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IN BRIEF

BRAOU Vice Chancellor invites **Governor for** 26th Convocation

Hyderabad, May 23 (UNI): Prof Ghanta Chakrapani, Vice Chancellor of Dr B R Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU), met with the Governor of Telangana, Jishnu Dev Varma, at Raj Bhavan on Friday. During the meeting, the Governor discussed the development of BRAOU-India's first open university - and emphasised the need for continued efforts to enhance its academic infrastructural and growth.

Prof Chakrapani, along with senior university officials, formally invited the Governor to attend the 26th Convocation of BRAOU, which is scheduled to be held in August or September this year.Accompanying the Vice Chancellor were Dr L Vijaya Krishna Reddy, Registrar, Prof B Srinivas, Controller Examinations; and Dr P Venu Gopal Reddy, Public Relations Officer, an official statement said.

Use of 'Press Council' name prohibited without permission: **PCI Secretary**

Hyderabad, May 23 (UNI): The Press Council of India (PCI) has reiterated that the name "Press Council" should not be used by individuals or organisations without prior permission.

PCI Secretary Shubha Gupta has issued a letter to the Chief Secretaries of all states, urging them to ensure that such violations are prevented.Gupta clarified that the Press Council of India operates solely from its headquarters at Soochna Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, and has no branches in any state. No individual or entity has been authorised to use the term "Press Council," she emphasised.She further stated that the use of the term "Press Council" (Press Parishad) by unauthorised individuals or press organisations is strictly prohibited. The Union Ministry of Law and Justice has also supported this view, asserting that the term must not be used by any entity without express approval from

the Central Government.

CM unveils Basaveshwara statue, vows all-round devt in Sangareddy district



(Standard Post Bureau)

Sangareddy, May 23: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday visited Zaheerabad in Sangareddy district on Friday.

hailed Basaveshwara's everlasting," he said. contributions to social schemes in the spirit of that

Basavanna. also inaugurated the new

Jharasangam mandal. He for the development of congratulated students and Zaheerabad teachers on the occasion.

meeting in Zaheerabad, district, where he unveiled Revanth Reddy recalled the and Sanjeeva Reddy as the the statue of Sri Viswaguru deep connection between Basaveshwara Maharaj at former Prime Minister Indira Huggelli village in Gandhi and the Medak measures, he said the Zaheerabad mandal in this region. "Indiramma remained Medak MP till her last breath. farmers' loans, enhanced The Chief Minister Her legacy in this region is Rhythu Bharosa to Rs

Highlighting justice and reaffirmed his developmental initiatives 200 units of free electricity government's commitment under the Congress are being provided to the to implementing welfare government, he announced Hyundai Manufacturing Company RTC bus travel for women, Accompanied by would soon commence and support for girls' Ministers Konda Surekha operations in the region. He financial empowerment. and Damodar Rajanarsimha, also declared that 5,612 Government Advisor families affected by the NIMZ with the goal of making one Chairman, and senior Jagga Reddy tasked with Taking a swipe at the officials, the Chief Minister overseeing implementation. previous administration, he

building of Kendriya that the government would a job for every household Vidyalaya in Machnur, allocate the required funds only gave jobs on his own."

Narayankhed Speaking at a public constituencies, describing

"eyes of Narayankhed."

Outlining key welfare government had waived off 12,000, and extended it to the landless poor. Additionally, poor, along with LPG Car cylinders at Rs 500, free

"We are moving ahead Revanth Reddy assured added, "He who promised

KTR slams CM after ED chargesheet in **National Herald case**

(UNI): In a significant Komatireddy chargesheet in the high- chargesheet?" he asked. profile National Herald money laundering case.

Addressing the media in Hyderabad on Friday, KTR referred to Revanth Reddy as a "habitual offender" and and Civil Supplies scams a "bagman," pointing to his claiming corruption has involvement in the 2015 become institutionalised. cash-for-vote scandal, where he was caught on shut case of political tape allegedly offering Rs 50 favouritism and bribery," lakh to secure votes. "This KTR said, urging AICC latest ED chargesheet President Mallikarjun confirms that his pattern of Kharge and Rahul Gandhi to corruption has only break their silence and take continued," KTR said.

leaders like Suresh Shetkar ED's chargesheet accuses Revanth Reddy — then better." TPCC president — of soliciting funds from constitutional authorities business houses and and national media to take bribing Congress office note of what he called a "total bearers during internal party collapse of governance appointments. "This is not ethics" in Telangana, adding political mudslinging. These that the developments are official claims by a demand immediate and central investigative transparent accountability agency," he asserted.KTR from the ruling party.

Hyderabad, May 23 also criticised Congress MP political development, BRS Reddy's earlier allegations Working President KTRama that Revanth had bought Rao (KTR) launched a the PCC post for Rs 50 crore, scathing attack on claiming the Congress high Telangana Chief Minister A command turned a blind eye. Revanth Reddy after the "Will Rahul Gandhi now take Enforcement Directorate responsibility for protecting (ED) named him in its someone named in a legal

> He further alleged that under the Congress regime, Telangana has been plagued with a series of scams including the Amrut, RR Tax,

"This is an open-andaction. "Telangana is not the According to KTR, the Congress party's ATM. The people of the state deserve

KTR appealed to

AP ports are open for **Telangana's rice** Shabbir Ali, MP Suresh Shetkar, MLAs, Corporation Indiramma houses, with MLA crore women millionaires in the next five years," he said.

Hyderabad, May 23 (UNI): Andhra Pradesh government is happy to extend full support for Telangana's rice exports and its ports are open to facilitate this shared economic activity, said AP Civil Supplies Minister Nandela Manohar here on Friday. Addressing a press conference after holding discussions with his Telangana counterpart Capt. N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Mnohar stressed on strengthening cooperation between the Telugu states on issues such as rice exports.

Uttam said Telangana has officially begun exports to the Philippines through Kakinada Port, with Andhra Pradesh extending critical support in port operations, storage infrastructure, and export procedures.

Andhra Pradesh also offered its Visakhapatnam and Krishnapatnam ports for future consignments. "This is not a matter of jurisdiction, but of mutual growth," Uttam said. The ministers confirmed that all formalities and logistical processes for future exports would be jointly streamlined. Another key concern addressed during the discussions was the illegal inter-state movement of PDS (Public Distribution System) rice, which has been a persistent challenge. The two states agreed to initiate joint surveillance, enable real-time data exchange, and align procedures to eliminate diversion and corruption.

Both ministers stressed that such measures would enhance transparency, ensure timely grain delivery to beneficiaries, and restore public faith in the distribution system. The Telangana and Andhra Pradesh governments also agreed to mutually study and adopt each other's best practices in civil supplies operations.

Paleru Sagar UT works to be completed by July 10: Minister

(Standard Post Bureau)

Revenue, RelIations Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy with a firm deadline of July to farmers. 10 to release irrigation water season.

works at Jujjularaopet in 14.20 crore," he noted. The ing season," he stressed.

Kusumanchi mandal on restoration of the UT canal Minister Paleru Reservoir.

in time for the monsoon arrangements were made to if necessary. supply water last season, The Minister conducted permanent restoration has delay. Farmers are depending a surprise inspection of the now begun at a cost of Rs on this canal for the upcom-

Hyderabad, May 23 : Friday, where repairs are is critical, as it serves as a Housing, being carried out on a crucial lifeline for agriculture in Information and Public stretch of the canal near the Khammam district. Once completed, it will irrigate Speaking on the approximately four lakh on Friday directed officials occasion, Minister Reddy acres, including 1.33 lakh to expedite the ongoing stated that the canal's Under acres in the Paleru construction of the Tunnel section was constituency alone.To Nagarjuna Sagar Left Main damaged by heavy rains in ensure timely completion, Canal Under Tunnel (UT) in September last year, the Minister instructed that Paleru, Khammam district, disrupting irrigation supply the construction be treated as top priority, with work "Though temporary carried out in two shifts daily

"We cannot afford any

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI) here on Friday. : Prime Minister Narendra "zero tolerance" against any Maoist elements.

Northeast Rising Summit resulted in more than 10,000

Modi said on Friday his and law and order are the peace during the past tengovernment has a policy of most crucial factors for region's terrorism or unrest by development, PM Modi new employment and internet users but emerging highlight "Be it terrorism or once associated with opportunities within the advancements like over land of opportunity to attract Maoist elements spreading blockades and conflict, region, he said and added 13,000 km of optical fiber global and domestic unrest, our government which severely impacted that the MUDRA scheme expansion, 4G and 5G investment there. It will focus follows a policy of zero opportunities for its had provided thousands of coverage, and growing on tourism, agro-food tolerance," the Prime youth. The government's crores in financial support to opportunities in the processing, Minister said while consistent efforts towards lakhs of youth in the technology sector had information technology, inaugurating the two-day peace agreements had Northeast.

Reaffirming that peace abandoning arms to embrace individuals develop skills for region, reinforcing the eleven years.

said the Northeast was entrepreneurial digital innovators, he said Northeastern region as a

The rise of education entrepreneurs to launch entertainment and sports.

individuals institutes had helped young major startups within the

Describing the youth of digital gateway. This shift had unlocked the Northeast as not just encouraged

Northeast's role as India's

The two-day Summit will India's young infrastructure, energy,



Neeraj Chopra bags silver in Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet in Poland

India's two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra secured a second-place finish in the javelin throw at the Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet in Chorzów, Poland, on Friday. Though Neeraj won his third medal of the season, he could not quite replicate his seasonbest performance from the Doha Diamond League, which had also bagged him a silver medal. Battling wet conditions at the Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet in Chorzów, Chopra, considered India's greatest-ever athlete, struggled for his rhythm but did enough to continue his successful run in the season.

(See on page 7)

SC seeks Centre's reply on PIL for regulation of betting apps



The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Union Government on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking regulation of all online and offline betting applications. A bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh issued a notice to the Centre on the plea filed by social activist Dr. K.A. Paul. (See on page 4)

Muhammad Yunus considers resignation amid political ...



Bangladesh's interim government chief, Professor Muhammad Yunus is reportedly on the verge of stepping down, as frustration and disillusionment deepens within Bangladesh's public, political groups, and his own interim government regarding his ability (See on page 5) to govern the country.

Himachal CM meets Sitharaman



Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and urged her to resolve various budgetary and financial issues of the state. The CM told media in the State Information Department on Friday that he met Sitharaman on Thursday night and urged her to pay attention to the issues related to the state government. (See on page 8)

Priority being given to police recruitment: **Chief Minister** Devendra **Fadnavis**

Sangli, May 23 (UNI): Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has asserted that to create an ideal police administration in the state, the number of police officers will be kept in accordance with the population. Therefore, 40,000 new police officers have been recruited through the Home Department and the government will continue to give priority to police recruitment in the state.

Fadnavis, who was speaking at inauguration of three buildings constructed by the Sangli District Police Force and groundbreaking ceremony of a residential building, said that the Police Housing Corporation has provided funds for police offices and police residences in the state.

Currently, 94,000 residences have been made available.

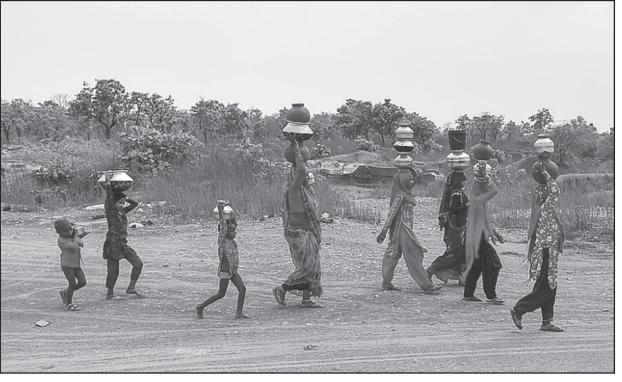
Stating that forensic vans will be made available in every district, he boasted that Maharashtra Police is the best in the country in solving cyber crimes. He also warned that if the police are found involved in the drug trafficking or business, they will be directly dismissed instead of suspended.

Fadnavis also said that the police department will continue to function in such a way that the common man of the state feels confident that no criminal will go free in the state from now on. He specially congratulated the Director General of Police and Managing Director Archana Tyagi of the Police Housing Corporation for constructing residences in the state.

