

IN BRIEF

Burglary case detected within four hours

Kakinada, May 24 (UNI) : The Kakinada Two town police solved a burglary case within four hours and recovered the stolen property.

V Mani, a government employee filed a complaint that she went to office locking the doors at 1030am on Friday and on her return in the evening she found that the lock was broken open and the gold jewellery weighing 22 sovereigns and other silver articles from almirah were stolen.

Two town inspector Appala Naidu along with a team reached the spot and based on the clues arrested the accused and recovered the stolen property intact.The SP Bindu Madhav complimented Appala Naidu for the speedy detection and recovery of the property.

CPI seeks AP CM intervention to bring two Maoist bodies to their native place in Srikakulam.

Vijayawada, May 24 (UNI) : CPI National Council Secretary K Narayana on Saturday urged the Andhra Pradesh government to intervene to bring the two Maoists' bodies from Chhattisgarh to their native place in Srikakulam district.

In his letter to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Narayana requested him to intervene and see that the bodies of Nambala Kesava Rao & Sajja Nageswara Rao, who were killed at Bastar in Chhattisgarh, be brought to their native place, Tekali, Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh.

The two senior Maoist leaders from Andhra Pradesh were killed in the recent encounter in Chhattisgarh.

The 70-year-old Kesava Rao, alias Basavaraj, was the General Secretary of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist).

The 60-year-old Nageswara Rao alias Yesanna, a key figure who headed the maoist journal 'Jung', was serving as a Special Zonal committee Member (SZCM) of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal committee (DKSZC).

Chandrababu Naidu suggests formation of three sub-groups for nation's growth



New Delhi, May 24 (UNI) : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday suggested formation of three sub-groups on GDP growth, population management and Artificial Intelligence for boosting investment, leveraging demographic advantage and technology-driven governance with the help of AI.Mr Naidu who was here to attend the 10th NITI

Aayog Governing Council meeting, said the sub-groups would work in collaboration with the Centre and NITI Aayog.

The first sub-group on GDP growth would aim at boosting investment, manufacturing, exports and job creation, the second sub-group would help India leverage its demographic advantage while preparing for future challenges and the

third would focus on technology-driven governance using AI.

Earlier he paid tributes to the victims of the Pahalgam terrorist massacre and lauded Operation Sindoor.

He lauded the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that having the 'right leader at the right time' has been crucial in steering the nation towards its ambitious goals.

CM, Naidu proposes formation of 3 sub-groups for GDP growth,

Vijayawada/New Delhi, May 24 (UNI) Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu reiterated his commitment to contributing significantly to the national aspiration of Viksit Bharat @2047—a \$30 trillion economy marked by high-quality infrastructure, equitable development, and empowered citizens, and proposed the formation of 3 sub-groups for GDP growth.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu participated in the 10th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Saturday.

Speaking at the meeting, Chandrababu Naidu asserted that AP is committed to contributing significantly to the national aspiration of Viksit Bharat @2047—a \$30 trillion economy marked by high-quality infrastructure, equitable development, and empowered citizens. He acknowledged transformative reforms like Digital India, GST, Startup India, PM Gati Shakti, and Jal Jeevan Mission, which have redefined India's development landscape.

The Chief Minister proposed forming three focused sub-groups of

States, in collaboration with the Union Government and NITI Aayog, to fast-track progress toward Viksit Bharat @2047. The first sub-group on GDP growth aims to boost investments, manufacturing, exports, and job creation, supported by central Viability Gap Funding for PPP projects.

The second sub-group on population management will help India leverage its demographic advantage while preparing for future challenges like ageing and low fertility. The third sub-group will focus on technology-driven governance, utilizing AI, quantum computing, drones, and digital platforms for real-time, citizen-centric administration.

Rooted in family-centric governance, innovation, digital infrastructure, and sustainability, the Swarna Andhra @2047 vision offers a scalable, inclusive model for national development. As India approaches its centenary of independence, the Chief Minister reaffirmed Andhra Pradesh's commitment to lead by example, showcasing how states can drive national transformation through strong, coordinated leadership at both state and union levels.

