

IN BRIEF

Missing youth's body found in Nashik well

Nashik, May 24 (UNI) : The body of a 35-year-old youth who had been missing for past few days, was found in a well near Balaji Lawns in Soygaon area of Malegaon town in the district on Saturday.

According to police, the deceased, identified as Samadhan Krishna Pawar (resident of Indiranagar, Soygaon), had been missing for last four to five days. His family had conducted a search for him, but to no avail. Finally, his relatives filed a missing complaint at the Camp Police Station.

Meanwhile, as there was foul smell emitting from the well near Balaji Lawns on Satana Road, some residents peeked into the well and found a body. When the police fished out the body with the help of the Municipal Fire Brigade, it was found to be that of Samadhan Pawar.

It is suspected that Samadhan must have fallen into the well four days ago, as his body was in a decomposed state. An accidental death report has been registered in this incident at the Camp Police Station.

Youth tested positive for Covid-19 dies within 2 days in Thane

Mumbai, May 24 (UNI) A youth who was being treated for complications related to diabetes and acidosis in a Thane hospital, died within a couple of days after he was tested positive for Covid-19, official sources said here on Saturday.

According to details, the victim, identified as Wasim Sayyed (21), a resident of Mumbra in neighbouring Thane district, was admitted at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital in Kalwa. Dr Rakesh Barot, Dean of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital in Kalwa, stated that "the patient was admitted to the hospital on Thursday with type one diabetes and acidosis complications, and the infection was spreading. The patient was shifted to the ICU (intensive care unit) and placed on ventilation. The COVID-19 report came on Friday night and indicated that he had tested positive. Subsequently, he died on Saturday at about 6 am before being shifted to the isolation room."

PM Modi urges states to join hands for 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047

New Delhi, May 24 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday stressed the need for centre and all the states to come together "like Team India" to accelerate the pace of development across the country.

"We have to increase the speed of development. If the Centre and all the States come together and work together like Team India, no goal is impossible," Chairing the 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog, PM Modi said.

Those who attended the meeting included Andhra

Pradesh Chief Minister Chandra Babu Naidu, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi, Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin, CM of Himachal Pradesh Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, Madhya Pradesh CM

Mohan Yadav, and Telangana CM Revanth Reddy. Also present were Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, JP Naddea, Nitin Gadkari, Rammohan Naidu and HD Kumaraswamy.

Emphasising the shared vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, PM Modi urged all States to align with the national goal. "We should have the aim of making each State Viksit, each city Viksit, each Nagar Palika Viksit, and each village Viksit. If we work on these lines, we will not have to wait till 2047 to become a developed

nation," he said. He underlined that development must translate into visible changes in the lives of citizens, saying, "Only when people feel the change, it strengthens the change and transforms the change into a movement. We have a great opportunity as a team to fulfil the aspirations of 140 Crore people." Highlighting the need for inclusive growth, PM Modi called for greater participation of women in the workforce, adding that "We must make laws, policies so that they can be respectfully

integrated in the workforce". As India undergoes rapid urbanisation, he also stressed the importance of building "future ready cities," driven by growth, innovation, and sustainability. The Prime Minister encouraged states to develop at least one world-class tourist destination, underscoring the importance of tourism as a growth engine. This year's Governing Council Meeting focused on the theme 'Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat @2047', placing states at the centre of India's long-term development strategy.

Shiv Sena (UBT) is ready to join hands with MNS: Sanjay Raut

Mumbai, May 24 (UNI) : Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday said the party is open to the idea of forging an alliance with the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), for the "sake of Marathi people".

While talking to media persons in Mumbai, Raut said that "Uddhavji's stand on an alliance with Raj Thackeray is both manase (from the heart) and dil se", adding that the Shiv Sena (UBT) maintains a "positive approach" towards a tie-up with MNS in the interest of Marathi people. "Uddhav Thackeray is not averse to taking a positive step towards MNS," Raut added.

Speculation around a possible rapprochement between Uddhav and Raj Thackeray has been circulating in Maharashtra's political circles for weeks.

Recently Raj Thackeray, in an interview with filmmaker Mahesh Manjrekar, spoke about the possibility of an alliance. Uddhav Thackeray responded favourably to the suggestion shortly after.

It may be recalled that the civic bodies elections in Maharashtra, including for Municipal Corporations of Bombay, Thane, Nashik, Nagpur and Pune, are slated to be held later this year and this possible alliance may change the political atmosphere in the state, political circles said here.

Maharashtra ready with vision of development to achieve target of Developed India-2047: CM, Fadnavis



New Delhi, May 24 (UNI) : Maharashtra is ready with its 'Vision of Development and Heritage' along with the Central Government and all the states to achieve the target of Developed India-2047, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said here on Saturday .

Chief Minister Fadnavis also assured that 52 percent of the energy required for the state by 2030 in Maharashtra will be generated from green sources. He was speaking at a meeting organised on behalf of the NITI Aayog here on today.

Chief Minister Fadnavis mentioned the support being received from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for various resolutions, projects and schemes of Maharashtra. He thanked

various departments of the Central Government for their cooperation. At the beginning, Chief Minister Fadnavis thanked and congratulated the Indian Army and India's steely leadership under Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 'Operation Sindoor'. In the meeting, Chief Minister Fadnavis outlined the future path of Maharashtra.

He said that agreements have been made to purchase 45,500 MW of additional energy in the state. Out of this, 36,000 MW is green energy. By 2030, 52 percent of the energy in the state will be generated from green sources. Through Mukhyamantri Saurkrishi Vahini Yojana 2.0, projects with a capacity of 16,000 MW have been started on 10,000 agricultural feeders,

of which 1,400 MW projects have been implemented.

By December 2026, 100 percent electricity will be available to the farmers of the state during the day and it will be from solar projects. The Solar Gram scheme is being implemented in 100 villages in the state, and 15 villages have become completely solar energy villages, he said. A new policy has been formulated for pump storage, in which 15 agreements have been signed with various developers for 45 PSPs. The total capacity of this is 62,125 MW, and an investment of Rs 3.42 lakh crore will be made from this. He expressed the belief that 96,190 jobs will also be created. Stating that according to the national policy, the Maharashtra

government is also preparing a vision of Maharashtra 2047 in three phases, Fadnavis said that our government has undertaken a programme on the formula of good governance, citizen-centric measures and accountability for 100 days. In this, various departments have achieved more than 700 goals. Now a 150-day programme has been undertaken. In this, a long-term vision for 2047, Maharashtra will celebrate its Amrit Mahotsav, for that period i.e. for 2035 and a short-term 5-year vision for 2029 with annual goals is being prepared.

He also said that the main objective is to make the current economy 1 trillion dollars by 2030 and 5 trillion dollars by 2047, he added.

'Local bodies elections to held in State after monsoon season'

(Standard Post Bureau)

Nashik, May 24 : Revenue Minister and state BJP president, Chandrashekhhar Bawankule, said on Saturday that the local bodies elections in the state will be held at end of the monsoon season.

Addressing a press conference here after a review meeting, he announced that the Mahayuti will contest these elections as a grand alliance and expressed that the grand alliance will win

everywhere like in the assembly elections.

He further said, "No one can postpone these elections now. Once the monsoon season is over, the election campaigning will start, and all elections will be held. The same struggle as seen in the assembly election will be seen in the municipal and district council elections. We will contest all these elections as a grand alliance. Also, in all the elections, the mayor and district council president of

the grand alliance will be elected."

"Similarly, the Mayor of Mumbai will be from the Mahayuti," he expressed.

Talking about the Guardian Minister of Nashik, the Minister said that a decision on the District Guardian Minister will be taken soon.

He informed that discussions in this regard are underway between Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar and the

discussions are in the final stages and a proper decision will be taken regarding it soon.

When asked about the probable alliance between the Shiv Sena (Thackeray group) and the MNS, Bawankule said that they are profound leaders and will take the right decision.

"I have no right to speak on it," he said.

While speaking about the Vaishnavi Hagawane suicide case in Pune, Bawankule termed the incident as serious and

said that the government has taken a serious note of this.

The accused in this case will be dealt with strictly, he affirmed

On the losses suffered by farmers due to unseasonal rains, the minister replied that a decision on compensation to the farmers will be taken soon.

"A considerable number of 'panchnamas' have been done and they will also be completed soon," Bawankule added.



Army Brigades, and mobile network in remote Billawar ...

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that two Army Brigades and a mobile network in remote areas of the Billawar region have been established, which would not only provide security to the local people but also ensure surveillance through mobile connectivity and ease of communication in far-flung areas. Speaking during a Public Durbar at Billawar in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Singh informed that one Armed Brigade had already been established at Sarthal and now another similar Armed Brigade has been set up in Rampur township of Billawar.

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Trump threatens potential tariffs on smartphones not made in US



US President Donald Trump on Friday threatened to impose tariffs on Samsung and other smartphone producers, following an earlier announcement targeting Apple. "It would be more, it would be also Samsung and anybody that makes that product.

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RCB captain Patidar & SRH skipper Cummins fined for ....



Royal Challengers Bengaluru designated captain Rajat Patidar has been fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during Match No. 65 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, here on Friday night.

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BJP govt snatching rights of employees: Akhilesh Yadav



Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led UP government of being "anti-teacher, anti-employee, anti-youth and snatching away the rights of employees".

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Jammu Division of Indian Railways books its 1st parcel van

Jammu, May 24 (UNI) : Moving forward to provide better facilities in passenger transport as well as freight transport, the Jammu Division of Indian Railways has booked its parcel van. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal, here on Saturday evening said that parcel van, in which any goods can be booked and transported from one place to another with less time and safety.

In this sequence, he said that as soon as Jammu Division of Northern Railway was formed, after talks and discussions with the Horticulture Department and Fruit Producers Associations of Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu Division was successful in booking its first VP Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Bandra on June three, 2025, with 24 tonne train number 12472. "With this, the goods of the traders will reach their destination station in about 30 hours with minimum time and without loss," Singhal said. He added that along with increase in revenue, the confidence of traders will also increase on rail transport.

J&K govt temporarily suspends 37 mobile towers in Baderwah over security reasons

Jammu, May 24 (UNI) Apprehending misuse of mobile data by anti-national elements and miscreants, Jammu and Kashmir Home Department has temporarily suspended mobile data services on 37 telecom towers in the Baderwah area of Doda district.

The suspension, as per the official order issued by the J&K Home Department, shall remain effective till May 27.

"The directions were issued under the temporary suspension of Telecommunication Service Rules, 2024, which allows the authorities to take immediate action in situations deemed sensitive to national security and public peace," it said..

As per the order, the temporary telecom shutdown affects all mobile data services including 2G, 3G, 4G, 5G, and public Wi-Fi facilities.

"The services are likely being misused by 'anti-national elements and miscreants,' which could potentially lead to a deterioration of public order in the region," the order cited.

"In the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State/UT, and for maintaining public order, I am satisfied that the action taken by the authorized officer was necessary," read the order issued by the Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department. The service providers and internet service providers however, are directed to ensure compliance with the order for the entire duration specified.



Preparations underway at Gurudwara Hemkund Sahib ahead of its opening for public, in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand. The gurudwara is scheduled to be opened on May 25.

Army Brigades, and mobile network in remote Billawar areas to ensure surveillance: Jitendra

Jammu, May 24 (UNI) : Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that two Army Brigades and a mobile network in remote areas of the Billawar region have been established, which would not only provide security to the local people but also ensure surveillance through mobile connectivity and ease of communication in far-flung areas.

Speaking during a Public Durbar at Billawar in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Singh informed that one Armed Brigade had already been established at Sarthal and now another similar Armed Brigade has been set up in Rampur township of Billawar.

"This will not only provide round the clock army surveillance in the area but the Army personnel will also maintain regular liaison with the civil administration with the concerned Brigadier and the DM constantly being in touch with each other," he said.

