

IN BRIEF

Two died, two hospitalised due to asphyxiation

Chennai, May 19 (UNI) : Two people died and two others were admitted to hospital due to asphyxiation while cleaning a tank at a dyeing unit in Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu on Monday.

Police sources said the four workers entered into the tank to clean it when they inhaled toxic gas and fell unconscious.

As there was no response them from, locals alerted the police and fire service personnel, who rescued them and admitted to a hospital, where two of them were declared brought dead.

The other two were admitted in the hospital for treatment.

Tiruppur District Collector T. Christuraj and senior police officials visited the spot and ordered a detailed probe into the incident.

First day of AP EAP CET exam went off peacefully: JNTUK VC

Kakinada, May 19 (UNI) : Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Kakinada (JNTUK) vice chancellor and also the chairman of Andhra Pradesh-Engineering, Agriculture & Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (EAP CET-2025) Prof CSRK Prasad said that the first day of the online exam concluded peacefully in all the centers state-wide and also in Hyderabad.

The exams commenced with the vice chancellor along with convenor Prof Subbarao and co-convenors releasing the set code.

For the agriculture and pharmacy stream on the first day morning session, as against 20,461 candidates only 18,724 attended the exam, while 1,737 abstained, registering 91.51 percent attendance. Similarly, for the afternoon session exam as against 20,456 students only 18,931 attended with 1,525 absentees, registering 92.54 percent attendance, according to Prof Subbarao, convenor.

SC outright rejects MP Minister’s apology on Sophiya Qureshi

New Delhi, May 19 (UNI) The Supreme Court on Monday outright rejected the apology by Madhya Pradesh Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah over his controversial comment on Col Sofiya Qureshi and ordered formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the incident.

The SIT comprising senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers has been asked to submit its status report by May 28. Shah, a BJP leader, has been directed to fully cooperate with the investigation.

“We are a country which follows rule of law. It is same for the highest to the lowest,” the court observed.

The court expressed deep disapproval of the Minister’s comment stating that he (Shah) had brought shame to the entire nation.

A bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh was hearing Shah’s plea challenging a Madhya Pradesh High Court order that had directed the registration of a criminal case against him.

The High Court had taken suo motu cognizance of Shah’s alleged remark, Condemning the statement as “crass and shameful,” the apex court remarked “the entire nation is ashamed of you. It is for you to decide how you wish to redeem yourself.”Mr Justice Kant took serious note of Shah’s attempt to tender an apology, dismissing it as insincere and manipulative.

“We don’t need this apology. You’re not in contempt of court that you’re offering it here. You commit a wrong and then try to escape through a hollow apology. Is this your attitude, the court asked. The bench observed that Shah’s statement had deeply hurt public sentiment and that his so-called apology appeared crafted only to avoid legal consequences.

“Sometimes people give artificial apologies just to escape. Some even shed crocodile tears. Which category do you fall in ?” the court asked.

The court further observed that Shah, a senior political figure, should have been far more cautious in his speech.

“You’re a public figure. Your words carry weight. From the video, it appears you were on the verge of using abusive language but stopped mid-sentence perhaps out of self-restraint or simply because you couldn’t find the right insult.”Rejecting the Minister’s claim of genuine regret, the court said, “If you call this genuine regret, we outright reject it. You’ve said, ‘If I’ve hurt anyone, then I apologize’ this kind of conditional apology is unacceptable. You don’t even acknowledge the harm caused.”

Clarifying that the high court had not passed a conviction but merely directed the registration of an FIR, the Supreme Court concluded, “We are a country governed by the rule of law. The same standards apply to all.”



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a meeting with strategic experts at Hague, Netherlands.

ISRO forms committee to analyse rare PSLV-C61/EOS-09 mission failure

Chennai, May 19 (UNI) : The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has formed a committee to analyse the failure of yesterday’s PSLV-C61/EOS-09 mission and recommend measures. The Failure Analysis Committee would go into the reasons for the glitch that appeared during the third stage (with solid propellants) of the four-stage workhorse launch vehicle, resulting in deviation in trajectory and the mission could not be accomplished.

According to ISRO Chairman V.Narayanan, the committee would study the causes that led to the glitch in the third stage and recommend measures to be incorporated in the future missions to prevent failures.

ISRO said “on 18th May 2025, 101st launch was attempted, PSLV-C61 performance was normal till 2nd stage. Due to an observation in 3rd stage, the mission could not be accomplished”.

The technical glitch appeared about eight minutes after the PSLV-C61, carrying the earth observation satellite EOS-09 that has the capability to take high resolution images on all weather conditions day and night, besides boosting surveillance in border areas of India in the wake of tensions in Indo-Pak ties following Operation Sindoor, took off from the First Launch Pad after a smooth 22-hr countdown.

About 17 minutes after lift off, the workhorse rocket of ISRO was to inject the satellite into a Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO). However the mission could not be accomplished.

“Today from Sriharikota the PSLV-C61/EOS-09 mission was targeted. the PSLV is a four stage vehicle and the second stage performance was quite normal. The third stage motor started perfectly but during the functioning of the third stage we are seeing an observation and the mission could not be accomplished. After analysis we shall come back,” Dr Narayanan said.said.It is a rare PSLV failure for ISRO for which it has been the most trusted launch vehicle having placed hundreds of satellites in varied orbits, including carrying over 100 satellites in a single mission, besides the prestigious Chandrayaan.

In its 63rd flight, this is the second failure of PSLV in its chequered history after the failure of its first developmental flight more than two decades ago.

SC: Equal pension for all retired HC judges

New Delhi, May 19 (UNI) The Supreme Court has ruled that all retired high court judges are entitled to equal pension and retirement benefits, regardless of whether they served as permanent or additional judges.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai and Justice AG Masih held that making a distinction in post-retirement benefits among judges based on their mode of appointment violates Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to equality. The court stated, “Any discrimination among judges for terminal benefits after retirement is violative of Article 14. All high court judges, including those who retired as additional judges, are entitled to full pension.” It further clarified that no difference can be made based on whether a judge was promoted from the district judiciary or elevated from the bar. The court also extended the benefit of parity to the families of additional judges, ruling that they too are entitled to the same family pension and post-retirement benefits as those granted to the families of permanent judges.

Key directions issued by the court include, retired chief justices of high courts shall receive a full pension amounting to ?15 lakhs per annum. Retired high court judges, including those who served as additional judges, shall be paid ?13.6 lakh per annum as full pension.

All judges, irrespective of how they entered the judiciary by elevation from the bar or promotion from the subordinate judiciary are entitled to the same pension benefits.

Family pension and widow benefits shall also be applicable to the families of retired additional judges.

Senior advocate K Parameshwar assisted the court as amicus curiae in the matter. The detailed judgement is awaited.



CDS visits forward military bases; praises valour and professionalism of Armed Forces

To boost the morale of the Armed Forces, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan on Monday paid a visit to the strategically important Suratgarh Military Station and Naliya Air Force Station. He interacted with the troops emphasizing the importance of operational readiness and resilience in the face of evolving security challenges, a Defence Ministry statement said. He commended the operational preparedness and high morale of the personnel and expressed confidence in their ability to respond effectively to future threats.

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Oppn leader Wadettiwar criticises officials over



Senior Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly, Vijay Wadettiwar, on Monday sharply criticised top state officials for what he described as a serious breach of protocol during Chief Justice of India Bhushan Gavai’s maiden visit to Mumbai after his elevation as the country’s highest judicial authority.

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People in UP suffering due to power crisis: Akhilesh



Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said that the common people are suffering due to the power crisis in the state, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has ruined the system.

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Will O’Rourke makes IPL debut as SRH bowl first



Lucknow Super Giants handed a debut to Will O’Rourke as they take on Sunrisers Hyderabad in Match 61 of IPL 2025 at Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium here on Monday. Sunrisers Hyderabad won the toss and elected to bowl first.

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Role of legislative committees key in effective implementation of govt schemes: CM Fadnavis



Mumbai, May 19 (IANS) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Monday that the legislative committees play a valuable role in the functioning of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council as well as in the effective implementation of various schemes of the government.

He further stated that the legislative committees are an important part of parliamentary democracy. These committees have special powers while working. Legislative committees are a great system to understand the administration and conduct a detailed study of its functioning. The Legislative Committees formed for the year 2024-25 were formally launched on Monday in the presence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. On this occasion, Chairman of the Legislative Council Ram Shinde, Speaker of the Legislative

Assembly Rahul Narvekar, Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council Neelam Gorhe, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Anna Bansode, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Minister of State Ashish Jaiswal, heads of various committees, among others, were present.

CM Fadnavis said that the work of the legislature is not only done in the House but also through committees. Due to time constraints in the House, an issue cannot often be discussed in depth. In such cases, the committees study the issue in depth and give justice to the relevant subject. When the CAG report is presented before the Legislature, the Audit and observations are recorded in it. At that time, information is sought from the secretaries of the concerned departments to check the facts, and then the final report is presented in the House, he added.

Underlining the importance of the Request for Proposals Committee, he said that earlier it was believed that the committee had no work. "However, I myself made the first request for the provision of government accommodation for the police in Nagpur, ownership rights to slum dwellers and increasing the limit of 'non-creamy layer.' Based on the report of this application, the government issued the first Government Resolution (GR), and slum dwellers got ownership rights. The participation of members in the committees enriches the government and the legislature," he noted.

The Legislative Council chairman Ram Shinde said, "The work of the Legislative Committees should be carried out smoothly and properly. The role and contribution of the committees are as important in governance and

administration as the work during the session. Legislative Committees study specific issues in detail and make suggestions and recommendations. These recommendations are presented in the session, and decisions are taken based on them. Therefore, the committees are used effectively in the administration and government decision-making process." He added that 29 committees have been announced this year.

The state Assembly Speaker, Rahul Narvekar, said, "The Legislative Committee provides an opportunity for the people's representatives to do the work of the legislature. They get the opportunity to clearly state their position and give justice to an issue. The committee also has the power to question the government in this regard."

The Legislative Council deputy chairperson Neelam Gorhe said that the committee members should use the powers of the committees in a proper manner, study how they can be used more for the public interest and observe local etiquette during the proceedings of the committee. Each member should understand their responsibility and participate in the proceedings.

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde observed that the legislative committees are a reflection of the spirit of democracy.

