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We Reveal the Truth



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Skills hold key; IITs, ITIs youth vital for India's future: Modi



Lucknow, Nov 21 (Open Frame): In a significant push toward the government's vision of building a skilled workforce, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asserted that India's future will be shaped not only by academic degrees but also by the hands that possess the skills to transform ideas into reality. Addressing the 5th National Skill Convocation at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow, he said that whether a young person studies in an IIT or an ITI, both are equally important for the nation's progress and the realisation of 'Viksit Bharat'.

The event, organised by the Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, was held outside Delhi for the first time and witnessed the felicitation of 52 national toppers from skill-training institutions across the country. Speaking before thousands of trainees, instructors and dignitaries, the Prime Minister said the energy, aspirations and capabilities of India's youth are the country's greatest strength.

Recounting his day's engagements, he noted that he had interacted with students at IIT Kharagpur earlier before arriving in Lucknow to meet ITI trainees.

Despite the differing institutions, he observed the same enthusiasm and ambition among students in both places.

"Whether it is an IIT or an ITI, the youth are India's true strength and future," he said, adding that skilled youth will play a decisive role in taking India's development journey to new heights. PM Modi emphasised that India has a centuries-old tradition of craftsmanship and vocational excellence. Referring to globally acclaimed Indian products such as Banarasi and Kanchipuram silk, Kalamkari art, metalwork, bronze craftsmanship and Lucknow's famous Chikan embroidery, he said these skills have been passed down through generations and have long contributed to the country's economic and social prosperity.

Northeast Witnessing Golden Era of Development Under Modi: Amit Shah



Itanagar, Nov 21 (Open Frame): Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that a new era of development has dawned across the Northeast, including Arunachal Pradesh, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a gathering at the Police Training Academy in Banderdewa, near Itanagar, after presenting the President's Police Colour to the Arunachal Pradesh Police, the Home Minister added that it is quite amusing when opposition party leaders ask us in Parliament what the Narendra Modi government has done for the Northeast.

He said that whenever the history of the country's development is written, the period after 2014 will be recorded as the golden era of development in the Northeastern region.

Union Minister Shah said that by providing airport and railway connectivity at various locations across the Northeast, the Narendra Modi government has sought to reduce not only the geographical distance between the Northeast and New Delhi but also the emotional distance between them. He said that the development of the Northeastern region, which is larger in geographical area than Uttar Pradesh and shares borders with several countries, is the responsibility of the entire nation. He emphasised that this is the firm belief of the Union government.

The Home Minister said that during the ten years from 2004 to 2014, the Congress-led UPA government spent Rs 33,530 crore on the Northeastern region, whereas the Narendra Modi-led NDA government undertook development works worth Rs 1,49,646 crore in the region between 2014 and 2026, representing an increase of more than four times. He said that an 18-fold increase in the Devolution Fund and a 1.5-fold increase in Grant-in-Aid demonstrate that the Modi government views the development of the North-East not merely as a slogan but as a reality.

He added that substantial work has been undertaken in the region through budgetary allocations.

He said that Arunachal Pradesh is situated in a region of immense strategic importance and its security, peace, prosperity and development are of great significance for the entire country.

NEET-UG Paper Leak: 14 Accused Plead Not Guilty

New Delhi, Nov 21 (Open Frame): A specially designated Fast Track Court at the Rouse Avenue Courts Complex in Delhi on Saturday framed charges against all 14 accused in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) (NEET-UG) 2026 question paper leak case, with all of them pleading not guilty and expressing their willingness to face trial.

The accused appeared before the Fast Track Court, constituted to deal with offences under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, denied the charges framed against them and opted to contest the case on merits.

The court directed that the day-to-day trial proceedings against the accused will commence from November 25.

The accused against whom charges have been framed include Yash Yadav, Mangilal Biwal, Dinesh Biwal, Vikas Biwal, Shubham Khairnar, Dhananjay Lokhande, Prahlad Vithalrao Kulkarni, Tejas Harshad Kumar, Manoj Shirure, Shivraj Raghunath Motegaonkar, Manisha Waghmare, Manisha Mandhare and Manisha Sanjay Hawaldar.

Akhilesh to Complain to ECI Against UP Officials



Lucknow, Nov 21 (Open Frame): Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday claimed that several officials of the Uttar Pradesh bureaucracy have been functioning as "Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) agents" for the last 10 years and that his party will write to the Election Commission of India (ECI) against them.

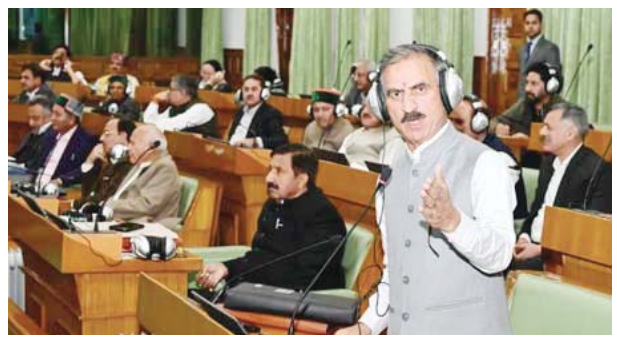
Addressing reporters here, Akhilesh Yadav claimed that the entire police force and some other people are working in the capacity of "BJP office-bearers".

