# STANDARD POST

www.standardpost.in

**ENGLISH DAILY** 

Simultaneously Published from MUMBAI, DELHI, HYDERABAD, GUNTUR, PUDUCHERRY & VISAKHAPATNAM

Vol.12. No.190

MUMBAI

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Pages: 8 Rs.1

#### **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** 

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 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.

Fadnavis.

Seventy seven year old prerogative." Bhujbal took oath as a Minister at the Raj Bhavan. Bhujbal's induction into the Munde who resigned in Fadnavis, and Deputy Chief cabinet, highlighting his March over the alleged role Ministers Eknath Shinde vast and Ajit Pawar were present experience. "He has sarpanch during the oath-taking previously served as a Deshmukh. ceremony.

in, Bhujbal commented, "As is a seasoned leader, and the Food and Civil Supplies

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) well'. I have held many key insights and leadership," Senior NCP leader Chhagan positions, from the home Shinde said. The veteran Bhujbal was on Tuesday ministry to various other leader and prominent OBC inducted into the departments. Whatever face in Maharashtra did not Maharashtra Cabinet of responsibility is assigned to find a place in the ministry Chief Minister Devendra me now, I will accept. It's the when Devendra Fadnavis Chief

minister and handled Following his swearing- important departments. He Bhujbal is likely to get the

Minister's took over a chief minister last December. Now, Bhujbal has Shinde welcomed replaced NCP's Dhananjay administrative of his aide in the murder of Santosh

According to sources, it is said, 'all's well that ends state will benefit from his 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 situation. rising concerns over increasing COVID 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

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 ground level linkages at State level and all cases was presented to him and the districts, besides armed forces to tight the Ministry was closely monitoring the emergency response system.

He was apprised of the actions taken cases in Singapore and Hong Kong, which 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

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

guidelines for the visit of the Protocol Subdivision. Chief Justice of India (CJI) to Mumbai and other parts District Collector's office of the state, two days after ensures CJI BR Gavai expressed arrangements through displeasure over the designated absence of senior officers. During the Chief Secretary, during his first senior representative, the visit to the state after taking Director General of Police or over as head of the Supreme a senior representative, and Court. The CJI is now for visits to other districts, officially designated as a the respective District Permanent State Guest in Collector Maharashtra

Justice will continue to be their senior representatives entitled to all protocol- are instructed to welcome related facilities as per the the dignitary. It may be recall vehicle arrangements, and Maharashtra state during visits.

considered as such—are practice as per protocol.

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI): accorded reception and The government on farewell arrangements at Tuesday issued protocol airports by the State

At the district level, the protocol Maharashtra government Justice's visit to Mumbai, officials, including the Chief the Chief Secretary or their Commissioner/ Accordingly, the Chief Superintendent of Police or

State Guest Rules, 2004, that on Sunday when CJI including accommodation, visited Mumbai, the security throughout the Secretary, Director General of Police or the city police As per the Maharashtra commissioner were not State Guest Rules, 2004, present to receive him during dignitaries included in the the visit to his home state, list of declared state his first after assuming the those top post, which is regular

# 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.

#### 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.

#### Dy CM condoles death of Dr Jayant Narlikar

Work of soldier, doctor is same,

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."

No tolerance for terror and the

govt that sponsors it: India

(See on page 8)

both protect common man ....



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)

(See on page 2)

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

New Delhi, May 20 (UNI) collaboration". 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

world depends on inclusion, an integrated vision, and Minister said, an official statement said.

Assembly, where he had spoken about 'One Earth, hypertension. One Health', Modi said, an integrated vision, and

**Emphasizing** 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 The future of a healthy cover all Indians above the age of 70 years.

He noted India's collaboration," the Prime extensive network of thousands of health and wellness centres that Recalling his address at facilitate early screening and the 2023 World Health detection of diseases such free telemedicine service, scalable, and sustainable shared commitment to as cancer, diabetes, and

PMModi "The future of a healthy underlined the role of impact of India's health learning and best practices world depends on inclusion, thousands of public initiatives, he noted a with the world, especially pharmacies that provide significant decline in out-of-

that significantly lower prices.

technology in improving Simultaneously, health outcomes, Modi underscored India's digital initiatives like the digital platform that tracks the considerably. vaccination of pregnant 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 which has enabled over 340 million consultations.

high-quality medicines at pocket expenditure as a emphasised Government expenditure has increased

unique digital health identity care for the most the birthplace of Yoga. vulnerable", underlined the Prime Minister, highlighting congratulations to the that the global south is particularly impacted by health challenges. He added that India's approach negotiations of the INB provides models.

also Reflecting on the positive willingness to share its with the global south.

