

IN BRIEF

Dy CM to chair key meeting on employees' Issues on May 29

Hyderabad, May 27 (UNI) : In a proactive step to resolve issues faced by state government employees, a high-level committee appointed by the Telangana government has briefed Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on various employee grievances and union demands.

The committee—comprising CCLA Secretary Naveen Mittal, Panchayat Raj Secretary Lokesh Kumar, and TRANSCO CMD Krishna Bhaskar—recently held discussions with leaders of various employee unions. The committee gathered representations outlining their concerns and suggestions.

On Tuesday, the committee met Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka at Praja Bhavan and presented a comprehensive overview of the issues raised by the unions.

The Deputy CM, who also serves as the Chairman of the Sub-Committee for Employee Issues, announced that a sub-committee meeting will be held on May 29 to deliberate on the concerns and explore solutions.

He directed the officials' committee to submit detailed reports on the issues along with proposed resolutions at the upcoming meeting, emphasising the government's commitment to addressing employee welfare in a structured and timely manner, an official statement said.

Heavy rain likely in North Coastal AP, Yanam in next 72 hrs: Met

Hyderabad, May 27 (UNI) : Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam during the next 72 hours, the Meteorological Centre said on Tuesday.

In a daily weather report here, it said that the same situation is likely to prevail in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh on May 28, 29 and in Rayalaseema on May 28.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds speed ranging from 40-50 kmph is likely to occur at Isolated places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema during the next five days.



Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi during a meeting with DUSU students in New Delhi. Gandhi alleged that qualified SC/ST/OBC candidates are being deliberately disqualified and kept away from leadership roles.

CM urges collectors to play key role in implementing govt's flagship programmes

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, May 27 : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday emphasised the pivotal role of district collectors in effectively implementing the government's priority programmes.

Chairing a video conference with ministers, top officials, and all district collectors from the Command Control Centre here in evening, the CM and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu along with Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, and Chief Secretary K Rama Krishna Rao, reviewed the progress of several initiatives including Indiramma Housing, Bhu Bharati, paddy procurement and agriculture-related

issues, an official statement said. Commending the administration, CM Reddy congratulated officials for surpassing the previous year's paddy procurement by purchasing approximately 22 lakh metric tons more within a short timeframe. He stated that payments for the procured grain were completed within 48 hours—an unprecedented move in the state's history. Over 64 lakh metric tons of paddy have been procured from 10.5 lakh farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), reflecting the government's commitment to farmers' welfare. While the majority of farmers expressed satisfaction, the CM acknowledged that some faced difficulties due to the early onset of the monsoon, which caused harvested paddy to get wet at procurement points. The Chief Minister directed

collectors to counter misinformation about paddy procurement and ensure that accurate data is shared with the public. He instructed that grain procurement figures from the past three years be circulated regularly and that rice mills be monitored to prevent any exploitation of farmers. He proposed compensation of Rs 10,000 per acre for farmers whose crops were damaged by unseasonal rains and emphasised the importance of adapting agricultural strategies in response to early rainfall.

The CM warned that strict action would be taken against hoarding or the sale of fake seeds and fertilisers, including invoking the PD Act. Regarding the Bhu Bharati initiative, CM Reddy noted that four pilot mandals have been selected, followed by one pilot

mandal in each district. He ordered revenue conferences to be held across all mandals from June 3 to June 20 and stressed the importance of resolving public land issues during these meetings.

The CM criticised the Dharani system introduced by the previous government and said Bhu Bharati would serve as a more transparent and people-friendly alternative. In the review of the Indiramma Housing Scheme, the CM directed collectors to closely monitor its implementation. He asked for price control committees to be formed at the mandal level to regulate masonry and construction material charges and ensure the poor are not exploited. Beneficiaries should be issued tokens promptly, and free sand should be provided without encouraging illegal sand mining.

India will weed out terrorism with conviction: PM Modi

Gandhinagar, May 27 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India has made up its mind to weed out the thorn of terrorism and pursue it with full conviction.

Recalling the first terrorist attack on India in 1947, right after the Partition of India into 3 parts, Modi said one part was usurped by Pakistan harboring the terrorists, an official statement said.

He recalled Sardar Patel's vision, emphasising that the Indian Army should not have halted until Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) was reclaimed. However Patel's advice was not heeded.

Modi stressed that this legacy of terrorism has continued for the last 75 years and the terror attacks in Pahalgam was another horrific form of it. He

asserted that despite playing diplomatic games, Pakistan repeatedly faced India's military strength in war. He noted that on three occasions, India's armed forces decisively defeated Pakistan, making it clear that Pakistan could not win a direct military conflict. Acknowledging Pakistan's realisation of its limitations, he stated that the neighboring country resorted to proxy warfare.

The Prime Minister said that trained terrorists were infiltrated into India through systematic military training, aiming to target innocent and unarmed civilians, including those undertaking peaceful pilgrimages. Highlighting India's deep-rooted cultural values, emphasizing the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which regards the entire world as

BRS to celebrate Telangana formation Day on June 2 : KTR

Hyderabad, May 27 (UNI) : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K T Rama Rao (KTR) has called for grand celebrations on the occasion of Telangana State Formation Day on June 2.

The main event will be held at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad, where the national flag and the party flag will be hoisted, a party statement said on Tuesday.

KTR urged senior party leaders, cadres, and all ranks of the BRS to actively participate in the celebrations and commemorate the formation of Telangana state, which was achieved under the leadership of BRS Chief and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) after a 14-year-long movement.

The celebrations will begin with the hoisting of the national flag and the party flag at Telangana Bhavan, with founding members of the party and the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, Madhusudhana Chary, expected to participate.

KTR directed that the national and BRS party flags be hoisted in all district party offices, constituencies, municipalities, towns, and mandals across the state.

He requested that these events be held in coordination with local leaders and party presidents, involving the public to honour the historic struggle for statehood.

He emphasised that Telangana's formation was the result of the six-decade-long aspirations of its people and the sacrifices made by martyrs, government employees, students, and citizens from all walks of life. KTR said that the first ten years of Telangana's journey have become an inspiration for the entire nation.

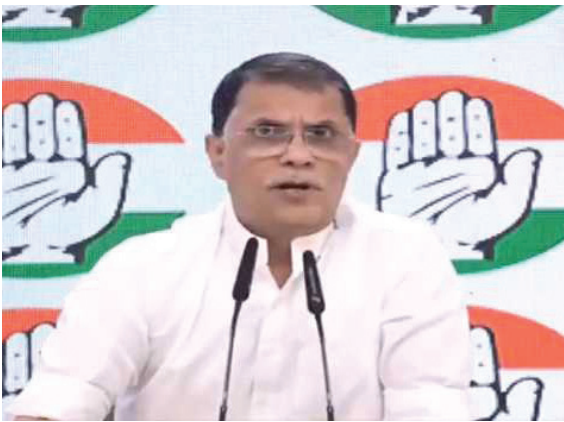


Amit Shah praises PM's works

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his works, particularly for bringing India's GDP (gross domestic product) from number 10 to number four position. Speaking at a programme organised to mark the 150th anniversary of the Lakshmi-Narayan Temple in Madhavbagh here, he said, "When some people ask what has Modi done over past decade, to which my answer is that he has brought the country's GDP from number 10 to number four, also, gave a befitting reply to those who tried to breach our security."

(See on page 2)

Modi govt's foreign policy a failure: Congress



Dubbing the Narendra Modi government's foreign policy a "complete failure", the Congress on Tuesday said not a single country stood by India during hostilities with Pakistan, leaving the nation "completely isolated".

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Coco Gauff forgets rackets ahead of French Open opener



American tennis star and World No. 2 Coco Gauff made an unexpected and light-hearted start to her French Open 2025 campaign on Tuesday, stepping onto Court Philippe-Chatrier without her rackets in hand.

