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Revanth Predicts Harish Rao's Exit from BRS

CM REVANTH REDDY DARES HARISH RAO TO DENY BJP SWITCH PLANS

Hyderabad, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday launched a scathing attack on senior BRS leader and Siddipet MLA T. Harish Rao, alleging that he was in touch with the BJP and would leave the BRS before the 2028 Assembly elections. Addressing a public meeting in Siddipet after launching the Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme, offering free life insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh to more than one crore families across Telangana, Revanth Reddy challenged Harish Rao to take an oath in the name of Siddipet Yellamma that he would not join the BJP, if the allegation was false.



Revanth Reddy also indirectly targeted two Congress MLAs, who have recently criticised the Congress government, referring to them as "persons bitten by mad dogs" and saying Congress activists would soon take them to Erragadda hospital for treatment, without naming Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy and Jadcherla MLA J. Anirudh Reddy. The Chief Minister alleged that Harish Rao was planning to backstab BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao by quitting the party and joining the BJP. He said Chandrashekhar Rao's fate was only a reflection of his own political history, alleging that he had betrayed the Congress and the Telugu Desam after they had given him political opportunities, including Assembly tickets, and helped him become an MLA and minister.

The Chief Minister said Siddipet Congress leader A. Madan Mohan Rao had played a key role in keeping the Congress flag flying in Siddipet until 1985 and accused Chandrashekhar Rao and Harish Rao of attempting to erase his name from history. He directed health minister Damodar Rajanarsimha to name Siddipet Medical College after Madan Mohan Rao.

Revanth Reddy said Harish Rao was not even a ward member in 2004 but became a minister and Siddipet MLA with the political blessing of late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy.

He alleged that Chandrashekar Rao, K.T. Rama Rao and Harish Rao had looted Telangana during the BRS' 10-year rule and appealed to Siddipet voters to elect the Congress candidate in the next Assembly election. He promised that the Congress candidate elected from Siddipet would be made a minister in the next Congress government in 2029.

The Chief Minister recalled the political legacy of leaders from Medak district such as Madan Mohan Rao, Cheruku Muthyam Reddy and Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy and compared their political and financial circumstances with those of Chandrashekhar Rao, Rama Rao and Harish Rao. He questioned how the top 3 BRS leaders could have accumulated "thousands of crores" when their close associate like Ramalinga Reddy had died leaving his family in difficult financial circumstances. Revanth Reddy described Chandrashekar Rao, Harish Rao, Rama Rao and J. Santosh Rao as a quartet responsible for exploiting Telangana's resources and alleged that even commissions were taken in the distribution of Bathukamma sarees

Modi Calls for Stronger Indian Global Presence

New Delhi, Nov 19 (UNI): Encouraging industry to leverage India's recent trade agreements and the 'Reform Express' momentum to capture overseas opportunities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the government has kept its doors open for suggestions, urging businesses to invest in understanding global customer needs, meeting standards, and building distribution networks.



"Our domestic market should not be our comfort zone, as it must give us the confidence to compete in global markets," PM Modi said while inaugurating the Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at Bharat Mandapam here.

Addressing the gathering on the centenary celebrations of the apex industry chamber, PM Modi noted that while he has attended FICCI events on several occasions earlier, today's milestone is special as the chamber completes 100 years of staying alert, evolving with changing times, and contributing to India's economic journey. "Today in India, the pace of progress is also the fastest, and the speed of coming out of poverty is also unprecedented," PM Modi observed. Emphasising that a nation progresses by honouring farmers, small entrepreneurs, industry, wealth creators, and taxpayers, the Prime Minister detailed pro-business and taxpayer-friendly reforms including cutting the basic corporate tax rate from 30 per cent in 2014 to 22 per cent.

, exempting income up to Rs 12 lakh to boost purchasing power, simplifying returns and refunds, and lowering GST rates on numerous goods to stimulate demand.

"Its direct benefit is going to our industry and business houses," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister also urged the pharmaceutical sector to identify domestic manufacturing opportunities and invest in new technology and large production plants to gain global competitiveness. "In finished medicines, we have a strength, and now we will have to build our capability in ingredients as well," PM Modi noted.

Amit Shah says Kashmir free of local terrorists

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Reiterating the 'Zero Tolerance' policy against terrorism, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that following the killing of Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Latif Bhat, Kashmir is now free of locally recruited terrorists. Addressing the inaugural session of the two-day counter-terrorism conference, HM Shah said, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we have adopted a 'Zero Tolerance' policy towards terrorism, and this policy is yielding positive results."

He said after the gunning down of LeT terrorist Latif Bhat, Kashmir is now free of locally recruited terrorists born in India. "This marks a major milestone in the fight against terrorism," he said.

The Union Minister said that the hallmark of a successful agency is its ability to apprehend terrorists and put them behind bars before they can carry out a terrorist attack; all state police forces should study this model and implement it, according to an official statement. "To eliminate terrorism, organised crime, and drug-related problems, it is essential to bring offenders hiding abroad back to India." Since 2019, 303 fugitives have been brought back to India from 36 countries," said HM Shah.

He said it is essential to dismantle the entire terror financing network; to achieve this, better coordination with agencies responsible for financial investigations is necessary

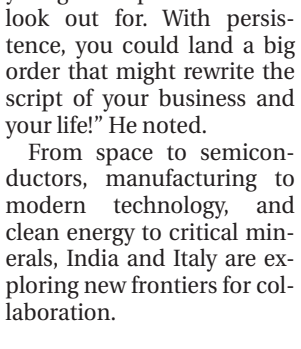
"Success cannot be achieved without launching a simultaneous assault on the entire terror network. We will not succeed in the fight against terrorism unless we have a shared objective and clearly defined accountability at every stage of the process to achieve that objective," he said.



Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Amit Shah at the inaugural session of two-day counter-terrorism conference, in New Delhi .

Goyal Seeks Stronger India-Italy Ties

Rome/New Delhi, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has highlighted how Indian innovation and Italian enterprise complement each other, and underscored the immense potential for collaboration across sectors like semiconductor, AI and automobile.



Addressing the Plenary Session of the 'Fourth India-Italy Business & Innovation Forum' in Rome, alongside Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Goyal called upon businesses to look beyond traditional trade and explore new frontiers of economic and technological engagement. "Together, let us co-create, co-invest and co-manufacture for the world," Goyal said.

