

IN BRIEF

Akashvani Chennai celebrates 87th anniv

Chennai, June 16 (UNI) : Akashvani Chennai, the national public broadcaster, proudly celebrated its 87th anniversary on Monday with a function held at the Chennai station premises.

Veteran announcers and retired officials of the Akashvani (erstwhile All India Radio) graced the occasion, sharing memories and reconnecting with former colleagues. To commemorate the milestone, Ms M. Vasuki, Head of Office, and Mr Ramesh Babu, Head of Programmes, along with other staff members, ceremoniously cut a special anniversary cake. A series of special programmes were broadcast throughout the day, reflecting the station's rich legacy and continued commitment to quality public service broadcasting, a PIB release said.

IITM Pravartak, TCS iON to launch Machine Learning Operations course

Chennai, June 16 (UNI) : IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation is partnering with TCS iON to launch of a new online certification program in the fast-evolving field of Machine Learning Operations (MLOps).

Titled 'MLOps – Scalable ML Operations – Associate', this initiative marks a significant step in bridging the skill gap and aims to prepare professionals for future-ready careers in AI and ML. The potential career opportunities for graduates of this programs will be in the domains of AI ML, Data Science and Gen AI and LLM. This comprehensive 110-hour online certification program will commence on July 15, with enrolments currently open. The last date to register is July 5.

It is meticulously designed to provide in-depth knowledge of MLOps tools, practices and deployment strategies, a release from IIT-M said on Monday.

Mr. Venguswamy Ramaswamy, Global Head, TCS Ion, said, "We are working with renowned academic institutions to launch high impact learning programmes, which will add industry context to academic learning."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides during a visit at Historic Centre of Nicosia, in Cyprus.

PM awarded Cyprus' highest honour, Order of Makarios III, by President Christodoulides

Nicosia/New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi was today awarded Cyprus' highest honour, the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, by President Nikos Christodoulides at the presidential palace in Nicosia. PM Modi said he is humbled to receive the 'Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III' of Cyprus and dedicated it to the friendship

between the two nations. The MEA spokesperson said in a post on X: "An award dedicated to the trusted India-Cyprus friendship & 1.4 billion people of India." President @Christodoulides conferred PM @narendramodi with the 'Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III' of Cyprus. "The honour reflects the enduring India – Cyprus bilateral partnership and

shared commitment to work together for the common vision for peace, progress and prosperity." Earlier, the PM was warmly welcomed by the Cyprus President at the Presidential Palace in Nicosia and accorded a ceremonial welcome. The two sides are set to hold official talks later today, to be followed by the signing of some agreements.

SRly first zone in Indian Railways to complete 100 pc Automatic Block Signalling

Chennai, June 16 (UNI) : Southern Railway has become the first zone in Indian Railways to complete 100 per cent Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) work on Golden Quadrilateral/Golden Diagonal (GQ/GD) routes which covers 275 kms in the zone including Chennai-Renigunta (134 km) and Chennai-Arakkonam (141 km).

As of June 15, 2025, ABS has been successfully commissioned in the Puttur – Pudi section under Chennai Division covering over 33 km (18.73 km UP and 14.36 km DN lines) along with provision of Electronic Interlocking System at Tadaku station with RDSO standard circuits.

With this, automatic signalling is now commissioned from Chennai to Renigunta, enabling seamless and more efficient train operations all the way up to Tirupati.

The first trains to be operated on the newly signalled section were Train No. 17652 Kacheguda – Chengalpattu Express (UP direction) from Pudi and BCN Goods train (DN direction) from Puttur on Sunday, Railway sources said on Monday.

The key features included 19 Automatic Signals (11 UP, 8 DN) and 58 Dual MSDAC Detection

Points for reliable train detection; 19 UP and 14 DN Track sections to enhance line capacity and train handling; 5 Auto Location Huts (ALHs) installed between Puttur and Pudi for Automatic Block Signalling control and monitoring; Electronic Interlocking upgraded at Tadaku station, and modified at Puttur, Pudi & Sri Venkata Perumal Rajupuram; Advanced communication systems including 48-fiber Optic Fibre Cables (OFC) laid across the section; Manual LC Gate at Tadaku (LC 65) replaced with Electric Operation for better safety.

The stations covered were Puttur, Taduku, Pudi, Sri Venkata Perumal Rajupuram.