Manipur government working for sustainable development of tribal

Imphal, May 19 (UNI): Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam, Krishna Kumar, said on Monday that continuous efforts are being made towards sustainable development of the tribal under Dharti AabaJanjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), an initiative of the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in Jiribam District through the District Administration in three tribal villages namely; Jairolpokpi, Chotobekra, and Bhutangkhali.

Various schemes/programmes under different Ministries have also been taken up by the District Administration and the concerned line Departments so far, such as PMAY, MGNREGS, Kisan Credit Card (KCC), PM KISAN, IGOAPS, IGWPS, IGDPS, ICDS, Jan Dhan Account, Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY), PMSBY, Jal Jeevan Mission, Aadhar Card, Ration Card, Caste Certificate, Domicile Certificate. Gaps have been identified in these villages, and efforts are being taken up to check the saturation level, he added.

The concerned line Departments under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam have started working in coordination to deliver the benefits under various schemes in these villages. Special drive will be carried out in the above villages to create more awareness about different schemes and programmes, also to identify gap, if any, to fill with the help of different line Departments under Dharti AabaJanjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

MP CM chairs meet on Holkar's birth anniversary celebrations

Bhopal, May 19 (UNI) Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday chaired a meeting of the committee formed to organise the 300th birth anniversary celebrations of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar. The meeting, held at the Chief Minister's residence, Samvay Bhawan, was attended by Minister Uday Pratap Singh and other senior officials. Yadav gave necessary directions for the organisation of the celebrations. Notably, the state cabinet meeting will be held at Rajwada in Indore on Tuesday in memory of Devi Ahilyabai, where a presentation on the 'Developed Madhya Pradesh 2047' document will also be made.

ICG helps save over 6.98L Olive Ridley Turtles along Odisha Coastline

New Delhi, May 19 (UNI) : In a major boost to marine conservation, the Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) annual mission 'Operation Olivia' has facilitated the safe nesting of over 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles at the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha during February 2025. Conducted annually between November and May, Operation Olivia plays an important role in safeguarding the nesting grounds of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles particularly at Odisha's Gahirmatha Beach and surrounding coastal areas,

a Defence Ministry statement said.

These beaches attract over eight lakh turtles each year.

This year's record nesting at the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha stands as a testament to the ICG's sustained efforts in safeguarding the endangered species through rigorous patrolling, aerial surveillance, and community engagement.

Since the inception of Operation Olivia, ICG has carried out over 5,387 surface patrol sorties and

1,768 aerial surveillance missions, significantly reducing threats such as illegal fishing and habitat disruption. During this period, 366 boats involved in illegal fishing were detained, reaffirming the ICG's strong enforcement role in protecting marine life.

Apart from surveillance, ICG has actively worked with local fishing communities by promoting the use of Turtle Excluder Devices and partnering with NGOs through formal MoUs to support sustainable fishing practices and conservation education.

Home Ministry unveils e-Zero FIR to nab criminal with unprecedented speed

New Delhi, May 19 (UNI) In a significant step to 'Cyber Secure Bharat', the Home Ministry's Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) on Monday introduced the new e-Zero FIR initiative to nab any criminal with unprecedented speed.

In his post on 'X', Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that launched as a pilot project for Delhi, the new system will automatically convert cyber financial crimes filed at NCRP or 1930 to FIRs, initially above the threshold limit of Rs 10 lakh. The new system, which will drive investigations swiftly cracking down on cybercriminals, will soon be extended to the entire nation. This is a significant step to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Cyber Secure Bharat'. Shah had given instructions for implementation of this initiative in a recent review meeting of Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) keeping in view the difficulties faced

by victims of cyber financial crimes in recovery of the money lost, a Home Ministry statement said.

The National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) and the National Cybercrime Helpline 1930 has enabled easy reporting and prompt actioning on complaints related to cyber financial crimes. The newly introduced process involves integration of I4C's NCRP system, Delhi Police's e-FIR system and National Crime Record Bureau's (NCRB) Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS).

Now complaints related to financial losses above the threshold limit of Rs 10 lakh made to NCRP and 1930 will automatically lead to registration of a Zero FIR with the e-Crime Police Station of Delhi. This will be immediately routed to the territorial Cybercrime Police Stations. Complainants can visit the cybercrime police station within three days and get the Zero FIR converted into a regular FIR.

Delhi Police and Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) have worked together to put in place a process for registration of cases in accordance with the new provisions of Section 173 (1) and 1(ii) of Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

This process of issuing FIRs electronically irrespective of territorial jurisdiction (e-Zero FIR) will initially start in Delhi as a pilot. Subsequently it will be extended to other states and UTs. The e-Crime police station of Delhi has been notified for the registration of e-FIRs and transferring them to jurisdictional police stations in Cybercrime complaints of a specified nature reported on NCRP.

This initiative will improve the conversion of NCRP/1930 complaints into FIRs enabling easy restoration of money lost by victims and facilitate punitive action against cyber criminals. It leverages the provisions of the recently introduced new criminal laws.

No 'nuclear signalling' by Pak in Op Sindoor-FS

New Delhi, May 19 (UNI) The recent military conflict between India and Pakistan after the Pahalgam terrorist attack was "conventional" and there was no 'nuclear signalling' by Islamabad, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told the Parliament Standing Committee here on Monday.

Mr Misri also told the Standing Committee on External Affairs that US had no role in the cessation of the conflict and Pakistan had reached out to India on May 10 afternoon after the precision strikes by Indian Defence forces on Pakistani military installations including the Nur Khan air base.

Mr Misri who gave a detailed briefing to the Standing Committee on Operation Sindoor, said there was no 'third-party mediation, sources said. The Foreign Secretary said the government had made it very clear that neither Mr Trump nor his administration played any significant role.

The plea for a ceasefire came from Pakistan and

India agreed to listen and cease hostilities because targets set under Operation Sindoor had been met when nine terrorist camps including five in POK, were destroyed. Plea for a ceasefire came from Islamabad, specifically from Pakistan's Director-General of Military Operations who reached out to his Indian counterpart, Mr Misri told the Committee. He, however, declined comment if any Indian fighter jet had been shot down by Pak, citing national security constraints.

Modi wishes 'quick and full recovery' of Joe Biden

New Delhi, May 19 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday wished quick and full recovery to former US President Joe Biden who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

PM Modi posted on X and said, "Deeply concerned to hear about Joe Biden's health.

Extend our best wishes to him for a quick and full recovery. Our thoughts are with Dr Jill Biden and the family."

Joe Biden has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer that has spread to his bones.

According to the statement, "he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, characterised by a Gleason score of 9 (Grade Group 5) with metastasis to the bone.

The 82-year-old Biden and his family are currently consulting with doctors to determine the best course of action. "While this represents a more aggressive form of the disease, the cancer appears to be hormone-sensitive which allows for effective management."

After news broke of his diagnosis, the former president received support from both sides of the aisle.

Northern Army Commander reviews security

Srinagar, May 19 (UNI) Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma on Monday reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness of troops deployed in the Kashmir Valley. The visit of Lt Gen Sharma comes days after two successful operations in south Kashmir which led to the killing of six local terror militants - three each from Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

In a post on X, Northern Command of Indian Army said that Lt Gen Sharma reviewed the operational preparedness.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Commander Northern Command, reviewed security & operational readiness in the valley," the post said. He commended the brave troops for demonstrating offensive spirit and unwavering professionalism during successful execution of operations and emphasised

upon dominating in both cognitive and physical domains fuelled by proactive measures.

Lt Gen Sharma's visit underscores the Indian Army's sustained state of high alert and its continued focus on operational preparedness in the wake of Operation Sindoor.

The high-profile military operation, launched in response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 26 tourists, resulted in the targeted destruction of key terror camps across the Line of Control. The campaign later expanded to include strikes on Pakistani military installations, following Islamabad's assault on civilian infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. Lt Gen Sharma's presence in the Kashmir Valley signals the Army's commitment to maintaining strategic dominance and readiness amid evolving security challenges.

Mehbooba urges Omar to reconsider hiring ex-servicemen

Srinagar, May 19 (UNI) PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Monday urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to reconsider the Jammu and Kashmir government's recent decision to employ 4,000 ex-servicemen to guard key installations across the Union Territory.

Mehbooba expressed her deep concern over the rising unemployment crisis warning that overlooking their plight in favour of retired personnel could exacerbate existing socio-economic challenges.

"Wrote to Omar sahab urging him to reconsider his government's decision to employ 4,000 ex-servicemen to guard key installations. While I have utmost respect and gratitude for our ex-servicemen, we mustn't & cannot overlook the mounting crisis of unemployment afflicting youth in J&K whose numbers have now crossed into lakhs," Mehbooba said in a post on X.

"This soaring unemployment is not just an economic issue but a social emergency. With few opportunities amidst utter despondency, many youngsters are falling into the grip of drug addiction and tragically some are even driven to suicide.

We must come to their rescue by being more mindful of their future," she added.

Mehbooba was responding to reports that the Sainik Welfare Board of Jammu and Kashmir had proposed a plan to engage retired military personnel to safeguard vital infrastructure.

The J&K government has reportedly approved the proposal, paving the way for what is being described as a unique collaboration between veterans and civil authorities.

According to these reports, 4,000 ex-servicemen volunteers have been identified under the plan.

Over 35 border villages in UP to be developed for tourism: Jaiveer Singh

Lucknow, May 19 (UNI) In a major step toward putting border villages of Uttar Pradesh on the tourism map, the Department of Tourism will develop 35 villages across seven border districts as designated 'Tourist Villages'. This is aimed at generating employment in rural areas while showcasing the unique

culture, traditions, cuisine, attire and biodiversity of these regions to both domestic and international tourists. Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said that villages in Maharajganj, Siddharth Nagar, Shravasti, Balrampur, Bahraich, Lakhimpur Kheri and Pilibhit have been selected for the project. "Each of

these villages will feature 10 homestay units, offering tourists the opportunity to experience rural life firsthand and immerse themselves in local customs," he said.

