

## IN BRIEF

### CM releases ‘Shikshanvedh 2047’ quarterly

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday released the quarterly, ‘Shikshanvedh 2047’, launched by the Higher and Technical Education Department here.

The quarterly will include various schemes, initiatives, policies, success stories, thoughts of experts in the field of education, inspiring stories of successful students and innovations in the field of education.

Also, information of the departments of Technical Education, Higher Education, Art Education and Library Directorate will be available to the readers.

‘Shikshanvedh’ will be an inspiring guide for students, professors and all those concerned with the field of education.

### Plea against protocol lapses during CJI Mumbai visit

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) : City-based Advocate Shobha Buddhivant on Tuesday filed a criminal writ petition before the Bombay high court seeking action on lapses in protocol during the Mumbai visit of Chief Justice of India Bhushan Gavai and also seeking an inquiry report in this regard.

Adv Nitin Satpute has filed petition on behalf of Adv Buddhivant, which will come up for hearing before the vacation bench of the high court consisting of Justices Jitendra Jain and Adviat Sethna.

The plea is likely to be mentioned on Wednesday (tomorrow) before the bench.

It may be recalled that during CJI’s visit to Mumbai on Sunday, Maharashtra’s chief secretary, director general of police or the city police commissioner were not present to receive him, which is regular practice as per protocol.

It was his first visit to Maharashtra (the home state) after assuming the country’s top post.

## Chhagan Bhujbal takes oath as cabinet minister



Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan being greeted by NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal after the latter took oath as a minister in the state cabinet, at Raj Bhavan, in Mumbai. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Ministers Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde are also seen.

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) Senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal was on Tuesday inducted into the Maharashtra Cabinet of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Seventy seven year old Bhujbal took oath as a Minister at the Raj Bhavan. Fadnavis, and Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar were present during the oath-taking ceremony.

Following his swearing-in, Bhujbal commented, “As it is said, ‘all’s well that ends

well’. I have held many key positions, from the home ministry to various other departments. Whatever responsibility is assigned to me now, I will accept. It’s the Chief Minister’s prerogative.”

Shinde welcomed Bhujbal’s induction into the cabinet, highlighting his vast administrative experience. “He has previously served as a minister and handled important departments. He is a seasoned leader, and the state will benefit from his

insights and leadership,” Shinde said. The veteran leader and prominent OBC face in Maharashtra did not find a place in the ministry when Devendra Fadnavis took over as chief minister last December. Now, Bhujbal has replaced NCP’s Dhananjay Munde who resigned in March over the alleged role of his aide in the murder of sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh.

According to sources, Bhujbal is likely to get the Food and Civil Supplies portfolio he held earlier.

## Amid spike in COVID cases in Singapore an HK, Ministry issues advisory, allays fears

New delhi/Chennai, May 19 (UNI) Amid rising concerns over increasing COVID cases in Singapore and Hong Kong, which is said to be not life threatening, Union Health Minister J P Nadda allayed the fears of the public and reviewed the situation at a High Level Meeting on Emergency Health Systems Preparedness to prevent spread in India.

An official release said the Health Ministry said urgent and comprehensive measures were taken to strengthen Health Systems and Resources across the Country ensuring availability of medicines in hospitals, including equipment and beds to tackle any emergency.

The current status of medical preparedness for handling emergency cases was presented to him and the Ministry was closely monitoring the

situation.

He was apprised of the actions taken regarding deployment of ambulances; ensuring adequate availability of medical supplies including equipment, medicines, supply of blood vials and consumables; hospital readiness in terms of beds, ICU and HDU; deployment of BHISHM Cubes, advanced mobile trauma care units etc. .

Hospitals and medical institutions have been advised to ensure availability of essential drugs, adequate supply of blood, oxygen, trauma care kits etc. AIIMS New Delhi and other central government hospitals have mobilised doctors and nurses with supplies for ready deployment.

The Minister also directed to develop ground level linkages at State level and all districts, besides armed forces to tight the emergency response system.

## 'One World for Health' reflects India’s vision: PM

New Delhi, May 20 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday addressed the 78th session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva via video conferencing and said that this year’s theme, ‘One World for Health,’ reflects India’s vision for global health.

The future of a healthy world depends on inclusion, an integrated vision, and collaboration,” the Prime Minister said, an official statement said.

Recalling his address at the 2023 World Health Assembly, where he had spoken about ‘One Earth, One Health’, Modi said, “The future of a healthy world depends on inclusion, an integrated vision, and

collaboration”.

Emphasizing that inclusion is at the core of India’s health reforms, Modi highlighted Ayushman Bharat, the world’s largest health insurance scheme, which covers 580 million people and provides free treatment. The programme was recently expanded to cover all Indians above the age of 70 years.

He noted India’s extensive network of thousands of health and wellness centres that facilitate early screening and detection of diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and hypertension.

PM Modi also underlined the role of thousands of public pharmacies that provide

high-quality medicines at significantly lower prices.

Highlighting the role of technology in improving health outcomes, Modi underscored India’s digital initiatives like the digital platform that tracks the vaccination of pregnant women and children and the unique digital health identity system, which is helping integrate benefits, insurance, records, and information. Adding that with telemedicine, no one is too far from a doctor.

He highlighted India’s free telemedicine service, which has enabled over 340 million consultations. Reflecting on the positive impact of India’s health initiatives, he noted a significant decline in out-of-

## Govt issues protocol guidelines for visit of CJI in the state

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) :

The government on Tuesday issued protocol guidelines for the visit of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) to Mumbai and other parts of the state, two days after CJI BR Gavai expressed displeasure over the absence of senior Maharashtra government officials, including the Chief Secretary, during his first visit to the state after taking over as head of the Supreme Court. The CJI is now officially designated as a Permanent State Guest in Maharashtra

Accordingly, the Chief Justice will continue to be entitled to all protocol-related facilities as per the State Guest Rules, 2004, including accommodation, vehicle arrangements, and security throughout the state during visits.

As per the Maharashtra State Guest Rules, 2004, dignitaries included in the list of declared state guests—or those considered as such—are

accorded reception and farewell arrangements at airports by the State Protocol Subdivision.

At the district level, the District Collector’s office ensures similar arrangements through designated protocol officers. During the Chief Justice’s visit to Mumbai, the Chief Secretary or their senior representative, the Director General of Police or a senior representative, and for visits to other districts, the respective District Collector and Commissioner / Superintendent of Police or their senior representatives are instructed to welcome the dignitary. It may be recalled that on Sunday when CJI visited Mumbai, the Maharashtra Chief Secretary, Director General of Police or the city police commissioner were not present to receive him during the visit to his home state, his first after assuming the top post, which is regular practice as per protocol.

## Three women Naxalites, 2 minors detained

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) : The police in Maharashtra’s Gadchiroli district announced on Tuesday that they have arrested three women Naxalites and detained two minors from the Binagunda area in the Bhamragarh subdivision in a joint counter-offensive campaign with the Central Reserve Police Force. They were collectively carried a reward of Rs 36 lakh on their heads, officials said.

According to the information received by the police, the Maoists were preparing to carry out an ambush at important places in Gadchiroli. The police team involved in this operation successfully completed the operation despite difficult conditions, said a release issued by Superintendent of Police Neelotpal.

Of the three arrested women, Ungi Hoyam (27), a divisional committee member in 'Platoon 32' of the Maoists, was carrying a reward of Rs 16 lakh on her head. Pallavi Midayam (19), working as 'platoon party committee member' was carrying a reward Rs 8 lakh on her head, while Deve Podiyam (19) was carrying a reward of Rs 4 lakh. All three hail from Chhattisgarh.

The other two Naxalites -- a male and a female -- are suspected to be minors and carried a collective reward of Rs 8 lakh. They were detained and would be produced before the juvenile justice board. One self-loading rifle, one .303 rifle, three single shot rifle, two guns, three walkietalkies and other materials have been seized from the arrested Maoists. Anti-Naxal operations will be intensified in the region, SP Neelotpal indicated.

pocket expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure . Simultaneously, he emphasised that Government health expenditure has increased considerably.

“The health of the world depends on how well we care for the most vulnerable”, underlined the Prime Minister, highlighting that the global south is particularly impacted by health challenges. He added that India’s approach provides replicable, scalable, and sustainable models.

Modi expressed India’s willingness to share its learning and best practices with the world, especially with the global south.

Looking ahead to the 11th International Day of Yoga in June, the Prime Minister encouraged global participation and highlighted this year’s theme, ‘Yoga for One Earth, One Health,’ and extended an invitation to all countries, emphasizing India’s role as the birthplace of Yoga.

He also extended his congratulations to the World Health Organization (WHO) and all member states on the successful negotiations of the INB treaty. He described it as a shared commitment to fighting future pandemics through greater global cooperation. He emphasised the importance of building a healthy planet while ensuring that no one is left behind.