The minister said that 496 million people have been lifted out of extreme poverty in just 12 years. "With a growing middle class, rising aspirations among its youth and increasing incomes, India is opening its doors wider to international trade and global partnerships," he told the gathering. "100 GW in nuclear energy capacity. $50 billion in semiconductor investments. $130 billion in projected annual semiconductor consumption by 2030. India is preparing for the technologies that will shape a Viksit Bharat," Goyal highlighted. During his interaction with startups at the India-Italy Innovation Forum in Rome, he said many Indian startups from all across the country were part of "our delegation and they got an opportunity to interact and network with Italian businesses".

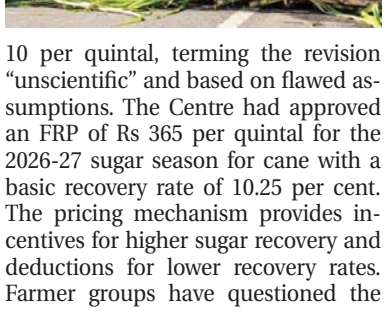
"I heard from both groups about how they grew their ideas and built a business around it. I urged both Indian and Italian startups to look to partner with each other in their respective markets and grow," said Goyal.

"Opportunities and platforms like these are what young entrepreneurs must look out for. With persistence, you could land a big order that might rewrite the script of your business and your life!" He noted.

From space to semiconductors, manufacturing to modern technology, and clean energy to critical minerals, India and Italy are exploring new frontiers for collaboration.

India, Portugal hold talks on bilateral ties

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Open Frame): India and Portugal held the sixth round of Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi on Thursday, with both sides reviewing bilateral cooperation across key sectors and discussing regional and global issues of mutual interest. The meeting was co-chaired by Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Sibi George, and Director General for Foreign Policy, Portugal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Helena Malcata.



In a statement on X, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "Secretary (West) Sibi George co-chaired the 6th round of India-Portugal Foreign Office Consultations with Ms. Helena Malcata, Director General for Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal. They reviewed bilateral cooperation across key sectors and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest."

On June 10, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar extended wishes to his Portuguese counterpart Paulo Rangel and the people of the country on their National Day and said that he looked forward to strengthening bilateral ties. "Warm wishes to FM Paulo Rangel, the Government and people of Portugal on their National Day. Look forward to strengthening our bilateral ties and engagements under the India-EU Strategic Partnership," EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

In May, Portugal's Secretary of State for Economy, Joao Rui Ferreira, said there is a huge opportunity for India and Portugal to strengthen economic relations that go beyond trade to creating complementarities across sectors such as manufacturing, renewable energy and startups. In an exclusive interaction with, he said, "Over the last 10 years, we have made significant progress, with our trade relations growing considerably.

Sugarcane farmers intensify protests over prices

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Amid growing discontent among sugarcane growers over procurement prices, farmer organisations have intensified protests across several states, alleging that the Union government's latest increase in the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) fails to compensate farmers for rising cultivation costs. A delegation of the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) on Thursday submitted a memorandum to a high-powered committee constituted by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to examine issues concerning sugarcane farmers and the sugar industry. The committee is chaired by Ramesh Chand, former Member of NITI Aayog.

The AIKS criticised the government's decision to raise the FRP by Rs



10 per quintal, terming the revision "unscientific" and based on flawed assumptions. The Centre had approved an FRP of Rs 365 per quintal for the 2026-27 sugar season for cane with a basic recovery rate of 10.25 per cent. The pricing mechanism provides incentives for higher sugar recovery and deductions for lower recovery rates. Farmer groups have questioned the government's assertion that growers are receiving 100.5 per cent above the cost of production. They argue that the FRP calculation is based on the A2+FL cost formula, which excludes crucial elements such as the rental value of owned land and interest on fixed capital. Referring to the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission, they have demanded that sugarcane prices be fixed at least at the level of C2 cost plus a 50 per cent margin. For sugarcane, the Centre approves FRP, while the State Advised Price (SAP) is a higher, state-specific price for procurement by mills or the state government.

AIKS President Rajan Kshirsagar alleged the current prices are "punishment to farmers" while "pockets of the corporates and the sugar mill owners have been filled".

Birla Calls for India-US Economic Cooperation

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday emphasised that the shared democratic values of India and the United States provide a strong foundation for expanding bilateral trade, investment and technological cooperation.



Addressing the 23rd Indo-US Economic Summit 2026, Birla observed that democratic institutions, stable policies, an independent judiciary and sustained engagement with stakeholders strengthen investor confidence and create opportunities for economic growth.

Describing India and the United States as two of the world's largest democracies, he said that strong and vibrant democratic institutions contribute to stable and responsive policymaking. Democracy provides space for diverse voices and ensures that the views of industry, trade, agriculture, technology, students and other stakeholders are taken into account while framing policies and laws, he added.

He highlighted individual liberty, freedom of expression, equality before the law and an independent judiciary as important pillars of India's democratic framework. A stable policy environment, predictable taxation policies and regular engagement between industry and policymakers, he noted, encourage investment and strengthen economic partnerships. Birla appreciated the contribution of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce in promoting economic engagement between the two countries since its establishment in 1968.

Calling for closer collaboration between industry and academic institutions, Birla urged businesses to work with universities, IITs, IIITs, engineering colleges and other technical institutions to advance research and innovation. He noted that investment by industry in research has played a significant role in driving technological progress across the world.

Stronger partnerships between industry and educational institutions, he said, would help India develop new technologies, enhance competitiveness and establish leadership in emerging sectors.

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CM Revanth says invest Telangana summit to drive major investments



Hyderabad, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy affirmed that the ensuing Invest Telangana Global Summit -2026 , scheduled to be held from December 7 to 9 at the Bharat Future City, will lay a strong foundation for the robust country's growth by attracting huge domestic and global investments.

Addressing the inaugural programme of the 85th Indian Road Congress (IRC) today, the Chief Minister said that the state government is organising the global summit to attract huge investments in technology, manufacturing, research and development. The CM invited the delegates of the IRC to attend the summit.

CM Revanth Reddy emphasized that the country's interests and national security should be given top priority. Political rhetoric should be confined only during the elections for achieving the ambitious growth targets, the Chief Minister added. Highlighting the importance of the creation of CURE, PURE and RARE regions in the Telangana state, the CM said that the CURE inside the ORR is dedicated to the development of Service sector, PURE , located between ORR and RRR will be a hub a manufacturing sector and the RARE zone outside the RRR will be the centre of agriculture and agro-based industries. CM Revanth Reddy observed that 2047 holds great significance for all as India would be completing 100 years of independence. " Our aim is to transform Telangana into a 3-trillion US dollar economy by 2047". Listing out the road development projects taken up by the state government, the Chief Minister said that the other basic infrastructure development projects were also being executed expeditiously. The hospital bed strength would be increased by 8000 by-constructing new Osmania Hospital, TIMS and other healthcare projects. Welcoming the delegates to the Road Congress, the Chief Minister also highlighted the rich cultural history of the city of Hyderabad.