Looking ahead to the percentage of total health 11th International Day of Highlighting the role of e x p e n d i t u r e . Yoga in June, the Prime he Minister encouraged global that participation health highlighted this year's theme, 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health,' and extended "The health of the world an invitation to all countries, women and children and the depends on how well we emphasizing India's role as

> He also extended his World Health Organization (WHO) and all member states on the successful replicable, treaty. He described it as a fighting future pandemics Modi expressed India's through greater global cooperation. He emphasised the importance of building a healthy planet while ensuring

> > that no one is left behind.

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



Adrivan 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)

#### Committed to providing all facilities to sportspersons: Delhi CM

New Delhi, May 20 (UNI) Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday said her government is committed to providing all facilities to Delhi sportspersons, including financial support, so that they don't lag behind in any field.

After inaugurating the Delhi Games-2025 at Talkatora Stadium here today, CM Gupta said that the players of Delhi should get all the facilities which are mandatory for

She said, "We have seen during the time of previous governments that due to lack of facilities to Delhi players, they had to go to other states and register their names. We will give all the facilities of sports to the youth so that the players of Delhi stay with Delhi and make Delhi proud.

She said that the Delhi government will provide better facilities to the players as well as financial support to them.

The Delhi government has doubled its sports budget and also quadrupled the prize money of the players so that the players of Delhi do not lag behind in any

"If I see a developed Delhi on the lines of a developed India, then it is necessary to adopt this path to bring glory to Delhi through the Delhi games," she said.

The Chief Minister said, "The entire country is proud of the achievements of the Indian Army in Operation Sindoor. What Operation Sindoor did to the terrorists was only soft ball. The picture is yet to come. For that, every citizen of the country should prepare himself. "

257 active COVID

cases in India so far,

General of Health Services (DGHS) said on Tuesday.

This a very low figure considering the country's large

Almost all of these cases are mild, with no

Recent media reports have highlighted an increase in

As per the preliminary information available, the cases

In light of these developments, a review meeting of

Management Cell, Indian Council of Medical Research

The meeting concluded that the current Covid-19

"As of May 19, 2025, the number of active Covid-19

"A robust system for surveillance of respiratory

cases in India stands at 257, a very low figure considering

the country's large population. Almost all of these cases

viral illnesses including Covid-19 also exists in the

country through the Integrated Disease Surveillance

Programme (IDSP) and ICMR", the DGHS said,

adding, the Union Health Ministry remains vigilant

and proactive in monitoring the situation closely,

ensuring that appropriate measures arein place to

are mild, with no hospitalization required", it said.

hospitalization required, it said after review meeting,

Covid-19 cases in Singapore and Hong Kong in the last

are mostly mild, not associated with unusual severity or

experts from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC),

(ICMR) and Central government hospitals was convened

Emergency Medical Relief (EMR) division, Disaster

under the Chairpersonship of DGHS.

safeguard public health.

situation in India remains under control.

according to a PIB release.

few weeks



An excavator being used to demolish structures during an anti-encroachment drive, near Chandola Lake, in Ahmedabad.

# SC restores 3-year minimum advocacy experience for judicial service aspirants

New Delhi, May 20 (UNI): In a landmark judgment impacting judicial service aspirants across the country, the Supreme Court on Tuesday reinstated the requirement of a minimum three years of advocacy practice for candidates applying to entry-level judicial posts.

The ruling clarifies that this condition will apply prospectively to future recruitment processes and not affect any judicial recruitment exercises already initiated by High Courts before this date.

A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, Justice AG Masih, and Justice K Vinod Chandran delivered the verdict in the All India Judges Association case. The court observed that the period of practice may be counted from the date of provisional enrollment with a bar council.

validate the condition, a certificate issued by an advocate with at least ten years of standing, endorsed by the judicial officer of the relevant station, will suffice. For candidates practising

before the Supreme Court or High Courts, the certificate must be endorsed by an officer designated by the court.

The bench also held that experience as a law clerk can be counted towards the three-year practice requirement.

Highlighting concerns raised over the years, the Supreme Court criticised the previous practice of allowing fresh law graduates to enter the judiciary without any prior experience at the Bar.