### Work of soldier, doctor is same, both protect common man ....

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said that doctors treat patients, and we, working in the Ministry of Defence, treat terrorists across the border. In his parliamentary constituency, Lucknow, for the first time after 'Operation Sindoor', the Defence Minister said, "India launched 'Operation Sindoor' against terrorism and successfully attacked a large number of terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and succeeded in eliminating the terrorists. Indian soldiers have worked like skilled doctors and surgeons. Just as a skilled surgeon uses tools on the root of the disease, the Indian forces have used weapons on the roots of terrorism."

(See on page 8)

### No tolerance for terror and the govt that sponsors it: India



India’s zero tolerance against the menace of terrorism needs to be forcefully conveyed to the international community by members of the All-Party Delegation who have been deputed to various countries to brief them about Operation Sindoor.

( See on page 2)

### Dy CM condoles death of Dr Jayant Narlikar



Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Tuesday expressed grief over demise of world-renowned senior astronomer Dr Jayant Narlikar and paid emotional tributes to him. In a condolence message, he said, “Dr Narlikar was a world-renowned scientist and an active thinker who instilled scientific ideas in the society.

(See on page 3)

### Adriyan Karmakar sets junior national record, opens ...



Adriyan Karmakar, son of Olympian and Arjuna awardee Joydeep Karmakar, clinched the silver medal in the men’s 50m rifle prone event at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 here on Tuesday, registering India’s first medal of the competition.

(See on page 7)



"In this rapidly changing world, there are many opportunities to further deepen our bilateral cooperation. In this context, we looked ahead to our Strategic Partnership. This will cover key themes such as security and emerging technologies."



## Two killed, 2 injured in road accident in Jalgaon

Jalgaon, May 20 (UNI) : Two people riding on a two-wheeler were killed on the spot and as many injured after a State Road Transport Corporation bus smashed their two-wheeler at Swastik Talkies in Chpada town of the district on Tuesday.

According to police, the accident occurred as the brakes of an ST bus failed suddenly, as a result, it first crushed a two-wheeler and then hit an autorickshaw.

In this accident, the two-wheeler riders were killed on the spot and two others were seriously injured.

The injured have been shifted to Chopda Sub-District Hospital and a private hospital for treatment. Police rushed to the spot and are carrying on further investigation in this incident.

## NCP-Ajit Pawar faction office bearers, workers celebrate as Chhagan Bhujbal sworn in as cabinet minister

Nashik, May 20 (UNI) Office bearers and workers of the NCP-Ajit Pawar faction in Nashik celebrated by beating drums, bursting firecrackers and distributing sweets as senior party leader Chhagan Bhujbal was sworn in as Maharashtra cabinet minister today.

Office bearers and workers of the Congress Party (NCP) and Akhil Bharatiya Mahatma Phule Samata Parishad celebrated at the Bhujbal Farm office and the Nationalist Congress Party office at Mumbai Naka in Nashik.

**MANSOON TRADING COMPANY LIMITED**  
CIN NO: L99999MH1985PLC035905  
Regd. Office: 203, 2nd Floor, M-Space, Next to Minatali Thakeray Blood Bank, Sitaram Patkar Marg, Goregaon (West) Mumbai - 400104  
Website: [www.mansoontrading.co.in](http://www.mansoontrading.co.in)  
Email – [mansoontradingltd@gmail.com](mailto:mansoontradingltd@gmail.com)

**NOTICE**  
Pursuant to Regulation 29(1)(a) of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, we hereby inform you that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held at the Registered Office of the Company at Office No. 203, 2nd Floor, M-Space, Next to Minatali Thakeray Blood Bank, Sitaram Patkar Marg, Goregaon (West), Mumbai 400 104 on **Tuesday, the 27th May, 2025, inter-alia**, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Result for the year ended and fourth Quarter ended **31st March, 2025**.  
Further, in compliance with Company's code of conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading under SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulation, 2015, the Trading window remained closed from 1st April, 2025 to 29th May, 2025 (both days inclusive) for Directors, Designated Person and their family members.  
For Mansoon Trading Company Limited  
Vikas B. Kulkarni  
Managing Director  
(DIN-08180938)

**MEENAKSHI STEEL INDUSTRIES LIMITED**  
CIN – L52110DL1985PLC020240  
Regd Office : J-189, Basement, J-Block, Saket, New Delhi-110 017  
Mumbai Office: 407, Kalbadevi Road, 3rd Floor, Daulat Bhavan, Mumbai 400 002  
Website : [www.meenakshisteel.in](http://www.meenakshisteel.in)  
Email - [meenakshisteelindustries@gmail.com](mailto:meenakshisteelindustries@gmail.com)

**NOTICE**  
Pursuant to Regulation 29(1)(a) of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, we hereby inform you that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held at 407, Kalbadevi Road, 3rd Floor, Daulat Bhavan, Mumbai 400 002 on **Thursday, the 29th May, 2025 inter-alia** to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results(Standalone and Consolidated) for the 4th Quarter and year ended **31st March, 2025**.  
Further, in compliance with Company's code of conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading under SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulation, 2015, the Trading window will remain closed from 1st April, 2025 to 2nd June, 2025 (both days inclusive) for Directors, Designated employees and their family members.  
For Meenakshi Steel Industries Limited  
Sudha Jajodia  
Director  
Place: Mumbai  
Date : 20.05, 2025 (DIN-00376571)

## High Court denies relief to L&T over bid for Thane-Ghodbunder to Bhayandar tunnel

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) : The Bombay High Court on Tuesday refused to grant relief to Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on its pleas challenging the non-intimation of opening of bids by Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) for the Thane-Ghodbunder to Bhayandar tunnel and elevated road projects worth over Rs 16,000 crore.

A vacation bench of Justices Kamal R Khata and Arif S Doctor passed a verdict on two pleas by L&T, which claimed that it had not received any intimation about the status

of its bids, while the other bidders had received the same.

While refusing to grant relief, the bench directed that the bids submitted electronically by L&T for both projects be preserved in a sealed cover for two weeks, giving the company time to approach the Supreme Court.

The high court also instructed MMRDA to communicate the tender award decision in accordance with the instructions to bidders (ITB).

The two infrastructure projects aim to connect Thane and Mira-

Bhayandar — a tunnel from Gaimukh to the Fountain Hotel junction at Shilphata, and an elevated creek bridge linking Bhayandar to Ghodbunder Road in Thane.

The proposed bridge would be the second-largest in the region after the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), also known as Atal Setu. It is proposed as an extension of the Mumbai Coastal Road Project.MMRDA had invited tenders in July 2024, and on October eight in response to a separate petition by L&T, they agreed to extend the deadline to submit bids by 60 days.

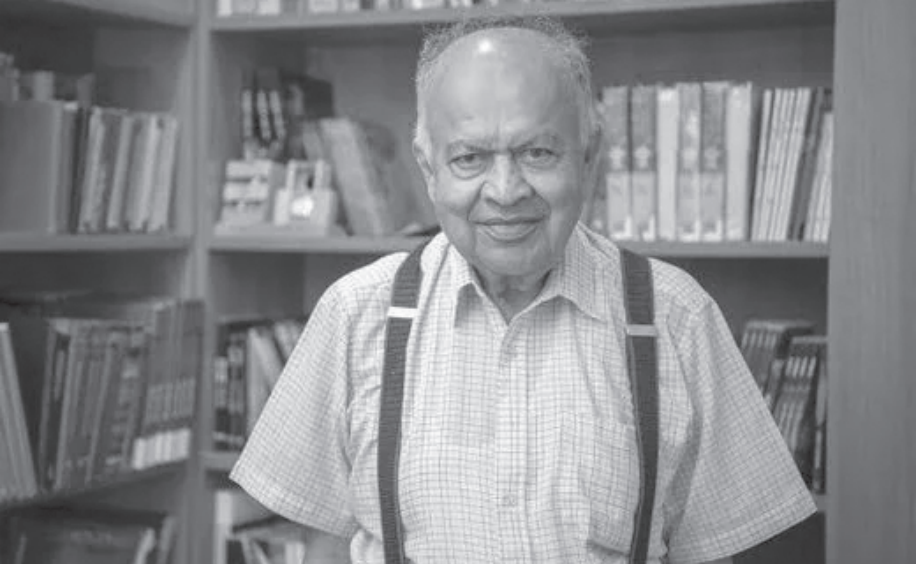
## Governor condoles demise of scientist Dr Jayant Narlikar

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) :Governor CP Radhakrishnan has expressed grief over the death of renowned astrophysicist Dr. Jayant Narlikar, a recipient of Padma Vibhushan, in Pune.

“I am deeply saddened to learn about the passing of Dr. Jayant Narlikar — a towering figure in the field of astrophysics, an author and an advocate of science popularization," the Governor said in a condolence message.

He said as the founder of IUCAA in Pune, Dr. Narlikar made immense contributions to the advancement of scientific research and education in India."Dr Narlikar had a rare gift of making complex scientific ideas accessible to the common man. Through his science fiction, short essays and newspaper articles, he inspired generations of young minds to pursue science," the Governor said."With his passing, the nation has lost a visionary sage-scientist. I convey my condolences to the members of the bereaved family," said the Governor.