As for the Mobile network, Dr Singh said, the

far-flung areas, particularly areas beyond Lowang in the Bani area, were deprived of connectivity ever since independence and only yesterday evening, the first mobile phone call was made after the installation of the Mobile Tower and mobile network. "This has not only come as a huge facility for the local residents including particularly students and youth, but this will also enable the armed forces to maintain round the clock real time surveillance," he said.

All these measures, taken as a result of the personal follow up on a day to day basis by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have instilled a lot of confidence and sense of security among the local people, he added.

Dr. Singh further informed that the long pending demand of the widening of the Dhar Road has been taken up with impetus received from the Home and Defence Ministries in the wake of the recent armed conflict and very soon the BRO will

hand over this road to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for widening.

Dr Singh recalled that in the last summer, the main demand from this region was regarding the shortage of drinking water.

He informed that this too has also been taken care of with 55 Jal Jiwan Mission (JJM) schemes approved for the region of which nearly 70 percent work has been completed at a cost of Rs. 131.55 Crore.

This, he said, has ensured drinking water supply to 14875 households.

Under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme, the Minister informed that another 1250 households in the Billawar town will be given the facility of drinking water supply at a cost of Rs.11.03 Crore. Dr. Singh informed that he has suggested a proposal for a Master Plan for Sukrala Mata which can be taken up at its next Board meeting. This could enable this entire area to attract a new genre of tourists like Mussoorie etc.

He recalled his recent

visit to the International border and said that nearly 2500 Family Bunkers constructed along the Hiranagar sector over the last seven years have been found highly convenient and received appreciation from the local people that now demands are received from other areas including the LoC for construction of similar family bunkers.

He said, this could be accomplished because we had taken up the task of planning and constructing such family bunkers for nearly 10 years and we went ahead in a very meticulous manner.

As a result, today, he said, these Family bunkers in the Hiranagar sector have emerged as a role model for the country to build bunkers elsewhere along the border. Later, Dr Singh held a Public Durbar, which lasted for nearly two hours. During his interaction, the Minister gave a patient hearing to individuals and sought to dispose of their grievances and demands on the spot by issuing the required instructions to the administration.

Govt should frame a new law to curb online betting: Allahabad HC

Prayagraj, May 24 (UNI) : In an important order, the Allahabad High Court has said that there is an urgent need to make effective laws to prevent virtual crimes like online gaming and betting.

The court has directed the state government to constitute a high-powered committee under the chairmanship of economic advisor Prof KV Raju for its legislative arrangement and to include experts along with the Principal Secretary, State Tax in that committee. This committee will make a legislative arrangement by assessing the current situation.

The order was passed by Justice Vinod Diwakar while admitting the petition of Imran Khan and others of Agra. The court said that there is currently no effective law to curb virtual crimes like online gaming and betting.

It said that the Public Gambling Act 1867 is a colonial era law, which is no longer relevant in today's era. "Virtual betting or gambling has now gone beyond the boundaries of the state and the nation. The server systems are in other borders of the world, over which there is no control," it observed.

The court said that the teenagers and youth of the country are falling prey to it in the pursuit of earning money easily. "Due to this,

the situation of depression, anxiety, insomnia along with social disintegration is increasing among them. The lower and middle classes are suffering financial losses by falling prey to the trap of platforms providing online games," it observed.

To deal with these challenges, the court has directed the Registrar to provide a copy of the order to the Chief Secretary of the State Government so that it can be complied with.

It may be noted that an FIR was registered against the petitioners three years ago under the Public Gambling Act at Mantola police station in Agra. After the charge sheet was filed on December 27, 2022, the Judicial Magistrate had issued notice to the petitioners. The petition was filed on behalf of the petitioners seeking cancellation of criminal proceedings.

During the hearing, the court found that there is no effective law against those playing online betting and gambling. Under the Public Gambling Act, there is a provision of maximum fine of Rs 2,000 and imprisonment up to 12 months.

But the law is unclear regarding online games like fantasy sports, poker and e-sports. Because online platforms operate across

state, national and international boundaries. A large number of youth are getting into its clutches and suffering losses.

It is a colonial-era law implemented by the British government in India to regulate gambling activities and suppress public gambling houses. In its time, it regulated card games, betting on dice, physical gambling houses. The maximum penalty under the Act was Rs 500 or imprisonment for three months. In the year 1867, it was a sufficient deterrent but is negligible today.

Many developed countries of the world, including the UK and the US, have made provisions to control gambling. The UK enacted the Gambling Act in 2005. This law includes a variety of provisions, including licensing requirements, age verification protocols, responsible advertising standards, and anti-money laundering measures. A commission has also been formed. Australia legalised and regulated online casinos in 2001 and states like New Jersey and Pennsylvania in the United States have fully legalised and regulated online casinos. Meanwhile, several other countries, including Singapore and South Korea, have also made arrangements for online betting.

Badal terms arrest of AAP MLA Raman Arora a political drama, demands central probe

Chandigarh, May 24 (UNI) : Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal today said the arrest of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jalandhar Central legislator Raman Arora was a drama to deflect attention from the failures of the AAP government, and asserted that the people would not be befooled by such political gimmicks time and again.

The SAD President, who held a meeting with party workers here, said "Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is fond of such dramas. Earlier also cases have been registered against AAP ministers and legislators. But no case has been followed to its logical conclusion. Now also the chief minister, who is under increased pressure in Ludhiana for trying to forcibly acquire 24,000 acres of land,

has tried to deflect public attention from the same. The chief minister does not want discussion on land acquisition as it is a clear case of corruption."

Asserting that Punjabis fear that the case against Raman Arora would also be hushed up, Badal demanded a central probe into the alleged case of corruption.

"The entire cycle of corruption, including the transfer of the proceeds of crime into the top levels of the AAP should be exposed. The AAP government will not be able to probe this and that is why a central investigation is needed in the case," he added.

AAP MLA Raman Arora was arrested by the Vigilance Department in a corruption case on Friday following raids at his Jalandhar residence.

National Lok Adalat day sees 4.81 lakh cases settled

Chandigarh, May 24 (UNI) : The Punjab State Legal Services Authority successfully organised the 2nd National Lok Adalat across the State under the visionary leadership of Justice Deepak Sibal, Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and Executive Chairman of the Punjab State Legal Services Authority. A spokesperson of the Punjab State Legal Services Authority stated that this mega event was organised under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority, with the aim of delivering speedy and amicable resolution of disputes to ensure access to justice for all, in line with Article 39-A of the Constitution of India.

He said in comparison to the previous National Lok Adalat held on March 8, where a total of 4.37 lakh cases were taken up and 3.66 lakh cases were disposed of, this Lok Adalat witnessed a significant increase. A total of 442 Lok Adalat benches were constituted across all districts and sub-divisions, in which 5.40 lakh cases were taken up, and 4.81 lakh cases were settled.

Settlements worth approximately Rs 442 crore were awarded. This increase in the number of settled cases reflects not only the dedication of the Courts but also the growing acceptance of the ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) mechanism among litigants.

"Thousands of litigants across Punjab were able to resolve their disputes during this Lok Adalat. Several long-pending matters were amicably settled, contributing significantly to the decongestion of court dockets.

SGPC objects to use of 'distorted' image of Golden Temple in Punjab govt ad

Chandigarh, May 24 (UNI) : Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on Saturday objected to a Punjab government's advertisement with a photo of the Golden Temple, alleging that the picture used is an "AI-generated distorted version" of the revered shrine.

SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami condemned the act, terming it a violation of Sikh sentiments, and has sought an apology.

Through the advertisement the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led state government has sought suggestions regarding the upcoming 450th foundation day celebrations of Sri Amritsar Sahib. Dhami stated that before publishing any image related to the Sikh religion, the state government should have consulted the SGPC.

Advocate Dhami emphasised that Sri Darbar Sahib was the spiritual center of the Sikh faith and Sikhs across the world hold its sacred image deeply within their hearts.

"By using an AI-generated distorted version of this revered site, not only has the sanctity and reverence of the Sikh faith been undermined, but also the spiritual aura of Sri Darbar Sahib — which resides in the soul of every Sikh — has been desecrated," he said.

The SGPC President stated that despite the availability of hundreds of authentic images of Sri Harmandir Sahib on the internet, the use of an altered image, using computer techniques, was deeply painful. He demanded that the government clarify its stance and issue an immediate apology. Advocate Dhami further stated that organising events related to Sikh centenaries was the sole responsibility of the SGPC.

The role of the government should be to focus on the development of cities related to Guru Sahibs, including improving road infrastructure, and to collaborate with the SGPC to establish meaningful and appropriate memorials.

Sudhir Sharma hits back at SP Shimla, calls media briefing a cover-up attempt

Shimla, May 24 (UNI) BJP MLA Sudhir Sharma has strongly rebutted the claims made by SP Shimla Sanjeev Gandhi accusing him of selectively engaging the media to avoid backlash following the High Court's May 21 hearing and May 23 verdict transferring the Vimal Negi case to the CBI.

In a video message, Sharma said, "I am shocked that the SP has accused me of releasing the court video clipping. He must

understand that it was the court itself that allowed live streaming of the proceedings to ensure transparency for the public, not me. This isn't a privilege meant for a few."

He said the SP appeared rattled by the High Court's decision to hand over the case to the CBI and was now trying to defend his conduct by launching verbal attacks through media. "Rather than allowing the government to decide whether to challenge

the High Court verdict, the SP, who is a public servant, is acting on his own," Sharma remarked. Sharma further accused Gandhi of breaching service conduct rules by publicly disrespecting and leveling accusations against his seniors in the administration, including the Chief Secretary, the DGP, and senior IAS officers. "He seems emboldened under the protection of the highest office, making indirect derogatory remarks against

his superiors," Sharma said, without directly naming Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. Expressing concern over ASI Pankaj Kumar, a member of the SIT, Sharma said he feared Kumar could be made a scapegoat like Vimal Negi. "He is now being accused of stealing a pen drive. I demand CBI protection for him. The SP should clarify under whose authority ASI Pankaj Kumar was working during the Negi investigation," he added.

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**PROVISION OF PATHWAY AND LIGHTS FOR STR MAINTENANCE**  
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Engg., Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400008, invites **E-Tender Notice No.: BCT/25-26/64, dt. 23.05.2025. Work and location:** Dadar - Provision of Pathway & Lights for STR Maintenance of trains (Composite tender) **Approx. Cost of work:** ₹ 3,37,75,021.98. **EMD:** ₹ 3,18,900/-. **Date & Time of Submission:** Till 17.06.2025, 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening:** On 17.06.2025 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **0198**  
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**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**MAINTENANCE WORK**  
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Engg., Deptt., Mumbai Central - Mumbai - 400008, invites **Tender No.: BCT/25-26/67, dt. 22.05.2025. Name of Work:** Providing manpower for maintenance of FOBs/ROBs/pipeline bridge, Elevated deck road, skywalks; elevated booking office and EOT crane and welding set for miscellaneous activities for bridge work in Churchgate - Andheri section under SSE/Bridge-Lower Parel. **Approx. cost of work:** ₹ 87,65,965.23. **EMD:** ₹ 1,75,300/-. **Date & Time of Submission:** Till 17.06.2025, 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening:** On 17.06.2025 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Manual offers will not be considered. **0193**  
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# Govt makes available Rs 20 Cr for assistance to heirs of farmers who committed suicide: Jadhav Patil

Mumbai, May 24 (UNI) The government has made available a fund of Rs 20 crore to all divisional commissioners to ensure timely assistance to the heirs of deceased farmers who had committed suicide, informed Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Makarand Jadhav-Patil on Saturday.

The government decision in this regard has been issued recently, he informed. Jadhav-Patil further said that assistance will be provided to the heirs of farmers who had committed suicide due to three reasons in the state: crop failure, indebtedness and difficulty in repaying loans. This assistance will be provided after inspection by the Revenue, Agriculture, Home and Cooperation departments, he pointed.