This vital project includes modern safety systems like fire alarms, data loggers, power backups (10 kVA), VoIP/CCTV readiness, and modern power arrangements; Fully equipped Auto Location Huts (ALHs) with VRLA battery support ensuring uninterrupted operations. The above work was executed by Railways in association with Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL).

With this, the Chennai – Renigunta section of Southern Railway is future-ready for migration to advanced rail safety systems like Kavach, Centralised Traffic Control (CTC), Long Term Evolution – Railways (LTE-R) and other modern signalling technologies.

70 pc of the WHO's total vaccines are from India: Govt

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) : Reaffirming India's pivotal role in the global pharmaceutical industry, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Patel on Monday pointed out that 70 percent of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) total vaccines are sourced from India. She also highlighted that 14 percent of generics imported by the United States come from India, further showcasing India's dominance in the pharmaceutical sector.

The Forum, organised by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) under the Union Health Ministry, brings together an international delegation of policymakers, drug regulators, and experts from 24 countries including Liberia, Togo, Mali, and Papua New Guinea, among others.

Patel also praised India's flagship initiative, the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), which aims to provide affordable medicines to all citizens. She further noted that the Jan Aushadhi Kendras, which are integral to this program,

serve as "shining examples of India's commitment to making quality medicines accessible to all."

"These centres have proven to be vital in reducing out-of-pocket medical expenses for millions of Indians," Patel added, underscoring the importance of such initiatives in improving public health.

"As much as 70% of WHO's vaccines come from India... India is the world's top producer of generics, with 14% of the generics imported by the US sourced from India. We also have the highest number of US FDA-recognized drug manufacturing plants," she said. Furthermore, Patel highlighted India's robust regulatory framework, noting that the country retains the WHO's Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) Maturity Level 3 (ML3) status. This, she explained, reflects India's commitment to maintaining high standards in drug regulation. The Indian Pharmacopoeia, she added, is now recognised by 15 countries worldwide, with Cuba being the most recent to adopt it as a standard for drug quality.

Govt issues notification for population census in 2027

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) : The government of Monday officially notified that the next Census of the population of India will be conducted in the year 2027.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) made the announcement through a Gazette notification issued under Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948 (Act 37 of 1948). "The reference date for the said census shall be 00.00 hours of the 1st day of March, 2027, except for the Union territory of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of Himachal Pradesh and

Uttarakhand," the notification said. "In respect of the Union territory of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date shall be 00:00 hours of the 1st day of October, 2026," the notification said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday reviewed the preparation for the forthcoming Census of India here. The meeting was attended by the Union Home Secretary, Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI), and other senior officials.

Indian Embassy in Tehran working to ensure safety of Indian students

New Delhi, June 15 (UNI) Following the outbreak of large-scale military attacks between Israel and Iran, the Indian Embassy in Tehran is continuously monitoring the security situation and engaging with Indian students in Iran to ensure their safety. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said that in some cases, Indian students are being relocated with the Embassy's facilitation to safer places within Iran. Other feasible options are also under examination. Further updates will follow, it added. Separately, the Indian Embassy is in touch with Indian community leaders regarding their welfare and safety, the statement added.



Amid rising Iran-Israel conflict, EAM speaks with counterparts

Amid the continued missile attacks between Iran and Israel, India has been in touch with the UAE and Armenia in the likely evacuation of some 1,300 Indian students stuck in Iran. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke with his counterparts from both the UAE and Armenia today. Armenia shares a land border with Iran while UAE shares a maritime border. EAM Jaishankar spoke with the Deputy PM and Foreign Minister of UAE Abdullah bin Zayed during which they discussed the current situation in the Middle East and the role of diplomacy.

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Good educational facilities, good morals to create an ...



Maharashtra and District Guardian Minister Chandrakant Patil on Monday underscored the importance of creating an ideal future generation through good educational facilities and good morals.

(See on page 3)

SL, Bangladesh kick off new WTC cycle in Galle



The new cycle of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) gets underway on Tuesday with hosts Sri Lanka taking on Bangladesh in the first of a two-Test series at the Galle International Cricket Stadium, a ground where the visitors have never tasted victory in the format.

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Sonia Gandhi admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital



Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on Sunday night. According to hospital sources, it was a routine medical checkup. They, however, refused to provide further details.

