

Five killed, one hurt as boulders fall due to mudslide at stone quarry

Chennai, May 20 (UNI) : Five workers were killed in a private stone quarry after boulders fell on them following a mudslide at Mallakottai village in the southern Sivagangai district of Tamil Nadu on Tuesday.

Police said the deceased were working in the quarry when the tragedy occurred.

One worker, identified as Michael, was injured in the incident and was admitted to the hospital.

The deceased were identified as Muruganandam, Arumugam, Ganesan, Andisamy and a Harshit, a migrant worker from Odisha.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin expressed deep anguish and grief over their deaths and announced a solatium of Rs four lakh each to their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PM Modi also underlined the role of thousands of public pharmacies that provide high-quality medicines at significantly lower prices.

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

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

Simultaneously, he

(Contd on page 3)



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

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

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



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

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Dy CM condoles death of Dr Jayant Narlikar



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

(See on page 3)

Adriyan Karmakar sets junior national record, opens ...



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

(See on page 7)



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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 them.

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 field.

"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, situation under control : DGHS

New Delhi, May 20 (UNI) : Amid spurt in cases in Singapore and Hong Kong, the number of active COVID cases in India stands at 257 as on May 19, 2025, the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) said on Tuesday.

This a very low figure considering the country's large population.

Almost all of these cases are mild, with no hospitalization required, it said after review meeting, according to a PIB release.

Recent media reports have highlighted an increase in Covid-19 cases in Singapore and Hong Kong in the last few weeks.

As per the preliminary information available, the cases are mostly mild, not associated with unusual severity or mortality.

In light of these developments, a review meeting of experts from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Emergency Medical Relief (EMR) division, Disaster Management Cell, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Central government hospitals was convened under the Chairpersonship of DGHS.

The meeting concluded that the current Covid-19 situation in India remains under control.

"As of May 19, 2025, the number of active Covid-19 cases in India stands at 257, a very low figure considering the country's large population. Almost all of these cases are mild, with no hospitalization required", it said.

"A robust system for surveillance of respiratory 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 are in place to safeguard public health.



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.

To 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 substitute the practical courtroom experience and real-time observation of

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 essential," the bench 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.

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 hearing, amicus curiae, senior advocate Siddharth Bhatnagar, pointed out the

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 All India Judges Association judgment: "To enter the Judicial Service, an applicant must be an Advocate of at least three years' standing."/>

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 them.

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

"Appreciate his 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.

"First of all, I expressed 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 today.

"Exchanged views on our respective security perspectives and 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 our cooperation!"

On his meeting with Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp, the EAM posted:

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

"Appreciate Netherlands' strong 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 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.

Dhankhar visits Deve Gowda on shared birthday

New Delhi, May 19 (UNI) In a rare gesture, Vice President Jagadeep Dhankhar visited the residence of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda on Tuesday morning to exchange birthday greetings, as both leaders celebrated their birthdays on May 18.

The Vice President arrived at the former Prime Minister's residence on Saptarjung Lane where the two senior leaders greeted each other warmly.

During the meeting, the leaders engaged in discussions on pressing national issues, with particular emphasis on challenges facing the farming community and agricultural schemes introduced by the Narendra Modi government.

Expressing his appreciation for the ongoing rapport with former Prime Ministers, Vice President Dhankhar thanked the members of the Rajya Sabha and other dignitaries for their support in facilitating important national discourse.

Former Prime Minister Deve Gowda extended his best wishes to the Vice President and his spouse, appreciating the visit.

Speaking on the occasion, Deve Gowda said, "My birthday coincides with that of the Vice President on May 18. He graciously called to convey his wishes and greeted me on social media as well. It was a pleasure to receive him at my residence this morning."

PM to inaugurate 103 upgraded Amrit Railway stations across India, 13 in SRly on May 22

Chennai, May 20 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 103 Amrit Stations across the country through Video conferencing on May 22.

This 103 stations included 13 in Southern Railway.

Ceremonial functions will be held at all the 103 Amrit stations, a Railway release said here on Tuesday. Apart from general public, passenger associations, school and college students, scouts and guides, railway employees and rail users will attend the program at each station in the presence of elected representatives and dignitaries.

