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# OPEN FRAME

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## Revanth to Launch Family Insurance Scheme in Siddipet

### Rs 5 Lakh Cover for Over One Crore Families; Development Works Worth Rs 544 Crore to Be Launched or Inaugurated



Hyderabad, Nov 18 (Open Frame): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will launch the Indiramma Family Life Insurance scheme, providing Rs 5 lakh in insurance cover to more than one crore families across Telangana, and distribute Indiramma sarees to one crore women across the state in Siddipet on Thursday, marking the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He will also inaugurate and lay foundation stones for development works worth about Rs 544 crore in Siddipet district.

Under the insurance scheme, one member aged 18 to 59 years in each eligible family will be covered. Those born between November 19, 1967, and November 18, 2008, are eligible, with the date of birth recorded on the Aadhaar card being considered. Registration will be held from November 19 to December 18, with special camps to facilitate enrolment. Even if a beneficiary crosses the age of 59 after registration, full insurance cover will continue for at least one year.

Panchayat secretaries will oversee registration in villages and ward officers in urban areas, assisted by help desks. Details will be drawn from the civil supplies department's food security card database. Families without ration cards or whose names are not in the database can submit a separate form containing the insured member's details, Aadhaar-based date of birth, family particulars and nominee details. Ration card numbers will serve as application numbers, while families without cards will be allotted separate codes. Families holding ration cards from other districts can enrol at the nearest camp.

## PM Modi Urges Drug-Free India, Poverty Push



New Delhil, Nov 18 (Open Frame): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called for an all-out campaign to rid India of the drug menace and prevent the resurgence of Maoist violence, while urging his ministers to intensify efforts to eradicate poverty. Chairing a meeting of the Union Council of Ministers at Bharat Mandapam here, Modi became emotional while referring to the devastating impact of narcotics in parts of the country, sources said.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for decisive action to make the government's "Drugs Free India" campaign a success. He told ministers and officials that if India could make significant progress in reducing poverty, there was no reason it could not overcome the drug menace. Modi said the gains made against Maoist insurgency must be protected and directed officials to ensure that violence did not return to areas once affected by Naxalism. The meeting also discussed World Bank estimates showing that about 50 crore Indians had moved out of poverty between 2011 and 2023, with the extreme poverty rate falling by about 90 per cent during the period. Crediting ministers, officials and field workers for the progress, Modi said the results demonstrated the effectiveness of a "whole-of-government approach".

He said that while "garibi hatao" had remained a slogan for decades, his government had translated poverty alleviation into concrete results. The Prime Minister also highlighted the expansion of banking services and the success of direct benefit transfer schemes in reaching beneficiaries.

Expressing confidence in India's development prospects, Modi said that if the country could lift 50 crore people out of poverty, there was no reason it could not achieve developed-nation status by 2047, the centenary of Independence.

He recalled that his slogan of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" had initially invited ridicule, but said his government had remained committed to inclusive development. His remarks come ahead of the Assembly elections in Punjab, where drug abuse is expected to be a major political issue.

## Rahul Gandhi warns of India's economic crisis



New Delhi, Nov 18 (Open Frame): Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the country's economic model ceased to deliver results nearly a decade ago, leaving it with a deepening employment crisis and a weakened manufacturing base.

Speaking at a fireside chat at Columbia University on Tuesday (November 17, 2026), moderated by journalist Lydia Polgreen, Mr. Gandhi said India is sitting on an "economic disaster" that could become far more serious if the country continued on its present course. "The blunt thing is that India is sitting on an economic disaster. That's the reality of it," he said. "One can brush it aside, the media can brush it aside. But India has got a massive unemployment problem. India's got a massive problem with its education system. And these are things you cannot get away from," he added. Mr. Gandhi identified small and medium businesses, agriculture and manufacturing as the backbone and principal engines of job creation, arguing that the services sector could not absorb India's expanding workforce. "The spine of the economy is small and medium business, which is the job creation engine, and agriculture. That is fundamental in India and required. The spine of the economy has been broken," he said.

The Opposition leader said India could not achieve sustainable economic development without rebuilding its manufacturing capabilities. "We cannot survive successfully without manufacturing, it just cannot be done," he said.

Mr. Gandhi alleged that economic growth was concentrated in a few large business groups while smaller enterprises were struggling. "Why is there no private investment in India? Why are the only people who are growing in India, businesses that are growing in India called Adani and Ambani? Why is Tata literally being taken over by Mr. [Gautam] Adani?" he asked.

## Lee Urges Openness at APEC Summit



Shenzhen (China), Nov 18 (Open Frame): The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a platform for cooperation among 21 economies, and even as trade barriers rise, we must not waver in our commitment to openness, said South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday. Lee made the remarks while delivering a speech at the APEC CEO Summit in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province.

A technological revolution driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI), the climate crisis and shifts in demographic structures, among others, are fundamentally reshaping the industrial landscape, demanding new engines for growth, Lee said. Against this backdrop, he said that the most urgent priority is expanding trade and investment within the APEC region to create new growth opportunities for businesses. Lee said that we must ensure that everyone benefits from the AI revolution through inclusive innovation, and we must strengthen cooperation to build stable industrial foundations and supply chains, agency reported. The city of Shenzhen serves as a vivid testament to how future technologies can transform our lives.

## Jaishankar, Kishida discuss strategic and economic security cooperation ties



Tokyo, Nov 18 (Open Frame): External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with former Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo on Wednesday and discussed strategic convergence and economic security cooperation. India's Ambassador to Japan, Nagma Mallick, and other officials were also present at the meeting. Kishida also serves as the Chairman of the Japan-India Association.

Following the meeting, EAM Jaishankar on X wrote, "Pleased to meet Former PM and Chairman of the Japan-India Association Fumio Kishida today in Tokyo. Discussed our strategic convergence and economic security cooperation. Appreciate his consistent support to further strengthen our Special Strategic and Global Partnership." Fumio Kishida served as Japan's Prime Minister from October 4, 2021, to October 1, 2024. EAM Jaishankar is currently on an official visit to Japan to participate in the fourth edition of the India-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministers' Dialogue (2+2). The 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in Tokyo will be co-chaired by EAM Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with Japan's Minister of Defence Shinjiro Koizumi and Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi. During the dialogue, both sides will review the full spectrum of bilateral strategic and defence cooperation, exchange views on regional and global developments, and reaffirm the shared commitment of the two nations to a free, open, inclusive, and rule-based Indo-Pacific, according to the Ministry of Defence statement.

