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Quad to launch Indo-Pacific security set-up, flags bid to change status quo via coercion



New Delhi, Nov 17 (Open Frame): The Quad on Tuesday announced a series of new initiatives to strengthen maritime security, secure critical supply chains and deepen cooperation in emerging technologies, while explicitly condemning cross-border terrorism and warning against unilateral attempts to change the status quo through force or coercion in the Indo-Pacific.

At the Quad Leaders' Summit in Manila, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi agreed to launch an Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration, enhance cybersecurity cooperation and establish an AI Accelerator to expand access to trusted artificial intelligence across the region.

In a joint statement, the four leaders expressed grave concern over "economic coercion", including arbitrary export restrictions, and reiterated their opposition to destabilising actions that undermine regional peace and stability.

"We strongly oppose any destabilising or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo, including by force or coercion," the statement said, without naming any country. The leaders also committed to ensuring open, safe and resilient maritime transit corridors, underlining the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight in the strategically significant Indo-Pacific. The new maritime surveillance initiative will enhance information sharing and maritime domain awareness among the four countries. As part of the collaboration, their P-8 and P-3C maritime patrol aircraft are scheduled to participate in a joint maritime exercise in 2027—the first such exercise in a Quad context.

The leaders also announced enhanced cybersecurity cooperation in response to the rapid increase in the number and scale of cyber incidents in the region.

On artificial intelligence, they reaffirmed the importance of the AI Accelerator, announced by their Foreign Ministers in Atlanta, which will coordinate and fund efforts to support access to trusted AI, its deployment and technical assistance across the Indo-Pacific. The summit also saw the announcement of the inaugural Quad Business Leaders' Forum, scheduled for early 2027. It will bring together business leaders, government officials and policy experts to promote commercial partnerships and strengthen private-sector ties among the four countries.

PM Modi, Thailand counterpart charnvirakul discuss ways to add fresh momentum to strategic partnership

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Thailand counterpart Anutin Charnvirakul held a meeting on the sidelines of the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and 21st East Asia Summit in the Philippines' Manila on Tuesday, with discussions held on ways to add fresh momentum to the strategic partnership in sectors like connectivity, trade, culture, defence and security.

The two leaders underscored the importance of working closely together in regional forums such as BIMSTEC, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Mekong Ganga Cooperation, and the ASEAN-led architecture. PM



Modi and Charnvirakul exchanged views on various regional and global issues of mutual importance and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening their partnership. "The meeting provided an opportunity to review the progress made in bilateral ties, which were elevated to Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Thailand in April 2025," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

During the meeting, PM Modi congratulated Charnvirakul on assuming office as Thailand's PM and conveyed his best wishes. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, National Se-

CM Revanth Seeks Chhattisgarh NOC for Sammakkasagar Barrage



Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Open Frame): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday sought a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the Chhattisgarh government for storing water in the Sammakkasagar barrage at full tank level (FTL) at Tupakulagudem in Mulugu district, and urged the neighbouring state to expedite the remaining clearances for the project. A study has estimated that a maximum of 100 acres would be submerged in Chhattisgarh.

Revanth Reddy, accompanied by irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, met Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai in Raipur and explained Telangana's increasing water requirements amid the drought-like conditions caused by the prevailing El Nino weather conditions. He requested Sai to grant permission to store water in the barrage and extend cooperation in securing the other pending clearances for the project.

Responding to the request, the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister assured Revanth Reddy that the process of issuing the NOC would be completed expeditiously, according to a statement issued by the Telangana Chief Minister's Office.

The Telangana government had initially proposed the construction of the Sammakkasagar project at Kantanapalli, where an estimated 11,408 acres would have been submerged, affecting 17 Adivasi villages and security infrastructure. To minimise submergence, the barrage site was subsequently shifted to Tupakulagudem.

Quad Summit Boosts Indo-Pacific Cooperation



Manila, Nov 17 (Open Frame): The outcomes of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Manila demonstrate the breadth of the Quad agenda and are focused on delivering tangible public goods for the people in the Indo-Pacific, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said. Briefing the media on the summit, Misri said, "The outcomes that I have just mentioned demonstrate the breadth of the Quad agenda. They are focused as always on delivering tangible public goods for people in the Indo-Pacific. They address issues related to resilience, diversification, connectivity and capacity building."

The Foreign Secretary said that the first exercise under the newly announced Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration will be conducted on the sidelines of Exercise Sea Dragon in Guam in March 2027.

According to Misri, the initiative will take forward the existing cooperation between the Quad countries on maritime domain awareness and address shared challenges such as illegal fishing and trafficking. "This was a very substantive and forward-looking meeting, a very practical and pragmatic meeting.

HC Grants Interim Bail To Azam Khan

Till Dec 10 In Jauhar University Money Laundering Case



Prayagraj, Nov 17 (Open Frame): The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Mohammad Azam Khan till December 10 in the Rs 426 crore money laundering case linked to Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Rampur. A division bench of Justices Rajiv Gupta and Devendra Singh granted him the interim relief till the next date for listing of the matter. The case is likely to come up for hearing on December 10.

Earlier during the day, the High Court said it would pass an appropriate order on Khan's application seeking interim relief in the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case registered under the provisions of November 12, a Special Court (PMLA) in Ghaziabad had sent Khan to ED custody for four days in the money laundering case linked to the university. Earlier on November 5, the Supreme Court declined to grant immediate relief to Khan in his plea challenging his arrest by the ED in the money laundering case and asked him to approach the Allahabad High Court.

The ED arrested Khan on October 31 in connection with the money laundering investigation stemming from FIRs alleging the forcible acquisition of agricultural land belonging to farmers for the university. The ED has also claimed that government funds and resources were diverted towards the development of the institution.

the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The court also gave a week's time to the ED to file a counter-affidavit addressing the broader merits of the case.

The High Court heard Khan's appeal over two days before granting interim bail against a personal bond and two sureties of like amount. On

India Calls for Strong Global Partnership to Build Resilient Coasts



Antalya, Nov 17 (Open Frame): Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav on Tuesday called for strengthening India's partnership with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to build resilient coasts and oceans through knowledge-sharing, technology partnerships and practical cooperation.

Addressing the high-level ministerial event on 'India–SIDS Partnership for Resilient Coasts and Oceans: Sharing Knowledge, Technology and Solutions' at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) that entered its final week in Turkey's Mediterranean resort city, the minister emphasised that healthy oceans and resilient coastlines are fundamental to economic security, ecological stability and people's well-being.