Competitions and cultural programmes are being held for students on patriotic themes and winners will be rewarded suitably.

In Southern Railway, the 13 Amrit Stations to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister were St.Thomas Mount (Chennai Division), Sullurupeta (Chennai Division), Samalpatti (Salem Division), C h i d a m b a r a m (Tiruchirappalli Division), Srirangam (Tiruchirappalli Division), Tiruvannamalai (Tiruchirappalli Division), Polur (Tiruchirappalli Division), Vriddhachalam (Tiruchirappalli Division), M a n n a r g u d i

(Tiruchirappalli Division), Vadakara (Palakkad Division), Mahe (Palakkad Division), Chirayinkeezh (Thiruvananthapuram Division) and Kulitturai (Thiruvananthapuram Division).Ceremonial functions will be held in all the above 13 stations in Southern Railway.

Cultural events on patriotic themes will be organized and elected representatives and dignitaries from the respective area will grace the occasion.

The Central function held under the auspices of the Prime Minister will be live streamed at all the

13 stations followed by the local function.

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme launched in December 2022 by the Ministry of Railways aims to transform over 1,300 stations into modern hubs with multimodal integration and future-ready facilities.

The foundation stone for these works at different stations was laid between August 2023 and February 2024.Symbolising the transformation of Railways, the upgraded railway stations unveiled in the Phase-1 of Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) will feature state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities offering a world-class travel experience for passengers.

PM speaks with new German Chancellor Friedrich Merz

New Delhi, May 20 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi today spoke with new German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, and congratulated him on assuming office. PM also said the two nations stand united in the fight against terrorism.

In a post on X, the PM said: “Spoke to Chancellor @_FriedrichMerz and congratulated him on assuming office.

“Reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the Strategic Partnership between India and Germany. Exchanged views on regional and global developments.

“We stand united in the fight against terrorism.”

The PM had congratulated Merz earlier this month when he took over as Germany’s 10th Chancellor.

'One World for Health' reflects

(Contd from page 1) emphasised that Government health expenditure has increased considerably.

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

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

Looking ahead to the 11th International Day of Yoga in June, the Prime Minister encouraged global participation and highlighted this year’s theme, ‘Yoga for One Earth,

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

The Prime Minister invoked a timeless prayer from the Vedas and said how, thousands of years ago, India's sages prayed for a world where all would be healthy, happy, and free from disease. He expressed the hope that this vision would unite the world.



People being rescued from a waterlogged area after heavy rainfall, in Guwahati on Wednesday.

Trailblazing Woman Officer from Rajasthan scales Mount Everest, first in CISF to do so

Chennai, May 20 (UNI) : In a monumental feat of human endurance and unwavering spirit, Lady Sub-Inspector Geeta Samota of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has successfully summited Mount Everest, the world's highest peak at 8,849 meters (29,032 feet).

On the early morning of Monday (19.05.2025), Geeta stood on the "roof of the world," a triumphant moment symbolizing not just a personal victory, but the incredible resilience and strength fostered within the CISF and the Indian nation.

This historic achievement is the culmination of a journey that began in the humble surroundings of Chak village in Rajasthan's Sikar district, fuelled by a desire to break barriers and inspire. CISF Deputy Inspector General and Chief Public Relations Officer Ajay Dahiya, said in a press release on Tuesday.

Born in a modest family with four sisters, Geeta's

upbringing in Chak village was traditional. She completed her schooling and college locally.

Growing up, she often heard tales of boys' accomplishments, but noticed a void in stories celebrating girls' achievements, an observation that ignited a quiet determination within her to make her own mark.

Geeta always had a penchant for sports and was a promising hockey player in college. However, an unfortunate injury forced her to step away from the team, a setback that unknowingly steered her towards a different kind of field.

In 2011, Geeta joined the CISF where she noticed that mountaineering was a less-trodden path, with CISF not even having a dedicated mountaineering team at that time.

She astutely recognized this as an opportunity. This foresight led her to a pivotal moment in 2015 when she was selected for a six-week basic mountaineering

course at the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) training institute in Auli.

Notably, she was the only female participant in her batch, he said. xcelling in the basic course, her passion and skill only grew. She went on to complete an advanced mountaineering course in 2017, becoming the sole CISF personnel to achieve this distinction, Mr Ajay Dahiya said.