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SC to hear pleas in July on non-payment of MBBS Intern ...



The Supreme Court of India has scheduled the hearing for July on a plea highlighting the non-payment of stipends to MBBS interns across several medical colleges. The matter was mentioned on Monday before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice AG Masih by counsel representing the aggrieved students.

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(Contd on page 3)



Security forces personnel at the forest areas of Sitachuan after top CPI-Maoist commander Tulsi Bhuiyan was gunned down, in Palamu district of Jharkhand on Tuesday.

Known for strong pro-Taiwan stance, President Pena of Paraguay to visit India

New Delhi, May 27 (UNI) :China will be watching keenly when the President of Paraguay Santiago Peña Palacios, who has continued with his country’s pro-Taiwan stance, comes on a three-day State Visit to India from June 2-4.

President Pena will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers, senior officials and business representatives, and will also visit Mumbai.

President Peña, a 46-year-old economist and former finance minister, has resisted Beijing’s overtures and warnings, to continue with his country’s pro-Taiwan stance.

In his August 2023 inauguration, the presence of Taiwan’s Vice President Lai, who is also now Taiwan’s President --

signalled Paraguay’s continued commitment to the island nation.

In his inauguration speech, President Pena had stressed that Paraguay and Taiwan are “not just allies, but also brothers”.

He has also spoken in favour of Taiwan joining the United Nations system.

In December last year, Paraguay kicked out a Chinese envoy for allegedly interfering in its domestic affairs and urging the South American nation to break off ties and long friendship with Taiwan. The Chinese diplomat was given 24 hours to leave the country.

Paraguay has said it is open to establishing trade and other relations with China as long as it will not have to break off its ties with Taiwan.

The State Visit of President Peña will be his

first visit to India and only the second visit by a President of Paraguay.

During the visit, President Peña would hold talks with Prime Minister Modi on June 2 and review the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to host lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary. President Droupadi Murmu is expected to meet President Peña, and host a banquet in his honour, a statement said.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar are expected to call on the visiting President of Paraguay.

India and Paraguay established diplomatic relations on September 13, 1961, cultivating warm and friendly ties between the two nations.Both countries

have since developed cooperation in various sectors, including trade, agriculture, health, pharmaceuticals and information technology.Paraguay is an important trading partner for India in the Latin American region.

Several Indian companies in the automobile and pharmaceuticals sector have their presence in Paraguay and some Paraguayan companies, mainly through Joint Venture entities, are present in India, thereby contributing to the economic ties between the two nations.

The two countries share common views on various international issues, including UN reforms, climate change, renewable energy, and combating terrorism.

Mega mock drill on earthquake preparedness to be held on June 6 in Kangra district: ADM

Dharamshala, May 27 (UNI) A mega mock drill to prepare for earthquake emergencies will be conducted across all sub-divisions of Kangra district on June 6, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADM) Shilpi Bekta announced.

The announcement was made during a one-day workshop organised at the NIC Auditorium by the Disaster Management Authority. The session focused on outlining the framework and action plan for the upcoming mock drill.ADM Bekta stated that the objective of the drill is to evaluate and strengthen coordination, readiness, and responsiveness among various departments, agencies, and the public in the event of a natural disaster such as an earthquake. She emphasised that the mock drill would also serve as a practical assessment of emergency services, rescue and relief operations, and the availability of critical resources.

Highlighting Kangra district’s location within seismic zones IV and V, she said the region is highly vulnerable to earthquakes. “The state as a whole is also prone to other types of natural disasters,” she added.

Police arrest man for bomb threat call targeting Mumbai airport

Mumbai, May 27 (UNI) The Mumbai Police on Monday arrested a 35-year-old man who made a call claiming to blow up Mumbai International Airport on Tuesday. The accused identified as Manjeet Kumar Gautam, a UP-origin man living in Sakinaka arer of city suburb, was arrested by MIDC Police shortly after the threatening call was received by the Mumbai police control room.

According to officials, Gautam called the control room and warned, "I will blow up the Mumbai airport today afternoon "

"The threat triggered immediate security protocols, with bomb detection squads and other security agencies placed on high alert at the airport," police said.

The MIDC police acted swiftly to trace and apprehend the caller. Gautam is currently in custody, and police are investigating the motive behind the call. Initial findings suggest he acted alone.

Amit Shah praises PM Modi's works

Mumbai, May 27 (UNI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his works, particularly for bringing India's GDP (gross domestic product) from number 10 to number four position.

Speaking at a programme organised to mark the 150th anniversary of the Lakshmi-Narayan Temple in

Madhavbagh here, he said, "When some people ask what has Modi done over past decade, to which my answer is that he has brought the country's GDP

from number 10 to number four, also, gave a befitting reply to those who tried to breach our security."

Under the leadership of PM Modi, he said, "the country's security has now become strong. We were able to give a befitting reply to terrorists."

Shah further said that for more than hundred years, the idol of Lord Ram was in a tent, but Modi has now built the temple there.

Furthermore, Modi has built the Kashi Vishweshwar Corridor and taken yoga and Ayurveda to the world, he informed.

Modi has made all these

changes and the history of the country will be written in golden letters, he added.

On this occasion, Shah also congratulated the trustees of Madhavbaug for running such a big institution in Mumbai for 150 years.

He said that the 150-year-old institution has solved the problems of the middle class and asked the trustees to start a language training centre here for teaching one's mother tongues.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also spoke on the occasion.

Cabinet takes 10 major decisions

Mumbai, May 27 (UNI) The Maharashtra government took 10 major decisions in the state cabinet meeting held on Tuesday. The cabinet approved a workshop and posts at the Ekalavya Vocational Training Center of Suhit Jeevan Trust at Pen in Raigad district.

The cabinet gave the go-ahead for filling posts of typists for judicial officers in the state as per the recommendations of the Shetty Commission.

The cabinet cleared goods and services tax compensation grant to Ichalkaranji and Jalna municipal corporations.

Ichalkaranji will get Rs. 657 crore and Jalna Rs 392 crore in five years.

A waiver of registration fee for the allotment deed of agricultural land and approval to change the terms and conditions regarding the land given to the Journalists Club of Nagpur were also taken.

The cabinet also approval a revised structure for 1,351 posts in the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd.

There will be a revised policy for the appointment of part-time directors in upper primary schools of local bodies.

The Asian

Development Bank (ADB)-assisted Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (Magnet) Project will be headed by the Minister of Marketing as ex-officio chairman, the state cabinet decided.

The cabinet also gave the green light to the change in designation of agriculture supervisor and agriculture assistant to 'deputy agriculture officer' and 'assistant agriculture officer'.

It was also decided to clear the 6th Pay Commission arrears to 195 employees of Maharashtra State Handloom Corporation at Nagpur.

Indian Navy to welcome Navika Sagar Parikrama II crew after historic circumnavigation

New Delhi, May 27 (UNI) :The Indian Navy is all set to welcome the triumphant crew of Navika Sagar Parikrama II on successful completion of circumnavigation of the globe onboard Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini.

In an exceptional achievement, Lt Cdr Roopa A and Lt Cdr Dilna K undertook the challenging voyage in double-handed mode. The inspiring expedition, which began from the Naval Ocean Sailing Node in Goa on 2 October last year is set to end with their arrival back in Goa on May 29, a Defence Ministry statement said.The Flag-in

ceremony of the landmark event will be presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Mormugao Port, Goa, formally marking the culmination of the circumnavigation.

The expedition symbolises India's maritime endeavours, showcasing the nation's prominence in global maritime activities and Indian Navy's commitment to excellence and Nari Shakti signifying the motto "Courageous Hearts Boundless Seas".

Over a period of eight months, the Naval duo (famously called DilRoo) covered a distance of 25,400 nm (approx

50,000km) across four continents, three oceans and three Great Capes, braving extreme weather conditions and challenging seas relying solely on sails and wind power.