Visakhapatnam Port Authority facilitates study tour for IAS trainee officers

(Standard Post Bureau) Visakhapatnam, May 24 : As part of the 127 Induction Training Programme for officers promoted from State Civil Services to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA)

organised a launch drive and exposure visit here on Saturday for the trainee officers who visited the city.During their visit, the Heads of the Departments of Visakhapatnam Port Authority briefed them about the Port infrastructural facilities,

cargo operations, existing projects, cargo achievement, prospective plan of VPA in achieving 90 MMT, said the port Secretary T. Venu Gopal in a release here.

They were taken on a guided launch drive within the port water limits to

provide firsthand exposure to the port's Maritime Operations.

Senior officials of VPA briefed the officers on the port's robust infrastructure, operational facilities, and strategic importance in supporting maritime trade and

logistics.

The visit formed part of the broader objective to familiarise the newly inducted IAS officers with Major National Infrastructure Projects and operational frameworks critical to governance and economic development.

TTD adopting tech advancements for devotee services

(Standard Post Bureau) Tirumala, May 24: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), managing the world famous Venkateswara Swamy temple, is implementing more transparent and efficient technological services with a noble intention to provide enhanced services to the devotees, said TTD Executive Officer J. Syamala Rao.

Addressing media after Dial your EO at Annamaiah Bhavan here on Saturday, Rao said under the instructions of the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, several Technological reforms were introduced by TTD in the recent times and these tech upgrades includes the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Facility Monitoring Systems, WhatsApp Governance, Aadhaar integration, kiosk-based services, and a partnership with Google

to enhance transparency and efficiency.

A WhatsApp-based feedback system has also been introduced to collect real-time suggestions from devotees, he maintained.

The other points he briefed the media on included old accommodation facilities to be modernised and reconstructed, and quality control labs that were established to ensure high food standards.

Elaborating further, he said, the Srivari Seva voluntary system will be refined soon, and as a part of it Group Leader (Group Supervisor) system is being introduced to improve the efficiency of volunteer services.

Plans are in place to involve professionals from various sectors to enhance Seva quality, he informed.

TTD is also

contemplating inviting NRI devotees to participate in Srivari Seva, and new initiatives like "Go Seva" (cow service) are also underway, he said.

The sacred Tirunamam service has been reintroduced at 18 locations in Tirumala.

The town planning department has also been established as part of the TTD Master Plan, however in the first phase, development work will be undertaken at temples in locations such as Tiruchanoor, Amaravati, and Vontimitta, said the EO.

Out of 45 rest houses in Tirumala, 42 have been renamed with spiritually significant names so far, he said, adding that a complete overhaul in its services, including darshan, accommodation, and prasadam distribution, has been implemented in the last 11 months in the larger

interests of the devotees.

An action plan is also underway to increase the Forest cover in Tirumala from the existing 68 to 80 per cent, he said.

Following a decision made in 2014, TTD is planning to construct temples in the remaining states and union territories of India, and as a part of the policy implementation, 29 non-Hindu employees in TTD, the board has resolved to give voluntary retirement, he said.

Renowned agencies will manage major canteens and the Janata canteens to improve food quality, he added.

He mentioned that extensive facilities have been arranged at Tirumala and local temples to accommodate the summer crowd.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Additional EO Ch.Venkaiah Chowdary and other officials also participated in the programme.



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.

(See on page 2)

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.

(See on page 5)

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".

(See on page 8)

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.

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 Dhani 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. Dhani stated that before publishing any image related to the Sikh religion, the state government should have consulted the SGPC.

Advocate Dhani 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.

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.

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 fooled 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.

CM Fadnavis receives goodwill visit from new Chief Justice Gavai

New Delhi, May 24 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday received a goodwill visit from the country's new Chief Justice of Supreme Court, Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, in New Delhi.

During this visit, Fadnavis warmly congratulated Chief Justice Gavai and wished him well.

He mentioned that Maharashtra is proud to have been given the honour of the post of Chief Justice once again.

During this visit, Fadnavis invited Justice Gavai to attend the all-party felicitation ceremony in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and to deliver a lecture on the Indian Constitution.

Opposition YSRCP to observe June 4 as 'betrayal day' in protest against Chandrababu govt

Vizianagaram, May 24 (UNI) YSRCP will observe June 4 as ‘Betrayal Day’ to highlight the "failure" of the Chandrababu Naidu-headed government in implementing all the promises it has assured the people.

Speaking to media here on Saturday, Party leader in the Legislative Council Botsa Satyanarayana said the "inefficiency" of the Naidu headed government has been questioned by ex-Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy.