Of total Rs 20 crore, a fund of Rs 12 lakh has been provided to the divisional commissioner and controlling officer, Konkan, Rs 1.6 crore to Pune, Rs 3.39 crore to Nashik, Rs 4.92 crore to Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Rs 6.76 crore to Amravati and Rs 3.75 crore to Nagpur divisional commissioner to help the heirs of farmers who had committed suicide, he informed. This fund will be distributed to the remaining district collectors of the state through the divisional commissioners, except for two districts Mumbai city and Mumbai suburbs, he added.

## Army jawan Gaikar cremated with military honours in Ahilyanagar

Ahilyanagar, May 24 (UNI) : The mortal remains of the brave soldier Sandeep Pandurang Gaikar, who sacrificed his life while fighting against terrorists on Thursday, was cremated with military honours at Brahmanwada village in Akole taluka of the district on Saturday morning.

Martyr soldier Sandeep Gaikar was with the Maratha Battalion of the Army for last six to seven years. He was deployed on duty on the border in Kishtwar sector of Jammu and Kashmir, where terrorists opened fire on a group of 10 soldiers on Thursday morning.

In this attack, Sandeep Gaikar fought till his last breath while standing for the protection of the country.

He is survived by his parents, wife and a daughter.

Upon hearing the news of his heroic death, a wave of mourning spread in the village.

The body of Sandeep Gaikar was brought to Brahmanwada village in Akole taluka on May 23.

## FIR against Dalit activist for reciting Faiz triggers row

Mumbai, May 24 (UNI) : The registration of an FIR against Dalit activist Pushpa Sathidar and two others by the Nagpur police for reciting Faiz Ahmed Faiz's iconic poem "Hum Dekhenge" has ignited widespread controversy and condemnation.

The FIR, which includes charges of sedition and promoting enmity under sections 152 and 196 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, was filed following a complaint from a local resident after the poem was recited at a public event in Sitabuldi.

Critics have pointed out the irony that "Hum Dekhenge," a celebrated anthem of resistance and communal harmony, features prominently in the widely viewed, censor-certified film "The Kashmir Files." This has led to questions about how the same poem, cleared by the Censor Board for cinematic release, can be deemed a threat to national sovereignty when recited at a public gathering.

Legal experts have strongly denounced the FIR. Speaking to UNI in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (Aurangabad), Advocate Khizer Patel questioned the basis for invoking such serious charges, stating, "How does this completely harmless song amount to endangering national sovereignty?"

He added that a similar case was recently dismissed against Imran Pratapgarhi for reciting a poem, which was later declared null and void by the Supreme Court. Patel further noted that the Supreme Court criticized the police, stating that authorities should carefully consider the context before registering a case based on poetry.

Ziauddin Siddiqui, president of the Kul Jamaati Vifaq, Maharashtra (a federation of all parties in Maharashtra), said, "This matter is related to literature, and if a case is registered on a poem like this, it is a matter of surprise."

He added that calling a poem, which is a symbol of peace and communal harmony, seditious — when there is no reference to violence — is a dangerous trend and has serious implications for freedom of expression.

## Monsoon arrives in Kerala, will hit Maha in next two days

Pune, May 24 (UNI) The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said the monsoon has finally entered in Kerala today. The monsoon entered Kerala eight days ahead of its usual arrival.

Earlier in 2009, monsoon arrived in Kerala on May 23. After that, the monsoon has arrived in the state after 15 years.

The monsoon had set in over the southern state on May 30 last year; June 8 in 2023; May 29 in 2022; June 3 in 2021; June 1 in 2020; June 8 in 2019; and May 29 in 2018, IMD data showed.

Now, the monsoon rains are expected to arrive in Konkan in the next two-three days.

Heavy pre-monsoon rains are currently occurring in Konkan.

The monsoon is expected to arrive in Mumbai by June 1.

Kerala is considered the gateway to monsoon in India. After entering Kerala, the southwest monsoon moves forward across the country. Usually, the monsoon arrives in Kerala on June 1 every year, but this year it arrived a week earlier, said Indian Meteorological Department.

# 47th flight test course officers graduate with flying colours



Pune, May 24 (UNI) The prestigious 47th Flight Test Course of the Indian Air Force Test Pilot School concluded with a ceremonial valedictory function, "Suranjan Das Dinner", at Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE), Bengaluru.

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, was the Chief Guest. He awarded the graduating officers with certificates, along with trophies to the meritorious officers, recognizing their exceptional performance during this demanding and specialized course.

The Flight Test Course is known for its rigorous training for a duration of 48 weeks and is a cornerstone towards building the nation's flight testing capability for cutting-edge aerial platforms and systems, said a Defence press release here today.

In his address, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh highlighted the vital role of test flying as a specialist domain, requiring highest standards of professional competence, integrity and dedication to service.

Emphasizing the Indian Air Force's commitment to self-reliance, he underscored the indigenisation efforts through development projects such as Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and LCA MK-II. He also called upon the graduating officers to uphold the core values of Precision and Excellence, which are essential in shaping a 'Sashakt, Saksham and Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

The prestigious 'Suranjan Das Trophy', for the best all-round student test pilot, was awarded to Squadron Leader S Bhardwaj, while the 'Chief of the Air Staff Trophy' for the best student test pilot in flight evaluation, was awarded to Squadron Leader Ajay Tripathi.

The 'Maharaja Hanumanth Singh Sword', for best all-round student flight test engineer, was awarded to Squadron Leader Subhrajyoti Paul. The 'Dunlop Trophy', for best student test engineer in flight evaluation, was awarded to Wing Commander Ashwini Singh. The 'Kapil Bhargava Trophy', for the best student in ground subjects, was awarded to Major Kaustubh Kunte, a release said.

# 7 Districts drive 54% of Maharashtra GSDP, exposing regional imbalance: Govt report

Mumbai, May 24 (UNI) : Only seven out of Maharashtra's 36 districts are responsible for generating 54 per cent of the state's gross domestic product (GSDP), which reached Rs 45 lakh crore in 2024, according to a recent government report.

The findings underscore a pronounced regional disparity in economic activity within the state, widely regarded as India's economic powerhouse. The key contributors — Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburban, Pune, Nagpur, Thane, Palghar, and Raigad — host the bulk of Maharashtra's economic activities.

In stark contrast, the report submitted to the 16th Finance Commission reveals that 18 districts have growth rates less than 0.8 times the state's GSDP expansion rate, with per capita incomes falling below the state average.

While Maharashtra's per capita income stands at 148 per cent of the national average, the report highlights that 12 districts still lag behind the national benchmark. To address these imbalances, the state government has rolled out five-year district strategic plans, supported by a World Bank project, aimed at fostering balanced growth by leveraging the unique strengths of each administrative unit.

For the current fiscal year, the annual district plan outlay has been increased by 11 per cent to Rs 20,150 crore. District collectors have been instructed to allocate at least 25 per cent of these funds to projects identified in the District Strategic Plan (DSP).

Additional funding is being directed toward aspirational districts and blocks, with the goal of achieving more equitable development across Maharashtra.

The report also notes targeted efforts to transform the Naxal-affected Gadchiroli district in eastern Maharashtra into a steel hub, as part of broader economic diversification strategies.

Maharashtra's districts have been categorized into three segments based on economic growth and gross district domestic product (GDDP) per capita. Over half of the districts fall into the third segment, characterized by low GDDP per capita.

The second segment comprises 11 districts — including Nashik, Kolhapur, Solapur, and Ratnagiri — that collectively contribute 26 per cent to the state's GSDP. The remaining 18 districts, such as Amravati, Yavatmal, Jalgaon, and Latur, account for the final 20 per cent of the state's economic output. The government's report emphasizes the urgent need for accelerated and targeted investment to bridge regional gaps and promote inclusive economic growth across Maharashtra.

# 560 farmlands, Panand roads cleared through Sasti Adalat initiative


Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, May 24 (UNI) : In order to clear encroached farmlands and Panand roads for farmers in all eight districts of Marathwada division, Sasti Adalat initiative is being implemented in all talukas of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar division along with clearing the pending cases immediately.

Due to this initiative, started on the initiative of Divisional Commissioner Dileep Gawde, as many as 560 pending cases of farmlands have been settled amicably through consultation. The administration has succeeded in clearing the farmlands directly by reaching the embankment. As the existing roads leading to agricultural fields are narrow at some places causing difficulty to passing of large vehicles, the boundaries of all the Shivpanands and farm roads in the state should be fixed and their work should be completed in a quality manner. Also, the Revenue administration should take appropriate action against those who close farm roads, while complaints about farm occupation roads should be heard by the Tehsildar. The pending cases regarding such roads should be resolved within a month. Such orders were given by the state's Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule.


**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**SUPPLY & APPLICATION OF FLUOROPOLYMER PAINT SYSTEM**  
Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Repair Workshop, Western Railway, N.M. Joshi Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400013, invites **Tender No.: SG\_217\_2\_305\_WA\_R, Dated: 20.05.2025. Work and Location:** Design, Supply, Installation, Programming, Testing and commissioning of Electronic Interlocking system along with MSDAC and other indoor and outdoor Signalling work at Charni Road Station of Mumbai Division Western Railway. **Approx. Cost Work:** ₹ 3,84,68,616.27. **EMD:** ₹ 3,42,400/-. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** On 19.06.2025 at 15:00 hrs. For further details please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **0186**  
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**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**SIGNALLING WORK**  
Dy. CSTE/Works (S&T), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400008, invites **Tender No.: SG\_217\_2\_305\_WA\_R, Dated: 20.05.2025. Work and Location:** Design, Supply, Installation, Programming, Testing and commissioning of Electronic Interlocking system along with MSDAC and other indoor and outdoor Signalling work at Charni Road Station of Mumbai Division Western Railway. **Approx. Cost Work:** ₹ 3,84,68,616.27. **EMD:** ₹ 3,42,400/-. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** On 19.06.2025 at 15:00 hrs. For further details please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **0187**  
Like us on: [f facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**ENGINEERING WORKS**  
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg., Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400008, invites **Sr. No.:1. E-Tender Notice No.: BCT/25-26/72, dt. 22.05.2025. Work and location:** Kandivali & Virar (Carshed): Need based repair on day today basis by outsourcing for a period of 01 year. **Approx. Cost of work:** ₹ 27,75,835.20. **EMD:** ₹ 55,500/-. **Sr. No.: 2. E-Tender Notice No.: BCT/25-26/73 dt. 22.05.2025. Work and location:** Khar Road (East) and Santacruz (East & West) Colony Need Based Repair on day to day basis by outsourcing for a period of 730 days. **Approx. Cost of work:** ₹ 98,31,175.54. **EMD:** ₹ 1,96,600/-. **Date & Time of Submission of both tenders:** Till 20.06.2025, 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of both tenders:** On 20.06.2025 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **0196**  
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**संस्कृति मंत्रालय**  
भारत सरकार

**CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING**  
(Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)



**Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme – 2025-26**  
The CCRT is implementing Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme to provide facilities to outstanding talented children selected in the **age group of 10 to 14 years (as per the cut off eligibility dates), studying either in recognized schools or belonging to families practicing traditional performing arts** for getting specialized training in various cultural fields such as traditional forms of music, dance, drama, painting, sculpture, crafts and literary arts, laying special emphasis on rare art forms, which are in the process of becoming extinct. The scholarship awarded under the scheme is for two years at a time which is renewable after every two years till the completion of the first university degree stage of education or up to the age of 20 years, whichever is earlier, subject to awardees maintaining satisfactory progress. 650 scholarships are awarded every year, as per details given below:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 375 scholarships for General categories & Others   | 125 scholarships for Traditional Artist Families         |
| 100 scholarships for Tribal Culture /ST            | 20 scholarships for Differently Abled ( <i>Divyang</i> ) |
| 30 scholarships for Creative Writing/Literary Arts |  |