Ponnam Opens MSU for Early Disease Detection



Hyderabad, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Thursday inaugurated the Metropolitan Surveillance Unit (MSU) at Kala Bhavan in Secunderabad, aimed at strengthening disease surveillance, early detection and prevention, and improving public healthcare services across Hyderabad. IDSP and NCDC Joint Director Shubhangi Kulsange, GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan and other senior officials attended the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said the Telangana government was giving priority to public health within the GHMC limits. He stated that the new unit, established in coordination with Central Government institutions, would help develop an effective disease surveillance system and enable faster responses to public health emergencies.

The MSU aims to detect diseases at an early stage, prevent their spread, address health-related challenges effectively and take preventive measures to avoid future outbreaks. Established under the PM-ABHIM scheme through GHMC, the unit will coordinate disease surveillance and prevention activities across Greater Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri Municipal Corporations. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said modern technology and coordinated surveillance would play a crucial role in protecting public health. He reiterated the government's commitment to identifying disease threats in advance and ensuring a safer and healthier Hyderabad for its residents.

The unit is expected to strengthen coordination among municipal health departments, hospitals and other healthcare agencies by enabling timely sharing of disease-related information. It will also support health officials in monitoring emerging infections, identifying vulnerable areas and planning targeted interventions to contain potential outbreaks across the three municipal corporations.

Three Convicted in POCSO Case in Hyderabad



Hyderabad, Nov 19 (Open Frame): The Fast Track Special Court for Expeditious Trial and Disposal of Rape and POCSO Act Cases at LB Nagar, Ranga Reddy district, has convicted three accused in a POCSO case registered at Chaitanyapuri Police Station and sentenced them to imprisonment ranging from five to seven years. The court delivered its judgment on November 19, 2026, in connection with Crime No. 276/2023 (SC No. 332/2023). The accused, Polepaka Arun Pal, Mandha Pavan Kalyan and Katukuri Anvesh, were found guilty and awarded different prison terms.

The court sentenced Polepaka Arun Pal to seven years of imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs. 12,500. Mandha Pavan Kalyan and Katukuri Anvesh were each sentenced to five years of imprisonment and fined Rs. 3,000. Additionally, the court ordered compensation of Rs. 50,000 to be paid to the victim. According to Malkajgiri Police, the convictions were secured through effective investigation, systematic collection of evidence, examination of witnesses and diligent prosecution.

Police appreciated the efforts of Investigating Officer G. Ravi, Sub-Inspector of Police, presently serving in CID Hyderabad, Additional Public Prosecutors P. Satyanarayana and Krishna Prasanna, along with court duty officers, summons staff, liaison and briefing officers and the CCRB monitoring team. Malkajgiri Police reiterated their commitment to protecting children, ensuring justice for victims of sexual offences and strengthening the prosecution of cases under the POCSO Act.

V.C. Sajjanar Takes Charge as TG Fire Services DG



Hyderabad, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Senior IPS Officer Sri V.C. Sajjanar, IPS, on Thursday assumed charge as the Director General of the Telangana Fire Services Department. He took charge at the department's headquarters located at Nanakramguda. Earlier, upon his arrival at the office, senior officials and staff of the Fire Services Department accorded him a warm welcome by presenting bouquets.

On this occasion, DG Sri V.C. Sajjanar, IPS, stated that he would soon hold special meetings with all personnel, from senior officers to field-level staff. He said that after understanding the ground realities and considering their experiences, suggestions and recommendations, a robust future action plan would be formulated to deliver faster and more efficient services.

He emphasised that preventing loss of life and property during fire accidents and natural disasters would be the department's foremost priority. He said that the response mechanism would be further strengthened to ensure that personnel reach the incident site in the shortest possible time immediately after receiving information and initiate rescue and relief operations.

In view of rapid urbanisation, he stated that special attention would be given to the strict implementation of fire safety regulations in multi-storey buildings, hospitals, educational institutions, commercial complexes and industrial establishments. To effectively address emerging challenges, the department would make efficient use of new technologies, advanced fire-fighting vehicles and modern equipment. He also explained that continuous training programmes would be conducted to enhance the professional skills and capabilities of the personnel. He said that during disasters, the department would work in close coordination with the Police, Revenue, Municipal Administration and Health Departments to provide assurance and assistance to the public. He highlighted that public participation plays a crucial role in preventing fire accidents and announced that extensive awareness programmes would be conducted in residential complexes, schools and industries. He urged the public to immediately call 101 or 112 to report any fire accident or emergency situation. Meanwhile, Sri V.C. Sajjanar also assumed charge as the Director General of the Special Protection Force (SPF), in addition to his responsibilities as the DG of the Fire Services Department.

He stated that security standards in the SPF, which provides protection to the State Secretariat and other important government properties, would be further strengthened. He emphasised that modern training and technological facilities would be provided to SPF personnel to effectively tackle emerging security challenges and further enhance the reputation of the force.

The DG stated that the welfare of Fire Services and SPF personnel, who risk their lives to protect the public, would be accorded the highest priority. He announced that a 'Grand Health Challenge' programme would be organised with the objective of ensuring the health and well-being of the personnel. He said that special attention would be given to their physical fitness and overall health through this initiative.

He further stated that discipline, integrity and a spirit of service are the most essential qualities in uniformed services. He assured that the departments would function as a cohesive team with complete transparency, leaving no room for lapses, and strive to deliver the best possible services.

Telangana Cracks Down on Illegal Drug Sales



Hyderabad, Nov 19 (Open Frame): The Drugs Wing of the Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) detected discrepancies in 90 medical shops during a special enforcement drive against the illegal sale and diversion of habit-forming drugs and the indiscriminate sale of antibiotics across Telangana on Thursday, November 19.

The raids were conducted jointly by the Drugs Wing, Enforcement Wing police personnel and Excise Enforcement personnel at medical shops in vulnerable areas across Hyderabad, including Koti, Abids, Basheerbagh, Nampally, Khairatabad, Panjagutta, Ameerpet, SR Nagar, Sanathnagar, Yerragadda, Yousufguda, Madhuranagar, Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills. The inspections focused on detecting the illegal sale and diversion of habit-forming drugs such as Tramadol, Alprazolam, Nitrazepam, Tapentadol, Pregabalin-containing medicines and Zolpidem, besides codeine-based cough syrups. Officials also checked for the indiscriminate sale of antibiotics. Similar raids were conducted by the Drugs Wing in various districts across the state as part of the ongoing enforcement drive.