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Police inspect after a portion of Babasaheb Jaykar Marg near Girgaon Metro station caved in, in Mumbai.

BJP accuses Congress of suppressing OBCs rights

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) : Soon after the government issued a notification declaring the 16th Caste Census to begin from 2027, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday accused the opposition Congress party of always cheating and suppressing the rights of OBCs."The OBC community has always been betrayed by the Congress. If the Congress had genuine intent, it would have formed a new commission after scrapping the Kaka Kalelkar Commission... Instead, they dismissed the

commission’s report and continued to rule... “Later, when the Mandal Commission was constituted and the Supreme Court upheld its legality, the Congress worked to weaken the OBC Commission.” Union Minister Bhupender Yadav said at a press conference here.While slamming the Opposition party for "suppressing OBC rights and caste census reports", Minister Yadav gave credit to his party for taking various initiatives for the community including granting constitutional status to the OBC

Commission and implementing welfare schemes. He said, "It was the BJP government that granted reservation to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). Congress has never stood with the poor, OBCs, or SC/ST communities. Congress MP & LoP Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, calls Karnataka an ideal state — but the timing and internal contradictions of their stance show that social justice is merely a showpiece for Congress, not a genuine commitment. Misleading the OBC community has been Congress’s policy; delivering justice to them has never been their intent..."Rather, he said, Congress always worked towards weakening the OBC Commission and delaying the implementation of the Mandal Commission report. "We thank our PM for

addressing the long-standing issue of reservations in admissions to central schools... Through his economic welfare schemes, crores of people have been lifted out of poverty," said the senior BJP leader. He also pointed out loopholes on the proposed census survey announced by the Congress-led Karnataka Government a few days ago, alleging that the Congress is using “social justice for electoral engineering rather than genuine commitment.”In response to a reporter’s question about the Congress party's demand to adopt the Telangana model for the census to gather socio-economic data of all castes, Yadav took a jab at the Opposition, remarking, “If that’s the case, then why are they not implementing the Telangana model in Karnataka, where they are in power?”

Review petition filed against SC’s 3-year Practice mandate for Judicial Service entry

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) A review petition has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging its recent judgment that mandated a minimum of three years' practice as an advocate for candidates seeking entry into the judicial service at the level of Civil Judge (Junior Division). The petitioner has also urged the Court to defer the enforcement of this rule until 2027 to avoid penalizing law graduates from the batches of 2023 to 2025, who had prepared under the earlier eligibility criteria. The judgment under review was delivered on May 20 by a bench, comprising Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, Justices Augustine George Masih and K Vinod Chandran, in the All India Judges Association case. The Court had ruled that a mandatory three-year practice requirement enhances the quality of the judiciary by ensuring that judges have prior courtroom experience. However, the review petitioner, Advocate Chandra Sen Yadav, contended that the judgment suffers from apparent errors on the face of the record and causes retrospective hardship.The petition stated, “Immediate enforcement causes retrospective hardship, violating principles of fairness, legitimate expectation and equal opportunity under Article 14 of the Constitution.”The petitioner argued that the Court’s decision was based only on affidavits filed by a few State Governments and High Courts supporting the reintroduction of the practice requirement, while ignoring the contrary views submitted by the States of Nagaland, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, and the High Court of Punjab and Haryana. He also submitted that the judgment disregarded the Shetty Commission’s recommendation to eliminate the practice requirement, noting that law internships and court visits are already part of the legal education curriculum and candidates undergo judicial training post-recruitment. “The judgment was not based on any empirical data, statistical analysis, or studies,” the petition stated. It further argued that there was no material placed before the Court to prove that fresh law graduates have historically underperformed in judicial roles. “The reliance placed by Apex Court in its judgment on the general views of the amicus curiae and High Court counsel was arbitrary and unsupported by any objective study or judicial performance analysis,” the petition added. The review petition also raised concerns about the impact of the ruling on aspirants from marginalised communities, including SCs, STs, and OBCs, and on those engaged in legal roles in law firms, public sector undertakings, and corporate sectors, whose experience is not recognised under the new requirement. Further, the petitioner questioned the constitutional validity of the Court’s imposition of a uniform eligibility rule across all states without any legislative backing, stating that such a mandate falls outside the purview of Article 141 of the Constitution.

