

## IN BRIEF

### Mahila court in Ooty awards life term for accused in POC SO case

Chennai, May 29 (UNI) : A Mahila Court at Ooty in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu has awarded life term for an accused in a POC SO case. Reports received here said following a complaint from a girl that one Premokuttan, had fallen in love with her and sexually assaulted her, the All Women Police station in Ooty registered a case on June 21, 2020.

After detailed investigations, cases were registered under the POC SO Act against the accused leading to his arrest.

The police filed the charged in the Ooty Mahila Court against the accused and after trial, he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The Court, while delivering the verdict on Wednesday evening, also imposed fine of Rs 10,000 on the accused.

This judgement comes on a day when a Mahila Court in Chennai convicted the lone accused in the Anna University sexual assault case of a second year engineering student, while stating that the quantum of sentence would be pronounced on June 2.

### Man tested positive for COVID dies in Chennai

Chennai, May 28 (UNI) : A 60-year-old man, who tested positive while undergoing treatment for acute gastroenteritis and severe dehydration, died at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) in Chennai.

This was the first death reported in Tamil Nadu where 69 cases were reported till date.

A statement issued by the Health and Family Welfare Department, Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine on Wednesday night said, Covid was an accidental finding. It attributed the cause of the death due to complications of chronic kidney failure along with other existing comorbidities and Covid was an accidental finding.

It said the patient was referred from ESI Hospital, KK Nagar in Chennai as a case of acute gastroenteritis with severe dehydration.

## Retrieving Katchatheevu alone will offer permanent solution to protect TN fishermen rights : TN, CM, Stalin

Chennai, May 28 (UNI) : Reiterating that the ruling DMK would always strive for the welfare of the fishermen community and protect their rights, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M K Stalin on Wednesday asserted that retrieving Katchatheevu alone would provide a permanent solution to restore the traditional fishing rights of the TN fishermen.

Speaking after inaugurating a new fishing harbour, upgraded fishing harbours, new fish landing centres and launching welfare measures for the fishing community at an event held in North

Chennai, the Chief Minister recalled a resolution passed to this effect in the State Assembly on April two urging the Centre to take steps to retrieve the islet.

Katchatheevu, where the TN fishermen are traditionally involved in fishing, was an islet ceded to Sri Lanka through an agreement in 1974.

Mr Stalin said his government had been consistently taking all steps and urging the Centre that retrieving the islet alone will



provide a permanent solution in restoring the traditional fishing rights of TN fishermen in the high seas since they were subjected to frequent arrests and attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy for fishing in their territorial waters by crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). Listing out the numerous initiative launched by his government during the last four years, Mr Stalin said retrieving Katchatheevu alone will provide a permanent and lasting solution to the fishermen woes and prevent recurring attacks on them by the Sri Lankan Navy.

He said during the last four years 97 incidents have taken place in which 1,383 fishermen were apprehended by the Lankan Navy and their 185 boats

were impounded.

He said he had till date written 76 letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar urging them to take steps to secure the release of the arrested fishermen and their boats from the Lankan custody.

Due to the consistent efforts and thanks to the DMK MP's raising the issue repeatedly in Parliament, 1,354 fishermen were released from the Lankan custody and steps were on to secure the release of remaining 29 fishermen and bring them back to their Motherland.

Stating that 229 boats impounded since 2018 were yet to be released by the Lankan government,

Mr Stalin said the DMK government, while on the one hand was fighting

politically to secure their release, on the other hand, it has been ensuring their livelihood by providing Rs five lakh financial assistance to 129 mechanised boat owners of Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi districts, and Rs 1.50 lakh each to 26 country-boat owners, totalling Rs 6.84 crore.

This amount was first increased to Rs six lakh and now it has been further enhanced to Rs eight lakh and Rs two lakh respectively, he added.

Stating that the DMK's Dravidian Model government always lends a helping hand to the fishermen by wiping out their tears, the Chief Minister said in 2024-25 a total of Rs six crore was provided as assistance to 73 mechanised boat owners (Rs eight lakh each) and nine country-boat owners (Rs two lakh each).

"A permanent and only solution for all these woes is the retrieval of Katchatheevu", he said and promised to continue its efforts in this regard and safeguard the interests of fishermen and their rights.

### BJP ready to form government in Manipur as protests continue

Imphal, May 28 (UNI) : The BJP is prepared to form a popular government in Manipur, said its MLA Th Radheshyam on Wednesday.

Radheshyam and some other BJP legislators called on state Governor AK Bhalla at the Raj Bhawan here to discuss the developments in Manipur in the wake of a major crisis since May 3, 2023. Radheshyam said 44 out of 60 MLAs in Manipur are ready to form a government, but did not give the list of those legislators. The final decision will be taken by the BJP Central leadership, he added. Manipur came under President's Rule on Feb 13. The next Assembly elections are scheduled in 2027. Radheshyam was accompanied by nine other MLAs when he visited the Raj Bhawan. Radheshyam, who served as Education Minister in the first N Biren Singh government (2017-2022), later said even the five opposition Congress MLAs wanted a popular government to be formed.

The Governor is concerned about the situation in the state, according to N Biren Singh. Biren said he submitted a detailed report to the Governor about the situation and problems faced by Manipur on Tuesday. BJP MP Sambit Patra had earlier visited the state and interacted with party MLAs, including N Biren, Speaker Th Satyabrata.

### School girl stabbed to death inside her house, another hurt in TN

Chennai, May 28 (UNI) : In a shocking and spine chilling incident, a tenth standard girl student was stabbed to death in her residence and her relative, also a student, was injured in a brutal attack by two youths at Sholingur in Ranipet district of Tamil Nadu on Wednesday evening. Reports received at the Police headquarters here said the two students were studying in their house when the assailants barged in and stabbed them, killing one of them on the spot.

The deceased was identified as 15-year-old Janani, and her friend Latchaya (16), studying 11th standard, sustained serious stab wounds and was rushed to a hospital.

Hearing their screams, locals manage to nab one of them, who swooned in front of the house, and handed him over to the police, while the other assailant managed to escape. He was arrested and admitted to hospital for treatment. Senior police officials rushed to the spot and shifted the girl's body to the government hospital for post mortem.



### Op Sindoor was necessary, precisely targeted, not call for war: Shashi Tharoor

In a powerful statement underscoring India's measured response to terrorism, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, while strongly defending 'Operation Sindoor' emphasised that the mission was "necessary and precisely targeted" and "not a call for war". Shashi Tharoor leads an Indian leaders' delegation to various countries to educate them about Operation Sindoor and India's strong message of zero-tolerance against terrorism. Citing the harrowing plight of 26 women whose "Sindoor" (vermilion) was wiped off from their foreheads by terrorists, Tharoor said, "India's response was carefully, precisely and calibrated strikes on terror bases—avoiding civilian, military, or government targets entirely"

(See on page 4)

### No breach of UNESCO Heritage norms: Supreme Court



The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the Punjab and Haryana High Court's orders directing the construction of a verandah outside Courtroom No 1 and the eco-friendly redevelopment of the kutchra parking area within the High Court premises.

( See on page 2)

### Swiatek crushes Raducanu after tough year



Iga Swiatek silenced any doubts about her form and focus with a commanding 6-1, 6-2 demolition of Britain's Emma Raducanu on Wednesday, extending her unbeaten streak at the French Open to 23 matches and making a resounding statement after a turbulent year on and off the court.

(See on page 7)

### Pradhan urges Yadav to facilitate expansion and ...



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday urged Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, to facilitate the proposed expansion and upgradation of Sambalpur Zoo.

(See on page 8)

## Modi, Shah pay homage to Veer Savarkar on birth anniversary

New Delhi, May 28 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday paid homage to Veer Savarkar on his birth anniversary.

Modi in a post on X said that the grateful nation can never forget the saga of his indomitable courage and struggle in the freedom movement.

His sacrifice and dedication for the country will continue to guide the path in building a developed India.

"Respectful tribute to Veer Savarkar ji, a true son of Bharat Mata, on his birth anniversary. Even the harshest tortures of foreign rule could not shake his unwavering dedication to the motherland. The grateful nation can never forget the saga of his indomitable courage and struggle in the freedom movement. His sacrifice and commitment to the nation will continue to serve as a guiding light in the building of a developed India," the Prime Minister said.

Meanwhile, Amit Shah while paying his tributes to Veer Savarkar said on X, he "dedicated his entire life to freeing Indian society from the curse of untouchability and uniting it in a strong thread of unity".

"Swatantryaveer Savarkar ji, who crossed the pinnacle of courage and restraint for the freedom of the motherland, made an unforgettable contribution in making national interest an all-India consciousness," Shah said.

"Savarkar ji, who made the freedom struggle of 1857 historic with his writings, could not be shaken by the harsh tortures of the British.

On his birth anniversary, on behalf of the grateful nation, we offer our heartfelt tributes to Veer Savarkar Ji, who devoted his whole life to freeing the Indian society from the scourge of untouchability and binding it in a strong thread of unity," the Home Minister said.

## RBI gold loan restrictions needless, it's a blow to dignity, survival of poor, middle class : Stalin

Chennai, May 28 (UNI) : Terming the restrictions imposed by the RBI on gold loans as needless, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M K Stalin on Wednesday it was a blow to the dignity and survival of the poor and the middle class.

In a statement here, the restrictions imposed by the

RBI has made it harder for the poor and the middle class families to access credit with self-respect.

Observing that it was not a mere regulation but a blow to their dignity and survival, Mr Stalin asked at a time when many were caught in the cruel grip of Loan Sharks and forced into Loan Apps during

times of desperation, is it fair to push them further into those traps instead of protecting them. While urging Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the RBI Governor to ease the rules on gold Loan, the Chief Minister also urged them to allow the people to pledge their hard earned gold with dignity. "Our

people are simple, dignified, and resilient. Even when all they have is half a rupee, they save it carefully, adding to it bit by bit, until they can buy a single gold bead", he said. "Not for show. Not for luxury. But for emergencies--moments when there is no one else to turn to", he noted.



# Monsoon measures should be improved according to situation and given more impetus

While reviewing the preparedness for the monsoon season, Municipal Commissioner and Administrator Mr. Bhushan Gagrani gave instructions



**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, May 28 : While the pre-monsoon works are going on at a fast pace as per the planning made by the Municipal Corporation, the monsoon has arrived in Mumbai a fortnight earlier than every year. As a result, it is a fact that drain cleaning, roads and other works have also been affected to some extent. However, considering the top priority of civic services and facilities, appropriate improvements should be made in the monsoon measures according to the situation, and the measures should be given maximum speed. Municipal Commissioner and Administrator Mr. Bhushan Gagrani has given instructions that the works should be completed quickly and the system should be kept well-equipped by being vigilant in all the proceedings.

In view of the situation that arose in Mumbai two days ago due to continuous

and heavy rains, Municipal Commissioner and Administrator Mr. Bhushan Gagrani reviewed the monsoon works of the Municipal Corporation today (28th May 2025). At that time, he gave various instructions to the system. Additional Municipal Commissioner (Western Suburbs) Dr. Vipin Sharma, Additional Municipal Commissioner (Projects) Mr. Abhijit Bangar, all concerned Joint Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and concerned officers were present in this meeting held at the Municipal Corporation Headquarters. Municipal Commissioner Mr. Gagrani said that this year the monsoon has arrived in Mumbai fifteen days earlier than every year. It is a fact that the heavy rains have affected the work of the Municipal Corporation to some extent. Especially, the work of removing silt from the drains has been

hampered. However, in order to ensure that the speed of the monsoon work does not slow down under any circumstances, appropriate amendments should be made in the previous planning and necessary changes should be adopted. The work of removing silt from the rivers and drains should be completed in the next eight to ten days, the Municipal Commissioner said. This year, a total of 414 pumping sets have been planned to be installed in low-lying and very low-lying areas as well as in all possible places where water can accumulate during heavy rains. Accordingly, it should be ensured that the process of installing pumping sets (pump sets) has been completed at all places. The process of establishing and commissioning the pumping system should be completed within the next 24 hours. To check that this system is functioning smoothly, it should be

properly tested. Follow-up should be coordinated at the necessary levels to complete the entire process. Letters of acceptance have been given to the contractors to obtain 10 sets of vehicle mounted mobile pumps on lease basis. These sets will be available within eight days. This system can be used in case of emergency, Mr. Gagrani also mentioned. He further said that utmost care should be taken to ensure that rainwater does not accumulate in very low-lying and low-lying areas. If water is found accumulating due to heavy rain, efforts should be made to ensure that it is drained quickly. New places where rainwater accumulates have been found, the Assistant Commissioner of the concerned administrative department and the Deputy Commissioner of the circle should inspect those places.

