

IN BRIEF

Foreign scholarship scheme application deadline extended to June 6: Minister

Mumbai, May 23 (UNI) : The last date for submitting applications under the Foreign Education Scholarship Scheme for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Nomadic Tribes (SC/NT), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Special Backward Classes (SBC) in Maharashtra has been extended to June 6, according to State Other Backward Classes Welfare Minister Atul Save. The deadline earlier was May 17, 2025. Save said on Thursday more students can now apply for the scheme.

Scholarships are granted every year to 75 students who have taken admission in postgraduate degrees and Ph.D. courses for the academic year 2025-26 in foreign institutions in the QS ranking 200 abroad. This scholarship is given branch-wise and course-wise.

Detailed information on the application form for foreign scholarships, government decisions, other important terms and conditions of eligibility for scholarships are available on the department's website.

Fire in Marshal showroom one fire fighter injured

Mumbai May 23 (UNI) : A massive fire broke out in a wallcovering Marshal showroom at Worli in south Mumbai, injuring a firefighter/No other person was injured.

The blaze was doused nearly two hours later, officials said.

According to fire brigade sources, the incident was reported at 4.46 am at the Marshal showroom situated in Bharat Bazar at Gandhi Nagar along the Dr E Moses Road in Worli.

The affected area, measuring around 900 sq. ft., was part of a ground-plus-one-floor structure with an AC sheet roof, used as a godown. Leading Fireman Ajindra Ganpat Sawant sustained a minor injury to his right hand during the firefighting operation. He was immediately taken to Nair Hospital for treatment.

The exact cause of the fire is under investigation, said a fire official. with an AC sheet roof, used as a godown.

State government tries to bring all services on online in next 150 days period : CM

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kolhapur, May 23 : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said his government was trying to bring online all services provided through municipal corporations, municipalities and zilla parishads for the sake of transparency in administration in the state.

While addressing a dedication ceremony of Rs 713 crores development works in Ichalkaranji city of this district, Fadnavis said that the government has decided to give all services through e-governance for transparency in administration while in second stage all these services will be bring on WhatsApp, on which people will get all documents on their WhatsApp on mobile phone.

Fadnavis said the government was working to



prepare a development outlay of the state for 2047 and in the second stage "we are preparing an outlay for 2035 when the state will become 75 years".

With considering sever flood situation from last few years in Kolhapur and Sangli district, the state government would publish

a tender of works within the next fifteen days for diversion of flood water towards Marathwada region to avoid flood situation in future and despite the increased height of Almatti in future, there will be no threata to both districts, he said.

He said the state

government has already cleared a proposal for increasing the height of the Almatti irrigation dam and if necessary "we will fight against the Karnataka government on this issue in Supreme court.

He said that with considering textile industry of Ichalkaranji, the state government has decided to give electricity in concession rates with creating Solar Park and preparing Solar Net Metering, which will benefit for textile industry here.

State higher education minister Chandrakant Patil, district guardian minister Prakash Aabitkar, MPs Dhananjay Mahadik and Dharysheel Mane, MLA Rahul Awade, district collector Amol Yedge, DSP Mahendra Pandit and others were present on this occasion.

PM inaugurates NE Investors Summit

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday his government has a policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism or unrest by Maoist elements.

"Be it terrorism or Maoist elements spreading unrest, our government follows a policy of zero tolerance," the Prime Minister said while inaugurating the two-day Northeast Rising Summit here on Friday.

Reaffirming that peace and law and order are the most crucial factors for any region's development, PM Modi said the Northeast was once associated with blockades and conflict, which severely impacted opportunities for its youth. The government's consistent efforts towards peace agreements had resulted in more than 10,000 young individuals abandoning arms to embrace

peace during the past ten-eleven years.

This shift had unlocked new employment and entrepreneurial opportunities within the region, he said and added that the MUDRA scheme had provided thousands of crores in financial support to lakhs of youth in the Northeast. The rise of education institutes had helped young individuals develop skills for the future.

Describing the youth of the Northeast as not just internet users but emerging digital innovators, he said advancements like over 13,000 km of optical fiber expansion, 4G and 5G coverage, and growing opportunities in the technology sector had encouraged young entrepreneurs to launch major startups within the region, reinforcing the Northeast's role as India's digital gateway.

Preparations in full swing for Nashik Kumbh Mela

(Standard Post Bureau)

Nashik, May 23 : Preparations for the upcoming Simhastha Kumbh Mela in Nashik are in full swing and since the city will witness a massive rush of devotees, planning is underway to create various facilities and set up a security network, said deputy chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Council Neelam Gorhe at a press conference on Friday.