The value of scholarship is Rs.3600/- (Rupees Three Thousand Six Hundred) per year and actual tuition fee paid for the specialized training is also reimbursed up to Rs.9000/- (Rupees Nine Thousand) per year. Children whose date of birth is in between **01.07.2011 and 30.06.2015** (both days inclusive) are eligible to apply for the award of scholarships for the year 2025-26. The application and other details may be downloaded from the CCRT website – [www.ccrtindia.gov.in](http://www.ccrtindia.gov.in) or collected free of cost personally/by post from any one of the following addresses:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Centre for Cultural Resources and Training,</b><br>15 A, Sector – 7, Dwarka, New Delhi – 110075,<br>Phone No : 011 – 25088638<br>Email : <a href="mailto:ddsch.ccrt@nic.in">ddsch.ccrt@nic.in</a><br>website : <a href="http://www.ccrtindia.gov.in">www.ccrtindia.gov.in</a>                      | <b>CCRT Regional Centre,</b><br>1-118/ CCRT, Survey No. 64, Near Google Office, Madhapur, Hyderabad – 500084<br>Phone No : (040) 23117050 and 23111910<br>Email : <a href="mailto:rchyd.ccrt@nic.in">rchyd.ccrt@nic.in</a> |
| <b>CCRT Regional Centre,</b><br>Hawala Khurd, Badgaon, Udaipur, Rajasthan- 313001<br>Phone No : (0294) 2430764, 2430771<br>Email: <a href="mailto:rcud.ccrt@nic.in">rcud.ccrt@nic.in</a>  | <b>CCRT Regional Centre,</b><br>58, Juripar, Panjabari Road, Guwahati, Assam-781037<br>Phone No. 0361-2330152,<br>Email: <a href="mailto:rcgwt.ccrt@nic.in">rcgwt.ccrt@nic.in</a>  |
| <b>CCRT Regional Centre</b><br>Old Collectorate Building, Near District Court, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh – 470661<br>Phone No. 07812299187 • Email: <a href="mailto:redamoh-ccrt@gov.in">redamoh-ccrt@gov.in</a>  |  |
| <b>Duly filled application form along-with relevant documents should reach CCRT, New Delhi-110075 on or before Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2025. CCRT will not be responsible for any postal delay and Applications received after the last date will not be considered. cbc 09127/12/0001/2526</b> |  |



STANDARD POST

Covid situation constantly monitored, no need to panic

With mounting cases of Covid-19 bringing fresh fears of the pandemic, which claimed millions of lives globally, experts at the Indian Medical Association and Delhi Medical Association on Saturday said that the cases are being constantly monitored and that there is no need to panic. According to the data from the Ministry of Health, India has reported 257 active Covid-19 cases as of May 19.

Kerala (69), Maharashtra (44), and Tamil Nadu (34) are recording the highest daily case counts.

Delhi recorded 23 new cases. As per the latest reports, two have tested positive for Covid in Gurugram, one each in Faridabad and Noida.

"With Covid-19 cases being reported in different parts of India, there is no need to panic. What we recommend is enhanced surveillance and continued public awareness," Dr. Dinesh Goel, Paediatrician and President, of IMA Janak Puri, told . He urged people to follow simple precautions like using masks "in crowded areas and maintaining hygiene".

Dr. Amarjeet Singh Popli, from the Delhi Medical Association (DMA), also called for precautions while not panicking.

"There is no need to panic over the recent increase in Covid-19 cases. The situation is under constant monitoring by health authorities and the Delhi Medical Association," Popli told .

The current rise is linked to Omicron and descendants of its subvariant JN.1, which "are being closely observed", the expert noted. As per the latest data from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), set up under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, NB.1.8.1 and LF.7 -- descendants of JN.1 Covid variant in the country – are responsible for the rise in SARS-CoV-2 cases in the country.

Data from the INSACOG, a consortium of 64 laboratories to monitor genomic variations of Covid virus, showed one case of NB.1.8.1 and four instances of the LF.7 type. While NB.1.8.1 was identified in April in Tamil Nadu, four cases of LF.7 were detected in Gujarat in May.

Currently, both LF.7 and NB.1.8 have been classified as Variants Under Monitoring (VUM) by the World Health Organization (WHO).

VUM is a term used to signal to public health authorities that a SARS-CoV-2 variant may require prioritised attention and monitoring. Meanwhile, the Delhi government has issued an advisory asking all hospitals to prepare for the availability of beds, oxygen, medicines, and vaccines. Popli urged the public to take basic precautions, such as wearing masks in crowded places and maintaining hygiene. "With responsible behaviour, we can all stay safe."

A Baby's Courageous Battle for Breath Ends in Triumph at KIMS Cuddles

(Standard Post Bureau)

In a powerful testament to medical excellence and sheer determination, a New-born baby boy, who was born with a life-threatening lung condition, has been successfully discharged after 18 days of intensive care at KIMS Cuddles Hospital, Visakhapatnam.

The infant, born prematurely at 36 weeks to a 28-year-old mother from Anakapalli, was diagnosed with dangerously high pressure in the lungs—a condition that prevents oxygen from reaching the bloodstream and can lead to multi-organ failure. Within 12 hours of birth, the baby developed severe breathing difficulty and was rushed to KIMS Cuddles, Vizag where his extraordinary fight for survival began.

The baby's lungs were under immense stress, and conventional ventilation was not sufficient," explained Dr. Nikhil Tenneti, Chief Neonatologist & Head of Neonatology at KIMS Cuddles. "We had to place



him on High-Frequency Oscillatory Ventilation (HFOV)—a technique that delivers oxygen up to 900 times a minute—and administer nitric oxide therapy to reduce lung pressure.

Most babies with such a condition either recover within three to four days or succumb if there's no improvement. But this baby endured HFOV for a rare nine days."

During his 18-day stay,

the medical team, including Dr. Santosh Kumar, Clinical Director and Pediatric Intensivist, provided round-the-clock critical care support. From stabilizing his heart and kidney functions to ensuring his organs developed resilience, every step was a milestone in his recovery.

"This tiny warrior showed us what true strength looks like. He literally fought for every breath and overcame all

odds. Watching him go home in his mother's arms, smiling and healthy, was a deeply emotional moment for all of us," said Dr. Nikhil Tenneti. Cases like these highlight not only the miracles of modern neonatology but also the relentless efforts of dedicated healthcare professionals at KIMS Cuddles. This recovery stands as a symbol of hope for many families facing similar neonatal challenges.

Rebirth for Chhattisgarh Twins at KIMS Cuddles



(Standard Post Bureau)

Two fragile baby boys, twins born prematurely in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, weighing only 1.4 and 1.5 kg each, were battling for life due to severe infections. Their condition was so critical that they had to be urgently airlifted to KIMS Cuddles Hospital in Kondapur, Hyderabad, marking the first instance of premature twins being transferred via air ambulance to the Telugu

states.

Dr. Aparna C, Clinical Director of Neonatology and Head of NICU at KIMS Cuddles, Kondapur who treated the babies, shared the details of this remarkable case.

One of the twins was in a dire condition during the transfer itself. He had both fungal infection and a drug-resistant bacterial infection (Klebsiella), leading to multi-organ failure. He was immediately placed on a

ventilator and treated with multiple medications including blood pressure support. His kidneys had stopped functioning, and he had no urine output for 24 hours. The second baby had fungal sepsis and required CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) support through his nose. Both babies had extremely low platelet counts and had to be given multiple transfusions of blood and

Park+ launches its AI Enabled smart vehicle management systems

(Standard Post Bureau)

Park+, India's biggest smart vehicular management system provider, today launched its AI enabled smart vehicle system in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. With Park+ AI enabled smart access control systems, there will be minimal human intervention, a drastic reduction in wait time and ensure a truly digital experience for car owners entering residential societies,

malls and corporate parks. Park+ AI enabled systems are present in over 40 cities, 10,000 residential societies, 600 corporate parks and 100 malls, across India.

Park+ AI enabled smart vehicle management system advantage:

RFID & Automatic Number Plate Recognition systems, enabling seamless entry/exit

Car owners can use the Park+ app, to track

real time entry/exit notifications

Anti-theft feature embedded in the Park+ App to empower car owners to lock their car

Live dashboard for RWA, corporate park management and mall managers to track vehicular movement within property

Commenting on the launch, Amit Lakhotia, Founder & CEO, Park+ said, "Park+ has been making conscious efforts to make residential

societies, corporate parks, and malls- Smarter & Safer, from a car ownership point of view. As part of this strategy we have launched our AI enabled smart vehicular management systems in Bhubaneswar to enhance the car ownership experience for car owners and make vehicular management seamless for property managers. We at Park+ have taken something that has historically been painful &

Water crisis despite 'four-engine' govt, says Atishi

New Delhi, May 24 (UNI) : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and the Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Atishi on Saturday said that despite the BJP being in power in the national capital, the people of the city are deprived of basic necessities such as drinking water.

Atishi said she has written to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta seeking an appointment with her over the water crisis. "Women standing in queues in front of tankers, children waiting with buckets and pots -- these scenes are now becoming the new identity

of Delhi. Did the BJP show the dream of such a Delhi to the people?"

She said water supply has been disrupted for 24 hours at some places, making the people angry. "But the government and ministers are silent. Despite the BJP's 'four engine' government in Delhi, the people of Delhi are also deprived of basic needs like water," said Atishi. "I am writing this letter to you about the severe water crisis in the capital Delhi. We are still in May, the real summer heat is yet to come, but the people of Delhi are struggling with a terrible shortage of water," Atishi said.

In Russia, Indian all-party delegation reiterates zero-tolerance policy toward terrorism

Moscow/New Delhi, May 24 (UNI) The Indian all-party delegation led by DMK MP Kanimozhi reiterated its zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and stressed that India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail.

During its meetings in Moscow, both sides agreed on the need to strengthen counter-terrorism measures and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

On Friday, the delegation was in Moscow where they held a number of engagements, including with the two Houses of the Russian Parliament and think tanks.

The visit marks a continuation of India's long-standing effort to strengthen global counter-terrorism frameworks and reinforce its commitment to a multipolar international order. The delegation held talks with Andrey Denisov, First Deputy Chair of the Committee on International Affairs of the Federation Council, and other Senators.

The dialogue focused on enhancing legislative convergence in the global fight against terrorism. The Indian side drew attention to Operation Sindoor as a response in the country's fight against terrorism. Later, the delegation had a meeting with Leonid Slutsky, Hon'ble Chair of the Committee on International Affairs of the State Duma, and interacted with Members of the State Duma.

Both sides reaffirmed the historic and time-tested nature of the India-Russia relationship, underpinned by mutual trust and respect. The discussions covered a wide range of issues including global security architecture, emerging geopolitical alignments, and multilateral cooperation.

The Indian delegation underlined the imperative of collective action against terrorism, including the need for credible international mechanisms to deny safe havens, financing, and political justification to terrorist entities.

The delegation then met Andrey Rudenko, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation and held extensive discussions on bilateral, regional, and global developments, with emphasis on the shared commitment to a multipolar and international order.

The delegation also had an insightful interaction with former Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, who heads the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies (RISS). The delegation had detailed exchanges on radicalisation pathways, disinformation ecosystems used by terrorist groups, and state-sponsored propaganda that undermines regional peace.

The two sides agreed on the imperative of narrative frameworks rooted in pluralism, sovereignty, and international law. The two sides agreed on closer think tank collaboration for joint analytical work concerning terrorism's transnational linkages.

These high-level interactions reaffirm the shared commitment of India and Russia to intensify cooperation in the fight against terrorism, promote global stability, and further strengthen their

Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

intimidating –managing vehicular movement in high density areas (residential societies, malls and corporate parks) and made it seamless. We have completely digitized the entire entry/exit experience by developing smart AI enabled boom barriers, which track our RFID tags/ANPR cameras, delivering superior experience to car owners residing in societies/entering

corporate parks or malls. Our aim is to empower each and every real estate location to become smarter and safer for car owners."

