. When I messaged the New York doctor to tell him my husband had been hospitalised, it took several days for him to answer. When I called his office, I was told that in emergencies it takes 48 hours for the nurse to respond. In the US now, there is a something called "concierge medicine" and Mount Sinai hospital charges $15,000 a year per person to join. When they tried to sell me this service, they said one of the benefits of signing up is the doctors reply to phone calls from patients. I thought I had misunderstood but it was for real. In order to get a phone call from the doctor at Mount Sinai, you need to pay a supplement of $15,000 a year!

All of these differences between Trueta and New York hospital made me interested in the difference between our systems. In contrast to Spain, where health care is public and paid for by taxes, in the US we have a private system where costs are out of control. Total (public and private) spending on healthcare as a percentage of GDP is close to 17% in the US and about 9% in Spain, according to World Bank data for 2023. Although polls find that most US citizens would love to reform the US health care system it has proven to be impossible and some 9% of US citizens have no health insurance, a number already rising as the Trump administration tries to dismantle the popular Obama care program and other protections.

We will be returning to New York for a second surgery this fall so we've been showing the medical records from Trueta to doctors in New York who work at some of the best hospitals. They've been impressed. One of them told us we would never have had such good care in a regional US hospital. So this is just to say thank you to Spanish public healthcare and please cherish it closely. Invest in public health care, don't privatise it. You don't know what you've got until it's gone.



OPEN FRAME
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

South Stars Share Diwali Wishes with Fans on Social Media

On the occasion of Diwali, film celebrities have taken to social media to wish their fans and the public. Along with the top heroes of the South film industry, Bollywood actors have also shared festive messages by posting special posts through their official accounts.

Global star Ram Charan responded on his 'X' account.. "Happy Diwali to all of you. I wish this festival brings happiness, peace and prosperity to you and your family members. May everyone celebrate Diwali safely and beautifully." On the other hand, young tiger Jr. NTR responded in his own style.. "Happy Diwali to all of you." He posted a brief



message. 'Pushpa' actor Allu Arjun shared a divine picture of Sri Mahalakshmi Ammavari.. "Happy Diwali to everyone" with a lamp emoji. Malayalam superstar Mohanlal also shared a photo of Pramidha shining with lights and extended his festive wishes to his fans. Kollywood's leading actors Dhanush and Karthi also shared their messages with their fans through social media. "A heartfelt Diwali to everyone. I wish everyone's heart to be filled with happiness and the light of love to spread in every home," wrote Dhanush. Actor Karthi also responded.. "Happy Diwali to all my dear ones. May your life always shine brighter with happiness, success and endless blessings." 'Maa' president and actor Manchu Vishnu shared a beautiful photo with his family members on Instagram. "Happy Diwali to you and your family members. I wish you always have happiness and prosperity, and may your loved ones be with you. I always say.. Family comes first. Without family, we are nothing. All of you who constantly shower us with love are also a part of our family," said Vishnu emotionally. Bollywood actor Sidharth Malhotra shared a festive photo with a sweet box and wished his fans, "Happy Diwali filled with love, laughter and sweet sweets." As celebrities greeted their fans directly on the occasion, social media platforms were abuzz with festive art. Fans are also wishing their favorite actors a Happy Diwali through comments and retweets.

The festive greetings reflected the spirit of Diwali, with celebrities sharing messages of love, togetherness, peace and prosperity. Their posts quickly attracted attention from fans, who flooded social media with likes, comments and reposts, making the festival even more special for their favourite stars.

Several celebrities also used the occasion to share glimpses of their personal celebrations, including traditional decorations, illuminated homes and family gatherings.

Aadhi-starrer Maragadha Naanayam 2's first look out

The makers of director A R K Saravan's eagerly awaited fantasy comedy adventure 'Maragadha Naanayam 2', featuring actors Aadhi, Nikki Galrani and Priya Bhavani Shankar in the lead, on Saturday released the first look poster of the film, much to the delight of fans of the franchise. Sharing the first look poster of the film, production house Passion Studios wrote, "Chase. Heist. Mystery. Fantasy. People. All driven by one obsession - The Maragadha Naanayam. Presenting the first look of #MaragadhaNaanayam2 | #MaragadhaMani2. Written and Directed by @ArkSaravan_Dir. Starring @aadhiofficial @priya_Bshankar @nikkigalrani #Sathyaraj."

It may be recalled that in May this year, actor Daniel Annie Pope, who plays a pivotal role in the film, had disclosed that shooting for the film had been wrapped up. Taking to his Instagram page to pen a heartfelt post of appreciation for the unit of 'Maragadha Naanayam 2', Daniel Annie Pope had said, "From laughs between takes to memories that will stay forever… And just like that, the shoot of 'Maragatha Naanayam 2' is officially wrapped!"