Gorhe arrived at the Revenue Commissioner's office here to review the safety, cleanliness and other issues concerning women and children during the Kumbh Mela.

Revenue commissioner Dr Praveen Gedam and officials from various departments attended the briefing. Gorhe said a few cases were reported during the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, a few months ago. "A thorough planning is, therefore, being done to ensure that incidents such as a stampede do not happen during the Nashik Kumbh Mela." Careful planning is being done for women, small children, and disabled devotees coming to the Mela. Separate bathing rooms and safe rooms for changing clothes will be set up for women. Separate space will be provided for women's akhadas," Gorhe said.

Adequate police force, health-related facilities, CCTV cameras on main roads, ambulances, dissemination of information in various languages will be arranged. "There are many ancient temples in Nashik city. A book will be published to record their importance, so that devotees coming from outside the state can know about it. Various social organizations will present religious sermons, satsangs, and religious programmes. Local artists too will be provided a platform and their art will get space," Gorhe said.

Dy CM Eknath Shinde inspects drain cleaning work



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, May 23 : Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde today directed the municipal administration to complete all the ongoing drain cleaning work in Mumbai city and suburbs by June 7. Shinde said that action will be taken against officials who do not complete the work on time and neglect drain cleaning

work and directed that the silt removed from the drain should be removed within 48 hours. He inspected the drain cleaning near Usha Nagar, Usha Complex in Bhandup, Nehru Nagar Nala Wadala, Dharavi T Junction in Dadar.

The Deputy Chief Minister said even though the rains have started ahead of time, instructions have been given to

complete the drain cleaning on time. So far, 85 percent of the large drains and 65 percent of the small drains have been cleaned.

Drain cleaning is underway in coordination with the Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Railway Administration.

AI technology is being used for this. Garbage under the railway culverts is being cleaned with the help of robots. The Municipal Corporation has identified water accumulation places every year and has installed pumps at 422 places, while holding ponds have been commissioned at two places and small pumping stations have been commissioned at 10 places, said Shinde.

Maharashtra braces for heavy rains on May 24; IMD issues alert

Mumbai, May 23 (UNI) :

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday issued red and orange alerts across Mumbai and several districts of Maharashtra for May 24, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, and strong winds as a low-pressure system intensifies over the region. Residents can expect persistent overcast skies, downpours, and wind gusts reaching up to 60 km/hr, with temperatures being projected to range between 24 and 30 degrees Celsius throughout the day.

A red alert remains in effect for Raigad, where extremely heavy rainfall is likely, while Ratnagiri has been under red alert since May 22. Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, Sindhudurg, and the ghats of Pune and Satara are under orange alert, which means intense rain, thunderstorms, and hazardous wind conditions.

Navi Mumbai authorities have also sounded an orange alert, following foggy mornings and reduced visibility on May 23. According to the IMD, the unseasonal weather is driven by a low-pressure area over South Konkan and the east-central Arabian Sea, coupled with cyclonic circulation. IMD officials have indicated that the adverse weather is expected to persist through May 24, with the likelihood of evening or nighttime thundershowers.

On May 23, Mumbai experienced cloudy skies and intermittent showers, with humidity hovering at 76 per cent and temperatures peaking at 29 degrees Celsius.

Authorities have urged residents to remain alert and take necessary precautions as the IMD continues to monitor the situation and provide timely updates.

5 Maoists killed in Gadchiroli encounter

Kanker/Mumbai, May 23 (UNI) : Four Maoists were killed in an encounter between the police and Maoists in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli on Friday.

The security forces recovered the bodies of the four Maoists along with arms and ammunition. The search operation is underway in the area.

Police Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Ankit Goyal confirmed the incident, stating that the exact details of the Maoist casualties would be known only after all the jawans return.

After the encounter, the security forces recovered four bodies along with one self-loading rifle, two 303 rifles, one muzzle-loading gun, walkie-talkie, and camping material.

The Maoists suddenly

opened fire on the C-60 commandos in the morning, who retaliated with effective counter-action.

The Gadchiroli police stated that the operation was launched after specific information was received about the presence of Maoists near the recently opened Forward Operating Base (FOB) Kawande, near the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border.

Under the leadership of Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Ramesh, 12 teams of C-60 commandos (around 300 personnel) and a team of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a search operation from Kawande and Nelgunda towards the Indravati River on Thursday afternoon, despite heavy rain.



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 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.