Following the detection of discrepancies in 90 medical shops, show-cause notices were issued to initiate departmental action, including suspension or cancellation of drug licences, TG SAFE officials said.

Seethakka distributes new cheyutha pensions to women beneficiaries across Hyderabad district



Hyderabad, Nov 19 (Open Frame): On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the late Indira Gandhi—India's first female Prime Minister and recipient of the Bharat Ratna—newly sanctioned 'Cheyutha' pensions were distributed to beneficiaries from the Khairatabad, Shaikpet, Himayatnagar, and Nampally mandals (within the Khairatabad constituency). The distribution took place on Wednesday at Banjara Bhavan in Banjara Hills. The event was led by Dr. Danasari Anasuya 'Seethakka', Minister for Women Development & Child Welfare and Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, alongside Ponnam Prabhakar, Minister for Transport & BC Welfare (and Minister-in-charge for Hyderabad District), Rajya Sabha Member Anil Kumar Yadav, and former MLA Danam Nagender.

Earlier, the dignitaries paid a grand tribute to Indira Gandhi on her 109th birth anniversary by garlanding her portrait. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Seethakka emphasized that the state government accords the highest priority to the welfare and empowerment of women. She noted that the 'Aasara' and 'Cheyutha' pension schemes have proven to be immensely beneficial for the poor and the destitute. She announced that, to mark the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi, the government has launched a major initiative to provide new pensions to approximately 3.5 lakh women across the state. She explained that, following the directives of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, applications were collected over a period of two months to grant pensions to widows and unmarried women over the age of 30. The Minister urged women to join Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to attain financial self-reliance. She stated that the government is supporting women's groups by facilitating interest-free bank loans, enabling them to start self-employment ventures such as small shops, canteens, tiffin centers, and tailoring units.

She clarified that the government bears the interest burden on these bank loans, providing an interest subsidy so that women are only required to repay the principal amount. She suggested that women could increase their family income by running small businesses from their own homes.

Minister Seethakka encouraged women to draw inspiration from the life of the late Indira Gandhi and move forward with courage. It was noted that Indira Gandhi, who overcame numerous personal hardships at a young age to go on to serve as the Prime Minister of the country, has gone down in history as an 'Iron Lady.' It was urged that women should move forward with self-confidence, regardless of the challenges they face in life, and draw inspiration from Indira Gandhi to achieve progress in all fields.

KTR Accuses Congress Government of Corruption, Pension Cuts and Unfulfilled Promises



Hyderabad, Nov 19 (Open Frame): BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) accused the Congress government in Telangana of turning governance into an exercise in corruption, alleging that even ruling party MLAs were openly exposing commissions, financial irregularities and the alleged misuse of public funds.

Referring to statements by Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy and Munugode MLA Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, KTR said Congress legislators themselves were questioning corruption within their government. He cited Anirudh Reddy's remarks alleging that officials were demanding 15–20 per cent commissions for government works and Raj Gopal Reddy's allegations of large-scale corruption, irregularities in tenders and a 5 lakh crore loot. KTR said these statements raised serious questions about the functioning of the government. He alleged that Congress MLAs were complaining about the non-release of funds to their constituencies, with some even writing letters seeking financial assistance. Referring to complaints that funds were being diverted to Kodangal while other constituencies were neglected, KTR said ruling party legislators themselves were expressing helplessness over the lack of development works.

KTR alleged that the government had failed to fulfil its promises and that more instances of corruption would emerge as Congress leaders continued to speak out against one another.

He asserted that the BRS would return to power and that every rupee allegedly accumulated through corruption would be recovered. No one, whether an MLA or the Chief Minister, would be spared if found responsible for corruption, he warned.

Congress removed 4.70 lakh pensions; failed to deliver 4,000 promise KTR accused the Congress government of misleading pensioners by announcing new pensions while simultaneously removing existing beneficiaries. He said Telangana had approximately 44.70 lakh pension beneficiaries under the previous BRS government. After Congress came to power, around 1.50 lakh pensions were removed in the first year, another 1.50 lakh in the second year and 1.70 lakh in the third year, taking the total number of discontinued pensions to 4.70 lakh. Against this, the government had sanctioned only 4.63 lakh new pensions, resulting in a net reduction of approximately 7,000 beneficiaries, he said. KTR questioned how the government could claim to have expanded pension coverage when the total pension budget had not increased correspondingly. He accused Congress of removing existing beneficiaries, issuing fewer new pensions and presenting the exercise as a major achievement.

Recalling the Congress election promise, KTR said the party had assured people that pensions would be increased to 4,000 within 100 days of coming to power. Congress had promised 2,000 in November and 4,000 from December onwards. However, three Decembers had passed and beneficiaries were still receiving only 2,000, the amount introduced by the KCR government, he said.

India's memory chip exports hit record $116 mn in August 2026, driven by production

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Open Frame): India's memory chip exports climbed to an all-time high of $116 million (around Rs 1,000 crore) in August 2026, driven by the rapid ramp-up of domestic production facilities. According to data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry, India exported nearly 3.3 million memory chips during August alone, a figure that is about 2.7 times higher than the country's total memory-chip exports for the entire calendar year 2025.



The surge marks a dramatic shift for a country that, for over a decade, had never crossed $45 million in annual memory-chip exports and depended heavily on imports to meet domestic demand. The transformation has been led by new semiconductor manufacturing facilities coming online in Gujarat's Sanand semiconductor cluster. Micron Technology's plant began commercial production on February 28, 2026, and shipped its first India-made memory module to Dell.

This was followed by the commencement of production at Kaynes Semicon on March 31 and CG Semi on July 4. Customs data reflected a steady acceleration in exports throughout the year. Memory-chip exports stood at $10 million in January, increased to $16 million in March, doubled to $32 million in June, and then jumped sharply to $116 million in August.

Singapore and Malaysia emerged as the primary destinations for India's memory-chip shipments in August, accounting for almost the entire export volume during the month.

The momentum was also visible in solid-state drive (SSD) exports. Shipments of SSDs rose from $8 million in January to $112 million in August. Overall, India exported $219 million worth of memory chips during the first eight months of 2026, nearly five times the country's total exports in 2025. While chip-level export data for September and October is yet to be released, the broader electronics sector continues to post strong growth. Electronics exports reached $5.31 billion in September, registering a 70.4 per cent increase year-on-year, and climbed further to $6.64 billion in October. October exports were up 62.7 per cent compared to $4.08 billion recorded in the same month of 2025.