By downloading the Park+ app, users can also access Park+ services like- FASTag recharge, discover a car insurance offer, discover a car maintenance partner, buy discounted fuel vouchers, register for a car loan and track their challans.



## 15 injured in Russian missile-drone attack on Ukrainian capital

Kiev, May 24 (UNI) : The Russian forces fired a barrage of ballistic mis siles and drones at the Ukrainian capital early Saturday, leaving at least 15 people injured, the Kiev city military administration said in a statement.

The attack, one of the largest air assaults on Kiev since the start of the conflict, caused damage to residential and non-residential infrastructure in six of the city's 10 districts, the statement said.

Kiev police reported that a shopping mall, several apartment buildings and an educational facility were among the damaged sites.

The Ukrainian Air Force said Russia deployed 14 Iskander-M/KN-23 ballistic missiles and 250 drones in the overnight attack on Ukraine, and Kiev was the primary target. The air defense intercepted six missiles and 245 drones. The strike followed Russia's attack on port infrastructure in Ukraine's southern city of Odesa with two ballistic missiles on Friday, killing three people and injuring six others, according to Odesa regional governor Oleh Kiper.

After the attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called on the United States, Europe and other countries to impose new sanctions on Russia.

"Only additional sanctions targeting key sectors of the Russian economy will force Moscow to cease fire," Zelensky said on social platform X.

## Estimated 10,000 properties damaged in floodwaters in Australia's New South Wales

Sydney, May 24 (UNI) : Emergency service authority of Australia's state of New South Wales (NSW) said on Saturday that early estimates suggest more than 10,000 properties have been damaged in floodwaters in the state's eastern regions.

The State Emergency Service (SES) Chief Superintendent Paul McQueen told reporters on Saturday morning that crews would be "out in force" to start the damage assessment process.

"I reiterate this is still a dangerous situation where significant impacts to infrastructure and properties are likely to have occurred," he said. "Unfortunately, it is not possible to let people return to their homes until water further subsides and we're sure they can access their homes and communities safely."The NSW Police said in a statement on Friday evening that rescue officers found a body inside a burnt-out vehicle at a property on the flood-hit Mid North Coast.It marks the fifth death in the widespread flooding crisis that has hit the Mid North Coast and surrounding regions following five consecutive days of torrential rainfall.

## Iran, US reach greater understanding on nuclear deal post Rome talks, says Iranian FM

Tehran, May 24 (UNI) : Iran and the United States have reached a greater understanding following the talks in Rome on the Iranian nuclear dossier, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Friday.

Earlier in the day, the fifth round of US-Iran indirect talks mediated by Oman was held in Rome.

"This was one of the most professional rounds of talks we have had with the US ... I think the US now has a clearer understanding of our positions," Araghchi said.Oman has proposed mechanisms to remove obstacles to reaching an agreement between Iran and the US, Araghchi said, adding that Tehran expects to make progress in negotiations with the US in the next one or two rounds.Tehran is calling on the UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to take measures for the protection of Iran's nuclear facilities amid Israel's threats, the Iranian Foreign Minister said.

On Tuesday, CNN reported, citing US officials familiar with the latest intelligence, that Israel was preparing to attack Iran's nuclear facilities.

"The threats of this (Israeli) regime to attack Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities and infrastructure pose a serious threat to peace and security at both regional and international levels. It is necessary for the UN Security Council, bearing responsibility for maintaining peace and stability at the international level, to take immediate and effective measures against these threats. It is also of high importance that the IAEA immediately engages into this question," Araghchi's letter read.The foreign minister also said that Tehran would have to take measures to protect its nuclear facilities of which it would inform the IAEA. At the same time, in case of Israel's attack, the US will be considered its accomplice, he said. Iran in its turn will respond to the threats and actions against its nuclear facilities, Araghchi added.

## Russia, Ukraine conduct large-scale POW swap, each 390 people

Moscow, May 24 (UNI) :Russia and Ukraine have conducted a major prisoner swap, exchanging 390 prisoners each under an agreement reached during recent talks in Istanbul, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Friday.The ministry said 270 Russian servicemen and 120 civilians have returned from territory controlled by Kiev. In return, 270 Ukrainian prisoners and 120 civilians have also been released, it added.The freed Russian prisoners are on the territory of the Republic of Belarus, where they are being provided with necessary psychological and medical assistance, said the ministry.

"The large-scale exchange initiated by the Russian side is planned to continue in the coming days," according to the ministry.

## SCO demonstration area promoted in Nepal

Kathmandu, May 24 (UNI) A promotion conference was held here on Friday to promote the China-SCO (the Shanghai Cooperation Organization) Local Economic and Trade C o o p e r a t i o n Demonstration Area (SCODA) for deeper cooperation with Nepal.

Speaking at the conference, Li Gang, executive deputy director of the Administrative Committee of SCODA, voiced hope that China and Nepal can carry out friendly exchanges in the fields of building road-rail combined transport and creating high-quality cultural and tourism products as 2025 marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two neighbors.

Business and tourism professionals from Nepal and China shared their insights and thoughts about areas for better cooperation.

"We have huge potentials to export processed ginger, orange, cardamom, mushrooms and herbs," said Damodar Bhandari, Nepal's minister for industry, commerce and supplies.

"There can be cooperation with China in food safety and transfer of food processing facilities," he added. "We are willing to cooperate on solar panels, batteries, electric vehicles, equipment and energy development."

Two cooperation agreements were signed on the occasion to further expand practical cooperation with Nepal on tea trade and cultural and tourism exchanges.



In this image released by @IndianEmbTokyo via X, a multi-party delegation led by JD-U MP Sanjay Kumar Jha during an interaction with members of the Indian diaspora at the Embassy, in Tokyo, Japan. The delegation is on a visit to Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan and Singapore to convey India's message on terror.

## Trump threatens 50pc tariffs on EU imports, warns trade talks 'going nowhere'

Washington/Brussels, May 24 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump dramatically intensified tensions with the European Union on Friday, announcing plans to impose a 50% tariff on all EU imports from June 1, claiming that trade negotiations were stalled and unproductive.

Writing on his Truth Social platform, Trump accused the EU of exploiting the United States for decades, pointing to what he described as an entrenched system of “powerful trade barriers, VAT taxes, excessive corporate penalties, monetary manipulation and unjust lawsuits” that had created an annual US trade deficit of over \$250 billion. He insisted the bloc had been “very difficult to deal with,” reports BBC.

“Our discussions with them are going nowhere!” Trump wrote. “Therefore, I am recommending a straight 50% tariff on the European

Union, starting on 1 June 2025.”Later, speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, the president reaffirmed his hardline stance, dismissing the idea of further negotiations.“I’m not looking for a deal. We’ve set the deal – it’s at 50%. But there is no tariff if they build their plant here,” he said. Trump also claimed the EU “wants to make a deal very badly” but added, “They just don’t go about it right.”

The comments came just hours before US and EU officials were due to meet for further trade discussions, which now hang in the balance. The European Commission has maintained that it remains open to talks but is ready to respond if needed.

“EU–US trade is unmatched and must be guided by mutual respect, not threats,” said EU Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefcovic in a social media post. “We stand ready to defend our interests.”

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul expressed concern at the move, warning that punitive tariffs would damage both economies. “Such tariffs will not help anyone. They will only slow the economic development of both markets,” he said at a press conference, reiterating Germany’s support for continued negotiations, as per Bloomberg.Irish Taoiseach Micheál Martin echoed the sentiment, saying the EU had been acting “in good faith” and cautioning that tariffs would be harmful to both sides. “Negotiations are the best and only sustainable way forward,” he said.French Foreign Minister Laurent Saint-Martin also called for restraint, stating: “We are maintaining the same line: de-escalation, but we are ready to respond.”

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent claimed that divisions within the EU were hindering talks, and

suggested that some member states were unaware of the terms being negotiated by Brussels. He expressed hope that Trump’s tariff threat would “light a fire under the EU”.

Trump also reignited his long-standing feud with Apple, threatening to slap a 25% import tax on iPhones not manufactured in the United States – a move that analysts widely dismissed as unrealistic. “The concept of Apple producing iPhones in the US is a fairy tale,” said Dan Ives of Wedbush Securities. Shares in Apple dropped 3% following the remarks. Financial markets reacted sharply to Trump’s comments, with US and European indices slipping. The S&P 500 closed down 0.7%, while Germany’s DAX and France’s CAC 40 both fell by more than 1.5%. Companies with large transatlantic operations, including Deutsche Bank, BMW, SAP and LVMH, saw share prices decline.

## Hungarian PM Viktor Orban accuses Ukraine of driving EU push to ban Russian energy

Moscow/Budapest, 24 May (UNI) : Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Friday accused Ukraine of orchestrating the European Commission’s drive to phase out Russian energy, warning that such efforts could severely damage European economies while serving Kyiv’s interests.

“In reality, the Ukrainians are behind the entire policy promoting the ban on Russian energy resources,” Orban said during a broadcast interview with Hungary’s Kossuth Radio.

“It is therefore logical to speak of a Ukrainian energy threat. Ukrainians are demanding things from Europeans that will devastate European families. It also threatens Hungarian families. The plan is to prevent anyone from buying gas and oil from Russia,” reports Moscow’s state-owned-media agency TASS.

Orban alleged that Ukraine took the first step towards this goal by banning the transit of Russian gas across its territory. He credited the existence of the TurkStream pipeline—carrying Russian gas under the Black Sea to southern Europe—for saving Hungary from spiralling energy costs. Without it, he said, Hungary would have faced exorbitant prices or even a complete lack of access to gas supplies.

“If Kiev gets its way in the European Union, Hungarian households will pay an additional •2 billion annually for energy. Electricity bills would

double, and heating costs would quadruple,” he warned.

The prime minister criticised EU leaders for prioritising geopolitical interests over the welfare of their citizens. “For them, damaging Russia and helping Ukraine takes precedence over the futures of their own families and businesses,” he said.

Orban also described his efforts to resist EU sanctions on Russian energy. “Every week I fight to assert Hungary’s right to opt out of sanctions on Russian energy. If we allowed those sanctions to apply to us, all kinds of problems would follow,” he said. “This is not our war, and we will not let Brussels make us pay for it.”

On May 6, the European Commission

unveiled the latest phase of its REPowerEU strategy, aimed at ending the bloc’s dependency on Russian energy. The roadmap proposes terminating all remaining Russian gas contracts by the end of 2027 and includes restrictions on imports of enriched uranium from Russia.Hungary and Slovakia have publicly opposed the initiative, arguing that their national energy security would be at risk without access to Russian supplies. Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto has previously accused Western European countries of hypocrisy, claiming that while they publicly announce a shift away from Russian oil, they continue to import it indirectly via third countries such as India.

## UNSC draft resolution demands lifting of restrictions on aid to Gaza

United Nations, May 24 (UNI) : The Algeria-proposed UN Security Council draft resolution is calling for immediate and unconditional lifting of all restrictions hampering aid deliveries into Gaza, the document seen by a RIA Novosti correspondent said on Friday.

The draft resolution

“demands the immediate and unconditional lifting of all restrictions on the access of humanitarian aid into and its distribution throughout the Gaza Strip as well as the restoration of electricity, water supply, and other essential services in line with international humanitarian law and relevant

resolutions of the Security Council.”

Furthermore, the draft document expresses “grave concern over the catastrophic humanitarian situation and the latest developments in the Gaza Strip following the breach of the ceasefire agreement”, calling on parties to comply with their

responsibilities under international law.

Last but not least, the document supported mediation efforts by Egypt, Qatar, and the US “to immediately bring back parties to implementing the ceasefire agreement in all its phases”, as noted in Security Council resolution 2735.