## Noted astrophysicist, science writer Jayant Narlikar dead



(Standard Post Bureau) Pune, May 20 : Eminent astrophysicist and science writer Dr Jayant Vishnu Narlikar died at his residence here on Tuesday following cardiac arrest, family sources said.Narkilkar, a Padma Vibhushan awardee, was 86.

He passed away in his sleep.

Narlikar was born on July 19, 1938, in Kolhapur. His father Vishnu Vasudev Narlikar, was a famous mathematician and head of the Mathematics Department of Banaras Hindu University, while his mother Sumati was a Sanskrit scholar.

After completing his

schooling in Varanasi, Jayant Narlikar obtained a degree in science and then went to Cambridge in the UK for higher education. He completed his PhD degree from Cambridge, and also won the Wrangler degree, Tyson Medal in astronomy, Smith Prize and several other awards.

Narlikar drew the attention of scientists around the world by proposing the ‘Conformal Gravity Theory’ along with Sir Fred Hoyle.

He also received India's second and third highest civilian honours, Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan respectively for his valuable contribution in the field of astrophysics.

He not only contributed as a science researcher but also spread science through his writings.

Some of his famous scientific books are ‘Antaralatil Bhasmasur’, Antarala and Vigyan, Akashashi Jadle Nate and Suryacha Prapok. His Marathi autobiography ‘Char Nagarantele Maje Vishwa’ won the Delhi Sahitya Akademi Award.

He also got the Maharashtra Government Award for his book ‘Denagi’, the Lifetime Achievement Award in Literature from the American Foundation, and the Rashtra Bhushan Award from the Phi Foundation, Ichalkaranji.

## SHRM Tech 2.0 2025 kicks off with Talks on Future of Work

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) : SHRM Tech 2.0 2025 kicks off with Talks on Future of Work on Tuesday in Mumbai with a powerful opening that brought together some of the most influential voices in business, HR and technology.

Hosted by the SHRM India (Society for Human Resource Management), the event is set to shape the future of the workplace through high-impact discussions, innovation showcases and leadership insights.

Speaking on the

occasion, Achal Khanna, CEO - SHRM India, MENA & APAC, emphasised the need for a human-centred approach to digital transformation, and said, “SHRM Tech is not just a platform for conversations - it’s a launchpad for action. As we step into a future powered by AI and human ingenuity, we must focus on trust, purpose, and adaptability. Limitless possibilities unfold when people and technology come together to lead change. People influence the global growth, we

influence the people." Some of the keynote speakers like Zarin Daruwalla, former Cluster CEO – India & South Asia, Standard Chartered Bank, Richard Rekhy, Vice Chair, Grant Thornton Bharat & Former CEO, KPMG India, Dr Praveer Sinha, CEO & Managing Director, The Tata Power Company, delivered thought-provoking perspectives.SHRM Tech 2.0 2025 featured a series of dynamic panel discussions that tackled some of the most pressing themes in the world of

work.Experts delved into topics exploring AI’s impact on talent acquisition, from building high-intent pipelines with employer branding to enhancing hiring decisions through smart assessments.The Vibrant Tech Expo and Start-Up Zone saw over 90 solution providers showcase next-gen HR technologies—ranging from AI-powered recruitment bots to immersive L&D platforms—drawing attention from CHROs, talent leaders and investors.

## Sena (UBT) announces support for govt's all-party outreach against terrorism

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) : Shiv Sena (UBT) on Tuesday announced the party would support India's global outreach against terrorism in "national interest" and the Centre should follow the protocol of informing parties about these delegations to avoid "chaos and mismanagement".

In a social post X, the party said that "Union Minister Kiren Rijiju ji had a telephonic call with Party President Shri Uddhav Thackeray ji, yesterday, with regards to this delegation. This delegation is about India against terrorism, not politics and on being reassured about this, we have also assured the government that we will do what is right and needed for our country via this delegation."

"MP Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi ji will be a part of the delegation with other MPs from across the country. Right after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, all Political Parties have expressed support to the Prime Minister in the fight against terrorism, especially Pak based terrorism and to

destroy their infrastructure and bases. We all are united in the armed forces acting against terrorism, there must be no two ways about it," the post read.

Sena further said that "We do have our opinions about the diplomatic situation and the failed intelligence/ security apparatus on Pahalgam, and we will keep asking questions in the best interest of our nation, within our country. However, we must rally globally to expose Pak based terrorism, in order to isolate and destroy it.""We have also communicated to the union government that while we are united in this cause, a protocol of better informing the parties could be followed about these delegations, to avoid chaos and mismanagement. That happened yesterday, through the call, and we have reaffirmed our support to any such action of national interest. We have also asked for an all party meeting to voice the same and to discuss Pahalgam to Operation Sindoor, chaired by the Prime Minister at the earliest," the post added.

## Dy CM condoles death of Dr Jayant Narlikar

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) : Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Tuesday expressed grief over demise of world-renowned senior astronomer Dr Jayant Narlikar and paid emotional tributes to him.

In a condolence message, he said, “Dr Narlikar was a world-renowned scientist and an active thinker who instilled scientific ideas in the society. He worked throughout his life to instill the principles of science, scientific thoughts and scientific perspectives in the new generation. He explained the

secrets of science to children in simple language. With his demise, a bright star in the scientific field of the country, which was dedicated to the spread of knowledge and science, has gone.”The demise of Dr Narlikar, who was honoured with honours like ‘Maharashtra Bhushan’, ‘Padma Bhushan’ and ‘Padma Vibhushan’, is an irreparable loss to the country, added Pawar.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has expressed his condolences and said in his message that the demise of renowned astronomer, science writer and science communicator Prof Jayant Vishnu Narlikar has created a huge void in the world of science.He laid a solid

foundation for science research in the state by establishing ‘Antaravishwa Vidyapeeth’ in Pune.

Due to his guidance, Maharashtra has attained a leading position in the scientific field. His demise is a great loss for the state and the country, he added.

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) : The government has officially approved and implemented the aggregators policy for app-based transport services across the state, as per a government resolution issued by the Home Department on Tuesday.The move aims to regulate and streamline services offered by Ola, Uber, Rapido, and carpooling platforms, ensuring higher safety, transparency, and fairness for both drivers and passengers.

## Six killed, 4 injured after portion of building collapses in Thane

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) Six people, including four women and a two-year-old child, were killed and four others were injured after a portion of a four-storey building in Kalyan city of neighbouring Thane district collapsed on the lower floors on Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

According to the resolution, aggregator companies must be registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or 2013, the Cooperative Societies Act, 1912, or the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, and must have an office in Maharashtra.All aggregators are required to operate through secure apps and websites that comply with state-mandated safety standards, including real-time GPS tracking, emergency contact numbers, and mandatory police verification and training of drivers.

Insurance coverage for both drivers and passengers is compulsory.

## Govt implements policy for app-based transport services

To discourage unnecessary cancellations, if a driver cancels a booked ride, a penalty of 10% of the fare or Rs. 100 (whichever is lower) will be charged and credited to the passenger’s account. If a passenger cancels without valid reason, a penalty of 5% of the fare or Rs. 50 (whichever is lower) will be charged and credited to the driver’s account.In line with the state’s commitment to sustainability, aggregators are required to gradually increase the use of electric vehicles, following the provisions of the Maharashtra Electric Vehicle Policy.

For carpooling services, aggregators must verify both drivers and users, and ensure all contact details are authenticated. Only women drivers/passengers can opt for pooling with other women for enhanced safety. Carpooling fares cannot exceed the rates set by the Regional Transport

Authority, and each user can avail of a maximum of 14 carpool rides within a 7-day period.The policy will be updated as necessary following the final notification of the Central government’s Aggregator Guidelines-2024, and Maharashtra will soon publish its own detailed rulebook.



**BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**TREE AUTHORITY**  
**- PUBLIC NOTICE -**  
In accordance with the provision under section 8 (3) (C) of the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection & Preservation of Trees Act 1975 (As modified upto January 2018), **01** Proposal for removal of trees is approval by Municipal Commissioner, Chairman, Tree Authority BMC under sub section (6) of section (8) of the said Act.  
  
The information of the trees for cutting/ Transplanting in above mentioned proposal is available on BMC website → **<https://portal.mcgm.gov/in/>** → About us Ward/ Department Manuals/Gardens & Tree Authority. 17 (L).  
  
**Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer**  
Office of the Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer  
2nd Floor, Humboldt Penguin Building.,  
Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan & Zoo  
Sant Savata Mali Marg, Byculla (East),  
Mumbai - 400 027.  
Tel No : 23742162  
  
Email : **[sg.gardens@mcgm.gov.in](mailto:sg.gardens@mcgm.gov.in)**  
  
**PRO/456/ADV/2025 - 26**  
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**Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer**



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**सही**  
**कार्यकारी अभियंता (स्था), स्थापत्य विभाग कल्याण.**

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STANDARD POST

42 pc drop in visa applications to Turkey and Azerbaijan from India

In the wake of recent geopolitical developments that shifted Indian traveller sentiment dramatically, there has been a sharp 42 per cent decline in visa applications to Turkey and Azerbaijan, a report said.