"After consulting with my party colleagues, I will certainly write to the Election Commission. The BJP, while in power, is making its own preparations because they know the public will defeat them this time. In truth, the moment the election dates are announced, the BJP will have effectively lost; the public is simply waiting for those dates," the SP Chief said in reference to the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

Targeting sections of the state bureaucracy, Akhilesh Yadav added, "We will submit a letter to the Election Commission, signed by our MLAs, MLCs, and members of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, detailing how certain officials have been acting as agents of the BJP for the past ten years… We will file a formal complaint with the Election Commission against these officials who are acting as functionaries of the BJP…"

He reiterated his previous allegation that the ECI is working "under pressure" from the BJP. Referring to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's "missing Hindu voters" claim, the SP Chief said: "We have also heard that after the statement about 1.27 crore votes, the Election Commission put pressure on the Chief Minister. He has not repeated that statement since.

Himachal CM Sukhu accuses previous BJP govt of selling assets cheaply



Shimla, Nov 21 (Open Frame): Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched a sharp attack on the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday, accusing its previous government of neglecting the state's interests and handing over valuable public assets to industrialists at throwaway prices.

Dharamsala, Nov 20 (IANS) Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched a sharp attack on the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday, accusing its previous government of neglecting the state's interests and handing over valuable public assets to industrialists at throwaway prices. Replying to a discussion on an adjournment motion in the state Assembly here, which lasted nearly nine and a half hours, Sukhu accused the BJP of misleading the public and alleged that large-scale irregularities had taken place during its tenure. Following the Chief Minister's reply, the Opposition's motion was rejected by a voice vote. The discussion on the adjournment motion had begun.



The Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Chanchal Kumar launches the Book during the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), in Goa.

ECI Allows Form-6 for Left-Out Voters



Gandhinagar, Nov 21 (Open Frame): Voters whose names are missing from the draft electoral rolls published during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) can submit Form-6 to get their names included in the final rolls without facing punitive action for having been registered previously, the Election Commission of India (ECI) clarified on Saturday.

The clarification seeks to address concerns among voters who were already registered but found their names missing from the draft rolls published following the SIR exercise.

Some had expressed apprehension that submitting Form-6 afresh could amount to making a false declaration, as the form states that the applicant's name is being included in the electoral roll for the first time. Such a declaration had raised concerns that previously registered voters could face legal action under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which deals with making false declarations in connection with electoral rolls.

The ECI has clarified that the declaration in Form-6 has been in force since August 1, 2022, and that any voter whose name does not appear in the draft electoral roll can submit the form, following the prescribed procedure, to seek inclusion in the final electoral roll. It further stated that voters whose names are missing from the draft rolls must submit Form-6 afresh during the SIR exercise or subsequent processes, irrespective of whether they had been registered earlier.

The purpose of the application in such cases is to secure inclusion in the current electoral roll. The Commission has also made it clear that the declaration will not be treated as false merely because an applicant was registered as a voter in the past. The clarification is consistent with a Delhi High Court judgment in Nilotpal Dutta and Others versus Election Commission of India (W.P. (C) No. 14955/2026), delivered on October 14, 2026.

Shared Civilisational Heritage Key To Stronger SCO Cooperation: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat



New Delhi, Nov 21 (Open Frame): Shared cultural heritage serves as a powerful bridge connecting countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and can play a vital role in strengthening mutual understanding, trust and cooperation, Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on the second day of the 'First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum' in New Delhi.

The three-day forum, being hosted by India from November 20 to 22, has brought together ministers, senior officials, scholars, historians and cultural experts from SCO member states and dialogue partner countries to discuss civilisational ties, cultural exchanges and historical linkages. The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who emphasised the importance of cultural dialogue in promoting regional cooperation and understanding.

Addressing the joint sessions on "Civilisational and Cultural Expressions", Shekhawat said that historical connections among nations have long contributed to friendship and cooperation. Referring to the Vedic prayer highlighted by the Prime Minister during the inauguration, he stressed the importance of moving forward together through dialogue and shared understanding. "Our civilisations are not merely legacies of the past but living traditions that continue to guide the present and inspire future generations," he said.

He called for greater cultural exchanges, institutional partnerships and collaborative initiatives to harness the immense value of shared civilisational knowledge. Culture Secretary Vivek Agrawal said the forum provides a unique platform for SCO nations to understand their common heritage and exchange ideas rooted in shared civilisational values. A notable intervention came from Pakistan's Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Musaddiq Masood Malik, who described Delhi's Purana Qila as a symbol of the region's layered history and cultural diversity.

Referring to its association with both Mughal emperor Humayun and Afghan ruler Sher Shah Suri, he said the monument reflected the coexistence of different traditions and identities.

India reiterates support for safe, speedy return of Rohingyas to Myanmar



New Delhi, Nov 21 (Open Frame): India on Friday reiterated its support for the safe, speedy and sustainable return of displaced Rohingya people to Myanmar's Rakhine State, while taking note of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) verdict in the genocide case against Myanmar. Responding to a question during a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal highlighted India's humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh under 'Operation Insaniyat' and its support for development initiatives in the Rakhine State.

The remarks came after the ICJ on Thursday delivered its judgment in the case 'The Gambia vs Myanmar: 11 States intervening', finding Myanmar responsible for committing genocide against the Rohingya community in northern Rakhine State during the 2017 "clearance operations", in violation of its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

"We have taken note of the verdict. India has consistently supported safe, speedy, and sustainable return of the displaced Rohingya people from the Rakhine State. To this end, India had earlier, as you would be aware, supported Rohingya camps in Bangladesh with relief supplies in five tranches, under Operation Insaniyat. We have also supported the Rakhine State Development Programme in Myanmar for this purpose," said Jaiswal.

India launched 'Operation Insaniyat' in 2017 to extend humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh following the influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. On 11 November 2019, The Gambia, on behalf of the 57 members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, filed a case at the ICJ alleging that Myanmar failed to fulfil its obligations to prevent and punish acts of genocide committed against the Rohingya in Rakhine State as required under the Genocide Convention.