The duo began their circumnavigation with port calls at Fremantle (Australia), Lyttleton (New Zealand), Port Stanley (Falkland Islands) and Cape Town (South Africa).

Though each leg had its own challenges, the third leg of the journey from Lyttleton to Port Stanley was one of the most arduous. The crew encountered three cyclones, navigated through the treacherous Drake Passage and successfully

rounded Cape Horn.As the nation eagerly awaits the arrival of the resilient crew of Navika Sagar Parikrama II, this expedition has been a defining chapter in India's maritime history.The crew exemplified the spirit of exploration showcasing seafaring skills at a global stage. It has been a journey of empowerment, innovation and commitment to India's maritime heritage charting new paths for a brighter and empowered future.It reaffirms the Indian Navy's pledge to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and responsibility across the vast expanse of the world's oceans.

"Fearless guardian of democracy", Kharge, Rahul remember Jawaharlal Nehru on his 61st death anniversary

New Delhi, May 27 (UNI) :Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday paid tributes to former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his 61st death anniversary and described him as a "fearless guardian of democracy".Meanwhile, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi paid tribute to the first Prime Minister of India at Shanti Van here.

Kharge on his social media handle X said, "A humble tribute on the death anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru — the architect of modern India, the fearless guardian of democracy, the one who led India from zero to great heights, and who played a pivotal role in making the country progressive in scientific, economic, industrial, and many

other fields.""He constantly promoted the message of "Unity in Diversity" and remains an enduring source of inspiration for us all. It is impossible to imagine 21st-century India without the contributions of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru," the Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition said.Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi, while paying tribute to Nehru, said, "With a vision of a strong and inclusive India, Nehru Ji laid the firm foundation of independent India through his farsighted leadership.

His invaluable contributions to the establishment of social justice, modernity, education, the Constitution, and democracy are deeply cherished."

"The legacy and ideals of the “Jewel of India” will continue to guide us always," the Raebareli MP said.

Punjab to provide educational tours for meritorious students from government schools: CM

Chandigarh, May 27 (UNI) Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday announced his government will provide educational tours to premier educational institutes of the country for the top performing students from government schools in various districts to widen

their horizon for futuristic growth.

The Chief Minister, while interacting with the top performing students from all the districts except Ludhiana, said their success is a moment of pride and satisfaction for all the stakeholders.

The Punjab School Education Board honored

the toppers of Punjab in the 10th and 12th class examinations at an event today.He said that, while the students had burnt the midnight oil to achieve this success, the contribution of parents and teachers who guided these students is no less.

Mann said that the state government has organised

this function to acknowledge the achievements of these students.

Congratulating all the students, teachers and parents, he said that it is a historic day as the topper of the state arrived here adding that it is the privilege of the state government to felicitate these young minds.

STANDARD POST

Dust storms sweep across Australia as experts warn of growing climate extremes

A vast dust storm moving across Australia has shrouded Sydney in a dense haze, sparking health alerts and underscoring the growing impact of climate extremes nationwide.

New South Wales (NSW) Health on Tuesday issued alerts for very poor air quality in some areas, as the haze, driven by drought and strong winds in South Australia, settles over NSW.

Experts said the event is a stark reminder of Australia's vulnerability to shifting weather patterns and land degradation.

According to Milton Speer, visiting fellow at the University of Technology Sydney, long-term atmospheric changes are contributing to both droughts in southern Australia and heavy rains along the east coast, Xinhua news agency reported.

Paul Beggs from Macquarie University said this kind of extreme event reflects long-term climate trends. Research shows that from 2014 to 2023, much of Australia experienced more severe droughts than in the 1950s, which has had significant effects on both physical and mental health.

John Grant, a soils expert at Southern Cross University, warned of the long-term damage. The dust storm originated in drought-hit areas of western Victoria and South Australia, where dry, bare soils are vulnerable to erosion.

Wind erosion strips away the most fertile part of the soil. This not only reduces productivity but also makes the land more likely to erode again, Grant said.

"The problem snowballs (so to speak). The effects of climate change are only exacerbating this process," he said, adding that such storms can transport millions of tonnes of topsoil, with devastating impacts on farming, native ecosystems, and human health.

Earlier in the day, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese also committed expanded financial assistance for regions affected by flooding on the east coast as authorities confirmed almost 800 homes and businesses have been destroyed. Albanese toured flood-hit regions in the east coast state of NSW for the second time since the flooding crisis, which has caused five deaths, began earlier in May following record-breaking rainfall.

Forging the Future of Freight Mobility with 9,000 HP Electric Locomotive



(Standard Post Bureau)

Indian Railways has taken a major leap in freight mobility with the dedication of the Loco Manufacturing Shop at the Rolling Stock Workshop in Dahod, Gujarat by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This moment marked a pivotal milestone in the ongoing transformation of freight transport. The facility, designed to produce 1,200 cutting-edge electric freight locomotives with a powerful 9000 HP capacity, stands as a testament to India's engineering prowess and industrial ambition.

At the dedication ceremony, the first electric locomotive from this workshop was ceremoniously flagged off, marking the dawn of a new era in freight transportation, one characterised by higher speeds, greater hauling power and a deep commitment to sustainability. With the ability to haul 4,500 to 5,000 tonnes even on steep gradients, these locomotives are set to be game-changers in heavy-duty freight movement.

Proudly built under the Make in India initiative, these locomotives are equipped with advanced IGBT-based propulsion technology, ensuring superior energy efficiency and operational performance. Together, these features position Indian Railways at the forefront of modern, reliable and eco-friendly freight logistics.

Power That Transforms Freight Logistics

The 9000 HP locomotive is the most powerful single-unit electric engine ever developed for Indian



Railways. Until now, freight locomotives have typically operated at 4500 or 6000 HP capacities. While 12,000 HP engines do exist, they are created by coupling two 6000 HP units. In contrast, the Dahod-built locomotive offers a unified, high-powered solution that can haul significantly longer and heavier freight trains with ease. This leap in capacity means fewer trips are needed for the same volume of goods, resulting in faster turnaround times, reduced congestion and improved freight efficiency.

Reducing Congestion, Lowering Costs

The increased hauling power of the 9000 HP locomotive offers a solution to one of Indian Railways'

biggest challenges: congestion on high-density freight routes. With fewer locomotives required to pull heavier loads, rail traffic can be optimised, thereby easing pressure on busy corridors. Moreover, by replacing multiple smaller engines with one high-performance locomotive, Indian Railways stands to reduce operating costs, manpower requirements and energy consumption. These gains will ultimately translate into lower logistics costs for industries, contributing to more competitive pricing and streamlined supply chains.

Reviving Dahod: A Regional and National Asset

The decision to manufacture these advanced locomotives in Dahod is not just a strategic industrial move, it is a revival of the region's railway heritage. Once a major hub for railway works, Dahod had seen a decline after key railway work was shifted elsewhere. In 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisioned Dahod's resurgence as a railway manufacturing powerhouse. Today, that vision has materialised with the setting up of a world-class facility in partnership with Siemens India, selected through a transparent tendering process.

The factory is equipped

to produce both Broad Gauge locomotives for Indian Railways and Standard Gauge locomotives for export. This dual capability strengthens India's positioning in the global rail manufacturing market. With 89% of the components made in India, the project aligns perfectly with the 'Make in India' and 'Make for World' visions. High-quality, cost-effective production makes these locomotives highly exportable, opening new doors for India in international railway supply chains.

Green Manufacturing, Cleaner Future

What sets the 9000 HP locomotive apart is its deep integration of sustainability. The manufacturing process itself is powered by green energy, earning the facility a Green Manufacturing tag. The locomotive design includes regenerative braking, which feeds electricity back into the grid when brakes are applied, further reducing the carbon footprint. These features make the locomotive a strong contributor to India's climate commitments and environmental goals, moving the nation closer to a greener future in transportation.