50 villages and 5 talukas in Ratnagiri declared flood-prone

Ratnagiri May 23 (UNI) : Fifty villages in Ratnagiri district have been declared flood-prone by the district administration.

Sangameshwar, Rajapur, Khed and Ratnagiri talukas have also been declared flood-prone, an official said Magistrate Devender Singh instructed prepare management plans for these flood-prone villages and talukas be alert.



People move to collect water for drinking purposes from a pond that has rain water stored, amidst a shortage in the area located not far from the River Ganga, in Shankargarh on the outskirts of Prayagraj on Friday.

Ex-NCP leader, son held in dowry death case

Mumbai, May 23 (UNI) Former Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) functionary Rajendra Hagawane and his son Sushil were arrested in Pune's Swargate area early Friday after being on the run for nearly a week, following allegations of dowry harassment and abetment to suicide in the death of Hagawane's 26year-old daughter-in-law,

The arrests were made as police tracked the duo's movements after receiving a tip-off about their attempt to flee the city.

Vaishnavi was found

The administration has

finally succeeded in

controlling the fire that

broke out at the Jindal

Polyfilm Company in

Mundhegaon area of

Igatpuri taluka after 56

fire brigades with over 100

fire engines were trying their

administration had ordered

residents

Mundhegaon, Shenwad

Khurd, Balwant Nagar,

Mukane, Padli etc. villages

in the vicinity of the

was partially controlled and

the danger reduced, the

residents who had left the

village were slowly seen

returning to Panha village.

Minister Dada Bhuse

visited the Jindal Company

and inspected the area.

On Friday, Education

At this time, Minister

On Friday, after the fire

company to evacuate.

On Thursday, the

best to control the fire.

dead at her marital home in Bhukum. Pimpri-Chinchwad, on May 16, reportedly hanging from a ceiling fan. While initially suspected to be a suicide, her post-mortem report revealed multiple injury marks, prompting her family to allege sustained dowry harassment and physical abuse.

In their complaint, Vaishnavi's parents stated they had given 595 grams of gold, silver, and a Fortuner SUV at the time of marriage, but the Hagawane family allegedly continued to demand an additional ?2 crore for land purchase,

Massive fire at Jindal Polyfilm plant

brought under control after 56 hours

police sources said.

An FIR was registered Vaishnavi's husband Shashank, mother-in-law Lata, sisterin-law Karishma, father-inlaw Rajendra, and brotherin-law Sushil under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) pertaining to dowry death, abetment to suicide, and domestic violence.

While Shashank, Lata, and Karishma were arrested earlier this week, Rajendra and Sushil had evaded arrest until Friday.

The case has triggered widespread outrage and political repercussions.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who had attended Vaishnavi's wedding, announced the expulsion of Rajendra Hagawane and his son from the NCP amid mounting public pressure.

Meanwhile, Vaishnavi's 10-month-old son has been reunited with her parents, following intervention from senior political leaders and the Maharashtra State Women's Commission.

The police continue to investigate all angles, including allegations of physical assault and intimidation of Vaishnavi's family after her death.

Shivrajy abhishek' ceremony at Raigad fort should be celebrated as per lunar 'tithi': Sambhaji

Bhide Kolhapur, May 23 (UNI) : Shiv Pratisthan founder Sambhaji Bhide has demanded to stop permanently celebration 'Shivrajyabhishek' of Chhatrapatii Shivaji Maharaj every year on June 6 at the historic Raigad fort as per the date, and demanded it should be celebrated as per 'Tithi' (lunar day).

Talking to reporters here, Bhide said that all programmes Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj should be celebrated as per 'Tithi' and the June 6 celebration 'Shivrajyabhishek' should be stopped.

We are still celebrating all our 'ustav as per British tradition dates, which should be celebrated as per our Tithi', he said.

Bhide demanded not to remove the memorial of 'Waghya Kutra' situated on historical Raigad fort.

Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati demanded removal of the dog's tomb statue of 'Waghya Kutra' saying there was no evidence about it in history. He also announced two days celebration of 'Shivrajyabhishek' on Raigad fort from June 6 to mark the 352nd Shivrajyabhishek din.

Trade with ASEAN will go up to 200 bn Dollars with Infra development in NE: PM Modi

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday India's trade volume with ASEAN which is about 125 billion Dollars, is expected to exceed 200 billion Dollars in the coming years, positioning the Northeast as a strategic trade bridge and gateway to ASEAN markets.

In his inaugural address at the two-day Northeast Investors Summit here he said infrastructure projects were not just about bricks and cement, but were a means of emotional connectivity. He reaffirmed the shift from Look East to Act East, stating that this proactive approach is yielding visible results.

Reiterating government's commitment accelerating infrastructure projects to enhance regional connectivity, he stressed the importance of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway which will provide direct access from Myanmar to Thailand, strengthening India's connectivity with Thailand, Vietnam and Laos. He highlighted government's efforts to expedite the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Project which will link the Kolkata Port to Myanmar's Sittwe Port, providing a crucial trade route through Mizoram. This project would significantly reduce travel distance between West Bengal and Mizoram, enhancing trade and industrial growth. Highlighting

ongoing development of Guwahati, Imphal, and Agartala as Multi-Modal Logistics Hubs, the Prime Minister said the establishment of Land Custom Stations in Meghalaya and Mizoram is further expanding international trade These opportunities. advancements positioning the Northeast as a rising force in trade with Indo-Pacific nations, unlocking new avenues for

growth. Underlining that robust infrastructure plays a key role in making the tourism sector attractive and instilling confidence among investors, Mr Modi said well-developed roads, power infrastructure, and logistics networks were the backbone of any industry, facilitating seamless trade and economic growth.

He said the government initiated had Infrastructure Revolution in the Northeast and the region was now emerging as a Land of Opportunities. Thousands of crores had been invested in enhancing connectivity, he said highlighting advancements in the past decade, including construction of 11,000 km of highways, extensive new railway lines, a doubling of airport numbers, development of waterways on the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers and the installation of hundreds of mobile towers. Over the next decade, the region's trade potential would investment and economic multiply significantly.

It was not a conflict with Pakistan over Kashmir; it was a terrorist attack: EAM snubs Western media

Copenhagen/New Delhi, May 23 (UNI): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in a rebuff to Western thought that the clash between India and Pakistan was over Kashmir, stated firmly that it was in retaliation for a terrorist attack, in reference to the Pahalgam attack.

In an interview to Politiken, a Danish newspaper, the EAM stated firmly: "It wasn't a conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. It was a terrorist attack," in reference to the April 22 brutal attack by Pakistani linked terrorists in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

On the West's backing of Pakistan over the past decades, he said: "Our borders have been violated by Pakistan in Kashmir ever since our independence in 1947. And what have we seen in the eight decades since then? That large, democratic Europe, to use your own term, has stood side by side with military dictatorships in the region.

"No one has supported the military regime - and undermined democracy in Pakistan in so many ways - as much as the West," in a dig at the West.

Asked how India continues to support Russia, in the wake of the Ukraine conflict, and also emphasise that India supports countries' sovereignty and

internationally recognised borders, the EAM said: "But my worldview and my view of Europe are shaped by my own experiences. You talk about the inviolability of borders - well, why don't we start with the inviolability of my borders?

"That's where my world begins. But we've always been told that we had to solve that ourselves."

Regarding the import of Russian energy, EAM Jaishankar pointed out that Europe - despite its outrage and sanctions - still imports energy from Russia. At the same time, Europe is driving up energy prices for all developing countries, including India."Wealthy Europe turned to the Middle East because it had a problem with Russia and offered inflated prices to get oil redirected to Europe. So what happened was that many countries - not just us - could no longer afford it. The major oil companies didn't even respond to purchase offers because they were too busy selling to Europe."

"What was the rest of the world supposed to do? Say 'okay', we'll just do without energy because Europeans need it more than us?" he continued.

He added that "matters were not made easier by the fact that major oil-producing countries like Iran and Venezuela are also subject to Western sanctions".

UP govt aims to make Braille press technologically advanced

Lucknow, May 23 (UNI) available in Braille, Five Braille presses are run under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in Uttar Pradesh which publish textbooks in Braille for various subjects, ensuring that visually impaired students across the state's specialised schools have equal access to quality education, official sources

said here on Friday. Sources said that this initiative is bridging the educational divide and boosting the confidence and self-esteem of thousands of students. "Particularly noteworthy is the contribution of the Government Braille Press in Lucknow. This institution has successfully made all UP Board textbooks up to the high school level

ensuring that visually impaired students receive accurate and timely educational material. This has enabled them to compete effectively in mainstream academic and competitive environments," they said.

Sources said that in recognition of its excellence, the Union Ministry of Social Justice Empowerment conferred the National Award on the Lucknow Braille Press in 2019, a testament to both the press's quality and the Yogi government's inclusive policies.Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has consistently emphasised that 'every citizen, regardless of physical ability, can contribute to the

provided they are given the right resources and opportunities'. Guided by this philosophy, the government has launched multiple supportive schemes for Divyang students, including scholarships, hostel facilities and vocational training programmes.Sources said that operating Braille presses for visually impaired students is a foundational transformative step in this mission. "It helps these students move toward selfreliance and earn their place in society with dignity. Looking ahead, the state government aims to upgrade these presses with modern technology further and introduce digital Braille content, enabling students to access education globally," they said.

state's development,

Chiplun, Friday.District concerned officials to disaster

three days. Although the Compensate families hit by disaster in UP: Akhilesh

Dada Bhuse said that the work of controlling the fire Omkar Pawar informed that had been in progress for fire has been contained, the company have been

Nashik, May 23 (UNI): smoke will be visible for two days due to flammable materials.

What is the exact cause of the fire that broke out two years ago at the plant and the current fire? It will be investigated. The Ministry's nodal officer, A massive fire broke out high-ranking officials of three days ago. About 25 Reliance and many other departments are present here.Were all precautions taken for safety reasons? What caused the fire? Experts will investigate and report and investigate. An inquiry will be held at the senior level to find out what exactly went wrong. The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister are keeping an eye on this. Smoke has been coming out for three days, if there has been any damage to the surrounding farmers, a survey will be conducted. If a fire audit was done, why did this accident happen? Who is guilty? All further action will be taken in accordance with the law.

> Metalizer units 1,2,3 and polyester lines A B C D in

completely burnt down, causing damage worth crores of rupees. It was necessary to keep the fire away from the propane gas tank, and it was successfully done.

The fire was 50 meters away from the propane tank. Cooling process had been started on the boiler and profile tank from the first day. Since there was a lot of raw material, the fire had increased, so we used 12 dumpers and 4 JCBs to remove the material. The technical team has verified that if the tank explodes, its intensity will be felt up to 500 to 700 meters. However, we were able to control the fire last night and now the situation is under control. Citizens are appealed not to believe in any rumors, added Sub-Divisional Officer Omkar Pawar.Firefighting teams from different places had arrived here, including Nashik, MIDC, and seeing the nature of the fire, vehicles from various municipalities like Thane, PCMC, private companies like Reliance, and NDRF teams had also arrived here.

Sub-Divisional Officer

announcements. This

various disasters, this always

people have died in 10-12 Lucknow, May 23 (UNI) three days, lakhs of people Samajwadi Party (SP) were affected by storms districts president Akhilesh Yadav and rain in dozens of on Friday expressed deep districts of the state. condolences on the "Dozens of houses collapsed, people's homes

untimely deaths of more than 50 people due to storm, rain and cyclone in the state, calling it extremely In a statement issued here, Akhilesh Yadav people died," he said.

expressed condolences to the families of the deceased said that the government should immediately compensate the affected families and help them in other ways.

He said that in the last

destroyed. Waterlogging occurred in many places including the Chief Minister's home district Gorakhpur. A large number of people were injured. Several dozen

The SP chief said that the government should not make announcements only on papers. "It should really help the families affected by storm and cyclone. 17

including Lucknow due to the strong storm. About 22 people have died in Kanpur and nearby districts. 6 people have died in Fatehpur district. Similarly, two deaths have occurred in western UP's Meerut, two in Baghpat, one each in Hathras, Aligarh and other districts," he said.