As both countries publicly expressed support for Pakistan, Indian travellers responded swiftly.

Within just 36 hours, the number of users exiting the visa application process midway surged by 60 per cent, according to data provided by Atlys, a visa processing platform.

“The reaction wasn’t scattered; it was sharp and behavioural. People didn’t need to be told to avoid certain destinations. They simply moved on, guided by instinct, information, and access to alternatives. That’s what modern travel looks like,” said Mohak Nahta, Founder and CEO of Atlys.

In the same spirit, “we also paused all marketing efforts for Turkey and Azerbaijan, standing by India and in solidarity with national sentiment,” he added.

Travellers from metro cities like Delhi and Mumbai showed a 53 per cent drop in Turkey-bound applications, while interest from tier 2 cities such as Indore and Jaipur remained more resilient, falling by only 20 per cent.

There was also a shift in the kind of travellers rethinking their plans.

Group visa requests, including family trips, fell by nearly 49 per cent, while solo and couple applications declined more gradually at 27 per cent.

This suggests that larger group travellers, often planning further in advance and more sensitive to political sentiment, reacted more decisively than individual travellers.

Atlys data also revealed early signals around age and intent. Travellers aged 25 to 34 were the most likely to change course quickly, accounting for over 70 per cent of mid-process application drop-offs for Turkey.

Interestingly, women travellers were more likely to switch destinations entirely, with a 2.3 times higher tendency to reinstate applications for Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam, or Thailand.

As Turkey and Azerbaijan lost favour, alternate destinations surged in popularity. In the subsequent days, applications to Vietnam, Indonesia, and Egypt rose by up to 31 per cent, the data showed.

Miss World 2025 Contestants from India, United Kingdom, France, Cameroon and USA visit KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases

(Standard Post Bureau)  
Ms Julia Morley, Chairman & CEO of Miss World Limited & Miss World 2025 contestants commend Dr Raghu Ram for his disruptive initiatives to improve Breast Cancer Care in India over the past 18 years.

Early detection saves lives. Dr Raghu Ram pledges to dedicate his life to Early detection of Breast cancer in India

Impressed with the disruptive Breast Cancer advocacy initiatives spearheaded by Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation & KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases, a focussed group of Miss World 2025 contestants representing five Nations created the time to visit the centres of excellence at KIMS Hospitals today.

Welcoming the gathering Dr. B. Bhaskar Rao, Chairman of KIMS Group of Hospitals said “A very warm welcome to Miss World 2025 delegation visiting the Institute. Whatever Dr Raghu Ram undertakes, he accomplished his goals with 100% success rate. Having watched him closely for close to two decades, I can vouch for this fact. His unwavering love for his mother and motherland brought him back from the UK to India, where he has been working with missionary zeal for the to transform breast cancer care through countless innovative initiatives. I extend my best wishes to



him and anticipate many more milestones in his tireless service to the nation.”

The Miss World 2025 Delegation was led by Ms Julia Morley, the Chairman and CEO of Miss World Limited paid rich tributes to the various innovative Breast Cancer advocacy initiatives spearheaded by Usha Lakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation & KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases KIMS Hospitals over the past 18 Years. Addressing the Healthcare Professionals gathered at the Centre, Ms Julia Morley said “Dr Raghu Ram has demonstrated extraordinary leadership for having conceived, designed and established South Asia’s first purpose-built and

comprehensive Breast Health Centre in Hyderabad. It is indeed heart-warming to learn about his pioneering breast cancer advocacy initiatives aimed at Early Detection, which has made significant and meaningful difference to scores of lives of women forwell over 18 years. In many ways he is a perfect example of a “Living Bridge” between the United Kingdom and India and has been replicating the best of British practices inan earnest endeavour to improve breast cancer care in India.”

Nandini Gupta (Miss India 2025) - Business Management Executive, Hannah Johns (Miss Northern Ireland 2025) – Nurse, Issie Princess (Miss Cameroon – Central

Africa) – Breast cancer advocate, Dr Neomi Milne (Miss Guadeloupe 2025 – France) – Doctor & Dr Idil Bilgen (USA) – Radiation Oncology trainee paid glowing tributes to Dr Raghu Ram for gaining inspiration from his mother, Dr Ushalakshmi’s breast cancer journey and creating the much needed breast cancerawareness in the country where more than 60% present in advanced stages with poorsurvival. They shared their perspectives and their role in improving breast cancer care in their respective Countries. All of them said that they would take back with them the learnings from today’s brilliant power point presentation from Dr Raghu Ram and try to incorporate

the initiatives implemented by Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation in their motherland.

Addressing the gathering, Dr P. Raghu Ram, Founding Director of KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases & Founder and Chairman of Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation said “ My heartfelt thanks to Ms Julia Morley and the Miss World contestants for creating the time to spend quality time at KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases and for their heart-warming remarks to my power pointPresentation that showcased the unique and impactful initiatives that have been championed by me over the past 18 years. My mother’s breast cancer journey has been my

inspiration and I fold my hands in gratitude to my Colleagues, friends and the Government for their unstinting help, support & guidance, all along. Early detection of breast cancer saves lives and I dedicate my life in my mission to improve breast cancer care in my motherland”.

Sharing her own journey of fighting breast cancer, Dr Ananda Shankar Jayant, a renowned classical dancer and breast cancer ‘conqueror’ said “ It has been mygreatest fortune to be treated by Dr Raghu Ram. In my own tryst with breast cancer, Imanaged to emerge strong and successful because of the extraordinary quality of treatment, empathetic care and counselling provided by him throughout the period of my treatment. emerged a ‘conqueror’. It is immensely satisfying that in my journey, Dr Raghu Ram inspired me to stay positive and remain undeterred whilst dealing with this unwelcome visitor. I commend Dr Raghu Ram for staying focused in spreading the message of hope and creating the much-needed awareness about early detection for a decade and beyond”

Nandini Gupta – Miss India 2025

Hannah Johns – Miss Northern Ireland 2025

Issie Princess – Miss Cameroon (Central Africa)

Dr. Naomi Milne – Miss Guadeloupe 2025 (France), Breast Cancer Awareness Advocate

Dr. Idil Bilgen – USA

Silent Gut Disease Affecting Millions

(Standard Post Bureau)

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) may not be a household term, but it is a chronic, life-altering condition that deserves urgent attention. Affecting over 10 million people globally and an estimated 15 lakh Indians, IBD—comprising Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis—is increasingly being diagnosed, yet still remains under-discussed due to social taboos and misconceptions. On May 19th, World IBD Day, themed “IBD Has No Borders-breaking taboos together” Kaluvala Harsha urges early diagnosis and care. Let’s unite to break the silence on gut health. Aster Prime Hospital has established itself as a leading center for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) care with a specialized team comprising medical and surgical gastroenterologists, IBD-trained doctors, nurses, dietitians, and psychologists. With 20 dedicated beds and advanced infrastructure, the hospital treats a significant number of patients on biologics and advanced therapies. Patients are referred from across districts, supported by a structured EMR-based follow-up program and a weekly IBD clinic for continuous, personalized care.

“IBD is not just a stomach issue—it’s a systemic condition that impacts the whole body and mind,” says Dr. Harsha Kaluvala, Consultant Gastroenterologist at Aster Prime Hospital, Hyderabad. “Unfortunately, the nature of the symptoms—frequent diarrhea, abdominal pain, rectal bleeding, and fatigue—makes people reluctant to talk about it, even with their families or employers.”

The lack of public discourse often results in patients enduring their symptoms silently. Dr. Kaluvala emphasizes that the stigma around IBD is rooted in societal discomfort with bowel-related symptoms, widespread myths about the causes of the disease, and the invisible nature of the illness.



This silence often leads to delayed diagnoses, social withdrawal, and mental health struggles including anxiety and depression. “People think it’s caused by bad food or hygiene, or that it’s just a digestion problem. That’s not true. IBD is an autoimmune disorder that requires medical intervention and long-term care,” adds Dr. Kaluvala. While IBD currently has no known cure, it can be effectively managed with a combination of medication, dietary guidance, mental health support, and regular follow-ups with specialists. Lifestyle adjustments, stress management, and peer support are crucial, especially for young patients navigating school, work, and relationships. Dr. Kaluvala also stresses the importance of dietary awareness. “During flare-ups, patients should stick to bland, easily digestible foods like rice, bananas, and boiled vegetables, while avoiding spicy, fried, or processed items. But diet is highly individual, so working with a dietitian is key.”

More than anything, he believes that breaking the taboo around IBD will lead to better outcomes. “We need open conversations. Whether it’s in clinics, classrooms, or corporate offices—talking about IBD helps reduce stigma, improves empathy, and gives patients the confidence to seek the care they need.”

Manipur media to Stop the Press on 21st May in protest on Army Harassment

(Standard Post Bureau)

Imphal, May 20 : Media houses across Manipur, including both print and electronic platforms, will Stop the Press on Wednesday, May 21st in protest against the alleged harassment of journalists by personnel of the 4th Mahar Regiment of the Indian Army at the Gwaltabi checkpoint in Imphal East. The decision was jointly announced by the All Manipur Working Journalists’ Union (AMWJU) and the Editors’ Guild Manipur (EGM) following an emergency meeting held on Tuesday in Imphal.