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English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Revanth Reddy targets, BJP and BRS, defends Congress Government

CM alleges misuse of central agencies, raises concerns over delimitation, highlights Telangana's development agenda and invites investors to the state.

Hyderabad, Nov 21 (Opne Frame): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP and the BRS, accusing them of pursuing divisive politics and undermining democratic values. He alleged that central investigative agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Income Tax Department were being used as political weapons by the Modi government.

Addressing a gathering, Revanth Reddy said development, as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, meant ensuring progress for every poor person. He alleged that the Modi government had created divisions in society on the basis of religion, language and regional identity. He also accused the Centre of attempting to deprive poor and marginalised sections of their voting rights.

Referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's slogan, "Vote Chor, Gaddi Chor", the Chief Minister said it was gaining widespread support. He asserted that the right to vote had been secured through countless struggles and must be protected at all costs. Recalling revolutionary Che Guevara, he said people across the world had the right to raise their voices whenever democratic rights were threatened.

Revanth Reddy claimed that the fear created by the Modi government over 12 years had been challenged by the youth within 12 days. He alleged that the BJP was more concerned about retaining power than addressing people's problems and criticised Modi over his foreign visits.



Responding to questions about his political meetings, Revanth Reddy said he was willing to meet anyone in the interest of Telangana's development, including former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). Referring to Modi's surprise visit to Pakistan, he questioned the criticism over his willingness to meet political leaders. He said the state government had organised the Khelo India event with the participation of 8,000 athletes and had invited the Prime Minister. He added that he had also invited Modi to the Telangana Global Summit scheduled for December 7, 8 and 9, leaving the decision to attend entirely to the Prime Minister.

The Chief Minister said he had begun his political journey with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and had never concealed that fact. However, he joined the Congress because he believed the country needed Rahul Gandhi's leadership.

Taking aim at the BJP's political presence in Telangana, he referred to its performance in the Jubilee Hills by-election and said the party had failed to retain its deposit. He challenged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to contest from the Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency against AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi. Revanth Reddy described KCR as his political rival and criticised BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), alleging that the latter had entered politics by leveraging his father's position. He said he did not attach much importance to KTR's political statements.

Referring to the BRS, he said the party was living in a fool's paradise and claimed that the Congress had demonstrated its strength by hoisting its party flag in Siddipet. He described KCR as Ravanasura in his political narrative and alleged that the BRS chief had introduced the practice of political defections, which had subsequently affected his own party. He said opposition parties were essential in a democracy and that numbers played an important role in legislative politics. Recalling the fall of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government by a single vote, he stressed the importance of maintaining adequate strength in the legislature. Highlighting his government's achievements, Revanth Reddy said nearly 65 per cent of the promised programmes had been implemented within three years and the remaining initiatives would be completed over the next two years.

He said the government had adopted the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, with an ambitious target of contributing 10 per cent to India's GDP. He invited investors from across the country and abroad to explore opportunities in Telangana and participate in the state's development journey.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the contributions of successive Congress governments, recalling Nehru's emphasis on education and irrigation, the introduction of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and the economic liberalisation initiatives introduced by former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and continued by Dr. Manmohan Singh.

MLA Takes Initiative to Trace Missing Children

- Sudheer Reddy consoles and reassures the parents
- Urges Nagole Police to ensure the safe return of the children

Hyderabad, Nov 21 (Open Frame): LB Nagar MLA Devireddy Sudheer Reddy visited the parents of two missing children in Sairam Nagar Colony, under the Nagole Division, and consoled them over their distress. He urged the police department to take immediate steps to trace the children and ensure their safe return to their parents.



Varun Tej (8) and Mahesh (6), sons of Ravi and Shireesha, residents of Sairam Nagar Colony, went missing after leaving their home on October 31 and have not returned since. Concerned over their disappearance, the parents lodged a complaint at Nagole Police Station. After learning about the incident, MLA Sudheer Reddy visited the children's residence and met their parents. He consoled them, offered words of encouragement, and assured them that he would extend all possible support to help trace the children.

Later, he spoke with Nagole Police Station Inspector Maqbool Jani and advised him to conduct an investigation from all possible angles to trace the missing children at the earliest. He urged the police to give special attention to ensuring that the children are safely reunited with their parents. The MLA further appealed to the police to take prompt action to provide relief to the distressed parents, who have been anxiously waiting for their children. P.M.R. Raju, Seetharamulu and others participated in the programme.

Telangana Aims to Become Global Healthcare and Medical Tourism Hub: Damodara Raja Narasimha

Hyderabad, Nov 21 (Open Frame): Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha stated that the government's goal is to transform Telangana into a global model in the healthcare sector. He called upon doctors—both in the public and private sectors—and hospital managements to partner in achieving this vision. He expressed his aspiration to further expand Hyderabad's existing medical capabilities and develop the city into a global hub for medical tourism.



The Minister participated in a meeting of the 'Global Summit Healthcare Executive Council' held at the State Secretariat on Thursday. During the meeting, discussions were held on the evolving landscape of the public and private healthcare sectors, the expansion of medical services in Telangana, the development of medical tourism, and the enhancement of medical education and professional skills.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister noted that Telangana possesses world-class medical professionals and state-of-the-art healthcare facilities across both public and private sectors. He emphasized the need to coordinate these resources to earn the state global recognition. He urged representatives from the healthcare sector to actively participate in and contribute to the success of the upcoming Global Summit, which is aimed at the development of Telangana.