“The YSRCP will observe June 4 as ‘Betrayal Day’ as not a single promise has been implemented by Chandrababu Naidu headed government during his one year tenure, besides false cases are being foisted on party workers and social media activists and the fabricated case of liquor scam has been pointedly questioned by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for which there has been no response,” Botsa Satyanarayana slammed. The YSRCP leader also faulted Chandrababu Naidu for "not being able to give a reply to even a single issue" raised by former

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and demanded that a calendar should be released on the implementation of poll promises.

“All sections of people are unhappy with the coalition government and even NREGA dues are not cleared and there are no signs of the government coming to the rescue of farmers in distress. The coalition partners have been resorting to personal attacks as they have no evidence,” Satyanarayana lashed out.

“The governance has been a failure as in one year not a single poll promise has been implemented and the law and order situation has deteriorated.

The government could not clear dues to workers under NREGA to a tune of Rs 800 crore despite procuring a whopping Rs 1.40 lakh crore loan,” the former Minister criticised.

Farmers are in distress as they did not get MSP for paddy, tobacco, mirchi and other horticulture produce while prime land in Visakhapatnam has been given away to favoured industrialists at throwaway prices, he alleged.



Medics prepare a ward for COVID-19 patients at Gandhi Hospital in the wake of several states reporting Covid cases, in Hyderabad on Saturday.

SC upholds arrest of K. Rajasekhara Reddy in Rs 3,200 cr AP liquor scam

New Delhi, May 24 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the arrest of K. Rajasekhara Reddy, former IT advisor to ex-Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy, in the alleged ₹3,200 crore liquor scam in the state. A bench comprising justices JB Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan ruled that Reddy’s arrest was carried out in line with constitutional provisions and did not infringe upon Article 22 or the procedural safeguards under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

“Authorities are not required to furnish exhaustive details of the offence at the time of arrest. What’s essential is that the

information must be adequate for the arrested individual to grasp the nature of the accusation,” the bench observed while rejecting the appeal.

“We find no substance in the petition. The appeal stands dismissed.”

Reddy was taken into custody in April 2025 at Hyderabad airport by the Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. According to the remand order, he was a central figure in an extensive kickback-linked liquor trade operation in the state.

Challenging his detention, Reddy had

approached the Andhra Pradesh High Court through a habeas corpus petition. The High Court, however, upheld the arrest on May 8, affirming that due process had been followed. This led to the present appeal before the Supreme Court.

Appearing for Reddy, senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani argued that the arrest was orchestrated with malice. He noted that Reddy’s name was not mentioned in the original FIR and was inserted later through a case diary entry, just two days before the arrest.

He further contended that Reddy had willingly agreed to appear before the CID, under the impression

that he was being called only as a witness under Section 179 of the BNSS.

Jethmalani also alleged that the arrest grounds lacked specificity and failed to meet the standards laid out in Article 22 and Section 47 of the BNSS. Additionally, he contested the invocation of the Prevention of Corruption Act, pointing out the absence of a valid sanction under Section 17A in Reddy’s case.

Countering the claims, senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, representing the State, defended the arrest procedure, asserting that Reddy was given detailed reasons for his arrest both at the time of his detention and during the remand

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy seeks 800 more EV buses

New Delhi/Hyderabad, May 24 (UNI) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has requested Union Heavy Industries Minister HD Kumaraswamy to allocate an additional 800 electric buses (EVs) to Hyderabad under the PM-E Drive scheme. The request comes in light of the growing public transport needs of the city.

In a meeting held in Delhi on Saturday, CM Revanth Reddy highlighted that 2,000 EV buses had already been sanctioned for Hyderabad. However, considering the increasing urban demand, he urged the Centre to extend the allocation by 800 more buses.

The Chief Minister also proposed adopting a hybrid Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model to ensure that Telangana RTC drivers and mechanics are involved in operating and maintaining these buses, thus preserving local employment.

Revanth Reddy further pointed out the successful retrofitting of a diesel RTC bus in Hyderabad, which is already running on electric power.

from Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana, stating that, unlike in that case, Reddy had been properly informed of the grounds of arrest and served the remand report in a timely manner.

While reaffirming that informing an arrested person of the reasons for their detention is a constitutional imperative under Article 22(1), the court held that this obligation had been met in the present case.