The event was organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in partnership with the International Solar Alliance (ISA). It saw ministerial-level participation from the island nations of Mauritius, Rajesh Anand Bhagwan; Tokaibure Rabaua from Kiribati; and Jess Gasper from the Marshall Islands, besides senior officials from Fiji, TERI and ISA.

Highlighting the growing challenges of sea-level rise, coastal erosion, ocean warming, coral bleaching, stronger storms and marine pollution.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Administers Oath to Hardeep Singh Puri



New Delhi, Nov 17 (Open Frame): Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan on Tuesday administered oath in the Parliament House to re-elected member Hardeep Singh Puri, representing the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Mansukh Mandaviya, Lok Sabha member and Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Union Minister of Labour and Employment; Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Union Minister of Panchayati Raj and Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice, and Minister of State of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs were present during the oath-taking. Earlier, Puri was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh on November 5 after the nomination papers of two independent candidates were rejected during scrutiny, leaving him as the sole candidate in the by-election. The by-election was necessitated by the resignation of Minister of State L. Murugan, who vacated the Rajya Sabha seat after being elected to the Lok Sabha from Tamil Nadu. His Rajya Sabha term was scheduled to end on April 2, 2030.

Delhi HC Gives Kejriwal, Sisodia Three Weeks to Reply in Contempt Case



New Delhi, Nov 17 (Open Frame): The Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted a final opportunity to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Convenor Arvind Kejriwal, former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and other party leaders to file their replies in criminal contempt proceedings initiated over alleged attempts to scandalise the Judiciary in connection with the excise policy case.

A Division Bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Arun Bharadwaj made it clear that the alleged contemnors must file their responses within three weeks, failing which their right to file replies would be closed.

"We will not give you further time. You are taking us for a ride. We have a report from the registry that compliance of the court's order to serve the record of the case on the alleged contemnors has been done. Now you file your replies, otherwise, we will close your right," the Delhi High Court remarked. During the hearing, counsel appearing for the AAP leaders said that the High Court's directions regarding supply of the relevant material had not been fully complied with and that certain documents were yet to be provided.

Vijay Raises Salt Workers' Monsoon Aid



Chennai, Nov 17 (Open Frame): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay has ordered an increase in the annual monsoon relief provided to salt workers' families from Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000, benefiting 23,979 families during the 2026-27 financial year. The State government will bear an expenditure of Rs 16.78 crore towards implementing the scheme this year, according to an official statement. The enhanced assistance is intended to protect the livelihoods of workers unable to engage in salt production during the rainy season.

The increase of Rs 2,000 per family represents a 40 per cent rise over the existing relief amount.

According to the statement, the decision fulfils a longstanding demand of salt workers and forms part of the government's "Vettri Tamil Nadu Vision" initiative, under which measures are being implemented to improve their livelihoods.

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Gaddam Prasad Kumar Distributes Cheyutha Pension Sanction Letters



Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Open Frame): Legislative Assembly Speaker and Vikarabad MLA Gaddam Prasad Kumar participated in the distribution of Cheyutha pension sanction letters at the MPDO office premises in Kotpally mandal on Tuesday.

The programme was organised under the leadership of Kotpally Congress Mandal President Ramachandra Reddy, during which pension sanction letters were distributed to eligible beneficiaries.

Addressing the gathering, Speaker Prasad Kumar said former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy had introduced several welfare and development programmes with the objective of making women financially independent. He said the present government, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, was working towards making women financially prosperous through various welfare initiatives. He highlighted several initiatives aimed at women's empowerment, including handing over the management of petrol pumps to women's self-help groups, facilitating the purchase and operation of RTC-owned and hired buses, and encouraging the establishment of solar power plants through women's groups.

The Speaker said the Chief Minister was working nearly 18 hours a day for the welfare of the people. He recalled that the government had implemented a farm loan waiver of up to Rs. 2 lakh after coming to power and was fulfilling its electoral promises in phases. Criticising BRS leaders K.T. Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao, he alleged that they were making false allegations and spreading misinformation against the state government. He said it was unfortunate that leaders who governed the state for ten years were criticising the present government's administration.

Prasad Kumar stated that development works were progressing rapidly in Vikarabad and other constituencies across Telangana, adding that the government was taking up development initiatives without political discrimination.

Governor calls for states' contribution to Viksit Bharat 2047



Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Open Frame): Shiv Pratap Shukla has called upon every State to contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat–2047 by drawing on its unique culture, traditions, resources and talent. He said India's strength lay in its unity in diversity and that the 'Ek Bharat–Shreshtha Bharat' initiative, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was strengthening cultural and social ties among States. The Governor was speaking at the State Formation Day celebrations of Uttarakhand and Jharkhand, held at the Durbar Hall of Lok Bhavan on Tuesday. He extended his greetings to the people of both States on the occasion.

Describing Uttarakhand as a State known for its natural beauty and spiritual heritage, he referred to the significance of pilgrimage centres such as Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath. He also recalled the people's struggle for statehood and commended the contributions of the Garhwal and Kumaon regiments to the defence of the country.

Referring to Jharkhand, the Governor said the State was renowned for its rich tribal culture, mineral wealth and industrial progress. He observed that Bhagwan Birsa Munda's struggle to protect tribal rights and self-respect continued to inspire generations. The legacy of Telangana's tribal freedom fighter Komaram Bheem reflected a similar spirit of courage and resistance, he added. Mr. Shukla said there was considerable scope for cooperation among Telangana, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand in tourism, agriculture, tribal welfare, handicrafts and cultural exchange. He stressed the need to provide better market access to tribal products to improve the livelihoods of tribal communities.

Observing that India's diverse languages, religions, cultures and traditions were its greatest strength, he said mutual respect and fraternity among communities were essential to strengthening national integration. He urged people from Uttarakhand and Jharkhand residing in Hyderabad to actively participate in Telangana's social life and promote closer cultural ties among the three States. Messages from the Governors of Uttarakhand and Jharkhand were screened digitally on the occasion. Cultural performances reflecting the traditions of the two States, including Jhuma, Garhwali, Santhali and Chholiya dances, were among the highlights of the celebrations. Governor's Special Chief Secretary Shri M. Dana Kishore, Joint Secretary Shri Komanduru Shashi Kiran and others attended the programme.

Minister Vakiti Srihari Says Congress Committed to Welfare Without Discrimination



Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Open Frame): Telangana Minister for Sports, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries and Youth Services, Vakiti Srihari, said the Congress government was committed to extending welfare schemes to every eligible poor person, irrespective of political affiliation, caste or religion.