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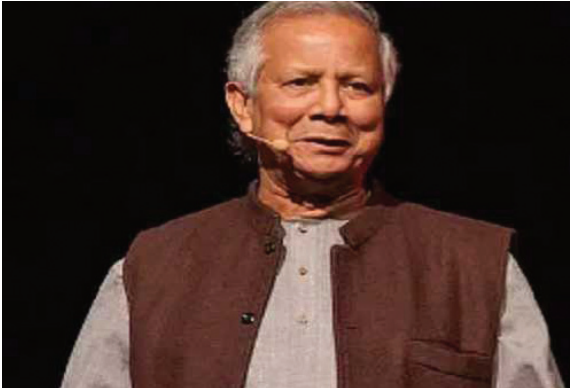
SC seeks Centre's reply on PIL for regulation of betting apps



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.

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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 to govern the country.

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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.

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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 the inauguration of three buildings constructed by the Sangli District Police Force and the 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 quality 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.

Chiplun, Sangameshwar, Rajapur, Khed and Ratnagiri talukas have also been declared flood-prone, an official said on Friday. District Magistrate Devender Singh has instructed the concerned officials to prepare disaster management plans for these flood-prone villages and talukas be alert.

Compensate families hit by disaster in UP: Akhilesh

Lucknow, May 23 (UNI) Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday expressed deep condolences on the untimely deaths of more than 50 people due to storm, rain and cyclone in the state, calling it extremely sad.

In a statement issued here, Akhilesh Yadav expressed condolences to the families of the deceased and said that the government should immediately compensate the affected families and help them in other ways.

He said that in the last



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 26-year-old daughter-in-law, Vaishnavi.

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

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,

police sources said.

An FIR was registered against Vaishnavi's husband Shashank, mother-in-law Lata, sister-in-law Karishma, father-in-law Rajendra, and brother-in-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 the celebration of '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 of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj should be celebrated as per 'Tithi' and the June 6 celebration of '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 also demanded not to remove the memorial of 'Waghya Kutra' situated on historical Raigad fort.

Former MP Sambhaji Rajee Chhatrapati has 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 the government's commitment to 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 the 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 the 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 opportunities. These advancements are positioning the Northeast as a rising force in trade with Indo-Pacific nations, unlocking new avenues for investment and economic

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 had initiated an 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 key 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 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) 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

available in Braille, 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 and 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

state's development, 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 and transformative step in this mission. "It helps these students move toward self-reliance 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.

Blaze erupts at Borivali West Skywalk, 2nd incident in 24 hours

Mumbai, May 23 (UNI) : Panic swept through Borivali railway station following a fire that broke out on the skywalk adjoining the station’s western side. Eyewitnesses described sudden flames and sparks erupting from the structure, prompting commuters to rush to safety. No injuries or casualties were reported in the incident, a fire brigade official said on Friday.

The Mumbai Fire Brigade responded swiftly, dispatching two fire tenders to the scene following an emergency alert. “The fire was brought under control quickly, and no one was harmed on Thursday late night ,” said a fire brigade official.

Dramatic videos of the incident circulated widely on social media, capturing sparks flying from a dense cluster of electrical cables attached to the skywalk and flames spreading downward. A thick smoke was seen billowing as commuters hurried away from the affected area. Police cordoned off the skywalk to secure the site and facilitate firefighting operations, temporarily disrupting pedestrian movement.

While the cause of the

fire is under investigation, initial assessments suggest an electrical fault may have triggered the blaze. Authorities have launched a detailed probe to determine the source and to check for any lapses in safety protocols.

Earlier the same day, another fire incident was reported at Sarova Complex, a 32-storey residential tower in Thakur Village, Kandivali East. The fire, which broke out around 8:45 am, was quickly brought under control by about 9:15 am.According to the Mumbai Fire Brigade, the blaze was confined to electrical wiring, household items, and installations, with a suspected short circuit as the likely cause. Emergency teams, including fire brigade personnel, local police, and Adani Electricity technicians, responded promptly, and all residents were safely evacuated without injury.These back-to-back incidents have raised concerns about electrical safety in public infrastructure and residential complexes across Mumbai. Authorities have urged regular maintenance checks and adherence to safety standards to prevent a recurrence.

Global cybersecurity leaders to gather in Mumbai amid rising threats

Mumbai, May 23 (UNI) : With India now ranking as the world’s second most targeted nation for cyberattacks, over 100 leading cybersecurity experts and organizations from across the globe are set to convene in Mumbai for the CyberSec India Expo 2025.

The event, scheduled for June 11–12 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre (NESCO), aims to address the escalating challenges posed by cyber threats to businesses, governments, and individuals alike, according to a statement issued here on Friday.