These rigorous training programs were instrumental in bringing out the mountaineer within her.

Her perseverance bore significant fruit in 2019 when she became the first woman from any Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) to scale Mount Satopanth (7,075 meters) in Uttarakhand and Mount Lobuche (6,119 meters) in Nepal.

In early 2021, the CAPF contingent for a Mount Everest expedition of which Geeta was part, was unfortunately called off due to technical reasons.

This moment, which could have been a dead end,

instead became the catalyst for an even more ambitious goal--the "Seven Summits" challenge, which involves climbing the highest peak on each of the seven continents.

Undeterred by the global COVID-19 pandemic, Geeta relentlessly pursued her Seven Summits dream.

Between 2021 and early 2022, she successfully summited four of these formidable peaks,

Mount Kosciuszko (2,228 mtrs) in Australia, Mount Elbrus (5,642 mtrs) in Russia, Mount

Kilimanjaro (5,895 mtrs) in Tanzania, and Mount Aconcagua (6,961 mtrs) in Argentina.

She achieved this incredible feat – conquering four of the Seven Summits – in a remarkable span of just six months and 27 days, making her the fastest Indian woman to do so.

Adding to her accolades, Geeta also became the first and fastest woman to climb five peaks in Ladakh's Rupshu region in just three days, including

Three of a family killed, one hut as car rams into tree

Chennai, May 20 (UNI) Three members of a family--a couple and their elder daughter--were killed and one sustained injuries when the car in which they were travelling rammed into a roadside tree near Kangeyam in Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu on Tuesday.Police sources said the deceased were identified as Raja (46), his wife Janaki (42) and their elder daughter Heminethra (15).Their younger daughter Mounasri (10) sustained injuries and was admitted to a hospital.All the victims were natives of Tiruppur.The family members were turning home in the car after attending a family function in Kerala, when Raja, who was behind the wheels, lost control of the vehicle and rammed into the roadside tree.In the impact, three of the four members were killed on the spot and the car was reduced to a mangled heap.Upon receiving information, police and fire service personnel rushed to the spot extricated the bodies from the mangled car and shifted them to government hospital for post mortem examination.

Indian Army denies any deployment of air defence guns in Golden Temple premises

New Delhi, May 20 (UNI) : The Indian Army on Tuesday clarified that no air defence guns had been deployed in the Golden Temple premises during the military stand-off with Pakistan, seeking to defuse a controversy over the matter.

The Indian Army said, "Some media reports are circulating with respect to deployment of AD Guns in The Golden Temple. It is clarified that NO AD guns or any other AD resource was deployed within the premises of Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar (The Golden Temple)".

The controversy arose after Lieutenant General Sumer Ivan D'Cunha during a podcast had said that the Head Granthi of the Golden Temple had allowed the Army to deploy air defence guns during Operation Sindoor.

Meanwhile, the Head Granthi of Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar, Giani Raghubir Singh while talking to reporters said that the claim of deployment of air defence guns in the Golden

Temple was "completely false". He said that from April 24 to May 14, he was not even present at Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar as he was in America during that period.

Giani Raghubir Singh said that no one from the Army or the government ever contacted him regarding any permission for deploying air defence guns at Sri Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple).

He also demanded that the matter be investigated by the SGPC and necessary action taken.

The SGPC in a statement said that the Indian Army officer's statement about deploying air defence guns at Sri Harmandar Sahib is "shockingly untrue".

SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami stated that "no such permission was granted, nor did any such incident occur".

Giani Amarjeet Singh, Additional Head Granthi of Sachkhand Sri Harmandar Sahib also denied that any AD guns

had been placed in the revered temple's premises.

He clarified that the management of Sri Harmandar Sahib had cooperated with the district administration's guidelines regarding the city-wide blackout by switching off exterior and upper lights of the complex within the specified time frame.

PM Modi condoles death of Srinivasan, hails him as stalwart of India's nuke prog

Chennai, May 20 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the passing away of eminent nuclear scientist MR Srinivasan and hailed him as a stalwart of India's nuclear energy programme.


In his message, Mr Modi said Dr Srinivasan's instrumental role in developing critical nuclear infrastructure has been foundational that ensured India becoming self-reliant in the energy sector.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. MR Srinivasan, a stalwart of India's nuclear energy program", the Prime

Minister posted on X.