He went on to say, "More than a film, this felt like a beautiful family reunion filled with chaos, fun, bonding, late-night shoots, endless smiles, and unforgettable moments. Every frame carried love, every day carried energy, and every person here made this journey special. @aadhiofficial @nikkigalrani @priyabhavanishankar — tired faces after long schedules, genuine smiles, crazy selfie angles, playful moments, and one big happy cinema family standing together with pride." He concluded the note saying, "Can't wait for everyone to witness the magic we created together. Until then… memories packed, emotions wrapped, and hearts full. #MaragathaNaanayam2 #ShootWrapped #CinemaFamily #FamilyReunion #BehindTheScenes TamilCinema MovieWrap TeamWork FunMoments MemoriesForLife Kollywood OnSetVibes Togetherness WrappingMemories MovieMagic." For the unaware, the film went on floors with a grand pooja ceremony here in the city in February this year. The 2017 fantasy comedy caper 'Maragadha Naanayam' went on to emerge a blockbuster, prompting its makers to announce a sequel. Earlier this year, one of the film's makers, Passion Studios, released a visual glimpse of the sequel.

Producer Sudhan Sundaram of Passion Studios, had, at that point, said,"I am delighted to produce Maragadha Naanayam 2, a project close to my heart, as I am a massive fan of the original blockbuster. This is a prestigious endeavor designed to draw universal crowds to theatres with its magical entertainment. Like the first part, Aadhi and Priya Bhavani Shankar play the lead roles. Shot on a grander canvas with an expanded star-cast, we are committed to delivering the ultimate entertainer."

'Maragadha Naanayam 2', directed by ARK Saravan and produced by Sudhan Sundaram, Manish Singhal, Durgaram Choudhary, Dev & KV Durai under Passion Studios, Dangal TV, RDC Media, Axess Film Factory & Good Show, will feature Aadhi and Priya Bhavani Shankar in the lead roles. The film will also feature actors Sathyaraj, Nikki Galrani Pinisetty, Munishkanth, Anandaraj, Daniel Annie Pope, Arunraja Kamaraj, and Muruganandam in pivotal roles. Dhibu Ninan Thomas has scored the music for this film, which has cinematography by PV Shankar. NK Rahul is the art director for this film and Thirumalai Rajan R is its editor. Rajesh Kannan has penned the dialogues for the fantasy adventure which has stunts choreographed by PC Stunts.



'Dharman' Adds Ram Pothineni to Star-Studded Cast

Actor Ram Pothineni, who predominantly works in Telugu cinema, has joined the cast of the upcoming film 'Dharman'. The film is headlined by Superstar Rajinikanth. The film marks Ram Pothineni's debut in Tamil cinema, as he is set to share the screen space with the legendary Superstar Rajinikanth for the first time and promising an intriguing cinematic experience for audiences across languages.

The film is directed by Ashwath Marimuthu, and features music by Anirudh Ravichander, with action choreographed by Anbariv. The film is produced by Kamal Haasan and R. Mahendran under the prestigious banner of Raajkamal Films International. Ram Pothineni is known for his dynamic screen presence, captivating performances and distinctive energy, and has carved a special place for himself among audiences with a string of successful films across Telugu cinema. From making a memorable debut with Devadasu to delivering popular blockbusters such as 'Ready', 'Kandireega' and 'iSmart Shankar'.

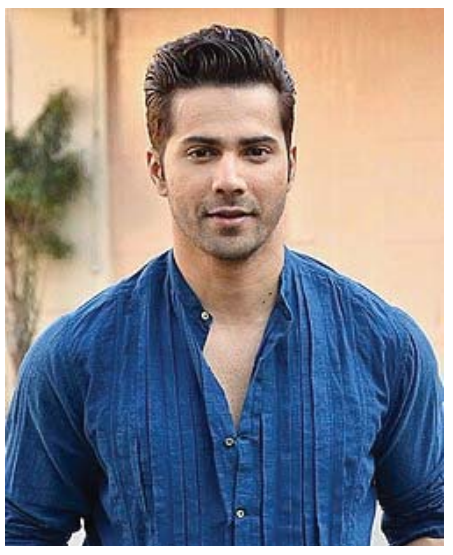
Talking about 'Dharman', the film is an action-thriller, and promises Rajinikanth in a stylish and mysterious doctor, described as 'The Deadly Doctor'. The first-look poster showed him in a surgeon's outfit, holding a blood-stained surgical instrument. The film blends action, family emotions and Rajinikanth's trademark style. With an interesting storyline and a talented team, Dharman is one of the highly anticipated Tamil films. A few weeks ago, Nayanthara joined the starcast of the film. The director of the film welcomed Nayanthara to the team with a social media post. The makers of the drama, Raaj Kamal Films International, teased a new addition to the 'Dharman' cast, saying, "Some Eyes say it all (fire emoji) THE CHARISMA ARRIVES I Today at 7:02 PM". A few hours after that, reacting to the post, the director penned, "Welcome on board mam", followed by a red heart and hug emoji. In September, Ashwath Marimuthu had announced that the team had already wrapped up its third schedule of the film.