Building on the momentum from their interactions in New Delhi in August and on the margins of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Cebu in October, Singh and Koizumi will discuss advancing defence equipment and technology collaboration, maritime security, enhancing the scale and complexity of joint exercises across all three services, and deepening industrial partnerships. "India and Japan share a Special Strategic and Global Partnership rooted in shared democratic values, mutual trust and converging strategic interests. The upcoming visit aims to further deepen bilateral defence ties and chart the roadmap for enhanced operational and industrial synergy between the two countries," the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

## Three US Aircraft Carriers Deploy to Middle East Amid Iran Tensions



Washington, Nov 18 (Open Frame): The USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier has arrived in the Middle East, bringing the number of US carrier strike groups in the region to three amid continued tensions with Iran, a US official confirmed.

The carrier arrived in the area of responsibility of the US Central Command on Sunday, according to US media outlets on Monday (local time). It joins the USS George H.W. Bush and the USS George Washington, which have been deployed in the region since April and August, respectively. The US Navy's presence in the Arabian Sea now includes three aircraft carriers, 13 destroyers, two cruisers and a littoral combat ship, reports Xinhua news agency, citing US media reports. The deployment comes as diplomatic efforts between Washington and Tehran remain stalled and US President Donald Trump is considering whether to resume large-scale military strikes against Iran.

On February 28, Israel and the United States launched joint attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities. Iran responded with waves of missile and drone strikes targeting Israel and US bases and assets in the region, while tightening its control over the Strait of Hormuz. Meanwhile, US Vice President J.D. Vance has said that President Donald Trump would not allow the conflict with Iran to become a "forever war", rejecting even a two-year American commitment while defending the President's decision to attack Iran's nuclear programme.

## India Targets 500 GW Renewable Energy by 2030

New Delhi, Nov 18 (Open Frame): India is firmly on course to achieve its target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, backed by supportive government policies, market development initiatives and flagship schemes such as PM Surya Ghar and PM-KUSUM, a senior government official said on Wednesday. Speaking on the sidelines of FICCI's Annual General Meeting, Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), said the government remains optimistic about meeting the ambitious clean energy goal, citing the rapid growth of the sector and sustained policy support. He said India has made significant progress in expanding its renewable energy capacity over the past few years, aided by policy stability and efforts to create a conducive market environment for clean energy investments.

Schemes such as PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and PM-KUSUM have played a key role in promoting distributed renewable energy generation across the country, he added. According to Sarangi, these initiatives have helped accelerate the adoption of renewable energy at both the household and agricultural levels, strengthening the country's transition towards a cleaner energy future.

## ECI extends SIR deadline, final voter list on December 22




Ranchi, Nov 18 (Open Frame): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has extended the timeline for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR-2026) of electoral rolls in seven states and Union Territories, including Jharkhand, with the publication of the final voter list now scheduled for December 22 instead of November 30. The revised schedule issued by the Commission will also apply to Maharashtra, Delhi, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland and Haryana.

According to the revised timeline, the extension has primarily been granted to strengthen the identification and verification of voters falling under the ASDD (Absent, Shifted, Dead and Duplicate) category.

As per the updated schedule, the preparation and printing of enumeration forms for ASDD voters were completed on November 18.

The distribution and collection of these forms through door-to-door visits will take place from November 18 to 30, with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) carrying out the electoral exercise at the grassroots level. The administrative processing of the collected forms is scheduled to be completed by December 10. The Commission has also directed that the process of addressing claims and objections related to electoral rolls in Jharkhand be completed by December 15.

Following the completion of all verification procedures and the resolution of discrepancies, the final and updated electoral rolls will be published on December 22.

## Madras High Court Bars Opening of New Tasmac Liquor Shops in Tamil



Madurai, Nov 18(Open Frame): In a significant development concerning the expansion of liquor sales in Tamil Nadu, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Wednesday directed the authorities not to open any new Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (Tasmac) liquor outlets across the state, observing that the existing number of shops was sufficient.

A Division Bench comprising Justices Velmurugan and Ramakrishnan passed the order while disposing of a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by a resident of Tiruchy district opposing the establishment of a new liquor outlet in his village.

The petitioner, Manikandan, a resident of Navakinathapatti, informed the court that the authorities were taking steps to establish a new Tasmac liquor outlet at Navakinathapatti in Nallampillai village in Tiruchy district. Expressing concern over the proposed establishment, the petitioner sought a direction restraining the authorities from opening the liquor shop, taking into consideration the interests and welfare of the local population.

During the hearing, the Division Bench observed that Tamil Nadu already had an adequate number of Tasmac outlets and that there was no need to establish additional liquor shops.

Considering the larger public interest, the judges issued a statewide direction against the opening of new Tasmac outlets rather than restricting the order to the village mentioned in the petition.

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# Ponnam distributes cheyutha pension sanction letters to 612 beneficiaries



Siddipet, Nov 18 (Open Frame): Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar distributed new Cheyutha pension sanction letters to 612 eligible beneficiaries from Husnabad Municipality and surrounding villages in Husnabad Mandal. The programme was held at KGR Gardens in Husnabad constituency, where the Minister handed over pension sanction letters to the newly selected beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Ponnam Prabhakar said the government had sanctioned pensions to eligible beneficiaries belonging to seven categories, including single women, widows and thalassemia patients, whose applications had remained pending for a long time. He urged those who were still eligible but had not received pensions to submit applications, assuring that their cases would be examined and resolved. He also said the government would take a decision on old-age pensions soon.

The Minister highlighted several welfare initiatives introduced by the Congress government, including free bus travel for women in RTC buses within 48 hours of assuming office and 200 units of free electricity per month for eligible poor households.

He said new ration cards were being issued to all eligible families, with provisions for corrections and additions. Fine rice was also being distributed through ration shops. The government was taking steps to resolve ration card applications within 48 hours to three days. Referring to the Indiramma housing scheme, the Minister said that due to the lack of house sanctions during the previous ten years, a large number of applications had accumulated in the constituency. Recognising the housing needs of people, the government had sanctioned 3,500 houses in the first phase and another 2,000 recently, taking the total number of Indiramma houses in Husnabad constituency to 5,500. He said houses were being allocated with equal priority to all villages.

Ponnam Prabhakar reiterated the government's commitment to completing the Gouravelli Project, whose foundation stone was laid in 2007. He said Rs. 250 crore had been sanctioned for land acquisition and canal construction, and efforts were underway to expedite the remaining works to provide irrigation water to farmers by 2027.