"His instrumental role in developing critical nuclear infrastructure has been foundational to our being self-reliant in the energy sector. He is remembered for his inspiring leadership of the Atomic Energy Commission", Mr Modi said.

"India will always be grateful to him for advancing scientific progress and mentoring many young scientists", he added. "My thoughts are with his family and friends in this sad hour. Om Shanti", Mr Modi wrote.

 <div>आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (India) Limited (A Govt. of India Undertaking – Department of Atomic Energy) Manavalakurichi, Tamil Nadu, E-mail : purchase-mk@irel.co.in An ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001 Unit, Phone: 04651-200402 CIN : U15100MH1950GOI008187</div>	Date : 20.05.2025						
Ref: MK/P. ADVT/2025-26/02							
निविदा सूचना /TENDER NOTICE							
IREL Manavalakurichi Unit invites tender for the following:							
<table><tr><th>Tender No.</th><th>Description</th></tr><tr><td>GEM/2025/B/6225790</td><td>SUPPLY AND SUPERVISION OF INSTALLATION OF INDUCED ROLL MAGNETIC SEPARATOR</td></tr><tr><td>IREL/MK/ET /03/2025</td><td>REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR INSTALLATION OF DE-SLIMING SYSTEM AT HUS (MK UNIT) ON ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT CONSTRUCTION (EPC) BASIS</td></tr></table>	Tender No.	Description	GEM/2025/B/6225790	SUPPLY AND SUPERVISION OF INSTALLATION OF INDUCED ROLL MAGNETIC SEPARATOR	IREL/MK/ET /03/2025	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR INSTALLATION OF DE-SLIMING SYSTEM AT HUS (MK UNIT) ON ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT CONSTRUCTION (EPC) BASIS	
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Bidder may download the tender document from https://gem.gov.in , https://www.irel.co.in and CPP Portal. Any corrigendum / extension to above tender shall be hosted in above websites only.							
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STANDARD POST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interestingly, women travellers were more likely to switch destinations entirely, with a 2.3 times higher tendency to 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 years.

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

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

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



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

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

comprehensive Breast Health Centre in Hyderabad. It is indeed heart-warming to learn about his pioneering breast cancer advocacy initiatives aimed at Early Detection, which has made significant and meaningful difference to scores of lives of women for well 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 in earnest endeavour to improve breast cancer care in India.”

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

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

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

Addressing the gathering, Dr P. Raghu Ram, Founding Director of KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases & Founder and Chairman of Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation said “My heartfelt thanks to Ms Julia Morley and the Miss World contestants for creating the time to spend quality time at KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases and for their heart-warming remarks to my power point presentation 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 my greatest fortune to be treated by Dr Raghu Ram. In my own trust with breast cancer, I managed to emerge strong and successful because of the extraordinary quality of treatment, empathetic care and counselling provided by him throughout the period of my treatment. emerged a ‘conqueror’. It is immensely satisfying that in my journey, Dr Raghu Ram inspired me to stay positive and remain undeterred whilst dealing with this unwelcome visitor. I commend Dr Raghu Ram for staying focused in spreading the message of hope and creating the much-needed awareness about early detection for a decade and beyond”

Nandini Gupta – Miss India 2025

Hannah Johns – Miss Northern Ireland 2025

Issie Princess – Miss Cameroon (Central Africa)

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

Dr. Idil Bilgen – USA

Silent Gut Disease Affecting Millions

(Standard Post Bureau)

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

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

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



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

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

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

(Standard Post Bureau)