“Cybersecurity is no longer a matter of choice — it is a national imperative. The threats we face today are widespread, impacting businesses, individuals,

governments, and even national security,” said Brijesh Singh, principal secretary to the Government of Maharashtra, in the lead-up to the conference.He emphasized Maharashtra’s leadership in digital transformation and its commitment to supporting initiatives that prioritize security, trust, and technological innovation.The CyberSec India Expo 2025 arrives at a critical moment for India, which recorded over 370 million malware attacks in 2024, averaging 702 detections per minute, according to the Data Security Council of India (DSCI). In just the first quarter of 2025, cyberattacks exceeded 369 million detections, positioning India second globally in attack frequency.

The most targeted sectors include healthcare, hospitality, and banking and financial services, highlighting the urgent need for robust cybersecurity frameworks.

Industry forecasts reflect the growing urgency: cybersecurity spending in India is projected to surpass \$3.5 billion by 2025, with the market expected to expand at over 20% CAGR to reach \$20.48 billion by 2030, driven by regulatory requirements, cloud adoption, and increasingly sophisticated threats.

The cybersecurity job market is also booming, with employment expected to reach ?280 billion by 2025.

Taher Patrawala, Managing Director of Media Fusion LLC, the event organizer, said the expo aims to strengthen India’s cybersecurity ecosystem and equip leaders from diverse sectors with the knowledge and tools to counter emerging threats. The event will feature participation and strategic partnerships from major global players such as 63 SATS Cybertech, ManageEngine, Seceon, and Netwrix, with several key initiatives expected to be announced.

We will provide full support for growth of the cooperative movement: Ajit

Kolhapur, May 23 (UNI) :Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar today announced full support for the survival and growth of the cooperative movement in the state.

"The cooperative sector has a major role in the development of the state and the country. To survive in the era of competition, it is necessary to change the cooperative sector with the times and we will provide necessary support for the survival and growth of the cooperative movement," he said.

Inaugurating the 75th Amrit Jubilee of Vishwanathrao Patil Murgud Cooperative Bank in Kagal taluka of Kolhapur district, Pawar also said that the government is implementing many schemes for the betterment of farmers, women and the common man.Many schemes are being implemented such as free electricity supply to farmers, Ladki Bahin Scheme to provide financial assistance of Rs. 1500 per month to women. Farmers in the state are being given subsidies every year for agricultural related industries. Pawar said that there will be no shortage of funds to implement schemes for farmers, at the same time, the Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin Scheme implemented for the empowerment of women will continue.



In this image posted by @vijaysharmacg via X, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai pays tribute to late CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) commando of the CRPF jawan Mehul Bhai Nandlal Solanki, who lost his life during an encounter with Naxalites in the state's Bijapur district, during his tribute ceremony, in Raipur.

Mumbai Police detain two minors for allegedly molesting 16-year-old girl with autism

Mumbai, May 23 (UNI) : Mumbai police have detained two teenage boys for allegedly molesting a 16-year-old girl with autism spectrum disorder, officials said on Friday.The incident, which reportedly occurred about a month ago near a government hospital in central Mumbai, came to light recently during the girl’s therapy session, when she disclosed the details to her therapist.

According to police, the girl is the only child of

a single mother who works at a beauty parlour.

Her father separated from the family several years ago. The complainant told authorities that, due to work commitments, she often has to leave her daughter alone at home and has sometimes found her wandering in areas far from their residence, such as Santacruz and Nagpada.

Based on the mother’s complaint filed on April 28, the girl, a Class 10

student, was allegedly groped and kissed by the two boys while she was playing in a garden near the hospital.

Following the complaint, police registered a First Information Report (FIR) under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Investigators traced the two accused, both residents of Kanjarwada in Agripada, and served

them notices under Section 35(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. The minors will be presented before the Child Welfare Committee for further proceedings, police said.

Authorities have reiterated their commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable children and have urged parents and guardians to remain vigilant, especially when children are left unsupervised.

Complete drain cleaning in Mumbai Metropolitan Region by June 7: Shinde

Mumbai, May 23(UNI) : Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday directed the Municipal Corporation administration to complete all the ongoing drain cleaning work in Mumbai city and suburbs by June 7.

He was speaking during the inspection of drain work started by him on today.

Saying that action will be taken against the officials who do not complete the work on time and are lax in drain cleaning work, the Deputy Chief Minister also directed that the silt removed from the drain should be removed within 48 hours.

Shinde inspected the cleaning of drains near Usha Nagar, Usha Complex in Bhandup, Nehrunagar Nala Wadala, Dharavi T Junction in Dadar.