Gold falls below Rs 1.3 lakh amid dollar strength, Silver gains



New Delhi, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Gold prices remained under pressure on Thursday, slipping below the Rs 1.3 lakh per 10-gram mark as a stronger US dollar and expectations of a tighter monetary policy stance by the US Federal Reserve weighed on bullion sentiment. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (December) were trading at Rs 1,29,331, down Rs 483 or 0.37 per cent from its previous close of Rs 1,29,814. During the session so far, the yellow metal touched an intraday high of Rs 1,29,796 and an intraday low of Rs 1,28,310 by 12:30 pm.

Meanwhile, silver futures (December) were trading at Rs 1,61,500 per 1 kg, up Rs 768 or 0.48 per cent from its previous close of Rs 1,60,734. Silver touched an intraday high of Rs 1,62,175 and an intraday low of Rs 1,59,321 so far. In the international market, gold prices also remained weak, while silver posted modest gains. COMEX gold was down 0.24 per cent at $3,730 per ounce, while silver rose 0.37 per cent to $45.22 per ounce. Market analysts said gold prices continued to face selling pressure amid growing expectations that the US Federal Reserve could maintain a restrictive monetary policy stance for longer. According to analysts, hawkish remarks from Federal Reserve officials have strengthened expectations of additional interest rate increases, pushing Treasury yields higher and supporting the US dollar.

India Emerges as Key Player in Shifting Post-OPEC Global Oil Market Amid Geopolitical Tensions

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Open Frame): OPEC no longer sets the world oil price and in 2026, it lost both its physical grip with the choking of the Strait of Hormuz and its institutional cohesion with the UAE's exit from the cartel, according to a paper published in Global Outlook. The market that replaces OPEC is multipolar: US shale supplies the marginal barrel, Russia sells through a shadow fleet outside Western rules, and sanctions policy in Washington now moves more oil than quota policy in Vienna.



India sits at the hinge of this system. As the world's third-largest crude importer, it buys from all of the three sources, and through Reliance's 1.4 million barrels per day (b/d) Jamnagar complex, it converts sanctioned, discounted or stranded crude into fuels for the Western markets, the report states. The paper highlights that Russian oil has not been removed from the global market, but only rerouted. Price caps were lowered to $44.10 per barrel from February 2026, yet 60 per cent of Russia's seaborne oil moved on sanctioned shadow tankers in October 2026.

India's purchase of Russian oil is happening due to the crisis situation and is not based on ideology. India pledged in February 2026 to stop buying Russian oil in return for an 18 per cent US tariff. After Hormuz closed, Russian crude rose to a record 2.8 million b/d, about 55 per cent of imports, in July 2026, aided by US waivers, the paper points out. OPEC's pricing power is structurally weaker than at any point since 1973. The US-Israeli war on Iran, which began on February 28, 2026, choked Hormuz flows from about 20 million b/d to almost zero; the UAE left OPEC and OPEC+ on May 1, 2026; and OPEC+ quota increases this year stayed largely on paper.

The US is now the system's swing supplier. US crude output averaged a record 13.6 million b/d in 2025, about 40 per cent above Russia or Saudi Arabia, and the EIA forecasts a record 13.8 million b/d in 2026. The paper highlights that Jamnagar is India's strategic asset. Its segregated export refinery keeps EU and US product markets open; its heavy-crude cokers have made India the largest destination for Venezuelan oil, after the US ousted Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro from power and took over control of the country's oil and gas fields.

EAC-PM chief calls for 25% manufacturing share in GDP by 2047 to achieve developed nation status

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Open Frame): India needs to raise the share of manufacturing in its gross domestic product (GDP) from the current 16-17 per cent to 25 per cent by 2047 in order to become a developed economy, the chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), S Mahendra Dev said on Thursday. Addressing the CII Financing Summit 2026 here, he said India had the potential to grow at 8-9 per cent, but sustaining this would require an expansion in productive capacity and improvements in productivity.



Dev said an investment rate of around 34-35 per cent of GDP is important to sustain growth over the next two decades. Gross fixed capital formation stood at 31.9 per cent of GDP in 2025-26. He emphasised the need for greater private sector participation, saying public investment in infrastructure could encourage private investment by improving connectivity and reducing production and transportation costs. However, public investment alone would not be sufficient to meet the country's requirements.

He observed that domestic savings would remain the principal source of financing India's investment needs. According to revised national income accounts data, gross savings stood at 34.9 per cent of GDP in 2024-25, with the household sector accounting for around 62 per cent of the total. "Since households account for nearly two-thirds of India's domestic savings, the way these savings are used has an important bearing on how investment elsewhere in the economy is financed," he pointed out.

Dev called for diversifying sources of long-term finance, saying banks alone could not meet the financing requirements of India's development ambitions. "Different investments require different kinds of finance. These requirements cannot all be met through conventional bank lending," he said, highlighting the role of insurance and pension funds, corporate bond markets and equity markets in financing long-term investments. He also highlighted that India's corporate bond market is concentrated with around 85-90 per cent of issuances in the highest-rated securities.

Nicholls, Phillips rescue New Zealand after early collapse against India

Wellington, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Henry Nicholls struck a determined unbeaten century and Glenn Phillips came close to a hundred as New Zealand recovered from a precarious position to reach 243/5 at stumps on the opening day of the first Test against India at the Basin Reserve here on Thursday.



After India's pace attack made the most of helpful conditions to reduce the hosts to 60/4 at Lunch, and then 70/5, Nicholls and Phillips put together a commanding partnership to turn the contest around. The duo remained unbeaten at the close, having added 173 runs for the sixth wicket to put New Zealand in a position of strength. Nicholls was unbeaten on 113 off 221 deliveries, registering his fifth Test century at the Basin Reserve in just 15 innings at the venue. Phillips, meanwhile, finished the day on 94 not out off 182 balls, having combined resolute defence with an attacking approach to put the Indian bowlers under sustained pressure.

The recovery gathered momentum in the second session, when New Zealand added 80 runs for the loss of one wicket. India managed to remove Tom Blundell, caught by Shubman Gill at first slip off Anshul Kamboj, but could not make further inroads as Nicholls and Phillips settled into their partnership. Phillips brought up his half-century with a cut behind square off Jasprit Bumrah in the 50th over, while Nicholls continued to build his innings with patience and well-timed strokes. The pair took the attack to the Indian bowlers in the final session, adding more than 100 runs without losing a wicket.