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

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

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

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

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

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

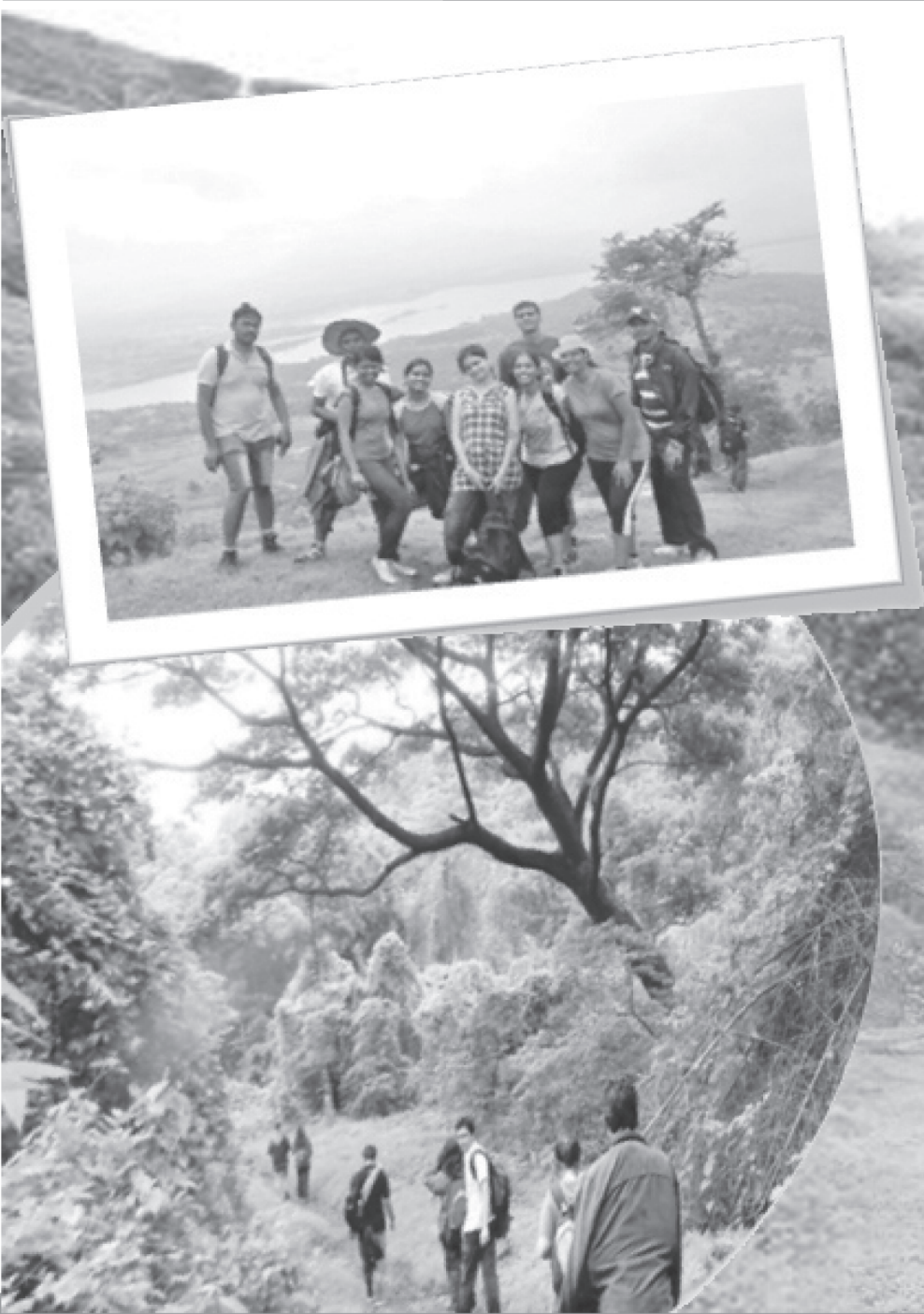
The two organizations have submitted a memorandum to the Governor of Manipur under adverse weather conditions, demanding:

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

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



Travel



Weekends are all about
Monsoon
Treks

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Grand Canyon
was carved out while dinosaurs roamed