The Minister said the government was working to transform Husnabad into a model constituency in education, healthcare, employment and tourism. Several development projects were being prioritised, including four-lane roads towards Karimnagar and Akkannapet, an engineering college, an industrial park, an urban forest, a 250-bed hospital, a postgraduate college, a kabaddi academy and a swimming pool. Steps were also being taken to restore lakes and develop temples.

Highlighting women's empowerment initiatives, he said the interest-free loan limit for women's self-help groups had been increased from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh. Women's groups across the state had received loans worth Rs. 79,000 crore. RTC buses were also being allocated to women's groups. To reduce plastic consumption, steel plates and other reusable items were being distributed.

# Indiramma Insurance Scheme Guarantees Rs 5 Lakh Family Financial Security





Ranga Reddy, Nov 18 (Open Frame): The Telangana State Government is committed to providing financial security to every eligible family through the prestigious Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme. Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju directed district officials to ensure the effective and systematic implementation of the scheme across the state.

Addressing a video conference with District Collectors and concerned officials from all districts on Wednesday, along with senior government officials, the Chief Secretary said that the primary objective of the scheme is to provide financial protection of 5 lakh to families in the event of the sudden death of their earning member, thereby preventing them from facing financial hardships. He stated that one earning member aged between 18 and 59 years from each eligible family should be covered under the insurance scheme. In cases where more than one member of a family is earning, the family members should be given the choice to decide who should be enrolled under the scheme. The Chief Secretary emphasized that the benefits of the scheme must reach all eligible families without discrimination based on caste, religion or income. He clarified that the entire insurance premium would be borne by the State Government, ensuring that beneficiaries would not face any financial burden.

As part of the enrolment process, special assistance camps should be organised at the village, town and ward levels to facilitate registration. Officials were instructed to identify eligible families based on ration card details. He further directed that families whose names are not included in ration cards, as well as those without ration cards, should also be provided an opportunity to enrol through a special application process. He stressed the importance of accurately recording the details of the insured person, Aadhaar-based date of birth, family members and nominees without any errors. Since beneficiaries will have the option of selecting more than one nominee, the respective share of the insurance amount allocated to each nominee must be clearly recorded.

The Chief Secretary also informed that application registration and other necessary services would be made available through MeeSeva centres to facilitate the enrolment process. District Collector C. Narayana Reddy, Additional Collector Kiranmayi, CPO Sowmya, DRDA Project Director Srilatha, MEPMA Project Director Venkata Narayana and other concerned officials participated in the video conference.

# Minister Sridhar Babu Invites Mumbai Businesses to Invest in Telangana



Mumbai, Nov 18 (Open Frame): Telangana IT, Electronics & Communications, Industries & Commerce and Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu has invited Mumbai's business and industrial community to make Telangana their preferred destination for manufacturing, technology, innovation and business expansion, while continuing to retain their corporate headquarters in Mumbai.

"Keep your head office in Mumbai; make, scale and grow in Telangana," the Minister said, presenting Telangana as a complementary investment destination for Mumbai-based businesses and an ideal location to expand their manufacturing and operational capacities.

Addressing industry leaders at the roadshow for the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026 (ITGS 2026), organised by the Government of Telangana in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at the Four Seasons Hotel, Worli, on Wednesday, Sridhar Babu said the State was keen to build stronger economic partnerships with Mumbai's business community rather than compete with the city for existing investments.

Recalling the longstanding historical and economic ties between Telangana and Mumbai, he noted that generations of workers, artisans and entrepreneurs from Telangana had contributed to Mumbai's growth, while trade and business had connected the two regions for decades. "A century ago, the people of Telangana came to Mumbai to help build its future. Today, Telangana invites Mumbai to come and build ours," he said.

The Minister outlined the State's growing opportunities across technology, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), data centres, pharmaceuticals, textiles and apparel, and media and entertainment. He urged Mumbai-based industrialists and entrepreneurs to leverage Telangana's industrial infrastructure, skilled workforce, business ecosystem and investor-friendly policies to expand their operations. Inviting the industry to participate in the Invest Telangana Global Summit, scheduled from December 7 to 9, 2026, at Bharat Future City, the Minister highlighted the State's commitment to facilitating investments through its time-bound approvals mechanism under TG-iPASS.

In a significant assurance to prospective investors, he announced that every company coming from Mumbai would be assigned a dedicated officer to provide end-to-end assistance throughout its investment journey — from the initial visit to Telangana to the commencement of commercial operations and generation of its first revenue. Sridhar Babu said Telangana was looking to forge long-term partnerships with Mumbai's industrial and business community by combining the city's financial and corporate strengths with the State's manufacturing capabilities and emerging economic opportunities.

# Sagar & Srisailam Highways Hyderabad's Next Big Wealth Corridors

- **Investors shift focus from saturated West Hyderabad to booming South and East zones**
- **ORR, RRR, Airport, and Fourth City fuel rapid infrastructure and land value growth**
- **Timely investment in clear-title plots builds generational wealth, says Ritesh Bajpai**




Hyderabad, Nov 18 (Open Frame): A closer look at Hyderabad's real estate journey reveals remarkable stories of wealth creation. Decades ago, plots in Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills—then rocky terrains with minimal infrastructure—were priced at just Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per square yard. Those who had the foresight to invest back then now own assets worth well over Rs. 5 lakh per square yard. Similarly, areas like Gachibowli, Madhapur, and Kokapet transformed from ordinary lands into global IT hubs, turning countless middle-class investors into multi-millionaires.

With land prices in West Hyderabad soaring beyond the reach of common and middle-class buyers, real estate expansion is now moving aggressively toward the South and East Hyderabad corridors. Srisailam Highway and Nagarjuna Sagar Highway have emerged as the undisputed hotspots for smart investors. Strategic proximity to the Outer Ring Road (ORR), the upcoming Regional Ring Road (RRR), and the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport provides unmatched connectivity. Furthermore, mega developments like the Fourth City (Future City), Pharma City, Electronic Manufacturing Clusters, and upcoming IT parks are transforming these two corridors into powerful economic growth engines.