# For waste material collection from May 29th to June 15th Special cleanliness drive : BMC

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, May 28 : In line with the monsoon activities in Mumbai, the Solid Waste Management Department of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation will be implementing a special cleanliness drive for waste collection in Mumbai city and suburbs from May 29 to June 15, 2025. Along with this, the campaign will include cleaning before 10 am every day and second sweeping as needed. As per the directions of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Commissioner and Administrator Mr. Bhushan Gagrani, under the guidance of Additional Municipal Corporation Commissioner (City) Dr. (Mrs.) Ashwini Joshi and under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner (Solid Waste Management)

Mr. Kiran Dighavkar, various measures and various activities are being implemented in line with solid waste management. During the monsoon season, special initiatives are being taken along with regular cleaning to ensure cleanliness in various parts of Mumbai city and suburbs. Against this backdrop, a special cleanliness drive has been undertaken by the Solid Waste Management Department to ensure cleanliness by collecting and cleaning garbage at regular intervals during the monsoon season. Special emphasis will be placed on collecting items and materials discarded in public places. The main objective of this drive is to ensure that these waste materials carried along with rainwater do not obstruct

the drainage of water. Instructions have also been given to collect curbstones, paver blocks, debris from project sites, and other leftover materials along with waste materials. Special focus will be given to cleanliness in the area around rivers and drains in this campaign, so that possible obstructions in the flow of rainwater can be removed. Under this, between May 29 and June 15, 2025, all the administrative divisions (ward) offices of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation will identify the places where the most garbage accumulates and conduct a thorough cleaning there. This will include cleaning of roads, alleys and gullies, paver blocks, curbstones, drains and watercourse inlet points. Garbage will be

collected using machinery as required to remove footpaths, road waste, waste materials, debris, and unwanted materials. Along with this, debris and garbage remaining on the plots adjacent to drains and at project sites will be collected and cleaned. Garbage will be collected from all plots (excluding debris) irrespective of ownership. Meanwhile, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation is appealing to citizens living in the vicinity of houses, housing societies and other establishments to maintain cleanliness in their respective areas. They are also urged not to litter or create noise in public places and to cooperate with the administration's efforts regarding cleanliness.

# NHAI to start trial run of underpasses on Dwarka Expressway from today

New Delhi, May 28 (UNI) : To enhance traffic flow and decongest the Delhi-Gurugram section of NH 48, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will begin trial run of the tunnel and underpasses on the Delhi section of Dwarka Expressway from Thursday. The trial run will take place from 12 noon to 3 pm every day, an official statement said. This will mark a significant step toward enhancing mobility and reducing congestion in Delhi NCR. The

underpasses opened for the trial run will include a shallow tunnel connecting Dwarka/Yashobhumi to Airport through Airport Underpasses and vice versa. Further, users can also ply towards Gurugram (towards Sirhaul) from Dwarka/Yashobhumi through shallow tunnel and right turn underpass. Moreover, a combination of airport underpasses along with right turn underpass can be used from Terminal 3 to Gurugram (towards Sirhaul).

The trial period will help NHAI to monitor and evaluate traffic patterns, safety measures, and infrastructure efficiency to ensure seamless integration into the city's transport network. The tunnel will have a height restriction of vehicles up to 4.5 metres and slow-moving vehicles like two wheelers, three wheelers and vehicles carrying flammable materials like oil tankers will not be allowed inside the tunnel and underpasses. The tunnel is likely to be fully operational from June

5. The tunnel has been built using advanced engineering and safety features. It is equipped with CCTV surveillance, a dedicated control room, and emergency exits to ensure commuter safety and efficiency. The tunnel's strategic location and layout will benefit large number of daily commuters and reduce the burden on surface roads and reduce congestion by connecting Dwarka Expressway to the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. Once operational, the

# Veer Savarkar's ideology still inspires millions of youth: Rajasthan Speaker

Jaipur, May 28 (UNI) Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnanani on Wednesday extended his greetings to the people of the state on the occasion of Veer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's birth anniversary, saying that the great freedom fighter, nationalist thinker, writer, and social reformer fought tirelessly for India's independence, social harmony, and national consciousness throughout his life. Devnanani said that Veer Savarkar's revolutionary personality and sharp nationalist ideology continue to inspire millions of youth today. His extraordinary sacrifice and self-confidence are an indelible chapter in India's freedom struggle. He added that Veer Savarkar not only fought for independence but also worked to free society from casteism, discrimination, and superstition. Through principles like "one temple, one food, one water", he paved the way for social harmony. Devnanani emphasized that Savarkar's literature, poetry, and historical writings provide a strong ideological foundation for the nation. He urged the youth to read and understand Savarkar's life and philosophy and draw inspiration from his patriotism, courage, and thoughtfulness.

# 36 held guilty in Panwari case, sentence to be announced on May 30

Agra (UP), May 28 (UNI) : A special court here on Wednesday held 36 accused guilty and acquitted 15 giving the benefit of doubt in the almost 34 years old infamous Panwari case of Agra district here in Uttar Pradesh, prosecution sources said here. Prosecution sources said that the court of SC-ST Judge Pushkar Upadhyay has fixed May 30 as the next date to pronounce the quantum of punishment. Prosecution sources said in the year 1990, violence broke out in Panwari village over the marriage procession of the daughter of a SC family. "Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Chaudhary

# No breach of UNESCO Heritage norms: Supreme Court

New Delhi, May 28 (UNI): The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the Punjab and Haryana High Court's orders directing the construction of a verandah outside Courtroom No 1 and the eco-friendly redevelopment of the kutchra parking area within the High Court premises. The apex court rejected objections raised by the Chandigarh administration, ruling that the proposed works do not violate UNESCO guidelines applicable to heritage sites. A bench, comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, observed that the verandah's design, aligned with those outside Courtrooms 2 to 9, is consistent with the architectural character of the High Court building and does not compromise its World Heritage Site status. "We find that the High Court's directive for verandah

construction is appropriate and in conformity with the existing design elements. It does not breach UNESCO heritage norms," the Supreme Court held. The bench added that the Chandigarh administration may still seek ex post facto approval from concerned heritage authorities as a precautionary step. The Court also endorsed the High Court's decisions dated February 7 and 21, 2025, which directed the placement of green paver blocks and tree plantations in the kutchra parking area. The goal, the Court said, is to maximize vehicle capacity, create shaded parking, and boost the site's green cover. To ensure effective execution, the Court directed the High Court administration to consult landscaping experts and monitor the process through a designated committee.

# Health, Spirituality and Diet Two-day workshop successfully concluded

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Thane, May 28 : On the initiative of District Collector Ashok Shingare and in collaboration with Panchavati Farms, Shergaon, a two-day workshop on "Health, Spirituality and Diet" was successfully organized at Town Hall, Thane on 24th and 25th May 2025. Thane District Collectorate and District Planning Officer Vaibhav Kulkarni provided valuable support in organizing this initiative. The workshop was inaugurated by Additional District Collector Harishchandra Patil, Resident Deputy District Collector Dr. Sandeep Mane and P. Deputy District Collector. (General Administration) was held in the chief presence of Sachin Chaudhar. A total of 51 participants attended the



workshop. In which Zilla Parishad officials as well as medical officers from the health department actively participated. All the sessions in the workshop received a very enthusiastic response. Jaya Kale provided insightful and thought-provoking guidance on the topics of man-made and natural science, possible causes of diseases, service and reconciliation. Yoga expert Snehal Kale provided in-depth information on yoga

practice, ideal diet, misconceptions about protein, hormonal health and vitality, and demonstrated pranayama and asanas. During the workshop, participants were provided with healthy, delicious, and innovative meals prepared from raw vegetables and fruits. According to the feedback from all the participants, this workshop created awareness about health and clarified the relationship between diet and health.

# HP High Court raps govt over lack of medical staff in tribal Chamba

Shimla, May 28 (UNI) The Himachal Pradesh High Court came down heavily on the state government on Wednesday for the acute shortage of medical staff in Civil Hospital Bharmaur and several Community and Primary Health Centres in the tribal region of Chamba district. While hearing a civil writ petition filed by Dr. Janak Raj, Justice Ajay Mohan Goel directed the Secretary (Health) to ensure at least 50% of the sanctioned posts are filled at the earliest. The court noted with concern that out of 65 sanctioned posts at Civil Hospital Bharmaur, 35 are vacant. Only two medical officers have been posted against 11 sanctioned positions since September 2023. The lone post of Dental Surgeon has been lying vacant since 2021, and the post of Chief Pharmacist has remained unfilled since 2016. Additionally, three posts each of Pharmacist and Winter Pharmacist, along with six posts of Staff Nurse, are vacant. The petitioner, represented by Advocate Suman Thakur, highlighted the grim scenario in not only Civil Hospital Bharmaur but also CHC Holi, PHC Garola, PHC Mandha, and PHC Jagat.



# TDP leaders highlight achievements of one year rule in Andhra Pradesh

Kadapa, May 28 (UNI) : Union and state Ministers, MPs and MLAs belonging to Andhra Pradesh's ruling Telugu Desam on Wednesday highlighted the achievements of the government including stopping the privatisation of Visakha steel plant while

addressing the Mahanadu here. Union Minister for Civil Aviation K Rammohan Naidu highlighted that they were able to prevent the privatisation of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant within one year of rule. Furthermore, they also achieved the Railway Zone, additional funds for the Polavaram project and the Capital city Amaravati.

The TDP-JSP-BJP coalition is ruling the state efficiently while implementing the welfare schemes, at the same time, development has been prioritised," Ramamohan Naidu asserted. TDP is the only party which has faced a lot of turmoil during the last four decades and successfully overcome them. Union Minister of State for Rural Development Pemmasani Chandrasekhar recalled that despite the ruling party in the previous regime having a sufficient number of MPs, it could not get anything from the Centre. Now Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is meeting the Union Ministers often to get the projects approved and get funds for various projects, he noted. MP Sri Bharat stated that the significance of Araku coffee was highlighted in the Parliament and efforts were being made to promote it. Finance Minister Payyavula Keshan stated that the need of the hour is promoting Nara Lokesh as 'Working President. Lokesh should be made working president to further bolster the TDP and hoped the high command would take an appropriate decision at the right time.

Minister for Water

Resources Development Nimmala Ramanaidu alleged that grave injustice was meted to the Rayalaseema during the YSRCP regime. Addressing on 'Comprehensive irrigation planning and bright progress' he highlighted that INR 12,000 crore was spent during the previous TDP regime from 2014 to 2019 for the irrigation projects in Rayalaseema region while the YSRCP during 2019-24 spent only INR 2000 crore which reflects how a raw deal was given to the region by the YSRCP, he lamented and assured of completing the HNS by 2025. TDP senior leader and former Union Minister P Ashok Gajapati recalled his association with TDP founder NT Rama Rao. The Energy Minister Gottipati Ravikumar lauded Chandrababu Naidu for his vision on the power sector and for implementing revolutionary reforms. Naidu made AP a power surplus state, the Minister pointed out.

TDP senior leader and MLA Kalva Srinivasulu introduced 'Rayalaseema Development declaration in the Mahanadu. He hoped that Rayalaseema would become lush green, if the Galeru, Nagari and Handri Neeva projects were completed. MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy made it clear that since he did not like the YSRCP policies, he fought with the party and finally quit.

He described Chandrababu Naidu as a role model of reforms. MLAs Gouthu Sirisha and Kuna Ravi Kumar were among those who addressed the second day sessions of Mahanadu.

## Chandrababu Naidu unanimously elected National President of TDP

Kadapa, May 28 (UNI) : Telugu Desam Party National President and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was on Wednesday unanimously elected national president of Telugu Desam party again during the annual conclave Mahanadu. Speaking on the occasion, Naidu thanked the leaders and activists for reposing confidence in him and electing him again as national president. He claimed that the TDP had striven hard

for the eradication of Naxalism from the state and faction politics in Rayalaseema region. He also claimed that the TDP had prevented communal clashes in the old city in Hyderabad.

Naidu announced that the Polavaram project, being constructed across the river Godavari, would be completed by 2027 and assured of completing the Veligonda project expeditiously. He also announced the implementation of flagship schemes 'Talliki Vandanam' and 'free bus service' for women from August 15.

# NTR: The Legendary Icon Who Elevated Telugu Pride Globally : WG Dist Collector Chadalavada Nagarani



(Standard Post Bureau)

Bhimavaram, May 28: The 102nd birth anniversary celebrations of the late Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao were held with great reverence at the PGSR Meeting Hall in the District Collector's Office on Wednesday. The event began with floral tributes paid to NTR's portrait by District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani, Joint Collector T. Rahul Kumar Reddy, and other officials. On the occasion, District Collector Nagarani stated that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has officially designated May 28 as a state celebration to commemorate the birth anniversary of the former Chief Minister, the late N.T.

Rama Rao. She noted that NTR's visionary leadership has left an indelible mark on the state of Andhra Pradesh and earned him a place of reverence among all sections of society.

She emphasized that NTR brought about a revolutionary change in Indian politics, much like M.G Ramachandran (MGR) in Tamil Nadu. His efforts were focused on the welfare and upliftment of the underprivileged and backward communities. Recalling his transformative role, she highlighted his abolition of the Karanam system and introduction of the VRO system, which brought governance closer to the



people through the mandal system. The Collector also recalled his pioneering welfare initiatives like 2 per kg rice, housing for the poor, affordable Janata clothing, and pension schemes for the economically weaker sections. She noted that NTR strongly believed that empowering women was essential for the state's progress. In line with this vision, he introduced property rights for women, ensured reservations in politics and education, and established the Padmavathi Mahila University in Tirupati, laying a strong foundation for women's education and empowerment.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Collector T.