## Trump threatens potential tariffs on smartphones not made in US

Washington, May 24 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump on Friday threatened to impose tariffs on Samsung and other smartphone producers, following an earlier announcement targeting Apple.

"It would be more, it would be also Samsung and anybody that makes that product.

Otherwise it wouldn't be fair," Trump told reporters at the White House Friday afternoon, when asked whether the president has the power to tariff one single company.

"That'll start on, I guess, the end of June ... I think we have that appropriately done by the end of June," Trump said.

Samsung is a South Korean company, with its Galaxy series a major competitor to Apple's iPhones.

Earlier in the day, Trump announced on social media that he will impose 25 percent tariff on Apple products unless iPhones are made in the United States.

"I have long ago informed Tim Cook of Apple that I expect their iPhone's that will be sold in the United States of America will be manufactured and built in the United States, not India, or anyplace else. If that is not the case, a Tariff of at least 25 percent must be paid by Apple to the U.S.," Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social.

Also on Friday, Trump threatened a 50 percent tax on all imports from the European Union starting June 1, citing insufficient progress in negotiations.

## Boeing strikes \$1.1 bn deal with US DOJ to avoid prosecution over deadly 737 Max crashes

Arlington, May 24 (UNI) Boeing has reached a non-prosecution agreement with the US Department of Justice (DOJ), allowing the aerospace company to avoid criminal charges linked to two fatal 737 Max crashes in 2018 and 2019 that killed 346 people.

As part of the deal, Boeing will pay over \$1.1 billion (£867 million), which includes a \$487.2 million criminal fine and \$444.5 million for a new compensation fund for victims' families.The company will also commit hundreds of millions of dollars to improve its compliance, safety, and quality control systems.The DOJ described the agreement as "a fair and just resolution that serves the public interest," stating it ensures "further accountability and substantial benefits from Boeing immediately, while avoiding the uncertainty and litigation risk presented by proceeding to trial," according to Euro News.

Boeing has admitted to conspiring to obstruct an FAA investigation by concealing crucial details about a software system known as MCAS, which was involved in both crashes. The system could automatically push the aircraft's nose down if it received faulty data, contributing to the tragedies in Indonesia and Ethiopia.

“This kind of non-prosecution deal is unprecedented and obviously wrong for the deadliest corporate crime in US history,” said Paul Cassell, a lawyer representing some of the victims’ families. He added that his clients plan to challenge the agreement in court.

Under the deal, Boeing avoids a criminal conviction, preserving its eligibility for US government contracts. The company’s board must also meet with victims' families to hear their concerns.The agreement follows a previous 2021 deferred prosecution deal, under which Boeing paid \$2.5 billion, including a \$243.6 million criminal penalty and \$500 million for victims' families. That deal was nearly up when a door panel detached from a new 737 Max 9 in January 2024, prompting prosecutors to accuse Boeing of breaching its commitments.

Senators Elizabeth Warren and Richard Blumenthal have also criticised the new deal, urging the DOJ not to "allow the company to weasel its way out of accountability for its failed corporate culture."



# Home & Garden



## Simple tips to do up your Car Interiors



New cars may be rolling on to the roads today, but not many would like to shell out big bucks with their dipping bank balance during the on going recession. In such times, you can still 'own a new car'; all you need to do is give your car a much-needed makeover with interior car accessories.

The interior of a car is often the most overlooked area, when it comes to customizing or redoing a car. However, people fail to realise that it's the interior of the car that you see more often than the exterior.

So, dress up your 'old' car to make it a 'new' one. Pick one or all of the car accessories that will help dress up your car, after all, when you are driving in your 'new' car, you'll feel better too!

### Replace old seat covers

Since seats make up a large part of the car interior, changing their

colours can make a big difference in how the car looks and feels.

With time while leather seats get scratched, fabric seats show stains and tears. Replace old seat covers with new ones to help cover up those stains and scratches and give your car a 'renewed life'. Car seat covers are easy to install, and cost much less than it would to replace leather seats.

### Change floor mats

Rubber floor mats will not only cover up worn out spots on your car's floor, but will also give it a cleaner look. Everyday, mud, sand, slush, and debris are tracked into your vehicle and mats protect the car carpet from these. Easier to maintain, these can be



**Just like we do up the interiors of our homes, we should also do up our car interiors. Here is how...**

washed from time to time with just water. You can also customize the floor mats to perfectly fit the model of your car.

### Place sun films

The installation of these films on front windshield, back windshield or side windows helps combat ultraviolet rays. It helps cut annoying glare on your windshield reducing intense bright spots on sunny days and blinding headlights at night. These films also make your air conditioner functioning more effective.

### Cover the steer

Leather steering wheel covers are easily available and slip onto your steering wheel, giving it a new sporty look. The contoured ribs in the steering wheel cover help your hands relax while you drive.

### Seat cushions

Jazz up your car interior with colourful seat cushions. Not only will this add to the accessories, if you buy a massage car cushion or heated cushion, you can have a comfortable ride home from work.

### Music to soothe your ears

Replace the old audio cassette music system in your car with a high tech MP3 music. This will not only allow you to increase your choice of music, but will eliminate the tedious work of changing cassettes. And for all the tech savvy people, get a USB slot installed in your car to plug in your ipod to it. To experience better sound, you could get



amplifiers and woofers installed too.

### Install SatNav guides

SatNavs not only save you from getting lost, but also eliminate the task of asking people for direction. The technology however is still at a nascent stage in the country. The GPS technology and digital mapping keep you on the move with easy-to-follow directions, through simple and clear voice prompt and visual directions. All you have to do is enter the street name that is located closest to where you would like to go. And the guide will calculate the best route for you.

### Get the sporty look

Many car enthusiasts add sporty pedals and gear knobs, antilock brakes, to their vehicles in an effort to reduce weight and increase foot traction. You could also install tachometer, ideally meant for speedsters, to know engine RPM (revolutions per minute). It merely tells you that how fast your engine's crank-shaft is rotating and has nothing to do with fuel efficiency.

All of these accessories can turn even the oldest car into a flashier car. Well, how much will it cost for a 'car makeover' depends on what you buy and where you buy it from

## Turn your bath area into a glam zone

Taking a shower in a very glammed up and pleasant bathroom is a rejuvenating experience.

Here is how can make your bathroom the best place in your house:

### Deck up the interiors

Starting from the bath tub to the bathroom fittings, make sure there is class and plan the combinations out. Match the colour of the walls with that of the bathtub or choose reverse colours or contrast colours if you



like it to be spunky.

### Colour code the bath place

Taking from the bath linen to colours of the tiles and the wash basin, plan what colours will pep up your mood and get your bathroom designed accordingly. Color therapy works everywhere, even in the bathroom. So pick up the colour sheet and work out some best colour combos for tiles, fittings as well as walls.

### Jazz it up with tech

Starting from installing a wireless phone to making the bathroom a wi-fi zone to installing a touch screen panel with internet connectivity and to touch sensitive bathroom fittings, you can think of all the high end stuff that will totally revamp and make your bathroom an envious special zone. This will only pep up the atmosphere of your bedroom.

### Stock up some spa essentials

Essential oils, body and face scrubs of your choice and a little bit of aroma therapy. What else do you need? A sauna? Well if you can install it, wonderful, otherwise a hot shower or a hot water bath in the Jacuzzi will let you rejuvenate equally.

### 1. Don't clutter with furniture

"People tend to have too much furniture in their house in a bid to show off their taste. This doesn't give a feeling of lightness, but only creates clutter and makes your room look smaller than it already is," says interior designer Shehzad Khan.

Conversely, spacing your furniture out and resting it flat against the wall is a fool's errand. It doesn't ensure a bigger room, instead your room ends up looking sparse. The trick is to angle it right. For instance, you can place a small console behind the sofa to create a sense of space. You can do the same thing with your bed and a side table in the bedroom.

### 2. Don't use too many small paintings

Fine art lends aesthetics and a sense of timelessness to your home. However, scattering small paintings or prints all over the walls will make a shoebox-sized home look smaller and more congested than it already is. Instead, invest in one life-size three-dimensional scenic painting on canvas, the keywords here being life-size and scenic. "Use wall cladding on the chosen surface and install the 3D canvas on it," says Gogia. Scenery gives a lot of depth to the wall. A DIY option is to paint the wall yourself. This way, you get to express and show off your creativity too. The market is also flooded with readymade wallpapers of scenic pictures that can be directly purchased and applied to one wall.

### 3. Do install French windows

Floor-to-ceiling glass windows is how the French won the West over, at least when it comes to decor. French windows automatically give spaciousness to the room. There are two reasons for this. They provide more natural light to stream into your room. Also, instead of an opaque wall, you have glass and openness extending beyond it.



## 6 ways to make your room Look bigger

**From optical illusion to colour schemes and fine art, there are plenty of ideas to dig into for a more spacious-looking living space**

### 4. Do have a white floor or ceiling

This may sound too stark for us Indians, since we love colour and all things vibrant. Having a stark white ceiling or floor is an international trend that is catching on in India. The easiest option for a white floor is marble. There is a variety available out there, so feel free to experiment. For a bit of warmth, lay out a soft rug. As for the ceiling, white is usually right. Says Girish Gogia, former interior decorator, "A milk white

ceiling doesn't feel heavy on the head." Pure and pristine, white is the best colour to instill a sense of airiness. Choose from ghost white, eggshell, pearl, cream or the popular 'off white'.

### 5. Do invest in multi-functional decor

Streamline your room with multi-functional pieces. For instance, a dining table that folds into a coffee table or seater. A trunk or an ottoman with built-in storage to keep your reading material in. In the mood to splurge? A number of decor labels are now available in India. For a DIY approach, look up the internet to design your own functional pieces.

### 6. Do use paints in pastels

As far as walls are concerned, try to paints from the pastel family to make it appear brighter. Pastel colours are also easy on the eyes. "In fact, you can take the pastel theme further and do up your home with upholstery in pastel shades," says interior decorator Suraj Dutta.

"Looking at the current scenario in Mumbai



where the apartments are small, opt for lighter shades. The flooring shouldn't have too much design. It should have straight lines. Silver leafing and champagne leafing on the walls and even on the ceiling make your room appear larger. The technique adds a royal touch to your home and is quite the rage right now. It looks equally good in a 2 BHK flat as it does in an apartment studio of a bachelor."





Tsitsipas admits long-hidden admiration for Nadal

Paris, May 24 (UNI) : In a heartfelt admission on the sidelines of the French Open, Greek tennis star Stefanos Tsitsipas revealed he had always admired Rafael Nadal but never publicly acknowledged it — until now. Tsitsipas said he always talked about Roger Federer as the person he admired, but he now feels it was a bit of both Federer and Nadal. He never admitted it was Nadal too, because he felt his game was closer to Federer's.

After Nadal's retirement, the younger generation is increasingly opening up about the Spaniard's impact — and Tsitsipas is no exception. The Greek star even mused that with a two-handed backhand like Nadal's, he might have had a chance at emulating the 14-time Roland-Garros champion's dominance.

Tsitsipas said maybe if he had a two-handed backhand like Nadal, he might have played as many R o l a n d - G a r r o s tournaments as him — 29 Roland-Garros, including 14 victories.

Having faced Nadal on clay, Tsitsipas reflected on the experience with both reverence and relief — especially for having avoided a match on Court Philippe-Chatrier, Nadal's most iconic battleground.

He said he was lucky not to play against Nadal on the Chatrier because it wouldn't have been a fun experience. Tsitsipas credited Nadal with teaching him intangible qualities that define champions — determination and perseverance on a tennis court. Tsitsipas also said it felt surreal to see a legend retiring. He said it was strange to see Nadal stop competing and live a different life than he lived for years.