The protest stems from an incident on the way to cover the inaugural event of the Shirui Lily Festival in Ukhrul. A media team of about 20 members, including DIPR officials, was travelling in a Manipur

State Transport (MST) bus when they were stopped at Gwaltabi—despite having cleared earlier checkpoints. Army personnel allegedly demanded that the team erase the government vehicle’s MST signage, citing orders from “higher authorities.”

The journalists, despite showing valid credentials, were reportedly questioned and pressured. A heated argument followed. Ultimately, under duress and for safety reasons, the MST markings were removed. Frustrated and humiliated by what they described as illegal detention and mistreatment, the media team returned to Imphal, abandoning their assignment.”

The incident has triggered outrage within the media community. The EGM and AMWJU, in a

joint statement, condemned the army’s actions, calling it an attack on press freedom and state dignity. “If a bus belonging to a government department cannot move freely within its own state, what does it say about the rule of law?” the statement read.

The two organizations have submitted a memorandum to the Governor of Manipur under adverse weather conditions, demanding:“

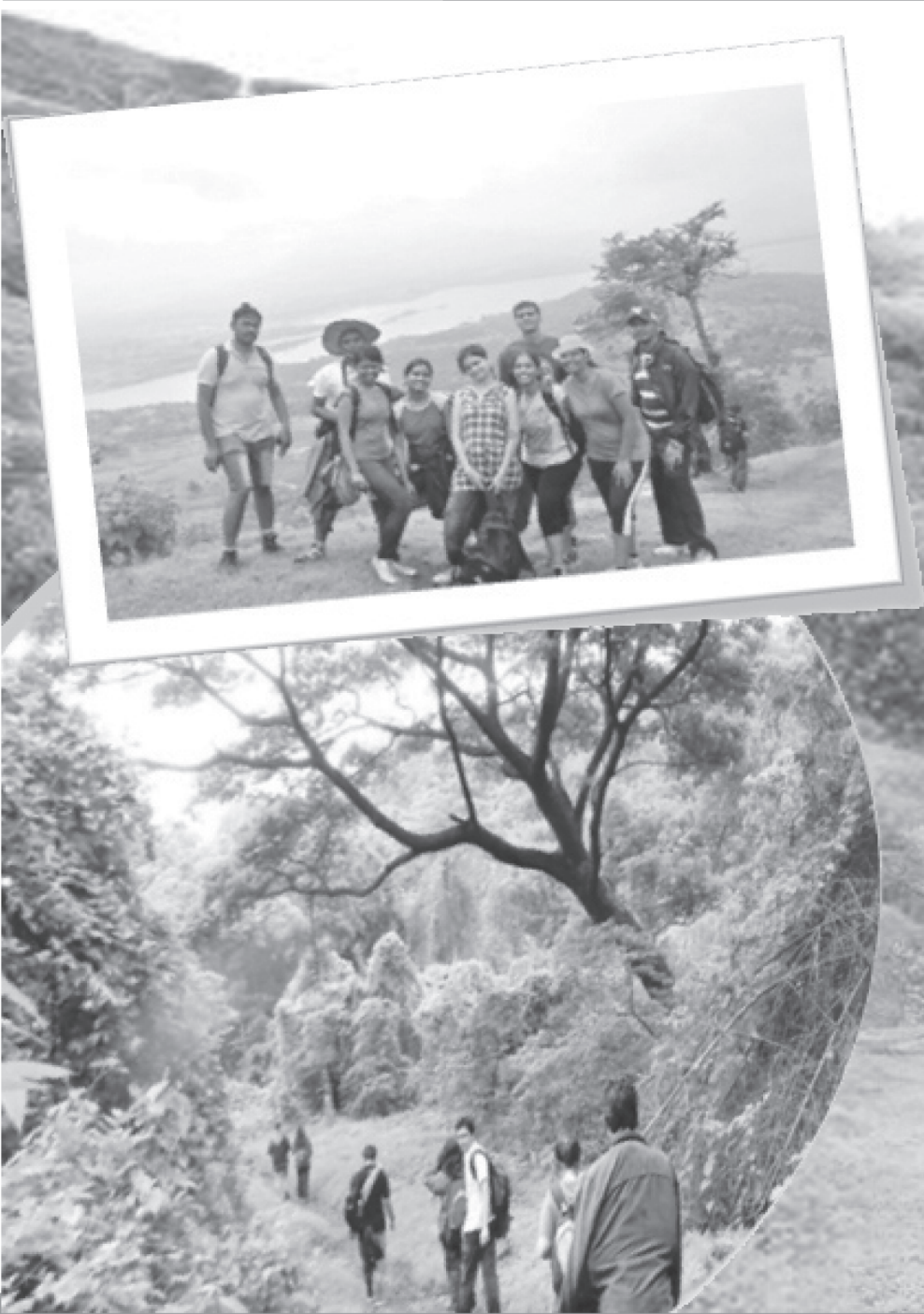
Immediate action against the personnel involved. Disciplinary measures against officials responsible for the situation.

Accountability for the unsafe planning of the Shirui Lily Festival. “A directive to the DIPR to coordinate better with security forces to prevent such occurrences in the future.”





Travel



Weekends are all about  
Monsoon  
Treks

With monsoon settling in, youngsters are geared up for exciting treks in and around Aurangabad.

Gautala Autramghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Shuli Bhanjan hill, Brazen Glen group of caves and Gogababa hill are some of the hotspots for trekkers. City based trekking organizations say that monsoon treks over the weekend is quite popular and reveal that this year, enquiries have been pouring in due to early monsoon. Most organisers have decided to prepone their trekking dates. Kishor Gathadi, an experienced trekker says, "This year we are starting our trekking programmes earlier than usual. Generally we start from July as the monsoon is at its peak. But this time due to early rains we start from June 23. There are a lot of engineering students

who will be part of the treks this year, since most of them have just finished their exams. We have 60 entries so far and the number is increasing on a daily basis." Ravi Choudhary of another organization adds, "More than 50 students have enrolled with us so far. With early showers it's not a surprise that nature lovers want to get started with adventure activities." For most students trekking is an exciting activity that gets them close to nature and also helps stay fit naturally. Mansi Mahadik, student of

Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University says, "I'm looking forward to having a lot of fun trekking this year as the rains have been good." Kshitija Bardapurkar a student from Marathwada Institute of Technology College adds, "I cherish the memory months later after a trek. It provides a respite from the drab routine of city life. Nature also inspires me to write poetry." But it isn't only limited to being a fun activity

and also provides an opportunity to learn new things and spread environmental awareness for some. Ravi adds, "While conducting treks, we encourage the trekkers to clean the plastic littering the area and also plant seeds." Prakash Kulkarni, a student of Maulana Azad College who is all set to plant 500 neem seeds during his trek says, "Trekking is no doubt fun and a great form of exercise. But I also like to contribute to the environment in my own way.

I have bought 500 neem seeds which I will sow along the stretch that I pass during my trek." Meanwhile Rahul Ingle, another student from Maulana Azad College who has been an avid trekker since past five years, has plans to teach rappelling to new trekkers. Expert trekker Utsav Helambkar doles out some advice to new student trekkers. "Students should follow all the instructions given by their trekking head so as to avoid any mishap. Sometimes, girls tend to wear incorrect footwear during trekking. Wearing the right footwear, carrying enough food and water and a first aid box is very important. Also trekkers should walk in groups to reduce the risk of losing their way," ashokumarmundetiya.S

The western Grand Canyon was largely carved out by about 70 million years ago when dinosaurs roamed the earth, an analysis of mineral grains lying at the bottom of these hulking shapes reveals.