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) : In the past five-and-a-half months, India has lost 91 royal tigers—an alarming figure - due to poaching, territorial disputes, human-wildlife conflicts, train mishaps and natural causes, according to data from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). On an average, this equates to nearly 17 tiger deaths every month. If this trend persists, the total number of tiger fatalities this year could surpass last year's figure of 126. In the five-year period from 2019 to 2023, a total of

628 striped predators have died across India. The data from the NTCA, which oversee Project Tiger in India, shows 96 deaths in 2019, 106 in 2020, 127 in 2021, 121 in 2022, and 178 in 2023. This widespread loss in the first five months till to date is uneven across states, with more than half ie 49 mortalities occurring in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra where train accidents and infectious disease too have been found to be the cause of the deaths. Maharashtra alone reported the deaths of 26

Person working in society deemed ‘state’ not a govt servant

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Monday held that an individual working in a registered society, even if it qualifies as a "state" under Article 12 of the Constitution, cannot be treated as a government servant. The observation came while dismissing a plea challenging an order of the Tripura High Court that had upheld the petitioner’s termination from government service for misrepresenting his employment status. A bench comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice Manmohan was hearing the case of a petitioner who was

dismissed from the post of junior weaver at the Weaver’s Service Centre, Agartala, a unit under the Ministry of Textiles, government of India. The petitioner had earlier served as a crafts teacher at the Tripura Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TTWREIS), an autonomous body supported by the state government.The petitioner had claimed eligibility for the post of junior weaver on the ground that he was a government servant due to his employment with TTWREIS.However, after an inquiry conducted by the Ministry of Textiles

Defence Cyber Agency begins exercise to bolster cyber resilience at national level

New Delhi/Pune, June 16 (UNI) "Cyber Suraksha", a comprehensive cyber security exercise designed to simulate real-world cyber threats, reinforce secure practices and test the analytical and defensive cyber skills of participants in a high-paced, gamified environment, commenced on Monday.

Organised by Defence Cyber Agency under aegis of the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, this multi-phased exercise is a proactive step towards bolstering cyber resilience at national level and encompasses the conduct of targeted training sessions, evaluation and an engaging capsule for leadership, said a Defence press release here.

Over 100 participants from national-level agencies and stakeholders from defence domains are taking part in the event, which will conclude on June 27.

Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) conclave for leadership has also been dovetailed in ‘Cyber Suraksha’, thereby integrating the technical aspects with leadership roles. The CISOs conclave includes talks by eminent speakers and will culminate in an immersive Table-Top Exercise.

Combining structured learning with dynamic hands-on challenge environments will empower participants to act decisively in the face of cyber threats.

Amid rising Iran-Israel conflict, EAM speaks with counterparts

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) : Amid the continued missile attacks between Iran and Israel, India has been in touch with the UAE and Armenia in the likely evacuation of some 1,300 Indian students stuck in Iran. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke with his counterparts from both the UAE and Armenia today. Armenia shares a land border with Iran while UAE shares a maritime border.

EAM Jaishankar spoke with the Deputy PM and Foreign Minister of UAE Abdullah bin Zayed during which they discussed the current situation in the Middle East and the role of diplomacy.

“Had a telecon with DPM & FM @ABZayed of

UAE on the current situation in West Asia and the role of diplomacy.

“Agreed to remain in touch.On his conversation with his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan, EAM Jaishankar said they discussed the current situation in the region and their bilateral cooperation.

“Spoke with FM @AraratMirzoyan of Armenia. “Discussed ongoing developments in the region and our close cooperation.”

The Indian Embassy in Tehran has said it is continuously monitoring the security situation and engaging with Indian students in Iran to ensure their safety.In a statement, the Ministry of External

Affairs said that in some cases, Indian students are being relocated with the Embassy’s facilitation to safer places within Iran. Other feasible options are also under examination. Further updates will follow, it added.

Separately, the Indian Embassy is in touch with Indian community leaders regarding their welfare and safety.There are around 1,300 Kashmiri students currently studying in Iran who are stranded amid the escalating tensions between Iran and Israel.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association has appealed to PM Modi for emergency evacuation of the stranded Kashmiri students from Iran amid the conflict.

Another Air India Boeing 787 faces technical issue, returns to Hong Kong

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) In yet another incident involving an Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner, flight AI 315 from Hong Kong to Delhi was forced to return to its origin shortly after takeoff due to a suspected technical issue.