Safety, Comfort and Smart Engineering

From factory-fitted Kavach (India's indigenous train collision avoidance system) to modern driver cabins with air-conditioning, low noise and minimal vibration, the 9000 HP engine is engineered with safety and comfort in mind. Toilets feature electronic locks that can only be accessed when the engine is stationary,

ensuring operational discipline. Onboard cameras on all sides provide enhanced monitoring and security.

Training for Tomorrow

A highlight of the Dahod facility is its focus on skill development through immersive training technology. A virtual digital modeling of the locomotive has been developed to enhance training for mechanics and drivers. Using VR headsets, trainees can interact with a highly realistic simulation of the locomotive, allowing them to explore and familiarise themselves with every component in a safe, immersive environment.

Employment, Empowerment, and Skill Development

Around 85% of the jobs created though the infrastructure development are held by local youth. Skill development is embedded into the project, with training modules designed to upgrade the technical capabilities of the workforce. The factory's presence is already catalysing infrastructure development and ancillary industries in the region, driving long-term economic growth.

The 9000 HP locomotive will turn out to be the linchpin of a bold new freight ecosystem. Its power, efficiency and design sophistication promise to make Indian Railways more competitive, more sustainable and better equipped for future demands. By combining the strengths of technology, regional development and global vision, the Dahod-built locomotive is set to redefine the trajectory of freight transport, not just in India, but on the world stage.

Modi govt's foreign policy a failure: Cong

New Delhi, May 27 (UNI) Dubbing the Narendra Modi government's foreign policy a "complete failure", the Congress on Tuesday said not a single country stood by India during hostilities with Pakistan, leaving the nation "completely isolated". The party also reiterated its question to the government -- where did the terrorists who killed 26 innocent tourists in Pahalgam disappear? Addressing a press conference here, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said, "BJP leaders continue to display a narrow mindset and are still indulging in petty politics". Alleging that everything -- including foreign and defence policy -- has been outsourced to trolls, he said, "This government is run by trolls, operated by

trolls, inspired by trolls—and the results are for all to see."

Due to the "failure of India's foreign policy", the country now finds itself isolated, with no nation extending support, he claimed. The Congress spokesperson accused certain BJP MPs of indulging in petty politics even while abroad, despite being part of delegations meant to present India's viewpoint alongside Opposition MPs.

Khera said that not only in the case of Pahalgam, but also in previous attacks, the government has failed to explain what happened to the terrorists involved.

"Instead, the Prime Minister resorts to using movie dialogues — conduct unbecoming of the high office he holds," Khera said. Referring to the growing proximity between Pakistan and China, Khera

said the Government of India has remained silent on the matter, even though such developments do not bode well for the nation.

He said after US President Donald Trump hyphenated India and Pakistan, Middle East countries like Kuwait and the UAE followed suit. Kuwait has lifted its visa ban on Pakistanis and is signing a labour treaty with it — developments that could adversely affect Indian workers, who currently make up 21 percent of Kuwait's labour force. He also claimed that the UAE has extended a five-year visa facility to Pakistan. No country has supported India in labeling Pakistan as a terrorist state, and asked whether this does not reflect a weakness of the nation's foreign policy.

Anant Nag, Ricky Kej honoured with Padma awards

New Delhi, May 27 (UNI) President Droupadi Murmu, conferred the prestigious Padma Bhusan award to Anant Nag (Art) and Padma Shri awards to Dr. Ricky Gyan Kej (Art), Prashanth Prakash (Trade and Industry), and Dr Venkappa Ambaji Sugatekar (Art) here on Tuesday.

Anant Nag is a veteran Kannada film actor known for his versatility and outstanding contribution to Indian cinema spanning five decades. With over 300 films in multiple languages and numerous awards, including five for best actor in Karnataka, Nag has also served as

a Minister and MLC in the state. Dr Ricky Gyan Kej, a three-time Grammy Award-winning musician, is internationally acclaimed for his fusion of Indian classical and contemporary music. He is also a prominent humanitarian and environmental advocate associated with several United Nations bodies, including UNCCD, UNICEF, and WHO, using music as a platform for social and environmental awareness.

Prashanth Prakash is a renowned entrepreneur and venture capitalist, instrumental in

shaping India's startup ecosystem.

As founding partner of Accel India and chairman of multiple non-profits, he has backed numerous successful startups and contributed to public policy in Karnataka for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr Venkappa Ambaji Sugatekar is a distinguished Gondhali folk artist committed to preserving Karnataka's rich folk traditions for over seven decades. He is celebrated for his mastery of thousands of folk songs and storytelling and has trained over 1,000 students to carry forward the Gondhali legacy.

Relationships



Is your kid Travelling to school safely?

With increasing safety concerns and instances of bullying, inculcating school-bus discipline is essential, say experts

Pakhi Jain was in for a shock when she heard her seven-year old return from school one day and mouth expletives. "When asked who taught such words, he said everyone in his school bus used them and he was following suit because he wants to be like his seniors," says Jain, who didn't know how to deal with the situation at that time.

She is not the only one. While most parents and school authorities impress the need to inculcate discipline within the four walls of the classroom, these rules often do not apply to school buses. In the recent times, there have been several cases of rowdy behaviour in buses, with children even hitting each other.

Ground for unruly behaviour

After hours of being cooped up in classrooms, the bus ride provides a perfect ground for the child to let out all that pent-up energy.

Says consulting psychiatrist Dr Pavan Sonar, "Unlike classrooms, there is more freedom in buses, as there is an absence of parentteacher supervision. So,

children feel the liberty to do some mischief."

Adds clinical psychologist Saloni Sawnani, "Kids of all ages travel together in the bus. If the older kids are using foul language or behaving badly, younger kids follow suit to fit in. That leads to more cases of rowdy behaviour."

More often than not, these buses are understaffed with only one attendant taking care of around 40-50 children. Moreover, the attendant is only equipped to ensure that the children are not physically injured. "They are not responsible towards children's behaviour, so there is no supervision at all," she adds.

When your child turns rowdy

Do you feel your kid is picking up bad habits from the school bus?



Discipline your kid and firmly explain that inappropriate language will not be tolerated. Also, impress upon himher that there is no greatness in being like the older children and doing wrong things. "Often, when a child gets into a fight in the bus and it comes to the parents' attention, they confront the driver or school authorities. This is not the way to tackle the situation as you would be setting a wrong example," says Sawnani.

Instead, get to know both the versions and if you feel that your kid is at fault, act with concern rather than harshness. "Make your child understand that bullying another person is wrong. Often, children don't report instances of bullying. So, teach himher to understand and report such instances to you, the teachers or the supervisor of the bus," says Dr Sonar.

School authorities' role

With safety and discipline in buses being a concern, school authorities are now taking strict measures. While a few city schools have student monitors in every bus -they not only maintain discipline, but also keep an eye on the bus staff -some even have plans of installing CCTV cameras in the vehicles.

Interestingly, at an international school at Chandivali, a text message is sent to the parent when the child swipes his I-card and boards the bus.

Most schools have also hired a lady attendant to comply with the guide lines issued by the RTA (Roads and Transport Authority). "Having trained staff in buses is important. If younger and older kids are travelling together, the attendant should ensure that the older ones are seated behind and the younger ones in front. Any kind of intermingling between the two should be avoided," says Sawnani.

Measures school authorities can take

- Provide instructions about school bus safety in classrooms.
- Send students on time, so that they don't have to run to catch the buses.
- Get the bus inspected for technical snags and ensure safety measures.
- Ensure that the bus has adequate staff and that a lady attendant is always present.
- Install CCTVs in buses for monitoring the behaviour of kids.

Things parents should remember

- Check the background of the agency from where the buses are hired.
- Teach your child the importance of safety, how to wait for the school bus and how to board it.
- Any misbehaviour, on the part of a student or the bus staff, should be brought to notice immediately.
- Teach your child to maintain cleanliness in the bus.