The Court stated, "For the last 20 years, during which fresh law graduates have been recruited directly as judicial officers without even a single day of practice, the experiment has not been successful. This has led to many problems."

The judgment emphasized that judges, from day one, are required to make decisions involving life, liberty, property, and reputation.

The court noted that neither legal textbooks nor pre-service training can how judges and lawyers operate."Candidates should be exposed to the functioning of courts and understand the intricacies of the judicial role. We agree with the views of most High Courts that a minimum period of legal practice is

observed. Originally, most states required a minimum of three years of practice as a qualification for judicial service. However, in 2002, the Supreme Court relaxed this condition, permitting fresh law graduates to apply for Munsiff-Magistrate posts.

essential," the bench

Over time, concerns were raised, and several High Courts supported reinstating the experience requirement.

The court had reserved its verdict on January 28, 2025, following arguments by various stakeholders. In the interim, the Court stayed the Gujarat High Court's recruitment process that did not mandate the minimum experience condition.During the substitute the practical hearing, amicus curiae, an applicant must be an courtroom experience and senior advocate Siddharth Advocate of at least three real-time observation of Bhatnagar, pointed out the years' standing."/

inefficacy of allowing fresh graduates with no practical exposure to adjudicate sensitive matters.

The bench also noted that while there were concerns about candidates merely signing vakalats for formality, a required period of effective practice remains essential for judicial readiness. Most high courts across India, with the exception of Sikkim and Chhattisgarh, supported reinstating the three-year condition.The bench concluded that the previous experiment of inducting fresh graduates directly into judicial service was "counter-productive."

Apart from eligibility for fresh recruits, the Supreme Court also issued directions regarding the promotion quota through the Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE), but details on this aspect are awaited.The court reiterated its earlier observation from the 1993 Judges India Association judgment: "To enter the Judicial Service,

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

New Delhi, May 20 (UNI) 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.

This was conveyed by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to three of the seven All-Party Delegation members, who are going to represent India's stand on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor.

The purpose of the meeting was to brief members on issues which they are supposed to discuss with leaders as well as diplomats of various nations.

This meeting was attended by leaders as well as members of the delegation. The three delegations are headed by DMK's Kanimozhi, JDU's Sanjay Jha and Shrikant Shinde of Shiv Sena.

The Foreign Secretary said that there will be no tolerance for terror that hides under nuclear blackmail and no distinction would be made between the terrorists, their leaders and the government that sponsors

The seven delegations are visiting the United States, Japan, Gulf nations and other important capitals of the world to present India's view point on the recent India-Pakistan conflict. Veteran Congress leader Shashi Tharoor will lead India's delegation to the US.

# **Netherlands** backs India in fight against terrorism in wake of Pahalgam attack

The Hague/New Delhi, May 20 (UNI) Netherlands' PM Dick Schoof today expressed support for India's fight against terrorism in the wake of the horrific attack last month in Pahalgam, and also said it is good that the violence between India and Pakistan did not escalate further.

The Netherlands PM said this during his meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at The Hague.

EAM thanked the Netherlands PM for his country's firm and resolute stance against terrorism.

The EAM also met with the Netherlands Defence Minister and the Foreign Minister.

In a post on X, the EAM said during his meeting with PM Schoof, he conveyed the warm greetings of PM Modi. The Netherlands PM took office a year ago, in July 2024.

"Delighted to call on PM Dick Schoof today in The Hague.

"Conveyed the warm of greetings @narendramodi thanked him for the Netherlands' firm and resolute stance against terrorism.

"Appreciate commitment to taking the India-Netherlands partnership to newer heights. Assured that our teams will work hard to achieve these goals."

The Netherlands PM in a post, said:

"Pleased to welcome India's Minister of External Affairs, @DrSJaishankar, to the Catshuis.

my support for India's fight against terrorism in the wake of the horrific attack last month in Pahalgam. It is good for all parties that the violence between India and Pakistan has not escalated further.

"We also spoke about our Strategic Partnership. This concerns long-term cooperation between the Netherlands and India in areas including trade, innovative technology, agriculture and security.

"In a changing world, it is important for both the Netherlands and India that we can continue to count on one other.

"I look forward to welcoming Prime Minister

Modi to our country soon to discuss this further."

On his meeting with the Defence Minister Ruben Brekelmans, the EAM posted:

"Pleased to meet Defence Minister Ruben Brekelmans in The Hague

"Exchanged views on our respective security perspectives challenges. Also spoke about the benefits of forging a bilateral defence partnership."