The Minister distributed sanction letters for 455 newly approved Cheyutha pensions in Amarchinta Mandal. He also distributed cheques under the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes to eligible beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Srihari criticised the previous government, alleging that no new pensions or houses had been sanctioned for the poor during its tenure. He said the Congress government was ensuring that all eligible beneficiaries received welfare benefits without discrimination. The Minister said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was giving top priority to women's empowerment through several initiatives. These include free bus travel, interest-free loans and opportunities for women to operate petrol bunks and RTC rental buses. He said cheques under the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes were being handed over directly to women beneficiaries. Srihari said the Chief Minister's vision was to transform one crore women in Telangana into financially empowered and prosperous individuals. He added that women's self-help groups could obtain bank loans of up to 20 lakh upon request.

He urged women to stay informed, speak fearlessly and counter misinformation with facts.

Referring to the possibility of drought conditions due to the El Niño effect, the Minister appealed to people to use water carefully and advised farmers to give priority to short-duration crops requiring less water.

He said the government was continuing to distribute six kilograms of fine rice every month through ration shops, even amid concerns over drought conditions.

Highlighting rural development, Srihari said the Congress government had been making significant efforts to improve rural road connectivity in the Makthal constituency. He observed that the development of individual houses, localities and villages would ultimately contribute to the development of the state and the country.

Hyderabad Collector Holds Child Grievance Meet



Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Open Frame): As part of the 'Child Rights Week' celebrations, a 'Balala Prajavani' (Public Grievance Redressal for Children) program was held on Monday at the District Collectorate. The initiative, led by the District Collector, aimed to protect child rights, resolve children's issues, and ensure that eligible children receive the benefits of government welfare schemes.

During the event, the District Collector received applications detailing the problems, needs, and requests of approximately 21 children from various parts of the district. The children had the opportunity to bring their concerns directly to the Collector's attention. The Collector directed that the received applications be forwarded to the concerned departments for thorough examination and swift resolution based on eligibility. She assured the children that the district administration is committed to protecting their rights and providing them with a platform to express their concerns freely.

Awareness was raised on several critical issues, including the protection of child rights, the eradication of child labor, the prevention of child marriages, the elimination of violence and harassment against children, and ensuring access to education and protection for every child. It was stated that during this meeting, requests were submitted regarding various issues, including educational facilities, school infrastructure, drinking water, sanitation, Aadhaar identification cards.

, sports equipment, medical assistance, residential facilities (ashrams), pensions for persons with disabilities, financial aid, and property rights for orphaned children.

The meeting also addressed the adverse effects of child marriage on girls—impacting their health, education, mental well-being, and future. The Collector emphasized that all departments must work in coordination to prevent child marriages. Directives were issued to conduct extensive awareness programs across the city and to educate students in schools and colleges about the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA, 2006). It was advised that areas prone to child marriages be identified for proactive intervention, and that relevant authorities should respond immediately upon receiving information about any such instances to prevent them.

The District Collector instructed that the Department of Women and Child Welfare, the Education Department, the Health Department, the Police Department, and the Child Protection unitamong others must work in close coordination to ensure the protection of children's rights.

Complete Ijtema Arrangements in Shankarpally Within Deadline: Collector





Ranga Reddy, Nov 17 (Open Frame): District Collector C. Narayana Reddy has directed officials to complete all arrangements for the Ijtema programme scheduled to be held at Shankarpally in Chevella Constituency on December 12, 13 and 14 within the stipulated deadline, ensuring high-quality standards.

On Tuesday, the Collector, along with local MLA Kale Yadaiah, Muslim religious leaders, Ijtema organisers and officials from various departments, conducted a field visit to Shankarpally and inspected the arrangements being made for the event. Later, he reviewed the progress of works department-wise and issued several instructions to the officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was giving special attention to the successful conduct of the Ijtema and was regularly reviewing the preparations. He directed every department to effectively discharge the responsibilities assigned to it.

As a large number of devotees are expected to attend the event from different parts of the country, the Collector instructed officials to make comprehensive arrangements for drinking water, sanitation, electricity, roads, parking facilities and medical services. Recalling the successful conduct of the previous Ijtema at Pargi, he appreciated the coordination among various government departments and directed officials to work with the same spirit in Shankarpally. He also asked them to maintain continuous coordination with the organisers and address their requirements promptly.

The Collector instructed officials to immediately bring any problems arising during the arrangements to the notice of the Chevella RDO or himself. He further informed that another review meeting would be held in the first week of December, as a State Minister is likely to visit the venue.

He directed all departments to complete their assigned works before the next review meeting and keep progress reports ready. Emphasising the urgency, he instructed officials to speed up the works from Wednesday and complete them within the stipulated timeframe without compromising on quality.

Meanwhile, the Ijtema organisers expressed their special gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for sanctioning the required funds in advance for conducting the event.

MLAs Kale Yadaiah and Kausar Mohiuddin, TMREIS Vice-Chairman and President Mohammed Faheem Qureshi, Lords College Chairman Basha Saheb, Maulana Abdus Samad Saheb, Government Minority Welfare Department Secretary B. Shafi Ullah, Director Abdul Hameed, Chevella RDO Parthasimha Reddy, Tahsildar Surender, DCP Yogesh Gautam, ACP Kishan, Municipal Chairman Praveen Kumar, Commissioner Yogesh, District Minority Welfare Officer Naveen Kumar Reddy, DPO Suresh Mohan, officials from various departments and Ijtema organisers participated in the programme.

Nizamabad CP Hails Induru Yuvatha's Service



Nizamabad, Nov 17 (Open Frame): Nizamabad olice Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, has praised the humanitarian services of Induru Yuvatha, a voluntary organisation that has been providing food to the hungry, supporting orphans and extending assistance to people in distress. He described the organisation's uninterrupted food distribution programme for 2,000 days and the successful completion of its 15-year journey as highly commendable and an inspiration to society.

The organisation celebrated its 15th anniversary and the completion of 2,000 days of continuous food service at a grand event held on Monday at SR Junior College in Kanteshwar, Nizamabad. Police Commissioner Sai Chaitanya attended the programme as the chief guest and inaugurated the celebrations by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Cultural performances by artists added colour to the event. Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner said that Induru Yuvatha's activities were an inspiration to everyone, particularly its commitment to humanitarian initiatives that many people hesitate to undertake. He appreciated the organisation for providing meals to thousands of homeless people, orphans and underprivileged individuals through its continuous food distribution programme.