How to get kids to perform better in exams

It's time for First Unit tests in most schools in the city. But it's also a time when kids will be most vulnerable to pressures and stress.

It's important that parents and children work in cohesion to avoid feeling this way. While at the parents' end there is anxiety and restlessness, the situation can be detrimental for younger kids who suffer loss of appetite and sleep and fears on account of it.

While parents must always show that they are there for their children, it's important that they stay away from doing a few things like going over the question papers again and again, as well as continuously discussing the

score that they want their kids to meet.

What kids can do

1. Discuss not just the highs and lows of studying. Keep them in the loop about your issues and difficulties.
2. Do not create unrealistic goals. Instead, set reasonable daily targets and try to achieve them.
3. Do not allow pressure from peers to affect you. Find the difference between friendly advice and a brag that a friend might throw at you. At the end of the day, you are your own judge and answerable to yourself.
4. Always feel proud and happy of a task well done.



Asking yourself 'why' very important

Life is a journey:

Asking yourself 'why' is part of that journey, as it helps you to understand yourself, those around you. When you ask why, you are looking at your life as an outsider and this gives a perspective. To question yourself will provide you a clear picture because you will know why you do these things and what



changes are needed in your life. So, don't feel scared and be open about asking questions.

Say bye to fear:

Fear stops a lot of people from asking 'why', because people just don't want to be in that uncomfortable state of knowing the answer. And there are some who probably know the answer but live in denial. Remember, acceptance is the ultimate freedom. Getting a reality check is so very important in life.

Essential to your happiness:

Have you asked yourself recently if you are doing the things you love? Do you think that you are on the right track and following your passion? Are you where you always wanted to be? Are you just letting life to control you? Are you making a conscious decision to follow your dreams? Are you living life king/queen size? Are you pushing your creative boundaries? It's so important to ask yourself these fundamental questions. These questions will give you a ring side view of life. It might be a good time to make some changes, take a new direction, or have an open discussion with someone who matters in your life. What's most important is that you are following your own bliss.

‘Gurgaon is such an animal unfriendly zone’

Reportedly, the victim's neighbour first injured her servant who was walking their pet and, on her (the victim's) intervention, took her inside the house and assaulted her, both mentally and physically. A week later, she is back home but, like her husband Suresh Yadav told GT, she is still in shock from the entire experience. We spoke to Suresh about their struggle as an animal loving couple in Gurgaon and the urgent need for Gurgaon residents to condemn this attack and to warm up to animals.

According to Suresh, their neighbour first threw a slipper at their servant, screaming at him for walking the dog on the road. Suresh told us, "When my wife intervened, he screamed at her saying, 'Yeh meri road hai, tumhe pata nahi hai kya? You can't walk your dog here.' When she continued to argue, the man lost it. What happened after that is disturbing for both of us. I rushed back home when I found out and took her to the hospital and have been trying to get her to come back to normal ever since." He added, "We live in an independent plotted community. There are no dog parks or special areas. So, the dogs are walked on the roads. The roads are cleaned on a daily basis and nobody should have a problem with that."

According to Yadav, this isn't the first time that they faced a problem with this particular neighbour, who has now been arrested for abuse. However, he says that this wasn't a personal issue between them, but an attack on the animal loving community of Gurgaon.

I hope animal lovers of Ggn condemn this attack: Suresh

He told us, "Gurgaon is such an animal unfriendly zone. Pets are not welcome and feeding of strays or even getting them vaccinated is looked down upon. Even with our bad history with this resident, we never saw this coming. The attack is just another example of the attitude people have towards animal lovers in Gurgaon. We have been taking care of a number of strays in our street, and slowly and gradually, people in our independent plotted community were getting used to the idea of taking care of animals. But this one incident has taken us back to the very start of that struggle. We're still being treated as criminals and I hope that the animal lovers of Gurgaon condemn this attack. The real villain of this story needs to be identified and it's not us."

He added, "She has been at the forefront of this



It's been a week since the news of the horrifying incident of a Gurgaon woman being stripped and thrashed for walking her dog, first came out.

movement for a very long time. Feeding strays and getting them vaccinated is not a crime. Initially, people used to complain about these strays and the MCG van would come and take them away. But we would get them back because these strays were not harmful to anyone. With time, our neighbours also became okay with the strays - everyone except this one guy. There are many other haters like him all over Gurgaon. Now if he isn't punished with severity, this will encourage these haters to take really extreme steps against dog lovers, which is scary." Alok Mittal, commissioner of police, Gurgaon said, "I do not have data regarding such incidents. Surely there have not been many fights between neighbours over petty issues. In this case we had registered a case under sections 323,354,452 of the IPC."

The incident shocked pet owners and animal

lovers in not just Gurgaon, but in all parts of the world. The Facebook awareness page formed after the incident, which is like a discussion portal on different animal-related topics, was started by an international supporter of the cause. According to Suresh, "This just shows the support that we have for this incident. It is still gaining momentum in India, but internationally, it's a big movement."

In our Gurgaon residential society, I want the authorities to come forward and put up posters highlighting the basic animal feeding rights that we animal lovers have. So far, there is no rule book on the same, just lots of judgmental stares and angry neighbours in both gated and non-gated residential properties. I want to fight against this, and hope for some support from the government."



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Swiatek recalls teary Nadal's 2021 French Open loss

Paris, May 27 (UNI) World No. 1 Iga Swiatek on Tuesday opened up on a deeply emotional moment she experienced following Rafael Nadal's defeat to Novak Djokovic in the semifinals of the 2021 French Open, revealing she was left in tears while the Spanish legend remained composed.

Speaking in Paris, where she attended Nadal's farewell ceremony at Roland Garros alongside tennis greats Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray, the Polish star recounted her poignant memory of meeting Nadal the day after his loss.

"In 2021 when he lost against Novak in the semis and everybody was staying at the same hotel

China's Sun refreshes record on ITTF world ranking points

Beijing, May 27 (UNI) China's Sun Yingsha continues to showcase her dominance with a record-high 11,900 points as the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) updated its world rankings on Tuesday.Sun earned 2,000 points from her victory at the recently concluded World Table Tennis Championships in Doha, beating the previous mark of 11,300 points she set in February.In October 2024, she became the first paddler to exceed the 10,000-point mark. The ITTF applied changes to its world ranking regulations in 2022, as the world ranking of a player is essentially composed of the sum of the points of the best eight results achieved in the last 12 months.Sun was joined by teammates Wang Manyu, Chen Xingtong, Wang Yidi and Kuai Man in the women's singles top five, followed by the Japanese quartet of Miwa Harimoto, Mima Ito, Hina

RCB secure top-two finish as LSG fall short

Bengaluru, May 27 (UNI) A breathtaking counter-assault led by skipper Jitesh Sharma (85 not out off 33 balls) powered Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to a dramatic six-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the final league match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) here on Tuesday.

Chasing a formidable 228-run target set up by a rejuvenated Rishabh Pant, RCB finished at 230 for 4 in just 18.4 overs, securing the win with eight balls to spare in a high-octane clash that had no bearing on LSG's already extinguished playoff hopes, but RCB finished in top-two position.At one stage, RCB were in a spot of bother at 123 for 4 after the dismissals of Virat Kohli (54), Rajat Patidar (14), and Liam Livingstone (0) in quick succession. But what followed was an onslaught of the highest order.

Jitesh Sharma, who took over captaincy midway through the season, rose to



— the Novotel — I remember, I was devastated that he lost," Swiatek said.

"And the next day, I met him because he was just sitting there after breakfast or something, and I asked him, 'How does he feel?' He was chill. He's like, 'Oh, it's just a tennis match. I'll get

many more chances' . I was, like, 'What? Why am I crying if he's not crying?'"