The Netherlands Defence Minister posted on X:

"In these turbulent times close cooperation with India is more important than ever.

"Great honour to receive Minister of Foreign Affairs @DrSJaishankar. We discuss security challenges in Asia/Europe and our Defence partnership.

"Looking forward to deepening cooperation!"

On his meeting with Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp, the EAM

"Thank FM Caspar Veldkamp @ministerBZ of the Netherlands for hosting me today in The Hague.

"Appreciate Netherlands' condemnation of the Pahalgam attack. And support for zero tolerance against terrorism. "Had wide-ranging

discussions on deepening our bilateral partnership and engagement with the EU.

"Exchanged views on "First of all, I expressed the global situation in an era of multi polarity."

The Netherlands FM in a post said:

"Good to receive @DrSJaishankar in The Hague, after we spoke last month in #India.

"We talked about the aftermath of the terrible terrorist attack Pahalgam, and the current ceasefire with Pakistan as a step towards de-escalation. "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."

# **Waqf law: Strong case needed to** stay law, says Supreme Court

situation under New Delhi, May 20, (UNI): In a significant hearing on Tuesday, the control: DGHS Supreme Court examined petitions challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act, New Delhi, May 20 (UNI): Amid spurt in cases in 2025 for over three hours, Singapore and Hong Kong, the number of active COVID focusing primarily on the cases in India stands at 257 as on May 19, 2025, the Director

issue of interim relief. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice AG Masih heard arguments centred on whether to grant a stay on the amended law.

During the session, CJI Gavai emphasised that a "very strong and glaring case" must be made out for any statute to be stayed. "There is a presumption of constitutionality in favour of every statute. For interim relief, a very strong case is required. Otherwise, this presumption will prevail," the CJI observed.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners, asserted that the 2025 amendments posed an imminent threat of "irreparable injury" if implemented. He claimed the petitioners had a solid prima facie case against the amendments.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the government, requested the court to limit the hearing to three specific issues, as identified of the original creator is problematic, by the previous bench on April 16. He noted that the petitioners' written submissions exceeded this scope."The court had confined the hearing to three issues. We submitted our response accordingly. However, the petitioners have now broadened the scope. My affidavit addresses only those three issues," SG Mehta argued.

In response, senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi opposed any narrowing of the hearing.

Sibal contended that no such restriction was placed by the court in its earlier order, stating that the nature of the challenge required a comprehensive hearing.

CJI Gavai remarked that the bench would proceed based on the court record and invited Sibal to begin his submissions.

Opening his arguments, Sibal strongly criticized the 2025 amendments, stating that they were intended to "capture Waqfs" by granting government officers quasi-judicial powers.

He objected to the provision that allows a government official to decide whether Waqf land is encroaching on state property a move he called unconstitutional.

He further argued that the amendments nullified the principle of "once a Waqf, always a Waqf." Under earlier laws, non-registration of Waqf properties did not affect their validity, and only resulted in penalties for the caretaker (Muttawalli). But under the new law, nonregistration could strip a property of its Waqf status entirely.

The bench noted this submission, stating, "From 1913 to 2023, though registration of Waqf was mandated, no serious consequences followed except removal of the Muttawalli. The

Waqf-by-user, noting that requiring identification

2025 amendments depart from this framework." Sibal also highlighted challenges surrounding

अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे

#### **CENTRAL RAILWAY PROJECT SUPERVISION**

particularly for centuries-old

properties. If the creator's details are

not provided, the Muttawalli now

faces up to six months'

imprisonment. Another contentious

issue raised was the amendment's

impact on religious structures

declared as protected monuments

under the AMASR Act.

**SERVICES AGENCY (PSSA) Limited Tender Notice** No.: CR-BB-SNT-P-PSSA-2025-21

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), 1st Floor, Parcel Office Building, above P.F.No.14 & 15, Central Railway, Mumba CST 400 001, for and on behalf of the President of India Invites Limited tenders from the reputed contractors. The time date and submission of tender is up to 15.00 Hrs on 18/06/2025 and will be opened at 15.15 Hrs on the same day. Name of work: Providing Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for the work of Survey, design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of stationary KAVACH equipment and other associated works over the jurisdiction of Mumbai Division of Central Railway 8 Survey, design, supply, installation testing and commissioning of TOWERs for Kavach and other associated works over Central Railway of Mumbai division Approximate Cost: Rs 5.58 Crores. EMD: 4,29,400.00 Date of Opening: 18/06/2025. **Validity:** 120 days Completion Period: 66 Months. This tender complies with Public Procurement Policy (Make in India) Order 2017, dated 15/06/2017. Complete details of tenders are available at Central Railway. Officia website www.ireps.gov.in The complete tender documents can be downloaded from the website. The complete details of tenders are also available in the "Notice Board" of the Divisional Railway Manage (S&T)'s Office, Mumbai CST.