The Right Time to Invest

"In my nearly three decades of experience in the real estate sector, I have witnessed the phenomenal rise of West Hyderabad firsthand. The exact early growth indicators we once saw in Jubilee Hills and Kokapet are now clearly visible along the Sagar and Srisailam highways. With rapid infrastructure expansion and wide road networks, land values here are appreciating at a remarkable pace," said Ritesh Bajpai, Project Sales Director at Navabhoomi Developers LLP. He added that hundreds of families have already secured their financial future by investing in safe, clear-title plots through their projects. Emphasizing that a small, well-timed investment in the right location builds lasting generational wealth, he noted that this is the ideal moment for aspiring homeowners and investors to act. For more details and site visits, interested buyers can contact +91 98805 11223.

# Govt seals Rs 1,976 crore deal with Israel aerospace to upgrade Indian Navy's barak defence missile system



New Delhi, Nov 18 (Open Frame): The Ministry of Defence on Wednesday signed a contract with Israel Aerospace Industries for the upgradation and obsolescence management of the Barak Point Defence Missile System onboard Indian Navy ships at an overall cost of Rs 1,976.40 crore, according to an official statement. The upgradation of the Barak system will ensure enhanced features and potent range anti-air defence capability of the Indian Naval platforms. As part of the contract, a comprehensive upgrade will be undertaken of both the hardware and software of the system, the statement said.

The contract, listed under the other capital procurement procedure, was signed here in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. This is the third contract for the Indian Navy this month, coming close on the heels of the Defence Ministry signing a contract worth Rs 498.58 crore with Cochin Shipyard Limited on November 11 for the normal refit and re-powering of the Indian Naval Ship, Betwa.

Under the contract, INS Betwa, a Brahmaputra-class frigate of the Indian Navy, will undergo a major propulsion system transformation, involving the replacement of its existing steam-based propulsion system with a diesel-engine-based propulsion system. The refit will also include the upgradation of its combat capabilities through the installation of a modernised weapon suite, thereby enhancing the ship's operational effectiveness.

The Indian government has accelerated its push to modernise and expand domestic naval shipbuilding and repair infrastructure through major public sector shipyard contracts. Earlier on November 2, the Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth 53,866.50 crore with two public sector shipyards for eight indigenously designed Next Generation Corvettes for the Indian Navy. Under the contracts, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata will build five corvettes, while Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) in Goa will build the remaining three corvettes.

The project is expected to generate roughly 72 lakh person-days of employment in shipyards and 460 lakh person-days across ancillary industries and MSMEs over the next 10 years.

# Tamil and Telugu Films Steal the Spotlight at IFFI 2026

## Social Issues, Family Bonds and Environmental Conservation Dominate Themes




Hyderabad, Nov 18 (Open Frame): Tamil and Telugu films are emerging as special attractions at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI–2026), showcasing a diverse range of themes, including social issues, family relationships, human values, individual struggles, environmental conservation and cultural traditions. Screened across feature and non-feature film categories, these movies explore contemporary social challenges and various dimensions of human life through compelling storytelling.

Diverse Storylines in Tamil Cinema

Tamil films at the festival explore a wide range of subjects, from modern technology and family relationships to education, traditional medicine and environmental protection. Directed by Kannan S, 'Scroll' revolves around Aravind, a young man addicted to smartphones. His life takes an unexpected turn after he joins an application called 'Dopa Rush'. What begins as an attempt to overcome his addiction gradually develops into a frightening experience, highlighting the dangers of technology misuse.

'Thaai Kizhavi' (God Mother), directed by Sivakumar Murugesan, portrays family bonds and generational conflicts. The story revolves around a 70-year-old woman, Pavunuthai, and her three sons. The distance between them and incidents from their past form the central theme. When Pavunuthai falls seriously ill, the family reunites, bringing old disputes and hidden family secrets to the surface. The film highlights the importance of relationships and family values.

Education and women's empowerment form the core of 'Arivu', directed by Sathyasiva and set in the backdrop of 1996. The film unfolds in a remote tribal village in the Western Ghats, where a superstition prevails that educating girls would anger the village deity. Kathir, a young teacher, takes up the challenge of breaking this belief. By secretly educating girls who have never attended school, he strives to instil confidence in them and underline the importance of the right to education.

'Attappadi', directed by Vijesh Mani, stands out for its exploration of indigenous knowledge and traditional tribal healing practices. The film follows Sultan Ahmed Al Mehmoudi, who travels from Arabia to explore the medicinal knowledge and forest traditions of tribal communities living in Kerala's Western Ghats. Through interactions with traditional healers and tribal elders, the film highlights humanity's deep connection with nature.

Environmental conservation and bird protection are the central themes of 'Goodu' (Nest), directed by Joel Vijay. The story is set in Vachathi village in Tamil Nadu, where residents discover a sparrow's nest containing eggs inside an electricity transformer. To protect the birds, villagers decide to remain without electricity for 35 days. Led by village elder Agasthyan, Kathir and other residents face local opposition but remain committed to safeguarding the birds. Their efforts underline the importance of compassion towards nature and wildlife.

Telugu Films Explore Environment, Family and Human Relationships

Telugu films at the festival also present diverse narratives, focusing on environmental protection, family relationships, love, personal ambitions and political life.

'Sing Geetham', directed by acclaimed filmmaker Singeetam Srinivasa Rao, revolves around gold mines, environmental destruction and human relationships. Pratap Manne returns to Kuberapuram village to claim his share of the gold mines left behind by his father. However, he finds himself in conflict with his former business partner, who plans to expand mining operations and destroy even the last remaining tree in the village. As Pratap uncovers truths about his family's past, his perspective begins to change. The film highlights village unity, sacrifice and the importance of protecting nature.

'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad, directed by Anil Ravipudi, focuses on family relationships, professional responsibilities and emotional bonds. Shankara Vara Prasad, a national security officer, gives priority to his duties, which gradually distances him from his wife and children. Six years later, he gets an opportunity to work at the school where his children study, allowing him to reconnect with his family. However, a threat to his family presents another major challenge. His struggle to protect his loved ones and regain their trust forms the central storyline.

International Platform for Diverse Stories

Overall, the selection of Tamil and Telugu films at IFFI–2026 reflects the rich storytelling diversity of South Indian cinema. Going beyond entertainment, these films highlight social awareness, the importance of education, family values, environmental responsibility and human relationships.

The festival provides an international platform for regional stories, helping South Indian cinema showcase its creative diversity and meaningful narratives to audiences across the world.