He has demanded from the state government that justice be done to the victims with full sensitivity. "The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government is an expert in making false

government has not fulfilled the previous promises made to the public," he said. Akhilesh said, "During

government did make announcements but the farmers and victims did not get help on the ground. In a democracy, it is the responsibility of the government to work for public interest and public welfare but the BJP government discriminates. It ignores farmers, the poor and the

BJP leader Kishan Reddy slams **Congress ruled state govt**



Hyderabad, May 23 (UNI): Union Minister and Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy announced a series of major initiatives undertaken by the central government in Telangana, while delivering a strong critique of both the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS parties in

Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office in Nampally on Friday, Reddy stated that since the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014, numerous central institutions have been established in Telangana, with three more recently sanctioned.

He emphasised the government's commitment to bolstering infrastructure and research in the state. A key highlight is the establishment of a Global Center of Excellence on Millets in Hyderabad, to be developed with an investment of Rs 250 crore.

This center, under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Agriculture, will enhance ongoing millet research led

Rahul to meet victims of Pak shelling

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will visit Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch region on Saturday to meet the victims of Pakistani shelling during the military operation there.

Party leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday said the leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha will visit Poonch tomorrow (May 24) where he will meet the families affected by the recent shelling by Pakistan.Rahul had visited Srinagar on April 25 to meet the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack and several other stakeholders.

Hyderabad, May 23

(UNI): Pearson, which is at

the forefront of digital

learning innovation and

pioneering solutions that

go beyond static content,

on Friday announced that

discussions are going on

with the Telangana

government to help in

skilling and reskilling of

students. We are committed

to empowering learners and

educators with industry-

relevant solutions across

High education, English

Workforce skills and

Assessments, said Pearson

India Country Head Vinay

Swamy in a press

conference here. Pearson is

actively expanding its

footprint in Telangana

Learning,

Language

by the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) and will feature cuttingedge facilities including gene editing greenhouses, speed breeding labs, phenomics labs, a millets museum, a central instrumentation lab, research farms, international hostels, and training rooms.

It aims to serve farmers, promote value-added products, support startups, and provide quality seeds and advanced training.

The Minister also revealed plans for the Kavach Centre Excellence, a specialised railway safety research and development hub to be set up in the Secunderabad parliamentary constituency.

The center will receive Rs 41 crore for temporary establishment and Rs 274 crore for full-scale construction. It will focus on advancing indigenous Kavach technology, providing technical training to railway staff, and collaborating with institutions such as Mahatma Gandhi Institute Technology (Hyderabad), Madan Mohan Malviya University (Gorakhpur), and MBM University (Jodhpur). Special certification courses in railway signalling and related fields will also be offered to engineering students.

Reddy highlighted the central government's significant investment in vocational training through upgradation of Training Industrial Institutes (ITIs).

With a 47 per cent increase in the number of ITIs over the past three and a half years, the country now has 14,600 ITIs, including government-run institutes across 681 districts. Student enrolment has grown from 9 lakh in 2014 to 14.4 lakh. A Rs 60,000 crore national plan is underway to modernise ITIs, and new training centres will be established in five cities, including Hyderabad, to strengthen trainer development and

TPCC chief to present Telangana caste census model to party in Delhi

Hyderabad/New Delhi, May 23 (UNI): Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud is currently in Delhi to present a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the caste census initiative undertaken in Telangana to the top Congress leadership at Indira Bhavan on Friday.

The high-level meeting will be attended by AICC senior leaders, national spokespersons, and prominent Congress figures from across the country.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will participate in the session, underscoring the significance of Telangana's caste census initiative at the national level, a party statement

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) is expected to consider Telangana's caste census as a model for other

The Telangana Congress government is actively pursuing legal avenues to implement 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs), based on the findings of the caste recognition

CP holds meeting with Gauseva Associations to ensure peaceful Bakrid celebrations

upcoming Bakrid festival, Hyderabad City Police convened coordination meeting with various Gauseva (cow protection) associations to promote communal harmony and ensure a peaceful observance of the

The meeting was held at the conference hall in Basheerbagh and chaired by C V Anand, Director General and Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad.

Representatives from the Gauseva organisations reiterated their commitment

strategic

language

Education Initiatives in Telangana

through

English

collaborations

academic institutions, skill

development missions, and

corporate stakeholders, he

said with a focus on

introducing Pearson BTEC

qualifications, enhancing

readiness, and exploring

synergies with the state

government, Pearson is

positioning itself as a long-

term partner for the region's

skilling and education

priorities. We are providing

digital content with AI enabled

in 14 different languages in the

county, he said, adding, we

have partnered with over 5,000

higher education Institutions

(HEIs) including IITs and

IIMs to support fortune 500

companies and in which

(UNI): In preparation for the preventing animal cruelty. content online. They emphasised the importance of cow-based agriculture and eco-friendly practices, highlighting the cultural and environmental value of cattle. A major concern raised was the circulation of videos depicting cattle killings on social media. The participants urged the police to take stringent action against those

> Responding to these concerns, Commissioner Anand assured the participants that firm action would be taken against

bridging the gap between

employability, he said,

adding that we are offering

in four verticals in India—

Higher education' English

Language Learning (ELL);

Enterprise Learning & Skills

Qualification.Our Pearson

Test of English (PTE) to

help students to travel

abroad was allowed by US,

UK, Canada and Germany,

he claimed and said that

around 80,000 students

are attending this Test

every year against 12-15

lakh students attending

English Language Learning

across India.

Assessment

and

education

responsible.

Hyderabad, May 23 to protecting cows and individuals sharing such

He urged Gauseva activists to operate strictly within the bounds of the law and refrain from taking matters into their own hands. He advised them to immediately report any suspicious activity, along with photo or video evidence, to the police by calling the control room at 8712661155.The Commissioner emphasised full cooperation from Hyderabad City Police and called for mutual support and vigilance to ensure the festival is celebrated peacefully and lawfully.

at Miss World Fest in Telangana Hyderabad, May 23 (UNI): The 72nd Miss selected after a meticulous evaluation process,

World Festival announced the 20 finalists of the prestigious Head-to-Head Challenge following a riveting first round held in Telangana.

This highly anticipated segment of the Miss World competition has once again reaffirmed the importance of substance and advocacy in the realm of beauty with a purpose.

Held amid the cultural grandeur of India's youngest state, the Headto-Head Challenge offered a platform for all 107 contestants from around the world to deliver compelling speeches on personal and global issues that matter deeply to them and to society.

The preliminary round witnessed a display of remarkable articulation, emotional depth, and unshakable commitment to meaningful causes.

Heavy rain likely in **Telangana** over next five days: Met

Hyderabad, May 23 (UNI) : Heavy rain accompanied thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds with speeds ranging from 40 to 50 kmph is likely to occur at isolated places in Telangana over the next five days, according to the Meteorological Centre on Friday.

In its daily weather report issued here, the Centre stated that light to moderate rain thundershowers are likely to occur at many places or a few places across the state over the next seven

Maximum temperatures are expected to remain below normal by 5 to 7 degrees Celsius in Telangana during the next three days.

Heavy rainfall was recorded at isolated places in Adilabad, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Jagtial, Kamareddy, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Sangareddy districts of Telangana during the past

Rainfall occurred at many places across the state during the same period, the report added.

demonstrated not only eloquence and intelligence but also courage and authenticity.

20 finalists for head-to-head challenge

These young women stood out for their unwavering dedication to using their voices for change, illuminating stories of resilience, justice, mental health, education, sustainability, empowerment, and cultural identity.

The finalists advancing to the Head-to-Head Final this Friday are: (from Europe Region: Spain -Corina Mrazek; Wales – Millie-Mae Adams; France - Agathe Cauet; Germany Silvia Dörre Sánchez and Ireland – Jasmine Gerhardt.

From the Americas & Caribbean Region: Brazil – Jessica Pedroso; Suriname - Chenella Rozendaal;

Cayman Islands – Jada Ramoon; Guyana – Zalika

South Africa - Zoalize Jansen van Rensburg; Namibia – Selma Carlicia Kamanya; Somalia -Zainab Jama; Uganda -Natasha Nyonyozi and Zambia – Faith Bwalya.

Suchata

Each of these finalists will present once more in the concluding round, their clarity, conviction, and commitment to advocacy will help determine the ultimate winner of this defining challenge.

Samuels; Trinidad and

Tobago - Anna-Lise

Nanton while from the Asia

& Oceania Region: Sri

Lanka – Anudi Gunasekara;

Turkiye - Idil Bilgen;

Lebanon – Nada Koussa

and Japan – Kiana Tomita.

From the Africa Region:

Thailand – Opal

Chuangsri;

Speaking on the significance of the event, Julia Morley CBE, Chairman and CEO of the Miss World Organisation, stated: "I am immensely proud of every

young woman who took part in the Head-to-Head Challenge. Their voices resonated with truth, courage, and inspiration. In a world that needs empathy and leadership more than ever, these women have reminded us of the power of storytelling, advocacy, and standing up for what is right. They have not only spoken, they have been heard, and their words are helping shape a more compassionate, inclusive, and thoughtful world."

As the excitement peaks for the final round of the Head-to-Head Challenge, taking place on May 23, the Miss World Festival continues to spotlight young women who redefine what it means to lead with purpose and passion.

Telangana, with its vibrant heritage and forward-looking spirit, serves as the perfect host for this global celebration of beauty, voice, and vision.

Kishan Reddy slams Rahul, demands immediate funds for Hyderabad's development underdeveloped areas—

were being delayed due to

a lack of funds from the

Hyderabad

Greater

Hyderabad, May 23 (UNI): Union Minister for Coal and Mines and BJP President G Kishan Reddy launched a scathing attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his recent comments on Operation Sindoor, accusing him of undermining the morale and integrity of the Indian armed forces.

The Minister criticised Gandhi for questioning how many planes were lost in the operation and said that such remarks amount to politicising military actions and weakening national unity."Dragging soldiers into dirty politics is shameful," Reddy said, warning that such rhetoric only serves the interests of hostile nations like Pakistan. Speaking at an inspection of an additional community hall under construction in the Bhaggi Khan Basti of Himayat Nagar, within the Secunderabad parliamentary constituency on Friday, Kishan Reddy also took the opportunity to criticise the Telangana state government for what he described as a serious lapse in urban development.He alleged that essential infrastructure works across

Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and the Water Works department. Reddy pointed out that despite repeated appeals to officials, even basic amenities like street lights remain neglected in several areas. "Street lights are not being repaired. Contractors are not being paid on time.

Development works are suffering," he said, adding that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy must respond bodies. He further criticised the state government for focusing on events like beauty pageants instead of resolving persistent issues in slum areas. He emphasised that Hyderabad contributes nearly 70 per cent of the state's revenue and deserves proportionate investment infrastructure.

"Hyderabad is a global city attracting international attention. It cannot

progress through slogans and events alone. We need tangible real, improvements," he said during the launch of development works worth Rs 1.29 crore in the Gandhinagar division.

Expressing frustration

over the lack of progress,

the Union Minister also noted that GHMC officials have cited a lack of funds as the reason for stalled works, including basic services such as road repairs and playground development.He pointed out that when the BJP was urgently by releasing in power at the municipal necessary funds to civic level, such issues were resolved within days whereas now, delays have become routine.He also lambasted both the Congress and the BRS parties, accusing them of playing politics over national security and the armed forces. Referring to past statements by KCR and Kavitha on surgical and air strikes, he said that such remarks echo the narratives of Pakistan and dishonour the bravery

of Indian soldiers.