Swiatek, a self-confessed admirer of Nadal, has often spoken of her reverence for the 14-time French Open champion, who remains an iconic figure at Roland Garros. Her emotional

recollection highlights the deep respect and personal connection many younger players feel toward the Spaniard.

Nadal's farewell ceremony on Sunday was marked by tributes from fellow legends of the game and an outpouring of admiration from fans and players alike.

Earps announces shock England retirement after losing place

London, May 27 (UNI) England goalkeeper Mary Earps has announced her shock retirement from international football - just five weeks before the Lionesses begin their European Championship defence in Switzerland.

The 32-year-old played a significant role in the Lionesses winning Euro 2022 but had recently lost her starting place to Chelsea keeper Hannah Hampton.

Earps made 53 senior appearances over eight years for England, also winning the 2023 Women's Finalissima with her country before helping them reaching the final of the 2023 Women's World Cup, the BBC reported.

"I had hoped that Mary Earps would play an important role within the squad this summer, so of course I am disappointed," England manager Sarina Wiegman said.

Earps said, "This is the right time for me to step aside and give the younger

generation an opportunity to thrive."Winning the Euros in 2022 was the best day of my life, and I'm rooting for the girls to do it again this summer."

Earps - who left Manchester United to join French side Paris St-Germain last summer - also wrote on social media: "It has been the greatest honour and privilege of my life, to wear this badge and represent my country.

"I wish I could do it forever, but sadly all good things must come to an end."Earps was voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 2023, having won the Golden Glove for the best goalkeeper at the 2023 World Cup - held in Australia and New Zealand. She also won the Best FIFA Goalkeeper award in 2022 and 2023.

"My journey has never been the simplest, so in true Mary fashion, this isn't a simple goodbye - right before a major tournament," she said."Nonetheless, I know this is the right

decision. There are so many dimensions to this decision, the details of which aren't important right now."This is a new era and a new England team, and I'm looking forward to watching them this summer.

"I know that while this won't make sense to some who are reading this, you can trust that I would not be doing this unless I thought it was absolutely the right thing to do, as much as it hurts."

On several occasions, Earps has called for change in women's football.

She challenged Nike in 2023 after the kit supplier failed to produce any replica England goalkeeper shirts ahead of that year's World Cup, an incident she described as "hugely hurtful."

In confirming the end of her England career, she said: "I have given everything, my heart and soul.I left it all out there on the pitch and did my best to help systemic change of it. I have no regrets."

Namibia to host South Africa for a historic T20I

Windhoek, may 27 (UNI) In what will mark as a signiicant milestone for African cricket, Namibia will take on South Africa for the first time ever at home on October 11.

This also marks the official opening of the FNB Namibia Cricket Ground, (FNB NCG) which will also co host the ICC U19 Men's World Cup in 2026 and the ICC Men's World Cup in 2027.The ground, with a capacity of 7000 and situated in the south of the capital city of Windhoek, also features Namibia's High Performance centre, a restaurant and a hospitality wing.Cricket Namibia's CEO Johan Muller is looking forward to partner with CSA to host the ICC Men's World Cup in 2027, an ICC report said."This truly is a memorable occasion. The new FNB NCG has been a dream for the last four years and has finally materialized," Muller stated.

"A match against our neighbours, and one of the top cricketing countries in the world, is the perfect way to open this world class facility," he said.

Cricket South Africa's CEO Pholetsi Moseki was proud to be a part of the official inauguration of the new cricket ground that will co-host the marquee tournament in 2027.

"We are honoured to be part of this historic occasion. Namibia are a competitive side, and this fixture reflects the growing strength of cricket on the continent," Moseki added.

FNB NCG hosted its first full fixture earlier this year, between the home side and Canada, which ended up being a last-ball thriller.

Azarenka through with 48-minute double bagel win

Paris, May 27 (UNI) Victoria Azarenka raced into the second round of the French Open with a 48-minute 'double bagel' victory over Belgium's Yanina Wickmayer here on Tuesday.

At 35 years old, the Belarusian is the oldest player in the Open era to win a Grand Slam main-draw match 6-0 6-0.

She also becomes the first woman to score a Grand Slam double bagel - winning a match without dropping a game - in three different decades.

Wickmayer, who is currently ranked outside the world's top 1,000 and has said she will retire after Wimbledon this summer, held just one game point during the match.

Two-time major winner Azarenka hit 15 winners and won 49 of the 66 points on offer, while Wickmayer was undone by 26 unforced errors, the BBC reported.

Only Maria Sharapova and Kim Clijsters - with six each - have won more Grand Slam matches

with a 6-0 6-0 scoreline than Azarenka's five since 2000.

It was her first double bagel win at a major since the 2016 Australian Open.

Azarenka will either face former Australian Open winner Sofia Kenin or France's Varvara Gracheva in the next round.

Coco Gauff forgets rackets ahead of French Open opener

Paris, May 27 (UNI) : American tennis star and World No. 2 Coco Gauff made an unexpected and light-hearted start to her French Open 2025 campaign on Tuesday, stepping onto Court Philippe-Chatrier without her rackets in hand.

The 20-year-old, dressed in a striking leather jacket, was ready to face Australia's Olivia Gadecki in the opening round when she realised she had left her rackets behind. The incident led to a brief delay as her team scrambled to deliver the all-important equipment.

Tennis legend Chris Evert, who was on commentary duty for the match, appeared baffled. "Oh no! She went on the court without her rackets!" she exclaimed as the cameras cut to Gauff's team, who also seemed puzzled.

Gadecki, taking the mishap in good humour,

smiled as the umpire informed her of the short pause in proceedings.

Once the rackets arrived, Gauff quickly regained focus. Despite the distraction, the American raced to a 3-0 double-break lead in the first set, demonstrating her readiness on court if not off it.Co-commentator Naomi Cavaday remarked, "She looks like she's got two holdall bags, but not a racket bag," adding to the moment's unexpected comic relief.

The incident did little to dent Gauff's momentum, but it became the talking point of the day at Roland-Garros, with social media and tennis forums abuzz over the rare blunder from a top-ranked player.

The French Open continues, with fans eagerly watching to see whether Gauff can channel the same energy and recover her focus for a deep run in the tournament.

Djokovic angry despite smooth win in his opener

Paris, May 27 (UNI) Despite kick-starting his French Open campaign with a fluent straight set win, top seed Novak Djokovic's demeanour on court suggested underlying frustrations on Tuesday.

Throughout the match against world number 98 Mackenzie McDonald, Djokovic exhibited signs of agitation, including gesturing towards his box and displaying visible frustration after certain points.The reactions were notable even as he maintained control over the match, breaking McDonald's serve twice in each set. Notably, he dropped his serve once in the second set, an uncommon lapse that perhaps contributed to his

visible discontent.

The match was played under the closed roof of Court Philippe-Chatrier due to inclement weather, providing windless conditions that typically favour Djokovic's precise baseline play. However, the serene environment did little to alleviate his apparent dissatisfaction.

In his post-match reflections, Djokovic acknowledged the challenges faced during the match, stating, "It doesn't feel great when you play this way on the court... just a bad day in the office, I guess, for me." He emphasised the need to build momentum as the tournament progresses, aiming to elevate his performance in subsequent rounds.The victory comes

Nepali guide scales Mt Qomolangma for record 31st time

Kathmandu, May 27 (UNI) : Nepali guide Kami Rita Sherpa reached the summit of Mount Qomolangma on Tuesday morning, setting a new record with his 31st ascent of the world's tallest peak.

The 55-year-old mountaineering veteran scaled the 8,848.86-meter-high mountain at around 4 a.m. local time.

"He reached the summit for the 31st time under fairly stable weather conditions," Chhang Dawa Sherpa, expedition manager at Seven Summit Treks, said.