Though the appeal was dismissed, the court clarified that Reddy retains the right to apply for regular bail and directed that any such bail plea pending before the lower courts be considered without undue delay.

hearing. He emphasised that all procedural safeguards, including the production before a magistrate within 24 hours, had been observed.

After reviewing the submissions, the top court endorsed the High Court’s view, stating that the reasons provided for the arrest were sufficient and not superficial.

“On examining the grounds of arrest handed over to the appellant’s son at the time of the arrest, we do not find them to be vague or cosmetic.

They were meaningful and provided a clear basis for the arrest,” the court noted.

The judgment distinguished the matter

TTD prepares action plan for NRIs to participate in Srivari Seva

Tirumala, May 24 (UNI) : Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Executive Officer J. Syamala Rao has prepared an action plan to develop 'Srivari Seva' overseas also as per the instructions of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Rao, who conducted a virtual meeting with NRIs hailing from 14 countries here on Saturday, said that Srivari Sevaks from several states across the country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari have been providing excellent services to the devotees voluntarily and soon NRIs (Non-resident Indians) who are experts in various fields from all over the world are welcome to provide similar selfless services to the visiting pilgrims in Tirumala and Tirupati.

He said today Srivari Sevaks apart from providing services in various departments of TTD at Tirumala and in Tirupati are also taking part in various dharmic activities of TTD, including Srinivasa Kalyanam, Sri Venkateswara Vaidhavyotsavam, organised at different parts

of the country.

With an aim to extend the quality of Srivari Seva, in the recent times several reforms have been brought while a few others are underway, he informed.

TTD is also contemplating the introduction of Professional seva in Srivari Seva in the departments of medicine, IT, engineering, planning, water management, food technology, architecture and town planning, he said.

Even the NRIs are coming forward to offer their expertise in the respective fields on a voluntary basis, he said.

Rao had earlier said the Srivari Seva voluntary system will be refined soon, and as a part of it Group Leader (Group Supervisor) system is being introduced to improve the efficiency of volunteer services.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Zoheb Yousuf Shaik S/O Shaik Yousuf, R/o 8-2-603/B/34/33, Road No-10, Singada Basti, Banjaras Hills, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh- 500034, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Shaik Zoheb.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Pallam Gangappa S/O Pallam Gangaiah, R/o 4-47, Mathuvarepalli, Harijanwada, Nadigadda, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh- 577123, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Pallam Gangaiah.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mohd Sultan Salahuddin S/O Mohammed Allauddin, R/o 18-2,43/3/149, Chandrayan Gulta, G.M Colony, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh- 500005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Mohammed Sultan Salahuddin.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Koparthi Sai Ram Kumar Reddi aila Koparthi Sairam alias Koparthi Sairam Reddy S/O Chinna Rama Krishna Reddy Koparthi, R/o 42/237-1, Ngocolony, Kadapa, Cuddapah, Y.S.R, Andhra Pradesh- 516001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Koparthi Sairam.

Andhra Cricket Assn to construct sports ground in every constituency: ACA president

Kurnool, May 24 (UNI) Vijayawada MP and Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) president Keshineni Shivanath has highlighted the commitment of the ACA to construct a sports ground in every constituency. The MP, accompanied by Minister TG Bharath, Kurnool MP B Nagaraju and Collector P

Ranjit Basha, inspected the cricket ground at Munagalapadu village near here on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, MP and ACA President Shivanath said that in the coming days, Andhra Pradesh would become a hub for sports under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu

Naidu. Andhra Cricket Association is working towards developing and making available grounds in every constituency to explore the talent of the State's sportspersons, Sivanath revealed. MP Kesineni Shivanath said that with the cooperation of Minister TG Bharath and Kurnool MP Bastipati

Nagaraju, the cricket ground in Munagala Padu would be developed and made available soon.

“If this cricket ground is developed, Kurnool will acquire a new art. Due to lack of infrastructure, the youth are not focusing on sports and the goal of the NDA coalition government is to encourage the youth

towards sports,” the ACA president reiterated. Andhra Cricket Association Treasurer Dandamudi Srinivas, Kurnool District Cricket Association President Govinda Reddy and Kurnool District Cricket Association Secretary Ramesh were among those who accompanied the ACA President.

Southwest Monsoon arrives early over Kerala; further advancement expected across India

Amaravati, May 24 (UNI) The Southwest Monsoon made an early onset over Kerala on Saturday, nearly a week ahead of its normal arrival date of June 1.