E- TENDER NOTICE No. 10/SBC/25 of 09.05.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works Approx. Value Name of the Work

Rs. 3,54,79,386/reconstruction/re-building of existing RUB No. 535 (for up line duly dismant of exg. 1x11.704m steel girder) with twin boxes of size 2x9.00x5.0m RCC length = 12.24m approx). Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsor period whichever is later. Rs. 2,81,86,570/-

2 Sub Work-I: Bengaluru - Sampige road section: mprovements to staff quarters at Chikka Banavara, Golhalli, Dodbele alli, Kyatsandra, Tumakuru, Heggere, Gubbi station colonies. Sub Work-II: Yesvanthpur - Improvements to guarters of Yesvanthpur colon

3 Bengaluru - Dharmavaram section: Improvements to staff quarters at Dodballapur, Makalidurga, Thondebhavi, Gauribidanur Hindupur, Penukonda and Sri satya sai Prashanthi nilayam colonies Assistant Divisional Engineer/Hindupur jurisdiction. Maintenance period is 12

4 Yelahanka – Bangarpet section: Manufacturing, supply including leading and loading of ballast at Devanahalli Depot (Quantity 54.510 cum) in connection with the work of Through Ballast Recoupment for a length of 36.34 km from km 46/000-85/340 (SL) in SSE/PWAY/YNK section

5 Sr. DEN/North/SBC and DEN/South/SBC sec: Manufacturing, supply and execution of 60kg and 52kg AT welding portions including IN-SITU welding pertaining to Sr. DEN/North/SBC section and DEN/South/SBC section

Rs. 3,00,15,969/-6 Chikbanavar - Hassan section : Increasing Sleeper Density (ISD) for a length of 53.6 kms from km 1/200-14/000 and 124/000-164/800 (SL) in connection with increasing sectional speed from 110 to 130

7 Sr.DEN/East/SBC section: Sub Work-I: Bengaluru -Iolarpettai section: Through Rail Renewal (S) of existing 52kg/ 90UTS rails with 52kg 90 UTS rails for a length of 9.522kms in the loop lines of KSR Bengaluru, Malur, Devangonthi, Whitefield and Krishnarajapuram yards ir Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bengaluru Section. Sub Work-II: Bengaluru lolarpettai and Yelahanka - Bangarpet section: TRR(S) - 14.592km in the loop nes of Bangarpet, Varadapura, Bisanatham, Marikuppam, Tykal Chinthamani, Srinivasapura, Thurandahalli and Kolar yards

8 Sr. DEN/East/SBC Section : Proposed construction of compound wall for Defense Land exchange at Banaswadi (BAND) MEML

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs on 11-06-2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination, Bengaluru Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

Pearson India to help with skilling and Air India announces network-wide promotional sale ahead of holiday season 100 HEIs or universities from Telangana.Pearson India is a trusted partner in

Hyderabad, May 23 (UNI): Air India has rolled out a network-wide promotional sale, offering unmatched allinclusive fares across Air India's extensive domestic and international route network.

During the promotional sale, one-way fares on domestic routes start from Rs 1,199, and round-trip fares on international routes start from Rs 11,969, the airline said in a release on Friday.

The network-wide sale is open until 2359 hours of May 25, with the last 24 hours of the sale being exclusively available on Air India's website and mobile app.

The sale fares are available for travel until September 30, 2025 to most destinations, with extended validity of up to December 10 on select long-haul routes to North America, Europe (including UK), and Australia.

Bookings under the sale are available at international points of sale, with fares denominated in respective local

Travellers booking their tickets on Air India's website (airindia.com) and mobile app will enjoy zero convenience fees during the sale period.

EAST COAST RAILWAY NAME OF WORK WITH ITS LOCATION: REPLACEMENT OF CODAL LIFE COMPLETED INSULATORS IN KK LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION PHASE-I.

Value of Tender : ₹ 72,99,000/-, EMD : ₹ 1,46,000/-, Completion period of the work: 11 Months. Hrs. of 10.06.2025 ww.ireps.gov.in

PR-156/Q/25-26

Hyderabad—particularly in

slums, colonies, and

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAD/CN/RNC/448-A/ Dated: 20-05-2025

for the following works

Name of the Work Approx. Value
Execution of site Rs. 6,26,20,300/clearance work by carrying out jungle cleaning, earth work, dismantling o structures, laisoning with GOK authorities in preparation of RTC and mutation copies, taking possession of land and other miscellaneous works between Jamakhandi - Kudach stations from KM 85000 to 142200 (Tender Ref. No: BGK-KUD-46) Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs on 03-06-2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction PUB/136/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking

STANDARD POST

From SAGAR to **MAHASAGAR**

In a defining moment for India's maritime diplomacy, the country unveiled its expanded oceanic strategy under the banner of the 'MAHASAGAR' (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) initiative. This move marked a significant evolution of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's original SAGAR doctrine. The new initiative demonstrates a shift from the regional focus on the Indian Ocean to a comprehensive global maritime approach.

The strategy was the centrepiece of a highlevel dialogue held in the capital, bringing together top defence experts, diplomats, and scholars for a conference titled "The Mahasagar Initiative in the Current Security Context", organised by the Chintan Research Foundation.

Delivering the keynote address, Admiral R.K. Dhowan (Retd), former Chief of Naval Staff, highlighted India's growing maritime prowess:

"The Indian Navy is fully capable of deterring threats, asserting control across ocean spaces, and defending the nation's interests through operational manoeuvre, sea denial, and sea control. Our readiness also covers coastal defence and asymmetric warfare scenarios."

Shishir Priyadarshi, President of the Chintan Research Foundation, reflected on the journey from SAGAR to Mahasagar:

"SAGAR'—Security and Growth for All in the Region—was rooted in the belief that economic development cannot be achieved without peace and stability.

It initially targeted the Indian Ocean Region but laid the groundwork for a broader global approach."

Over the past decade, India has steadily expanded its maritime partnerships and blue economy engagement. Former Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia stressed SAGAR's impact in strengthening regional ties and developmental outreach:

"SAGAR has driven India's efforts to build regional partnerships and boost maritime development, especially in the blue economy."

Now, India's sights are set on a more ambitious global maritime framework. Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Founder and Chairperson of the Kalinga Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies, highlighted the shift:

"MAHASAGAR goes beyond SAGAR it seeks shared prosperity and security across all oceans. PM Modi envisions a world where every country with maritime borders benefits equally from peace, trade, and sustainability."

Jayant Misra, Executive Committee Member of MP-IDSA, elaborated on the expanded scope of Mahasagar: "The scope of MAHASAGAR is wider. It now includes collective security, regional coordination, and enhanced global maritime partnerships."

Stressing the diplomatic symbolism, Ruchita Beri, Senior Fellow at VIF, pointed out the strategic location of the initiative's announcement:

"Announcing the Mahasagar initiative from Mauritius underscored the country's strategic importance and symbolic partnership in India's maritime outreach."

Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, Coordinator at DAKSHIN-RIS, offered a broader perspective:

"While SAGAR was focused on the Indian Ocean, MAHASAGAR includes other oceanic regions and the broader Global South. It positions India as a first responder and a key economic and strategic partner."

As oceanic challenges and geopolitical rivalries intensify, the Mahasagar Initiative signals a bold new era in India's foreign policy. It redefines India's maritime role—not just as a regional power, but as a global advocate for maritime security, economic inclusion, and sustainable ocean governance.

With MAHASAGAR, India is positioning itself as a strategic leader offering a forwardlooking model for international maritime cooperation in the 21st century.

Another step towards strengthening railway infrastructure in Bihar

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology laid the foundation stone for the project of wagon POH capacity augmentation at Jamalpur Locomotive Workshop





(Standard Post Bureau) Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics Information Technology, Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw reached Patna on his visit to Bihar where he met Chief Minister of Bihar Mr Nitish Kumar today on 23.05.2025 and discussed on the issue of ongoing railway projects in Bihar.

During his visit to Bihar, Railway Minister Mr Vaishnaw Ashwini conducted window trailing inspection between Patna to Jamalpur and gave necessary instructions to the officials. Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lallan Singh and Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar Shri Samrat Chaudhary and Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha were also present with him during his visit to Bihar.

Hon'ble Minister Shri Vaishnaw inspected Jamalpur station and inspected the redevelopment work at a cost of Rs 30 crore and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

In another bonanza for fresh impetus in the form of ¹ 78.96 crore towards development of Jamalpur

Workshop, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, Information Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology laid the foundation stone for the project of Wagon POH capacity augmentation at Jamalpur Workshop. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Samrat Choudhary, Dy. Chief Minister of Bihar and Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Dy. Chief Minister of Bihar were also present on the occasion.

On arriving at the Jamalpur Workshop, Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, Shri Vaishnaw along with the other

ministers and dignitaries visited different shops like wagon manufacturing shop and crane shop. At Wagon Manufacturing Shop, the Minister inspected manufacturing of BOXN Wagons, BLCS wagons and Brake Van having provision of toilets, manufactured at Jamalpur Workshop. At the Crane Shop, Hon'ble Minister inspected newly manufactured 140 tonne crane, 8-wheeler tower car and Jamalpur Jack which are the icons of this Workshop. While at the Workshop, the Union Railway Minister got warm welcome by the staff of the Jamalpur Locomotive Workshop.

Afterward, the Union Railway Minister visited IRIMEE Jamalpur where he

released a booklet titled "Centre of Excellence" containing detailed development scheme on different branches of engineering like Welding, Pneumatics, Hydraulics & Mechatronics. The book contains the action plans on these four subjects to develop the infrastructure, training facility at this prestigious training centre for engineers at IRIMEE, Jamalpur. This endeavor contains an investment over India in the last 10 plan of ¹ 350 crore for development of the whole Minister during his

inspection said - Under the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the development of Bihar reflects to the giant leap in budgetary allocation for Railways in Bihar of

about 1 1000 crore a decade ago to the present-day budgetary allocation for railways to the tune of 1 10,000 crore. Moreover, there are many other in the anvil for the development of Bihar like redevelopment of 98 stations and other Railway projects worth 1 1,00,000 crore. The Railway Minister informed that, 1832 km of new track has been laid in Bihar and 34000 km of Railway track laid all years. Electrification has been completed over 50,000 km. Electrification of Railways has also reduce

Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry

the dependence on oil

Dairyingappreciated the Union Railway Minister for his micro-level thinking and for driving development through a holistic approach.

Shri Samrat Choudhary, Dy. Chief Minister of Bihar and Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Dy. Chief Minister of Bihar speaking on the occasion, expressed their thanks for the Railways contribution towards the development in Bihar.

With the laying of foundation stone for of the project for wagon POH Augmentation at Jamalpur Locomotive workshop, the wagon overhauling capacity per month will be increased progressively. This capacity enhancement project will be executed at a cost of about Rs 79 crore. This will lead to improvement in turnaround time, increase in availability of wagon & improvement in operation.

Mr Pranav Kumar, Hon'ble MLA, Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Hon'ble MLA, Shri Rajiv Kumar Sinha, Hon'ble MLA, Shri Lal Mohan Gupta, MLC and General Manager of East Central Railway, Shri ChhatrasalSingh, General Manager of Eastern Railway, Shri Milind Deouskar and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

A new chapter of thousands of years of faith: SC seeks Centre's reply Restoration of Aryadi Shri Janardana Temple on PIL for regulation of

(Standard Post Bureau)

The restoration and reconsecration ceremony of Aryadi Shri Janardana Temple, a center of faith since the 10th century at Pangala, Kapu in Udupi district, was held in an atmosphere of great devotion and mesmerizing atmosphere.

The five-day festival saw the organization of scriptural rituals, Vedic worship, Kalasharohan and cultural programs. The historical moment was witnessed by Shri Madhavacharya, the founder of the original Mahasansthan, the Vedamurti of Adamaru Narahari Tirtha Math, Shri Sri Sri Sri Vishwapriya Tirtha Shripaderu, and the Jagadguru of Sode Vadiraja Math, Sri Sri Sri Vishwavallabh Tirtha Shripaderu, at whose hands the Pranpratishtha and Kalashotsava rituals



were performed.

The program was attended by District Judge Mrs. Hemavati, MP Srinivas Pujari, M.R.G. Group Head Dr. K. Prakash Shetty, MLA Suresh Gurme-Shetty, Yogesh V. Shetty, Dr. P. Mohandas Bhat, P. Govind Shetty, Balkrishna T. Shetty, Shailesh Shetty and Sudhir Shetty were

Along with this, thousands of devotees

from Maharashtra, especially Mumbai, also participated.

This temple is mentioned in the Gurukul tradition of Dandatirtha and Madhav Vijay Parva. Centuries have passed, but the strong belief that the darshan of Shri Janardhan idol here gives peace of mind and satisfaction is still intact. This devotional ceremony created an atmosphere of enthusiasm in the

Pangala, Kapu, Padbadri, Khatpadi and Udupi areas.