The Minister further revealed that, alongside the private sector, special arrangements are being made within government hospitals to facilitate medical tourism services. It was announced that International Medical Tourism wards are being established at the Dr. Marri Chenna Reddy TIMS (Sanathnagar), NIMS, TIMS (Alwal), and TIMS (Kothapet). By effectively leveraging the superior medical expertise and infrastructure available in both government and private hospitals, high-quality medical services can be provided to international patients as well. It was suggested that the public and private sectors should work in coordination to achieve this. Doctors participating in the meeting requested the Minister to establish a dedicated department within the Health Ministry to foster the development of medical tourism; the Minister responded positively to this proposal. It was noted that there is a need to implement a unified system to provide the necessary services, coordination, and other facilities for international patients.

Doctors from private hospitals expressed their commitment to supporting the strengthening of public healthcare services. Dr. Gurava Reddy, Managing Director of KIMS-Sunshine, along with other physicians, stated that they are prepared to provide free training to newly recruited government doctors in specialized fields such as joint replacement, neurosurgery, and cardiothoracic surgery. They also expressed their willingness to serve as honorary professors at government medical colleges. Responding to this, the Minister stated that the government's primary objective is to provide top-tier medical services to the poor and middle-class patients who visit government hospitals. He added that the expertise and skills of experienced doctors from the private sector would certainly be utilized toward this end. He noted that fostering mutual cooperation between public and private healthcare institutions would further enhance the quality of medical services.

Telangana CS Sanjay Jaju Directs Departments to Complete Godavari Pushkaralu Works on Time

Hyderabad, Nov 21 (Open Frame): Chief Secretary to the Government, Sanjay Jaju, has directed all relevant departments to ensure that all engineering and infrastructure works related to the prestigious Godavari Pushkaralu are completed within the stipulated deadlines. Noting that a massive influx of devotees is expected during the event, he advised that proactive arrangements be made accordingly.



The Chief Secretary held a review meeting today with officials from all concerned departments regarding the preparations and readiness for the Godavari Pushkaralu. During the meeting, officials presented a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation detailing the arrangements and the action plan being implemented for the event.

Officials informed the Chief Secretary that approximately 80 million (8 crore) devotees are expected to visit the Godavari River for the Pushkaralu, which will take place from June 26 to July 7, 2027. They stated that, in anticipation of this large turnout, comprehensive arrangements are being made to ensure the event proceeds smoothly and without any difficulties. They emphasized that special focus is being placed on developing necessary infrastructure, providing essential amenities for devotees, and ensuring effective coordination among all departments. A total of 67 locations have been identified for conducting the Pushkaralu-related activities and providing facilities for the devotees. These locations have been categorized into three groups based on the expected number of visitors and their significance.

Safran Aircraft Engines Eyes Rs 4,000 Crore Investment in Telangana, MoU Likely at Global Summit

Hyderabad, Nov 21 (Open Frame): The Telangana government has taken another significant step toward transforming Hyderabad into an international aerospace manufacturing hub. Safran Aircraft Engines, a world-renowned French manufacturer of aircraft engines, has expressed interest in investing approximately 4,000 crore in Telangana. If this major investment proposal materializes, it will provide a substantial boost to the state's aerospace and aircraft component manufacturing sectors. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding this investment is likely to be signed during the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit,' scheduled for December 2026.



As part of his visit to France, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka toured the Safran Aircraft Engines manufacturing facility in Évry-Courcouronnes, near Paris, on Saturday. During the visit, he met with senior executives of the company to discuss investment opportunities in Telangana, the expansion of existing operations, and the establishment of new manufacturing units. The entry of a global-scale company like Safran—which supplies engines to international aircraft manufacturers such as Boeing and Airbus—marks a pivotal development for the state's industrial progress.

It was noted that Safran already maintains a significant operational presence in Hyderabad. It was explained that Telangana's key strengths include a skilled workforce tailored for world-class aerospace industries, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and government policies that facilitate rapid approval for investments. The meeting with Safran representatives was highly productive, and an invitation was extended for a delegation from the company to attend the 'Invest Telangana' summit scheduled for December.

In Hyderabad, Safran has already established a manufacturing center for rotating parts used in LEAP aircraft engines, a Safran Electrical & Power production unit, and a LEAP MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) facility—one of the largest of its kind globally. Given this foundation, the company is now interested in further expanding its manufacturing operations within the state. Safran representatives briefed the Deputy Chief Minister on the company's international operations, as well as its processes for the design, manufacturing, and maintenance of engines for both civil and military aircraft. Subsequently, Bhatti Vikramarka visited the manufacturing unit, where he observed the production and assembly processes of aircraft engine components. He witnessed firsthand how the company utilizes cutting-edge technology to manufacture components with extreme precision.

Telangana SI exam 2026 on November 29

Hyderabad, Nov 21 (Open Frame): The Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board (TSLPRB) is going to conduct the preliminary written examination for 275 vacancies of Sub-Inspector (Civil) and equivalent posts on November 29. For the examination, a total of 1,60,712 candidates are expected to appear. The test will be held at 335 examination centres across Telangana from 10 am to 1 pm.

Candidates can download their hall tickets from the official TSLPRB website between 8 am on November 22 and midnight on November 28. The board has instructed candidates to take a printout of the hall ticket on A4-size paper. They must also paste the same passport-size photograph that they uploaded while submitting their application.

Entry into the examination centres will begin one hour before the test. Candidates must reach their centres on time. Mobile phones, smartwatches, Bluetooth devices, electronic gadgets, books, notes and handbags will not be allowed inside examination centres. Candidates are allowed to carry only a printed hall ticket and a blue or black ballpoint pen. At the centre, fingerprint scanning, verification of photograph and signature, and Aadhaar-based facial authentication will be conducted.