Rahul Kumar Reddy remarked that NTR, born into a humble farming family, rose to great heights through sheer dedication and determination. He urged everyone to draw inspiration from NTR's life. He added that NTR's entry into politics brought renewed confidence to the poor and instilled courage among the masses. By travelling across the state, NTR awakened public consciousness and fostered unity. He also emphasized that the youth would greatly benefit from studying the lives of leaders like N.T. Rama Rao and Jayaprakash Narayan. As part of the celebrations, a photo exhibition showcasing key moments

from NTR's life was arranged on the Collectorate premises. It drew enthusiastic attention from the District Collector, Joint Collector, DRO, RDO, departmental officials, staff members, and students. Students presented cultural performances that captivated the audience and paid homage to the legendary leader. Several speakers highlighted significant milestones from NTR's remarkable journey. The event was attended by District Revenue Officer M. Venkateswarlu, RDO K. Praveen Kumar Reddy, various departmental heads, employees, former Municipal Chairperson Merugani Narayanamma, and many others.

## Anna Varsity sexual assault case : Mahila Court convicts accused

Chennai, May 28 (UNI) : A Mahila Court in Chennai on Wednesday convicted 37-year-old Gnanasekaran in the sexual assault case at the Ste-run iconic Anna University. Mahila Court Judge M Rajalakshmi found the lone accused guilty on all 11 charges including rape, sexual harassment, wrongful confinement, and criminal intimidation, and convicted him.

The Judge said she would pronounce the quantum of sentence on June 2.

The incident took place in the campus on December 23, 2024, when the victim, a second year engineering student, was talking to her boy friend at a secluded place, when Gnanasekaran, who was later found to be a sympathiser of the ruling


DMK, confronted them, and sexually assaulted the student after threatening her boyfriend.

Gnanasekaran, a biryani vendor from Kotturpuram, threatened them claiming to have recorded them in an intimate moment and warned of sharing the footage with university authorities and the victim's father. After coercing the male student to leave, Gnanasekaran took the female student to a secluded area and sexually assaulted her, recording the act on his mobile phone. He also threatened to leak the video unless she complied with his demands.

The victim filed a complaint on December 24, leading to Gnanasekaran's arrest the next day.

The case was initially

handled by the Greater Chennai Police and later transferred to a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising senior female IPS officers on the orders of the Madras High Court, which took serious view after the FIR containing the details of the victims got leaked, also ordered a compensation of Rs 25 lakh to the victim for the mental agony she had undergone after the details about her was leaked. After a detailed probe, the SIT filed the chargesheet in February 2025 against Gnanasekaran under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including rape, sexual harassment, wrongful confinement, and criminal intimidation, as well as under the provisions of the Information



**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**  
**Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**  
**5th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antoyadaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Raod, New Delhi**

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INVITING ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FOR THE YEAR- 2025

The Rashtriya Purashkar Portal for receiving applications/ nominations for National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, for the year 2025 are now open w.e.f. 15th May. 2025 to 15th July, 2025. The details are as under:

i. Applications/ Nominations may be filed on Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (www.awards.gov.in).

ii. All Applications/Nominations for the National Awards for the year 2025 received upto 15th July, 2025 will be considered.

iii. Application for the year 2025 is to be submitted online on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (www.awards.gov.in) only. The nomination should contain all relevant details specified in the format available on the above portal including clearly bringing out the notable and inspiring achievements in narrative form. The supporting documents relating to the achievements should also be uploaded on the portal.

iv. Application in physical form or any other form will not be accepted.

v. For eligibility criteria and other details, Guidelines for National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities available on website of the Department (www.depwd.gov.in) as well as on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (www.awards.gov.in) may be referred to.

**cbc 38117/11/0001/2526**

### SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on @SCRrailwayindia  
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C.Railway can be seen on our website: [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

Open e-Tender Notice No. DRM/Works/BZA/12/2025 Dt. 27.05.2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tenders for the following works up to 15-00 hours and the date mentioned against each.

Sl. No.: 1 Tender No.: E-24-EAST-BZA-2025 Name of work: SW-I: DLS/BZA: Construction of Two storied new building 20x16 mtrs. Size at CNG plant area. SW II: BZA-Repairs to CAMTECH Booster Pump Common Headers and Delivery Pipelines for coach watering at BZA station. Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve Months) Tender value: ₹2,69,74,197/- E.M.D.: ₹2,84,900/- Date of Closing: 11/06/2025

Sl. No.: 2 Tender No.: E-25-EAST-BZA-2025 Name of work: SW I: DLS/BZA: Improvements of working area in Diesel Loco Shed Vijayawada Sub works : (1) Repairs to corrugated roof sheets in HR bay and CR sections and repairs to ladies room at shed control room. (2) Provision of concrete flooring for open area towards VSKP end.(3) Provision of concrete flooring HR bay LR bay of DLS BZA. (4) Renovation of LR bay including provision of Tiles on side walls. SW II: DLS/BZA: Developments of works in Diesel Loco Shed Vijayawada. Subject : Construction of Loco body washing and cleaning plant cum rain water leakage testing plant in DLS BZA. Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve Months) Tender value: ₹3,09,87,272/- E.M.D.: ₹3,04,900/- Date of Closing: 11/06/2025

Sl. No.: 3 Tender No.: E-14-Central-BZA-2025 Name of work: GDR-BZA SECTION Rebuilding of Existing Br.No. 620 UP with RCC Boxes by Open Cut Method in SSE/W/Bapatia section. Period of Completion: 09 (Nine Months) Tender value: ₹2,33,82,439/- E.M.D.: ₹2,66,900/- Date of Closing: 12/06/2025

Sl. No.: 4 Tender No.: E-09-south-BZA-2025 Name of work: Vijayawada Division: BZA-GDR section: Proposed safety related track maintenance works and other miscellaneous track works in ADEN/NLR Sub-division of Sr.DEN/South/BZA Jurisdiction. Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve Months) Tender value: ₹2,94,13,655/- E.M.D.: ₹2,97,100/- Date of Closing: 12/06/2025

Sl. No.: 5 Tender No.: E-08-south-BZA-2025 Name of work: Vijayawada Division: BZA-GDR section: Proposed safety related track maintenance works and other miscellaneous track works in ADEN/OGL Sub-division of Sr.DEN/South/BZA Jurisdiction. Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve Months) Tender value: ₹4,64,84,627/- E.M.D.: ₹3,82,400/- Date of Closing: 12/06/2025

Sl. No.: 6 Tender No.: E-10-south-BZA-2025 Name of work: SW-I:BZA Division: Proposed development of PQRS depot at surareddypalem in SSE/P.Way/SKM section of ADEN/OGL Sub-division. SW-II: Gudur-Vijayawada Section: Providing and fixing of Track Fittings, other Components of Track for Casual Renewal of Track in Sr.DEN/South/BZA jurisdiction SW-III: Gudur-Vijayawada Section:TRR(P)-1.345Km at various bridge locations of ADEN/OGL & ADEN/NLR Sub-divisions SW-IV:Gudur-Vijayawada Section:TRR(TFR)-88Sets & TFR(A)/F17.066Km on UP line in SSE/P.Way/GDR, NLR & BTTR sections of ADEN/NLR Subdivision. Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve Months) Tender value: ₹1,49,59,606/- E.M.D.: ₹2,24,800/- Date of Closing: 12/06/2025

Sl. No.: 7 Tender No.: E-15-Central-BZA-2025 Name of work: Vijayawada Division: BZA-GDR section: Proposed safety related track maintenance works and other miscellaneous track works in ADEN/NLR Sub-division of Sr.DEN/South/BZA Jurisdiction. Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve Months) Tender value: ₹6,13,04,295/- E.M.D.: ₹4,56,500/- Date of Closing: 13/06/2025

Sl. No.: 8 Tender No.: E-08-Bridges-BZA-2025 Name of work: BZA Division-BZA-VSKP Sec: Provision of PVC pipe covering on Bottom X-bracings and covering of CG Top flanges with galvanized MS sheet and replacing of MS side pathway at isolated damaged locations with SS Chequered plate on Br.No.248A (Rail cum Road Bridge) in SSE/BR/II R/UY section under ADEN/BR/N/BZA jurisdiction. Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve Months) Tender value: ₹2,38,91,454/- E.M.D.: ₹2,69,500/- Date of Closing: 17/06/2025

Sl. No.: 9 Tender No.: E-07-Bridges-BZA-2025 Name of work: BZA Division: GDR- BZA, BZA - KI, BZA - BVRT8 GDV - MTM Sections - Painting and Metallizing of Bridges and other structures including Trolley and man Refuges, ladders and Height gauges in SSE/BR/ NLR, SSE/BR/II/BZA and SSE/BR/ II BZA sections under ADEN/BR/ SOUTH/BZA jurisdiction due during 2024-25. Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve Months) Tender value: ₹1,72,10,258/- E.M.D.: ₹2,36,100/- Date of Closing: 17/06/2025

The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website "www.irops.gov.in", before the date of tender closing to note any changes/ corrigenda for any tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Vijayawada

### Open e-Tender Notice No. B/E.EGS/05/2025-26 Dt. 26.05.2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites e-Tender for the following works up to 15-00 hours on the date mentioned below:

Tender Notice No.: B/E.29/1/EGS/09/25-26 Dt.26.05.2025 Name of work: BZA Division: Provision of web based monitoring (IoT) and controls of "Pumps incl. automation of pumps, 30-70 lighting on Platforms, Street lighting circuits, Lifts & Escalators" & Integrate with IR-NIYANTRAC Portal (Ph-II) over BZA Division. Period of Completion: 6 months Tender Value: ₹7,50,91,838.73 E.M.D./Bid Security: ₹ 5,25,500 Cost of Tender document: Nil Date of Closing: 18.06.2025

The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website "www.irops.gov.in", before the date of tender closing to note any changes/ corrigenda for any tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical), Vijayawada

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit website at [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

<http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in>

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

Notice No.: eT-North-WAT-17-2025, Dt.: 20.05.2025

NAME OF THE WORK : CONSTRUCTION OF 4 NOS. OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAYS (BY CAST-INSITU) IN LIEU OF LEVEL CROSSINGS I.E., VS-1 AT KM 413/SS-6S, VS-8 AT KM 418/14S-1SS, VS-17 AT KM 426/3S-4S & VS-21 AT KM 428/12S-13S ON BOBBILI-SALUR LINE UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ RAYAGADA OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹11,97,09,956.76, EMD: ₹ 7,48,600/- Completion Period of the Work : 12 (Twelve) Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 17.06.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / Waltair

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. eT-Bridges-WAT-09-2025, Dt.: 23.05.2025

NAME OF THE WORK: FABRICATION & SUPPLY OF STANDARD RDSO R.H. PLATE GIRDS (14.4M-5SETS, 20.4M-5SETS, 26.8M-5SETS) WITH FIT FOR 50 KMPH SPEED INCLUDING BOX CRIB SUPPORT DURING EXECUTION OF LHS SUBWAY UNDER JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/BRIDGES/ WALTAIR.

Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 14,70,35,301.02, EMD: ₹ 8,85,200/- Completion Period of the Work : 12 (Twelve) Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 18.06.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Engineer (Bridges), Waltair



STANDARD POST

Female representation in tech contractual workforce surges to 14 pc in 2024

Gender representation within India’s contractual tech workforce within non-tech sectors has undergone a complex evolution, finds a report.

The report by TeamLease Digital, a specialised staffing firm in India, showed that in 2020 female representation for tech roles in non-tech sectors stood at a mere 1.90 per cent. However, by 2023 and 2024, this reached 11.8 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively, indicating a slow but encouraging shift in traditionally male-dominated roles.

“The significant rise in female representation in tech roles within non-tech sectors from 1.90 per cent in 2020 to 14 per cent in 2024 reflects a promising shift towards inclusivity. However, persistent gaps in technical skill representation and leadership roles highlight the need for targeted interventions,” said Neeti Sharma, CEO of TeamLease Digital.

India Inc.’s journey towards gender parity has seen gradual progress, extending even to traditionally male-dominated technology roles in non-tech sectors.

The comprehensive analysis showed that female representation surged from 9.51 per cent in 2020 to 27.98 per cent in 2024, reflecting growing momentum for diversity in a space long dominated by men.

This shift underscores the increasing recognition of women’s contributions to tech roles across non-tech domains and the growing appreciation for diversity in innovation-driven functions.Despite the progress, female representation in contractual tech roles remains uneven across non-tech industries.

While sectors such as BFSI (46.88 per cent women) and life sciences and healthcare (29.58 per cent women) have embraced gender parity, others, such as manufacturing and engineering (4.82 per cent women) and energy (6.25 per cent women), lag.

This imbalance is largely attributed to rigid hiring practices, cultural stereotypes, and limited skilling pathways for women in core technical functions.