He also appreciated the organisation for conducting dignified funerals for unclaimed bodies and extending care and essential support to mentally challenged and vulnerable individuals living in difficult conditions on the streets. He called upon everyone to participate in such humanitarian and social service activities.

Later, Induru Yuvatha founder and president Dr. Maddhukuri Saibabu presented a video presentation on an LED screen, explaining the various welfare and social service activities undertaken by the organisation.

Task Force busts four fake silver waraq units in Hyderabad



Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Open Frame): The Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force, along with local police, busted four illegal fake silver waraq manufacturing units in and around Charminar and seized huge quantities of counterfeit silver leaves, aluminium flakes and adulterants. Police registered four cases against the units operating under the names Ittehad Waraq Shop, UTC Silver Leafs, M.A. Metro Waraq Shop and Tara Unit in Charminar, Hussainialam, Mogalpura and Falaknuma areas. During the raids, police seized 49 bundles of fake silver leaves, 10 kg of aluminium flakes, fake silver-coated sugar balls, tobacco, Qiwam, flavoured paan chutneys, maize starch and other adulterants. Machinery, including mixer grinders, packing machines and weighing equipment, was also confiscated.

According to police, the accused allegedly used cheap aluminium instead of genuine silver to manufacture edible waraqs and flakes without valid FSSAI licences. These products were reportedly supplied to sweet shops, bakeries and paan shops across Telangana, where they were used in sweets, cakes and flavoured paan preparations. As per food safety regulations, edible silver leaf must have a minimum silver purity of 99.9 per cent. Police warned that the use of non-food-grade aluminium products could pose health risks to consumers. Four criminal cases were registered under Sections 318(4) and 110 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the respective police stations. Further investigation and legal action are underway.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of DCP Commissioner's Task Force Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath, IPS, led by Inspector N. Ranjith Kumar Goud and his team. Police said the accused allegedly procured aluminium flakes from Uttar Pradesh and increased supplies during peak festival seasons to meet rising demand. Preliminary screening methods, including chemical and rubbing tests, may help identify fake silver waraq, but laboratory analysis is required for conclusive confirmation.

The Task Force urged sweet manufacturers, bakery owners and paan shop operators to verify the quality and authenticity of silver products before purchasing them. Offi Officials cautioned consumers against the use of suspicious decorative silver coatings on food items.

Police advised consumers to remain vigilant while purchasing sweets and other food items decorated with silver leaf. They stressed that buyers should prefer products from reputed establishments and report any suspected use of counterfeit or unsafe food decorations to the authorities.

Officials said food business operators must ensure that all ingredients and decorative materials used in edible products meet prescribed safety standards.

What the draft data protection rules lack

Asheef Iqubbal



Sixteen months after the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act was enacted in August 2023, the much-awaited DPDP rules were published in January this year. Following this, the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) conducted stakeholder consultations on the draft rules.

The draft rules outline the implementation timeline for India's data protection regime, beginning with the establishment of the Data Protection Board of India (DPBI) as the enforcement authority under the DPDPA. The board will be constituted upon the official notification of the rules in the Official Gazette after the public consultation is concluded.

However, the exact timeline remains unclear. While the draft rules are a welcome step, certain provisions require further discussion and refinement before finalisation to ensure the framework effectively serves businesses, the state and users without unintended consequences. The proposed framework aims to balance innovation with individual rights but contains vulnerabilities, including ambiguous notice and consent mechanisms and broad government powers that could compromise privacy. The concept of "informed consent" remains contentious in India, where digital literacy is low and the process to obtain it remains ambiguous. While Draft Rules 3 sets standards for consent notices, their delivery methods are left to data fiduciaries' (the entity processing the data) discretion, raising concerns that users may not fully understand what they are consenting to. The framework assumes data principals – or the person whose data is being processed – can read and make informed decisions, despite evidence showing that most users skip privacy policies due to their length.

Clear process for obtaining consent is essential for effective data protection. Additionally, data fiduciaries should adopt privacy labels, similar to nutrition and energy labels, after testing their effectiveness in a controlled environment. The regulator should also mandate prominently displayed "most important terms and conditions', as seen in RBI's digital lending guidelines. In the electricity sector, India's star labels approach helps consumers choose energy-efficient appliances; similarly, privacy labels could help users identify privacy-protecting services.

Data fiduciaries should disclose the specific purpose, good or service provided, or use enabled by each data item collected. This transparency allows data principals to clearly understand the link between their personal data and its intended use, facilitating informed, data-item-specific consent. It will help in preventing "take-it-or-leave-it" services, ensuring individuals are not compelled into consenting to excessive data collection. Service providers should also offer basic services using only the necessary information from data principals, collecting additional data only for optional features. Currently, the consent mechanism functions in an all-or-nothing fashion, forcing data principals to either share all requested data or be denied access entirely. This lack of choice was also observed in a CUTS' study, 'My Data or Yours? Unravelling Multi-Party Privacy among Consumers of Digital Credit in India'. The study noted that people believe permission should be obtained before sharing co-owned data, but practical constraints often become a challenge. A key issue is app design, applications lack mechanisms for seeking consent before sharing contacts or co-owned data.

Under Rule 4, specific provisions outline the role of consent managers in enabling users to provide, manage, review and revoke consent for the processing of their personal data by data fiduciaries. Companies meeting certain criteria can apply to become consent managers, requiring registration with the DPBI and compliance with technical, operational, and financial standards. However, as a relatively new framework in global data protection mandates, its efficiency remains untested. Meanwhile, a publicly accessible registry of approved consent managers should be maintained, allowing data principals to verify legitimate providers. It should include service details, compliance status and regular updates. A trust mark, developed by the DPBI in consultation with stakeholders, should be displayed to ensure legitimacy and prevent fraud. Further, the rules rightfully prohibit consent managers from having conflicts of interest with data fiduciaries but fail to adequately define such conflicts in Part B of the schedule. This ambiguity allows multiple interpretations, potentially compromising their independence. Clear definitions and examples are needed to ensure consistent enforcement and maintain the integrity of the consent management system.

Consent managers should also disclose mechanisms to prevent conflicts of interest, making this information publicly available on their website, in policies, and through regular updates to data principals, especially when a new fiduciary is engaged. To ensure transparency and trust, they must disclose all fees upfront. The regulatory board should provide explicit guidelines on permitted and prohibited activities. Moreover, the provision in Part B of the first schedule imposes an inherent contradiction on consent managers. On one hand, they are required to ensure that the contents of the personal data they facilitate access to remains unreadable to them (clause 2). On the other hand, they must retain consent and data-sharing records for at least seven years (clause 4), which arguably requires some level of accessibility to personal information. However, this apparent conflict can be resolved by explicitly stating that the consent managers cannot access personally identifiable information. Additionally, all records it maintains should be securely encrypted to minimise the risk of data breaches and privacy related harms.