In both the 2023 and 2024 spring climbing seasons, Kami summited the peak twice in a single season. However, he is not expected to attempt a second ascent this year.

Kami Rita first conquered Mount Qomolangma--located on the border between Nepal and China--in May 1994.

PV Sindhu, Prannoy advance in Singapore Open

Singapore, May 27 (UNI) : Former world champion P V Sindhu snapped her run of first-round exits with a commanding victory to enter the pre-quarterfinals of the Singapore Badminton Open 2025 women's singles event here on Tuesday.

Sindhu, currently ranked 17th in the world, ousted Canada's world No 52 Wen Yu Zhang 21-14, 21-9 in just 31 minutes in her round of 32 clash. The Indian ace had also prevailed over Zhang in their previous meeting at the Spain Masters last year, winning that encounter in straight games as well.

The 2022 Singapore Open champion, Sindhu arrived in the island nation following four consecutive opening-round defeats in the ongoing BWF World Tour season. Her best result this year had come at the India Open in January, where she reached the quarterfinals. Meanwhile, Malvika

Bansod and Anmol Kharb bowed out in contrasting fashion. Malvika put up a spirited fight against Thailand's world No 9 Supanida Katethong before going down 14-21, 21-18, 21-11. Anmol Kharb, facing Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medallist Chen Yufei of China, showed resilience but fell short 21-11, 24-22.

In the men's singles, H S Prannoy staged a brilliant comeback to defeat Denmark's Rasmus Gemke 21-19, 16-21, 21-14 in a gruelling encounter that

lasted one hour and 12 minutes. The world No 34 Indian showcased his trademark grit to progress to the next round.

However, Priyanshu Rajawat, despite a strong start, lost to Japan's 2023 World Championships silver medallist Kodai Naraoka 14-21, 21-10, 21-14.

In mixed doubles action, Paris 2024-bound Tanisha Crasto and her partner Dhruv Kapila were ousted by China's Cheng Xing and Zhang Chi in straight games, 21-18, 21-13.

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Arun Kumar Jain, GM, SCR Reviews Monsoon Preparedness over SCR

GM, SCR holds safety review meeting on the train operations

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, May 27: Mr Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway has conducted a detailed review meeting on safety and monsoon preparedness forecasting rains across the zone today i.e., 26th May, 2025 at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad. Shri Neeraj Agrawal, Additional General Manager, SCR participated in the meeting along with all the Principal Heads of Departments. Divisional Railway Manager's (DRMs) of all six Divisions i.e. Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur and Nanded joined the review meeting through video conference.

The General Manager advised the officials to



conduct the safety drives in view of monsoon for strict implantation of the safety procedures to ensure safety in train operations. He instructed the officials to strengthen patrolling at all identified vulnerable sections at tracks, bridges and locations with heavy rainfall to prevent unsafe conditions. He advised the

Divisional Railway Managers to ensure proper working of signaling system etc., to avoid the unexpected failures in view of rainy season.

The General Manager while emphasizing on the safety of train operations stated that, strict co-ordination to be maintained in train operations and all

safety precautions to be followed while running the trains. He also instructed officials to focus on passenger's safety at all levels by inspecting assets related to safety. He instructed official to strengthen track patrolling by deploying additional RPF and Track patrolling staff to identify the

miscreants' activities to ensure track safety. He instructed the staff/officials to strictly adhere the standard safety protocols at level crossing gates over the zone to ensure the safety of the trains and road commuters.as well. He also discussed on the availability of CCTVs over the zone including private sidings to ensure security and transparency.

Earlier, Shri Arun Kumar Jain launched a new version-2.0 of e-DAS (Electronic Drawing Approval System) which will be helpful to maintain database related to engineering drawings and help full for approvals by the competent authority. This will promote paperless working, saves time and the money.

10 Employees of Western Railway felicitated with General Manager's Safety Award



Mr Ashok Kumar Misra - General Manager of Western Railway is seen along with Principal Head of Departments and the recipients of GM's Safety Award

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, May 27: Mr Ashok Kumar Misra - General Manager of Western Railway felicitated 10 employees at WR Headquarters, Mumbai for their outstanding work which resulted in safe train working. These employees were awarded in

appreciation of their alertness in duty and contribution towards averting untoward incidents, during the month of April 2025 and thereby ensuring the safety of train operations. Out of the 10 employees, two each are from Mumbai Central, Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar

and Ratlam Divisions, while one each from Vadodara and Rajkot Division.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, GM Shri Misra appreciated the alertness of the staff who were being awarded and mentioned

that they are exemplary role models for everyone to emulate. The employees showed their great zeal and commitment towards safe running of trains in various areas of safety such as detection of rail & track fracture, brake binding or dangling objects in passing train, application of

emergency brakes to save untoward incidents, extinguishing the smoke detected in generator car, etc.

Western Railway is proud of all the employees who, with their prompt action and alertness, helped to avert the possibility of any untoward incidence

SC to hear pleas in July on non-payment of MBBS Intern stipends and NEET-PG 2025 two-shift policy

New Delhi, May 27 (UNI) The Supreme Court of India has scheduled the hearing for July on a plea highlighting the non-payment of stipends to MBBS interns across several medical colleges.

The matter was mentioned on Monday before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice AG Masih by counsel representing the aggrieved students. The counsel informed the Court that despite a prior listing before Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia on May 19, the matter did not come up for hearing. "Students are getting zero stipend," the advocate submitted, urging the bench to take up the matter on priority.

In response, CJI Gavai confirmed that the matter would be listed during the working period of the summer vacation when Justice Dhulia's bench is sitting in July. CJI Gavai asked, "When is he (Justice

Dhulia) supposed to sit in vacation?" Counsel replied, "July." CJI Gavai said, "Then we will list it before him." The issue of unpaid stipends has been under the Court's scrutiny since April 2024, when it directed the National Medical Commission (NMC) to submit comprehensive details regarding stipend disbursement across all medical colleges in India.

The Court observed that the NMC had failed to provide full data as per its earlier directive dated September 15, 2023.

That order had specifically sought a tabulated chart outlining (i) whether approximately 70% of medical colleges were paying no or inadequate stipends to interns, and (ii) the steps the NMC was taking to enforce stipend compliance. In parallel, the bench of Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice K Vinod Chandran is also hearing a related

petition regarding the non-payment of stipends to Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs) undergoing internships at Indian hospitals and medical institutions. The same hearing also saw the mentioning of a separate but related plea challenging the National Board of Examinations' (NBE) decision to conduct NEET-PG 2025 in two shifts.

Petitioners argue that such a move introduces an element of unfairness, as the difficulty level of question papers may vary between shifts, potentially disadvantaging one set of candidates. The petition calls for the NEET-PG 2025 to be held in a single shift to ensure "just, fair, reasonable and equitable" conditions for all aspirants. The counsel pointed out that during NEET-PG 2024, it was alleged that the second shift had easier questions, leading to widespread concern among candidates.

Congress MP Aujla condemns Amritsar blast, says Punjab officials are busy 'hosting Delhi'

Amritsar, May 27 (UNI) Congress MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla strongly condemned the blast in Amritsar today in which a man was killed and said the Punjab government is fully responsible for the deteriorating law and order in the state. He accused he Punjab government officials of being "busy hosting the people of Delhi" - in reference to Arvind Kejriwal - and are "unable to ensure the safety of the people".

Aujla said that Amritsar has been in shock for three days. First the murder of the councilor, then the murder of the note changer and today the grenade blast. He said that the police catch the accused later but why can't they catch them earlier.

"Where are the counter intelligence and intelligence agencies of Punjab which have already

failed to stop crime?," he asked. He said that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann should suspend the responsible officials otherwise he should take responsibility for this deteriorating system himself. Aujla said that the government is using the Punjab system for its own benefit. The Punjab government is focusing only on elections instead of paying attention to the safety of the people. Even if today's blast had not happened there, and was meant for somewhere else, it is not known what its target was and what damage it would have done, but the government is not worried about it at all.