Another concerning statistic is the low representation of women in senior roles - a mere 3.35 per cent. Women in mid-level roles comprise 4.07 per cent, while those in entry-level roles make up 3.03 per cent. This signals a major discrepancy as male dominance considerably surges, and women continue to face challenges in ascending to leadership roles.

However, between 2023 and 2024, there has been a noteworthy increase in female representation in mid and senior levels, going from 4.98 per cent in 2023 to 5.14 per cent in 2024 in mid-level roles. Similarly, female representation in senior positions increased from 3.95 per cent in 2023 to 4.86 per cent in 2024, a gradual shift in gender parity, with greater female representation, said the report, based on a quantitative research approach, analysing a proprietary dataset of 13,000 associates.

“Now, it’s time for organisations to encourage equitable resources for women, address industry-specific barriers, and empower women to represent a larger portion of the workforce. By doing so, companies can unlock diverse talent pools, driving innovation and sustainable growth across India’s workforce,” Sharma said.

Settlement of Ukraine conflict 'very complicated', admits Russian Ambassador

Russia's Ambassador to India, Denis Alipov on Wednesday admitted that the settlement of the Ukraine conflict remains "very complicated" and the focus should rather be on ending the war instead of initiating short ceasefires. Accusing Kyiv of repeatedly violating ceasefires, the Russian diplomat cited the recent exchange of prisoners as a positive development. At the same time, he made it clear that a ceasefire alone would not bring peace in Ukraine.

In an exclusive interview with the IANS, Alipov also spoke on several other issues, including India's decisive Operation Sindoor and successful use of Russian equipment, especially the S-400 air defence system and highly effective 'Made in India' BrahMos missiles.

Excerpts: IANS: What was your first reaction after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack?

Denis Alipov: It was a heinous crime, an outrageous attack that happened on April 22 and it was widely condemned. The support of India was expressed by all Russia, including President Putin who responded immediately upon learning about the tragedy and sent a special message to Prime Minister Modi expressing our sympathies while stating that we expect that the culprits will be identified, tracked and punished. And that was something that India eventually did. We have always stated that there cannot be any double standards on terrorism, be it a trans-border one or of any other kind. We have always stood by the side of each other on this. Last year, India also immediately



expressed support for Russia after the big terror attack on one of the shopping malls in Moscow. We also coordinate with each other at the UN. Russia has supported a draft convention that India proposed to counter terrorism which needs to be adopted, as soon as possible

IANS: What has been your assessment of Operation Sindoor and the performance of S-400 and other Russian equipment used by India?

Denis Alipov: From what we know, India has clearly stated the goals and undertook actions after having identified the targets and the terrorists it promised to do. As far as we know, during the operation, the S-400 system was used and the BrahMos missiles were engaged. Judging by the reports available, the performance of these weapons was exemplary.

IANS: The BrahMos missiles also proved to be quite effective during Operation Sindoor ...

Denis Alipov: We have a joint venture for designing and producing these weapons. We are very satisfied with the results of this collaboration. It has very promising prospects and we wish to expand on that track, as on many others that we have discussed and are in the pipeline or are being

implemented already.

IANS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has clearly emerged as one of the strongest leaders in the world, his discussions with President Vladimir Putin are also quite significant given the current circumstances .

Denis Alipov: I don't think there is anybody, anywhere in the world that doubts the credentials of Prime Minister Modi. His strong leadership is steering the country to global prominence. Both India and Russia stand for a multipolar world order without any global power or a group of countries dominating that order. They stand for an equal international relationship. This has been reinstated in the conversation President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Modi had on May 5.

IANS: President Putin is due to visit India soon, have any dates been finalised? It is expected that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will also be in New Delhi, next month ...

Denis Alipov: The interaction between the foreign ministers is very intense. There will be visits of Russian officials to India and there is going to be high-level visits of Indian officials to Russia, this year. The leaders will also meet and have an extensive agenda for discussion, as we have always done because our relations are very diversified. The dates

will be announced in due course by both sides as soon as the details are finalised.

IANS: How realistic is the chance of having a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine?

Denis Alipov: The settlement of the Ukraine conflict is very complicated. It has deep roots, very serious causes, which need to be addressed. Ceasefire, per say, will not bring peace in Ukraine. Russia has several times initiated, proposed a ceasefire. We honoured those short ceasefires. We initiated and the Ukrainian side always violated. We are not at all sure that an extended ceasefire will succeed. But we are prepared to speak on ceasefire as a part of a broader settlement within the negotiations which we have always proposed. Actually, it was a good development that the Ukrainian side accepted our initiative and recently resumed the round of negotiations that happened in Turkey after almost three years. It went well. We agreed on a large exchange of prisoners, which has been completed. Hopefully, the next round will also happen soon. This is something that needs to be in focus -- the negotiations on the end of the war and not only on ceasefire. Ceasefire can be an element of these negotiations, but ceasefire, per se, will not bring peace in Ukraine.

IANS: Lastly, have there been any talks about India acquiring more S-400s?

Denis Alipov: Our discussion on this particular topic, as on many others, is ongoing. It is a continuous one, but it would be incorrect for me and also premature to speak about the results of it at the moment.

Op Sindoor was necessary, precisely targeted, not call for war: Tharoor

New Delhi, May 28 (UNI) In a powerful statement underscoring India's measured response to terrorism, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, while strongly defending ‘Operation Sindoor’ emphasised that the mission was “necessary and precisely targeted” and “not a call for war”.Shashi Tharoor leads an Indian leaders’ delegation to various countries to educate them about Operation Sindoor and India’s strong message of zero-tolerance against terrorism.Citing the harrowing plight of 26 women whose “Sindoor” (vermillopn) was wiped off from their foreheads by terrorists, Tharoor said, “India’s response was carefully, precisely and calibrated strikes on terror bases—avoiding civilian, military, or government targets entirely”.

He said, “These terrorists came and wiped the Sindoor off their foreheads. Infact there were some women who cried and asked the terrorists "kill me too" and they said No! Go back and tell what happened to you.”Drawing an emotional parallel between the colour of “Sindoor” and the blood of the terrorists, Tharoor said, “We heard that cry and India decided that the colour of the Sindoor, the vermilion colour on the forehead of our women also match the colour of the blood of the killers, the perpetrators, the attackers”.

Emphasising India’s commitment to restraint, Tharoor said, “Even when we conducted those attacks on nine terror bases, our government said very clearly, without any doubt we are not looking, for any escalation.”

He highlighted that no Pakistani military, government, or civilian targets were struck. “These were carefully, precisely, calibrated strikes. We hit only terror bases. We did not hit any military facility of Pakistan, no government facilities, no civilian homes. Very precise targeting meant that even within the compounds of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) with specific buildings and we did so at night between 1:05 and 1:30 AM. Why, because we did not want to have too much of collateral damage”.Meanwhile, senior Congress leader Udit Raj took a dig at Shashi Tharoor by calling him as “spokesperson of BJP”.He said, “My dear Shashi Tharoor, Alas! I could prevail upon PM Modi to declare you as super spokesperson of BJP, even declaring as foreign minister before landing in India”.On his social media handle X, Udit Raj asked Tharoor how he could “dismiss the proud legacy of the Congress by saying that before PM Modi, India never crossed LOC and International border.”Udit Raj said, “In 1965 Indian Army entered Pakistan at multiple points, which completely surprised the Pakistanis in the Lahore sector. In 1971, India tore Pakistan in two pieces and during UPA Govt several surgical strikes were unleashed but drum beating was not done to encash politically.

Tata Motors Launches the All-New Altroz



(Standard Post Bureau)

Tata Motors, India’s leading automobile manufacturer, today announced the launch of the All-New Altroz at a starting price of INR 6.89 lakhs. Ushering in a new era of premiumness with its striking design, luxurious interiors, and advanced features, the All-New Altroz is designed to captivate and is built on the core pillars of Premium Design, Unmatched Safety, Cutting-edge Technology, and Thrilling Performance. From its refreshed exterior and luxurious tech-rich cabin to its enhanced connectivity and expanded multi-powertrain line-up — now featuring an AMT option for the first time — the Altroz is engineered to turn everyday drives into extraordinary journeys.

The Altroz has firmly established itself as a benchmark in the premium hatchback segment. Being the first and only one in its category to have received 5-star GNCAP rating, it set new standards in safety early on. Building on this strong foundation, the All-New Altroz now elevates the game with a bold new

expression of premiumness. It features segment-first design elements such as flush door handles and Infinity connected LED tail lamps, while Luminate LED headlamps with integrated DRLs and a striking 3D front grille add to its sophisticated road presence. Inside, the executive lounge-style rear seats with enhanced thigh support, the soft-touch Grand Prestigia dashboard, ambient lighting, and spacious layout together create an indulgent, refined cabin experience.

Offered in Petrol, segment’s only Diesel and Tata Motors’ leading iCNG twin cylinder technology, the All – New Altroz will also be available in a variety of transmission options: a 5-speed manual, a refined 6-speed DCA, and a new 5-speed AMT — bringing the convenience of automatic transmission within reach of more customers. According to Mr. Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicle Ltd. and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., “Our journey in the last 5 years has been defined by fast-paced growth and transformation.

Satish Singh’s Fifth Music Album, titled “Ishq” was released on OTT platforms and on Bollywood Music

(Standard Post Bureau)

The standout song of the album, “Ishq” captivates audiences with its enchanting lyrics that elicit profound emotions. The vocalist provides a soulful performance that establishes a deep connection with listeners, resonating powerfully with the heart. The music features a harmonious blend of gentle melodies and soothing instrumentals, crafting an atmosphere that transports the audience to a dreamlike experience. This song is essential listening for those who appreciate the intricacies of love, inviting listeners to immerse themselves in a realm filled with sincere affection and heartfelt sentiments.

“Ishq” is receiving notable acclaim on social media and will be accessible on more than 100 OTT platforms, including Spotify, Amazon Music, Jio Saavn, and YouTube Music, among others.

Mr Singh’s music career commenced with his first album, “Piya Re O Re Piya,” which was released on



December 25, 2021. This was followed by his second album, “Hasraton Ka Koi Kinara NahiHota,” on January 21, 2025; his third album, “Mehbooba Ko Khat Likhte Hain,” on February 8, 2025; and his fourth album “Himmat Hai to ChhooKeDekh Zara”, released on March 22, 2025. All these works are available on over 100 OTT platforms worldwide.

Mr. Singh possesses a diverse and impressive professional background. A native of Patna, Bihar, he currently holds the position of Assistant General Manager and Head of the Learning & Development Department at the Local Head Office of

the State Bank of India in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Academically, Mr. Singh has attained a postgraduate degree in Hindi Literature and Mass Communication, an MBA in Finance, and a Diploma in Hindi Journalism from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication in New Delhi.

As an accomplished writer, Shri Singh has authored a total of 2,525 articles in both Hindi and English, in addition to 536 poignant poems and 62 engaging stories. Each literary work is meticulously crafted to engage readers and provoke thoughtful reflection on a variety of

themes.Mr Satish Singh has made significant contributions to society, earning numerous recognitions and accolades throughout his esteemed career. Notably, he received an honour at the Parliamentary event in London on May 25, 2023, for his significant efforts in promoting financial literacy. Additionally, he was awarded the distinguished “Vishva Hindi Seva Samman” at the ISKCON Auditorium in Juhu West, Mumbai, in January 2025, in recognition of his unwavering commitment to advancing the Hindi language and fostering cultural appreciation.



# Beauty

We all know how spices like haldi and dhania can rev up a dish, but the culinary benefits apart, did you know spices can also work wonders for the skin and hair?

What your grandmother said has come true, with more people realizing the benefits of Indian spices in fighting acne, clearing clogged pores and enhancing the complexion.

**Benefits galore**

Several spices can add value to the skin. Says Dr Rashmi Shetty, Mumbai based cosmetologist and anti-ageing expert, "Some of our spices like cardamom, cinnamon, garlic etc are great immune boosters. They have some or the other property which increase metabolic rate and enhance the immune system. When we prepare Indian detox drinks and diets, spices are always used in them, so consuming them orally is also very good for the skin and body. And when it comes to using spices in beauty treatments I find two ingredients to be very useful, coriander and turmeric."

**Cinnamon**

People are not very aware of it, but cinnamon has some great benefits. It has very good anti-



bacterial properties, it improves blood circulation. It can be used for pimples. Just make a paste of it and apply it on the affected areas on the skin. When applied overall on the face, it will help in skin rejuvenation as it improves blood circulation.

**Turmeric**

"Turmeric has wonderful anti ageing, antibiotic and antiseptic properties. As a beauty product, it is often used in skin creams also. Every other product touts 'haldi' as an ingredient. It also has good skin lightening properties. It can be used as a facepack along with honey for wonderful results on skin," reveals Dr Shetty. Dermatologist, Dr Madhuri Agarwal, shares a few more:

**Coriander seeds**

These are very cooling and soothing. If you soak them overnight and use the water as eyes drops, it clears your eye, gives a wonderful cooling effect and makes the eyes look more bright, shiny and more white.