# AIFF complains to AFC over alleged racist gesture

New Delhi, Nov 18 (Open Frame): The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has lodged a complaint with the Asian Football Confederation accusing a Palestinian player of making a racist gesture towards India captain Dallalmuon Gangte during the two teams' AFC U17 Asian Cup Qualifier match in Kuala Lumpur.



The Indian U17 men's team trounced Palestine 4-1, overcoming heavy rain to remain unbeaten in Group E of the Qualifiers for the 2027 Asian Cup on Tuesday (November 17, 2026).

"The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has formally lodged a complaint with the Asian Football Federation (AFC) regarding an alleged racist gesture made by a Palestine player towards India U17 men's team captain Dallalmuon Gangte during the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers match between India and Palestine on November 17, 2026 at the Kuala Lumpur Football Stadium," the national federation said in a statement.

During the first-half stoppage time, Palestine midfielder Soueidan allegedly fanned his nose with his hand near India captain Gangte, prompting many viewers and comm entators to interpret the action as a racist stereotype implying an unpleasant smell. An angry Gangte confronted Soueidan on the pitch, after which match referee Ko Minkuk stepped in to separate the players and issued a warning to both.

In a match in which emotions ran high, another Palestinian midfielder, Mohammed Jamhour, received a straight red card for kicking Indian player Raj Singh Wahengbam twice in the first half. In its complaint, the AIFF has asked the AFC to "review the incident, examine the available match footage, and take appropriate action under the applicable regulations," the Indian football apex body said in the statement posted on X. The AIFF further said it "considers any form of racism and discriminatory behaviour extremely serious".

# Zverev beats Shelton to qualify for ATP Finals semis

Turin, Nov 18 (Open Frame): Alexander Zverev qualified for the semi-finals at this year's ATP Finals after the World No. 1 defeated Ben Shelton in a round-robin clash. The German produced an impressive display to take down Shelton 6-2, 7-6(4) in a one-hour, 34-minute victory, guaranteeing his spot in the last four.



Zverev is making his ninth appearance at the prestigious season-ending event, having lifted the trophy in London in 2018 before triumphing in Turin in 2021. The German is now in the semi-finals of the event for the fifth time, after 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2024, according to ATP stats.

Shelton, who is competing at the season finale for a second consecutive year, is now 1-1 in the John McEnroe group. The American claimed his first ATP Finals win on Sunday, edging Arthur Fils. He will now turn his attention to a clash with Rafael Jodar on Thursday.

Zverev was off to a fast start to the first set inside a packed Inalpi Arena. The 29-year-old broke Shelton's serve in the first game to seize control and closed out the set soon after his second break of the American's serve in the fifth game to lead 4-1. The second set was a hard-fought affair dominated by serve. Zverev carved out the first break point of the set at 4-4, 15/40, and converting that would have allowed him to serve for the match.

# Morne Morkel backs Siraj, says India have enough firepower for tests

Wellington, Nov 18 (Open Frame): India bowling coach Morne Morkel has backed the team's pace resources to deliver the 20 wickets required in the upcoming Test, describing Mohammed Siraj as a world-class performer while making it clear that the final call on the bowling combination rests with captain Shubman Gill. With India looking to settle on the attack best suited to the conditions, Morkel said he had conveyed his confidence in the available options to head coach Gautam Gambhir, while stressing that players who have performed for the team also deserve backing.




"Siraj is a world-class performer, whenever he has stepped in the India jersey, whenever he has played. My feedback to Gautam (Gambhir) was that we have enough in attack to take 20 wickets. Ultimately, the call will be taken by Shubman," Morkel said in the pre-match press conference.

Morkel said the team had also brought in additional options to ensure it was prepared for different demands, but the selection would ultimately depend on the roles required to take 20 wickets.

"That is the reason why we have added a couple of guys even on the wings, you know, so we leave no stone unturned, but also you want to give guys who are doing well in the jersey also that security and that opportunity. For us, we will work out what is the best combination going forward into this Test match, what is going to help us to get those 20 wickets, who do we feel can, like I said in the previous question, who can fulfill roles for us into the wind, with the wind, and in terms of partnerships," he added.

The bowling coach also called for greater accountability from the attack, urging the players to stay focused on their execution rather than get distracted by discussions around conditions."We need to block outside noise and get the ball in the right areas. We cannot afford to lose points. The team needs to take ownership and get quicker to the mark. The responsibility lies with the bowler and the captain," he said. Morkel explained that the wind could influence the way bowlers approached their spells, but said adapting to it required clear thinking rather than overcomplicating plans.

# India eye record fourth Asian Champions trophy title in Bhopal tournament

Bhopal, Nov 18 (Open Frame): The Indian women's hockey team will look to extend its impressive run and make history by winning a record fourth Asian Champions Trophy title when the 2026 edition of the tournament gets underway here on Thursday at the International Sports Complex in Nathu Barkheda.



The defending champions will begin their campaign against Malaysia on November 19, aiming to become the most successful team in the tournament's history. India and South Korea are currently joint leaders with three titles each, with the hosts having won the previous two editions held in Ranchi and Rajgir. The six-team competition, scheduled from November 19 to 28, will feature India, China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and Thailand. The teams will compete in a round-robin format, with the top four advancing to the semi-finals on November 27. The final and third-place match will be played on November 28.

India head into the tournament following an outstanding year in which they achieved several significant milestones. The team secured qualification for the FIH Women's World Cup after remaining unbeaten until the final of the qualifiers in Hyderabad. They subsequently won all five matches at the FIH Women's Nations Cup in Auckland to clinch the title and earn promotion to the FIH Pro League. The Indian team continued its strong performances at the Women's World Cup in Belgium, finishing fifth to register its best-ever result at the tournament since 1974. The campaign reached another high at the Asian Games in Japan, where India ended a 44-year wait for gold in women's hockey.

The hosts will now look to carry that momentum into the Asian Champions Trophy, although they face a challenging field led by China, Japan and South Korea. World No. 4 China will be among India's biggest challengers, particularly after losing to the hosts in the Asian Games final last month. China will also be eager to secure its maiden title in the competition, while South Korea will aim to add to its three championships. Japan, which has won the tournament twice, will also pose a strong challenge with its organised defence and quick passing game.

# Varanasi biscuits make first-ever export to Madagascar

New Delhi, Nov 18 (Open Frame): In a boost to India's processed food exports, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) on Tuesday facilitated the first-ever export consignment of biscuits from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Madagascar, marking a significant step towards integrating emerging food-processing clusters with global markets. The export initiative comes at a time when India's biscuit exports continue to gain momentum. According to government data, India exported biscuits worth approximately Rs 3,642 crore under the cereal preparations category during FY 2025-26.