He said that among the chosen villages include Bahraich, Lalpur Kusmahwa, Motipur Kala, Katkuiyan, Medhakia and Belhari in Shravasti, Imliya Kodar, Chandanpur,

Narihwa, Pahadapur and Belbhariya in Balrampur, Bankati Chidiya, Purab Majra Himmantnagar, Pipraula, Puraena and Singhia in Lakhimpur Kheri, Badria, Amba Karikot, Fakirpur and Vishunapur in Bahraich, Lalpur Kusmahwa, Motipur Kala, Katkuiyan, Medhakia and Belhari in Shravasti, Naujalha, Nakataha,

Gabhiya Saharai, Dhakiya Ta. Maharajpur and Mataiya Lalpur in Pilibhit, and Bhediari, Ithia, Giriya, Tareni and Chandithan in Maharajganj.

The Minister said that local youth will receive storytelling training to present their village legends, histories and folklore in engaging way to visitors.

Mettur Dam to be opened on June 12 for irrigation : Stalin

Chennai, May 19 (UNI) :Thanks to the sufficient storage level and the inflow expected to go up further due to the advancement of the South West monsoon, the sluice gates of the Mettur Dam would be opened on the traditional date of June 12 for irrigation in the Cauvery delta districts of Tamil Nadu.

This was announced by Chief Minister M K Stalin after holding a meeting with senior officials on the preparedness of the measures taken to tackle the South West monsoon rains and the storage level in the Stanley reservoir on Monday.

This announcement brought smiles on the faces of farmers, who are gearing up for the cultivation of

short-term Kuruvai crop, solely depending on the Cauvery water for irrigation in the delta districts--Trichy, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Mayiladuthurai and Nagapattinam--which was called the rice bowl of Tamil Nadu.

The water from the Mettur dam is the lifeline for the farmers in these districts for irrigation. Mr Stalin said the present storage level in the dam stood at 108.33 ft (70.06 tmc ft) water as against its full capacity of 120 ft. This storage was sufficient enough to open the dam on the traditional date of June 12 for cultivation of the kuruvai crop, according to an official release.

The Chief Minister directed the authorities to

take up desilting works in all the tributaries of the Cauvery river to ensure that the water released from the Mettur dam reached the tail-end areas for irrigation.

He also instructed the field level officials of the Agriculture Department to function in a coordinated manner and ensure timely availability of seeds and fertilisers to the farmers. He also announced that the Kuruvai Special Package for the farmers would be unveiled soon.

Mr Stalin said to prevent harvested paddy bags at open areas in direct procurement centres getting wet in heavy rains, causing losses to the farmers, the officials are advised to take all preventive measures to set

up godowns and sheds.

On tackling South West Monsoon, Mr Stalin pointed out that the government had successfully overcome various natural disasters during the last four and directed the authorities to ensure no loss of lives and property due to the monsoon soon.

Citing the heavy rains in Western Ghat areas like The Nilgiris and Theni districts during the last couple of days and with the met office forecasting heavy rains for the next two days, the Chief Minister urged the officials to take all precautionary measures including evicting people living in vulnerable areas prone to landslides and mudslides.

HP CM to raise banning of Turkish apples in meeting with PM

Shimla, May 19 (UNI) : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday said he would raise the demand for banning import of Turkish apples in all states during an upcoming meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On the issue of Turkey apple imports impacting local growers, Sukhu vowed to raise the matter with the Prime Minister during the May 24 meeting of state governments.

“I will demand a hike in import duties or double it to protect the interests of Himachal apple farmers. The current policy must be reviewed,” he said.

Addressing media queries, Sukhu emphasised that while new government offices will be established at district and block headquarters, only senior officials will be posted from the capital, and no junior employees will be forced to relocate. “No department will be shifted from Shimla. Instead, new offices will be created outside the capital to decentralise governance and promote regional development,” said the Chief Minister. He further assured that junior staff unwilling to move would not be compelled, and fresh recruitment would be conducted for these new offices. Sukhu also addressed concerns raised by government employees about their children’s education. “Those who are educating their children in Shimla will not be disturbed,” he said, easing anxiety among staff families.

Highlighting the need for optimal use of existing infrastructure, Sukhu referred to a recent visit to Baridighat where he found a large government complex lying idle. “Such state-funded complexes should be put to proper use. Infrastructure built with public money must serve the people, not gather dust or serve as parking lots,” he asserted.

Turning to tourism, the Chief Minister encouraged people to visit Himachal, stating the state is fully prepared to welcome tourists. “The recent rainfall did not cause any casualties, and the state remains safe for visitors. Come and enjoy the clean air and beautiful weather,” Sukhu said.

TN govt to offer free insurance cover to its staffs, inks MoU with seven banks

Chennai, May 19 (UNI) : The Tamil Nadu government on Monday signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with seven banks aimed at offering insurance cover at free cost to all its employees as part of salary account package.

The MoU would offer a customised Salary account package for employees of the State Government, including employees of the Police, Forest, Fire and Rescue Departments.

The newly launched Salary account package comes with comprehensive insurance coverage at zero cost to the employees, was one of the most attractive offerings in the banking sector.

The MoUs were signed with the State Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Indian Bank, Canara Bank, Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda (BOB) and Union Bank of India in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the State Secretariat here.

The MoUs were signed

in line with the announcement made by Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu in his budget speech.

It included, among others, a personal accident insurance cover of Rs one crore, in case of accidental death or permanent disability, and an assistance of Rs five lakh for marriage expenses of daughters of a government employee who had died in an accident.

The MoU also envisaged provision of higher education assistance of up to Rs 10 lakh upto two daughters of a government employee deceased in an accident, as well as a term life insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh in the event of natural death during service.

Interest concessions by banks to government employees while availing personal loan, housing loan, and education loan were also included in the MoU, besides waiving of processing charges on

retail loans, an official release said.

A release from BoB said this collaboration will extend financial and insurance benefits to the employees of the State government, thereby supporting their financial aspirations and well-being.

This package has been thoughtfully designed to provide extensive insurance cover to employees along with various other benefits like concessional interest rates with waiver in processing charges on retail loans.

It said BOB’s customised Salary Account for Tamil Nadu State Government employees comes with complimentary insurance benefits like Personal Accident Insurance with maximum coverage of

Rs 1.55 crore, Term Life Insurance coverage of Rs 15 lakh, Permanent Total Disability Cover of up to Rs one crore and Hospicash facility of Rs 2000 per day for daily hospitalisation.

Are helplines operational for destitutes or not: HC asks UP govt

Lucknow, May 19 (UNI) : The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Monday asked the state officials whether helplines for the help of destitute people have been publicised and are operational or not.

The court raised the question on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) relating to the issue of the sufferings of homeless and destitute people.

It has fixed the next hearing of the case on May 27 while seeking information on the issue from the state authorities.

Along with this, the central government has also been asked for complete information about the mechanism of helping destitute people.

The division bench of Justice A R Masoodi and Justice Ajay Kumar Srivastava-I gave the order on the PIL filed by Jyoti Rajput.

The petition has raised the issue of suffering of homeless, destitute, mentally retarded people living near temples, hospitals and footpaths.

The petitioner has requested to issue instructions to provide shelter along with proper treatment to such people. Along with this, the issue of destitute people brought for treatment in emergency has also been raised.

'India not a dharamshala': SC rejects plea by Sri Lankan Tamil

New Delhi, May 19 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Monday made strong remarks while refusing to intervene in the detention of a Sri Lankan Tamil national convicted under anti-terror laws, declaring that India is “not a dharamshala” open to sheltering refugees from across the globe.

A bench comprising Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice K Vinod Chandran was hearing a plea challenging a Madras High Court order that directed the petitioner’s deportation following the completion of his sentence under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The petitioner, a former LTTE operative, had sought relief on the grounds that he feared persecution, arrest, and torture if sent back to Sri Lanka.

His counsel argued that he had already spent nearly three years in detention after completing his

sentence, without any active steps being taken to deport him, and that his family, including his ailing wife and a son with congenital heart disease, was settled in India.

However, the Supreme Court was unmoved.

“Is India supposed to become a refuge for everyone in the world? We are already dealing with a population of 140 crore. This is not a dharamshala that we can entertain foreign nationals from all over,” remarked Justice Datta.

The court questioned the legal right of the petitioner to claim settlement in India.

“What is your right to settle here? The right under Article 19 is available only to citizens. Your liberty has been curtailed as per due process under law, there’s no violation of Article 21,” Justice Datta observed.

When the petitioner’s counsel again pleaded that

his client faced a life-threatening situation in Sri Lanka, the Bench curtly replied, “Go to some other country.”

The court drew parallels with its recent stance on Rohingya refugees, where it also declined to stop deportation efforts.

It reiterated that the judiciary must act within the framework of law, and not on emotional or humanitarian grounds alone, especially in cases involving national security.

The petitioner was arrested in 2015 by the Q Branch of Tamil Nadu Police on suspicion of being an LTTE sympathiser.

He was convicted in 2018 under Section 10 of the UAPA and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

In 2022, the Madras High Court reduced his sentence to seven years but directed that he be placed in a refugee camp and deported immediately after completing the term.

Bandi Sanjay, High Court judge Narsingha Rao participate in Saraswati Pushkaralu

Hyderabad, May 19 (UNI) : Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay and High Court Judge Nandikonda Narsingha Rao took a holy dip during the ongoing Saraswati Pushkaralu at the Triveni Sangam in Kaleshwaram in

Jayashankar Bhupalpally district on Monday.

Justice Nandikonda Narsingha Rao, accompanied by his wife, participated in the sacred bath and offered special prayers on Monday. The couple was warmly welcomed by Additional

Junior Civil Judge G. Akhila and District Collector Rahul Sharma.

On the occasion, District Collector Rahul Sharma presented a portrait of Goddess Saraswati to the judge and his wife as a token of respect and devotion.



ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
(A Statutory Body of the Govt. of India)

Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi- 110070
Ph.No.: 011-29581000, Website: www.aicte-india.org

SWAYAM CELL

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for development of Self-paced Courses for SWAYAM Platform

Government of India (GOI) in its pursuit of National Digital Initiatives launched indigenous technology enabled learning platform SWAYAM for hosting Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has been designated as Virtual Coordinator (VC) for development of Self-Paced Courses for SWAYAM Platform as per new SWAYAM Guidelines, 2024. Accordingly, AICTE invites proposals from faculty/individuals/institutions/universities for development of Self-Paced Online Courses in the areas of emerging Technologies.

The last date of receipt of proposals is **4th June, 2025**. For detailed inputs of the proposals, please visit: www.aicte-india.org.