**Black pepper**

## How Indian spices enhance your beauty Treatment

Black pepper is very good for exfoliation. If you make a powder of it and apply a paste on your acne marks and blemishes, it will help exfoliate the affected skin and give it a clearer appearance. It can also help in clearing pimples. A little curd can also be added to black pepper powder and applied for beauty benefits.

**Ginger**

Ginger can aid in skin rejuvenation and it improves the skin colour and texture. It can be applied as a paste on the skin and left for some time. It will improve skin tone. It is said to reduce blemishes.

**Red masoor dal**

Though it is not among the spices, this still a great beauty product. It can be used in face packs and has anti-tanning properties. Use it as a body scrub, especially for dry skin. To gain its benefits, make a dry paste of it and add chandan (sandalwood) and haldi (turmeric) and apply this on the skin. Grind masoor dal and store it in an airtight jar for further use in your face packs and pastes.

**Be careful**

Things to be kept in mind when using these spices:

1. Apply the paste or other mixture correctly. It should not go into the eye. To be safer, avoid the eye and eyebrow area completely.
2. Also, ensure it does not touch the hair as certain spices can bleach the hair.
3. Do a patch test by applying the mixture on the inside of the elbow first, to avoid any redness.

## Secrets to make your Fragrance last long

Layer your smell and moisturize your skin to make your fragrance last all day, says an expert.



Ashokkumar, CEO and director of perfume house All Good Scents, shares how:

\* Start with a warm shower. Use a shower gel, body wash or a scented soap all over your body and then spray the fragrance once your body becomes dry. When you take warm shower, it causes your pores to

open which when you apply the fragrance will soak up the scent better and the fragrance will stay longer as it gets layered on top of a line extension toiletry wash.

\* After you have a shower, moisturize your skin with a generous amount of fragrance-free lotion or a body lotion with the same fragrance you use. Moisturized skin blends well with the perfume ensuring long lasting fragrance. On dry skin, the fragrance will dissipate faster.

\* Perfumes tend to react with fluctuating body temperature throughout the day and emit scent accordingly. To maximize the smell of your perfume, apply it on your pulse points as they tend to react with warmth of your blood and emit the fragrance accordingly. Wear the perfume on wrist, inside of your elbows, the nape of your neck and on your cleavage. Also, never rub the area where perfume is applied as it breaks down and diminishes the fragrance.

\* Depending on the fragrance and the season, it is advisable to spray a little on your clothes too, particularly in winters on your sweaters or pullovers for a longer lasting smell. Thumb rule for spraying - always spray the perfume approximately 15 to 20 cms away from your body. Spraying an even amount of fragrance over a large area will have longer effect than concentrating it over smaller spot on skin.

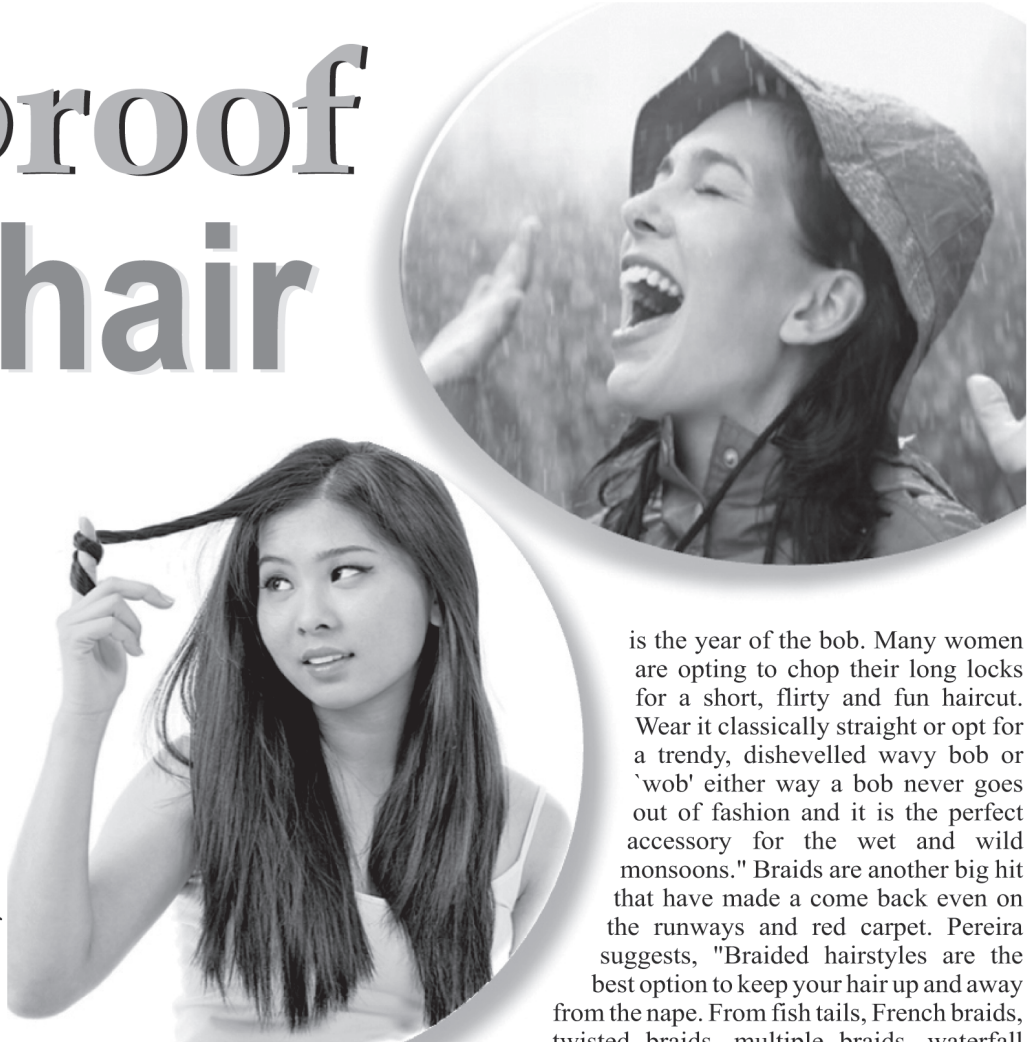
Another way is to spray the fragrance in air and slowly walk into the mist. This will evenly distribute the fragrance across your body and will last longer too.

## Rainproof Your hair

With the heavy downpour and thick monsoon winds blowing our way, you can feel the moisture seeping into your luscious locks. Ever wondered, what excess moisture could do to your hair? For starters, the humid air during the monsoons can leave your hair feeling wet and sticky, notwithstanding the blow dry session you've just been through. If that's not bad enough, getting wet in the rains with inadequate hair care can leave you with an itchy, flaky scalp that is prone to dandruff, bacterial and fungal infections. "Exposure to extreme and contrasting climatic conditions--extreme heat in the summers to the damp monsoons--can take a toll on your hair, ultimately leaving it frizzy and unmanageable. The extreme variations in weather often strip off the outermost layer of your hair, making it brittle, rough and dry," informs celebrity hairstylist Adhuna Akhtar. Here are some expert tips to battles hair woes in the monsoons.

**Fight that frizz**

For those used to light, airy tresses, a rough and unpredictable monsoon can surely strike havoc. However, it takes only a slight change in your regular hair care routine to ensure beautiful, stylish hair all-year-round. Oiling your hair regularly is one such trick. If you thought hair oiling was a grandmother's myth to healthy hair, here's what hairstylist-to-the-stars Savio John Pereira says, "Go in for deep oil massages to condition your hair and scalp during monsoon. Use a hair mask after your shampoo to moisturise hair. Identify your hair type and then use the right shampoo and conditioner for good results. Hair tends to break easily when wet in the rains or even otherwise. So avoid brushing wet hair, instead use a wide toothed comb. Make sure you towel dry your hair thoroughly or semi-dry it with a dryer to remove all the excess moisture in the hair." Getting wet and soaked in the showers is a



From the scorching heat to the refreshing, cool showers of monsoon, are your tresses ready for the climate change? Celebrity hairstylists tell you how to look after those locks and keep them feeling healthy and beautiful.

pleasure that few can resist, but think again. Pereira reiterates, "Air pollutants dissolved in rainwater may spell doom for your tresses and make hair bonds weak, thus making your hair dull and frizzy." So avoid wetting your hair this monsoon. And yes, never ever tie wet hair. You knew that, right?

**Monsoon styles**

Don't let the monsoon dampen your spirit. While there are umpteen styles to try your hand at, read about the top two styles to sport during this season. Akhtar mentions, "We're lucky this

is the year of the bob. Many women are opting to chop their long locks for a short, flirty and fun haircut. Wear it classically straight or opt for a trendy, dishevelled wavy bob or 'wob' either way a bob never goes out of fashion and it is the perfect accessory for the wet and wild monsoons." Braids are another big hit that have made a come back even on the runways and red carpet. Pereira suggests, "Braided hairstyles are the best option to keep your hair up and away from the nape. From fish tails, French braids, twisted braids, multiple braids, waterfall braids, etc, try any for a fun twist. It can be worn the classic way, which is at the back or to the side depending on the occasion."

So go out there and get cracking on your monsoon coiffure now! RAINPROOF your hair Annabel Dsouza ? ? From the scorching heat to the refreshing, cool showers of monsoon, are your tresses ready for the climate change? Celebrity hairstylists tell you how to look after those locks and keep them feeling healthy and beautiful With the heavy downpour and thick mon soon winds blowing our way, you can feel the moisture seeping into your luscious locks. Ever wondered, what excess moisture could do to your hair? For starters, the humid air during the monsoons can leave your hair feeling wet and sticky, notwithstanding the blow dry session you've just been through. If that's not bad enough, getting wet in the rains with inadequate hair care can leave you with an itchy, flaky scalp that is prone to dandruff, bacterial and fungal infections. "Exposure to extreme and contrasting climatic conditions--extreme heat in the summers to the damp monsoons--can take a toll on your hair, ultimately leaving it frizzy and unmanageable. The extreme variations in weather often strip off the outermost layer of your hair, making it brittle, rough and dry," informs celebrity hairstylist Adhuna Akhtar. Here are some expert tips to battles hair woes in the monsoons.

## Budget friendly beauty tips

We are all constantly looking for beauty tips which are easy on the pocket, after all what's better than looking good and not spending much while you are at it.

Here are a few budget-friendly beauty tips you can follow  
Stay hydrated: Drinking the mandatory eight glasses a day can do wonders to your skin and body. Staying hydrated is a simple yet important step in ensuring a healthy, supple skin. You can consume other liquids as well.



Make up remover: Make sure you remove your make up before you sleep, and you don't need expensive products to do the same. Olive oil and baby oil can help as well.  
Sleep well: Getting sufficient sleep will keep you healthy and active throughout the day. It is important for day-to-day functioning and can rejuvenate you to start the new day afresh. Not getting proper sleep can give you dark circles and puffy eyes and keep you irritable throughout the day.  
Green vegetables and fruits: If you binge on fast foods and sugary delights often, its time to stop. Fruits and vegetables are rich in antioxidants and can do wonders for the skin and overall nourishment of your body.



Air India Express launches 'Payday Sale', offers discount up to 25 pc on fares

Hyderabad, May 28 (UNI) : Air India Express, a Tata Enterprise and a subsidiary of Air India, on Wednesday announced the launch of its 'Payday Sale', offering discounts of up to 25 percent on fares.

The offer is valid on domestic bookings made until June 3, 2025, for travel between June 7 and September 20, the airlines said in a release.

The sale also applies to international routes, with bookings open until June 3, 2025, for travel until October 25.

Bookings can be made on the airline's award-winning website, [www.airindiaexpress.com](http://www.airindiaexpress.com) and mobile app.

The airlines is also waiving convenience fees for Xpress Lite bookings made on its website and app.

Xpress Lite is the airline's exclusive zero-baggage fare with added benefits.

These include the ability to pre-book an additional 3 kg of cabin baggage at no extra cost, along with discounted check-in baggage rates. Guests can check-in 15 kg of baggage for Rs 1,000 on domestic flights and 20 kg for Rs 1,300 on international flights.

In addition, the airline's website offers fab deals for loyalty members, including a 25 percent discount on Xpress Biz fares and upgrades to Xpress Biz seats – the airline's business class equivalent with an industry-leading seat pitch of up to 58 inches.



Police try to stop women protestors who were demanding an apology from Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla over the alleged removal of 'Manipur' signage from state bus, in Imphal on Wednesday.

Youth lives should shine, state GDP should rise: Dy CM

Hyderabad, May 28 (UNI) : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Wednesday emphasised the state government's commitment to youth empowerment, asserting that the Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme aims to bring light into the lives of lakhs of young people and significantly boost the state's GDP through widespread economic participation.

Speaking via video conference with district collectors, along with Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, the Deputy CM reviewed the implementation status of the scheme and issued several key directives.

Bhatti Vikramarka noted that, unlike earlier efforts, which he described as superficial, Rajiv Yuva Vikasam reflects the true intent of a people's

government. With an investment of Rs 8,000 crore, the scheme is designed to provide employment to five lakh youth and unlock the vast potential of Telangana's human resources.