One of the most contested provisions in the DPDP Act is the blanket exemption for the Union government and executive control over DPBI. Rule 16 of the draft rules outlines the appointment process for DPBI members and the chairperson through a search-cum-selection committee composed of government officials and two government-appointed "experts". This structure raises concerns about DPBI's independence, as political influence could undermine its credibility and impartiality. To safeguard independence and ensure transparency, the draft rules should establish a clear selection criteria based on merit, define terms and conditions and outline the removal process for board members.

These principles should be developed in consultation with judicial representatives, subject matter experts and civil society. The joint parliamentary committee (2021) recommended including the attorney general and an independent expert in the selection process, while the Justice Srikrishna Committee suggested involving the chief justice of India or their nominee to ensure impartiality. Given the DPBI's limited adjudication power, maintaining its independence is essential to prevent undue influence.

Finally, draft rule 22 and the seventh schedule grant the Union government broad, undefined powers to access personal data under the pretext of protecting "the sovereignty and integrity of India or security of the state." The lack of clear legal definitions of these terms allows for arbitrary interpretation, raising concerns about excessive data collection, mass surveillance and privacy violations. This contradicts the Puttaswamy judgement, which established privacy as a fundamental right and required state intervention in personal data to meet principles of legality, necessity and proportionality. The provision lacks oversight, allowing the government to designate any authority to request data without judicial approval, creating potential for misuse.

Additionally, it avoids disclosing information about such requests, shielding government actions from public scrutiny and eroding trust in digital spaces. Moreover, permitting data access for broadly defined purposes, such as performing functions under any law, potentially enables access to a disproportionately large amount of data.

To mitigate these risks, safeguards like judicial oversight and a necessity-based threshold for data requests should be introduced. Transparency mechanisms, including mandatory periodic reports on government data requests, should also be implemented. MeitY should publish these reports for public accountability while balancing national security interests.

As the draft DPDP rules move toward finalisation, they must effectively operationalise the DPDP Act while addressing unintended consequences through transparent assessment mechanisms. Given their impact on data principles and fiduciaries, it is essential to assess their effectiveness before implementation. A regulatory impact assessment, conducted in consultation with all key stakeholders, will help ensure the rules achieve their objectives without compromising user rights and imposing unnecessary compliance on platforms.

Learning to learn and live

The fundamentals of all personal dealings and individual relationships, all over the world, are remarkably similar. Anywhere in the world, truth is upheld as a cardinal principle, and everywhere in the world, a line is considered drawn between proper and improper. It has nothing to do with which religion one follows, what is the colour of one's skin, or what are one's social norms. Similarly, killing is considered wrong, and so is taking something that does not belong to you. The list can be multiplied, and in all cases, there is a universal value system that brooks no distinction on account of language, creed, or anything else.

Put simply, the unifying principles of humanity are many and have withstood the test of time through millennia, and no one has found it worth his time to negate or contradict these principles. It, therefore, does not follow that there are no differences between one part of the globe or another, or for that matter, all humanity agrees on everything. There are differences of belief in matters of religion, creed, and values of behaviour. In certain communities, polyandry is accepted. In others, monogamy is considered desirable. The enforcement of these values is sometimes through written laws enforceable by courts and, in certain cases, by social practices and beliefs, none of which go to a court. The varieties are many, and the practices often differ sharply. It is this that makes the processes of legislation important, and the norms must be known to hold credence. This is the birth of a civil society that has taken the form of nation-states and various national and international legislations that make up the world order.

In reasonable reality towards this end, some important steps have been taken, and certain important steps are yet to be undertaken to complete the cycle of total cohesiveness of the civil variety. This may take time to emerge. For the present, it is important to register that one must agree to accept differences as a natural and essential part of global existence. The nation-states present one type of governance, and within the nation-states, there can be differences in ethnicity, practices, and norms. The seeming diversity within an otherwise unifying framework is the experience of many nation-states. It is therefore essential to recognise that tolerance, communication, and respect for each other's practices are essential to cohesive collective living.

There are, even among nation-states, variations from monarchy and more, across relatively vast territories to small existences of island states. There are many variations, and one must learn to agree to disagree and yet remain tolerant. This takes one back to the fundamental beliefs of accepting mutual dignity as a human being and recognising that one must not inflict one's values on others. What can be stated so simply can become comparatively complicated to practise, and these are the roots of much conflict which takes place even in civil states. Understanding the anatomy of conflict, therefore, requires a need for a concurrent understanding of the practice of the principles of 'live and let live'. Perhaps this should be made a part of each child's learning before the child grows into adulthood. The present stage of learning through different stages of school and colleges emphasises knowledge acquisition. There is nothing wrong with that. What is needed, however, is the recognition that one has to let others live to be able to live oneself peacefully and happily. These are lifestyle learnings and not knowledge learnings. It is, therefore, necessary to keep re-examining the fundamentals of educational systems and values which make coexistence not only desirable but feasible. Put simply, a recognition of individual identities is useful, but a recognition of the other person's right to that living is also a must. For the physically powerful, adopting a stance of dominance, assertion, and compulsion is easy. There has to be self-restraint in recognising how this is a must if the other person also needs to have the same spaces for life as one wants for oneself.

The long and short of it is not just the development of the mind, not just the development of one's might, but also the development of one's patience, one's understanding, and how necessary it is to respect each other's identity. A marriage, and a family, are the basic unit of the constitution of a civil society, and it is important to inculcate these values at the core of these institutions. This can be best done by example and by reflection that the other person has the same right as one wants for oneself. It is a happy truth that civilisational values have progressively advanced in that direction. That there are notable exceptions is understandable. Perhaps dealing with it with patience and purpose is the way forward. It takes time but can be done with positive practices in the family and positive values in collective places like schools and elsewhere. The direction is non-negotiable, and the attempt is worth its effort.

The Mandalay earthquake has lessons for India

Ranu Chauhan



At noon, on March 28, Mandalay in Myanmar, a city with a 1.5 million population, suffered catastrophic damage. India's NCS instantly reported that a powerful M7.5 earthquake struck central Myanmar, with an M7.0 aftershock within 15 minutes, and nearly 25 lower magnitude quakes followed. The epicentre was located just 16 kilometres from the city of Sagaing, and approximately 250 kilometres from the capital, Naypyidaw.