Advt. No. P&AP Bureau/AICTE/05(02)/2025

Member Secretary
AICTE

CBC 21300/12/0005/2526



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STANDARD POST

Veteran NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal to be inducted into Fadnavis-led Cabinet today

Veteran NCP leader and Samata Parishad founder Chhagan Bhujbal will be inducted into the Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis-led council of ministers at the swearing-in ceremony being organised on May 20.

Bhujbal confirmed his induction in the ministry. Bhujbal’s entry into the Cabinet was cleared by the Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and it was formally conveyed to him that he would have to take oath on Tuesday.

Bhujbal is expected to get the Food and Civil Supply Department, which he held during the ministry headed by the former Chief Ministers Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde (2019-2024).

NCP president Ajit Pawar, along with working president Praful Patel and state unit chief Sunil Tatkare, took a unanimous decision paving the way for Bhujbal’s induction in the Cabinet.

NCP needed a formidable and strong OBC face in the Cabinet especially after another OBC leader Dhananjay Munde had to resign during the budget session of the state legislature held in March in connection with the brutal killing of the Beed Sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh.

Munde was holding the Food and Civil Supply Department, and after his exit, the department is being headed by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Bhujbal’s induction is also politically important for NCP, especially when the Supreme Court asked the state government to complete the process of local and civic body elections in four months, while going by the OBC reservations prior to the recommendations made by the Banthia committee.

Bhujbal has been at the forefront of the protection of OBC reservation in a major tussle against pro-Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange.

Moreover, Bhujbal has been a strong advocate of caste based census, which the Centre has recently cleared.

Bhujbal, who is the senior OBC leader, was sulking after he was dropped during the expansion of the Fadnavis-led Cabinet held on December 15 last year. He had openly expressed serious displeasure over not getting a ministerial berth despite vigorously taking up the OBC cause of the party during the Assembly elections held last year.

He had subsequently abstained from several party engagements, but after the intervention of the party president, Ajit Pawar and working president Praful Patel, he had started taking part in organisational functions. Further, he was furious after his nomination was not considered twice for the Rajya Sabha elections in the past.

How to Keep Your Blood Pressure in Check: Expert Tips from Dr. Balbir Singh

(Standard Post Bureau)

With rising cases of hypertension across India, taking proactive steps to control blood pressure has become more crucial than ever. Dr. Balbir Singh, Group Chairman – Cardiac Sciences, Pan Max & Chief of Interventional Cardiology and Electrophysiology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, shares key daily habits to keep high blood pressure in check and lead a healthier life.

1. Cut Down on Salt
“Salt is one of the major contributors to high blood pressure,” says Dr. Singh. He recommends limiting salt intake to less than two grams per day. This can be achieved by using less salt in cooking, avoiding sprinkling extra salt on food, and steering clear of pickles, ketchup, fast food, and processed items—many of which are loaded with hidden sodium.
2. Make Exercise a Daily Routine
Moderate-intensity exercise such as brisk walking or using a treadmill for at least 30



minutes daily can significantly reduce hypertension. “Regular aerobic activity helps not only with weight loss but also with controlling blood pressure,” explains Dr. Singh.

3. Follow the DASH Diet
The DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet, recommended by American and European guidelines, is rich in fruits, vegetables, nuts, and

seeds, and low in salt and saturated fats. A Mediterranean-style diet with plenty of whole grains, fresh produce, and healthy fats also offers proven cardiovascular benefits.

4. Watch Your Weight
Even a small reduction in weight can lead to marked improvement in blood pressure levels. “Being disciplined about your eating habits and exercise regime can help shed excess kilos and

improve overall health, including blood sugar and cholesterol,” adds Dr. Singh.

5. Manage Stress Effectively
Stress is a known trigger for high blood pressure. Dr. Singh advises incorporating stress-busting activities such as yoga, watching movies, spending quality time with family, and taking breaks from work to help keep stress—and in turn, blood pressure—under control.

6. Avoid Alcohol and Quit Smoking
“Giving up alcohol and quitting smoking not only reduces the risk of hypertension but also lowers the chances of developing cancer,” warns Dr. Singh. Both substances are harmful and have long-term health consequences beyond just heart health.

With these practical lifestyle modifications, Dr. Balbir Singh emphasizes that high blood pressure can be managed effectively, reducing the risk of heart attacks, strokes, and other life-threatening complications.

HP CM to raise banning of Turkish apples in meeting with PM

Shimla, May 19 (UNI) Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday said he would raise the demand for banning import of Turkish apples in all states during an upcoming meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On the issue of Turkey apple imports impacting local growers, Sukhu vowed to raise the matter with the Prime Minister during the May 24 meeting of state governments.

“I will demand a hike in import duties or double it to protect the interests of Himachal apple farmers. The current policy must be reviewed,” he said.

Addressing media queries, Sukhu emphasised that while new government offices will be established at district and block headquarters, only senior officials will be posted from the capital, and no junior employees will be forced to relocate.

“No department will be shifted from Shimla. Instead, new offices will be created outside the capital to decentralise governance and promote regional development,” said the Chief Minister. He further assured that junior staff unwilling to move would not be compelled, and fresh recruitment would be conducted for these new offices.

Sukhu also addressed concerns raised by government employees about their children’s education. “Those who are educating their children in Shimla will not be disturbed,” he said, easing anxiety among staff families.

Highlighting the need for optimal use of existing infrastructure, Sukhu referred to a recent visit to Baridighat where he found a large government complex lying idle. “Such state-funded complexes should be put to proper use. Infrastructure built with public money must serve the people, not gather dust or serve as parking lots,” he asserted.

Turning to tourism, the Chief Minister encouraged people to visit Himachal, stating the state is fully prepared to welcome tourists. “The recent rainfall did not cause any casualties, and the state remains safe for visitors. Come and enjoy the clean air and beautiful weather,” Sukhu said.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed his government’s commitment to regional equity, efficient administration, and safeguarding the interests of the state’s people and economy.

Redevelopment of Munirabad Railway Station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

(Standard Post Bureau)

The redevelopment work at Munirabad Railway Station is progressing swiftly under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS), which aims to enhance passenger amenities and give a modern facelift to station infrastructure. Indian Railways has identified several railway stations in Karnataka for redevelopment under this scheme, with the goal of modernising and upgrading facilities across the state.

Munirabad station, under the Hubballi Division, is among those being redeveloped. With a total estimated investment of approximately ₹ 18.40 crore, the project is now in its final stages. Significant enhancements have been made to improve the passenger experience. These include the construction of a new station building, development of the circulating area with separate entry and exit gates, and designated parking zones for autos,



two-wheelers, and four-wheelers. Platform development was a key focus. Platform shelters have been provided over an area of 3600 sqm, ensuring passenger comfort. Additionally, PF-2 surface work covering 2700 sqm has been completed. Modern signage, façade lighting, and street furniture have also been installed to uplift the station’s visual appeal and functionality.

The station now includes two passenger lifts for convenient movement, particularly

aiding senior citizens and differently-abled passengers. However, as per current plans, no escalators have been included. Essential amenities such as waiting halls (112 sqm), toilets (75 sqm), and furniture have been developed and procured. While enhancements related to art and culture were proposed, they are not part of Phase-1 execution. Similarly, the development of a second entry to the station has not been planned at this stage. A 12-meter-wide Foot Over

Passenger information systems such as Coach Guidance Display Boards (CGDB), Station Layout Display Boards (SLDB), and Master Layout Display Boards (MLDB), along with a public announcement system and clock commissioning, are in progress to provide real-time updates and improved information dissemination.

In conclusion, the redevelopment of Munirabad Station under ABSS is a significant

infrastructure. It exemplifies Indian Railways’ commitment to upgrading Tier-2 and Tier-3 stations to world-class standards, ensuring a more efficient, accessible, and passenger-friendly rail experience for all.

The Amrit Bharat Station redevelopment initiative is expected to boost tourism, improve connectivity, and contribute to the socio-economic development of the region by creating employment opportunities



Bridge (FOB) has also been completed.

stride in improving regional railway

and offering cleaner, more modern railway stations.

People in UP suffering due to power crisis: Akhilesh

Lucknow, May 19 (UNI) Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said that the common people are suffering due to the power crisis in the state, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has ruined the system.

In a statement issued here, Akhilesh said, "Ever since the BJP government is in power, it has not done anything to improve the power system. Due to lack

of timely maintenance, the incidents of transformers getting damaged are increasing.

He said that amidst the increasing heat across the state, undeclared power cuts and tripping are proving to be painful for the people. "The BJP had made big claims to improve the power system. It had promised to provide 24-hour electricity to the people of the state, but the BJP's promise has remained

false," he said. The SP chief said, "Today the situation is such that the government is not able to provide 24-hour electricity to the big cities. The condition of small cities, towns and rural areas is bad. The entire government is completing the power roster only on paper."

He said that during the 8-year tenure of the BJP government, not even a single unit of electricity was produced in the state, nor

was any power plant installed. "Whatever electricity the people of the state are getting today is from the power plants set up during the Samajwadi government. During the Samajwadi government, power plants were set up in many districts of the state including Etah, Kanpur Dehat. The BJP government also delayed the completion of these power plants," he said.

Akhilesh said that a

detailed action plan was prepared during the Samajwadi government to increase the power supply in the state. "Along with the expansion of rural electrification, sufficient funds were given for underground cables. Special directives were given to prevent line losses and to repair transformers immediately in case of blowing. Today, the BJP government has started handing over the electricity

to private companies to hide its shortcomings," he said.

He said that the people of the state are paying a heavy price for the inefficiency of the BJP government.

"People are not getting electricity, but are getting the shock of increased electricity bills. The BJP government did not work in any field of production, transmission and distribution of electricity.

If walls could talk...

Look around the rooms in your home and you'll probably pick up on a theme (or two). Perhaps you're gazing out at a sea of blues and greens-or a spectrum of sunset shades. If walls could talk, they would speak volumes about your personality.

Yellow

You consider 10 am to be the middle of the day, and haven't needed an alarm clock since kindergarten. You really don't know why anyone wouldn't greet the sunrise daily: You just get so much more done in the wee hours.

White

If a genie gave you three wishes, one of them would be a good night's rest. Your bedroom is an escape, the room you immediately beeline it to after coming home from a never-ending day. You don't consider your walls to be bare. Instead, they create a blank space that helps you clear your mind. The tiniest hint of color might add interest, but not too much.