He emphasised that financial assistance alone is not enough—ongoing monitoring and support are essential to ensure beneficiaries succeed. If young entrepreneurs face difficulties, officials must intervene proactively to help them sustain and grow their ventures.

To ensure continuous support, the Deputy CM directed that a dedicated officer be appointed at the mandal level, similar to the model under Indira Kranti Patham (IKP), to monitor beneficiaries under the scheme. He called for full-scale success in the first year, paving the way for

future expansion. Reflecting on the challenges faced by Telangana's youth over the past decade, Bhatti Vikramarka said the new initiative is a direct response to that disillusionment. He credited Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, and then Finance Secretary Ramakrishna Rao for their collaborative efforts in crafting the scheme.

He expressed appreciation for Social Welfare Principal Secretary Sridhar, BC Welfare Secretary Sridhar, Tribal Welfare Secretary Sharath, and the Managing Directors of various corporations for their dedication in translating the government's vision into reality. As part of the rollout, the Deputy CM directed that sanction letters be distributed to selected

beneficiaries on June 2, between 4 PM and 5 PM, at all constituency headquarters. MLAs will serve as chief guests, cultural programs will be organised, and the public will be briefed on the government's development and welfare initiatives.

He also stressed compliance with newly enacted legislation for Scheduled Caste welfare, ensuring that beneficiary selection follows legal provisions. Similarly, selections under the BC Corporation must reflect the proportion of the BC population, with appropriate safeguards in place. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, Social Welfare Principal Secretary Sridhar, BC Welfare Commissioner Sridhar, and other senior officials, an official statement said.

Centre has spent Rs 11 L cr in Telangana since 2014: Sarangula

Hyderabad, May 28 (UNI) : BJP spokesperson Amarnath Sarangula on Wednesday stated that since 2014, the Narendra Modi-led central government has spent approximately Rs 11 lakh crore on the development of Telangana.

Addressing the media at the BJP state office in Nampally, he alleged that despite the Centre's consistent cooperation over the past 16 months, several key infrastructure projects remain stalled due to the Telangana government's failure to contribute its share or complete necessary land acquisition.

He recalled that when Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February 2024, the Prime Minister

had given him specific directions to expedite work on pending projects.

However, Sarangula said there has been little progress on this front. He highlighted that significant funds are pending for various development initiatives—Rs 32,797 crore for improving mobile connectivity in Naxal-affected areas, Rs 18,189 crore for critical irrigation projects including the Devadula Lift Irrigation, SRSP Stage-2, and Rajiv Bheema Lift Irrigation, and Rs 1,366 crore for AIIMS Bibinagar.

He also pointed out delays in railway infrastructure with Rs 3,113 crore each sanctioned for the Manoharabad-Kothapalli and Kazipet-Vijayawada lines.

Amarnath claimed that

development works worth over Rs 71,000 crore have been halted due to the inaction of the state government. He mentioned that in April, BJP state president G Kishan Reddy had written to the Chief Minister, drawing attention to the delay in land acquisition and other state-level obstacles affecting national highway projects.

According to him, Telangana had just 2,500 km of national highways before 2014, but in the last 11 years, the Modi government has doubled this through investments exceeding Rs 1.2 lakh crore. Despite this, he said 16 national highway projects covering 691 km and valued at Rs 12,619 crore remain incomplete due to the state's failure to provide land. He emphasised that 32

out of 33 districts in Telangana now have national highway connectivity, crediting Prime Minister Modi for this achievement.

On railway development, he stated that although the Centre is investing ₹80,000 crore in projects, including the modernisation of 40 Amrit stations and works at Cherlapalli, Kazipet, and Secunderabad, progress is hampered due to the lack of approach roads and land from the state government.

He cited delays in the Manoharabad-Kothapalli railway line, where Rs 511.2 crore of the state's share remains pending, and similar issues affecting the Bhadrachalam-Kovvur line due to incomplete land acquisition.

In the healthcare sector,

he said that although Rs 1,366 crore has been sanctioned for AIIMS Bibinagar and other medical institutions, the state's failure to allocate land and share costs has stalled these projects.

He criticised the government for neglecting projects that would have provided vital rail connectivity to backward regions and the Sri Ramachandraswamy temple in Bhadrachalam.

Amarnath further accused the state government of missing out on central funds by not implementing necessary reforms. He said that under the SASCI scheme, the 2025 Union Budget had proposed Rs 1.5 lakh crore in interest-free loans for states carrying out citizen-centric reforms.

Miss World contestants inspire orphaned children in Telangana: “Education is the Light”

Hyderabad, May 28 (UNI) : In a powerful display of compassion and global solidarity, 108 contestants from Miss World 2025 came together in Hyderabad for a landmark Beauty with Purpose charity event, uplifting the lives of over 200 orphaned children from government-run ICDS Balasadan homes.

Organised in collaboration with Fortune Hospitality and Sudeeksha Estates under the

leadership of Dr Rama Krishna, the event was held at the Trident Hotel and served as a heartwarming celebration of hope, resilience, and community transformation.

The children, many of whom have endured difficult pasts, were greeted with warmth and encouragement by the Miss World contestants. They shared meals, personal stories, and words of inspiration — with a

unifying message: “Education is the light.”

As part of the event, each child received a gift kit worth Rs 25,000, collectively sponsored by generous donors. In total, 200 kits were distributed, containing school books and educational materials, clothing including sweaters, raincoats, and dresses, nutritious monthly rations and protein supplements, school bags, water bottles, lunch boxes,

toiletries, bathroom kits, digital watches, trolley bags, and educational toys.

In a move that extends far beyond a single day of charity, organisers announced a year-long sponsorship program for the children. This initiative ensures consistent support in education, health, nutrition, and personal development. Further deepening their commitment, the organisers pledged to fully renovate

the historic Victoria Memorial School, transforming it into a vibrant, safe, and nurturing space for learning.

The event is part of the 72nd Miss World celebrations and falls under the global Beauty with Purpose initiative — the humanitarian platform of the Miss World Organisation that champions sustainable development and women-led community change.

Aquino Squadron wins Commandant’s Banner at Air Force Academy

Hyderabad, May 28 (UNI) : The Commandant's Banner Presentation Ceremony was held on Wednesday at the Tejas Parade Ground of the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal.

The prestigious Commandant's Banner, awarded to the Champion Squadron, symbolises overall excellence across a range of competitive events and marks the culmination of the Spring Term 2025.

The award follows a fiercely contested series of competitions, including physical training, sports, debates, quizzes, cultural events, cross-country runs, field camps, drill competitions, and academic performance.

The highlight of the ceremony was the Inter-Squadron Drill Competition, where Brar Squadron emerged victorious, impressing the audience with flawless drill movements, precise commands, and coordinated teamwork.

The participating Flight Cadets and Under Training Flying Officers (UTFOs), dressed in immaculate uniforms, captivated the distinguished audience — comprising senior officers and instructional staff — with their disciplined march past, set to stirring martial tunes played by the IAF Band.

Aquino Squadron was declared the Champion Squadron for Spring Term 2025, earning the coveted Commandant's Banner. In a proud moment, Squadron Cadet Captain Flight Cadet Surya Dev of Aquino Squadron stepped forward with military precision to receive the banner from Air Marshal S. Shrinivas, Commandant of the Air Force Academy. As a mark of distinction, cadets of the Champion Squadron will wear a special lanyard on their left shoulder throughout the next term.

In his address, the Commandant congratulated all cadets for their teamwork, camaraderie, enthusiasm, and competitive spirit. He urged them to maintain physical fitness and mental agility throughout their careers.

Two workers electrocuted in Parwanoo after high-tension line collapse

Parwanoo (HP), May 28 (UNI) : In a tragic incident highlighting persistent negligence by the electricity board, two young men were electrocuted late Tuesday night after coming in contact with a live high-tension wire that had fallen on the road in the industrial town of Parwanoo.

The incident occurred around 10 pm on Tuesday near the Tikri Narayal area. The victims, identified as Basant Kumar from Raebareilly and Brajesh Kumar from Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, were employed at a local printing press.

They were returning to their quarters on a motorcycle when the accident occurred. According to

India’s first National Paper Expo ‘PAPEXPO 2025’ to kick off in Hyd from June 6

Hyderabad, May 28 (UNI) : India's first dedicated paper industry exhibition, PAPEXPO 2025, will be held from June 6 to 8 at HITEX Exhibition Centre, Madhapur, bringing together major players across the paper manufacturing, printing, packaging, and recycling sectors.

Organised by the Paper Foundation, the expo aims to promote eco-friendly practices in the paper industry and dispel common myths around paper consumption and deforestation. The event will be inaugurated by industry leaders including Dr Ajay Satia of Satia Industries, Mr Soumyajit Mukherjee of Emami Paper Mills, Dr Suresh Kumar Singhal of FTCCI, and Mr Nataraj of the Indian Institute of Packaging. Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Nirmal Kuhad, CEO of Papyrus Expo LLP, said that over 100 exhibitors from India and abroad will participate, showcasing innovations across the paper value chain. The event is supported by industry bodies including the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), IPPTA, and FPTA, and is expected to attract more than 15,000 visitors.

B R Rao, President of the Paper Foundation, highlighted the industry's sustainability, noting that over 80 per cent of paper in India is produced using recycled materials and agro-residue, with no dependence on forest timber. He emphasised that PAPEXPO aims to foster awareness, collaboration, and responsible paper usage in line with India's Atma Nirbhar Bharat mission.

Dayaker Reddy, COO of Papyrus Expo LLP, added that the expo will include technical seminars with experts addressing key issues and innovations in the paper industry. Exhibitors will represent segments such as pulp and paper production, packaging, printing, machinery, and trading, with strong representation from major paper-producing states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. Delegations are also expected from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and other states, ensuring a pan-India presence. India's per capita paper consumption stands at only 15–16 kg, well below the global average of 57 kg. The Paper Foundation aims to address this gap by promoting paper as a biodegradable, recyclable, and sustainable alternative to plastic. The industry is also seeking policy support from the Telangana Government, including the creation of a dedicated Paper Industrial Park and improved infrastructure.

"India's paper sector is witnessing steady growth, with the market projected to reach USD 13.2 billion by 2033, while exports stood at USD 9.96 billion in 2024."

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader threatens Rahul Gandhi over Savarkar remarks

Mumbai, May 28 (UNI) Shiv Sena (UBT) group leader Bala Darade on Wednesday threatened to "blacken" Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rshul Gandhi's face and "throw stones" at his convoy for "repeatedly insulting" Swatantryaveer Savarkar.

Expressing his anger over Gandhi and other Congress leaders for, what he called, "repeatedly insulting" Savarkar, Darade said the former Congress chief had even called Savarkar a 'forgiveness hero'. "If Swatantryaveer Savarkar is insulted again by Gandhi, we will not look at politics or anything. In our view, the issues of Savarkar and Hindutva come first... If Gandhi comes to Nashik, we will blacken his face and throw stones at his convoy," he said.

Reacting to Darade's statement, Congress leader Yashomati said "We are a peaceful group. We are following the path of non-violence of Mahatma Gandhi. But, now it is Kal Yug, we can also behave like (people of) Kalyug".

eyewitnesses, a high-voltage condenser attached to a transformer exploded, causing the overhead high-tension line to fall directly onto the road.

Unaware of the danger, the two men came into contact with the live wire and were severely burned. Locals immediately informed the Himachal Pradesh Electricity Board and had the power supply cut off. The victims were rushed to the ESI Hospital in Parwanoo, but doctors declared them brought dead. Superintendent of Police Gaurav Singh confirmed that preliminary investigations suggest gross negligence on the part of electricity board employees.

A case of negligence has been registered, and

further investigation is underway. This is not the first such incident in Parwanoo. On March 1, high-tension wires had fallen onto a Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) bus. Though the driver acted swiftly to prevent a larger disaster, one passenger was electrocuted after stepping out of the vehicle. The repeated incidents have raised serious concerns about the safety measures followed by the electricity department. In the latest case, Executive Engineer of the Electricity Board, Vikas Gupta, stated that initial reports indicate the blast occurred due to a malfunction in the transformer's condenser, which led to the fall of the live wire.



## Sorling re-elected ITTF president



Doha, May 28 (UNI) : Petra Sorling was re-elected president of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) here, the ITTF announced on its official website on Tuesday.

The Swede received 104 votes, narrowly defeating the other candidate, Khalil Al-Mohannadi of Qatar, who received 102.

According to the ITTF

website, the AGM had to be suspended after it was disrupted by outsiders. As a result, it will need to be reconvened specifically for the election of vice presidents, with Sorling expected to announce the new date in due course.

The continuation of the election must take place no later than November 2025 to comply with the ITTF Constitution, which stipulates a four-year term for the Executive Board.

Meanwhile, hosts for the ITTF World Table Tennis Championships between 2027 and 2029 were selected during the AGM.

Astana, Kazakhstan, will host the 2027 World Table Tennis Championships, while the team championships in 2028 will be held in Fukuoka, Japan. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will host the 2029 edition of the sport's most prestigious event.