Varun recalls David Dhawan calling him a 'Delicate Dharma Hero'

Varun Dhawan once revealed how he was called a 'nazuk Dharma hero' by his father, director David Dhawan, as he appeared on 'Koffee With Karan season 8' with Sidharth Malhotra in 2023. During a fun episode, Varun recalled the time he fell off a bike while shooting 'Main Tera Hero', and his father, David Dhawan, who was the director of the movie, mocked him by calling him a 'delicate Dharma hero'. Sharing the fun incident, Varun said, "So, when I was shooting for 'Main Tera Hero', I had a bike shot entering the college, and I fell down. And my said on the mic, 'Aare yeh Dharma ka hero hai, bahut nazuk hai (He's a delicate Dharma hero)." Reacting to the story, KJo commented, "I'm making boys nazuk (delicate). I like that." While interacting with Karan and Sidharth, Varun also remembered the time Sidharth had broken his nose during his first action scene for their debut movie, 'Student of the Year'.

Admitting that it wasn't Sidharth's fault. KJo told, "First action sequence ever in life and just a mistake… Varun's father David and his brother Rohit came to see him in the hospital, and they were more concerned about Sidharth. They were only worried about Sid. They were like, 'Yeh Varun ki galti hogi, woh extra enthu hogaya hoga (It must have been Varun's fault, he must've become overethusiastic)'. And they were like, 'Is Sid okay? Tell him it's fine.'" Karan Johar's 'Student of the Year' marked the Bollywood debut of Varun, Sidharth and Ali Bhatt. Later on, Sidharth shared screen space with Alia in the 2016 release, 'Kapoor & Sons'.



Keerthy Suresh Discusses Bollywood Debut and 'Akka' Experience

National Award winner Keerthy Suresh, who has earned recognition for her brilliant acting in the South film industry, is soon getting ready to entertain in Bollywood. On this occasion, she revealed interesting facts about the differences in performance between the South industry and the Hindi film industry. She explained that while pre-production is given utmost importance in Bollywood, the performance in the South film industry is very spontaneous. Keerthy spoke in an interview with co-star Radhika Apte as part of the promotions of her recent movie 'Akka'. "The working style in Bollywood is very different. Here, a lot of time is spent on pre-production work like script readings, pre-training of actors, coordination with other actors. When it comes to South, there is a lot of spontaneity. Unless there is a lot of work to be done for specific roles, there is usually not much preparation. Sometimes we meet other actors directly on the sets on the day of shooting. However, I like working in both these ways," explains Keerthy Suresh.

Directed by Dharmaraj Shetty, 'Akka' is produced by YRF Entertainment. Tanvi Azmi, Mahesh Manjrekar, Anshuman Pushkar, Monica Panwar and others play key roles in it. Talking about the character of 'Bhavani' she played in this story, Keerthy said that Bhavani is seen as a strong woman who takes tough decisions to protect her legacy. She said that working with Radhika Apte was a great experience and that this project, which came to the audience through Netflix, is impressing everyone.



Radhika Apte calls for safer, more inclusive film sets

Bollywood actress Radhika Apte has once again made sensational comments about her experiences in the South film industry. She said that she faced severe difficulties while working in some films. She revealed that there were mostly men on the sets and she felt lonely because she did not know anyone. She said that the atmosphere there was male-dominated. It is known that Radhika Apte's recent comments that she had to romance an older hero in South India were controversial. Before it was forgotten, she made these comments again. Radhika shared these things in an interview with as part of the promotions of her latest film 'Akka', starring Keerthy Suresh. She said that working in some South films gave her a good feeling, while others were mentally difficult. She said that she had faced similar bitter experiences in Bollywood too.

Radhika said that she did not have any acquaintances during the shooting of South films. She said that she had to stay in new places without an agent or friends. She said that there were mostly men on the sets and that she did not understand the language they spoke. She revealed that in some cases there was no agreement and the script was not given in advance. She said that she was embarrassed not knowing what to ask? How to respond. She said that when she worked in Marathi films, she knew the language and had the opportunity to go home if necessary. But she said that she was completely alone during the shooting of South films. Radhika said that she has increased her self-confidence compared to the past. She said that she has learned to clearly state her boundaries and speak up when injustice is done to her. Radhika has acted in South films like 'Raktha Charitra', 'Dhoni', 'Endukante Premanta!', 'Legend', 'Lion', and 'Haram'.

She further explained that the lack of communication and clarity on certain film sets made her uncomfortable, particularly when scripts and work agreements were not provided beforehand. According to her, these experiences highlighted the importance of professional working conditions, transparency and mutual respect in the film industry.

Radhika also stressed that actors, especially women working away from their home regions, should feel safe and supported on film sets. She said she was now more confident about raising concerns and refusing to accept situations that made her uncomfortable.



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