This comes just four days after a devastating crash involving a Dreamliner on the Ahmedabad–London route.

According to sources, flight AI 315 departed from Hong Kong at 11:59 PM (local time) Sunday night—delayed by three

hours and nine minutes. Soon after takeoff, the pilot suspected a technical anomaly. In response, the pilot kept the aircraft flying over the sea for some time, and when the issue could not be resolved, he decided to return.

The aircraft returned to its original location—Hong Kong Airport—approximately one hour and 19 minutes later. It landed at 1:18 AM local time, where it will undergo a thorough technical inspection, sources said.

This incident follows closely on the heels of a

tragic crash on June 12, in which an Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner en route from Ahmedabad to London crashed shortly after takeoff.The aircraft collided with the BJ Medical College hostel in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, killing 241 of the 242 people on board. The deceased included 230 passengers and 12 crew members.

The sole survivor, Vishwash Kumar Ramesh—a British national of Indian origin—is currently receiving treatment for injuries sustained in the crash.

India lost 91 tigers under six months: NTCA

designated tiger reserves. Conservationists say that despite rapidly growing urbanisation and human populations, around three-quarters of the world's tigers now live in India.YV Jhala, a conservationist at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in his recent study published in Science journal, said that “from 2010 to 2022, tigers in India more than doubled from an estimated 1,706 to nearly 3,700”. However, the study also warns that there is no need to be complacent. “While India’s tiger recovery is an

extraordinary achievement, challenges remain. Large tracts of potential tiger habitat — spanning 157,000 sq km — are still devoid of tigers due to socio-political instability and habitat degradation,” it said.The study has recommended expanding protected areas and habitat corridors, strengthening anti-poaching measures, promoting sustainable livelihoods for communities living near tiger habitats, enhancing human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategies, including early warning systems and rapid response teams.

ICG's 5th fast patrol vessel ‘Achal’ launched in Goa

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) In a major step towards strengthening India’s maritime security and promoting indigenous defence capabilities, Achal, the fifth Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) in a series of eight being built by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL), was launched in Goa on Monday.

Designed and constructed under stringent dual-class certification from the American Bureau of Shipping and Indian Register of Shipping, the FPV features over 60 per cent indigenous content, a Defence Ministry statement said.

The vessel measures 52 meters in length and eight meters in breadth, with a displacement of 320 tons. Powered by a CPP-based propulsion system, the vessel can reach a top speed of 27 knots.

With its primary roles of protection, monitoring, control, and surveillance, Achal is equipped to safeguard offshore assets and island territories. Its launch marks another milestone in the long-standing partnership between the Indian Coast Guard and GSL, further reinforcing the collective march towards Aatmanirbharta in defence manufacturing.

must be someone who holds a civil post under the Union or state government.Since TTWREIS is not a government department, the post of craft teacher therein does not constitute a civil post, the court held.The court also rejected the petitioner’s arguments based on estoppel and waiver, stating that the appointment was explicitly conditional upon proof of government service. As the petitioner had misrepresented material facts to gain appointment, the Court held that such an appointment is voidable at the discretion of the employer.

and further verification by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), it was confirmed that TTWREIS was not a government department but a registered society. Dismissing the plea, Justice Bhuyan remarked, “A society being amenable to Article 12 does not make a person working there a government servant.”The Supreme Court concurred with the findings of the Tripura High Court’s single and division benches.It emphasised that under Rule 2(h) of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965, a "government servant"

Rapido driver, woman file cross-complaints

Bengaluru, June 16 (UNI) A Rapido bike taxi driver has been taken into custody for slapping a woman on camera. The driver has filed a counter-complaint alleging that he acted in self-defence after being physically assaulted first.

The incident, which took place on June 13, gained public attention only after a video of it went viral on social media on Monday, prompting police action.

The driver, identified as Suhas, claimed that the altercation began when he reached the pickup location and the passenger insisted he stop immediately. "I told her I would stop just a little ahead, but she started verbally abusing me using derogatory words. I tried to explain that I couldn't halt at that exact spot. She then physically attacked me first, and I hit her only in retaliation," Suhas stated in his complaint filed at Jayanagar Police Station.