Exports of biscuits to Madagascar during the same period stood at around Rs 7.60 crore. The consignment was shipped by Varanasi-based manufacturer-exporter Shree Tirupati Balaji Industries Private Limited. The cargo was transported by road from Varanasi to Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) at Nhava Sheva in Maharashtra before being shipped by sea to Tamatave Port in Madagascar. Officials said the initiative reflects the growing export potential of Uttar Pradesh's food-processing sector and is expected to create new opportunities for regional manufacturers seeking access to overseas markets. Trade in APEDA-scheduled products between India and Madagascar currently stands at around Rs 990 crore. APEDA, which functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has been supporting the exporter through a range of export-promotion initiatives.

These include facilitating participation in major domestic and international trade exhibitions such as AAHAR 2026 and Gulfood 2026, helping enhance the visibility of products manufactured in the Varanasi region and creating avenues for international business partnerships.

The authority said it remains focused on expanding market access for Indian exporters through trade facilitation, exporter outreach and international marketing efforts. Such initiatives are aimed at strengthening the global presence of Indian processed food products while enabling regional enterprises to tap new export destinations. The first consignment is expected to strengthen Varanasi's position as an emerging food-processing and export hub while encouraging more local manufacturers to explore international markets.

# Microsoft unveils new AI products and infrastructure at ignite

New Delhi, Nov 18 (Open Frame): US-based technology giant Microsoft on Wednesday unveiled a broad slate of artificial intelligence (AI) products, models and infrastructure upgrades at its Ignite — annual technical conference. Taking to the social media platform X, Chief Executive Satya Nadella has outlined the company's vision of using AI to deliver real outcomes for businesses and users, days after the software giant detailed the causes of a major global Microsoft 365 outage.




"Our ambition with everything we are announcing at Ignite today is to parlay technological advances into real outcomes and new points of leverage for people, organisations and society at large," Nadella wrote on X. At the centre of the announcements was Copilot Workspaces, a platform designed to enable people and AI agents to collaborate using shared context toward common objectives.

The company also introduced a series of new AI models, including Microsoft-Decision 1.1, Code 2 and Cyber 2 Flash which the company said offers security capabilities that outperform frontier models at a lower cost. It further expanded its model ecosystem by bringing OpenAI's GPT-6.2 to its Foundry platform while also adding Meta's latest models. Among other product launches, Microsoft announced Agent 365 Business Analytics, which Nadella described as an ERP system for AI that helps companies link AI spending to business outcomes and optimise returns on their investments.

# PHDCCI proposes major GST 2.0 reforms to ease business compliance for industry

New Delhi, Nov 18 (Open Frame): The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) on Wednesday recommended a wide-ranging set of reforms under a proposed "GST 2.0" framework aimed at enhancing ease of doing business, reducing compliance burdens and promoting investment across key sectors of the economy. The recommendations were presented during the "GST 2.0 Workshop: From Compliance Burden to Ease of Doing Business", organised by the chamber.




PHDCCI said structural issues related to input tax credit (ITC), inverted duty structures, procedural complexities, tax classification disputes and working capital blockages continue to affect businesses across sectors, including MSMEs, food processing, agriculture, hospitality, aviation, infrastructure, energy and export-oriented industries. PHDCCI President Anil Gupta said the next phase of GST reforms should focus on strengthening tax neutrality, improving policy predictability and reducing compliance burdens.

He said the objective should be to ensure that GST functions as a true value-added tax system by minimising tax cascading and enabling seamless input tax credit across the production and services value chain.

"The next phase of GST reforms should focus on strengthening tax neutrality, improving predictability and reducing the compliance burden on businesses," he said. "The objective should be to ensure that GST operates a value-added tax system, minimising cascading taxation and allowing eligible input tax credit across the production and services value chain," Gupta noted.

A key proposal relates to rationalising input tax credit provisions. According to the chamber, restrictions on ITC in several sectors increase production costs and create avoidable working capital pressures. It has recommended reviewing Section 17(5) of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act to permit eligible ITC on civil infrastructure and capital expenditure used in providing taxable business services. The recommendation covers investment in factories, warehouses, cold storage facilities, hotels, airport terminals, runways and other infrastructure assets.

# Sensex Falls 500 Points as Broad-Based Selling Hits Markets Across Key Sectors

Mumbai, Nov 18 (Open Frame): Indian equity benchmarks ended sharply lower on Wednesday as broad-based selling in consumer durables, metal, information technology and automobile stocks weighed on market sentiment.

The Sensex declined 500.38 points, or 0.61 per cent, to close at 82,031.81, while the Nifty fell 159.45 points, or 0.63 per cent, to settle at 25,227.95. The decline reversed the gains recorded over the previous two trading sessions.

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the profit booking was witnessed in Wednesday's session, with Nifty forming a bearish candlestick pattern, although buying interest emerged from lower levels.



"On the downside, 25,000 remains a crucial support, while 25,300 and 25,500 are immediate resistance levels. Overall, Nifty is expected to trade within the 25,000–25,500 range," analysts stated.

Among the Nifty constituents, Titan Company emerged as the top loser, followed by Hindalco Industries and HDFC Life Insurance Company.

Selling pressure in these counters contributed significantly to the weakness in the frontline indices.

The broader market also remained under pressure, with mid- and small-cap shares underperforming the benchmark indices. The Nifty MidCap 100 index dropped 1.22 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap 100 index declined 0.35 per cent. Sectorally, consumer-oriented stocks bore the brunt of the sell-off. The Nifty Consumer Durables index led the losses, followed by the Nifty Metal, Nifty IT and Nifty Auto indices. Weakness in these segments outweighed gains in a few pockets of the market.

In contrast, PSU banking stocks showed resilience, with the Nifty PSU Bank index emerging as one of the best-performing sectoral gauges during the session. Media stocks also bucked the broader trend and closed in positive territory.

Meanwhile, the rupee traded positively, gaining around 0.08 per cent to 93.44, as sustained FII net buying over the past few weeks continued to provide support.