The area was filled with holiness with the chanting of mantras that went on day and night. This festival was made memorable with various religious and cultural programs. Also, this newly resurrected building of tradition, faith, and culture has lit a lamp of new consciousness in the minds of devotees.

betting apps

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI): The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Union Government on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking regulation of all online and offline betting applications.

A bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh issued a notice to the Centre on the plea filed by social activist Dr. K.A. Paul.

The petitioner alleged that online betting and gambling platforms, heavily promoted by celebrities and influencers, are causing widespread harm, particularly among the youth, and have led to a disturbing number of suicides.Dr. Paul, appearing in person, submitted that over 1,023 individuals, including minors, have allegedly died by suicide in Telangana alone due to addiction to betting apps.He claimed that 25 actors and influencers from Bollywood and Tollywood are under investigation, with FIRs filed for promoting such platforms.

"I represent millions of parents who have lost their children. Out of 900 million internet users, nearly 30 crore are being trapped illegally in these gambling networks," Paul said, arguing that this constitutes a violation of Article 21 of the Constitution (right to life).

He further stressed the lack of warnings or public awareness campaigns regarding betting apps, unlike the mandated disclaimers for cigarettes.

Responding to the plea, Justice Surya Kant observed, "We have given internet... parents watch one TV, children another. It is a complete social aberration."

Israeli army strikes over 75 targets in Gaza Strip

Jerusalem, May 23 (UNI): The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement on Friday that its air force struck more than 75 targets across the Gaza Strip over the past day. According to the statement, the targets included militants, rocket launchers, military compounds, weapons storage facilities, and other military infrastructure.

The Palestinian official news agency WAFA reported that at least 16 Palestinians were killed and dozens more wounded in Israeli airstrikes throughout the Gaza Strip early Friday morning. The IDF's statement added that its ground forces, operating with intelligence support from the Israel Security Agency, were continuing their operation throughout the enclave.

'Nepal probes UK special forces soldiers' fast mount Everest climb'

Kathmandu, May 23 (UNI): The Nepalese authorities are investigating the activities of a climbing group of former military officers and a minister of the United Kingdom, who climbed Mount Everest in record time and used xenon without informing the authorities about such doping, head of Nepal tourism authority Narayan Prasad Regmi has said.

On Wednesday, UK Minister for Veterans and People at the Ministry of Defense Alistair Carns and a group of former UK Special Forces soldiers hung a British flag on the peak of Mount Everest. With traditional acclimatization methods, it usually takes about two months to climb the mountain. Carns and his team used xenon to ease acclimatization and reached the peak in five days. Carns said that he was proud of breaking the record for the fastest ascent to Mount Everest without prior acclimatization in the Himalayas."We are investigating the travel agency and the climbers who used xenon gas for scaling Everest ... We will summon them, including the British minister, and take action as deemed fit under the law," Regmi told The Telegraph.

The government of Nepal was not aware of the fact that the group was using xenon. Regmi specified that all the climbers and organizers of expeditions must inform the government about all the equipment and substances which they use. At the same time, the group said that it had not brought any xenon to Nepal but used it in Germany two weeks before the climb in order to cope with altitude sickness.

UN Security Council condemns terrorist attack in Pakistan

United Nations, May 23 (UNI): The UN Security Council condemned Wednesday's school bus attack in Pakistan's Balochistan province on Thursday.

In a press statement, the council members "condemned in the strongest terms the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack" in Khuzdar, Balochistan province. This reprehensible act of terrorism resulted in the grievous loss of at least six Pakistani nationals, including four schoolchildren, along with 53 injured, 39 of them children, said the statement.

The council members expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the government and people of Pakistan. They underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice. The council members reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

Police discover narcotics in Kabul, arrest 4 suspects

Kabul, May 23 (UNI): Afghan police have arrested four suspected drug smugglers along with 30,000 stimulant tablets in the country's capital, Kabul city, the local media Tolonews reported Friday.

The suspects, according to the report, were attempting to sell the contraband to drug addicts in different parts of the city. However, police identified them in the Police District 15 of Kabul and took them into custody for further investigations, the report said.

The Afghan interim government has banned poppy cultivation and vowed to crack down on illicit drugs and their trafficking until the war-torn Asian country gets rid of the drug menace.

Suspect in fatal shooting of 2 Israeli embassy staff charged with murder

Washington, May 23 (UNI): The U.S. Department of Justice on Friday filed criminal charges against the suspect in the case involving the fatal shooting of two staff members of the Israeli embassy in the United States the prior night.

The charges include the murder of foreign officials,

Prosecutors stated that additional charges may be filed as authorities continue investigating the incident as a hate crime and terrorism targeting the Jewish community.

Two staff members of the Israeli embassy were shot and killed near the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday night. U.S. police said that the suspect is 31-year-old Elias Rodriguez from Chicago, Illinois.

"These horrible D.C. killings, based obviously on antisemitism, must end, NOW! Hatred and Radicalism have no place in the USA," U.S. President Donald Trump wrote in a post on social media platform Truth Social.Danny Danon, Israel's permanent representative to the United Nations, said that harming diplomats is crossing a red line.



In this image posted by @IndianEmbTokyo via X, a member of multi-party delegation and JD(U) MP Sanjay Jha addresses an interaction with the Diplomatic Corps, in Tokyo, Japan.

Türkiye detains 56 active-duty soldiers over links to failed coup

Istanbul, May 23 (UNI) Turkish police detained 56 active-duty soldiers on Friday over their alleged links to a failed coup in an operation spanning 36 provinces, the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office announced.

In a statement, the office said arrest warrants had been issued for 63 soldiers over links to the network known as the Gulen movement, which the Turkish government holds responsible for the failed coup attempt on July 15, 2016.

Simultaneous operations began at 6 a.m. local time (0300 GMT) to apprehend the suspects, and so far, 56 active-duty soldiers from various branches, including the Air Force, Gendarmerie, Land Forces, and Navy, have been apprehended. The operations are still ongoing to apprehend the remaining individuals.

The Gulen movement, led by Turkish preacher Fethullah Gulen, who passed away in 2024 in the United States, has been accused by the Turkish government of masterminding the coup attempt, which resulted in the deaths of over 250 people.

New COVID variant NB.1.8.1 sparks fresh concern as US observes evolution of vaccination and preventive strategies

Atlanta, May 23 (UNI): A newly emerging COVID-19 variant, NB.1.8.1, is rapidly gaining ground across Asia and has now made its way into the United States — prompting scientists and health officials to reassess their vaccine playbook ahead of the coming winter season.

The variant, a descendant of the JN.1 lineage, has triggered a sharp spike in cases in China and is now showing up in passengers arriving at American airports, including those in California, Washington, Virginia and the New York area. Sequencing data from the CDC's airport screening programme, in partnership with Ginkgo Bioworks, reveals that infected travellers came from a wide range of countries including Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, France, the Netherlands and Taiwan.

Though still relatively new, NB.1.8.1 has swiftly become the dominant strain in China and is spreading through Asia. Hong Kong health officials say COVIDrelated A&E visits have surged to their highest levels in over a year, while Taiwan has also reported rising hospitalisations and deaths. In response, authorities in both regions are reinstating measures like mask-wearing and building up stockpiles of vaccines and antiviral treatments, according to

So far, there is no sign that NB.1.8.1 causes more severe illness than previous strains. But what it lacks in evasiveness, it may make up for in speed. Early research from China suggests the variant binds more effectively to human cells, which could make it more contagious than its predecessors.

CBS News.

"Although one can't predict evolution, the overwhelming odds are that what dominates in the next

few months will come from something already circulating," said Jerry Weir, head of the FDA's viral products division.

The variant has also become a focal point for US health regulators, as the and Drug Food Administration (FDA) considers which strain to target with this year's updated COVID vaccines. At a recent advisory meeting, independent experts unanimously backed updating the jabs to target a member of the JN.1 family — the same lineage as NB.1.8.1 — though opinions varied on exactly which subvariant should be chosen, reports The Guardian.

Moderna and Pfizer presented early findings suggesting that a vaccine targeting LP.8.1, another JN.1 offshoot, would also offer protection against NB.1.8.1.

"The LP.8.1 vaccine has the highest titers against

LP.8.1, which is dominant in the U.S. and many other regions and crossneutralises other currently circulating variants, including NB.1.8.1," said Darin Edwards, Moderna's COVID-19 programme lead.

The NB.1.8.1 variant is part of the JN.1 family, a descendant of Omicron, which has dominated global COVID trends since late 2023. Although most Americans now have some level of immunity — either from vaccination, infection, or both — that protection fades over time. Health authorities globally are grappling with how to balance vaccine updates with practical policy, as the virus settles into a more seasonal, but dangerous, pattern.

At the same time, the US is shifting its wider vaccine policy. Under a new framework, boosters will be prioritised for over-65s and high-risk individuals, with younger, healthier groups required to wait for further clinical trial data. The change comes amid ongoing leadership reshuffles at the FDA and reflects a more cautious. long-term approach.

Back on the ground, COVID cases in the US remain at relatively low levels — tracked through hospital data and wastewater testing. But the virus continues to claim lives, particularly among the elderly and the very young. Since October, between

30,000 and 50,000 Americans are estimated to have died from COVID-19, with as many as 430,000 hospitalised. According to CDC

virologist Natalie Thornburg, while the virus has shown fewer dramatic shifts in recent months, its future trajectory remains uncertain.

distinct patterns now — a COVID is ongoing.

kind of seasonality is emerging," she said. "But that doesn't mean the virus won't surprise us again."

Nearly five years into the pandemic, NB.1.8.1 is a reminder that COVID-19 is far from done evolving and that global health systems must continue to adapt, even as many countries have scaled back health measures. As vaccine updates and public health strategies evolve on both sides of the Atlantic, the world is once again watching closely, and focusing on preventive measures across all sectors.

While immunity level of the global population is higher than ever — thanks to widespread past infection and vaccination — experts warn that updated vaccines will still play a vital role in controlling the disease as new variants appear, serving as a dark reminder "We are seeing very that the battle against

Trump administration bars Harvard from taking foreign students

Washington, May 23 (UNI) : The US administration of President Donald Trump has barred the iconic Harvard University from enrolling international students, after the elite institution turned down the regime's instruction to hand over the conduct report of its foreign students sought by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

"Harvard can no longer enrol foreign students and existing foreign students must transfer or lose their legal status," the US Department of Homeland Security said in a statement, CNN reported.

Secretary Kristi Noem ordered her department to terminate Harvard's Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) certification, citing the university's refusal to turn over the conduct records of foreign students requested by the DHS last month.

The decision could impact more than a quarter of Harvard's heavily international student body, whose future has become uncertain after the ba. Professors apprehend a mass exodus of foreign students could impact the academic prestige of the institution which has taken

Homeland Security on the administration to protect its ideological autonomy."Enrolling foreign students is a privilege, not a right" the White House said, charging the Harvard leadership with turning "their once-great institution into a hot-bed of anti-American, anti-Semitic, pro-terrorist agitators."

"They have repeatedly failed to take action to address the widespread problems negatively impacting American students and now they must face the consequences of their actions," White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said in a statement to CNN.

Six million cyberspace IDs granted in China

Beijing, May 23 (UNI): authorities The number of Chinese citizens applying for and activating cyberspace IDs has reached 6 million since the service was introduced to safeguard personal information security, the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) announced on Friday. According to the MPS, the official app used issuing and authenticating cyberspace IDs has been downloaded over 16 million times and has facilitated more than 12.5 million authentication processes. Chinese

established a national service platform that issues digital identities by verifying legal, real-life identity documents, such as resident ID cards, and leveraging national population .Cyberspace IDs take two forms, one as a series of letters and numbers, and the other as an online credential. A key feature of this system is its ability to verify identities anonymously, thereby minimizing the exposure of sensitive personal information like ID

numbers and full names on the internet.In June 2023, China piloted this cyberspace ID authentication service across major internet platforms and sectors, including public services, education, tourism, healthcare, postal services and transportation.

An MPS official emphasized that obtaining a cyberspace ID is voluntary. "This service not only ensures secure and convenient identity verification for citizens but also supports the growth of China's digital economy."

China condemns shooting of Israeli embassy staff in **Washington:** FM, Mao Ning

Beijing, May 23 (UNI) China strongly condemns the violent attack that killed two Israeli embassy staffers in Washington, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said on Friday.