Till now, over 1,000 people have been confirmed dead, with 2,500 injured and several reported missing. Neighbouring Thailand also reported deaths and numerous injuries, including collapse of an under-construction building in Bangkok. Earthquakes occur at various depths, from shallow crust to the base of the mantle transition zone. However, destructive earthquakes are usually shallow, concentrated in the upper crust of continents. Shallow earthquakes are typically more destructive as seismic waves travel a shorter distance to the surface, retaining much of their energy.

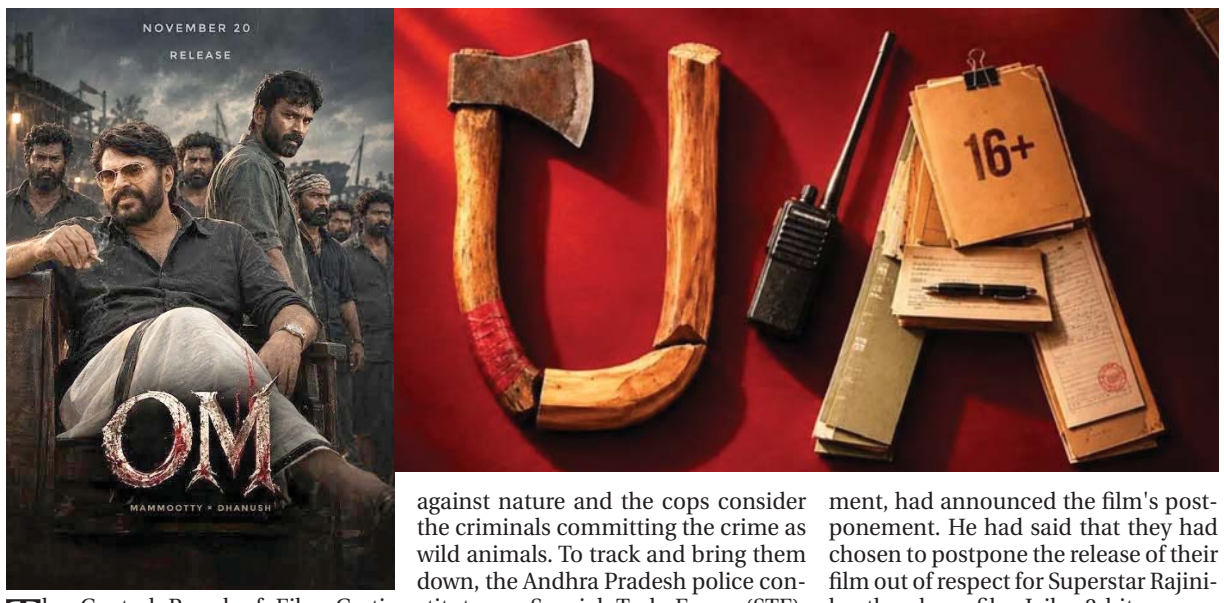
With a focal depth of 10 kilometres, the earthquake caused intense shaking, severely damaging buildings and infrastructure. Poorly constructed structures, especially older brick or stone buildings, were most vulnerable. Moreover, shallow-focus earthquakes provide minimal time for early warnings, leaving residents with little opportunity to seek safety. The amplified ground shaking also increases the risk of liquefaction in susceptible areas, further damaging roads, bridges, and buildings.

Following the earthquake, USGS had issued a red alert, predicting extensive fatalities and economic losses. Ground shaking intensities ranging from VIII to X on the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) scale were reported in cities such as Mandalay, Sagaing, and Meiktila. Critical infrastructure, including roads, hospitals, and schools, was severely damaged. Initial assessments indicated that at least 2,900 buildings, 30 roads, and seven bridges were affected in Myanmar. Due to significant destruction, Naypyidaw and Mandalay international airports were temporarily closed but have since restored operations. The collapse of the Ava Bridge, a historic 16-span bridge connecting the Ava and Sagaing regions across the Irrawaddy river, has significantly impacted transportation and hindered relief efforts.

Secondary hazards such as fire also emerged form this massive earthquake as well. A massive fire tore through Mandalay University, exacerbating the damage. Reports suggest the city's historic monasteries, vital to Myanmar's cultural and religious heritage, have also sustained damage, further underlining the quake's devastating impact. Several schools and hospitals sustained damage, which is particularly concerning as these facilities are crucial for providing emergency shelter and medical care following a disaster. Fortunately, in Myanmar, schools were closed for the summer vacation, preventing potential casualties among children. Earthquakes in Myanmar have mostly originated along an active subduction zone (Andaman Megathrust Zone) in the west and along a large transform fault zone (Sagaing Fault Zone) in the middle part of the country. This series of earthquakes originated from the Sagaing Fault, which runs approximately 1,200 kilometres north to south of Myanmar and has a history of significant seismic activity. Several significant quakes of M7.0 or higher have struck near the Sagaing Fault, including an M6.8 in the ancient capital Bagan in 2016, which resulted in several casualties and damage to valuable heritage sites.

Shallow earthquakes within the Indo-Burmese Arc, predominantly occur on a combination of strike-slip and reverse faults, including the Sagaing, Kabaw and Dauki faults. The recent earthquake originated from strike-slip faulting, where one side of the fault moves horizontally past the other, as opposed to subduction of a fault, which slides under another. According to the USGS, this is a finite fault solution, which indicates a north striking right-lateral fault. This solution is consistent with the earthquake potentially occurring on the right-lateral Sagaing Fault that defines the plate boundary between Indian and Sunda plates. Historically, it has been observed that earthquakes of this size are more appropriately described as slip over a larger fault area. The finite fault solution indicates the size of the March 28, 2025 event is about 200 km by 20 km (length x width).

Dhanush, Mammootty-starrer 'Om' cleared for release with U/A certificate!



The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has now cleared director Rajkumar Periasamy's eagerly awaited action entertainer 'Om', featuring actors Dhanush and Mammootty in the lead, for release with a U/A certificate.

Taking to its X timeline, Wunderbar Films, one of the production houses producing the film, wrote, "Unleashing action, adrenaline and unlimited excitement. #OM is U/A certified, and on the way to theatres on November 20. A @Rajkumar_KP Film."

The film has triggered huge excitement among fans and audiences ever since the makers released a trailer.