On this occasion, Principal Secretary to the Deputy

Chief Minister Naveen Sona among all senior officials of the Municipal Corporation were present. The officials present gave information about the work done so far in Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Shinde said on this occasion, even though the rains have started ahead of time, instructions have been given to complete the drain cleaning on time. So far, 85 percent of the large drains and 65 percent of the small drains have been completed and there are still 15 days left. Therefore, the Deputy Chief Minister expressed confidence that this work will be completed on time.The drain cleaning is underway in coordination with the Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Railway Administration. AI technology is being used for this. The garbage under the railway culverts is being cleaned with the help of robots.

Security tightened at Salman Khan’s residence

Mumbai, May 23 (UNI) : Mumbai Police have decided to further tighten security and streamline entry and exit procedures at Bollywood actor Salman Khan’s residence, Galaxy Apartments in Bandra, an official said on Friday.

The move comes in response to recent threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, which led to an upgrade in Khan’s security

to Y-Plus level.

Earlier this week, police arrested a man and a woman in separate incidents for allegedly trespassing into the actor’s building.

Officials stated that, given the ongoing threats to Salman Khan and recent breaches at his residence, authorities are now considering stricter regulations for visitor entry and enhanced security

measures.As Galaxy Apartments is a private residential complex, police acknowledge that thoroughly screening every visitor poses a challenge.

According to sources, new protocols will require all visitors to have their identities verified by residents before being allowed entry into the

building.On Thursday, police confirmed the arrests of Jitendra Singh and Isha Chhabria for illegally entering the premises in two separate incidents.It is worth noting that in April last year, members of the Bishnoi gang fired several rounds outside Galaxy Apartments, further heightening security concerns.

CM, Devendra Fadnavis hits out against Congress

Ichalkaranji (Mah), May 23 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said here on Friday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shown through Operation Sindoor that those who look at India with an evil eye will be taught a good lesson.

India has no threat from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. However, the country is threatened by a Pakistan-controlled Congress, said Chief Minister Fadnavis.

He was speaking during the inauguration of development works worth more than Rupees 713 crore

in Ichalkaranji here today.

He said that one Rahul Aware takes out a two-and-a-half-kilometer long Tiranga Yatra, while the other Rahul Gandhi raises doubts about how the planes crashed and how the attacks took place, Fadnavis mocked Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

He said that India took revenge for the Sindoor wiped out in the Pahalgam terrorist attack. The Indian army killed more than a hundred terrorists. Pakistan sent many drones to India.

Ethanol projects will help provide new economic opportunities: Ajit Pawar

Kolhapur, May 23 (UNI) : State Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said that setting up new ethanol projects would help diversify the sugarcane processing sector and provide new economic opportunities in the sector.

Inaugurating a new ethanol projects of Dudhganga cooperation sugar factory at Bidree in Bhudargad tehsil of this district, Pawar said that producing ethanol, not only brings in more income but is also an important stage for producing alternative energy.

With justifying of the modern path of the cooperative sector, Pawar while praising the new project, said that such projects will accelerate rural economic development in the area.

State Minister Hasan Mushrif, Congress Mlc Satej Patil, chairman K P Patil and others were present on this occasion.

Driver of water tanker involved in hit-and-run of Swiggy delivery rider arrested

Mumbai, May 23 (UNI) : Police have arrested the driver involved in the fatal hit-and-run accident of a Swiggy delivery rider at Gandhi Nagar Junction in Kanjurmarg West of the city suburb, police said on Friday.

According to details, on Wednesday Swiggy delivery rider Salman Khan who was on his way to deliver food on his bike rammed into the tanker and got stuck to its front bumper, following which his vehicle was dragged for a distance. The tanker driver had fled the scene after the accident.

The Parksite police in Vikhroli (West) registered an FIR based on a complaint filed by Mehfooz Hashmi, Khan’s cousin brother, who was riding pillion with him when the accident took place.Senior Inspector Santosh Ghatekar said that a suspect has been detained based on CCTV footage. The police are now verifying if he was at the wheel when the incident took place.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE NO. WAT-TRD-98-24-25,
Date: 19.05.2025

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.

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 10.06.2025.

Complete information available in website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD),
PR-156/Q/25-26 **Waltair**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/118-A/2025
Dated : 20-05-2025

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

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Execution of site clearance work by carrying out jungle cleaning, earth work, dismantling of structures, liaisoning with GOK authorities in preparation of RTC and mutation copies, taking possession of land and other miscellaneous works between Jamakhandi - Kudachi stations from KM 85000 to 142200. (Tender Ref. No: BGK-KUD-46)	Rs. 6,26,20,300/-

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/Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/136/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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WESTERN RAILWAY
REPAIRING WORK

Divisional Railway Manager(WA), Western Railway 6th floor, Engg Department, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. invites **E-Tender Notice No.: BCT/25-26/58, Dated: 19.05.2025.**

Work and location: Khar to Jogeshwari: Improvement of Staff Quarters with Structural repairs, plastering, down-take pipe enhancement and external painting in Railway Colonies between Khar Road & Jogeshwari. **Approx. Cost of work:** ₹ 1,74,41,186.02. **EMD:** ₹ 2,37,200/-.