Nicholls reached his hundred in the 70th over, getting there with a single off Prasidh Krishna. He was given a reprieve on 102 when India failed to hold a top-edged pull, with Devdutt Padikkal and wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant converging on the catch and failing to complete it.

Phillips capitalised on the opportunity to keep the pressure on India, moving to 94 by stumps. His counterattacking approach complemented Nicholls' measured innings, with the pair finding boundaries and rotating the strike regularly. Bumrah was India's most effective bowler, finishing with 3/52 from 17 overs, while Kamboj took 1/57 and Akash Deep 1/33. Washington Sundar went wicketless for 38 runs, while Prasidh Krishna conceded 58 in his 16 overs.

India had made a strong start after opting to bowl, with Bumrah dismissing Tom Latham and Mitchell in the morning session, while Kamboj and Akash Deep also struck to leave New Zealand in trouble. However, Nicholls and Phillips ensured the hosts ended the day firmly back in the contest.

The unbeaten stand between Nicholls and Phillips not only rescued New Zealand from early trouble but also shifted the momentum in the hosts' favour. With five wickets already down, India will look to strike early on the second morning to prevent the pair from extending their partnership and taking New Zealand towards a commanding first-innings total.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 243/5 in 82 overs (Henry Nicholls 113, Glenn Phillips 94*; Jasprit Bumrah 3-52, Akash Deep 1-33, Anshul Kamboj 1-57) against India.*

India Begin Asian Champions Trophy Title Defence with 4-1 Win Over Malaysia



Bhopal, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Defending champions India began their campaign in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2026 with a 4-1 victory over Malaysia at the International Sports Complex, Nathu Barkheda, in Bhopal, on Thursday. After the teams were level at 1-1 at half-time, India scored three goals in the second half to secure all three points in their opening round-robin fixture. In other matches on Thursday, Japan edged South Korea 1-0 while China thrashed Thailand 7-0.

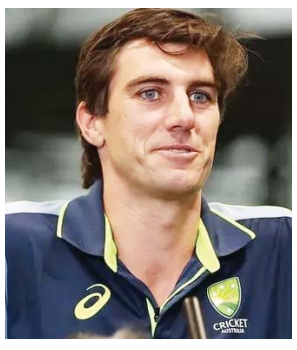
Mumtaz Khan (20') brought India level after Malaysia took the lead through Nuramirah Zulkifli (19') following a goal-less first quarter. Salima Tete (35'), debutant and 'Player of the Match' Puja Sahoo (39') and Lalremsiami (49') scored in the last two quarters to put the game beyond Malaysia's reach. For Bhopal, the opening fixture also marked a significant occasion with the city hosting an international hockey tournament for the first time. Local hockey followers packed the stands for the opening day, which also saw Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav and the state's Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare Vishvas Kailash Sarang grace the occasion along with other dignitaries.

The spectators added to the occasion with their support and lent the tournament an enthusiastic start as Bhopal marked its place on the international hockey map as host.

Neither side could score in the opening quarter. It was Malaysia then who took the lead in the 19th minute through Zulkifli via a field goal. India responded almost immediately. Mumtaz Khan found the equaliser in the 20th minute to make it 1-1. The teams went into the half-time interval with the scores level. India moved ahead 2-1 in the 35th minute when captain Salima got to the end of a loose ball to tap it in after a goal-mouth melee on a penalty corner. Four minutes later, India extended their lead through another penalty-corner conversion, this time by debutant Puja in the 39th minute. The third quarter concluded with India leading Malaysia 3–1. Lalremsiami added India's fourth goal in the 49th minute.

Cummins Maintains Stand Amid Fresh Ball-Tampering Allegations

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Australia captain Pat Cummins has maintained that his account of the 2018 ball-tampering scandal remains unchanged, with his agent Neil Maxwell reiterating that the fast bowler has consistently denied knowledge of the use of sandpaper despite fresh allegations from Cameron Bancroft. Maxwell issued a fresh statement to ESPNcricinfo on Thursday, a day after Bancroft published a detailed account of the events surrounding Australia's controversial tour of South Africa, adding to the scrutiny on the team and its handling of the scandal.



"Pat's position hasn't changed in eight years," Maxwell said. "He's been consistent and adamant from day one. Pat feels for Cam of course. He has been through a lot. "We would urge people to again read Pat's interview transcript. There is nothing he hasn't answered. And that includes in response to what Cam has now said. "Pat has rebuilt the Australian Cricket team. That 24-year-old in Cape Town resolved to fix the team and spent eight years doing it," he added.

Bancroft's account, published in a 4,000-word column, revisited the ball-tampering incidents during the 2018 series, including events in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. It also challenged the long-standing narrative that only Bancroft, then captain Steven Smith and David Warner knew about the plan. The opener was particularly critical of Cummins' recent press conference in Sydney, where the Australia skipper rejected Usman Khawaja's assertion that the wider team was aware of the scheme, describing it as "100% wrong" and accusing Khawaja of being casual with people's lives. "It made me feel angry, betrayed and alone," Bancroft wrote, describing his reaction to Cummins' remarks. Cummins' position has also received public backing.

Ash Barty, Shingo Kunieda elected to Tennis Hall of Fame 2027

New Delhi, Nov 19 (Open Frame): Former world No.1 Ash Barty has been elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2027, earning one of tennis' highest honours alongside Japanese wheelchair tennis legend Shingo Kunieda. Barty will be inducted in the Player Category, while Kunieda has been selected in the Wheelchair Tennis Category. The announcement recognises two remarkable careers that left a lasting impact on the sport. Barty, a three-time Grand Slam singles champion, retired in March 2022 at just 25 years of age while sitting at the top of the world rankings. The induction ceremony will take place in Newport, Rhode Island, from August 26 to 28, 2027.



"I feel incredibly grateful and humbled," Barty said in a statement released early Thursday (Australian time). "I was fortunate to look up to so many Australian trailblazers who shaped the game and represented our country with such pride. To have my name mentioned alongside theirs is a surreal feeling." "My career was a team effort, so this honour belongs just as much to my family, my coaches and everyone who helped me along the way," she added.

Barty enjoyed a stellar career, winning three Grand Slam singles titles across three different surfaces.

Keerthy Suresh Says She Will Never Let Down South Indian Culture



Claiming that she didn't initially understand Radhika Apte's statement referring to the Muraimaaman practice prevalent in the south of the country during an interview, actress Keerthy Suresh has now said that she identified herself as a south Indian actress and stressed that she would "never let down" the culture of the region.

At the pre release event of her upcoming Tamil film 'Sathyavan Savithri', Keerthy Suresh was first asked as to which film industry, she considered herself to be a part of as she had worked in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi.