Grand Canyon  
was carved out while dinosaurs roamed

The new research pushes back the conventionally accepted date for the formation of the Grand Canyon in Arizona by more than 60



million years, says Rebecca Flowers, assistant professor of geological sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder. The team used a dating method that exploits the radioactive decay of uranium and thorium atoms to helium atoms in a phosphate mineral known as apatite, said Flowers, who co-authored the study with Kenneth Farley, professor at the California Institute of Technology, the journal Science reports. The helium atoms were locked in the mineral grains as they cooled and moved closer to the surface during the carving of the Grand Canyon, she said, according to a Colorado statement. Temperature variations at shallow levels beneath the Earth's surface are influenced by topography, and the thermal history recorded by

the apatite grains allowed the team to infer how much time had passed since there was significant natural excavation of the Grand Canyon, Flowers said. "Our research implies that the Grand Canyon was directly carved to within a few hundred meters of its modern depth by about 70 million years ago," said Flowers. Flowers said the entire modern canyon may not have been carved all at the same time. Different canyon segments may have evolved separately before coalescing into what visitors see today. Over a mile deep in places, Arizona's steeply sided Grand Canyon is about 280 miles long and up to 18 miles wide in places. Visited by more than five million people annually, the iconic canyon was likely carved in



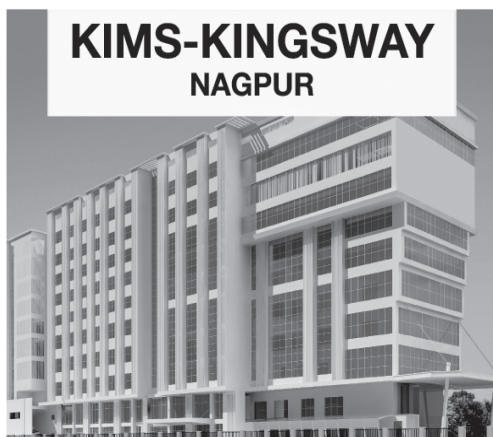
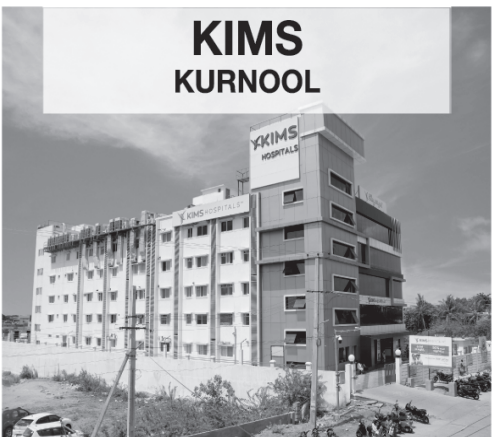
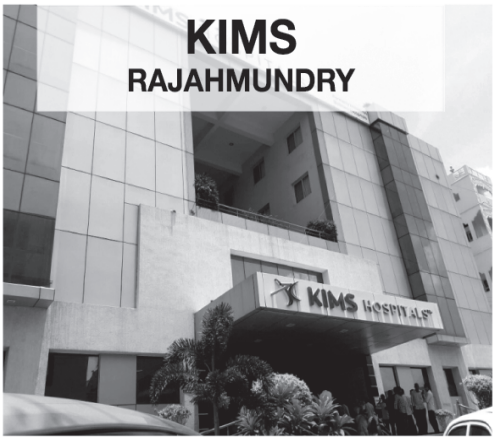
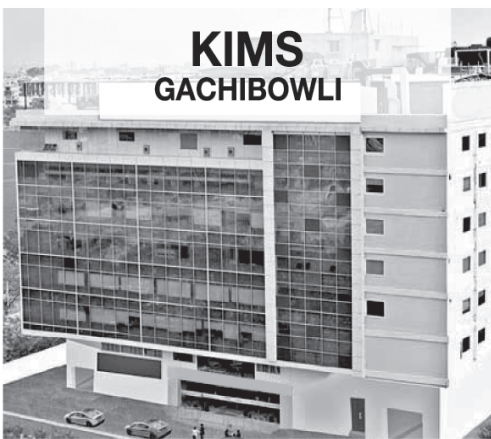
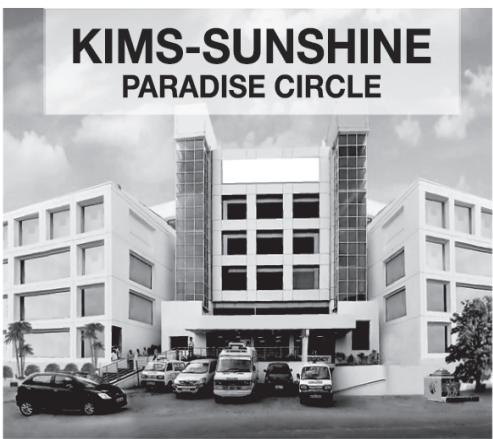
large part by an ancestral waterway of the Colorado River that was flowing in the opposite direction millions of years ago, said Flowers. "An ancient Grand Canyon has important implications for understanding the evolution of landscapes, topography, hydrology and tectonics in the western U.S. and in mountain belts more generally," said Flowers.



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# England reveal their playing XI for Zimbabwe Test



London, May 20 (UNI) Essex seamer Sam Cook will make his Test debut at Trent Bridge as England kickstart their home summer on May 22, with a one-off Test against Zimbabwe, who last played against them in 2003.England’s top order remains pretty much the same as the one that played against New Zealand in their previous Test series late last year, with Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root and Harry Brook forming their batting core. Ben Stokes, whose presence feels like a catalyst to lift the side, according to the head coach Brendon McCullum, is back after nursing a

hamstring injury and will be leading the side. Jamie Smith will be behind the wickets and the young offie Shoaib Bashir makes it into the XI as well. Along with Gus Atkinson, the pace attack is expected to be led by Josh Tongue, who made a memorable Test debut with a fifer against Ireland at Lord’s. Cook replaces Matthew Potts as the third seamer in the side. This is the first time Stokes’ side will be without the services of both Stuart Broad and James Anderson at home, following the latter’s retirement last year, an ICC report said. England playing XI: Zak

Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes, Jamie Smith, Gus Atkinson, Sam Cook, Josh Tongue, Shoaib Bashir. McCullum believes they will start as the favourites against the Chevrons but would need to make good decisions under pressure. The former Kiwi captain, along with Stokes, has been a major reason for the turnaround in Test fortunes for England. After their previous successful series against the Kiwis, England would hope to continue to ride on McCullum’s approach for favourable results, ahead of a long Test season against India and Australia.

# Chelsea manager Maresca not happy with Real Betis fixture change

London, May 20 (UNI) : Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca on Tuesday said he is "not happy" that opponents Real Betis have been given two days of extra preparation for next week's Conference League final. La Liga has accepted a request from Betis to bring their final league match against Valencia - originally scheduled for Sunday - forward to Friday evening (20:00 BST). Chelsea, by contrast, travel to Nottingham Forest - who, like the Blues, are chasing Champions League football - on Sunday, three days before the final in Wroclaw, Poland on May 28. Sunday's final round of Premier League games must

all kick off at the same time (16:00 BST) to prevent any side gaining an unfair advantage over their rivals. But Maresca said: "I'm not happy, 100%, you cannot allow another team 48 hours more when you play a European final, the BBC reported. "Either we play Friday or they play Sunday like us. I don't know if it is from La Liga, the Premier League or Uefa, but if you ask people in this room if it is normal to play a final where another team has 48 hours more to prepare, it is not normal." The Chelsea manager has confirmed that back-up goalkeeper Filip Jorgensen will start in the final, while Christopher Nkunku and Marc Guiu remain injury

doubts. "Filip Jorgensen is going to play the final because he played all the competition. It is unfair if you arrive at the final and he is not playing the final," said Maresca. "This game will be Filip plus 10 players, I do not know which the other 10 will be, but Filip is going to play because he deserves to play." At the moment, Guiu and Nkunku start to take part in our sessions, but are still not 100%." Chelsea must finish in the top five of the Premier League to qualify for next season's Champions League. If they finish sixth or win the Conference League, they qualify for the league phase of the Europa League.

# India begin chiselling finer margins in Kolkata

Kolkata, May 20 (UNI) : The Indian senior men's team kicked off their preparations for the June FIFA International Window with a first training session here. India will face Thailand in a friendly in Pathum Thani on June 4 before the all-important AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifier against Hong Kong in Kowloon City on June 10. Out of the 28 probabilities called up by head coach Manolo Marquez, 26 trained on the first day. Defender Rahul Bheke, who became a father recently, will join on May 23. Midfielder Ashique Kuruniyan is suffering from illness and will begin training with the Blue Tigers on May 21. India will travel to Thailand on May 28. "We need to improve a lot because I felt that the team was going forward in every FIFA window except the last," Marquez said. While the March window did bring a 3-0

friendly win against Maldives, the Spaniard's first win as the Indian coach, a lacklustre 0-0 draw versus Bangladesh wasn't the ideal start to the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign. "It's true that for the game against Bangladesh, we lost very important starting players. But it's not an excuse for our poor performance in that game. We need to be aware that we have a difficult game in Hong Kong. We have time to prepare, to be competitive and try to win and get the three points," Marquez said. Singapore and Hong Kong also played out a 0-0 draw in Group C, so there's nothing to separate the four sides after the opening matchday. On June 10, Hong Kong will host India, and Singapore will travel to Dhaka to face Bangladesh. Only the group winners will qualify for the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027. "I had a conversation with Javi Cabrera, the

Bangladesh coach, before the game, and he told me that in this group, you can't tell who will finish first and who will end up last. Every team can beat the other. After the results on the first day, I told him he was right. Now, four teams are on one point each. Everything is the same. It's like starting again with five games left, not six," said Márquez. India, a Pot 1 side, being the highest-ranked team in the group, are theoretically looking ahead to the toughest match of the campaign – an away tie against Hong Kong, the Pot 2 side in the group. But Marquez believes that the group is too close to call and might be decided by fine margins. "I feel that all the games are very difficult. I watched Singapore versus Hong Kong. Singapore played much better in the first half, and Hong Kong were better in the second. It was a very equal game like India-Bangladesh," Marquez said.