**DRM (S&T) CSTM** 108

Let's together and make Mumbai Malaria free.

#### BRIHANMUMBAI **MAHANAGARPALIKA**

A.C.K. East/1155/Asst. Engrr.(Maint-3)/ Jan, Dt: 20-05-2025

Asst. Commissioner, K/East Wardation

#### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Applications are invited from interested local organizations to prepare their eligibility list for providing available labor in various outposts under Defence Department in K/East Ward, Interested organizations in the jurisdiction of K/East Division should contact the Assistant Engineer (Maintenance) K/East Ward alongwith the Application form and will letter for details. The last date for the organization to apply in the department office and receive the invoice is 23-5-2025. (upto 1.00 p.m.) and the last date for submitting the tender application in the department office Date of 26-05-2025 (upto 1.00 hrs.)

PRO/463/ADV/2025-26

Sd/-Asst.

Commissioner, K-East, Ward

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

Jalgaon, May 20 (UNI): Two people riding on a twowheeler 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 twowheeler 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 Minatai Thakeray Blood Bank Sitaram Patkar Marg, Goregaon (West) Mumbai - 400104

Website: www.mansoontrading.co.in Email - mansoontradingltd@gmail.com

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 Minatai Thackeray 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 Place: Mumbai Managing Director (DIN-08180938) Date: 19.05.2025

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 Email - 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 or Thursday, the 29th May, 2025 inter-alia to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results(Standalone and Consolidated) for the 4th Quarter and vear 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

mployees and their family members. For Meenakshi Steel Industries Limited Sudha Jajodia Place: Mumbai (DIN-00376571) Date: 20.05, 2025

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

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI) of its bids, while the other : The Bombay High Court bidders had received the on Tuesday refused to same. grant relief to Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on its pleas challenging the nonintimation of opening of 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

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 accordance with the instructions to bidders

The two infrastructure projects aim to connect

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

The proposed bridge would be the secondlargest 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.

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

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI): Shiv Sena destroy their infrastructure and bases. We 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 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 especially Pak based terrorism and to the earliest," the post added.

(UBT) on Tuesday announced the party 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 have also assured the government that we protocol of better informing the parties will do what is right and needed for our 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 Parties have expressed support to the Prime same and to discuss Pahalgam to Operation Minister in the fight against terrorism, Sindoor, chaired by the Prime Minister at

## Dy CM condoles death of Dr Jayant Narlikar

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. worked throughout his life instill the principles of science, scientific thoughts and s c i e n t i f i c perspectives in the new generation. He

explained

star in the scientific field of Vidyapeeth' in Pune. 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

#### 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.

Mumbai. May 20 (UNI) secrets of science to foundation for science : Deputy Chief Minister Ajit children in simple language. research in the state by Pawar on Tuesday With his demise, a bright establishing 'Antarvishwa

> 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.

#### 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.

(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

He passed away in his

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

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.

Noted astrophysicist, science

writer Jayant Narlikar dead

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 After completing his 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

# 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 the event is set to shape the future of the workplace through highimpact 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

speakers like Zarin Daruwala, former Cluster CEO - India & South Asia, Standard Chartered Bank, Richard Rekhy, Vice Chair, Grant Thornton

influence the people."

Some of the keynote

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 nextgen HR technologies ranging from AI-powered recruitment bots to immersive L&D platforms—drawing attention from CHROs, talent leaders and investors.