## American Strikers defeat Trans Titans by 35 runs

Greater Noida (UP), May 28 (IANS) American Strikers on Wednesday defeated Trans Titans by 35 runs in the ongoing Intercontinental Legends Championship at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex in Greater Noida. Gaurav Tomar (65 in 28 balls) and Manpreet Gony (39 in 19 balls) starred with the bat. Winning the toss and opting to bat, the American Strikers' opener Gaurav Tomar gave the team a blistering start.

Building on this momentum, Ayan Khan (24), Manpreet Gony (39), and P. Mehra (35) helped the team reach a mammoth total of 214 runs for the loss of 7 wickets. Along with his stellar batting, Manpreet Gony also impressed with the ball, taking one wicket,

earning him the "Man of the Match" award.

In reply, the Trans Titans had a shaky start, losing openers Rishi Dhawan (1) and Athawale (5) early. Though V. Sood (21), P. Shah (33), Himang (31), and Awana (36) attempted to stabilise the innings, none could convert their starts into big innings.

As a result, the team could only muster 179 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in the allotted 20 overs, falling short by 35 runs. The American Strikers will now face the Indian Warriors in their next match on Thursday. African Lions will meet Asian Kings in the evening match, which gets underway at 7:30 pm. Fans can catch the Live action on Sony Ten 5 and FanCode.

## Bopanna-Pavlashek prevail after hard-fought win

Paris, May 28 (UNI) India's Rohan Bopanna and Czech partner Adam Pavlashek edged past the American pair of Robert Cash and James Tracy in a gripping first-round men's doubles encounter on Court 5 here on Wednesday.

The Indo-Czech duo prevailed 7-6, 5-7, 6-1 in a match that saw momentum swing back and forth before Bopanna and Pavlashek stamped their authority in the deciding set to seal victory in just under two hours. The contest began on even footing with both teams holding serve throughout the opening set. Bopanna and Pavlashek held their nerve in the tiebreak, clinching it 8-6 to go one set up. However, the American team of Cash and Tracy came roaring back, breaking serve at a crucial

juncture in the second set to take it 7-5.

With the match poised at one set all, Bopanna and Pavlashek lifted their game, racing to a five-game lead in the third. Despite a spirited effort from the Americans, the Indo-Czech pair closed out the decider 6-1 with commanding returns and consistent net play. Statistically, both teams recorded three aces each, but it was the winners who capitalised on break points, converting four of 14 opportunities compared to the Americans' two of three. Bopanna and Pavlashek won 71 per cent of their second serve points and captured 44 receiving points overall, which proved decisive in the end.

The victory sees Bopanna and Pavlashek advance to the second

round, where they will aim to continue their strong run in the tournament.

Vani looks at a four-in-a-row feat in 7th leg of WPGTMysuru, May 28 (IANS) Vani Kapoor, one of India's most experienced players, is all set to continue from where she left off before the break in the schedule of the Women's Pro Golf Tour. Vani won three times in a row before the WPGT took a pause in late March. The Tour now resumes at the Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club in Mysuru with the seventh leg.

Vani has been most prolific this season. In five events, she has won three times in the fourth, fifth, and sixth legs and was runner-up in the second and the third. She did not play at the opening event, which

means she has been in the Top two in each of the five starts she has had. Vani is now looking at a four-in-a-row feat at Mysuru.

Sneha Singh, who has won twice, is not playing this week, but Rhea Purvi Saravanan, who won the season opener, will be back in action. Only three players have won this season.

Some of the other well-known players who will tee up at JWGC include Amandeep Drall, Jasmine Shekar, Seher Atwal, Vidhatri Urs, Neha Tripathi, Ridhima Dilawari and Shweta Mansingh.

Vani Kapoor, Amandeep Drall and Ridhima Dilawari are also hoping to prepare themselves ahead of possible starts on the Ladies European Tour and later the Hero Women's Indian Open in the second

half of the season. A total of 27 players, including two amateurs, are in the field this week for the event that carries a purse of Rs. 14 lakh. Currently, Vani leads the Hero Order of Merit with Sneha Singh and Amandeep Drall chasing her. Earlier, Vani Kapoor survived a bogey-bogey finish and still managed to complete a third straight win in the 2025 Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour. The in-form Vani shot 1-over 73 in the final round at the challenging DLF Golf and Country Club, which is also her home course, to win the sixth leg by three shots.

Vani shot 72-72-73 for 1-over 217 even par while amateur Anvvi produced her best finish on the Hero WPGT with cards of 71-77-74 for a total of 220.

place finish and a 206kg total lift (91kg snatch + 115kg clean and jerk). In the men's 96kg, Dilbag Singh, also a National Games champion, placed ninth with a 339kg total (147kg + 192kg). Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu was notably absent from the competition, as she continues to adapt to the IWF's restructured weight classes following her appearance at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

## India to host Asian Weightlifting Championships after 44 years

Ahmedabad, May 28 (UNI) : In a major boost to Indian sport, Ahmedabad will host the 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships, marking the country's return as host of the prestigious continental event after a gap of 44 years, the Asian Weightlifting Federation (AWF) announced on Wednesday.

The last time India played host was in 1982, when the event was held in

New Delhi alongside the Asian Games. Since its inception in 1957, the continental championship has largely eluded Indian soil, making the 2026 edition a historic comeback for Indian weightlifting on the Asian stage.

The tournament, scheduled from April 1 to 10 next year, was initially allotted to Gandhinagar, Gujarat, at the AWF Congress held in 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

However, the venue has now been shifted to Ahmedabad, which is expected to provide enhanced infrastructure and greater logistical support.

This will also be the first Asian Championships to be held under the new weight categories introduced by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), marking a new era for the sport globally. The revised bodyweight

divisions come into effect post-Paris 2024 and are expected to reshape the competitive field.

India's recent performances have shown promising signs. At the 2024 edition held in Jiangshan, China, the country fielded a new-look squad. Seram Nirupama Devi, a former Asian youth medallist and National Games champion, impressed in the women's 64kg division with a fourth-

## RCB eye final as dangerous Hazlewood

Chandigarh, May 28 (UNI) : Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have received a timely boost ahead of the IPL 2025 Qualifier 1 clash against Punjab Kings here on Friday, with the return of their crucial overseas stars Josh Hazlewood and Tim David, a development that could prove decisive in the high-stakes encounter at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Cricket Stadium, Mullanpur.

The playoffs always bring a different intensity, and RCB's strengthening bowling attack and finishing power with Hazlewood and David back in the fray significantly ups their chances of toppling a strong Punjab Kings side, who have been one of the most consistent teams throughout the season.

Hazlewood, the leading wicket-taker for RCB this season with 18 wickets from 10 matches, brings experience, discipline, and control to the pace attack. His ability to contain runs and pick crucial wickets in the middle overs will be vital in curbing Punjab's deep batting lineup. Alongside Hazlewood, seasoned campaigner Bhuvneshwar Kumar and the all-round prowess of Krunal Pandya add further depth and variety to the attack.

Tim David's return is equally important. Known for his power-hitting in the death overs, David provides the finishing touch RCB have often lacked. His ability to clear the boundaries quickly can shift momentum dramatically, especially in crunch playoff situations.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's batting is anchored by the imperious Virat Kohli, who has been in scintillating

form throughout the tournament. The veteran batsman has amassed over 600 runs at an average of 60.20, striking consistently to keep RCB in commanding positions. His eight fifties, including one in the last game, highlight his dominance. Supporting Kohli is Jitesh Sharma, whose blistering unbeaten 85 off just 33 balls in the last game exemplifies his match-winning potential. Phil Salt provides brisk starts at the top, while Rajat Patidar, despite recent fitness niggles, has contributed crucial runs at a strike rate above 140. Mayank Agarwal and Romario Shepherd have also stepped up, bringing valuable depth and flexibility. Punjab Kings, however, cannot be underestimated. The team finished top of the league standings with nine wins from 14 matches, their best campaign since 2014. Their batting is balanced and resilient, featuring a potent opening pair in Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya, who have laid solid foundations time and again.

Captain Shreyas Iyer has been the calm anchor in the middle order, scoring over 500 runs at an impressive strike rate of 172. The contributions from Marcus Stoinis, Josh Inglis, and Shashank Singh in the late overs have often turned tight matches in Punjab's favour.

Punjab's bowling has been effective, led by Arshdeep Singh, who tops their wicket charts with 18 scalps. However, the absence of pace spearhead Marco Jansen due to international commitments poses a challenge. Kyle Jamieson is expected to shoulder additional responsibility, although his economy rate has been a concern.

## Gambhir hails BCCI's IPL finale tribute to armed forces

New Delhi, May 28 (UNI) : Team India Coach Gautam Gambhir on Wednesday lauded the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for its initiative to honour the armed forces, terming the gesture "unbelievable" and a reflection of national unity. "I've often been critical of the BCCI on many matters, but this initiative is truly commendable," Gambhir told reporters here. "Anything done to recognise the armed forces deserves our full support."

He said the BCCI's decision carried a powerful message and reminded the nation to collectively salute the armed forces for their "unconditional service."

"Our soldiers serve, protect, and sacrifice for us without expecting anything in return," Gambhir noted,

### Borges gives 'Ruud' shock to seventh seed at Roland Garros

Paris, May 28 (UNI) : In a major upset on the clay courts of Roland Garros, Portuguese tennis player Nuno Borges stunned seventh seed Casper Ruud to secure a spot in the third round of the French Open.

Borges, ranked World No. 42, overcame a shaky start to defeat Ruud 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-0 in a match that lasted nearly three hours.

Ruud began strongly, dominating the first set with powerful baseline play and precise shot-making. However, Borges gradually found his rhythm, using his deft touch and consistent groundstrokes to turn the tide. After clinching the second set 6-4, Borges delivered an emphatic performance in the final two sets, breaking Ruud's serve multiple times and sealing the victory with an impressive 6-1, 6-0 scoreline. The Norwegian, who came into the tournament as one of the favourites to contend for the title, appeared to be battling an injury during the latter stages of the match. Observers noted Ruud's reduced movement and visible discomfort, particularly on his left leg, which seemed to affect his ability to chase down balls.

## Helmet grab sparks chaos in Emerging match

Dhaka, May 28 (UNI) : The four-day match between the South Africa Emerging Team and Bangladesh Emerging Team was marred by an ugly on-field scuffle on Wednesday, with South African pacer Tshepo Ntuli physically tugging at the helmet of Bangladeshi batsman Ripon Mondol, twice, even as the umpire tried to intervene.

The shocking incident occurred at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium shortly after Ripon struck Ntuli for a straight six. As he walked over to his batting partner Mehidy Hasan, Ripon appeared to exchange glances with the bowler. Ntuli then charged at him, leading to a heated confrontation. The two players initially shoved each other before Ntuli grabbed Ripon's helmet. On-field umpire Kamruzzaman stepped in to separate them, but Ntuli

## Swiatek crushes Raducanu after tough year

Paris, May 28 (UNI) Iga Swiatek silenced any doubts about her form and focus with a commanding 6-1, 6-2 demolition of Britain's Emma Raducanu on Wednesday, extending her unbeaten streak at the French Open to 23 matches and making a resounding statement after a turbulent year on and off the court.

The World No.5, playing under her lowest Grand Slam seeding since 2022, showed no signs of rust on Court Philippe-Chatrier as she delivered a performance worthy of her title as the "Queen of Clay." The dominant win comes on the back of a challenging year that included a one-month suspension for a doping violation and the personal loss of her grandfather ahead of the Madrid Masters. Despite not having reached a final since last year's triumph in Paris, Swiatek appeared firmly in control from the outset, brushing aside the British No.2 in just 79 minutes to book her place in the third round for the seventh consecutive year.

Raducanu, currently ranked 41 in the world and making only her second French Open appearance since debuting in 2022, showed flashes of aggression early on but failed to capitalise on four break point chances. She has now lost all five meetings against Swiatek without claiming a set. Swiatek struck 31 winners to Raducanu's eight and converted four breaks of serve while saving all break points against her. The gap in class and consistency was evident throughout, with the Polish star sealing the first set in 35 minutes with an ace and continuing to dominate the second with powerful groundstrokes and relentless pressure.

Raducanu, who missed last year's edition due to injury, now exits in the second round again, continuing her search for stability on clay.

For Swiatek, however, the win was about far more than progression to the next round — it was a reminder to the field that, despite personal trials and a recent drop in ranking, she remains the standard-bearer at Roland Garros. With four titles already to her name in Paris, the 22-year-old looks poised for a fifth as she rediscovers the form and fire that once made her nearly untouchable on red dirt.

again tugged at Ripon's helmet, ignoring the umpire's attempts to calm the situation. The batsman eventually removed his helmet as tensions escalated. Several South African players on the field did not restrain Ntuli; in fact, a couple of them appeared to charge towards Ripon, further aggravating the situation. The scuffle drew immediate and sharp reactions from the commentary box.