# Adriyan Karmakar sets junior national record, opens India's medal tally at Suhl

Suhl (Germany), May 20 (UNI) : Adriyan Karmakar, son of Olympian and Arjuna awardee Joydeep Karmakar, clinched the silver medal in the men's 50m rifle prone event at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 here on Tuesday, registering India's first medal of the competition. Making his debut at an ISSF World Cup, the 20-year-old shot a stellar 626.7 – a new junior national record – narrowly missing the gold by 0.3 points to Sweden's Jesper Johansson, who scored 627.0. Griffin Lake of the United States took the bronze with 624.6. Adriyan, a former Khelo India Youth Games gold medallist and junior national champion in the rifle 3-position event, delivered a composed performance, emerging as one of the earliest finishers in the event that saw stiff international competition. Among the other Indian contenders, Rohit Kanyan (15) placed 12th with a total of 620.2, while Vedant Nitin Waghmare ended in 35th position with 614.4. In the women's 50m rifle prone event, Anushka Thokur finished sixth with a score of 623.5. Prachi Gaikwad followed at 22nd with 618.3. The Junior World Cup, being hosted in Suhl until May 26, features 638 athletes from 59 countries competing across 17 medal events, including Olympic and non-Olympic shooting disciplines for the U-21 category. India is fielding a 57-member squad led by Paris 2024 Olympian Raiza Dhillon and is contesting in all events. Indian shooters will next compete in the 10m air pistol events scheduled for Wednesday.

Hyderabad, May 20 (UNI) : Royal Enfield on Tuesday announced that registrations are now open for the 21st edition of the Himalayan Odyssey – one of the most iconic and celebrated rides in the world of adventure motorcycling. Set to begin on June 28, 2025, the 18-day, 2,600-km ride will take 70 riders from across the globe through the awe-inspiring terrains of the Himalayas, the company said in a release. Celebrating its 21st edition this year, the ride will cover the expanse of the Himalayas, scaling the breathtaking terrain of Ladakh, Spiti, and Zaskar and across Umling La—the highest motorable pass in the world. With riders of all skill levels participating, Himalayan Odyssey is a journey of self-discovery where many begin as motorcyclists and return as adventurers, enriched by unforgettable memories and the camaraderie of a community bonded by their shared love for the open road. Riders will traverse challenging trails, scenic mountain twisties, smooth tarmac, dirt tracks and exhilarating water crossings across the Himalayas. Whether part of Team Spiti or Team Zaskar, every participant will experience the unmatched thrill of crossing some of the world's highest motorable mountain passes on a motorcycle. To ensure a worry-free ride on varied terrains, Himalayan Odyssey offers comprehensive logistical,

# Royal Enfield begins registrations for 18-day 21st edition of Himalayan odyssey

Paris, May 20 (UNI) : Heather Watson's hopes of reaching the French Open main draw are over but fellow Briton Fran Jones progressed to the second round of qualifying. Watson, aiming for an 11th main-draw appearance at Roland Garros, lost 7-6 (7-2) 6-2 to Australian Daria Saville. Jones defeated Croatia's Lea Boskovic 6-2 6-3 to set up a meeting with Japan's Mai Tomotama. Players have to come through three qualifying rounds in Paris to reach the main draw. Britain's Jan Choinski exited in the opening round of men's qualifying, losing

# Rampant RR humble CSK as Suryavanshi sparkles

New Delhi, May 20 (UNI) : A high-voltage IPL clash turned into a one-sided affair as Rajasthan Royals (RR) steamrolled Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by six wickets with 17 balls to spare at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Tuesday. Chasing a competitive target of 188, RR rode on a sparkling half-century by teen sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi and a brutal finish by Dhruv Jurel to hand CSK a resounding defeat and keep their playoff hopes alive. The win was sealed in emphatic fashion as Jurel launched Matheesha Pathirana over deep midwicket for a towering six off the first ball of the 18th over — a hit that punctuated CSK's bowling failures and fielding lapses through the night. Put into bat, CSK were rocked early by Yuvraj Singh Chahal, who struck twice in the second over to remove Devon Conway (10) and Urvil Patel (0). Ayush Mhatre, however, lit up the evening with a blazing 43 off just 20 balls, counter-punching with poise and flair. His innings was punctuated by three boundaries in one over and a monster six over midwicket that silenced the RR fans momentarily. Mhatre and Ashwin added 50 for the third wicket, but once Mhatre holed out and Ravichandran Ashwin (13) slugged Wanindu Hasaranga to deep midwicket, the innings began to wobble. Dewald Brevis injected fresh momentum with a 25-ball 42, including a clean loft over long-off and a no-look six over square leg. Shivam Dube (39 off 32) tried to push the total past 190, but Akash Madhwal's yorkers and clever variations ensured CSK were kept in check at the death. Madhwal finished with 3/29, including the prized scalps of MS Dhoni (16) and Dube in the final over. CSK stuttered from 128/4 in the 14th to 187/8 in 20 overs. In reply, Rajasthan's innings began with a flurry as Yashasvi Jaiswal (36 off 19) found boundaries at will. From a stylish cut past point to a towering six over cover, Jaiswal's strokeplay was a treat. He was eventually bowled by Anshul Kamboj, trying an ambitious heave. Enter

Suryavanshi, the southpaw stamped his class with 57 off 33 balls, an innings peppered with powerful shots. He drove Khaleel Ahmed with elegance, slugged Ashwin with confidence, and launched Ravindra Jadeja over long-on for a monstrous six. Suryavanshi reached his half-century in style with a mighty hit off a free-hit from Noor Ahmad, sending the ball soaring over deep square. His innings ended in the 14th over when a mistimed slog off Ashwin found Jadeja at short third, ending a 98-run partnership with skipper Sanju Samson. Samson (41 off 31) was elegance personified, clearing long-on off Ashwin and threading fine leg off Pathirana. He perished shortly after Suryavanshi, failing to clear Brevis at long-on. But if CSK dreamt of a late comeback, Dhruv Jurel dismissed it with disdain. Walking in at 139 for 3, Jurel had one brief: finish it quickly. And he obliged in jaw-dropping fashion. His first real statement came off Jadeja — a six over deep square, followed by a deft paddle to fine leg for four. Against Noor Ahmad, Jurel mixed subtlety with savagery — reverse paddling one for four before climbing into a tossed-up delivery for a 90-metre six. When Riyan Parag fell bowled for 3, it mattered little. Shimron Hetmyer stepped in and added to the carnage — a cheeky four fine, then a giant six over midwicket off Ashwin. Fittingly, it was Jurel who ended the night in style — smashing Pathirana for a six straight down the ground to bring up the win. For CSK, Ashwin (2/41) tried to create a middle-over collapse, but the spinners — Noor Ahmad (1/42) and Jadeja (0/27) — leaked runs. Pathirana (0/22 in 2.1 overs) struggled with control and length, while Kamboj (1/21) showed glimpses of promise. Scorecard: CSK 187/8 in 20 overs (Ayush Mhatre 43, Dewald Brevis 42, Shivam Dube 39; Madhwal 3/29, Yuvraj 3/47); RR 188/4 in 17.1 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 57, Sanju Samson 41, Dhruv Jurel 31\* off 12; Ashwin 2/41) Result: Rajasthan Royals won by 6 wickets

# Kidambi Srikanth qualifies for main draw at Malaysia Masters

Kuala Lumpur, May 20 (UNI) : Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the main draw of the men's singles event at the Malaysia Masters 2025 badminton tournament after winning both his qualifying matches at the Axiata Arena in Bukit Jalil on Tuesday. Srikanth, currently ranked 65th in the BWF men's singles rankings, began his campaign in dominant fashion by dispatching world No. 64 Kuo Kuan-lin of Chinese Taipei 21-8, 21-13 in just 29 minutes. In his second qualifying encounter, the Indian shuttler staged a strong comeback after dropping the first game to defeat Huang Yu Kai, also of Chinese Taipei, 9-21, 21-12, 21-16. However, it was a disappointing day for the other Indian men in the singles qualifiers. Tharun Manjappa went down 13-21, 21-23 to Thailand's Panitchaphon Teeraratkul, while Sankar Subramanian narrowly lost to China's Xuan Chen Zhu 20-22, 20-22 in a closely fought contest. In the women's singles qualifiers, Anmol Kharb suffered a straight-games defeat to Hung Yi-Ting of Chinese Taipei, bowing out 14-21, 18-21. In women's doubles action, the Indian pair of

Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singh exited in the first round after a 14-21, 18-21 loss to the eighth-seeded Taiwanese duo Lin Jhih-Yun and Hsu Yin-Hui. Rashmi Ganesh and Sania Sikkandar also faced an early exit, losing 10-21, 12-21 to Thailand's Pichamon Phatcharaphitsutin and Nannapas Sukklad. There was some cheer for India in the women's doubles as Prerana Alvekar and Mrunmayee Deshpande defeated compatriots Vaishnavi Khadkekar and Alisha Khan 21-19, 19-21, 21-13 to move into the second round. In men's doubles, Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi lost 13-21, 18-21 to Chen Zhi-Ray and Lin Yu-Chieh of Chinese Taipei, while Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K fell 21-15, 23-21 to Malaysia's fifth-seeded pair Man Wei Chong and Tee Kai Wun. The mixed doubles qualifiers also saw an early exit for India, as Mohit Jaglan and Lakshita Jaglan lost 21-15, 21-16 to Malaysia's Ming Yap Too and Yu Shan Lee. India's top medal hopes, two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and world championships bronze medallist HS Prannoy, will begin their campaigns on Wednesday.