Contrary to what audiences were initially led to believe, the trailer revealed that Dhanush plays a member of an intelligence unit constituted by the Tamil Nadu Police to deal with organised crimes in the film. The trailer also had another surprise in the form of Mammootty being the antagonist in the film. The trailer began with the makers pointing out that "Some of these things actually happen...". The story is set between two temple towns. There is a crime being committed against nature and the cops consider the criminals committing the crime as wild animals. To track and bring them down, the Andhra Pradesh police constitutes a Special Task Force (STF), which is led by Nithya Reddy (Sai Pallavi). She runs an operation to infiltrate the network behind the smuggling of Red Sanders and codenames it 'OM' -- Operation Mole. Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu police team, for its part, has a specialised team called OCIU (Organised Crime Intelligence Unit) to deal with the problem and we realise Dhanush is from this unit. He is referred to as D 402 and has a wife and child, about whom nobody in the outside world knows.

Interestingly, contrary to what the public was led to believe earlier, Mammootty plays the antagonist in this film. He plays a character called Red Hills Karthikeyan, the man behind this organised crime network.

Only recently, the makers had revealed that actress Sai Pallavi plays an IPS officer called Nithya Reddy in the film. Sree Leela, who plays Dhanush's wife in the film, plays a character called Roja. The film is slated to hit screens on November 20 this year.

The makers had originally planned to release the film on October 16. However, actor Dhanush, in a statement, had announced the film's postponement. He had said that they had chosen to postpone the release of their film out of respect for Superstar Rajinikanth, whose film Jailer 2 hit screens on October 15.

Dhanush had also made it clear that their film would not be releasing for Deepavali as Suriya's film had already been announced for the same date. The actor and producer later announced November 20 as the date of release for their film.

Dhanush and Mammootty are collaborating on a project for the first time in Om.

For the unaware, Bollywood star Naseeruddin Shah too is a part of this film. The film's title has a tagline called Chapter 1 indicating that there could be a sequel. Wunderbar Films Head Sreyas, while speaking at the title teaser launch event, had disclosed that this would be one of the biggest budget films in Dhanush's career. He had also said that this film would bring back the mass vintage Dhanush that fans had longed to see.

The film, which features Sai Pallavi and Sreeleela as the heroines, has music by Sai Abhyankkar. Cinematography for the film is by Ezhil Arasu. Editing for the film is by Kalaivanan R and costumes are by Kavya Sriram.

Rajinikanth Enjoys Family Getaway in Greece



Producer Soundarya Rajinikanth, who is also the younger daughter of actor Rajinikanth, on Tuesday shared pictures of the Superstar spending quality time with his family members in Greece and wrote, "What amazing memories we've made in Athens!" Taking to her Instagram page to post a couple of pictures of the entire family including Superstar Rajinikanth enjoying a walk in Athens, Greece, the producer wrote, "What amazing memories we've made in Athens! Soaking up every moment of this lovely family getaway." For the unaware, Rajinikanth and his entire family had flown to Greece to attend the wedding of his relative and one of India's top music directors, Anirudh Ravichander.

Anirudh Ravichander wed Kavya Maran, the daughter of Sun Group Chairman Kalanidhi Maran and the owner of the IPL franchise SunRisers Hyderabad, at a grand wedding ceremony that took place on November 11 this year.

The wedding, which took place in Greece over a two-day period and which was attended by a number of distinguished guests, had been the cynosure of all eyes. Among those present at the wedding were Tamil film Superstar Rajinikanth former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and Union Minister Dayanidhi Maran.

Sun Pictures, the production house of Kalanidhi Maran, had recently taken to its timeline to share moments captured during the star-studded wedding. The production house had wished the couple saying, "Heartiest congratulations to Kaviya and Anirudh on their wedding! #KAVIYAandANIRUDH."

The news of the music director's wedding was first officially confirmed by the Telangana Chief Minister's office which put out a post on its X timeline saying that Sun Group Chairman Kalanidhi Maran and his wife Kavery Maran had called on the Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee hills to invite him to the wedding reception of his daughter Kavya Maran, which was to be held in Chennai on November 21. The post put out by the Telangana CM's office read, "Sun Group Chairman Shri Kalanithi Maran and his wife, Smt. Kavery Maran, met Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee Hills and invited him to the wedding reception of their daughter, Kavya Maran."

It further said, "The wedding reception of Kavya Maran and Anirudh Ravichander is scheduled to be held in Chennai on November 21.

Prabhudeva, AR Rahman's 'Moonwalk' to hit screens on December 24

The makers of director Manoj NS's 'Moonwalk', featuring actor Prabhudeva in the lead, have now announced that the film will 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 AR Rahman.

Sources say that the ace music director will make a fun cameo appearance in the film. A R Rahman, who took to his X timeline to share the update on the film's release, wrote, "MOONWALK – A FAMILY COMEDY ENTERTAINER! Worldwide theatrical release on December 24! #FamilyLaughter #HolidaysLaughter Starring @PDdancing @iYogiBabu @AjuVarghesee #ArjunAshokan @Satzsathish321 Directed by #ManojNirmalaSreedharan Produced by #ManojNirmalaSreedharan #DivyaManoj and @praveenelak @behindwoods DOP @Anoopvshylaja."

It may be recalled that the film had originally be scheduled for release for Deepavali. Behindwoods Productions, while announcing the film's release for Deepavali, had said the film would deliver to audiences a spectacular festive celebration filled with laughter and unforgettable family moments. Apart from acting in it, AR Rahman has also scored the music for the film. Apart from Prabhudeva, the film will also feature actors Yogi Babu, Aju Varghese, Arjun Ashokan, Satz, Nishma, Sushmitha, Redin Kingsley, Mottai Rajendran, Lollu Sabha Swaminathan, Dr Santhosh Jacob, Deepa Shankar, and Ramkumar Natarajan among others.



Another highlight of the movie, sources say, will be Yogi babu appearing in 16 different roles. Sources claim that 'Moonwalk' will seek to seamlessly blend comedy, music and dance into a vibrant cinematic celebration.

The film features cinematography by Anoop V Shylaja, choreography by Sekhar VJ and Piyush Shazia, production design by Shanoo, and costume design by Divya George and Swetha Raju. MOONWALK, produced by Manoj NS, Divya Manoj and Praveen Elak under the banner of Behindwoods Productions, will release simultaneously in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi languages. Romeo Pictures has acquired the worldwide distribution rights, while Lahari has acquired the film's music rights

'Some days, you just have to get yourself there': Raashii Khanna's fitness mantra

Actress Raashii Khanna took to social media to share a glimpse of her workout routine, along with a fitness reminder about the importance of consistency and showing up even on days when motivation is hard to find. Taking to Instagram, Raashii shared a workout video in which she is seen putting in the effort during her fitness session. Along with the video, she penned a note highlighting how discipline often matters more than motivation."Not every day comes with motivation. Some days, you just have to get yourself there. And that is half the job done," she wrote.