Date & Time of Submission: Till 13.06.2025, 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening:** On 13.06.2025 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in

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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 high-level 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 forward-looking 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 and 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 Ashwini Vaishnaw 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 Choudhary and Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha were also present with him during his visit to Bihar.

After reaching Jamalpur, Hon’ble Minister Shri Ashwini 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 ₹ 78.96 crore towards development of Jamalpur



Workshop, Shri 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 Workshop. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and 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 plan of ₹ 350 crore for development of the whole area.

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 ₹ 1000 crore a decade ago to the present-day budgetary allocation for railways to the tune of ₹ 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 ₹ 1,00,000 crore. The Railway Minister informed that, 1832 km of new track has been laid in Bihar and 34000 km of Railway track laid all over India in the last 10 years. Electrification has been completed over 50,000 km. Electrification of Railways has also reduce the dependence on oil imports.

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

Dairying appreciated 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 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 Chhatrasal Singh, General Manager of Eastern Railway, Shri Milind Deoskar and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

A new chapter of thousands of years of faith: Restoration of Aryadi Shri Janardana Temple

(Standard Post Bureau)

The restoration and re-consecration ceremony of Aryadi Shri Janardana Temple, a center of faith since the 10th century at Pangala, Kapu in Udipi 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 present.

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 Udipi 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.

SC seeks Centre’s reply on PIL for regulation of 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, media reported.

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.

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 COVID-related 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 CBS News.

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.

"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 Food and Drug 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 cross-neutralises 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 still 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

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.

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.

"We are seeing very distinct patterns now — a

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 that the battle against COVID is ongoing.

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.

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.

Homeland Security 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 ban. Professors apprehend a mass exodus of foreign students could impact the academic prestige of the institution which has taken

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) : 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 for issuing and authenticating cyberspace IDs has been downloaded over 16 million times and has facilitated more than 12.5 million authentication processes. Chinese

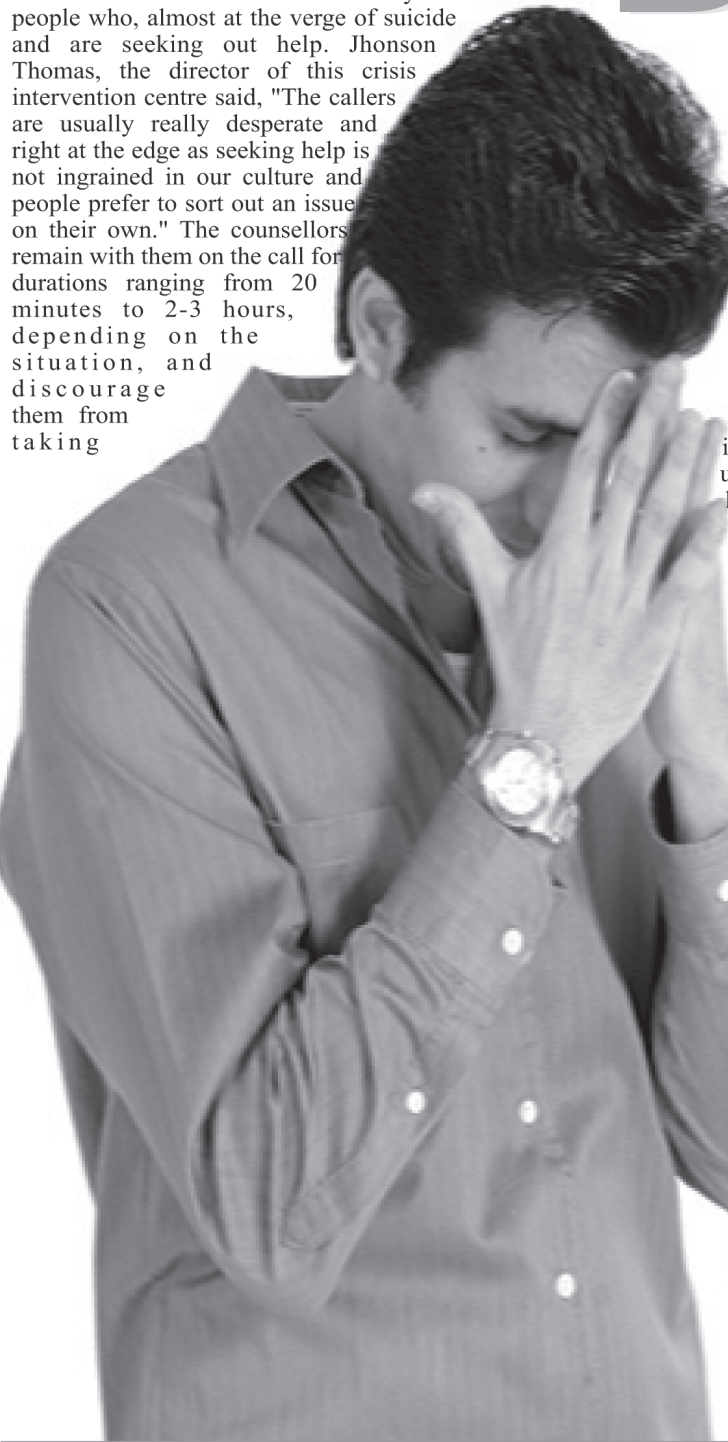
authorities have established a national service platform that issues digital identities by verifying legal, real-life identity documents, such as resident ID cards, and leveraging national population data. Cyberspace IDs take two forms, one as a series of letters and numbers, and the other as an online 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."