"We have noted relevant information. China condemns any acts of violence. We believe the safety of diplomats must be effectively protected," Mao told a briefing.

On Wednesday night,

two Israeli Embassy staff members, Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim, were shot dead by a gunman at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington. The shooter, suspected identified as 30-year-old Elias Rodriguez, was arrested, he was said to have shouted a pro-Palestinian slogan during the arrest. Israel launched a new offensive in the Gaza Strip last week as part of Operation Gideon's Chariots, which it claims will finally defeat Hamas. The escalation hostilities is taking place in parallel with mediated negotiations in Qatar on a truce and a deal to release Israeli hostages.

Muhammad Yunus considers resignation amid political deadlock

Dhaka, May 23 (UNI): Bangladesh's interim government chief, Professor Muhammad Yunus is reportedly on the verge of stepping down, as frustration and disillusionment deepens within Bangladesh's public, political groups, and his own interim government regarding his ability to govern the country. According to Business Standard BD, witnesses present at key meetings this week revealed that Yunus has expressed serious doubts about remaining in office, citing growing political obstruction, lack of cooperation from major parties, and intensifying public unrest.

During a lengthy and informal session with his advisory council, Yunus questioned the point of continuing in his role if he could not govern effectively.

"What is the point of being the Chief Advisor if I cannot function properly?" he reportedly asked, expressing frustration over being "held hostage" by relentless demonstrations and political infighting. A draft of a resignation speech was reportedly discussed, though no final decision was made.

Yunus, who assumed leadership following the July uprising last year, leading to the ouster of ex-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League govt, is said to be increasingly frustrated by the failure of political forces to rally behind reform. "I cannot work like this if you, all the political parties, cannot reach a common ground," he said, reports Daily Star.

At the centre of the crisis is growing disagreement over the timing and integrity of upcoming elections. While Yunus has pledged polls no later than June 2026, opposition parties—including the BNP—are demanding a fixed date this year. The BNP has also called for a slimmed-down advisory council and the immediate removal of several senior advisers, including Information Advisor Mahfuj Alam and National Security Advisor Khalilur Rahman. The National Citizen Party (NCP), a key player in the July uprising, has joined calls for a restructured Election Commission and threatened to boycott the polls unless sweeping reforms are enacted. NCP convener Nahid Islam, who met Yunus at his official residence on Wednesday evening, later told BBC Bangla: "He said he was thinking of resigning. He's deeply concerned whether he can continue under the current circumstances," reports Dhaka Tribune.

are usually really desperate and

right at the edge as seeking help is

not ingrained in our culture and

people prefer to sort out an issue on their own." The counsellors

remain with them on the call for

durations ranging from 20 minutes to 2-3 hours,

depending on the

situation, and

discourage

them from

taking

Health



on the rise, undetected any drastic step. "We cajole the caller to share his/her problem in detail

and vent out their bottled

emotions. Once that is done its easier to address the issue and offer solutions," he added. Many psychologists and doctors believe that suicide is a mere trigger reaction to unaddressed issues that have been piling on. Citybased psychologist, Dr

Himani Chaphekar, who treats 8-10 depression patients every month, said, "Stress levels have gone up right from school level which continues well into the old age. Excessive expectations to excel, societal pressures and being unsatisfied with what you have are the

that contribute largely to depression." Commenting on the fact that Indians do not take their mental health very seriously and are sceptical of addressing it she added, "There are many stigmas and misconceptions associated with mental health and well being.

While people rush to a doctor for a normal cold and flu they avoid seeing a psychologist as they feel that a psychological disorder is their own doing that they need to be ashamed of." Emphasising on the need for quick identification and diagnosis of such disorders, she added, "Very few people know that mental health is directly co-related to hormonal imbalance or chemical changes/imbalances and is hence also physiological. All this misconception ensures that people are not able to distinguish between sadness, normal anxiety and clinical depression that requires treatment."

Adding to it

another

Pregnancy

Mom-to-be take special

care of your heart

y-based psychiatrist, Neville Misquitta said, 'The stigma for mental health patients arises from the behaviours and emotions that sets them apart from others. Once these are controlled, there is no stigma. And modern medication can do this. If diagnosed with depression the person needs to follow the prescribed medical advice. The road to recovery is normally smooth but one needs to be patient."

Speaking about the average age group of the callers on the suicide helpline Thomas added, "15-45 is the most prominent age group that is prone to suicidal tendencies globally. The second most vulnerable age group comprises 60 plus people. While for the first age group its usually a break-up, loss of a loved one or a general loss that's the biggest trigger, among the second age group the reasons range from loneliness, chronic illnesses, coping with the lack of

loved ones to coming to terms with retirement and making a transition to a sedentary lifestyle.'

Examinations, especially the waiting period between exams to the results being declared is when students are most vulnerable. In recent times, unemployment, an unsatisfactory financial position and marital discord have also been seen as the major reasons of depression. Blaming the changing social scenario for the rise in depression rates and subsequent suicides, Thomas said, "India has been in a transition phase, since the last 15-20 years, with a changing value and support system. The MNC culture has brought about long working hours, lesser time spent with family, more distractions and more reliance on technology etc." Pointing out the flaws in a nuclear family structure he added, "Joint families earlier used to be a huge protective set-up as there were so many people to talk to. Man is social animal and needs to constantly talk things out."

Corporations and educational institutions all have a provision for in house counsellors who can be approached. "While companies do have a counselling cell, employees refrain from using it openly or otherwise as firstly you cannot discuss work related problems there and secondly no one wants to be seen as a whiney, problematic employee," said Neelam Puri, an IT professional. "The constant competition these days is really nerve wrecking. From climbing the corporate ladder, to looking good, to managing all the stress factors related to city life and then the financial and emotional upheavals really takes a toll and all of us do feel depressed every now and





As a mother's body

prepares to take care of

two individuals, the heart

has to work overtime to

accommodate all the

imminent changes. An

over-worked heart often

leads to certain health

woes, viz, swollen

ankles, fatigue, mild

shortness of breath, and

frequent urination.

Women with pre-existing

cardiovascular diseases

or conditions like

diabetes, high

cholesterol, obesity,

hypertension or women

who smoke, are at higher

risk of these

complications. These

complications may have

an important impact on

the mother and the baby.

pregnancy and is doubled by the eighth month. There are changes such as: -Increase in blood

volume -Increase in cardiac

output

-Increase in heart

-Decrease in blood pressure

However, women who has a late pregnancy or has a pre-existing cardiovascular diseases, will not be able to handle the increase the cardiac input, heart beat rate and the b l o o d volume to the body.

> The cardiac ailments which can prove fatal during pregnancy

Cardiomyopathy: For women with Cardiomyopathy, the heart is weak and is not able to pump large amount of blood through the body and maintain a normal electrical rhythm for the pregnant mother. This can lead to heart failure or irregular heartbeats called arrhythmias. This can be lethal for both the mother and baby.

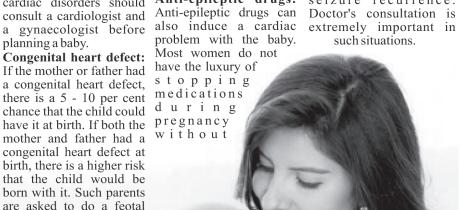
Heart valve disease: For women with heart valve disease, heart's valves do not work the way they should and the heart will not be able to handle the changes in the blood volume and pressure. It can be lethal for both the mother and the baby.

During pregnancy, How should the changes occur to the mother prepare her heart and blood vessels heart that add stress on a pregnancy? woman's body and increase the workload of Lethal heart diseases: Women the heart. The cardiac input, heart beat rate and with heart the blood volume ailments or a

increases during family history of

cardiac disorders should Anti-epileptic drugs: seizure recurrence. planning a baby.

Congenital heart defect: If the mother or father had a congenital heart defect, there is a 5 - 10 per cent chance that the child could d u r i n g have it at birth. If both the pregnancy mother and father had a congenital heart defect at birth, there is a higher risk that the child would be born with it. Such parents are asked to do a feotal ecogram before the 24th week o f pregnancy





This negligence can cause blindness or vision impairment in the long run. Follow the Ten Commandments for good eye health and vision, to keep your window to a

colourful life safe. Wash your hands

Wash your hands thoroughly before touching your eyes. Our hands are filled with dirt and minute pollutants, when they meet your eyes can cause eye infections and conjunctivitis.

Ouit smoking

Smoking is bad for the human body including your eyes. Excessive smoking or constant chewing of tobacco can cause macular (eye-nerve) degeneration or blindness, due to the presence of harmful compound, nicotine.

UV protect your eyes

Yes, sunshine is good for eye health, but nothing in excess is ever good. If your work

demands you to stay outdoors, then always wear good UV protected sunglasses. This will help prevent or delay the problem of cataract.

Wear safety goggles Eye injuries can also

impair your vision in a great way; in order to avoid it always

remember to wear safety goggles or eyewear, while working with chemicals, playing sports, bursting crackers or while

swimming. Stare at a distance

All work and no play will surely make your lethargic and add strain to your eyes. Take a break and change the focus of your eyes to greener or look at a distance. Practice eye exercises for good vision.

Eat healthy food

your eyes like carrots, apricots and blueberries. All these foods are rich in betacarotene and are good for vision.

Go for a routine check-up



for good **eye nealth**

Eyes are the most neglected especially when we spend hours straining our eves in front of the screen - computer or smartphones.

Even if you have god vision and have no trouble in reading, go for a vision check at least once a year. This is a good way to detect various eye related ailments and prevent it with timely treatment.

Do not ignore!

f you face any abnormality with your vision never neglect it. Take action and consult an ophthalmologist at that instance. This action of yours will help prevent major problem in the future.

Blink your eyes regularly Keep blinking your eyes, to

keep your eyes fresh and avoid eyestrain. Computer users tend to blink their eyes far less, thus it is recommended that they should follow the eye exercise of blinking their eyes every three-four seconds.

Splash water

Splashing your eyes with water will help to relieve your eyes from excessive stress. Thus, whenever you feel your eyes are strained, go splash some water on them.





Mizoram pip Punjab on penalties to enter Men's U20 NFC semi-finals

Harmandeep

penalty was saved by Joel

B Lalramchhana, Mizoram's

Mizoram got off to a

cracking start after

Lalbiaksanga gave them the

lead in the 10th minute.

Standing over a free-kick

from the edge of the penalty

box, near the right flank,

Lalbiaksanga went for glory

and found the top corner,

to put his side in the lead.

for Punjab when Mohd

Sahil was adjudged to have

brought Ngurthanmawia

down inside the box, and a

penalty was awarded to

Mizoram, on the Pazawna

scored comfortably to

came the turn of the tables.

Punjab began to crowd the

Mizoram box with bodies in

With the change of ends

double his side's lead.

Things looked murkier

Earlier in the first half,

goalkeeper and captain.

Singh's



Narainpur (Chhattisgarh), May 23 (UNI): Mizoram on Friday claimed victory in a rollercoaster of a Swami Vivekananda Men's U20 National Football Championship quarterfinal, defeating Punjab in a penalty shootout after the latter came back to level the score from being two goals down. The northeastern side eventually won the shootout 4-2 as the match ended 2-2 after extra time.

It was a game of two different halves, followed by a goalless half-hour of extra time. Mizoram were masters of the first half, Michael Lalbiaksanga (10') and PC Pazawna (23' p) putting them in a comfortable position. Punjab, however, roared back after the change of ends, (Akashdeep

Singh(69') and Arshvir Singh (80' p) levelling things up to send the match into extra time.

Contrary to the match, Punjab found themselves with the initial advantage, after Mizoram's first penalty by PC Pazawna was saved by goalkeeper Jaskaran Dub. However, the rest of the Mizoram players – Ngurthanmawia, F Malsawmtluanga L, and Freddy Lalruatkima – entrusted with taking the penalties did their part in

Punjab, who scored their first two penalties through Akashdeep Singh and Arshvir Singh, saw their challenge for a lastfour spot fade away after Karan Kumar Sharma sent his spot-kick over the cross-bar, while captain

their attempts to connect with crosses from the wings. That also opened up spaces for Mizoram to exploit on the counter. It was, however, a

counter-attack from Punjab that set their come-back in motion. Substitute Gurmeet Singh and captain Harmandeep Singh combined to intercept the ball in the Mizoram half, after it was hooved up field by keeper Jaskaran. They eventually worked the ball out wide, where an Arshvir cut-back set Akashdeep to halve the deficit.