Navy blue

You have an opinion about everything and are not shy about letting others know it. You have a taste for strong coffee (never with cream or sugar), your politics are partisan, and you do judge people on their book collection. Though



You spend more time in your bedroom than any other room in the house, so the colour of the walls can be an important decision. Read on to find out what your bedroom wall color says about you

this might seem like a bold assessment, you welcome the insight. Who needs to live life in a grey area?

Beige

You're quick to remind others that you're not high-maintenance ... you just know what you like. It took you years to find the precise shade of beige that reminds you of the latte you once had on that perfect morning during that semester abroad in Paris.

Grey

The harmonious monochromatic scheme in your bedroom came from an idea you saw on Pinterest (aka your second home) right down to the pop of color. You are open to new ideas, but want to see them in action first. It's not that you're timid, you just want proof that it works before committing. You've been mulling over that bul-

letproof coffee trend for months.

Brown

You scoff at the idea of getting rid of your huge collection of books in favor of digital versions. Growing up, your babysitter was the branch of the local library, where you developed a love of literature and a mind that rivals Wikipedia. Your bedroom is where you catch up on reading the latest best-selling biography (never in paperback) and has the club-like feel of the study of your dreams.

Green

You never forget to write a thank-you note, you've got a stunning collection of scarves, and you know exactly what wine to order with dinner. You're a grown up

through and through, the trusted friend everyone turns to for advice. But, you're not boring at all. Your bedroom shows a sophisticated use of colour. (And we bet you never use an accent chair as an impromptu wardrobe.)

Blue

When it came time to pick your bedroom color, the choice took all of five seconds. You just went with the color you've always loved: blue. You're refreshingly honest about what you like and don't take yourself or your decor choices too seriously.



ROCKING TRIBUTE

To commemorate the 86th birth anniversary of the singing legend Kishore Kumar, Tapas, the youth-based band will be performing live on some of his songs



ments of Indian classical/semi-classical to those of the Western music.

What kind of music will you be playing?

We have churned out few memorable songs and will be playing them live. Songs like mere 'Mere Sapno Ki Rani,' 'Ladki Bhigi Bhagi Si,' 'Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas,' 'Pyar Deewana Hota Hai,' 'Ek Ajnabee Haseena Se,' 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani,' and few more.

How will you be presenting the songs?

We will be playing the songs and using most of the musical instruments and singing it live. We will be using guitar, keys and bass. We have been practicing it from quite some time.

Have you heard old songs and incorporated in your band earlier?

We have heard a few songs and it's always nice to listen to them. We are youngsters and we love to listen to as many songs as possible.

What is your forte?

We are into Western and Indian songs, usually a mixture which generally will be loved by most of the people and all the generations.

Tapas, a youth band has decided to pay a tribute to Kishore Kumar on his 86th birth anniversary by performing live on 92.7 Big FM. Keeping Indian classical music as the base, the band has managed to make a few soul rendering songs which they call sandesh. Excerpts...

Tell us something about the band?

The word Tapas originates from Sanskrit. It means burning zeal and desire to achieve self-realization and purification. A group of four young, aspiring and amazingly talented boys started this project in April 2015. I, Akshay on the guitars, have a huge influence of the blues rock. Whereas my band mates Ninad (vocals) is a guy who is purely in love with Hindi music. The best word to describe Omkar's (keys) playing is child prodigy. He's just turned 18 and has worked with renowned people in the industry. Nikhil (bass) is in love with the low frequencies of the sound to be a little technical. The way the bass rumbles makes him fall in love with his music all over again. The band specializes in blending the ele-

Sun, sand and stress

Study states one in four tourists say they return from a break feeling worse than before heading out for a vacation

Holidays are meant to be a time of relaxation, when all your cares wash away. But for many of us, the opposite appears to be true. In fact, one in four holidaymakers - 23 percent return from a break more stressed than when they set off, according to a survey.

Some 26 percent even need two to three days to unwind when they get back.

Nationwide Building Society, which commissioned the poll of 2,000 people, said Britons spend an average of £1,900 on their holiday, and overspending while away was one of holidaymakers' top worries.

Others included having enough money to get by, forgetting something, being delayed, missing a flight and having enough insurance cover if something goes wrong.

The research also found a significant difference between men and women, with one in five men claiming that nothing worried them before a holiday, compared with more than one in ten

women.

Neuropsychologist Dr David Lewis, of the research consultancy Mindlab International, said, "Holiday stresses often stem from unrealistic expectations of a completely care-free vacation.

Worries don't disappear just because you are in the sun. In fact, when the mind doesn't have the usual day-to-day challenges and demands to cope with, it typically finds other things to occupy it, such as money worries.

Taking up activities, learning a few phrases in the local language and exploring the culture are just a few ways to keep your mind busy, helping you unwind more quickly."

Phil Smith, Nationwide's head of current accounts, said, "It is perhaps unsurprising that holidays can be a source of stress, with people fretting over missing their flights, the prospect of delays, having sufficient money and being fully covered if things don't go to plan."

(With inputs from DailyMail)

Cuppa mania!

A new infographic reveals that lattes are most popular brews on Instagram beating cappuccinos to the top spot with almost three million uploads

In our digital age, every trip to a cafe provides ample opportunity for food-related social media posts with tweet before you eat becoming a popular hashtag.

But now a new infographic has revealed just how popular each cup of Joe really is when it comes to sharing snaps of them on Instagram with lattes outperforming every other coffee in the world, with almost three million picture uploads.

Of the 11 brews detailed in the graphic by Express Vending, cappuccinos come second in the line-up while the Continental cafe au lait is officially the least popular style on the photo-sharing app.

Each coffee is illustrated with a diagram displaying the ingredients in each cup along with their hashtag and the number of times a photo of the particular kind

of coffee has been shared.

It appears that simplicity proves the most popular as coffee fans tend to share images of traditional cups over flavoured specials.

The combination of steamed milk, foam and espresso comes out on top having received over two million uploads for the hashtag latte, followed by the popular cappuccino (1,593,757 tags) and straightforward espresso (1,516,381 uploads).

The chocolate flavoured mocha comes in fourth with 1,370,1345 tags followed by the refreshing iced coffee tagged as ice-coffee and icedcoffee uploaded 838,601 times and frappuccino which came in with only 724,043 uploads.

At the bottom of the pile is the cafe au lait or coffee with milk, which is tagged with the hashtag cafeaulait more than 46,000 times

far below the other Continental styles.

The Americano, which is only a little stronger was uploaded to Instagram 521,379 times in comparison.

The flat white is growing in popularity in the UK but doesn't seem to be as visually interesting as other brews with only 241,172 uploads under the hashtag flatwhite.

And caramel macchiatos also fail the Instagram popularity test with almost 185,000 tags.

The infographic also reveals that the Robusta bean is more popular on social media over the Arabica bean.

When it comes to coffee versus tea, coffee trumped its weaker counterpart by almost 24 million uploads.



PEAR CURE

Research suggests that the fruit's juice can help reduce the effects of a hangover by eating or drinking its juice before a night out

Eating a juicy pear before a night of heavy drinking could help alleviate the effects of a hangover, scientists claim.

Researchers say those who are suffering from the consequences of the evening before could feel up to 21 percent better thanks to the fruit's juice.

It helps increase concentration, reduces memory loss and even decreases the amount of alcohol in your bloodstream, according to Australian government scientists.

Pears also reduce a person's sensitivity to light and sound.

The only type of pear tested in the study was the Asian, or nashi pear, which is available in British supermarkets, but researchers are now planning to widen their scope to see whether varieties of Western pear produce the same results.

According to scientists employed by CISRO, the Australian government's scientific research organisation, to reduce the effects of a hangover you need to either drink 220ml of pear juice or eat a whole pear

before consuming alcohol.

Lead researcher Manny Noakes said the theory behind the finding was that Asian pears acted upon the key enzymes involved in alcohol metabolism.

She said, "Overall hangover severity, as measured by a 14 item hangover severity scale, was significantly reduced in the Korean (Asian) pear group compared with those having a placebo drink, with the most pronounced effect seen on the specific symptom of trouble concentrating.

"The effect was only demonstrat-

ed if pears were consumed before alcohol consumption. There is no evidence that you can consume pears after drinking and avoid a hangover. And remember, the very best way to not get a hangover is to not drink in the first place."

Ms Noakes said researchers were now planning to carry out more studies to see whether other varieties of pears had similar hangover effects.



Kaleshwaram echoes Kumbh Mela spirit as devotees flock for Saraswati Pushkaram

Saraswati Pushkarma, May 19 (UNI) Kaleshwaram is witnessing a spiritual spectacle reminiscent of the Kumbh Mela, as thousands of devotees continue to pour in for the sacred Saraswati Pushkaram located in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district.

From the early hours of Monday morning, devotees have been arriving in large numbers to take holy dips in the river, seeking blessings during the auspicious Pushkaram period.

With rising temperatures, many pilgrims are choosing to arrive early in the day to perform the Pushkara snanam (bath) before the sun intensifies. Every corner of Kaleshwaram — from the main ghats and



bathing zones to the temple surroundings — is teeming with spiritual fervour and devotional chants.

The Pushkara baths are being conducted smoothly, thanks to the meticulous arrangements made by the district administration.

District Collector Rahul

Sharma has been on the ground since morning, inspecting the facilities and ensuring cleanliness and order at Saraswati Ghat.

He has been actively coordinating with officials via walkie-talkies, issuing real-time instructions to

maintain the flow of the event and ensure the comfort of the pilgrims.

Authorities continue to manage crowd control, sanitation, and medical services, creating a safe and serene atmosphere for devotees participating in the sacred event.

90-day Sri Sathya Sai Skill Development Program concludes

Hyderabad, May 19 (UNI) The Sri Sathya Sai Skill Development Program, an initiative of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva O r g a n i s a t i o n s , successfully concluded its 90-day skill development program in Data Engineering for 80 underprivileged graduates with a valedictory ceremony held at T-Hub, here on Monday.

Telangana Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar and TASK (Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge) CEO Sreekanth Sinha presented offer letters to over 22 graduates at the valedictory function.

The program, a part of the organization's ongoing youth empowerment initiatives, equipped aspiring young individuals with crucial technical skills for the burgeoning field of data engineering, along with placement assistance.