Health

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistics reveal that a total of 1,35,445 people committed suicide in 2012 which amounts to an average of 15 suicides an hour or 371 suicides daily. Maharashtra ranked second on the suicide index with Tamil Nadu topping it. Aasra, a 24x7 suicide helpline based out of Mumbai receives about 50 calls daily from people who, almost at the verge of suicide and are seeking out help. Jhonson Thomas, the director of this crisis intervention centre said, "The callers 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



Depression

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. City-based 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 factors

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/imbalance 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 cit

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 then," confessed Nafisa Begum, an advertising professional



pregnancy and is doubled by the eighth month. There are changes such as:
-Increase in blood volume
-Increase in cardiac output
-Increase in heart rate
-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 blood volume to the body.
The cardiac ailments which can prove fatal during pregnancy are:

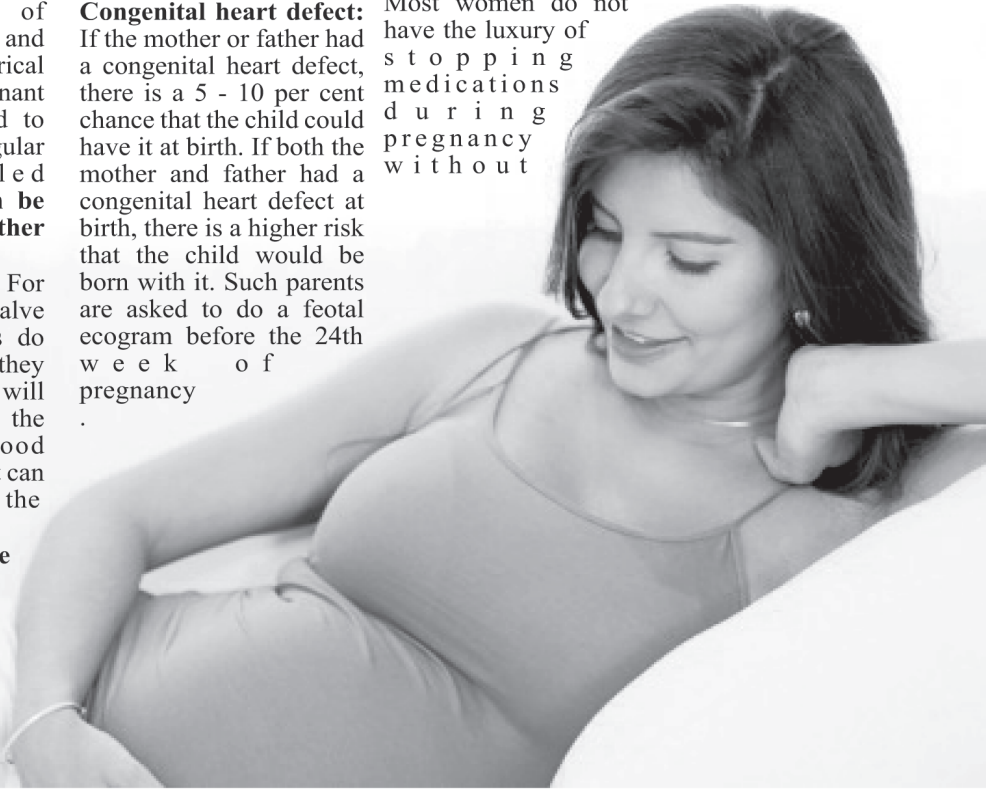
As a mother's body prepares to take care of two individuals, the heart has to work overtime to accommodate all the imminent changes. An over-worked heart often leads to certain health woes, viz, swollen ankles, fatigue, mild shortness of breath, and frequent urination. Women with pre-existing cardiovascular 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. During pregnancy, changes occur to the heart and blood vessels that add stress on a woman's body and increase the workload of the heart. The cardiac input, heart beat rate and the blood volume increases during