Hyderabad to get additional 40 MGD of Godavari water

Hyderabad, Nov 21 (Open Frame): Hyderabad is set to get an alternative source of drinking water as the HMWSSB nears completion of a pipeline project to bring Godavari water from Mallannasagar to the Ghanpur reservoir. The work is expected to be completed in a couple of days.

The 1600 mm diameter Mission Bhagiratha-Jalmandali pipeline connection work is being undertaken from Mallannasagar to Ghanpur Master Balancing Reservoir (MBR).

Water Board Managing Director Ashok Reddy, along with Mission Bhagiratha Engineer-in-Chief Kripakar Reddy, inspected the pipeline connection works on Friday, November 20.

The initial target was to complete the pipeline construction and connection work by November 15. However, the removal of heavy rock layers on the 150-metre pipeline route passing through the forest area delayed the work, HMWSSB stated in a release.

Officials said that they are currently continuing the remaining work at a fast pace and are making arrangements to complete it by November 21.

The pipeline junction work undertaken by the Water Board in the Ghanpur MBR premises has already been completed and is ready to use.

Climate agenda makes West increasingly reliant on China

Khaled Abou Zahr

China and the US last week reached an agreement to alleviate some restrictions on rare earth element exports. Under the plan, China will issue six-month export licenses for key rare earth minerals and magnets, which had been heavily restricted since April. This ban, during a period of trade turbulence, caused global shortages and disrupted many sectors, particularly renewable energy, including electric vehicles, as well as defense at a time of resurging geopolitical and military threats. This agreement will help stabilize supply chains, but it is not a "happily ever after" ending. The trade tensions are still present. To regain access to rare earth elements, the US agreed to ease certain tech-related export controls and visa restrictions on Chinese researchers.

It comes as no surprise that, during the last round of trade tensions, semiconductors and rare earth elements were at the core, as they are both — in different ways — essential to the development of the economy of the future. For now, this deal excludes military-grade materials, which shows China's leverage capacity. China accounts for 70 percent of the world's rare-earth mining and more than 90 percent of the processing, so despite efforts to replace it or find alternative sources, this pressure will continue to weigh on Western economies. The situation regarding rare earth elements could be blamed on tariff tensions, yet — just like semiconductors — they are becoming a key asset that any country would look to secure for itself. These tensions have highlighted the vital role rare earth elements play in the renewable sector, raising questions about the sustainability of supply in a time of intensifying geopolitical competition.

In short, if Western economies fully transition to a climate-friendly structure, they will become dependent on China. Any supply disruption could severely damage these economies or even halt key sectors — especially in areas like EVs. There are plans to replace China's supply with sources from allied countries such as Australia. But these still need to be executed, which will take at least a decade, according to several experts in media reports. One might also want to add another decade to account for the likely real-world and geopolitical delays. Moreover, it is not just about mining, as processing facilities must also be built. It is now clear that constructing alternative infrastructure will require even more time, investment and, as with anything in the Western hemisphere, environmental approvals.



"Logically, China has argued that export controls on rare earth elements are necessary to prevent Chinese-made goods from being used for military purposes that threaten its interests. And evidently, Beijing would prefer these elements to be used in the climate economy rather than in weapons systems. Yet, setting aside rising geopolitical threats, how can Europe and the US fully transition to a climate-friendly economy if that means total dependence? What if China's growing economy pushes Beijing to decide it needs to reserve this supply for its own growth? What would Europe and the US do then?"

Basically, rare earth element processing has significant environmental impacts, including toxic and radioactive waste, water and air pollution, high energy use and land degradation. And so, to power the climate-friendly economy, more pollution seems to be the path forward. Innovation offers another potential route to building an independent supply chain, but it is still in its early stages. The same applies to recycling. We can already imagine the debates around this endeavor and, realistically, it may not be achieved by 2040, perhaps not even by 2050. This state of affairs brings to mind a statement made in 2023 by Greg Hayes, then-CEO of Raytheon, who said the company had "several thousand suppliers in China and decoupling … is impossible." This comment, coming from a leader in the defense industry, reveals the depth of Western dependency on China and should be taken seriously. It has also been stated that the entire renewable energy sector is completely dependent on China. Thus, between the climate economy and defense, China has effectively cornered the whole Western hemisphere.

Logically, China has argued that export controls on rare earth elements are necessary to prevent Chinese-made goods from being used for military purposes that threaten its interests. And evidently, Beijing would prefer these elements to be used in the climate economy rather than in weapons systems. Yet, setting aside rising geopolitical threats, how can Europe and the US fully transition to a climate-friendly economy if that means total dependence? What if China's growing economy pushes Beijing to decide it needs to reserve this supply for its own growth? What would Europe and the US do then?

In this potential scenario, how would the West ensure high-efficiency performance in wind turbines, EVs, solar panels and energy storage systems without China? A quick search reveals that elements like neodymium, praseodymium and dysprosium are essential for powerful magnets used in EV motors and wind turbines, while lanthanum and cerium support battery and fuel cell technologies. It does not stop there but rather extends to the entire climate-friendly infrastructure. Indeed, rare earth elements also improve energy-efficient lighting, smart grid electronics and hydrogen systems. Their unique properties make them indispensable for scaling up the clean energy transition.

To be corny, there is a silver lining to this entanglement. It is that, in all logic, each party should seek continued collaboration and avoid escalating tensions. For now, there is no doubt that, in these segments, China has the upper hand, but the West has other sectors it can use as a bargaining chip. Nevertheless, while the West rebalances its supply chain — or at least begins to debate it — it may feel reverse pressure that forces diplomatic concessions in unrelated areas.