# Royal Enfield begins registrations for 18-day 21st edition of Himalayan odyssey

Hyderabad, May 20 (UNI) : Royal Enfield on Tuesday announced that registrations are now open for the 21st edition of the Himalayan Odyssey – one of the most iconic and celebrated rides in the world of adventure motorcycling. Set to begin on June 28, 2025, the 18-day, 2,600-km ride will take 70 riders from across the globe through the awe-inspiring terrains of the Himalayas, the company said in a release. Celebrating its 21st edition this year, the ride will cover the expanse of the Himalayas, scaling the breathtaking terrain of Ladakh, Spiti, and Zaskar and across Umling La—the highest motorable pass in the world. With riders of all skill levels participating, Himalayan Odyssey is a journey of self-discovery where many begin as motorcyclists and return as adventurers, enriched by unforgettable memories and the camaraderie of a community bonded by their shared love for the open road. Riders will traverse challenging trails, scenic mountain twisties, smooth tarmac, dirt tracks and exhilarating water crossings across the Himalayas. Whether part of Team Spiti or Team Zaskar, every participant will experience the unmatched thrill of crossing some of the world's highest motorable mountain passes on a motorcycle. To ensure a worry-free ride on varied terrains, Himalayan Odyssey offers comprehensive logistical,

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# Amrit Bharat Stations: Icons of Change, Mirrors of Cultural Identity



(By Jaya Varma Sinha, Ex. Chairman, Railway Board.)

India's transformation today is swift and visible—not just in policy documents or political statements, but in its physical landscape. The changes are apparent in newly built roads, high-speed expressways and world-class airports that rival international standards. These developments reflect a deeper shift in how India connects its cities and empowers its people. Once neglected, the railway sector is now emerging as a crucial part of this progress, shedding its image of overcrowded and outdated stations to become a showcase of culture, efficiency and innovation.

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is a central component of this transformation. Led by Indian Railways, the initiative aims to modernize over 1,300 railway stations across the country. But this mission goes far beyond architectural upgrades or technological enhancements. It

represents a fundamental shift in how India approaches public infrastructure—blending functionality with inclusivity, heritage with modernity and convenience with sustainability. The scheme envisions railway stations not just as transit points but as vibrant, integrated spaces that reflect a city's character and support its community.

At the heart of the scheme is the principle that quality public services contribute directly to the dignity and well-being of every citizen. Where stations once focused only on managing high footfall, they are now being repositioned as important civic spaces—hubs that interconnect culture, economy and daily life. The scheme involves preparing specific master plans for each station, tailored to its location, passenger traffic and local identity. These plans are not rigid; they are designed to evolve and adapt to emerging technologies, population

growth and shifting urban needs. Development proceeds in phases, ensuring minimal disruption to existing operations while allowing space for innovation.

Rather than relying on cosmetic changes like new paint or expanded platforms, the initiative reimagines the entire purpose of a railway station. Stations are now seen as spaces that offer more than transportation—they serve as shopping areas, tourism gateways, business zones and community centers. Every design decision is centered on improving user experience. Passenger entry and exit points are being reorganized to reduce congestion and ensure smooth movement at all times. This is especially valuable for senior citizens, families with young children and those with mobility challenges.

Inside the stations, modern waiting lounges, better lighting, improved air circulation and ergonomic seating have replaced the once-cramped and dimly lit spaces. Toilet facilities are being modernized to meet high standards of hygiene and comfort. Digital kiosks provide multilingual support and reduce queues at ticket counters, enhancing accessibility for all travelers. To ensure universal design, features like elevators, escalators and clearly marked signage are being added, empowering persons with disabilities and the elderly to navigate the space independently.

The project also emphasizes cleanliness, cultural expression and environmental consciousness. Clean stations are seen not just as a hygiene requirement but as a sign of respect and dignity for



passengers. Free Wi-Fi at stations allows travelers from even the most remote or underserved areas to stay connected, access information and continue working while in transit. This digital connectivity bridges gaps for rural users and supports modern professionals alike.

In promoting sustainability, the scheme incorporates eco-friendly features such as green pathways and **climate-sensitive landscaping**. These not only reduce the environmental footprint but also enhance the beauty and comfort of the station environment.



Measures like **energy-efficient** systems, better air flow and the use of ballastless tracks help reduce noise, pollution and **long-term maintenance** challenges. Rooftop plazas, where

feasible, add community value by creating public gathering spaces and opportunities for commercial activities. One of the most unique aspects of the scheme is the One Station One

real-time digital updates to cater to tourists, pilgrims and business travelers alike. The design philosophy is deeply rooted in human-centered thinking—ensuring that

culture and as gateways to opportunity and unity. The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is not simply upgrading infrastructure—it is redefining the role of railway stations in Indian life. It places care, identity and dignity at the center of the travel experience, ensuring that every citizen has access to public spaces that inspire pride and provide ease.

This vision, by fully integrating urban design **and** sustainable development, ensures that these stations will remain relevant, functional and meaningful for generations to come.



# Work of soldier, doctor is same, both protect common man: Rajnath

Lucknow, May 20 (UNI) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said that doctors treat patients, and we, working in the Ministry of Defence, treat terrorists across the border.

In his parliamentary constituency, Lucknow, for the first time after 'Operation Sindoor', the Defence Minister said, "India launched 'Operation Sindoor' against terrorism and successfully attacked a large number of terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and succeeded in eliminating the terrorists. Indian soldiers have worked like skilled doctors and surgeons. Just as a skilled surgeon uses tools on the root of the disease, the Indian forces have used weapons on the roots of terrorism."

He was attending the 25th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of Dr KNS Memorial Hospital along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Rajnath said that Pakistan started attempts to attack Indian soil. "Common citizens, temples, gurudwaras and churches were targeted. In response to that, the action of the Indian Army brought the Pakistani army to its knees. We took full care that only the terrorist bases of Pakistan

be attacked, there should be no attack where civilians live," he said. He said that the Indian forces have operated skilled surgeons. "There are many similarities in the work and commitment of soldiers and doctors. Both protect the common man. One protects health, and the other protects the nation. The discipline and training of both are very tough. Both have to make big decisions in very delicate situations. Both are always ready for emergencies," he said. He said, "The country saw the valour of the Indian forces during 'Operation Sindoor' and the courage and commitment of doctors-surgeons during Corona. Like soldiers, doctors are also known for their duty, courage and service to the country and society."

The Defence Minister Singh, said, "I had inaugurated this hospital on May 12, 2000. The dream, vision, and purpose that I saw in the eyes of Dr KN Singh have become a reality today. Indian talent is showing its talent outside the country, but Dr Singh returned to India from the United States and became an example of brain gain," he said.

Rajnath said that in 1997, Dr Singh's mother had a heart attack and he lost her due to lack of adequate medical

facilities on time. "That moment changed his direction. Dr Singh resolved that no one should be lost due to a lack of treatment. Personal loss often creates bitterness and also makes one pessimistic, but people like Dr Singh show that these sorrows can be transformed into new consciousness, new direction and new inspiration," he said. He expressed concern about the changing lifestyle. He said that today India is being called the Diabetes Capital. "Statistics show that more than 10 crore people in India are diabetic patients, and 14 crore people are in pre-diabetes state. Medical experts believe that with timely detection and the right health management, these patients can lead a normal life. There is a need to understand the need to control lifestyle. Only doctors can create maximum awareness about lifestyle," he said.

The Defence Minister said that no matter how qualified a doctor is, without infrastructure and facilities, a doctor cannot give their best. "Investing in medical infrastructure and human resources should be the priority of every government," he said. He said that the health sector is also one of the highest priority sectors under the

leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "In the financial year 2025-26, a budget of 95,957 crores has been allocated to the health sector," he said. Rajnath said that more than 8 crore people have benefited from the Ayushman Bharat scheme so far. "The government has spent Rs 1.25 lakh crore for this so far. There are 19 lakh poor and deprived people who cannot get this treatment without Ayushman Bharat health coverage. Due to Ayushman Bharat, the out-of-pocket expenditure of people has come down from 62 per cent to 38 per cent. More than 14,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened across the country. Jan Aushadhi Kendras have also started opening in rural areas in collaboration with PACS. The prices of medicines have also been controlled through the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority," he said. He said that in 10 years, there has been a significant increase in the health infrastructure and the number of doctors in India. "Before 2014, there were only 387 medical colleges in the country, while in 2024 its number has increased to 780. The number of MBBS seats has been increased by 130 per cent. Before 2014, its seats were around 50,000, which has now increased to about 1.20 lakh," he said.