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.
How should the mother prepare her heart for pregnancy?
Lethal heart diseases: Women with heart ailments or a family history of

cardiac disorders should consult a cardiologist and a gynaecologist before 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 have it at birth. If both the 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 foetal ecogram before the 24th week of pregnancy.

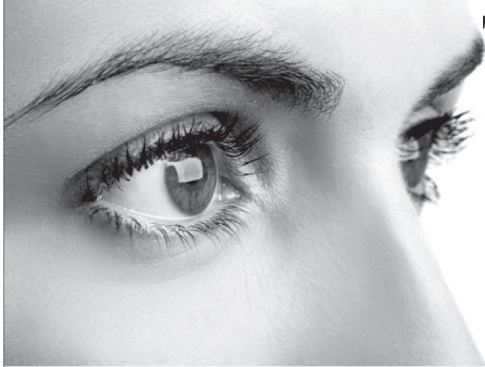
Anti-epileptic drugs: Anti-epileptic drugs can also induce a cardiac problem with the baby. Most women do not have the luxury of stopping medications during pregnancy without

seizure recurrence. Doctor's consultation is extremely important in such situations.



Pregnancy

Mom-to-be take special care of your heart



Ten commandments for good eye health

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.

Quit 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
Nourish your eyes with foods that improve your eyes like carrots, apricots and blueberries. All these foods are rich in beta-carotene and are good for vision.

Go for a routine check-up

Eyes are the most neglected especially when we spend hours straining our eyes 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!
If 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



N a r a i n p u r (Chhattisgarh), May 23 (UNI) : Mizoram on Friday claimed victory in a roller-coaster 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 Lalbiakanga (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 M a l s a w m t l u a n g a, Lalremtluanga L., and Freddy Lalruatkima – entrusted with taking the penalties did their part in scoring.

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

Harmandeep Singh’s penalty was saved by Joel B Lalramchhana, Mizoram’s goalkeeper and captain.

Earlier in the first half, Mizoram got off to a cracking start after Lalbiakanga gave them the lead in the 10th minute. Standing over a free-kick from the edge of the penalty box, near the right flank, Lalbiakanga went for glory and found the top corner, to put his side in the lead.

Things looked murkier 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 double his side’s lead.

With the change of ends came the turn of the tables. Punjab began to crowd the Mizoram box with bodies in

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 semi-final 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 24-hour 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 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 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 submitting 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-meter-high 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 Himel 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 said.

The 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 Jhingan.

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.

"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 the 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 issue for us. We are in it together."

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 high-octane 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 top-two 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 Curvv, 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.

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 r e g i o n . L o c a t e d 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

for athletes and visitors alike. In alignment with KCA’s commitment to e n v i r o n m e n t a l 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, using 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.

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Editor: Mohammed Shafi
R.N.I.No. : MAHENG/2014/59632
Cell : 9849881368
Email : standardpostmumbai@gmail.com

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 of 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 & Mumbai Central and Gandhidham. Additionally, to further cater to passenger demand, 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. 09005/09006 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 23.20 hrs and reach Rajkot 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, 2025.

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.

2. Train No. 09017/09018 Mumbai Central - Gandhidham Tejas Superfast Weekly Special [10 Trips] Train No. 09017 Mumbai Central - Gandhidham Special will depart from Mumbai Central every Monday at 23.20 hrs and reach Gandhidham at 12.55 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 02nd June to 30th June, 2025. Similarly, Train

No. 09018 Gandhidham - 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 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:

1. Train No. 09067 Udhna - Jaynagar Unreserved Special has been extended up to 29th June, 2025

2. Train No. 09068 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 detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

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.

IRCTC has launched all-inclusive Europe with London Package (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.

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 on www.irctctourism.com.

For more details, you can visit the IRCTC website: <https://www.irctctourism.com> and bookings are available online on a first-come, first-serve basis on the web portal. For more information, you can c o n t a c t IRCTC at 8287931886.

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-year-old assistant. Sanjay Chandak revealed his association with a 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 Mumbai-based 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.

Surprise 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.

Extension of Special trains to clear summer rush : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, May 23 : The train No. 08581 Visakhapatnam - 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 composition.

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

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.