Soon after the actress made it clear that she considered herself as a south actress, Keerthy Suresh's attention was drawn to a joint interview that she had recently given along with actress Radhika Apte in which the latter's reply to a question had a passing reference to the Muraimaaman culture (practice of uncles marrying their nieces) prevalent in south India.

The reply had come in for criticism from fans in Telugu and Tamil cinema on social media as many felt the tone was condescending. Actress Keerthy Suresh was asked as to why, she, who considered herself a south cinema actress, did not step up to put things in perspective.

Stating that she did explain the practice,Keerthy said, "I explained. She (Radhika Apte) made that statement. Honestly, at first, I didn't even understand what she was saying. She (Radhika Apte) was saying, 'I had to romance my uncle.' At first, I didn't understand what she was saying. And then, I understood she was talking about the culture. As soon as I realised she did not know about the culture, I tried explaining that it was a culture down south."

When the actress's response about the practice prevailing only in Tamil and Telugu and not in Malayalam was pointed out, she said, "Yes, I said that. I was referring to the culture. Because that culture is not there in Kerala. With all due respect, because I will never let down our culture there." She went on to further explain, "First, I didn't understand when she said 'uncle' and then, I understood, 'oh, they're talking about our culture and tradition'. That was why I explained about it. I can't prove to them that this is a tradition and you cannot talk about this. So, I tried to make them understand, saying that this happens in Tamil(Nadu) and Andhra. I told it as an information.

Sharwanand's Period Action Drama 'Bhogi' Set for November 27 Release

The makers of director Sampath Nandi's explosive period action drama, 'Bhogi', featuring actor Sharwanand in the lead, on Thursday announced that their film would now hit screens worldwide on November 27 this year. Sri Sathya Sai Arts, the production house that is producing the film, took to its social media timelines to share the update.

It wrote, "#BHOGI on 27th November - Locked and Loaded. Get ready for a breathtaking action & emotional experience on the big screens. #SharwaSampathBloodFest. Charming Star @ ImSharwanand. Mass Director @IamSampathNandi." It may be recalled that the film was to originally hit screens worldwide on November 12 this year. However, the makers had chosen to postpone the film's release.

At the time of postponing the film, the makers in a statement had said, "Bhogi has been an immensely special project for all of us. Made with great ambition, passion and dedication. Right from the beginning, our vision has been to deliver a memorable theatrical experience that truly lives up to the expectations of our audiences." They went on to say,"However, due to unforeseen delays, Bhogi stands postponed. We kindly request everyone not to believe or circulate any speculation regarding the film's release. The new release date will be announced soon."

Stating that they sincerely regretted this change in plans and the inconvenience caused, the makers sought the patience, understanding and continued support of audiences as they worked towards bringing Bhogi to the big screen in the best possible way. They concluded their statement saying,"We promise to make the wait worthwhile." Now, the makers have announced that the film will release on November 27.

The makers had revealed on actor Sharwanand's birthday that he played a character called Ganga in the eagerly awaited action thriller. 'Bhogi' stars Anupama Parameswaran and Dimple Hayathi as the female leads. Set in the early 1960s, 'Bhogi' is a pulsating period action drama unfolding in a fictional village along the borders of Telangana and Maharashtra. On the technical front, the project boasts an accomplished crew. Production design is by Kiran Kumar Manne, cinematography is by Kishore Kumar Arokia, and music is by Bheems Ceciroleo. Planned as a pan-India release, the movie is to hit the big screens in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.



Anirudh Shares Wedding Video with Kavya Maran, Calls It 'Favourite Magic'



One of India's top music directors Anirudh Ravichander, who on Thursday posted a new video made using pictures clicked at his wedding with Kavya Maran in Greece, has called it "My favourite kind of magic." The music director took to his social media timelines on Thursday to post a brief video clip that showed a series of pictures of the happy couple at their wedding. Posting the video, which had his hit single 'Avalukena' playing in the background, Anirudh wrote, "My favourite kind of magic."

For the unaware, Anirudh and Kavya Maran, who is also the daughter of Sun Group Chairman Kalanidhi Maran and the owner of the IPL franchise SunRisers Hyderabad, returned to Chennai on Saturday after their wedding in Greece, which was held on November 11 this year.

The wedding, which took place in Greece over a two-day period, had been the cynosure of all eyes as distinguished guests for the wedding were flown to the venue.

Anirudh, who had posted pictures of his wedding, on social media soon after the ceremony, had said, "My once in a lifetime, for a lifetime 11.11." Tamil film Superstar Rajinikanth, Union Minister Dayanidhi Maran and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin were among those present at the wedding.

Sun Pictures, the production house of Kalanidhi Maran, had 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 had 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."

Rajinikanth Shares Stylish Moment with Grandson Yathra

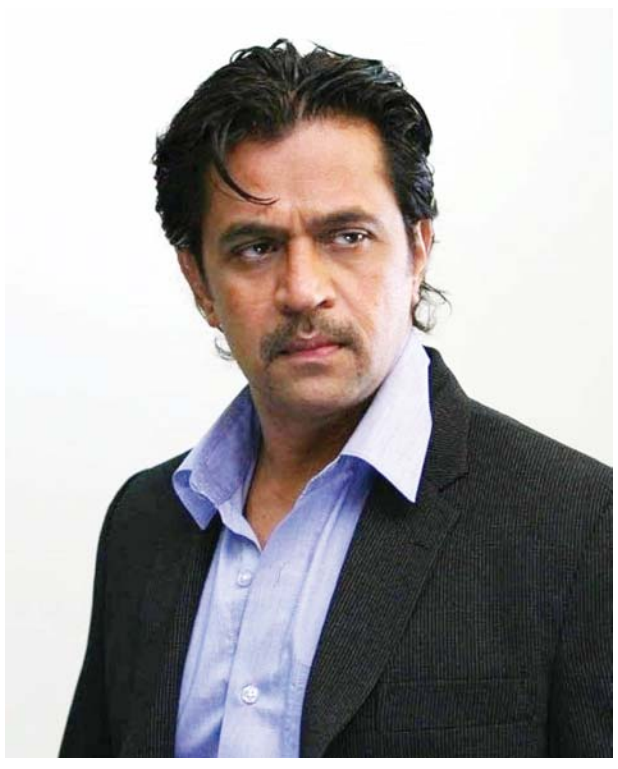


Superstar Rajinikanth was seen posing for a memorable picture with his grandson, Yathra. On Thursday, Rajinikanth's elder daughter, Aishwarya Rajinikanth, took to her official Instagram handle and published a photo of Thalaiva and Yathra walking next to each other. The grandfather and grandson looked extremely stylish as they posed with each other. Thalaiva wore a brown T-shirt with black trousers, which was accompanied by a black sports cap. Yathra accompanied his grandfather in an all-white attire. For those who do not know, Yathra is the elder son of Aishwarya and versatile actor Dhanush. He was born on 10 October 2006. The couple also has another son, Linga Raja, who was born in 2010. It must be noted that Aishwarya and Dhanush parted ways after 18 years of being married.