Wang/Sun win third straight mixed doubles at table tennis worlds



Doha, May 24 (UNI) : China's Olympic champions Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha defeated a Japanese team 3-1 to win their third straight mixed doubles title at the World

Table Tennis Championships on Saturday. The second seeds overcame a late surge from 16th-seeded Maharu Yoshimura and Satsuki

Odo, winning 11-7, 11-8, 7-11, 11-8 over 39 minutes. Earlier in the day, Wang and Sun advanced into the men's and women's singles final respectively.

Malaysia all set to host FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup 2025

Kuala Lumpur, May 24 (UNI) : The excitement is building in Malaysia as the nation prepares to host the upcoming FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup 2025, a tournament that will bring together top-tier international teams in pursuit of glory and a coveted opportunity to be promoted to the FIH Hockey Pro League, here from June 15-21.

For a country with a deep-rooted hockey tradition and a passionate fan base, hosting the Nations Cup marks yet another proud chapter in Malaysia's long-standing relationship with the sport.

Speaking about the significance of the event, Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC) President, Dato' Subahan Kamal, shared, "It is an honour for Malaysia to play host yet again for a prestigious tournament. Though it will be our first

Nations Cup tournament as host, we believe every tournament hosted by us escalates excitement among the younger generation and helps promote hockey actively. We are confident this will increase interest in the sport and grow a bigger community of hockey lovers." The tournament will not only showcase international rivalries but will also serve as a rallying point for Malaysian hockey fans, who will have the chance to cheer on their national team from the stands. For the players, the home support means everything. Team Captain, Muhammad Marhan Mohd Jalil, is eagerly looking forward to leading his team on home soil:

"It is an honour to play at our home ground. Seeing and hearing the spectators chanting and supporting us during our matches builds our confidence and

strength throughout the competition." With the team fully focused on putting in a strong performance, expectations are high, and ambitions are clear.

"Our goal is to win this tournament. Doing so would be our way of showing appreciation to Malaysian hockey fans for their unwavering support," said Marhan.

The captain also had a heartfelt message for fans ahead of the Nations Cup: "Please come and support us so that we can play with more enthusiasm, knowing that you are behind us every moment of the game."

With a storied history of hosting top tier international hockey tournaments, a hugely passionate fan base, and a team ready to shine on the international stage, Malaysia is set to deliver a memorable edition of the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup 2025.

RCB captain Patidar & SRH skipper Cummins fined for slow over rate

Lucknow, May 24 (UNI) : Royal Challengers Bengaluru designated captain Rajat Patidar has been fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during Match No. 65 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, here on Friday night.

As it was his team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Patidar was fined INR 24 lakhs. The rest of the members of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, were each individually fined either INR 6 lakh or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser.

S u n r i s e r s Hdyerabad skipper Pat Cummins has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate.

As it was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Cummins was fined INR 12 Lakh.

Meanwhile, 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.

Madhya Pradesh League fuel IPL dreams as players shine at big stage

Gwalior, May 24 (UNI) : The Madhya Pradesh League has become a launchpad for players to become future IPL stars.

In the 2025 edition of the Indian Premier League, three young cricketers who first grabbed attention in the Madhya Pradesh League ( Madhav Tiwari, Aniket Verma, and Shivam Shukla) have earned a spot in the IPL following their performances in the State League. Aniket Verma has emerged as one of the standout young performers in IPL 2025, earning his place in the Sunrisers Hyderabad playing XI on the back of a blistering 123-run knock off just 41 balls in the Madhya Pradesh Premier League (MPL) for Bhopal Leopards.

Picked at his base price of INR 30 lakh, the hard-hitting right-hander has featured in all 12 matches for SRH this season, amassing 198 runs at a strike rate of 155.91 with a top score of 74.

Known for his aggressive batting and clean hitting—evident in his 16 sixes—Verma has not only impressed with the bat

but also contributed in the field with 5 catches and is the contention for emerging player of the season award.

Speaking about Madhav Tiwari, a powerful medium-pacer and a handy lower-order batter, was signed by Delhi Capitals for INR 40 lakhs in the IPL 2025 Mega Auction. Despite not featuring in the playing XI for most of the season, he was brought in as a replacement for Vipraj Nigam during the final leg of the league.

Madhav impressed the Delhi Capitals scouts with his all-round show in the Madhya Pradesh League for Bhopal Leopards. The 21-year-old has previously starred in age-group cricket for Madhya Pradesh.

Hailing from Madhya Pradesh, Shivam Shukla was recently signed by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) as a replacement for Rovman Powell late in the tournament. Although KKR were already eliminated from playoff contention, the move signaled strong faith in Shivam's potential.

Shivam turned heads with his performances in the

Madhya Pradesh, and his deceptive spin earned him the 'mystery spinner' tag in domestic circles. He also earned the purple cap in MPL 2024 playing for Rewa Jaguars. With the Madhya Pradesh League 2025 now expanded to seven men's teams and launching its first-ever women's competition, the league continues to evolve as a premier destination for emerging talent. Set to begin from June 12 in Gwalior, the Madhya Pradesh League promises to be another exciting chapter in the state's cricketing revolution.

Organised by Gwalior Division Cricket Association (GDCA) under the aegis of MP Cricket Association, the jersey unveiling ceremony will take place in Gwalior on May 27.

Men's teams: Gwalior Cheetahs, Bhopal Leopards, Jabalpur Royal Lions, Rewa Jaguars, Indore Pink Panthers, Chambal Ghariyals, Bundelkhand Bulls Women's teams: Chambal Ghariyals, Bhopal Wolves, Bundelkhand Bulls.

DC edge PBKS as top 2 spots still up for grabs

Jaipur, May 24 (UNI) : Delhi Capitals produced a commanding batting performance to chase down a daunting 207-run target and seal a six-wicket win over Punjab Kings in a high-scoring IPL 2025 contest at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Saturday.

Even after 66 matches, the race for the top two spots in the league table remains wide open, with qualified teams still jostling for playoff positioning, an unusual scenario that reflects the tightly contested nature of this year's tournament.

On the night, it was Delhi's young batting sensation Sameer Rizvi who stole the limelight with a blistering unbeaten 58 off just 25 balls, steering his side to 208 for four in 19.3 overs. Rizvi's late onslaught, studded with five towering sixes and three boundaries at a strike rate of 232, turned the match on its head and delivered a much-needed morale boost for his side.

Karun Nair chipped in with a fluent 44, while debutant Sediqullah Atal added a handy 22 off 16 deliveries.

Openers KL Rahul (35 off 21) and Faf du Plessis (23 off 15) had set a solid platform with a 55-run stand before falling in quick succession.

Rizvi, however, ensured the momentum never dipped, combining with wicketkeeper-batsman Tristan Stubbs (18\* off 12) in a composed finish that took Delhi over the line with three balls to spare.

Punjab's bowlers found the going

tough in the latter stages. Harpreet Brar was the pick of the lot with figures of 2 for 41, while Marco Jansen and Praveen Dubey managed one wicket each. But the attack lacked the bite to halt Rizvi's charge when it mattered most.

Earlier, after being put in to bat, Punjab posted a formidable 206 for eight. Skipper Shreyas Iyer held the innings together with a composed 53 off 34 balls, while Marcus Stoinis provided the fireworks at the death, smashing an unbeaten 44 from just 16 deliveries, laced with three boundaries and four sixes.

Punjab had a bumpy start with Priyansh Arya (6) falling early to Mustafizur Rahman (3/33). A rapid 32 off 12 from Josh Inglis and a lively 28 from Prabhsimran Singh helped Punjab recover to 60 for one at the end of the Powerplay.

Debutant Vipraj Nigam swung the momentum back Delhi's way with a double strike, dismissing both Inglis and Prabhsimran in quick succession. Kuldeep Yadav (2/39) then struck twice, removing Iyer and Azmatullah Omarzai, to further slow Punjab's advance. Despite the fall of wickets, Stoinis ensured a strong finish, aided by a brief cameo from Harpreet Brar (7 not out off 2 balls). Delhi's bowlers had mixed returns—while Mustafizur and Vipraj impressed with their control and breakthroughs, Mukesh Kumar (1/49) and Mohit Sharma (0/47) leaked runs at the death, allowing Punjab to breach the 200-run mark.

Osaka calls 5am doping test in Paris a 'scary wakeup call'

Paris, May 24 (UNI) : Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka has opened up about a "scary" early morning experience in Paris, where she was subjected to a surprise anti-doping test ahead of the French Open.

Addressing the media, the four-time Grand Slam champion recounted being woken up at 5am for the routine drug test, a process she described as physically uncomfortable and emotionally unsettling.

"I honestly don't know the rules about talking about anti-doping. Am I allowed to say whatever I want?" Osaka asked reporters, before sharing her discomfort. "They're kind of scary. For me, anti-

doping is like— I don't have a great relationship with them, just because they always come and take blood and urine... and my veins are notoriously hard to find." Osaka explained that testers often struggle to locate her veins,

resulting in multiple needle attempts. "They have three attempts to find it. Sometimes they can't. They're like, 'Oops, sorry, let me try this arm, let me try this arm.' I always have to tell them, 'Hey, my playing arm is my right arm, I prefer the left.'"

GT eye crucial win to secure top-two finish

Ahmedabad, May 24 (UNI) : Gujarat Titans (GT) face a crucial day-match against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in Match 67 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Sunday.

After a recent setback, Gujarat are under pressure to win this game to secure a top-two finish in the league stage, a position that provides an extra opportunity in the playoffs. Gujarat have already booked their place in the playoffs, sitting comfortably with 17 points from 13 matches. However, the recent loss to Lucknow Super Giants dented their bid to finish in the top two. Thanks to the concurrent defeat of Royal Challengers Bangalore, GT still holds the advantage—a win over Chennai will cement their spot among the top two.

GT's success this season has largely been powered by the consistent

form of their top-order batsmen. Sai Sudharsan and Shubman Gill have both amassed over 600 runs, making them the backbone of Gujarat's batting lineup. Both players have regularly contributed significant innings and are seen as smart bets to score 30-plus runs in this match. Jos Buttler's form too has been instrumental, providing stability at the top. The middle and lower order is bolstered by Sherfane Rutherford, who has scored 267 runs at an impressive strike rate of 161, and Shahrukh Khan, who showed his explosive potential with a quickfire 59 off 27 balls in the previous game. These players add depth and firepower, ensuring that Gujarat have multiple options to accelerate scoring.

On the bowling front, Gujarat have maintained tight control with a well-balanced attack. Fast bowlers Mohammed Siraj

and Prasidh Krishna have claimed a combined total of 36 wickets, while left-arm spinner Ravishrinivasan Sai Kishore has taken 16 wickets with an economy rate below nine runs per over. Rashid Khan and Kagiso Rabada, despite their pedigree, have experienced mixed success this season.

The Narendra Modi Stadium has witnessed some high-scoring matches in IPL 2025, with the average first innings score hovering around 178 runs. The highest chase at this venue remains Kolkata Knight Riders' 207-7 against Gujarat in 2023.

The pitch offers good bounce and pace for fast bowlers early on, while also assisting spinners as the game progresses. Batsmen can expect a solid surface conducive to stroke play, but scoring tends to slow in the latter half of innings.

Chennai enter the match with their worst IPL

campaign to date. With just 6 points from 13 outings and a poor net run rate, CSK is virtually assured of finishing at the bottom of the table. Despite the struggles, young talents such as Dewald Brevis and Ayush Mhatre have injected some optimism. Brevis has been particularly impressive, scoring 168 runs in just five matches at a strike rate exceeding 160, providing much-needed momentum in the middle order.

Senior player Shivam Dube has been the most consistent batsman for CSK, accumulating 340 runs with a healthy strike rate just under 130. However, the team's inability to close out games has been a significant factor behind their dismal performance.

CSK's bowling has lacked penetration, with only Noor Ahmad and Khaleel Ahmed showing reasonable effectiveness. Noor Ahmad's 21 wickets at

an economy of 8.41 and Khaleel's 14 wickets are commendable in an otherwise underperforming attack. Spin veterans Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja have struggled to contain runs or take crucial wickets, while fast bowler Matheesha Pathirana has leaked runs despite taking wickets.