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



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

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

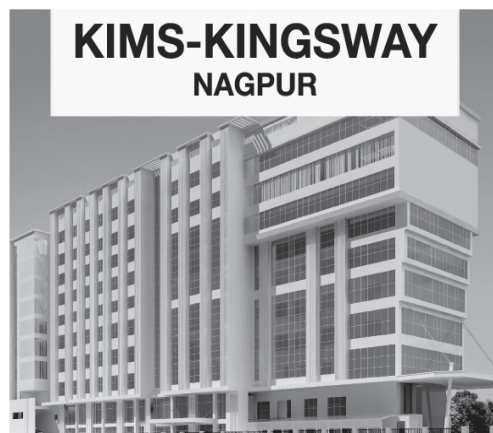
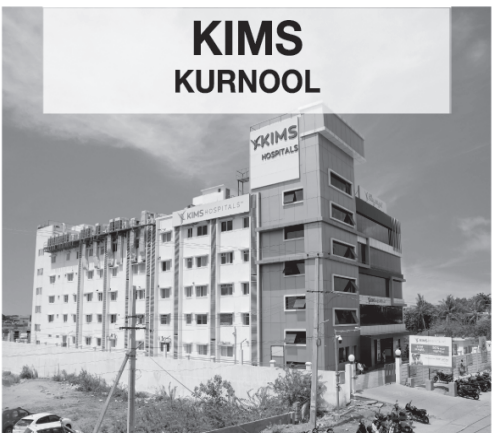
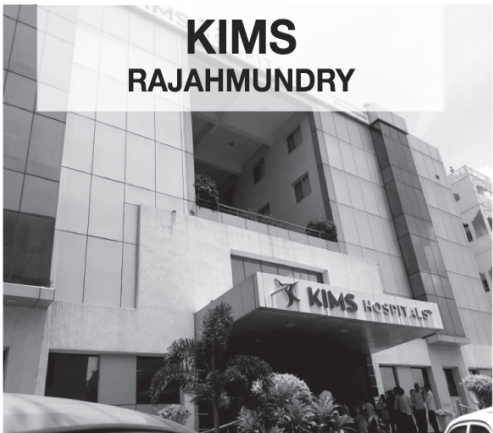
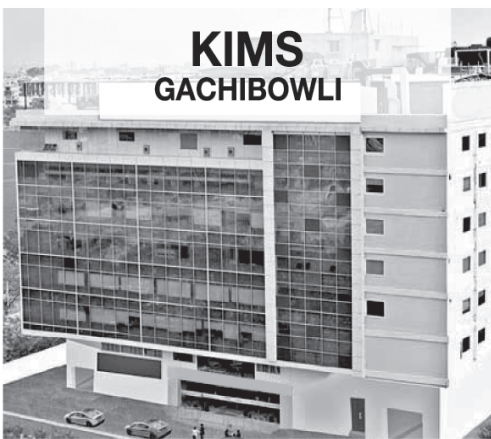
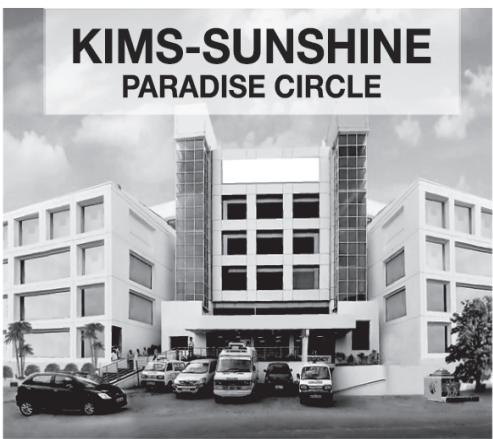


large part by an ancestral waterway of the Colorado River that was flowing in the opposite direction millions of years ago, said Flowers. "An ancient Grand Canyon has important implications for understanding the evolution of landscapes, topography, hydrology and tectonics in the western U.S. and in mountain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

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England reveal their playing XI for Zimbabwe Test



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

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

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

Chelsea manager Maresca not happy with Real Betis fixture change

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

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

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

India begin chiselling finer margins in Kolkata

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rampant RR humble CSK as Suryavanshi sparkles

New Delhi, May 20 (UNI) : A high-voltage IPL clash turned into a one-sided affair as Rajasthan Royals (RR) steamrolled Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by six wickets with 17 balls to spare at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Tuesday. Chasing a competitive target of 188, RR rode on a sparkling half-century by teen sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi and a brutal finish by Dhruv Jurel to hand CSK a resounding defeat and keep their playoff hopes alive. The win was sealed in emphatic fashion as Jurel launched Matheesha Pathirana over deep midwicket for a towering six off the first ball of the 18th over — a hit that punctuated CSK's bowling failures and fielding lapses through the night. Put into bat, CSK were rocked early by Yuvraj Singh Chahal, who struck twice in the second over to remove Devon Conway (10) and Urvil Patel (0). Ayush Mhatre, however, lit up the evening with a blazing 43 off just 20 balls, counter-punching with poise and flair. His innings was punctuated by three boundaries in one