The valedictory ceremony witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries who shared their insights and

encouragement with the graduating students.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Kumar, urged the students to look beyond employment and aspire to become employers themselves, fostering entrepreneurship and further contributing to the state's growth.

In his address on the occasion, Sreekanth lauded the efforts and expressed keen interest in furthering the collaboration to expand the program's reach and impact.

Kiranmayee Pendyala, a prominent industry leader and HR Executive, emphasised the critical importance of developing strong soft skills and character alongside technical expertise to excel in their professional journeys.

P Venkat Rao, State President of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, underscored the significance of upholding human values in both their careers and personal lives, highlighting the holistic approach of the program.

Telangana march' against Waqf Act in Hyd on May 24

Hyderabad, May 19 (UNI) : The Muslim Joint Action Committee (JAC) has announced a 'Telangana March' to be held at Charminar in the Old City on May 24, in protest against the Waqf Amendment Act 2025.

The announcement was made at a press conference in Hyderabad on Monday by JAC convener and Tahreek Muslim Shabbir president Mohammed Mushtaq Malik. Leaders from several prominent Muslim organisations, including Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Jamiatul Ulema, Jamiat-e-Ahle Hadees, Kul Hind Majlis-e-Tameer-e-Millat, and other religious, social, and political groups, were also present.JAC leaders stated that the march was part of a national movement launched by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and would be larger than previous protests held against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC).They emphasised that the protest is aimed at protecting mosques, dargahs, khanqahs, graveyards, Eidgahs, madrasas, and other Waqf properties.According to the JAC, the amended Waqf law allows excessive government control over Waqf assets and removes key protections for Muslim religious sites. Of particular concern is the removal of the clause that allowed properties to be recognised as Waqf based on long-standing use. Additionally, the law grants greater authority to district collectors in deciding ownership of disputed Waqf lands, diminishing the role of the Waqf Boards.

The leaders warned that the Act poses a serious threat to the autonomy of the Muslim community over its religious and charitable properties. "If we remain silent now, we risk losing all our Waqf assets in the future," said Malik.

TGSRTC MD VC Sajjanar inspects Adilabad Depot

Adilabad, May 19 (UNI) :State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) Managing Director V C Sajjanar inspected the Adilabad depot and bus station on Monday and reviewed operational services, passenger amenities, and staff performance.

During the visit, Sajjanar interacted with drivers, conductors, and garage staff, specifically inquiring about the ground-level implementation of the state's free travel initiative for women under the

"Mahalaxmi" scheme.

He also engaged with passengers at the bus station, distributing keychains embedded with QR codes linking to information about RTC services.

Commending the dedication of RTC employees, Sajjanar said, "The organisation's continued progress is driven by the commitment and hard work of its staff."

He added that TGSRTC has been acquiring new buses in alignment with increasing passenger

demand, noting that 50 percent of the fleet has been upgraded in the past three years.

Highlighting plans, he stated that efforts are underway to ensure bus connectivity to every village and emphasised the importance of enhancing transport access to tourist destinations in the Adilabad region.

He also assured employees that their pending issues are being addressed in a phased manner, with support from the state government.

Congress Govt earns recognition for promoting agriculture through solar pump sets: CM

Nagarkurnool, May 19 (UNI) Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday stated that his government has earned the distinction of promoting agriculture by providing solar pump sets to farmers cultivating fallow lands.

He made these remarks while addressing a public meeting at Macharam village in Nagarkurnool district, following the launch of the Rs 12,600 crore Indira Saura Giri Jal Vikasam scheme. Expressing deep emotion, the Chief Minister said his heart was overflowing as he stood to speak in the land of Nallamala, which he referred to as his birthplace.

He recalled the promises made during the election campaign to develop Atchampet as an ideal constituency and assured the people that concrete steps are now being taken in that direction. "As your son, I am personally involved in creating special plans for the development of this constituency, and I have already directed officials accordingly," he said.Taking a jibe at the previous government, he remarked that those who fought for the right to cultivate fallow lands were

imprisoned in the past. In contrast, his administration has been focused on empowering farmers through initiatives like providing solar pump sets.

He pledged that every farmer in the Atchampet constituency would receive a solar pump set and instructed officials to complete the process within the next 100 days.

He further asserted that Atchampet would be developed as a model constituency for the entire country and vowed to arrange all necessary funds to realize this goal.The Chief Minister highlighted various welfare schemes introduced by his government, noting that Rs 60,000 crore has been spent on farmers since taking office.He announced a support price along with a Rs 500 bonus for farmers cultivating senna crops. Revanth Reddy also emphasised the importance of dignity and self-reliance, pointing out that his administration is providing rice to 3.1 crore poor citizens and supplying 200 units of free electricity to 50 lakh low-income families.He said women now enjoy free travel in RTC buses and symbolically declared girls

as the owners of those buses.Additionally, he announced that women's self-help groups have been entrusted with the production of 1,000 megawatts of solar power.

The government, he said, is committed to supporting girls and women, enabling them to compete with industrial giants like Adani and Ambani by providing financial and entrepreneurial support.

Revanth Reddy reaffirmed his vision to make Telangana the richest state in the country. He noted that the government had undertaken 60,000 job placements within a year, which he described as unprecedented nationwide.

Essential commodity prices have been controlled, and the central government has acknowledged Telangana as the top-performing state in several welfare parameters, including law and order.He criticised those spreading false propaganda on social media, accusing them of operating with money earned through illegal means. "I don't pay attention to those whose minds are full of poison.

GHRCEM Pune students secure spot in Top 105 global teams in Google Solution Challenge

Pune, May 19 (UNI) Students of GH Raisoni College of Engineering and Management, Pune, secured a spot in the top 105 global teams for the Google Developer Student Clubs (GDSC) Solution Challenge.This international recognition highlights the college's commitment to innovation, technology, and global impact.

The GDSC Solution Challenge, organised by Google, invites student developers from across the world to solve one or more of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using Google technology.Out of over 64,000 registrations and 3,700+ project submissions, only 105 teams were shortlisted for their innovative, problem-solving tech solutions and GHRCEM's student innovators made it to this elite group, said release today.

Indira Saura Giri Jal Vikasam a boon for tribals: Telangana CM Revanth Reddy

Nagarkurnool, May 19 (UNI) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday launched the Rs 12,600-crore Indira Saura Giri Jal Vikasam scheme at Macharam village in the Amrabad Mandal in this district, calling it a boon for tribal communities and a major milestone in the development of the Nallamala region.

Accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and several state Ministers including Jupally Krishna Rao, Damodar Rajanarasimha, Uttam Kumar Reddy, Seethakka, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Tummala Nageswara Rao, and Ponnam Prabhakar, the Chief Minister formally inaugurated the ambitious scheme and unveiled the Nallamala Declaration aimed at uplifting tribal communities.Addressing a large public gathering, Revanth Reddy said that

the state government is committed to all-around development with the blessings of the people.He added that special attention is being given to remote and backward areas like the Nallamala region, which have long awaited progress. He noted that with the blessings of the people, he is now in a position to bring real change as the Chief Minister. Recalling the contributions of leaders from the region such as Mahendranath, Jaipal Reddy, and Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, the Chief Minister said he was proud to be a son of Nallamala.

He pointed out that the Indira Saura Giri Jal Vikasam scheme was conceived to promote self-respect among tribals by providing sustainable water sources and solar-powered irrigation.The Chief Minister announced that within 100 days, solar pump

sets would be distributed free of cost to all farmers in the Achampet constituency, making it a model for the country.

He stated that solar power systems would also be installed in homes for agricultural and domestic use and directed the district administration to create awareness on solar energy among local communities.Revanth Reddy highlighted that the current government has been supporting farmers since taking office on December 7, 2023, under the leadership of Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao.

He recalled that previous governments had discouraged paddy cultivation, whereas his administration is providing not just support but also a Rs 500 bonus for high-grade paddy.He emphasised that the rice grown by Telangana farmers is now being distributed to over 3.1 crore

people across the state through ration shops. He proudly noted that ministers and MLAs have eaten ration rice in the homes of the poor, thereby reinforcing its quality and dignity.He further said that his government is making a concerted effort to empower women and youth through schemes like Grihajyoti and Mahalaxmi.

He mentioned that RTC buses have been allocated to girls and women's savings societies, turning them into stakeholders. In a symbolic gesture of empowerment, petrol stations have also been allocated to women, and stalls have been set up for them near Hyderabad's Shilparamam to market their products.Revanth Reddy asserted that the government aims to make one crore women into millionaires, believing that empowering a woman leads to the growth of the entire family and region.

Visually impaired Himachal woman, Kolkata cop scale Mt Everest



Kolkata, May 19 (UNI) : Visually impaired woman mountaineer from Himachal Pradesh, Chhonzin Angmo and Kolkata Armed Police Constable Laxmikanta Mondal on Monday scaled Mount Everest, the world's tallest peak.

They scaled the peak at around 8 30 AM, making it a red letter day in India's mountaineering history,

Kolkata Police on its X handle said Mondal, part of the security detail of Kolkata Police

Commissioner Manoj Kumar Verma, made the summit 8849 around 8-30 AM along with Angmo and Geeta Samota with professional sherpas Tenzing Sherpa Gelba) and Lakpa Sherpa of Pioneer Adventure of Nepal.

Angmo (28), a village girl from Kinnaur district, lost her eyesight at the age of eight.

Angmo also scaled the Siachen Glacier, the World's Highest Battlefield, in 2021 under Operation

Blue Freedom.

Kolkata Police saluted the successful summiters from India.

A separate report said fifty-two-year-old Mohan Rawat, an instructor with Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF), successfully scaled the World's highest peak on Sunday.

Rawat summited Mount Everest early on May 18 and spent around 15 minutes at the top before beginning his descent.

Wang Chuqin, Sun Yingsha advance in table tennis worlds

Doha, May 19 (UNI) : China's Olympic mixed doubles champions Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha split up for a while to dispose of their respective singles rivals at the world table tennis championships on Monday.

Second-seeded Wang never looked troubled as he defeated Brazil's 77th-ranked Leonardo Ilzuka with a performance of clinical precision, winning his second round game 11-3, 11-3, 11-5, 11-4 over 24 minutes.