Meanwhile, recently, Rajinikanth enjoyed some quality time with his family in Greece. On Tuesday, Rajinikanth's younger daughter, Soundarya Rajinikanth, posted a string of photos of Thalaiava on a holiday with his loved ones. She took to her official Insta page and posted a couple of pictures of the entire family, including Rajinikanth taking a walk in Athens, Greece. Sharing the memories with the netizens, Soundarya wrote, "What amazing memories we've made in Athens! (Three red heart emojis) Soaking up every moment of this lovely family getaway (sic)."

Rajinikanth and his entire family had flown to Greece to attend the wedding of his relative and celebrated music director, Anirudh Ravichander. Anirudh Ravichander got married to Kavya Maran, the daughter of Sun Group Chairman Kalanidhi Maran and the owner of the IPL franchise SunRisers Hyderabad, in a grand ceremony on November 11 this year. The wedding, which took place in Greece over a two-day period saw several distinguished guests from the industry in attendance. The photograph quickly drew attention from fans, who appreciated the heartwarming bond between Rajinikanth and his grandson. The family moments shared by Aishwarya and Soundarya also offered a glimpse into the superstar's personal life, away from his busy film commitments.

Arjun Warns Legal Action Over Defamatory Allegations Against Daughter



Stating that as a father he would always stand by his daughter and her right to live with dignity, independence and freedom, well known actor, director and producer Arjun Sarja on Thursday warned that those found circulating or amplifying baseless and defamatory allegations would be dealt with through appropriate legal measures.

In a statement, which he shared on his social media timelines, actor Arjun Sarja said, "Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who has sent their love and wonderful wishes to Anjana and our family on her wedding. Your affection and goodwill have always meant a great deal to us, and we remain grateful to everyone who has kept us in their thoughts."

He then said, "However, this is something I never expected to have to address publicly. When my younger daughter got married, there was considerable speculation surrounding my elder daughter, Aishwarya Arjun's, personal life. I have consciously chosen to respect her privacy and refrain from commenting on matters that are hers alone to share." Arjun pointed out that every woman had the right to make her own choices and live life on her own terms. "She will speak for herself, in her own time, should she choose to," he informed. However, the actor said that as a father, he could not remain silent when he saw false and deeply derogatory allegations being made about his daughter, her character and her personal life. "As actors, we understand that public life inevitably invites speculation and scrutiny. However, there is a clear distinction between speculation and the deliberate propagation of baseless allegations. Public scrutiny does not give anyone the licence to invent narratives or engage in character assassination. To make unfounded and derogatory remarks, including labelling a woman an alcoholic without any basis whatsoever, is deeply irresponsible and unacceptable," he wrote.

Stating that they had always believed that silence was often the most dignified response, the actor pointed out that silence should never be mistaken for acceptance, nor should it allow misinformation to be repeatedly circulated and amplified.

"We have therefore taken the appropriate steps by lodging a formal complaint with the concerned authorities," he said. Stating that journalism and reporting were professions he held in great respect, the actor said that it was rather unfortunate that certain sections of the media were misusing the responsibility by sensationalising baseless allegations and personal attacks simply to sell their content, with little regard for truth or credibility.

"This is not merely about my daughter. It is about every woman whose dignity is questioned and whose personal choices are turned into public judgement. For women who may not have the support of their families, such allegations can be particularly damaging, making an already difficult journey even harder. No woman should have to face that alone, or have to defend the way she chooses to live her life," he said. "As a father, I will always stand by my daughter and her right to live with dignity, independence and freedom. I trust that those responsible will exercise due caution hereafter. Any further circulation or amplification of such baseless and defamatory allegations will be dealt with through appropriate legal recourse. Respect and dignity should never be negotiable," he said

Ram Pothineni Unveils 'Lone Wolf' Look from Directorial Debut #RaPo23



Telugu star Ram Pothineni on Thursday expressed his appreciation for men on the occasion of the International Men's Day on Friday by saluting them even as he went on to define his 'Lone Wolf' character in his upcoming film #Rapo23 on the occasion. Seeking to mark International Men's Day, Telugu star Ram Pothineni unveiled the intriguing prelook of his much-awaited directorial debut, #RaPo23. The poster offered audiences a back shot of 'Lone Wolf', the character he plays in the film.

Taking to his X timeline to share the poster, Ram Pothineni wrote, "LONE WOLF (noun) A fiercely independent man who chooses his own path and faces the world alone. Here's Saluting you all on International Men's Day. #TheLoneWolf #RAPO23."

Hinting at a personality defined by individuality, inner strength and an unwavering sense of determination, the reveal set the tone for the psychological action thriller set in a neo-noir world.

With #RaPo23, Ram Pothineni has embarked on an exciting new chapter in his career, stepping behind the camera for the first time as a writer and director. Known for his dynamic screen presence and versatility as a performer, Ram has taken on an entirely new creative responsibility, bringing his own vision to life with this ambitious project. The film features a promising ensemble cast, including Riteish Deshmukh and Samyuktha Menon alongside Ram Pothineni, adding to the excitement surrounding the project.

The technical team includes gifted cinematographer S. Thirunavukkarasu as the Director of Photography (DOP). One of south India's top music directors, Sam C.S, is scoring the music for this film. Written and directed by Ram Pothineni, #RaPo23 will be a psychological action thriller set in a neo-noir world. Produced by Krishna Pothineni under the banner of RAPO Cinematics, the film, sources say, will look to deliver a distinctive cinematic experience, with its intriguing premise, impressive cast and unconventional world, to audiences/

The pre-look announcement has generated curiosity among fans, particularly as the project marks Ram Pothineni's first venture as a filmmaker. The actor is expected to present a different creative dimension through the film, with its neo-noir setting and psychological action elements. Further details about the storyline, supporting characters and the film's release schedule are awaited. The collaboration with Riteish Deshmukh and Samyuktha Menon adds further interest to the project, which brings together performers from different film industries. With Ram handling the writing and direction, the film is expected to showcase his vision beyond his established role as a leading actor.

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