over and a monster six over midwicket that silenced the RR fans momentarily. Mhatre and Ashwin added 50 for the third wicket, but once Mhatre holed out and Ravichandran Ashwin (13) slugged Wanindu Hasaranga to deep midwicket, the innings began to wobble. Dewald Brevis injected fresh momentum with a 25-ball 42, including a clean loft over long-off and a no-look six over square leg. Shivam Dube (39 off 32) tried to push the total past 190, but Akash Madhwal's yorkers and clever variations ensured CSK were kept in check at the death. Madhwal finished with 3/29, including the prized scalps of MS Dhoni (16) and Dube in the final over. CSK stuttered from 128/4 in the 14th to 187/8 in 20 overs. In reply, Rajasthan's innings began with a flurry as Yashasvi Jaiswal (36 off 19) found boundaries at will. From a stylish cut past point to a towering six over cover, Jaiswal's strokeplay was a treat. He was eventually bowled by Anshul Kamboj, trying an ambitious heave. Enter

Suryavanshi, the southpaw stamped his class with 57 off 33 balls, an innings peppered with powerful shots. He drove Khaleel Ahmed with elegance, slugged Ashwin with confidence, and launched Ravindra Jadeja over long-on for a monstrous six. Suryavanshi reached his half-century in style with a mighty hit off a free-hit from Noor Ahmad, sending the ball soaring over deep square. His innings ended in the 14th over when a mistimed slog off Ashwin found Jadeja at short third, ending a 98-run partnership with skipper Sanju Samson. Samson (41 off 31) was elegance personified, clearing long-on off Ashwin and threading fine leg off Pathirana. He perished shortly after Suryavanshi, failing to clear Brevis at long-on. But if CSK dreamt of a late comeback, Dhruv Jurel dismissed it with disdain. Walking in at 139 for 3, Jurel had one brief: finish it quickly. And he obliged in jaw-dropping fashion. His first real statement came off Jadeja — a six over deep square, followed by a deft paddle to fine leg for four.

Against Noor Ahmad, Jurel mixed subtlety with savagery — reverse paddling one for four before climbing into a tossed-up delivery for a 90-metre six. When Riyan Parag fell bowled for 3, it mattered little. Shimron Hetmyer stepped in and added to the carnage — a cheeky four fine, then a giant six over midwicket off Ashwin. Fittingly, it was Jurel who ended the night in style — smashing Pathirana for a six straight down the ground to bring up the win. For CSK, Ashwin (2/41) tried to create a middle-over collapse, but the spinners — Noor Ahmad (1/42) and Jadeja (0/27) — leaked runs. Pathirana (0/22 in 2.1 overs) struggled with control and length, while Kamboj (1/21) showed glimpses of promise. Scorecard: CSK 187/8 in 20 overs (Ayush Mhatre 43, Dewald Brevis 42, Shivam Dube 39; Madhwal 3/29, Yuvraj 3/47); RR 188/4 in 17.1 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 57, Sanju Samson 41, Dhruv Jurel 31* off 12; Ashwin 2/41) Result: Rajasthan Royals won by 6 wickets

Kidambi Srikanth qualifies for main draw at Malaysia Masters

Kuala Lumpur, May 20 (UNI) : Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the main draw of the men's singles event at the Malaysia Masters 2025 badminton tournament after winning both his qualifying matches at the Axiata Arena in Bukit Jalil on Tuesday. Srikanth, currently ranked 65th in the BWF men's singles rankings, began his campaign in dominant fashion by dispatching world No. 64 Kuo Kuan-lin of Chinese Taipei 21-8, 21-13 in just 29 minutes. In his second qualifying encounter, the Indian shuttler staged a strong comeback after dropping the first game to defeat Huang Yu Kai, also of Chinese Taipei, 9-21, 21-12, 21-16. However, it was a disappointing day for the other Indian men in the singles qualifiers. Tharun Manjappa went down 13-21, 21-23 to Thailand's Panitchaphon 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

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

India begin chiselling finer margins in Kolkata

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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