Following the viral video, the Bengaluru City Police tracked down the woman and encouraged her to file a formal complaint. She alleged that the driver was riding rashly and, when confronted, slapped her during the ensuing argument. Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said, "Though no complaint was filed initially, we took suo motu cognisance after the video surfaced. The accused has been taken into custody and a case has been registered. A cross-FIR has also been filed, as both parties have lodged complaints."

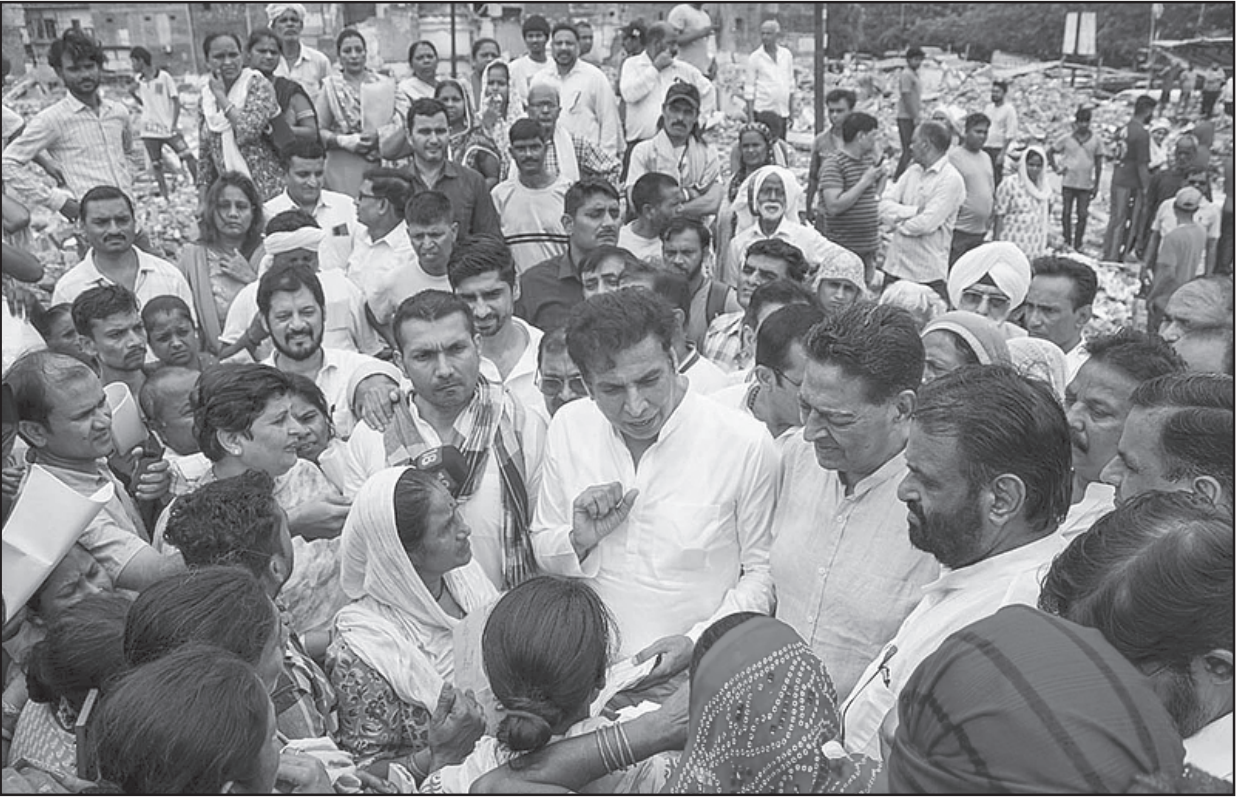
A senior officer from the South Division confirmed that both versions are being investigated. "This is a case involving mutual allegations, and we will proceed based on facts and evidence," the officer said.

The video has sparked widespread outrage and reignited public debate on passenger safety and the regulation of bike taxi services operating under gig economy platforms. Further investigation is in progress.

Seat malfunction may have caused AI crash: Expert

Bengaluru, June 16 (UNI) :Aviation expert Shaligram Muralidhar, who is a retired deputy director of the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), said on Monday a possible mechanical failure in the pilot's seat might have contributed to the recent plane crash in Ahmedabad, calling it an emerging theory in addition to the earlier suspicion of fuel contamination. In an interview with UNI, Muralidhar explained that aircraft pilot seats are designed to move both forward-backward and side-to-side to ensure proper access to flight controls. These seats are

held in place by a latching mechanism, typically secured by a pin. "It is suspected that the locking pin may have been broken or defective. During takeoff, when the pilot applied full power, the seat might have slid backward due to acceleration. As a result, the pilot's hand, which was on the throttle lever, could have unintentionally pulled it back to idle," he said. This sudden reduction in power during the rotation phase of takeoff could have led to a catastrophic loss of thrust, preventing the aircraft from gaining the necessary lift, Muralidhar added.