The 'Madras Café' actress also shared footage from her gym session, in which she is seen dressed in comfortable sportswear. The video captures her performing different exercises, focusing on both her lower and upper body. In one part of the video, Raashii is seen performing leg exercises to strengthen her lower body. She then moves on to arm workouts as part of her fitness routine. The video offers a glimpse into her varied workout session and the effort she puts into staying fit. Raashii regularly shares glimpses of her professional



commitments, fitness routine and personal moments on social media. Earlier, Raashii Khanna reflected on the complexities of mother-daughter relationships, highlighting how love, hurt and admiration can coexist within the same bond. The actress shared her thoughts on Arundhati Roy's memoir 'Mother Mary Comes to Me' and praised the author's honest portrayal of her relationship with her mother, Mary Roy.

An excerpt from her post read: "There is something extraordinary about 'Mother Mary Comes to Me': the way Arundhati Roy holds the contradictions of a woman who could be both a force of nature and a source of deep hurt. Mary Roy was a formidable feminist who challenged the world and carved out a place for herself, yet the same fierce, uncontained spirit could wound those closest to her. Arundhati writes of her with a startling honesty that neither diminishes her mother's achievements nor conceals the wreckage left behind. What emerges is an inheritance of extraordinary complexity: a daughter shaped by the very person she has struggled to understand, carrying both her mother's fire and the scars of its burning." On the work front, Raashii will next feature in the upcoming film 'Mauja Hi Mauja', which also stars Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan.

Samantha Questions Double Standards in Treatment of Women

Samantha, who is eagerly waiting to enjoy the moments of motherhood, is known to be a mother soon. Recently, she impressed her fans with a baby bump photoshoot. Usually, women take rest during pregnancy. But Samantha is doing her job and waiting for the arrival of the baby on the other hand. On the one hand, she participates in many interviews and shares many things. As part of that, her recent questioning of the injustices being done against women in the industry and society has gone viral on social media.

Especially since the film industry is a public one, any small thing in this industry goes viral. However, comments are constantly being made that women are not safe anywhere, not just in the film industry. In this context, Samantha's questioning of the way the world views women made everyone think. In a recent interview, Samantha said, "In this world we live in, only those who have been sexually harassed are criticized. But no one questions those who have committed sexual harassment. Moreover, only single mothers are criticized. But irresponsible fathers are not criticized," she said, responding in her own style to the difficulties faced by women in society. Overall, these comments made by Samantha are going viral on social media. Wherever something goes wrong, it has become common to point out and show women especially. Whoever faces trouble, it is okay. It is the one who is troubled who is called out, but why are those who caused trouble not questioned? Many netizens are also supporting her, saying that there should definitely be a change in this policy. Currently, these comments made by Samantha are going viral on social media.



Samantha, who has become a producer and has impressed the audience, is known to be impressing with lady-oriented films as a heroine. Currently, she is away from films due to her pregnancy. She is seen as a celebrity judge in Celebrity Master Tamil, which is aired on Sony Live. She was supposed to act in a web series called Rakta Brahmandam: The Bloody Kingdom. But this film was postponed due to her pregnancy. Samantha, who recently joined the Rs. 100 crore club with the film Maa Inti Bangaram, is also planning a sequel to this film. It remains to be seen when the makers will officially announce this.

Sharad Kelkar opens up on his idea of creative obsession

Actor Sharad Kelkar, who is gearing up for his upcoming film 'Kaali Kheti', has shared what creative obsession means to him. The actor spoke with IANS along with Jackie Shroff and director Haris Imtiyaz Khan in the Andheri West area of Mumbai during the promotions of the film. He told IANS, "For me creative obsession is pegged on perfection. It has to be perfect. The director of our film is a painter. So we were very sure of each and every frame, how it should look. And because they've been working on pre-production with Kiran Deohans sir, they were aligned. So we were not bothered about how it's going to look. The one thing which was a question in my head, obviously Kiran sir is doing it, but as a first time filmmaker, there are a lot of VFX shots. And as an actor, we were all curious and I'm not very sure how it is going to look. Because there are a lot of shots in VFX".

He further mentioned, "So we were always confused about how it will come out, how much time do we have to do it, how it will look. Do we have that much of time to do the most? VFX can take maybe a few months and a few years also. I've done such



films". "VFX took around 1.5-2 years. But they were so sure about how much time we need and we'll work round the clock. So I think the benchmark is going up. You just need to give it to him. Give your passion and everything to the film", he added.

Meanwhile, written and directed by Haris Imtiyaz Khan and produced by Sana Khan under the banner of BlackCanvas Studio, 'Kaali Kheti' is set to release in cinemas on November 20, 2026.

Sonam Kapoor says damage to water, air, planet can be reversed

Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor has advocated for eco-conservation, as she said that the damage to our natural resources can be reversed. The actress attended the 6th annual Earthshot Prize awards ceremony in the city on Tuesday. The actress spoke with at the event, and shared that people need to do their bit in taking care of the planet. "I think this issue is very important, obviously, but at the same time, it's never too late. We can also reverse whatever has happened to our water, to our air, to our animals, everything, whatever we can do, we can do something. And as human beings, it is our responsibility to take care of the planet".



When asked what message she would like to give to Gen Z with regards to taking care of the planet, she said, "Our generation is also very important because whatever has been done to our planet, is because of us. We have to take care of it, and we have to ensure that we preserve it for the next generations, and our kids".

The Earthshot Prize, established by Prince William in 2020, is an annual global environmental awards initiative recognising innovative solutions to the planet's most pressing ecological challenges. Inspired by US President John F Kennedy's Moonshot programme, it aims to identify and accelerate environmental breakthroughs by 2030. The awards recognise five categories, Protect and Restore Nature, Clean Our Air, Revive Our Oceans, Build a Waste-Free World and Fix Our Climate. Each year, 5 winners receive $1.3 million each to scale their projects and expand their global impact. The 6th edition is being hosted in Mumbai, marking the first time India has hosted the ceremony. This year, 15 finalists were selected from nearly 7,000 nominations across 169 countries. Indian finalists

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