"This is extreme, this is unacceptable. Normally we see verbal altercations on a cricket field but we don't often see a scuffle. Ntuli struck Ripon's helmet at one point," said commentator Nabil Kaiser on air. The tension did not end there. Just three deliveries after play resumed, Ntuli threw the ball back aggressively at Ripon after the batsman defended it, forcing Ripon to fend it off to avoid being

hit. Despite the seriousness of the incident, no immediate disciplinary action was taken. As per ICC protocol, sanctions can only be announced after the on-field umpires submit an official report. The match referee enjoys the prerogative of filing reports with both the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and Cricket South Africa (CSA), with strong disciplinary measures. This was not the first flashpoint of the tour. Tensions had flared earlier during the one-day series in Rajshahi, where South Africa's Andile Simelane and Bangladesh's Jishan Alam were both suspended after a separate confrontation in the second one-dayer.

The ongoing four-day match is the final game of South Africa Emerging's tour. They lost the one-day series 2-1, while the first four-day match in Chattogram ended in a draw.

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## Trains Cancelled and Diverted in KK Line : ECoR



(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, May 28 :Due to the derailment of an iron ore-laden goods train between Tyada and Chimidipalli in the Koraput–Kottavalasa section of the KK line (Waltair Division) at Kilometre 53/34, train services have been affected. Notably, with few derailed wagons in a tunnel.

Railway authorities from the Waltair Division and East Coast Railway responded immediately, deploying personnel and resources to the site for relief and restoration operations. These efforts are ongoing on a war footing under the direct

officials.

As a result, the following repercussions have affected the operation of coaching trains. Details are provided below:

### TRAIN DIVERSION:

1. The train No. 18516 Kirandul–Visakhapatnam Night Express leaving Kirandul on 28.05.2025 will run in diverted route via Koraput, Rayagada, Vizianagaram.

58501 Visakhapatnam–Kirandul Passenger leaving from Visakhapatnam on 29.05.2025 will be cancelled.

2. In return direction the train No. 58502 Kirandul - Visakhapatnam Passenger leaving from Kirandul on 29.05.2025 will be cancelled.

3. The train No. 18515 Visakhapatnam–Kirandul Express leaving from Visakhapatnam on



supervision of the Divisional Railway Manager and other senior

### CANCELLATION OF TRAINS:

1. The train No.

28.05.2025 is cancelled Inconvenience caused to you is deeply regretted.

## Western Railway observes world environment day campaign with focus on ‘Ending Plastic Pollution’



Glimpses of various activities being carried out under World Environment Day campaign across Western Railway.

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, May 28 : Western Railway (WR) is observing World Environment Day campaign from 22nd May to 5th June, 2025, with the central theme “Ending Plastic Pollution.” The initiative underscores WR’s ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and reducing plastic waste across its operations.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, a special Launch and Awareness Campaign was conducted from 22nd to 24th May, 2025, encompassing extensive activities across various divisions and workshops. The campaign began with a public gathering and oath-taking ceremony, where officers and staff pledged to actively combat plastic pollution. The campaign was rolled out across Western Railway, where activities such as pledge ceremonies, rallies, and nukkad natak were organized. These initiatives witnessed enthusiastic

participation from over 7,800 railway staff and members of the public.

Plastic waste assessment, disposal, and monitoring drives were carried out with active involvement of both railway personnel and citizens. These efforts aimed at reinforcing accountability and sustainable waste management practices. To amplify awareness digitally, a social media campaign was also launched on official social media handles of Western Railway. Informative web cards were created and displayed prominently on TV screens at workshops, railway stations, offices, and even inside trains, including EMU services.

Awareness materials such as posters, pamphlets, and digital creatives promoting the use of recyclable alternatives and reinforcing the ban on Single Use Plastics (SUP) were extensively displayed at strategic locations including stations, offices, workshops, and inside

coaches. In addition, workshops on plastic reduction, recycling, and waste management were conducted. These sessions provided valuable insights into practical steps for reducing plastic use in day-to-day operations. Under the theme “Carry Your Own Water Bottle,” public awareness drives were organized, encouraging both passengers and railway staff to adopt the use of reusable water bottles, thereby reducing dependency on disposable plastics.

Mr Vineet further added that from 25th to 27th May, 2025, Cleanliness Drive was observed across Western Railway during which a series of impactful activities were carried out across various divisions and workshops. Waste segregation bins were ensured and awareness activities were conducted on platforms, where plastic waste collected from stations and railway colonies was handed over to recyclers or local authorities. Cleanliness

drives were also organized in collaboration with local communities and NGOs. To promote sustainable alternatives, eco-friendly biodegradable cutlery was introduced. In a further effort to enhance waste management, additional waste segregation bins were installed and awareness drives were held. Staff sensitization programmes focusing on waste segregation and plastic reduction were conducted. Additionally, informative pamphlets detailing the harmful effects of plastic pollution and the benefits of eco-friendly alternatives were distributed among colony residents and railway staff.

Western Railway continues to promote environmental consciousness through such initiatives, reinforcing its commitment to a cleaner, greener future. The ongoing activities until 5th June, 2025, i.e., World Environment Day, aim to further strengthen the message of responsible plastic usage and environmental stewardship.

## Four militants nabbed in Manipur

Imphal, May 28 (UNI) “Four militants were nabbed in Manipur in separate incidents during the last 24 hours. Police said security forces arrested a militant from Khonghampat Mantri Leikai under Sekmai-PS, Imphal West District.

Two militants from Leirongthel Pitra and one from Yairipok Bishnunaha were arrested by security forces in Thoubal District.

In another operation police recovered one each of a 5.56 mm INSAS rifle, an M-16 rifle with a magazine, a single-barrel rifle (country-made), three Pompei and other materials from Torbung village, Teijang village and adjoining forest areas under Churachandpur-PS, Churachandpur District.

In another operation, one each of the Double Barrel 12 Bore Rifle, Single Barrel 12 Bore Rifle (country made), and other items from Monghlam and its adjoining foothills under Thoubal Dam-PS, Imphal East District.

## Pradhan urges Yadav to facilitate expansion and upgradation of Sambalpur Zoo

Bhubaneswar, May 28 (UNI) : Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday urged Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, to facilitate the proposed expansion and upgradation of Sambalpur Zoo.

During a meeting with Yadav in New Delhi, Pradhan highlighted that in 2023, the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) designated the facility as the “Sambalpur Zoo and Conservation Centre”.

Established in 1980, the zoo has grown from a modest deer park into a vital hub for wildlife conservation and public education.

Currently spread across 13 hectares within the Motijharan Reserve Forest, the zoo houses 333 animals belonging to 15 species, including leopards, bears, pythons, and peacocks.

Pradhan pointed out that in 2022, the Zoo Evaluation Committee recommended upgrading Sambalpur Zoo to a “Medium Zoo” category. This recommendation included the addition of approximately 18 to 20 hectares of adjacent land, also part of the Motijharan Reserve Forest.

The proposed expansion will support the introduction of new species and the development of educational and research infrastructure. These plans align with the zoo’s approved master plan for 2023–24, which envisions housing 48 species.

With approval from the Central Zoo Authority, the zoo has already carried out a successful animal exchange program with Nandankanan Zoo and a translocation initiative in partnership with Debrigarh Sanctuary.

To further its mission of wildlife conservation and public education, Pradhan said the zoo is planning several new attractions.

## Cabinet approves two multitracking projects across Indian Railways in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, May 28 : Initiatives will improve travel convenience, reduce logistic cost, decrease oil imports and contribute to lower CO2 emissions, supporting sustainable and efficient rail operations

To enhance line capacity, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today approved two multitracking projects across Indian Railways to ensure seamless and faster transportation of both passengers and goods.

These projects include:

1. Ratlam- Nagda 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> line

2. W a r d h a - Balharshah 4<sup>th</sup> line

The total estimated cost of the projects is Rs 3,399 crore (approx.) and will be completed upto 2029-30.

The projects are result of PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity which have been possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services.

The two projects covering four Districts across the states of

Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh, will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 176 Kms.

The proposed multi-tracking project will enhance connectivity to approx. 784 villages, which are having a population of about 19.74 lakh.

These are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as coal, cement, clinker, gypsum, fly ash, containers, agriculture commodities, and Petroleum products etc. The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 18.40 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum). The Railways being environment friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimizing logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (20 Crore Litres) and lower CO2 emissions (99 Crore Kg) which is equivalent to plantation of 4 Crore trees.

The projects will also generate direct employment for about 74 lakh human-days during construction.

These initiatives will improve travel convenience, reduce

logistic cost, decrease oil imports and contribute to lower CO2 emissions, supporting sustainable and efficient rail operations. The projects would also enhance logistical efficiency by augmenting line capacity along critical routes for transportation of containers, coal, cement, agricultural commodities, and other goods. These improvements are expected to optimize supply chains, thereby facilitating accelerated economic growth.

The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multi-tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion. The projects are in line with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji’s Vision of a New India which will make people of the region “Atmanirbhar” by way of c o m p r e h e n s i v e development in the area which will enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities.

## Temporary augmentation of trains with additional coaches : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, May 28 In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Indian Railways has decided to augment the following trains with additional coaches as detailed below:

1. The train No. 20837 Bhubaneswar- Junagarh Express will be augmented with one Sleeper Class coach from 01.06.2025 to 30.06.2025 (on Nominated Days) and in return direction the train No. 20838 Junagarh-Bhubaneswar Express will be augmented with one Sleeper Class coach from 02.06.2025 to 01.07.2025 (on Nominated Days).

2. The train No.22883 Puri-Yesvantpur Garibrath Express will be augmented with One 3rd AC Economy coach from 06.06.2025 to 27.02.2025 (on Nominated Days) and in return direction the train No.22884 Yesvantpur-Puri Garibrath Express will be augmented with One 3rd AC Economy coach from 07.06.2025 to 28.06.2025 (on Nominated Days).

3. The train No.20809 Sambalpur-Nanded Super-Fast Express will be augmented with One 3rd AC and One Sleeper Class coaches from 02.06.2025 to 30.06.2025 (on Nominated Days) and in return direction the train No.20810 Nanded-Sambalpur Super-Fast Express will be augmented with One 3rd

AC and One Sleeper Class coaches from 03.06.2025 to 01.07.2025 (on Nominated Days).

4. The train No.08311 Sambalpur-Erode Special Express will be augmented with One 3rd AC and One Sleeper Class coaches from 04.06.2025 to 25.06.2025 (on Nominated Days) and in return direction the train No.08312 Erode- Sambalpur Special Express will be augmented with One 3rd AC and One Sleeper Class coaches from 06.06.2025 to 27.06.2025 (on Nominated Days).

5. The train No. 58506 Visakhapatnam-Gunupur Passenger Express will be augmented with one (01) Sleeper Class Coach from 01.06.2025 to 30.06.2025 (on Nominated Days) and in return direction the train No. 58505 Gunupur-Visakhapatnam Passenger Express will be augmented with one (01) Sleeper class Coach from 01.06.2025 to 30.06.2025 (on Nominated Days).

6. The train No. 58501 Visakhapatnam-Kirandul Passenger Express will be augmented with one (01) Sleeper class Coach from 01.06.2025 to 30.06.2025 (on Nominated Days) and in return direction the train No. 58502 Kirandul-Visakhapatnam Passenger Express will be augmented with one (01) Sleeper class Coach from 02.06.2025 to 01.07.2025 (on Nominated Days).

7. The train No. 08581

Visakhapatnam-SMV Bengaluru Special Express train will be augmented with one (01) 3AC-Ecomany Coach from 01.06.2025 to 29.06.2025 (on Nominated Days) and in return direction the train No. 08582 SMV Bengaluru-Visakhapatnam Special Express train will be augmented with one (01) 3AC-Ecomany Coach from 02.06.2025 to 30.06.2025 (on Nominated Days).

8. The train No. 08547 Visakhapatnam–Tirupati Special Express train will be augmented with one (01) 3AC-Ecomany Coach from 04.06.2025 to 25.06.2025 (on Nominated Days) and in return direction the train No. 08548 Tirupati-Visakhapatnam Special Express train will be augmented with one (01) 3AC-Ecomany Coach from 05.06.2025 to 26.06.2025 (on Nominated Days).

9. The train no. 08579 Visakhapatnam – Charlapalli Special Express train will be augmented with one (01) 3AC-Ecomany Coach from 06.06.2025 to 27.06.2025 (on Nominated Days) and in return direction the train no.08580 Charlapalli - Visakhapatnam Special Express train will be augmented with one (01) 3AC-Ecomany Coach from 07.06.2025 to 28.06.2025 (on Nominated Days).

People are requested to make use of these services.

## ‘SP chief Akhilesh is anti-Sanatan’

Mainpuri (UP), May 28 (UNI) Minister of State (Independent Charge) in Uttar Pradesh Government Narendra Kashyap on Wednesday said that Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, who has levelled baseless allegations against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regarding temples, is

“anti-Sanatan”. While talking to journalists here, Kashyap said Akhilesh was already anti-Sanatan and has become more so now. Reacting to Akhilesh’s statement that BJP is doing corruption by forming temple trusts, he said “those who fire bullets on Ram bhakts and those who deny Ram are anti-

Sanatan.”

He said that the double engine government of UP has taken the state forward on the path of progress in the last eight years. “Akhilesh has nothing to do with the development and progress of UP and he is venting his anger by giving statements against Sanatan Dharma,” he said.