It is interesting that, in pursuit of climate ideology, the West has tied its future to China, while in pursuit of financial performance, the defense industry has done the same. Without much questioning, the West has allowed China to become the kingmaker in both sectors, perhaps forgetting their true original missions.

Turning ocean preservation into an economic windfall

Bertrand Piccard

In 1960, my father, Jacques Piccard, reached the bottom of the Mariana Trench, almost 11,000 meters (36,000 feet) below sea level. The mission was not to make headlines, but to disprove a dangerous misconception. Some experts had claimed that no life could survive in the crushing darkness of the ocean's depths, and that assumption had led to proposals to use the deep sea as a dumping ground for nuclear waste. But my father and his team encountered living fish — a discovery that prevented a potentially catastrophic mistake.

My father's mission underscores what exploration has always meant to my family. It is not about conquest and domination, but rather curiosity and understanding. Studying nature expands not only the frontiers of our knowledge, but also the scope of our responsibility as planetary stewards.

Today, the ocean is under greater threat than ever. Despite decades of warnings, mankind continues to treat the ocean as an inexhaustible resource and a bottomless dumping ground. We are suffocating it with plastic, heating it with emissions, poisoning it with chemicals, and depleting it by overfishing. But the biggest danger is subtler: As was true in 1960, there is a glaring gap between what we know and what we are doing.

While we speak of binding treaties and ambitious targets, our actions remain fragmented and insufficient. Even as the ocean's degradation accelerates, governments often take refuge behind the complexity of global consensus-building, using it as an excuse for inaction. As a result, fishing vessels engaged in illegal practices, such as destructive bottom trawling in marine protected areas, are still permitted to sell their catch freely in ports and markets. Although regulations exist, enforcement is weak, sporadic, or simply absent. But we cannot afford to wait for the perfect implementation of perfect treaties. Nor should we use others' failure to address the problem as an excuse for our own inaction. After all, we already know the solutions, and we have the tools to pursue them. What is missing is the will.

At the Solar Impulse Foundation, we have identified more than 1,800 clean and profitable strategies and tools that reconcile economic growth with environmental preservation. Many focus on strengthening regenerative and sustainable practices in the blue economy — from technologies that track illegal fishing and monitor vessel movements from space, to innovations in low-carbon shipping, plastic waste prevention, and regenerative aquaculture.



Our recent Ocean Opportunity Guide, mapping ocean-focused innovation, shows just how broad and mature these solutions are. From bio-enhancing concrete that supports marine life to seaweed-based alternatives to single-use plastic and traceability platforms that eliminate greenwashing in seafood value chains, these are not theoretical models; they are real tools already being deployed around the world. Behind them stands a growing ecosystem of entrepreneurs, scientists, and engineers.

Equally, new financial mechanisms are emerging to bridge the gap between innovation and scale. Blended finance structures, results-based payments, and de-risking vehicles are beginning to unlock capital for nature-based solutions and sustainable aquaculture, particularly in vulnerable coastal economies. These developments show that diverse stakeholders, when aligned, can build an innovation ecosystem capable of solving one of the world's most complex challenges.

The solutions we highlight are tested, scalable, and economically sound. They do more than protect ecosystems; they also create jobs, stimulate new markets, and reduce long-term operational risk. Clean innovation in the ocean economy is already generating competitive advantages for forward-looking companies and countries. Financial instruments that de-risk nature-based investments are helping to stabilize coastal economies and expand access to new forms of capital. And circular-economy solutions like seaweed-based packaging and marine-life-friendly infrastructure are not only reducing environmental harm, but also lowering material costs and strengthening supply-chain transparency.

In short, ocean preservation is becoming an engine of industrial renewal and geopolitical resilience.

As an economic development strategy, it is both future-proof and inclusive, and it appeals to investors, entrepreneurs, and policymakers alike. But to unlock this potential, we must change the narrative. Sustainability is not about sacrifice; it is about modernization, innovation, and efficiency.

Far from an environmental constraint, ocean preservation is a catalyst for a more dynamic, resilient global economy. As such, it should be recognized as the new frontier of exploration. Our task is to discover not uncharted depths, but better systems. Like the entrepreneurs featured in the Ocean Opportunity Guide, we should all be questioning what we have built and considering how it could be improved. The spirit of exploration must guide us toward regeneration, not exploitation. It must inspire us to stop waiting for others, and to start demonstrating the leadership that this moment demands.

OPEN FRAME
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Vijay, join Anirudh and Kavya Maran at Chennai wedding reception



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay, DMK president M.K. Stalin and actor Rajinikanth were among the guests at the wedding reception of music composer Anirudh Ravichander and Kavya Maran in Chennai on Saturday. The reception came 10 days after the couple married in Greece on November 11.

Kavya is the daughter of Sun TV Group chairman Kalanithi Maran. Members of the Maran family attended the wedding in Greece, where Rajinikanth, Stalin and Dayanidhi Maran were among those who congratulated the newlyweds. Both Rajinikanth and Stalin joined the family again for the Chennai celebration.

Saturday's reception drew guests from across Tamil Nadu's political parties. Along with Vijay and Stalin, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin attended. Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani was also among the guests.