Minutes later, world No. 1 Sun took to the court against Pyon Song Gyeong from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Despite resistance in the third set, the 24-year-old star wrapped it up 11-2, 11-5, 11-9, 11-4 over 30 minutes. Wang and Sun will unite late in the day to take on Brazil's World Cup holder Hugo Calderano and his girlfriend Bruna Takahashi in the mixed doubles second round.

Will O'Rourke makes IPL debut as SRH bowl first

Lucknow, May 19 (UNI) : Lucknow Super Giants handed a debut to Will O'Rourke as they take on Sunrisers Hyderabad in Match 61 of IPL 2025 at Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium here on Monday.

Sunrisers Hyderabad won the toss and elected to bowl first.

At the toss, LSG captain Rishabh Pant called the coin while SRH skipper Pat Cummins chose tails. The coin landed tails, giving SRH the advantage to make

the first move. Pat Cummins said, "We want to know what we are chasing. Never know what the wicket will do. We haven't played to our potential and want to reach that. A few injuries have given chances to the new guys. We have some unfinished business. The team has been great but hasn't fired fully. Travis Head is in his hotel room. (Jaydev) Unadkat is on personal leave. (Atharva) Taide and Harsh Dubey come in."

Pant added, "I don't

mind doing any — bat or bowl. We want to play one match at a time and give our 100%. No unwanted pressure, it is always there. The team has regrouped really well and they are in a good headspace. Will O'Rourke is making his IPL debut."

The pitch report suggested a batting-friendly surface with a slight sheen favouring the new ball early on. Experts Pommie Mbangwa and Aaron Finch predicted a high-scoring contest under

lights, with Finch highlighting the advantage for teams chasing. The stage is set for an exciting contest as both sides look to register a crucial win in the tournament. Playing XI's Sunrisers Hyderabad: Ishan Kishan (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Nitish Reddy, Heinrich Klaasen, Aniket Verma, Kamindu Mendis, Pat Cummins (capt), Harshal Patel, Harsh Dubey, Zeeshan Ansari, Eshan Malinga Impact

DSF collaborates with UTT as Youth Development Partner to launch Dream UTT Juniors

Ahmedabad, May 9 (UNI) : In a bid to foster sports development at the grassroots level, Dream Sports Foundation (DSF), the philanthropic arm of Dream Sports, on Monday announced an exclusive partnership with Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT).

As the Youth Development partner, DSF will launch the inaugural Dream UTT Juniors, a U-15 Table Tennis tournament curated to provide professional league experience to emerging table tennis talent.

The inaugural Dream UTT Juniors will be held alongside the sixth edition of the Ultimate Table Tennis league in Ahmedabad from May 29 to June 8 and will

be streamed live on FanCode.

Speaking on the partnership, Harsh Jain, CEO & Co-founder, Dream Sports said, "At Dream Sports, we are driven by our vision to 'Make Sports Better'. Thanks to Vita Dani and Niraj Bajaj, Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) has played a pivotal role in nurturing India's table tennis talent to compete & win at the global stage. But there remains a pressing need to support grassroots talent, and our partnership to create Dream UTT Juniors is a big step toward bridging this gap."

"Through our Dream Sports Foundation, we aim to empower the next generation of athletes to

make India proud in the 2030 Youth Olympics and thereafter at the 2036 Olympics," Jain said.

Vita Dani, Co-promoter, Ultimate Table Tennis further added, "Dream UTT Juniors is a natural extension of our shared vision with Dream Sports Foundation — to strengthen the foundation of sport in India and empower young athletes. By giving budding table tennis talent early exposure to the world-class UTT ecosystem, we're not just launching a tournament — we're creating a pathway for the next generation of Indian stars to emerge."

As part of the Dream UTT Juniors, the top eight boys and eight girls from

the recently concluded Dream Sports Championship Table Tennis 2025, a first-of-its-kind U-15 tournament organised by

DSF in association with Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), have been drafted into the eight franchises of UTT. They will have the unique opportunity to experience the intensity and standards of India's premier table tennis league, thus accelerating their growth.

The announcement follows the recent success of DSF's U-15 table tennis tournament, which was widely praised for its high level of competition and professionally managed setup—qualities rarely

seen at the youth level in India. Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) has elevated the sport since its inception in 2017, featuring top international and domestic talent. The tournament has played a pivotal role in the steady growth of table tennis talent in India, by providing a platform for young players to compete and learn under a professional set-up.

The collaboration between DSF and UTT will play a pivotal role in the comprehensive growth of Indian table tennis, establishing a clear pathway for athlete progression by nurturing the sport and providing a structured roadmap for player development.

S8UL unveils roster lineup to compete across eight titles at Esports World Cup 2025

Mumbai, May 19 (UNI) : S8UL Esports, a global powerhouse in esports and gaming content, on Monday announced its full roster lineup to compete across eight prestigious titles at the Esports World Cup (EWC) 2025, set to take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from July 7 to August 24.

The organization completed its roster announcement across eight titles by officially entering Fatal Fury with the signing of Peruvian-American fighting game veteran Marcoantonio Malpica (Yurikov).

S8UL's move into Fatal Fury follows a series of high-impact signings across multiple titles including Apex Legends, Call of Duty (COD) Warzone, Chess, EAFC25, Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (MLBB), Starcraft II and Tekken 8.

The official lineups for all eight titles are:

Apex Legends: Rick Wirth (Sharky), Benjamin Spaseski (Jesko) and Tom Canty (Legacy)

Call of Duty: Warzone: Colin Bowers-Wilson (Trikempathy), Braxton Trice (Braxtvn), and Ryder Skarzinski (Ryda)

Chess: Nihal Sarin and Aravindh Chithambaram

EAFC25: Jonas Wirth (Jonny) and Aaron Rivera (Happy)

Fatal Fury: Marcoantonio Malpica (Yurikov)

Mobile Legends Bang Bang: Michael Cosgun (MobaZane), Ian Hohl (FwydChickn), Jang Seong-hun (Hoon), Ziameth-Jei Caluya (ZIA), Vo Trung (Shark), and Carlos Ortega Vega (Bestplayer1)

Starcraft II: Pyung Jae Koh (GuMiho)

Tekken 8: Arja Gamoori (Sephblack) and Nino Schwarz (Nino)

"Esports is evolving rapidly, and staying ahead means not just following

trends, but setting them. At S8UL, we've always believed in backing talent that can lead across eras, not just tournaments," said Animesh Agarwal, aka 8Bit Thug, Co-founder and CEO of S8UL.

Boasting a record-breaking prize pool of \$70 million (approx. INR 598 crore), the Esports World Cup (EWC) 2025 will be the world's largest esports tournament, featuring 24 competitive titles and bringing together top-tier players from across the globe.

Now that all rosters have been officially announced, the road to EWC 2025 begins for S8UL and Indian esports.

As the first and only Indian organisation to represent the nation at the Esports World Cup, S8UL is set to showcase Indian talent on the world's biggest esports stage and elevate Indian esports to unprecedented global heights.

BCCI denies pullout from Asia Cup, Emerging Teams

Mumbai, May 19 (UNI) : Dismissing media speculation, Indian cricket board Secretary Devajit Saikia on Monday clarified that no decision has been taken to withdraw from upcoming Asian Cricket Council (ACC) events, including the Asia Cup and the Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup.

"Since this morning, we have come across reports claiming that the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) has decided not to participate in the Asia Cup and the Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup, both of which are ACC events. These reports are entirely baseless," Saikia said. He stressed that no such matter has been discussed internally. "The BCCI has neither deliberated on nor taken any steps regarding the forthcoming ACC events, let alone communicated anything to the ACC," he added. Saikia further stated that the BCCI's current focus remains on the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) and the upcoming series against England, for both men's

and women's teams.

Speculation over India's participation in the Asia Cup has intensified amid rising India-Pakistan tensions following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, which briefly led to a halt in both the IPL and Pakistan Super League (PSL). The tournaments resumed on May 17 after a temporary ceasefire was agreed on May 10.

India head coach Gautam Gambhir recently voiced his personal view, opposing cricketing ties with Pakistan amid ongoing cross-border violence. "Till all this [terrorism] doesn't stop, there should not be anything between India

and Pakistan," he said.

Traditionally, the BCCI has required prior clearance from the Indian government to face Pakistan in multilateral events. In 2023, India declined to travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup, prompting the ACC to adopt a hybrid model with India's matches held in Sri Lanka. A similar arrangement is expected for the 2025 Champions Trophy, with India scheduled to play its matches in Dubai. Political tensions have repeatedly impacted the Asia Cup, leading to withdrawals, revised formats, and in some cases, cancellation of the tournament altogether.

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Hockey India opens player registration for HIL 2026

New Delhi, May 19 (UNI) : Hockey India on Monday announced that player registrations for the eagerly awaited Hockey India League (HIL) 2026 will open at 1700 hrs on May 19 and close at 1700 hrs on August 20. Building on the resounding success of the

2024–25 revival season, which featured eight men's and four women's franchises, the upcoming edition promises to be even bigger. Registrations are open to all eligible Indian and international players, with invitations extended to athletes from the world's

leading hockey nations. Eligible Nations Men : India, Netherlands, Belgium, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Australia, Spain, Argentina, Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand, Malaysia, South Korea Women: India,

Netherlands, Argentina, Belgium, China, Australia, Germany, Spain, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Ireland, Chile, Japan, USA, Scotland

Last season, more than 1,000 players signed up, underscoring the league's global appeal and its role as

a launchpad for emerging talent. The Odisha Warriors captured the inaugural Women's HIL crown, while Shracchi Rarh Bengal Tigers lifted the Men's title—achievements that epitomise the league's renewed energy and professionalism.

Inspection of Visakhapatnam Station by DRM Waltair, ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, May 19 : Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Waltair Division, conducted a comprehensive inspection of Visakhapatnam Railway Station to assess passenger amenities, evaluate available facilities, and review the progress of ongoing developmental works. Mr E. Santharam, ADRM (Infrastructure), and senior officials from the Commercial, Engineering, Mechanical, Electrical, Operations, Security, and Signal & Telecom departments



accompanied DRM for the inspection. During the inspection, Mr Bohra focused on key areas including the functionality of lifts and escalators, availability and visibility of signage, parking arrangements, platform cleanliness, coach maintenance, linen supply, Yard and safety-related aspects. DRM engaged directly with passengers and railway staff to gather first-hand feedback aimed at improving overall passenger convenience and satisfaction.