With a little over 10 minutes of regulation time left, a penalty was awarded to Punjab for a hand-ball by Mizoram inside their own box. Arshvir, who had set up the first goal, stepped up to the spot and turned scorer to draw level.

After a goalless extra time, Mizoram finally held their nerve to win 4-2 in the penalty shootout. They will face Meghalaya in the semifinal on Sunday, May 25, at 3.30 pm IST.

Meanwhile, defending champions Delhi take on Sports Authority of India in the first match of the day at 7.30 am IST. Both matches will be played at the Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama Ground and will be streamed live on the Indian Football YouTube channel.

IPL 2025 Playoffs tickets to go live on May 24

Mumbai, May 23 (UNI) The online ticket sale for the much-awaited Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 Playoffs will begin on May 24, as announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The BCCI has appointed District by Zomato as the Official Ticketing Agency for the exciting Playoff phase. RuPay cardholders will receive an exclusive 24hour priority access window on May 24 to secure tickets for Qualifier 1 (May 29, 2025) and the Eliminator (May 30, 2025) — both scheduled to be played at the New PCA Stadium in New Chandigarh.

For Qualifier 2 (June 1, 2025) and the Final (June 3, 2025), which will be held at the world's largest cricket stadium —

Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad — the RuPay priority access window will be on May 26, 2025.

The non-exclusive
Phase 1 ticket sales for
Qualifier 1 and the
Eliminator will commence
on May 25, while sales for
Qualifier 2 and the Final
will commence on May 27.

Neeraj Chopra bags silver in Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet in Poland

Chorzów (Poland), May 23 (IANS): India's two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra secured a secondplace finish in the javelin throw at the Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet in Chorzów, Poland, on Friday. Though Neeraj won his third medal of the season, he could not quite replicate his season-best performance from the Doha Diamond League, which had also bagged him a silver medal.

Battling wet conditions at the Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet in Chorzów, Chopra, considered India's greatest-ever athlete, struggled for his rhythm but did enough to continue his successful run in the season.

With a below-par effort of 84.14m on his sixth and final attempt, Chopra, who hails from Haryana and is employed with the Indian Army, edged past Grenada's two-time world champion Anderson Peters, who managed a best of 83.24m.

The 27-year-old Chopra, who hurled the spear past the 90m mark for the first time in Doha last week, had started his campaign at the Janusz Kusocinski Memorial with

a foul and then followed it up with 81.20m and then made a deliberate four on his next attempt. Chopra, the golden boy of Indian athletics, intentionally overstepped on his next turn and threw 81.80m with his fifth throw before achieving his best distance of the day in his final attempt.

Germany's Julian Weber continued his strong form and once again got the better of Chopra, clinching top honours with a winning throw of 86.12m. Weber had hurled the javelin to 91.06m in Doha to win the gold medal, which was also the first time he went past the 90 m mark in his career

The silver in Poland is the third medal for the season for Neeraj Chopra, who made history by bagging a gold medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and followed it up with a silver medal in Paris 2024.

Chopra started his season by winning the Potch Invitational Meet in Potchefstroom, South Africa, with an 84.52m throw in April before bettering his own personal best and the national record to 90.23m at the Doha Diamond League last week.

Nepal concerned over use of xenon in climbing

Kathmandu, May 23 (UNI): The Nepali government has raised concern about the reported use of xenon gas by a group of mountaineers in summiting the world's tallest Mount Qomolangma.

Aided by the gas, four former members of British special forces reached the top of the 8,848.86-meterhigh peak on Wednesday in under five days without acclimatization.

The high-speed expedition was organized by Austria-based Furtenbach Adventures. The use of xenon is controversial because the World Anti-Doping Agency added it to the list of banned substances in sporting events in 2014.

"We have sought details about it with the team leader, members and concerned agency that organized the expedition," Nepal's Department of Tourism said in a notice on Thursday.

One of the main concerns of the Nepali government is whether the use of xenon would undermine the efforts of other mountaineers by depriving them of a level playing field, said Himal Gautam, director at the department.

"Another concern is that the use of xenon gas for climbing will shorten tourists' stay in Nepal, which is not beneficial for the Nepali economy and the livelihood of many people who depend on the spending of climbers," Gautam said.

According to Gautam, there is no legal provision in Nepal which categorically bans the use of xenon in the climbing process."After studying the pros and cons of its use for the purpose, the government will take appropriate decisions on the matter," he said.

Synchronisation essential for Blue Tigers' success: Sandesh Jhingan

Kolkata, May 23 (UNI): It's no secret that the March FIFA window left a sour taste in the mouths of the Indian men's national team players and head coach Manolo Márquez.

While the wait for a first win in 16 months came to an end against Maldives, defender Sandesh Jhingan admitted that the goalless draw with Bangladesh was a substandard start to the Asian

Cup Qualifiers. Now, all focus turns to the crucial away tie against Hong Kong on June 10.

It was the first time since June 2023 that India kept two clean sheets in a row. That's one side of the picture. For Jhingan, the bigger picture is that clean sheets are not enough, and only victory can satisfy the Blue Tigers." Each game we

go into, we want to win. The same goes for the opponents we face. It always feels good to keep a clean sheet, but we've come a long way from that. We cherish the clean sheet, but we know we should've won that game," Jhingan

31-year-old emphasised that keeping clean sheets and scoring goals isn't just the job of defenders and strikers, respectively, but a collective effort from the team."If we keep a clean sheet and give all the laurels to the centre backs, full backs, the number six or the goalkeeper, it's unfair. If my strikers don't press well, if my number 10 isn't taking their number six, maybe one game you can keep a clean sheet, the other one you won't.

"In the same way, if my boys up front are not scoring and I just go in the dressing room and start bashing them for that, it would be the most stupid thing I could do. Because the reason they're not scoring is that we, at the back, are not playing good enough balls to the midfield. The midfield is not putting good balls in the box. So, to point out a single aspect is very unfair and, at least in our team, we don't think that way," explained

Although 2024 was a difficult year, the success of 2023 cannot be overlooked. It was less than two years ago that India completed a treble of titles, winning the SAFF Championship, the Intercontinental Cup and the Tri-Nation Series.

Tri-Nation Series.
"That's football,"

Jhingan put it simply.

"The three tournaments tell us that our squad has the potential. We suffered in the last Asian Cup, and I accept that, and I'll be the first one to put my hand up. Just like you cannot rest on your laurels and sit back, when you don't do well, it doesn't mean you forget all the good work you've done.

"I remember when I

joined the national team back in 2013 and debuted in 2015, we were ranked 173. I don't think many people had hopes from us. We've had many moments like this since then, but we made it to two consecutive Asian Cups for the first time ever," Jhingan said.

Now, the Blue Tigers are hoping to extend that streak and make it three in a row. The next challenge on the road to Saudi Arabia 2027 is Hong Kong, a side led by former Bengaluru FC coach Ashley Westwood. India had beaten Hong Kong 4-0 in Kolkata during the qualifiers for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup, with Jhingan playing the full 90 minutes.

Regarding upcoming meeting on June 10, the centre-back said, "Ashley is there now and he brings his own system. He was with Bengaluru FC and also did well with Afghanistan. But the team has changed a lot, and a new coach coming in makes a lot of difference. We keep preparing for that and want to impose our system and style on the game. Team bond is something which, I can assure you, will never be an issueforus. Weareinit together."

Doha, May 23 (UNI): Top-ranked Chinese Lin Shidong had his journey snapped by compatriot Liang Jingkun at the World Table Tennis Championships here on Friday. The 20-year-old, who had entered three events in Doha, suffered a seven-set (5-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-5, 11-8, 8-11, 11-7) defeat to the 28-year-old and fifth-ranked Liang in the

Top-ranked Lin upset at

table tennis worlds

suffered a seven-set (5-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-5, 11-8, 8-11, 11-7) defeat to the 28-year-old and fifth-ranked Liang in the men's singles quarterfinals. Liang will now face the winner between World Cup champion Hugo Calderano of Brazil and An Jae-hyun of South Korea. The women's singles quarterfinals will see Chinese players clash with Japanese on four fronts, with fourth-seeded Chinese Wang Yidi already eliminated by eighth seed Mima Ito 4-1.

KCA announces 1st GRIHA-Certified Cricket Stadium Project in Kollam

Kollam, May 23 (UNI): The Kerala Cricket Association (KCA) has announced its upcoming landmark infrastructure project -- a state-of-the-art cricket stadium at Ezhukone

in this district.

Spread across 10 acres of land owned by KCA, the site was acquired in 2015-16 with a long-term vision of developing a full-fledged cricketing facility in the region. Located approximately 60 kilometers from Trivandrum International Airport, the proposed venue is strategically positioned to serve cricketing needs across southern Kerala.

The total cost of the project is Rs 56 crore, with Rs 21 crore allocated for the first phase.

The formal inauguration of the construction will take place on 25th May 2025 at 11 am. The event will be graced by K.N. Balagopal, Minister for Finance, Kerala, as the Chief Guest,.

The first phase of the project will be completed by the end of 2026. The stadium, which will bring major changes to the sports landscape of Kollam district, is expected to

become a venue for domestic cricket matches in the future.KCA President Jayesh George announced that the facility will include a 150-meter diameter cricket ground designed to host domestic matches.

The complex will also include a state-of-the-art pavilion with dressing rooms for players, a gallery in the style of an open-air amphitheater, a fully equipped office block, outdoor net practice areas, and an all-weather indoor training facility.

Additionally, the venue will offer infrastructure for other sports, a modern gymnasium, and ample parking space, ensuring comprehensive amenities

alike.In alignment with KCA's commitment to environmental sustainability, the stadium will incorporate a comprehensive rainwater harvesting system to promote water retention and conservation. The project will also preserve and protect natural streams running along the site boundary, environmentally sensitive engineering solutions that integrate seamlessly with the natural landscape. Great care is being taken to preserve existing trees and maintain the site's ecological balance, ensuring minimal disturbance to the serene surroundings.

for athletes and visitors

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Kishan's unbeaten 94 powers SRH to win over RCB

Lucknow, May 23 (UNI): Ishan Kishan lit up the Ekana Stadium with a dazzling unbeaten 94 off 48 balls as Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) overpowered Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) by 42 runs in a highoctane IPL 2025 clash here on Friday.

Kishan, whose audacious strokeplay and fearless improvisation defined SRH's innings, anchored a mammoth total of 231 for 6, which proved well beyond RCB's reach. The left-hander's knock, a perfect blend of flair and finesse, came just when SRH needed a statement win to reinforce their toptwo ambitions.

Asked to bat first, SRH began with intent as Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head took on the new ball. Abhishek blazed 34 off just 17 balls,

smashing three sixes and as many boundaries — including a monstrous hit off Bhuvneshwar Kumar that famously shattered the windshield of a display Tata Curvy, drawing gasps from the crowd.

Head fell cheaply for 17, triggering a brief wobble as Bhuvneshwar and Lungi Ngidi struck in quick succession to reduce SRH to 54 for 2. But Kishan steadied the innings with initial restraint before unleashing a furious onslaught post his fifty in the 14th over. A cheeky scoop for six off Romario Shepherd and a sublime slice over extra cover typified his range.

The 17th over brought a moment of drama when Kishan, attempting a reverse stance, was denied a wide — sparking animated exchanges. He responded with a brutal six off the very

next ball from Bhuvneshwar, stamping his authority on the contest.

Cameos from Aniket Verma (26 off 9), Heinrich Klaasen (24 off 13), and Abhinav Manohar (12 off 10) added late impetus. Skipper Pat Cummins chipped in with 13 off 6 in the death overs, propelling SRH to their highest total

of the season.

For RCB, Romario
Shepherd stood out with 3
for 42, while Bhuvneshwar
and Krunal Pandya picked
up two wickets apiece.