## Govt implements policy for app-based transport services

services across the state, as per a government 10% of the fare or Rs. 100 (whichever resolution issued by the Home Department on is lower) will be charged and credited Tuesday. The move aims to regulate and to the passenger's account. If a streamline services offered by Ola, Uber, Rapido, passenger cancels without valid and carpooling platforms, ensuring higher safety, reason, a penalty of 5% of the fare or transparency, and fairness for both drivers and Rs. 50 (whichever is lower) will be

According to the resolution, aggregator account. In line with the state's companies must be registered under the commitment to sustainability, Companies Act, 1956 or 2013, the Cooperative aggregators are required to gradually Societies Act, 1912, or the Limited Liability increase the use of electric vehicles, Partnership Act, 2008, and must have an office in following the provisions of the Maharashtra. All aggregators are required to Maharashtra Electric Vehicle Policy. operate through secure apps and websites that comply with state-mandated safety standards, aggregators must verify both drivers including real-time GPS tracking, emergency and users, and ensure all contact contact numbers, and mandatory police details are authenticated. Only women verification and training of drivers.

Insurance coverage for both drivers and passengers is compulsory.

times the base fare.

11 महावितरण

ई-निविदा सुचना

महाराष्ट्र राज्य विद्युत वितरण कंपनी मर्यादीत

स्थापत्य विभाग, महावितरण कल्याण कार्यालयाच्या अंतर्गत असणाऱ्या विविध प्रकारच्या स्थापत्य कामाकरिता ई–निविदा क्र. १३, १४, १५, १६, १७, १८, १९) व २० (२०२५-२६) अश्या एकूण आठ निविदा महावितरण कंप्रनीच्या www.mahadiscom.in या e-Tender च्या संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध करण्यात आली आहे. सदर निविदा विक्रीसाठी दि. २१.०५.२०२५ पासून ते दि. २७.०५.२०२५ पर्यन्त उपलब्ध राहतील व निविदा भरण्याची अंतिम तारीख दि. २८.०५.२०२५ ला द्पारी १२.०० वाजेपर्यत आहे. निविदेच्या आवृतीत/तारखा/इ. कोणताही बदल झाल्यास शुद्धिपत्रक यापुढे आमच्या वेबसाईटवर प्रकाशित केले जाईल.

कार्यकारी अभियंता (स्था), स्थापत्य विभाग कल्याण

The policy mandates that base fares for auto-rickshaws and cabs will be set by the Regional Transport Authority. Discounts during low-demand periods will be capped at 25% of the trip fare, while surge pricing during highdemand periods cannot exceed 1.5

The minimum trip distance is set at 3 km. Drivers must receive at least 80% of the total fare collected. A robust grievance redress mechanism must be in place for quick resolution of complaints from both drivers and charged and credited to the driver's

For carpooling services, drivers/passengers can opt for pooling with other women for enhanced safety. Carpooling fares cannot exceed the rates set by the Regional Transport

#### **WESTERN RAILWAY ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

Sr.DEE/TRS/BL Electric Loco Shed, Valsac invites E-tender Notice No: EL/TRS/BL/25 26/WO/03 DATED 16.05.2025. Work Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for M/s Slazer made Test benches (Qty.14 Nos) for a period of 3 years at ELS/Valsad through OEMs or Authorized dealers of OEM. Approx. Cost of works ₹1904258.61. EMD: ₹38,100/-. Date and time of submission: till 10.06.2025,12:00 hours. Date and time of Opening: Or 10.06.2025 at 12:30 hours. Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in. 0167

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

Mumbai, May 20 (UNI): The government has passengers. To discourage Authority, and each user can avail of a maximum of 14 officially approved and implemented the unnecessary cancellations, if a driver carpool rides within a 7-day period. The policy will be aggregators policy for app-based transport cancels a booked ride, a penalty of 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

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

PRO/456/ADV/2025 - 26

Sd/-Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer

Avoid self medication.

#### **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 reinitiate 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

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 initiatives advocacy 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 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, 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 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

comprehensive Breast Health Centre Hyderabad. It is indeed heart-warming to learn about his pioneering breast cancer advocacy initiatives aimed 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 Princesse (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

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

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**

first purpose-built and

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, IBDcomprising Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis—is increasingly being diagnosed, yet still remains underdiscussed due to social taboos and misconceptions. On May 19th, World IBD Day, themed "IBD Has No Bordersbreaking 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 issueit'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.



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)

Ram and try to incorporate

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 Working Manipur Union Journalists' (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 as illegal described detention and mistreatment, the media team returned to Imphal, abandoning

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

assignment."

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

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

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



gababa hill are some of the hotspots for

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

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

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 for 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

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."