DRM Mr Lalit Bohra also inspected key passenger facilities such as waiting halls, the AC Relaxation Lounge, food courts, catering stalls, and the "One Station One Product" (OSOP) kiosks. Interacting with vendors, Shri Bohra emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness, proper garbage disposal using dustbins, and adherence to safety norms. DRM counseled the vendors to avoid footboard travel and ticketless travel, advised for full cooperation to ensure a safe and clean environment for passengers.

CDS visits forward military bases; praises valour and professionalism of Armed Forces

New Delhi, May 19 (UNI) : To boost the morale of the Armed Forces, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan on Monday paid a visit to the strategically important Suratgarh Military Station and Naliya Air Force Station. He interacted with the troops emphasizing the importance of operational readiness and resilience in the face of evolving

security challenges, a Defence Ministry statement said. He commended the operational preparedness and high morale of the personnel and expressed confidence in their ability to respond effectively to future threats. The visit was marked by a spirit of pride in recognition of the exemplary courage displayed by soldiers

during Operation Sindoor. He was apprised of the latest and robust Air Defence Systems deployed in the operation. General Chauhan also held strategic discussions with senior military commanders during the visit. General Chauhan lauded the exceptional valour and professionalism of the soldiers during the active

phase of the Operation. Highlighting their selfless dedication, resolute courage and steadfast commitment in neutralizing multiple attempts by the western adversary of breaching the security, he said that they uphold the highest standards of military professionalism. He put emphasis on the need to remain ever prepared for responding to any

challenge with decisive force. During his address, the CDS praised the inter service synergy. He also extended his appreciation to the local civil administration for their support, underlining the importance of military – civil synergy in such critical situation. The CDS was accompanied by Lieutenant General

Manjinder Singh, Army Commander South Western Command and Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Western Air Command. The visit reaffirmed the nation’s gratitude towards its armed forces and reinforced the message of unity, readiness, and unwavering national commit.

Prime Minister to Inaugurate Redeveloped Amrit Bharat Railway Stations on 22nd May 2024

Twelve Stations of Central Railway Set to Offer World-Class Passenger Amenities and Experience

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, May 19 : The Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of these stations in two phases— 6th August 2023 and 26th February 2024. The scheme focuses on long-term development, multimodal integration, enhanced amenities for Divyangjans, improved sustainability, and the transformation of stations into future-ready urban centers. In a significant milestone, 103 redeveloped railway stations across Indian Railways will be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 22nd May 2024, including 12 key stations out of the 80 stations under Central Railway. These stations have been upgraded with modern passenger-friendly facilities, at a combined cost of over Rs. 138 crore. Remarkably, the redevelopment work of the stations under Central Railway has been successfully completed within just 15 months. In Maharashtra alone, 132 stations are being redeveloped under the scheme, of which 18 stations are being inaugurated in this phase. The station-wise details under Central Railway are as follows:

1. Chinchpokli - Upgraded Passenger Facilities at Chinchpokli Station of Mumbai Division of Central Railway.

Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi laid the Foundation stone for Redevelopment of Chinchpokli station on 26.02.2024.

To enhance passenger comfort and convenience, several key improvements have been made at Chinchpokli, which will greatly benefit to the passengers at the station



with a daily average footfall of 36696. Project cost 11.81 crore. Completed: Platform work

1.Renovation- Exterior painting, interior flooring, and false ceiling work of existing station elevated booking office at BB end and at KYN end .

2.PF flooring work

3.Drinking water booth & seating arrangement.

Circulating area (EAST SIDE)

1.Vertical garden on boundary wall.

2.Tensile fabric umbrella fixed at FOB entrance.

3.Repairing and plastering of entrance wall connected to FOB staircase.

Circulating area (EAST & WEST SIDE)

1.Modification of staircases at Mumbai End FOB.

2.Vertical 3D painting of compound wall.“Misc.

1.At CSMT end FOB beautification with vertical garden, spider glazing and non asbestos sheet.

2. Parel - Enhanced Passenger Amenities at Parel Station of Mumbai Division of Central Railway.

PM Shri Narendra Modi laid the Foundation stone for Redevelopment of Parel station on 06.08.2023. Project Cost 19.41 crore.

daily average footfall of 132680. Completed: Platform work

1. Painting of COP at all PFs, Repairing work of COP at PF- 4 and New COP on PF 01 Panvel end

2. Flooring of PF No. 1 to 4.

3.Replacement of valley gutter and downtake pipe at PF- 4 & PF- 1. FOB“ FOB Renovation

1. Strengthening & beautification of Mumbai end End FOB.

Misc Works



Parel Station has seen a host of improvements to boost passenger convenience, accessibility, and overall experience will greatly benefit the passengers at the Parel station with an average daily footfall of 47738. Completed: Circulating area (East Side):

1. New station building along with booking office & elevated parking with tensile fabric roof.

2. New Toilet block with STP.

3.Construction of pathway and boundary wall.

5.PCC road on the road in front of the booking office area.

6.Drainage work.

7.Vertical garden work on boundary wall.

8.SM office and allied

office building fixing of tensile fabric cloth

9. Gardening along track on east side.

Track side:

1.Landscaping at BB & KYN end.

3. Vadala Road station - Upgraded Passenger Amenities at Vadala Road Station of Mumbai Division of Central Railway.

Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi laid the Foundation stone for Redevelopment of Vadala Road station on 26.02.2024. Total Project cost 23.02.crore.

Vadala Road station has undergone comprehensive upgrades to enhance passenger convenience, safety, and station aesthetics will greatly benefit the passengers of vadala road station with the

1. Old toilet dismantled and new toilet block made with STP at PF 1 Kurla end.

2. Renovation of booking office & Entrance gate No. 1 & 2 at PF 1.

3. False ceiling, flooring and gate in front of west side booking office at PF No. 1

4. PF 01- COP cladding work .

4. Matunga station - Enhanced Passenger Amenities at Matunga – India’s First All-Women Operated Station of Mumbai Division of Central Railway“

Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi laid the Foundation stone for Redevelopment of Matunga station on 26.02.2024. Total Project cost 17.28 crore

Matunga Station continues to lead by example with a host of new passenger-friendly upgrades which will greatly benefit the passengers of Matunga station with the daily average footfall of 37927. Completed: Platform work

1.Flooring work at PF 1/ 2.

2.COP work on PF 1/2.

3.Toilet block with STP on PF 1/2 Mumbai end.

4.Renovation of elevated booking office on PF 1/2

5.Improvement of flooring as per Divyangjan guideline on PF 1/2.

6.Improvement to existing Toilet Block on PF 1/2 BB end.

7.Platform Raising work on at PF 3/4.

Circulating area west Side

1.3D painting on west side wall.

Circulating area east side

1.Development of vertical garden at circulating area.

2.Improvement to Station Building and Circulating area.

3.Improvement of booking office & allied offices renovation.

4.Improvement of main entrance gate work.

5.Main building Wooden Arch restoration work.

6.Construction of rooms for shifting of utilities.

The redevelopment of these stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme marks a transformative step in passenger experience enhancement, accessibility, and integration with the urban landscape.

Central Railway continues to play a pivotal role in realizing the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of modern, inclusive, and passenger-centric railway infrastructure.

Tiranga Yatra by Hubballi Railway Division

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, May 19 : Hubballi Division of South Western Railway today conducted Tiranga Yatra at the Divisional Office premises. The event was organized as a mark of deep respect and gesture to the exceptional courage and supreme military power displayed by the Indian Armed Forces during ‘OPERATION SINDHOOR’. The yatra commenced from Hubballi Railway Station and featured impressive displays including patriotic placards and wall posters. The event was marked by an enthusiastic parade by Railway Protection Force (RPF), Scouts and Guides, and school children who participated. A special patriotic street play based on real-life events of Operation Sindhur was presented, drawing attention to valor and dedication of the Indian military Railway staff took active participation in yatra, showcasing a spirit of unity and solidarity with armed forces. Addressing gathering, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Smt. Bela Meena appreciated the courage, valor, and unwavering dedication of Indian soldiers. She emphasized the importance of remembering and honoring such heroic acts that inspire national pride. Additional Divisional Railway Manager Shri T.V.Bhushan, Senior Divisional security commissioner Shri Alok Kumar, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer Shri R Prasad along with other senior officials, graced the occasion. Both railway staff and passengers actively participated in the event, making it a memorable and patriotic celebration.

Entrance based Admissions in MANUU at Hyd

(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, May 19 : The last date for submission of online applications for admissions in entrance based Diploma, PG and Doctoral programmes of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) is May 19, 2025. The entrance tests will be held as scheduled on 12th, 13th and 14th June, 2024. Admissions are being offered in MBA, MCA, M.Tech. (Computer Science), M.Ed., Master of Law, B.Tech. (Computer Science), LL.B, B.Ed., D.El.Ed., Polytechnic-Diplomas. Applications are also invited for various PhD programmes. Interested candidates can check detail programmes in e-prospectus available at <https://manuu.edu.in/> Regular-Admissions. For any clarifications contact 040-23006612 EXTN- 1801 or email to admissionsregular@manuu.edu.in.

Electrical Loco Shed Visakhapatnam Unveils Crew - Friendly upgrades in WAP7 Loco for all India electric Loco Cab Competition



(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, May 19 : Electrical Loco Shed, Visakhapatnam (ELS, VSKP), has introduced a series of innovative, crew-friendly modifications in WAP7 locomotive 37419, setting a new benchmark in operational excellence and crew comfort under the guidance of Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (ELS) Shri B Shannukha Rao. These enhancements have been carried out as part of ELS/VSKP’s entry into the prestigious All India Electric Loco Cab Competition, to be held at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW). Retrofitted Crew Desk , Enhanced Cab AC Ducting, Ventilated & Improved Seats, Superior seating for enhanced driving comfort, Motor-Operated Side Window Shutters, Caution Order Display, Rear View Camera, Anti-Slip Flooring with Radium Stickers, Driver Tool Box, Adjustable Cab Spot Lights are some of the key feature improvements made to the Loco Engine. The upgraded locomotive was ceremoniously flagged off by Shri Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Waltair, at Electric Loco Shed, Visakhapatnam. Recognizing the dedication and innovation demonstrated by the ELS, VSKP team, DRM has announced a cash award of Rs 5,000.