The monsoon has further advanced into remaining parts of the south Arabian Sea, parts of Westcentral and East Central Arabian Sea, the entire Lakshadweep area, Kerala, Mahe, some parts of Karnataka, remaining parts of the Maldives, Comorin area, many parts of Tamil Nadu, remaining parts of southwest and east central Bay of Bengal, parts of West central and north Bay of Bengal, and some parts of Mizoram, Meteorological Centre said.

In a daily weather report here, it said that the meteorological conditions remain favourable for the monsoon to progress further over the next 2-3 days.

The advance is expected to cover more parts of central Arabian Sea, the entire state of Goa, some parts of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, additional areas of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and further regions in the Westcentral and North Bay of Bengal.

The monsoon will also extend into some northeastern states and parts of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim. Additionally, a low-pressure area is forecast to develop over the Westcentral and adjoining North Bay of Bengal around May 27, which may influence further monsoon activity.

The early onset of the Southwest Monsoon is welcomed by farmers and residents, signalling the start of the crucial rainy season that supports agriculture and water resources across the country, the report added.

TPCC President, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar lash out at KTR over baseless allegations

Hyderabad, May 24 (UNI) : Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud launched a sharp counterattack on BRS Working President KTRama Rao (KTR), accusing him of making baseless allegations against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

Talking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan here on Saturday, Goud said, “It's as if KTR has been possessed by the ghost of power,” Goud said, adding, “Even Kavitha indirectly suggested that the ghost haunting KCR has now taken over KTR.”

He claimed that KTR has gone “crazy” over Kavitha’s letter and is reacting with rage after notices were issued to KCR and Harish Rao in connection with the Kaleshwaram scam.

Goud mocked KTR’s stance on corruption, stating, “When KTR talks about corruption, it

sounds like he’s reciting Vedas while possessed by a ghost.” He predicted a split within the BRS, saying, “In the three-piece fight of BRS, one piece — Kavitha — is sure to separate.” He further alleged that the BRS and BJP were working hand in glove, citing recent gestures of sympathy and praise for KCR by BJP leaders. “What more proof do we need of the BJP-BRS alliance?” Goud questioned. “People know who held whose feet during the past ten years to shield family members from corruption cases.”

Referring to the National Herald case, Goud dismissed it as a politically motivated move by the BJP. “How is it corruption if a party funds its own newspaper?” he asked, contrasting it with alleged massive scams in Kaleshwaram, Medigadda, and other deals under the previous BRS government.

Joining the criticism, Telangana BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar questioned KTR’s silence n explosive statements made by his sister Kavitha.

“Before KTR questions the Congress, he should respond to Kavitha’s claim that ‘KCR God has gathered demons around him.’ Who are those demons?” he asked. Ponnamp also raised doubts over whether Kavitha’s press meetings and letters were deliberately leaked.

“Was it KTR who asked Kavitha to resurface in the media? These are questions KTR must answer before pointing fingers at the Congress,” he said. Both leaders made it clear that the Congress would not entertain baseless accusations and challenged KTR to answer internal questions plaguing his own party before attacking others.

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

platelets."

Dr. Aparna further added, "After nearly a month of intensive treatment, both babies recovered well. Their infections were brought under control, they are now able to breastfeed, and their weight has increased to nearly 2 kilograms. Despite all the complications, both babies are doing fine now. Retinal screening, hearing tests, and neurosonograms (brain scans) showed normal results, which means there is no risk to their long-term development. We brought them to Hyderabad on the 25th day after birth."

The team of Dr. Rajashekar, ICATT team, Dr. Vamsi, Dr. Aravind, Dr. Praneetha, along with nurse Sunitha and her team, took great care of the twins throughout their stay.

While air transfers like this are financially viable only for a few, they offer tremendous clinical advantages in critical cases like these access to advanced infrastructure, experienced specialists, and immediate intensive care. Dr. Aparna praised the combined efforts of NICU specialists, doctors, nurses, drivers, housekeeping staff everyone who played a vital role in saving the twins' lives.

After successful recovery, the babies have been discharged and sent back to their home state.

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 Lakhota, 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 Szijarto 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 teach 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 the 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 Hdyderabad 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 Karaveerwar

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.

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. "

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.