In reply, RCB's chase never really took off. Phil Salt struck a rapid 62 (32 balls, 4 fours, 5 sixes), while Virat Kohli added 43 off 25, but the rest of the lineup crumbled under sustained pressure. Captain Jitesh Sharma (24) and Romario Shepherd (28 off 14) offered resistance, but SRH's bowling proved too disciplined.

Hockey India Masters
Cup 2025 to begin from
Jun 18 in Chennai

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI): Hockey India on Friday officially announced the venue and dates for the first-ever Hockey India Masters Cup 2025 (Men & Women).

The inaugural edition of this pioneering tournament will be hosted by the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu in Chennai from June 18 to 27.

This event marks a new chapter in Indian hockey, offering a dedicated platform for veteran players. With competitions in both men's and women's categories, the Hockey India Masters Cup is poised to be a celebration of longevity, passion, and the enduring love for the game.

As per the regulations, a player must be aged 40 and above to compete in the men's category and 35 and above in the women's category.

The names of the teams for both categories will be released shortly. To participate in the event, players must register through their respective State Member Units. The competition will follow a league-cum-knockout format, with pools structured based on the final number of participating teams. Former Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain Asunta Lakra expressed her excitement for the tournament and said, "Being part of the first-ever Hockey India Masters Cup is a deeply emotional and exciting moment for me. Hockey has shaped who I am, and to have the chance to return to the field, surrounded by fellow veterans who've shared similar journeys, is truly special," she said.

Surpirse Inspection conducted at Vizag Steel Plant Railway siding and Duvvada Railway station by DRM Lalit Bohar

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, May 23: In a proactive move to ensure operational excellence and to review the infrastructural facilities, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Shri Lalit Bohra conducted a surprise inspection of the railway siding at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant on Thursday night. Accompanied by Senior Divisional Operations Manager Shri Tanmay Mukhopadhyaya , Senior Divisional **Electrical Engineer** (General) Shri MSN Murty and other senior officials, the DRM meticulously reviewed various critical aspects of the siding.

During the inspection, special attention was given to the illumination by assessing the adequacy of lighting for safe and efficient operations, observance of all safety protocols and measures are in place and being strictly followed, reviewing the operational efficiency and safety at key cargo





handling areas. During his inspection DRM interacted with on-site staff to gather feedback and assess their work skills, emphasizing the importance of continuous improvement and

adherence to best practices.

Further, today (Friday morning), DRM Shri Lalit Bohra conducted inspection of Duvvada Railway Station to evaluate the amenities and facilities

available to passengers. The inspection of DRM focused on Waiting halls, Railway offices, Foot Over Bridges, Water outlets and other amenities. He was accompanied by Senior **Divisional Commercial**

Manager Shri Saandeep. Senior Divisional Engineer (South) Shri Sairaj and other senior officials from various departments.

DRM closely reviewed the ongoing developmental activities at Duvvada Railway Station, placing special emphasis on the progress of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. He also inspected the circulating areas on both sides of the station, where several new initiatives are being proposed under the scheme. Stressing the importance of timely completion, the DRM urged all stakeholders to ensure that developmental works proceed as per schedule. During the inspection, Shri K Eeswara Rao, ZRUCC Member of ECoR, along with representatives from various NGOs, met with the DRM to discuss railway-related issues. DRM assured them that their concerns would be examined and addressed appropriately.

IRCTC international tours packages from Mumbai









(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, May 23: Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC)'s West Zone Mumbai office is happy to present the International Tour Packages from Mumbai.

"IRCTC has been operating specially curated international packages which are pocket friendly so as to bring these Tours within the reach of the middle-class people.

Mr Gaurav Jha, Group General Manager, West Zone, Mumbai informed that these packages will deliver good value for money experience for the tourists creating memories , which can be cherished

for lifetime.

all-inclusive Europe with Package London (26.06.2025 to 10.07.2025), Shri Ramayan Yatra-Srilanka (16.06.2025 to 22.06.2025), Amazing Bali (14.07.2025 to 19.07.2025) & Mystical Nepal (12.08.2025 & 17.08.2025), these packages are very well designed, economical and all-inclusive with return flights ticket cost, all transfers and sight seeing, all meals, entrance fees, accommodation, visa/ permit, tour guide, travel insurance and GST.

IRCTC has launched

Mr. Gaurav Jha informed that these packages are competitively priced as compared to the

international packages available in the market and offers the best-in-class hospitality & value for money to the customers. There has been lot of interest in the market for these packages and regular customers swoop down on these packages the moment they are available for sale online www.irctctourism.com."

For more details, you can visit the IRCTC https:// website: www.irctctourism.com and bookings are available online on a first-come, firstserve basis on the web portal. For more information, you can c o n t a c t

Western Railway to run superfast Tejas special trains between Mumbai Central - Rajkot and Mumbai Central - Gandhidham

Western Railway extends trips of two pairs of special trains

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, May 23: For the convenience passengers and to meet the travel demand, especially during the summer season, Western Railway has decided to run Superfast Tejas Special Trains on Special Fare between Mumbai Central and Rajkot demand, passenger Western Railway has also extended the trips of two pairs of Special Trains on Special Fare.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of the special trains

are as under:

1. Train No. 09005/ of 09006 Mumbai Central -Rajkot Tejas Superfast Bi-Weekly Special

[18 Trips]: Train No. 09005

Mumbai Central - Rajkot Special will depart from Mumbai Central every Wednesday & Friday at & Mumbai Central and 23.20 hrs and reach Rajkot Gandhidham. Additionally, at 11.45 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 30th May to 27th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09006 Rajkot – Mumbai Central Special will depart from Rajkot every Thursday & Saturday at 18.30 hrs and will arrive Mumbai Central at 07.30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 31st May to 28th June,

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Viramgam, Surendranagar, & Wankaner station in both directions.

This train comprises of First AC, AC 2-Tier and AC 3-Tier Coaches.

09018 Mumbai Central -Gandhidham [10 Trips]

Train No. 09017 Mumbai Central -Gandhidham Special will depart from Mumbai Central every Monday at 23.20 hrs and reach Udhna Gandhidham at 12.55 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 02nd June to 30th June, 2025. Similarly, Train

Mumbai Central Special will depart from Gandhidham every Tuesday at 18.55 hrs and arrive Mumbai Central at 07.30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 03rd June, 2025 to 01st July, 2025.

Enroute this train will 2. Train No. 09017/ halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Viramgam, Samakhiali and Bhachau stations in both direction.

> This train comprises of First AC, AC 2-Tier and AC 3-Tier Coaches.

Extension of Trains: Train No. 09067 Jaynagar Unreserved Special has been extended up to 29th June, 2025

Train No. 09068

No. 09018 Gandhidham - Jaynagar - Udhna Unreserved Special has been extended up to 30th June, 2025

> 3. Train No. 09069 Udhna - Samastipur Special has been extended up to 28th June, 2025

> 4. Train No. 09070 Samastipur – Udhna Special has been extended up to 30th June, 2025

> The booking for Train No. 09005, 09006, 09017 & 09018 will open from 25.05.2025 and for extended trips of Train No. 09069 will open on 27.05.2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. For information detailed regarding timings of halts composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Extension of Special trains to clear summer rush : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, May 23: The train No. 08581Visakhapatnam – SMV Bengaluru Special Express train will leave Visakhapatnam at 15.20Hrs on Sundays (Total 05 trips) from 01.06.2025 to 29.06.2025 will reach Duvvada at 16.00Hrs and departures at 16.02Hrs and will reaches SMV Bengaluru on next day at 12.45Hrs.

In return direction the train no. 08582 SMV Bengaluru – Visakhapatnam Special Express train will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 15.50 Hrs on Mondays (Total 05 trips) from 02.06.2025 to 30.06.2025 will reach Duvvada on next day at 12.40Hrs and departures at 12.42Hrs and will reaches Visakhapatnam at 13.30Hrs

Stoppages: Duvvada, Anakapalli, Yelamanchili, Samalkot, Rajahmundry, Eluru, Vijayawada, Ongole, Nellore, Gudur, Renigunta, Katapadi, Jolarpetai, Kuppam, Bangarpet, Krishnarajapuram between Visakhapatnam - SMV Bengaluru-Visakhapatnam.

Composition: 2nd AC - 02, 3rd AC - 03, 3rd AC Economy - 02, Sleeper class coaches-08, General Second Class-04, Second class cum luggage/ Divyangjan -01, Luggage /generator/brake van-01 in its

VISAKHAPATNAM- SHALIMAR-

VISAKHAPATNAM (08508/08507)

The train No.08508 Visakhapatnam-Shalimar Special train Express will leave Visakhapatnam at 11:20hrs on Tuesdays from 03.06.2025 to 24.06.2025 which will reach Simhachalam at 11:36Hrs and departure at 11:38Hrs; Vizianagaram at 12:08 and departure at 12:10hrs; Chipurupalli at 12:35 and departure at 12:37hrs; Srikakulam Road at 13:08 and departure at 13:10hrs and will reach Shalimar on the next day at 03:00Hrs (Total 04 Trips).

In return direction the train No.08507 Shalimar - Visakhapatnam Special Express will leave Shalimar at 05:00hrs on Wednesdays from 04.06.2025 to 25.06.2025.2025 which will reach Srikakulam Road at 18:10 and departure at 18:12Hrs; Chipurupalli at 18:38 and departure at 18:40Hrs; Vizianagaram at 19:03 and departure at 19:05Hrs; Simhachalam at 19:35 and departure at 19:37Hrs and will reach Visakhapatnam at 20:50Hrs (Total 04 Trips).

Stoppages: Simhachalam, Vizianagaram, Chipurupalli, Srikakulam Road, Palasa, Brahmapur, Balugaon, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, Bhadrak, Balasore, Kharagpur, Santragachi between Visakhapatnam and Shalimar

Central Railway Vigilance Team Apprehends Two Touts at PRS Malkapur; Seizes 182 Railway Tickets Valued Over Rs 10 Lakh





(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, May 23: Acting on specific source

information, a preventive check was conducted by the Vigilance Team of

Central Railway at the Passenger Reservation System (PRS) office in Malkapur on 22nd May 2025. The Vigilance Team apprehended two individuals engaged in touting activities.

During the check, the team intercepted two persons possessing an AC Tatkal ticket valued at Rs 3960/-, purchased from PRS Malkapur. The individuals were identified as Sanjay Chandak, the local kingpin, and Prasad Kale, a 17-yearold assistant. Sanjay Chandak revealed his association with notorious Mumbai-based tout known as Thakur, who is believed to be the mastermind behind a broader touting network.

Upon further inquiry, Sanjay Chandak voluntarily shared WhatsApp chat history with the Mumbaibased tout, which revealed he had sent photographs of 182 JCR (Journey Cum Reservation) tickets booked through PRS Malkapur. These included

23 live tickets worth Rs 1,61,535/- and 159 past tickets worth Rs 8,48,298/-, aggregating to a total of 182 tickets valued at Rs 10,09,833/-. Chandak confessed that these tickets were booked for illegal resale and supplied to the Mumbai-based tout.

The two apprehended touts were handed over to the Inspector of the Railway Protection Force (IPF) at Malkapur for further legal action. A case has been registered under CR No. 278/2025, U/s 143 of the Railways Act. The 23 live tickets involved in the racket have been blocked. Further investigation is being carried out by RPF Malkapur.

The Central Railway Vigilance Department remains committed to curbing illegal ticketing activities and ensuring transparent and fair access to railway services for genuine passengers.

Himachal CM Sukhu meets Sitharaman

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI): Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and urged her to resolve various budgetary and financial issues of the state. The CM told media in the State Information Department on Friday that he met Sitharaman on Thursday night and urged her to pay attention to the issues related to the state government.

The CM discussed the

issue of apple import from Turkiye and also urged for an increase in import duty on apples to protect the interests of domestic growers of the state.

The Chief Minister urged the finance minister to increase the borrowing limit of Himachal Pradesh and other special category states by at least two per cent. The Chief Minister also met Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil and urged him to expedite the release of pending funds under the Jal Jeevan

Mission. He urged Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to release pending funds for tourism projects and approve pending projects in the state.

Sukhu urged Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to address issues related to the interests of the state and increase the state's free share of power in hydro power projects run by Public Sector **Undertakings and Central** Public Sector Undertakings.