Actor and Makkal Needhi Maiam president Kamal Haasan joined the gathering, which brought together several of Tamil cinema's best-known figures. Rajinikanth's daughter Soundarya Rajinikanth, a filmmaker, attended the Chennai reception, as did actors Radhika Sarathkumar and Prabhu. The DMK delegation included the party's general secretary, Duraimurugan, and MPs Kanimozhi and A. Raja. Former state ministers K.N. Nehru, M.R.K. Panneerselvam, K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran and Thangam Thennarasu were also present. Former CPI(M) Tamil Nadu secretary K. Balakrishnan was among the other political leaders at the function. The guest list also reflected Kavya's association with Sunrisers Hyderabad. Indian fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar and New Zealand batter Kane Williamson, both former Sunrisers players, attended the reception. Sri Lankan spin great Muttiah Muralitharan, who has worked with the franchise as a bowling coach, also joined the celebrations. Producer Kalaipuli S. Thanu and director Dharani were among the other guests from the Tamil film industry who came to greet the couple. Their presence, alongside actors, filmmakers and members of the Sunrisers cricketing circle, brought together colleagues and acquaintances from different parts of the couple's professional lives.

While the wedding ceremony took place in Greece in the presence of relatives and prominent guests, Saturday's gathering allowed a wider circle of political leaders, film personalities and cricketers to congratulate the newlyweds in Chennai. Photographs from the reception, including images of the couple and guests at the celebration, circulated widely on social media on Saturday.

Prabhas: Proud to see 'Bhakta Kannappa' celebrated at IFFI



Pointing out that years may pass but some stories remain timeless, one of India's top stars Prabhas on Saturday expressed delight that the Telugu cult classic 'Bhakta Kannappa', featuring his uncle Krishnam Raju in the lead, was being celebrated at the prestigious 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Taking to his Instagram post to pen his thoughts about the classic film, which was directed by Bapu and produced by Krishnam Raju and Uppalapati Suryanarayana Raju, being screened at the IFFI, the actor wrote, "A film I grew up watching, starring Pedhananna garu (uncle as in dad's elder brother), produced by @gopikrishnamvs, and brought to life by Bapu sir. Years may pass, but some stories remain timeless. Proud to see Bhakta Kannappa celebrated at IFFI. A beautiful legacy and a true honour!"

The film is being screened as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Indian Films at the 57th International Film Festival of India. The screening is to commemorate the completion of 50 glorious years of the classic. Meanwhile, on the work front, Prabhas has a number of major projects lined up including director Hanu Raghavapudi's eagerly awaited action entertainer 'Fauzi'. It may be recalled that on the actor's birthday this year, the makers of the film had released a gripping teaser of the film and announced that the film would hit screens worldwide on March 19 next year. For the unaware, the film was earlier scheduled to hit screens on December 3 this year.

The teaser showed Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose meeting Adolf Hitler in Berlin at the height of the second world war. During their meeting, Bose is seen asking help from Germany to defeat Britain, a common enemy. Hitler refuses help saying Britain has ruled India for two centuries and that "Slavery runs in your Indian blood". He says he won't back a losing battle. Subhas Chandra Bose sharply retorts telling Hitler in no uncertain terms that he knows nothing about Indians. He says he will free India from British rule, with or without Germany's help. He then goes on to make a point about the intelligence of Indians.

To put across his point, he cites the case of Fauzi (played by Prabhas), an Indian spy who was singularly responsible for the Japanese taking Singapore from Britain. Calling Fauzi a soldier, a strategist and a spy, Bose points out that while Britain knows all about German spies, they know nothing about him.

Bose also goes on to inform Hitler that Fauzi created an unbreakable code based on the Bhagavad Gita and that even the British had admitted that this code was far more difficult to break than the 'Enigma' created by the Germans. When Hitler wants to know the name of the spy, Bose tells him that nobody knows the name he was given at birth and that the British call him Fauzi.

'Fauzi' marks Prabhas's return to a grand period drama epic after 'Baahubali', promising an emotional and visually breathtaking cinematic experience.

The film, which is set in the 1940s and which was tentatively being referred to as #PrabhasHanu before being titled 'Fauzi', will be a fictional historical and will feature actress Imanvi as the female lead.

Apart from Prabhas and Imanvi, the film also will feature veteran actors Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty, Bhanu Chander and Jayapradha in pivotal roles.

Allu Arjun calls daughter Arha the joy of his life

One of India's top stars Allu Arjun on Saturday penned an adorable birthday wish to his daughter Arha, in which he called her the joy of his life. Taking to his X timeline to post a cute picture of him with his daughter, the Telugu star wrote, "Happy birthday to the Joy of My Life #AlluArha." The makers of Arha's debut film as an actor, 'Shakuntalam', too wished the little star a very happy birthday on Saturday. Guna Handmade Films took to its X timeline to post a birthday wish for Arha. It wrote, "Wishing our little star Allu Arha a very Happy Birthday! May your days always be filled with endless smiles, happiness, and magical moments. #HappyBirthdayAlluArha #AlluArha #gunaateamworks #GunaHandmadeFilms #shaakuntalam." Meanwhile, Allu Arjun has a number of big projects lined up including his magnum opus 'Raaka', which is being directed by Tamil director Atlee. The film had, only a couple of months ago, been in the news for setting a world record for "Most People Motion-Captured in Real-Time".



Ajith Kumar enjoys 'music, love & a long drive' with wife Shalini Ajith Kumar

Actor Ajith Kumar enjoyed a fun drive with his wife, Shalini Ajith Kumar, while the lovebirds grooved to some melodious tunes. On Saturday, Shalini uploaded a video of their quality time on her official Instagram handle. While the 'Valimai' actor was behind the wheel, Shalini accompanied him in the passenger seat.