# Rakul Urges Collective Action Against Pollution



Actress Rakul Preet Singh has stressed the need for collective action to tackle rising pollution levels, calling it the responsibility of every individual to contribute towards protecting the environment. Speaking to about the importance of initiatives, the actress highlighted how small steps, including monitoring one's carbon footprint and vehicle emissions, can make a significant difference in safeguarding the planet for future generations. "I think cause is very important, as I just said that it is the need of the day. We read that AQI has reached 600, 1000. And this is affecting our health and the future generations," Rakul told. She said that while the present generation may get by, the real question is what kind of planet it is leaving behind for those who follow. "I mean, we will live, but how are we leaving the planet for the next couple of generations? And I think it is the responsibility of all of us to do whatever we can from our side, as much as we can. How much carbon footprint do we have? How much pollution has been checked from our car? Small, small things, you know. And I think if we all do it, it will be a collective effort. And I am very happy that Earthshot is doing such an event. And it is a step in the right direction." On the acting front, Rakul was recently seen as Surpanakha in 'Ramayana' directed Nitesh Tiwary. She called it a special journey and expressed pride in being part of a story that has been deeply rooted in Indian culture for generations.

Sharing her thoughts, the actress wrote, "Have been waiting to share the experience of Playing Surpanakha in Ramayana. It has been such a special journey for me. It's not every day that you get to be a part of a story that has been a part of our lives and culture for generations. To see Ramayana being brought to life on such a grand scale is truly something else. Being part of a story that means so much to our country, and seeing it come together on such a scale, makes this journey even more special." 'Ramayana,' which stars Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi in the lead roles, was released in theatres on, November 5.

# Ayushmann & Sharvari challenge the societal expectation with 'Yeh Prem Mol Liya'




The makers of Ayushmann Khurrana and Sharvari's eagerly awaited family entertainer 'Yeh Prem Mol Liya' unveiled the trailer on Wednesday. While retaining the emotional warmth of a traditional family drama, the movie challenges societal expectations in its own way. For centuries, it has been the practice that the wife moves into her husband's house post-marriage, but what happens when the husband moves into his wife's home?

What starts as a simple love story slowly transforms into a tale of how one pushes their boundaries when in love.

As the leading lady (Played by Sharvari) of the drama is solely responsible for her family full of females, she refuses to shift into her husband's house post-marriage. However, the lovebirds decide that the groom (Played by Ayushmann) and his family will be shifting to the bride's home, leading to a chaotic situation.

The female characters of the drama have been put in the driver's seat. The film moves beyond the dichotomy of sasural and mayka, creating a place both the husband and wife can call home. Another key part of the trailer was Ayushmann and Sharvari's chemistry. A line that perfectly captures the emotions is, "Agar itna bhi nahi kiya toh kya pyaar kiya?".

The music for the film, composed by Himesh Reshammiya, has already managed to create some massive buzz around the project. The tracks "Yeh Prem Mol Liya", "Saawan Aaya Hai", "Jhumka Patola", "Tum Jeene Ki Wajah Ho", and "Bulaye Chhathi Maa" are being adored by music lovers. With Ayushmann and Sharvari as the leads, the movie enjoys an ensemble cast including Anupam Kher, Supriya Pathak, Seema Pahwa, Saumya Tandon, Swanand Kirkire, Shruti Seth, Shaad Randhawa, Girish Kulkarni, and Rajesh Kumar, along with others. Backed by Rajshri Productions (P) Ltd. in association with Mahaveer Jain Films, 'Yeh Prem Mol Liya' is slated to be out in the cinema halls on November 27, 2026.

# Diana Penty Says Gen Z Can Lead Climate Conservation Efforts



Actress Diana Penty believes that the younger generation, particularly Gen Z, can play a significant role in driving climate conservation, as they not only stand by their beliefs but also translate them into action.

Speaking to on the sidelines of the Earthshot Prize Awards, Diana highlighted the importance of individual efforts in protecting the environment. She said people often leave climate conservation to others, assuming that their personal contribution would not make much of a difference.

The 'Cocktail' actress stressed that meaningful change could begin at home through simple everyday practices such as segregating plastic and paper waste for recycling, reducing plastic consumption, choosing sustainable alternatives and avoiding firecrackers. Diana said that although these steps might appear small at an individual level, they could collectively create a significant impact.

"I actually think that we should start at an individual level, and we always think that when it comes to climate conservation, we leave it to somebody else—you know, they will take care of it, or it's not for us to do, and what can we do? We can't do anything. But that's not true. I feel if we start at home, if we start in our own individual way, small steps, you know, whatever we can do at home, whether it means segregating our plastic and our paper waste for recycling, using less plastic, using more sustainable items, avoiding firecrackers if we can, I think those small little steps on an individual level can really make a huge difference if we collectively do it together," she said.

Diana also expressed confidence in Gen Z's ability to champion environmental causes, praising the generation for standing firmly behind its beliefs and taking concrete steps towards change.

"I actually think Gen Z can be great champions of our climate. In fact, the earth needs Gen Z right now because they really stand behind what they believe in. And they take steps, and it's not all talk. I feel like Gen Z actually puts things into action. So we couldn't have better champions than the current generation and the future generations to take on conservation," she added.

The Earthshot Prize 2026 in Mumbai brought together prominent personalities and advocates of environmental conservation. Celebrities including Simone Ashley, Bhumi Pednekar, Karan Johar, Khushi Kapoor, Mira Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor, Rakul Preet Singh, Shreya Ghoshal, and Kate Middleton turned heads with their distinctive ensembles at the event.

# Vignesh pens heartwarming birthday wish for Nayanthara



Director Vignesh Shivan has now penned a brief but adorable birthday wish for his wife, actress Nayanthara, in which he has said that he would want only his wife if even he were to be reborn. Taking to his Instagram page to pen the birthday wish, he wrote, "Meendum pirandhaalum... (If I am reborn again…) neeyaee Vaendum… (I need only you). Love you my Uyir Ulagam. My thangameyyy @nayanthara (heart symbols) #HappyBirthday." It may be recalled that Vignesh Shivan had penned an equally admirable birthday wish for Nayanthara last year as well. Taking to his Instagram page to post a touching birthday wish to Nayanthara, the director had said, "Yennam Pol Vazhkai. Happy birthday my uyir @nayanthara.Nee pirandha dhinam… Varam. Love you truly , madly , deeply my azhagi love you. From your Uyir , Ulag, big uyir, all your beloved people. With an overwhelming heart and a love filled life thanking the universe and God Almighty for always blessing us with the best of moments only filled with abundant love , unwavering positivity & pure good will." Several other fans and film industry professionals too penned birthday wishes for Nayanthara. Notable among those who wished the top Tamil actress was Malayalam actress Manju Warrier. Taking to her Instagram stories section, actress Manju Warrier wrote, "Wishing you goodness always! Happy birthday Super Duper Star!!! @Nayanthara." Sri Venkateswara Creations, the production house producing Nayanthara's upcoming film with Salman Khan, took to its X timeline to greet the actress on her birthday. The production house said, "Wishing the ever graceful and versatile #Nayanthara garu a very Happy Birthday. Team #SVC63 -#SalmanKhan-VamshiPaidipallyFilm @BeingSalmanKhan @directorvamshi #DilRaju #Shirish @SVC_official #RafiKazi." Vels Film International, the production house that had produced Nayanthara's most recently released Tamil film, 'Mookuthi Amman 2', released a BTS video of her on the sets on the occasion of her birthday and wished her a happy birthday. Taking to its X timeline, the production house said, "To the one who continues to rule millions of hearts! An icon in every frame and an inspiration beyond the screen. Happy Birthday, #Nayanthara!"