The toss is expected to be pivotal, with teams opting to bat first enjoying an advantage in five out of six IPL games at this venue in 2025. Given the pitch and weather conditions — hot and dry with no rain forecast — captains are likely to choose to bat first and set a challenging target. With Gujarat Titans firmly placed as favourites, the match offers a decisive opportunity for them to consolidate their status as title contenders. Chennai, on the other hand, look to end their campaign on a positive note and build experience for future seasons.

to enjoy this every day. Everything that's happened since my return home has been amazing and we are looking to the future with a lot of excitement," said Ruiz de Galarreta on the club website on Friday.

Ruiz de Galarreta signs new two-year deal with Athletic Bilbao

Madrid, May 24 (UNI) : Athletic Bilbao has extended the contract of midfielder Inigo Ruiz de Galarreta for two years until the end of June 2027.

The club has insured the future of a player who has been vital in its

conquest of the 2024 Copa del Rey and its fourth-place finish in La Liga this season.

Thirty-one-year-old Ruiz de Galarreta began his career in the Athletic youth system and made his first team debut in

2011, before leaving the club and playing for Mirandes, Zaragoza, FC Barcelona, Las Palmas and Mallorca and returning in the summer of 2023.

He has made 74 appearances in the past two years, with 39 in the

current season, as Athletic also reached the semifinals of the Europa League, offering balance and vision in central midfield.

"I am very happy to be able to continue my dream for another two years and



# Ministry of Railways Approves New Rail Line Between Rahuri and Shani Shingnapur

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, May 24 : The Ministry of Railways has given its approval for the construction of a new rail line connecting Rahuri to Shani Shingnapur in Maharashtra. The 21.84 km line will be developed at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 494.13 crore."

Shani Shingnapur, a prominent religious destination that draws between 30,000 to 45,000 devotees daily, currently

lacks direct rail connectivity.

The proposed line will greatly enhance access to this spiritual hub and facilitate smoother movement of pilgrims and tourists, especially from Rahuri and nearby regions.

The rail line is also expected to benefit other religious and tourist sites such as Shirdi, Rahu-Ketu Temple (Rahuri), Mohini Raj Temple (Nevasa), and Pais Khamb Karaveeressar

Temple (Nevasa), thereby boosting local tourism and economy.

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) proposes four pairs of passenger trains per day, with an estimated annual ridership of 18 lakh passengers.

This development marks a significant milestone in improving infrastructure and connectivity to one of India's most visited spiritual centers.

# NCC Annual Training Camp by Telangana Artillery Battery at MANUU

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Hyderabad, May 24 : The Telangana Artillery Battery NCC Unit, under Hyderabad Group, is commencing its Annual Training Camp (ATC) at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Gachibowli, Hyderabad, from 26th May to 4th June 2025. This intensive 10-day camp is being conducted under the dynamic supervision of Camp Commandant Col. Ravindra Rao.

Approximately 600 NCC cadets, both boys and girls from various educational institutions, will participate in the camp. They will be guided and trained by a team of 10 Army PI Staff and 10 Associate NCC Officers (ANOs).

The camp is being organized with the wholehearted support of Padma Shri Prof. Syed Ainal Hasan, Vice-Chancellor and Prof. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Registrar, who have ensured all necessary facilities including accommodation, mess, water, and medical support for the cadets.

The cadets will be undergoing rigorous training in drill, physical fitness, map reading, weapon training (without arms), first aid, disaster management, and basic field craft. Sessions on leadership development, personality grooming, and social service are also being conducted to promote the NCC motto – "Unity and Discipline."

This camp also aims to inculcate patriotism, self-confidence, discipline, and team spirit among the cadets, preparing them for future leadership roles and encouraging them to contribute positively to society.

The NCC Annual Training Camp is not just a platform for military training, but a step towards nation-building through youth empowerment.

# Pakistani intruder shot dead by BSF

Palanpur (Gujarat), May 24 (UNI) : A Pakistani intruder was shot dead by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, police said on Saturday.

Alert troops spotted a suspicious person crossing the International Border (IB) in Banaskantha district on Friday night, the Border Security Force (BSF) said.

The soldiers warned him, but ignoring the army's warning, the suspect continued to move forward.

The intruder was fired upon by BSF personnel and he was killed.

# Introduction of Sabarmati - Veraval Vande Bharat Express : Western Railway

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, May 24 : Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi will be flagging off the inaugural train services of the new Vande Bharat Express as well Valsad – Dahod Express Train through video conferencing from Dahod, Gujarat on 26th May, 2025

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, Train No. 26901 Sabarmati – Veraval Vande Bharat Express will commence from 27th May, 2025. This train will depart from Sabarmati at 05:25 hrs and will reach Veraval at 12:25 hrs, the same day and will run all days except Thursday. Similarly, Train No. 26902 Veraval – Sabarmati Vande Bharat Express will commence from 27th May, 2025. This train

will depart from Veraval at 14:40 hrs and will reach Sabarmati at 21:35 hrs, the same day and will run all days except Thursday.

Enroute, the train will halt at Viramgam, Surendranagar, Wankaner, Rajkot & Junagadh stations in both directions. This train comprises of AC Chair Car and Executive Chair Car.

Western Railway will also be introducing a new Daily Express between Valsad and Dahod with a view to fulfill the demand of people from both these areas.

Train No. 09011 Valsad – Dahod Superfast Special (Inaugural Run)

Train No. 09011 Valsad – Dahod Superfast Special will depart on 26th May, 2025 from Valsad at 11:30 hrs to reach Dahod at 17:25 hrs, the same day. Enroute the above train will halt at Bilimora, Navsari, Surat,

Ankleshwar, Bharuch, Miyagam Karjan, Vadodara, Samlaya, Derol, Godhra, Piplod and Limkheda stations in both the directions.

The train comprises of AC Chair Car, Second Class Sitting and General Second Class coaches

Train No. 19011/19012 Valsad – Dahod Express (Regular Run)

Train No. 19011/ 19012 Valsad – Dahod Express will commence its regular run from 27th May, 2025. This train will depart from Valsad at 05:15 hrs and reach Dahod at 11:05 hrs, the same day. Similarly, Train No. 19012 Dahod - Valsad Express will commence its regular run from 27th May, 2025. This train will depart from Dahod at 11:55 hrs and reach Valsad at 20:05 hrs, the same day.

Enroute the above

trains will halt at Bilimora, Navsari, Surat, Ankleshwar, Bharuch, Miyagam Karjan, Vadodara, Samlaya, Derol, Godhra, Piplod and Limkheda stations in both the directions.

The train comprises of AC Chair Car, Second Class Sitting and General Second Class coaches

Booking for Train Nos. 26901/26902 will open from 25th May, 2025 at PRS counters and IRCTC website. Similarly, the booking of the inaugural run of Train No. 09011 as well as the booking of regular runs of Train No. 19011 /19012 will open from 25th May, 2025 at PRS counters and on IRCTC website.

For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

# Ministry of Railways Approves New Chord Line Project Between Panvel-Somtane and Panvel-Chikhli

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, May 24 : In a major development aimed at augmenting rail capacity and streamlining operations in the Mumbai region, the Ministry of Railways has approved the proposal for construction of Panvel Chord lines between Panvel–Somtane and Panvel–Chikhli, covering a total length of 7.54 km. The project, sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 444.64 crore, will be undertaken by Central Railway."

Panvel, a crucial terminal on the Harbour Line of the Mumbai Suburban Railway, functions as a vital junction for multiple directions northbound to Diva,

southbound to Roha, westbound to JNPT, and eastbound to Karjat. Currently, the absence of grade-separated crossings causes operational delays due to engine reversals

To address these challenges, two chord lines have been proposed and now sanctioned:

- A chord line on the JNPT–Karjat corridor via the Diva–Panvel line flyover.
- A second chord line between Kaldunrigaon cabin and Somtane station.

These new links are expected to significantly enhance line capacity and reduce congestion, enabling smoother and faster movement of both passenger and freight trains.

# IRCTC international tours packages from Mumbai



**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, May 24 : 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](http://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.

# Undertrial who fled from hospital arrested by police

Phagwara, May 24 (UNI) :An undertrial facing more than five criminal cases of lootings, who fled after pushing the jail staff at Kapurthala civil hospital during his medical examination four days ago, was today arrested by local police.His arrest by confirmed by SSP Gaurav Toora.

Police identified the accused as Gurpreet Sing resident

of Kartarpur.Police said the jail staff had brought four inmates for medical examination from where the accused fled with his hand cuffs after pushing the jail staff.Police said the accused went to a religious place in Himachal Pradesh and when he spent all the money in his pocket he came back to Kapurthala and police arrested him near village Fattundhinga.

# Public Toilets at Thane Railway Station Vandalized by Anti-Social Elements : CR

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, May 24 :Public toilet facilities at Thane Railway Station were vandalized by anti-social elements during the night of 23rd May 2025. Toilets across multiple platforms were found severely damaged and choked, causing significant inconvenience to passengers and resulting in damage to railway property.

The locations affected are as follows:

- Toilet Locations:
1. Platform No. 1 (Kalyan end) – Broken and choked
  2. Platform No. 2 (Middle) – Broken and choked
  3. Platform No. 2 (Kalyan end) – Broken and choked
  4. Platform No. 10A (Middle) – Broken and choked
  5. Platform No. 10A – Broken and choked

Restoration work is underway, and the damaged public toilets are being repaired/replaced. The facilities will be restored for public use at the earliest.

Central Railway



appeals to all passengers and members of the public to refrain from such acts

of vandalism and help safeguard railway property. If anyone knows

the culprits, may kindly inform the railway authority/RPF at Thane.

# BJP govt snatching rights of employees: Akhilesh

Lucknow, May 24 (UNI) : Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led UP government of being "anti-teacher, anti-employee, anti-youth and snatching away the rights of employees".

In a statement, Akhilesh said, "In the arrogance of power, the BJP government is insulting employees and teachers. It is hell-bent on selling everything by privatising the

departments. It is threatening to dismiss employees and officers who are protesting in a democratic way."

He said, "The BJP government cannot give jobs to anyone, it wants to snatch away even those who already have jobs. It broadcast false news of 1.93 lakh teacher recruitment in basic education, later it was removed. The BJP has cheated lakhs of youth. This is a deceitful

government, it has cheated every section. The government and the Chief Minister are constantly insulting employees and teachers."

The SP chief said that it seems that the entire government has become blind in the arrogance of power.

"The attitude of the BJP government and the CM towards teachers is extremely negative. In reality, the BJP is not related to anyone. The real

face of the BJP, which made big promises during elections, is now in front of everyone," he said.

He said that the BJP is snatching away the rights of every section. "It can go to any extent to suppress the voice of employees, teachers, youth and farmers. Every section is suffering from this government. In the 2027 assembly elections, the entire state will unite and put an end to the arrogant rule of the BJP," he claimed.

# ICG and Haldia Dock Complex conduct marine pollution response workshop

New Delhi, May 24 (UNI) : The Indian Coast Guard (ICG), in collaboration with Haldia Dock Complex (HDC), organised a two-day marine pollution response seminar and workshop.

Held in Haldia from May 21–22 , the event aimed at enhancing preparedness, coordination, and rapid response capability among key stakeholders in managing oil spill incidents along the West Bengal coast, an official statement said on Saturday.

The seminar, inaugurated by the ICG Commander (West Bengal) featured expert presentations by domain

specialists from the ICG and HDC at the Coast Guard Pollution Response Cell. A practical demonstration of pollution response equipment was held at the HDC, giving participants a hands-on understanding of the capabilities of state-of-the-art pollution response systems.

Stakeholders from across the maritime and petrochemical sectors including Kolkata Port Trust, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd Haldia Refinery, Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Reliance Haldia Terminals and others actively participated.