While Ajith is not on social media, Shalini keeps treating netizens to such rare moments of the 'Thunivu' actor. Last week, she dropped a picture of Ajith sharing a tight hug with her son, Aadvik. Ajith pleasantly surprised his son by picking him up from school. Posting the photo of the father and son duo on her official Instagram handle, Shalini wrote, "Surprise school pick up !!! (heart symbols)." Talking about Ajith's professional commitments, he is currently busy with director Adhik Ravichandran's next titled 'Dare Devil'.

Backed by Shalini under the banner of Brave Hearts Production, the project went on the floor on November 2 this year.

A day before his birthday, the young director, who is known to be a fan of Ajith, expressed his excitement in a post that read, "My Sir's Advance Birthday Gift to me.



Yes, we are rolling the dice from November 2. #AK sir's #DareDevil. #Shalini mam @Braveheartsprod @aniruddhofficial sir @SureshChandraa sir @AbinandhanR @editorvijay @supremesundar #Subbhunaarayan @itsanuvardhan @kayoas13 @valentino_suren @AMBANINSK."

Shifting our focus to the technical crew of the drama, the much-anticipated film will have music scored by renowned composer Anirudh Ravichander. The camera work for the movie is being handled by Adhik Ravichandran's trusted cameraman Abhinandan Ramanujam. It must be noted that he had also been the Director of Photography for the director's earlier film with Ajith, 'Good Bad Ugly'.

Vijay Velukutty, who had also served as the editor in Adhik Ravichandran's 'Good Bad Ugly', is the head of the editing department

Hanu-Man makers announce sequel, who will lead the part 2?



The makers of the blockbuster film 'Hanu-Man' on Saturday announced 'Hanuman 2– The Rise of Vanaras', the next chapter from the immensely popular Hanu-Man universe, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. Production house Primeshow Entertainment officially announced its next ambitious venture, 'Hanuman 2 – The Rise Of Vanaras', and said that talented young actor Panja Vaisshnav Tej would play the lead in the film. Presented as a grand fantasy entertainer, the film, the makers said, would look to open the doors to a fascinating new world rooted in mythology, imagination and extraordinary cinematic possibilities. The film is to be directed by VI Anand, whose distinctive approach to fantasy and imaginative storytelling is expected to add a fascinating dimension to the film.

Taking to its X timeline to make the announcement, Primeshow Entertainment said, "What began with a dream continues with an even bigger vision. Proud to take the legacy of #Hanu-Man forward with our next ambitious venture. Presenting #HanuMan2 – THE RISE OF VANARAS. Looking forward to this exciting collaboration with #PanjaVaisshnavTej and the visionary @Dir_Vi_Anand as we set out to create something truly spectacular. More updates soon @Niran_Reddy @Chaitanyaniran @Primeshowtweets." The announcement poster that the makers released on the occasion offered a striking glimpse into the mystical universe, featuring a powerful visual of a man ascending through the clouds, surrounded by a gigantic celestial tail and an ethereal divine presence. The visual established the film's grand fantasy setting even as it set expectations about the film soaring.

Producers K Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy are producing this film under the banner of Primeshow Entertainment. Having delivered the blockbuster 'Hanu-Man', the producers are currently bankrolling 'SYG' with Mega Supreme Hero Sai Durgha Tej, and 'BRB' with Kichcha Sudeep.

Sources say that this new film will be yet another ambitious cinematic venture from the producers who are credited with being intent on creating a spectacular theatrical experience for audiences. The announcement has generated considerable excitement among movie enthusiasts, particularly following the success of 'Hanu-Man', which emerged as a major box-office hit and received appreciation for its visual effects, storytelling and portrayal of Indian mythology. The new film is expected to expand the franchise with a fresh narrative, introducing audiences to a larger mythological universe while retaining the fantasy elements that made the original film popular.

Shivathmika Rajasekhar pens note of gratitude after her performance in ENE Repeat draws praise from audiences

Actress Shivathmika Rajasekhar, who plays the character of Keerthana in director Tharun Bhascker Dhaassyam's film 'Ee Nagaraniki Emaindi Repeat (ENE Repeat)', on Saturday penned a note of gratitude for the appreciation she was receiving for her performance in the film. Taking to her Instagram page, the actress, who was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love she was receiving from audiences, wrote, "Every message, every tag and every time you guys say Keerthana felt like your own... my heart skips a beat and my face lights up with the brightest smile. Telugu cinema is my home, to be accepted and loved here is something I have always dreamt of. Thank you all, each and every one of you for showing me so much love…" She went on to say, "I'm truly running out of words! Though saying I'm grateful doesn't sound enough for all the overflowing love and gratitude in my heart… for today, I shall settle with saying I'm incredibly grateful. Thank you so much!"

The actress said, "#ENERepeat is all about love for me and it is that way because of every single sweetheart on our team. With a heart full of immense joy, with the biggest virtual hug for my team and our audience and the widest brightest smile on my face I shall sign off as Keerthana." For the unaware, the film, which has been directed by Tharun Bhascker Dhaassyam, features actors Vishwak Sen, Abhiinav Gomatam, Srinath Maganti, Venkatesh Kakumanu, Anisha Ambrose, Karunakumar, Priyadarshini Ram and Mahesh Bhascker apart from Shivathmika Rajasekhar.

ENE Repeat, which hit screens on November 21, had an excellent technical team that worked on it. Music for the film was scored by Vivek Sagar while the film's visuals were crafted by cinematographer AJ Aaron. Raviteja Girijala handled the editing of the film, which has now taken a good opening. The positive response to Shivathmika's portrayal of Keerthana has added to the film's buzz, with audiences appreciating her screen presence and performance. The actress's heartfelt message also reflected her emotional connection with the Telugu film industry and the entire team behind the project.



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