# Anand Deverakonda Makes Tamil Debut With 'Jai Jai Ganesha'



Tollywood hero Vijay Deverakonda's younger brother, Anand Deverakonda is preparing to make his entry into Kollywood. His crime comedy film 'Gam Gam Ganesha', which he starred in Telugu, is now coming to Tamil audiences. The film is being dubbed and released in Tamil as 'Jai Jai Ganesha'. Producer Vijay Madhavan is releasing this film under the banner of JJ Movies. It has been made as an entertaining film with full action, thriller and comedy elements. Nayan Sarika and Pragathi Srivastava are the heroines opposite Anand Deverakonda in this film. Raj Arun plays the role of the villain, and director Uday Bommisetty has directed this film. Vennela Kishore, Satyam Rajesh, and Jabardasth Emmanuel have played other important roles. Anand Deverakonda's performance of a small thief in Telugu have impressed and entertainment in the role the audience. Anand Deverakonda, who has made a name for himself in Telugu with diverse stories, is now ready to entertain Kollywood audiences with 'Jai Jai Ganesha'.

# Urmila Relives 'Judaai' Memories on Indian Idol



Bollywood actress Urmila Matondkar was transported down memory lane when contestants on the musical reality show 'Indian Idol Legends Return' performed the song 'Mujhe Ek Pal Chain Na Aaye, Sajna Tere Bina' from her 1997 film 'Judaai'. Urmila, who will appear as a special guest on the show, recalled the emotional memories associated with the film, particularly its climax in which her character leaves India.

She also acknowledged the contribution of musicians and playback singers in creating the emotional impact of films through their music. Sharing her feelings after the performance, Urmila said, "Mujhe waqai Judaai film ka climax yaad aaya aur mujhe yaad aaya ki kitne saare logon ne duniya bhar mein mujhe bataya hai ki jab main film ke end mein nikal kar India chod kar jaati hoon, toh yeh scene aur yeh gaana ek baar aur play hota hai. Aur main salute karti hoon music ko, musicians ko aur saare playback singers ko jo yeh samaa baandhte hain hamare liye filmon mein. Hum sirf screen pe aakar hamara jo kehte hain na, credit le jaate hain, hats off and lots of love to everyone sitting here."

She said the film's climax and the song had stayed with audiences across the world, adding that musicians and playback singers deserved recognition for creating the magic that audiences experience on screen. The nostalgic moment unfolded after contestants Devender Pal Singh and Mayuri delivered their rendition of 'Mujhe Ek Pal Chain Na Aaye, Sajna Tere Bina', taking the actress back to one of the memorable moments of her cinematic journey. For the uninitiated, 'Judaai', directed by Raj Kanwar, was released on February 28, 1997.

The romantic drama featured Anil Kapoor, Sridevi and Urmila Matondkar in the lead roles. Anil Kapoor played Raj Verma, Sridevi portrayed Kajal Verma, while Urmila appeared as Janhvi Sahni. The supporting cast included Paresh Rawal, Saeed Jaffrey, Farida Jalal, Kader Khan, Johnny Lever, Upasana Singh and Omkar Kapoor, among others.

# Sameera Reddy Celebrates Motherhood Through Nostalgic Photoshoot




Actress Sameera Reddy recently upped her fashion game by giving an old maternity outfit a stylish new life. She recreated the look she wore during her first pregnancy in 2015 and turned it into a message about body confidence, motherhood and embracing oneself at every stage. Sameera shared a seven-picture carousel on her social media account featuring herself in the same pink printed outfit she wore 11 years ago, recreating the look in 2026. The post, shared with a playful tone, also carried the caption, "What comeback? She never left," along with a message for "all my mommies and ladies out there #keepslaying."

In the first picture, Sameera is seen posing indoors in the pink printed outfit, wearing a yellow sash across her shoulder and smiling at the camera. The image reads, "Can she still wear her Maternity Outfit From 2015?" The second picture shows her posing in the same outfit against an elaborate traditional backdrop featuring peacocks and floral artwork. The text reads, "Glam Mama 2026." The third click places her in an open courtyard surrounded by traditional sculptures and architecture, with the words, "11 years later" written across the frame.

Another picture shows Sameera standing beside a large portrait of a royal woman, with the words, "Inspired by the Divine Feminine." In another, she walks down a corridor wearing the same outfit, accompanied by the message, "You can wear that dress again girl". The final frame shows two pictures of Sameera in the outfit, underlining her own "2015 to 2026" transformation.

Over the years, Sameera has been often seen openly talking about the dramatic physical and emotional changes she experienced after becoming a mother for the first time. Sameera and businessman Akshai Varde married in a traditional Maharashtrian ceremony on January 21, 2014. Their first child, son Hans Varde, was born in May 2015. Their daughter Nyra was born in July 2019.

Speaking about her first pregnancy and the period after Hans' birth, Sameera recalled reaching around 102 kg and struggling deeply with her body image and confidence. She has also spoken about postpartum depression and how she withdrew from the outside world after feeling uncomfortable with the changes in her body. Sameera has also consistently used her platform to speak about body positivity, self-love, postpartum struggles, motherhood and the pressure women face to "bounce back" after childbirth. On the professional front, Sameera began her career as a model before making her Bollywood debut with Maine Dil Tujhko Diya in 2002. She went on to feature in films including Darna Mana Hai, Musafir, Taxi Number 9211, De Dana Dan and Race, besides working in South Indian cinema.

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