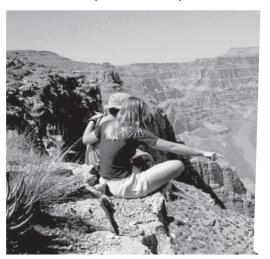
Prakash Kulkarni, a student of Maulana Azad College who is all set to plant 500 neem seeds during his trek says, "Trekking is no doubt fun and a great form of exercise. But Lake like to

and a great form of exercise. But I also like to contribute to the environment in my own way.

sow along the stretch that I pass during my trek." Meanwhile Rahul Ingle, anothe student from Maulana Azad College who has 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.

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





# Grand Canyon was carved out while dinosaurs roamed

million years, says Rebecca Flowers, assistant the apatite grains allowed the team to infer how professor of geological sciences at the much time had passed since there was 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 meters of its modern depth by about 70 million the study with Kenneth Farley, professor at the years ago," said Flowers. California Institute of Technology, the journal Science reports.

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 and up to 18 miles wide in places. topography, and the thermal history recorded by

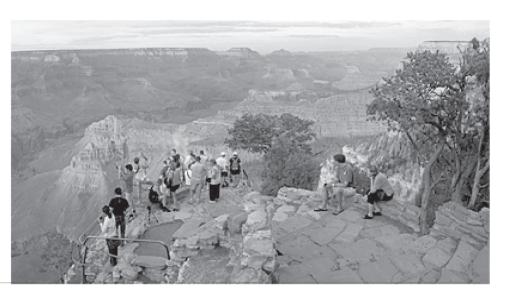
significant natural excavation of the Grand Canyon, Flowers said.

"Our research implies that the Grand Canyon was directly carved to within a few hundred

Flowers said the entire modern canyon may not have been carved all at the same time. The helium atoms were locked in the mineral 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

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.

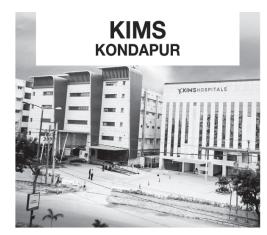
"An ancient Grand Canyon has important implications for understanding the evolution of landscapes, topography, hydrology and tectonics in the western U.S. and in mountain belts more generally," said Flowers.

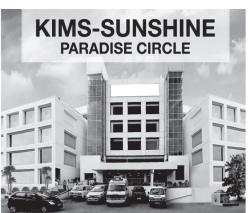
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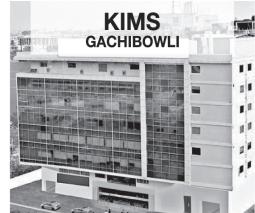


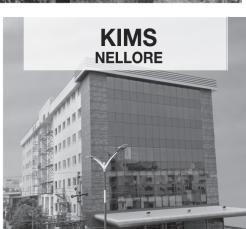
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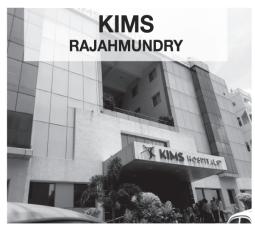


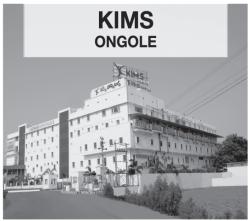




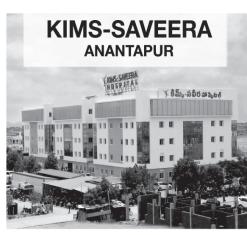


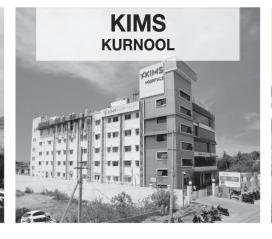
















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**Adriyan** 

Karmakar sets

junior national

record, opens

India's medal

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

registering India's first

medal of the competition.

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

Johansson, who scored

627.0. Griffin Lake of the

United States took the

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.

Adriyan, a former Khelo

bronze with 624.6.

Making his debut at an

Tuesday,

Jesper

on

here

Sweden's

tally at Suhl

## **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

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.

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 57member 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.

## Rampant RR humble CSK as Suryavanshi sparkles New Delhi, May 20

(UNI): A high-voltage IPL clash turned into a onesided 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 Yudhvir Singh Charak, 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) Wanindu slogged 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, slogged Ashwin with confidence, and launched Ravindra Jadeja over longon for a monstrous six.