MP Aujla said that Amritsar is a border area. Blasts have happened here before and now again the blast has a direct impact on the arrival of tourists.

Revision of public time table timings of train in section between Naupada Junction over Waltair Diision

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, May 27: It has been decided by Railways to revise the Public Time Table (PTT) Timings of Trains presently running in Naupada Jn – Gunpur Section of Waltair Division w.e.f. 01.06.2025. The revised, speeded up, timings of the 04 pairs of Trains are as below:

The Train no.58506/58505 (Visakhapatnam – Gunupur – Visakhapatnam) Daily Passenger.

1. The revised Public Time Table Timings of Train No.58506 Visakhapatnam – Gunupur daily Passenger, with effect from 01.06.2025 are as Visakhapatnam departure at 05.30 Hrs, and will run with revised timings from Temburu arrival at 09.44Hrs & Departure at 09.45Hrs, Ganguvada arrival 09.49Hrs & Departure at 09.50Hrs, Patapatnam arrival at 09.59Hrs & Departure at 10.00Hrs, Paralakhemundi arrival at 10.08Hrs & Departure at 10.10Hrs, Sitapuram arrival at 10.24Hrs & Departure at 10.25Hrs, Haddubhangi arrival at 10.29Hrs & Departure at 10.30Hrs, Kashinagar arrival at 10.39Hrs & Departure at 10.40Hrs, Lihuri arrival at 10.49Hrs & Departure at 10.50Hrs, Bansadhara arrival at 10.59Hrs & Departure at 11.00Hrs, Palasinghi arrival at 11.09Hrs & Departure at 11.10Hrs and Gunupur arrival at 11.55Hrs.

2. In return direction the train no. 18117/18118 (Rourkela – Gunupur – Rourkela) Rajya Rani daily express.

1. Train no.18117 Rourkela – Gunupur daily Express, will run with revised timings with effect from 01.06.2025. The timings are Rourkela Departure at 21.25Hrs; Paralakhemundi arrival at 12.00Hrs & Departure at 12.02Hrs, Kashinagar arrival at 12.31Hrs & Departure at 12.32Hrs and will reach Gunupur at 13.25Hrs.

2. In return direction the train no. 18118 Gunupur – Rourkela daily Express, will run with revised timings with effect from 01.06.2025. The revised timings are, Gunupur Departure at 16.00Hrs, Kashinagar arrival at 16.29Hrs & Departure at 16.30Hrs, Paralakhemundi arrival at 16.58Hrs & Departure at 17.00Hrs.

The Train no. 18417/18418 (PURI – GUNUPUR – PURI) Daily Express.

1. Train no. 18417 Puri – Gunupur daily Express, will be running with revised timings with effect from 01.06.2025. Puri Departure at 12.00Hrs, the revised timings at Tekkali arrival at 18.19Hrs & Departure at 18.20Hrs, Patapatnam arrival at 18.54Hrs & Departure at 18.55Hrs,

14.57Hrs, Kashinagar arrival at 15.04Hrs & Departure at 15.05Hrs, Haddubhangi arrival at 15.15Hrs & Departure at 15.16Hrs, Sitapuram arrival at 15.20Hrs & Departure at 15.21Hrs, Paralakhemundi arrival at 15.33Hrs & Departure at 15.35Hrs, Patapatnam arrival at 15.43Hrs & Departure at 15.44Hrs, Ganguvada arrival 15.52Hrs & Departure at 15.53Hrs, Temburu arrival at 16.00Hrs & Departure at 16.01Hrs, Peddasana arrival 16.09Hrs & Departure at 16.10Hrs, Tekkali arrival 16.17Hrs & Departure at 16.18Hrs.

The train no. 18117/18118 (Rourkela – Gunupur – Rourkela) Rajya Rani daily express.

1. Train no.18117 Rourkela – Gunupur daily Express, will run with revised timings with effect from 01.06.2025. The timings are Rourkela Departure at 21.25Hrs; Paralakhemundi arrival at 12.00Hrs & Departure at 12.02Hrs, Kashinagar arrival at 12.31Hrs & Departure at 12.32Hrs and will reach Gunupur at 13.25Hrs.

2. In return direction the train no. 18118 Gunupur – Rourkela daily Express, will run with revised timings with effect from 01.06.2025. The revised timings are, Gunupur Departure at 16.00Hrs, Kashinagar arrival at 16.29Hrs & Departure at 16.30Hrs, Paralakhemundi arrival at 16.58Hrs & Departure at 17.00Hrs.

The Train no. 18417/18418 (PURI – GUNUPUR – PURI) Daily Express.

1. Train no. 18417 Puri – Gunupur daily Express, will be running with revised timings with effect from 01.06.2025. Puri Departure at 12.00Hrs, the revised timings at Tekkali arrival at 18.19Hrs & Departure at 18.20Hrs, Patapatnam arrival at 18.54Hrs & Departure at 18.55Hrs,

Paralakhemundi arrival at 19.03Hrs & Departure at 19.05Hrs, Kashinagar arrival at 19.33Hrs & departure at 19.34Hrs, Bansadhara arrival at 19.50Hrs & Departure at 19.51Hrs and will reach Gunupur at 20.25Hrs.

2. In return direction, the train no. 18418 Gunupur – Puri revised timings with effect from 01.06.2025, Gunupur Departure at 05.30 Hrs, Bansadhara arrival at 05.45Hrs & Departure at 05.46Hrs, Kashinagar arrival at 06.01Hrs & Departure at 06.02Hrs, Paralakhemundi arrival at 06.28Hrs & Departure at 06.30Hrs, Patapatnam arrival at 06.38Hrs & Departure at 06.39Hrs, Tekkali arrival at 07.12Hrs & Departure at 07.13Hrs.

The Train no.68433/68434 (Cuttack – Gunupur – Cuttack) daily Memu Passenger

1. Train no. 68433 Cuttack – Gunupur daily menu passenger, will run with revised timings with effect from 01.06.2025. Cuttack Departure at 17.15Hrs, the revised timings at Peddasana Arrival at 23.51Hrs & Departure at 23.52Hrs, Temburu Arrival at 00.01Hrs and Departure at 00.02Hrs, Ganguvada Arrival at 00.09Hrs & Departure at 00.10Hrs, Patapatnam arrival at 00.19Hrs & Departure at 00.20Hrs, Paralakhemundi arrival at 00.28Hrs & Departure at 00.30Hrs, Sitapuram arrival at 00.44Hrs & Departure at 00.45Hrs, Haddubhangi arrival at 00.51Hrs & Departure at 00.52Hrs, Kashinagar arrival at 01.02Hrs & Departure at 01.03Hrs, Lihuri arrival at 01.10Hrs & Departure at 01.11Hrs, Bansadhara arrival at 01.19Hrs & Departure at 01.20Hrs, Palasinghi arrival at 01.27Hrs & Departure at 01.28Hrs and Gunupur arrival at 02.00Hrs.

SWR, GM, Mukul Saran Mathur Reviews Railway Safety and Speed Upgradation Works



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, May 27: A high-level safety review meeting was held today at Rail Soudha, Hubballi,

chaired by Mr Mukul Saran Mathur, General Manager of South Western Railway. The meeting focused on enhancing railway safety and reviewed the ongoing progress of speed upgradation works across

key sections of the zone, including the Hubballi–Karajgi section.

During the meeting, comprehensive discussions were held on various safety-related issues and operational improvements in the ghat section, as well as the current status of infrastructure projects aimed at increasing train

speeds and ensuring safer railway operations.

Shri K.S. Jain, Additional General Manager, Shri Ajay Sharma, CAO/CN/BNC, along with the Principal Heads of Departments, Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of Hubballi, Mysuru, and Bengaluru divisions, and other senior officers attended the meeting.