Suryavanshi reached his half-century in style with a mighty hit off a freehit 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-

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

Scorecard: CSK 187/8 in 20 overs (Ayush Mhatre 43, Dewald Brevis 42, Shivam Dube 39; Madhwal 3/29, Yudhvir 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

# Chelsea manager Maresca not happy with Real Betis fixture change

London, May 20 (UNI): all kick off at the same time 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 Uefa, but if you ask people

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 Marc Guiu remain injury

(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 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 Italian has confirmed that back-up goalkeeper Filip Jorgensen will start in the final, while Christopher Nkunku and 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.

# **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 Mannepalli went down 13-21, 21-23 to Thailand's Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul, 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 Prannoy, will begin their campaigns on Wednesday.

21st edition of Himalayan odyssey

Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singhi 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 Phatcharaphisutsin 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

# India begin chiselling finer margins in Kolkata

Kolkata, May 20 (UNI): friendly win against The Indian senior men's team kicked off their preparations for the June FIFA International Window with a first training session

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 probables 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

"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

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

Hyderabad, May 20 2025, the 18-day, 2,600-km (UNI): Royal Enfield on ride will take 70 riders from Tuesday announced that across the globe through registrations are now open for the 21st edition of the of the Himalayas, the company said in a release. Himalayan Odyssey – one of the most iconic and

motorcycling.

celebrated rides in the

world of adventure

the awe-inspiring terrains

Celebrating its 21st edition this year, the ride will cover the expanse of the Himalayas, scaling the Set to begin on June 28, breathtaking terrain of

Ladakh, Spiti, and Zanskar and across Umling La—the highest motorable pass in the world.

**Royal Enfield begins registrations for 18-day** 

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 Zanskar, 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,

mechanical, and medical support along the way.

Designed to build endurance and spirit of every rider, both mentally and physically, this year's route traverses through Sarchu, known for its starry skies, Padum in Zanskar, a cultural gem surrounded by snow-covered peaks, and Kaza in Spiti — home to Komic, the highest village in Asia.

More than expedition, the Himalayan Odyssey has delivered an experience like no other for 20 years now.

It's an experience rooted in self-discovery, a greater sense of purpose, and the kind of bonds only the open road can forge.

Printed, Published and Owned by Mohammed Shafi Printed at Modi Print & Co., Gala No.: MFL-IF, Devidayal Industrial Estate,

Near Brittania Factory, Darukhana, Reay Road (E), Mumbai - 400 010. Maharashtra and Published from # Room No: 106, Ground Floor, Flat No.40, Malvani Gate, Near Collector Compound, Near Quadri Masjid, Malad (W), Mumbai-400 095

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# **Watson's French Open hopes** over but Jones advances

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 Hontama. 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

6-47-6 (7-5) to Italian Giulio Zeppieri, the BBC reported.

Britons Dan Evans and Billy Harris go head-tohead in men's qualifying later on Tuesday. The French Open - the

second Grand Slam of the year - begins on Sunday. Katie Boulter, Emma

Raducanu and Sonay Kartal are already in the women's main draw, while Jack Draper, Jacob

Fearnley and Cameron Norrie will contest the Momentum swung back

and forth in the opening set between Watson and Saville, with the Briton rallying to a 4-2 lead after

initially going a break down, only for Saville to level up. Watson, ranked four places higher than Saville at 130, battled back from 40-0 down on serve to move within one game from the opening set, but she was unable to take her first set point.A tie-break was confirmed by another exchange of breaks - but not before Watson initially refused to continue the match after being given a second time violation by the chair umpire.

She claimed she had been waiting for a ball to be returned to her, rather than deliberately delaying the point, but the umpire disagreed.

# 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, highspeed 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

At the heart of the

scheme is the principle

community.

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.

modern waiting lounges, better lighting, improved air circulation and ergonomic seating have replaced the oncecramped 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.

Inside the stations,

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







Product initiative. This program transforms stations into marketplaces where local artisans can showcase and sell regional handicrafts, handlooms, foods and specialty products. In doing so, it strengthens the local economy, revives traditional art forms and forges a deeper connection between travelers and the communities they pass through. This also promotes greater cooperation between local governments and the railway system.

As the scheme continues to roll out, stations are being equipped with executive lounges, meeting areas and

every traveler feels
welcome, supported and
represented in the space.
It marks a shift from a
utilitarian design model to
one that emphasizes user
comfort, civic pride and
long-term resilience.
India's railway stations
are becoming spaces
where journeys begin not
just physically, but
emotionally and socially.
They serve as mirrors of
the nation's diverse





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 energyefficient 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 prediabetes 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 outof-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.