Delhi Congress President Devender Yadav interacts with slum dwellers after an anti-encroachment drive in the area, at Govindpuri in New Delhi on Monday.

Wall of drain collapses, 9 two-wheelers, tempo damaged in Navi Mumbai

Mumbai, June 16 (UNI) The wall of a drain collapsed on Monday at Vashi Plaza in Vashi of Navi Mumbai, damaging nine two-wheelers and one tempo.

The incident occurred as the soil near the drain suddenly gave way as the drain did not have a strong safety wall.

After being informed of incident, the Vashi Fire Brigade personnel reached the spot and they are working to remove the vehicles that have fallen into the drain as well as the fallen trees.

It has been raining heavily since morning and roads in Navi Mumbai have been flooded due to heavy rains.

Citizens alleged that Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation has not cleaned the drains before the onset of rainy season.

Kerala-based RankRizers poised to become global hub for validating digital and AI service providers

Thiruvananthapuram, June 16 (UNI) : Coupled with international expansion, AI-enhanced search capabilities, and ongoing data integrity efforts, Kerala-based 'RankRizers' is poised to become a global hub for discovering and validating digital and AI service providers. RankRizers, a business listing aggregator, connects businesses and customers with top-tier digital service providers and AI services across more than 1,500+ categories and 100+ countries, its founder and CEO Achyuthan said on Monday.

Sector-agnostic by design, RankRizers is open to listing any company offering digital services or AI-driven solutions, regardless of industry or geography – making it a truly inclusive and global platform for discovering trusted service providers, he said. RankRizers addresses the persistent

challenge of discovering the right digital service provider or AI solution in real-time by operating as a highly intelligent, trust-first business listing aggregator. "Companies from across the globe submit their own listings, which are then manually verified by our in-house team to ensure accuracy, authenticity, and quality."

"Our platform intelligently organises this verified data across 1,500+ service categories and 50+ countries, allowing users to filter and sort providers based on highly relevant criteria – including unique options like case studies and testimonials," he said.

This ensures that businesses are not only easy to find but also easy to trust. By bridging the gap between service seekers and providers through verified insights, RankRizers brings transparency, efficiency, and credibility to an otherwise cluttered and

unstructured discovery process. "We aim to scale RankRizers by establishing a globally recognised standard for credibility through our proprietary trust metrics—RR Crown (awarded for consistent 4/5 or 5/5 user reviews), RR Upvotes, and RRR (Referral Rate on RankRizers)," he said. "In the long run, RankRizers envisions evolving into a comprehensive, one-stop platform that goes beyond digital boundaries. "While the current focus is on digital service and AI providers, the future roadmap includes opening the platform to non-digital businesses as well—creating a universal listing ecosystem," Achyuthan said. These dynamic scoring systems gamify quality and incentivise listed companies to maintain high standards and actively engage users. Additionally, RankRizers is the first platform globally to integrate case studies and

testimonials as core filters – redefining how proof-of-performance influences decision-making.

This trust-centric model creates a self-sustaining marketing loop: businesses promote their RankRizers profiles to improve their scores, which in turn drives more user engagement and traffic to the platform.

RankRizers sets itself apart by offering only verified, self-submitted listings—meticulously organised across 1,500+ service categories and 100+ countries. Unlike typical directories, RankRizers is built around a trust-first ecosystem fuelled by proprietary credibility tools such as RR Crown, RR Upvotes, and RRR.

What truly differentiates the platform is its innovative use of qualitative filters like case studies and testimonials, empowering users to make well-informed decisions based on real-world outcomes. This model not

only increases transparency and trust but also turns service providers into active promoters of their own credibility. As a result, RankRizers transcends the role of a listing site – it becomes a dynamic, community-powered engine for discovering top-tier, trustworthy digital and AI services in real time.

The team behind RankRizers is a lean yet powerful collective of product thinkers, data enthusiasts, and startup veterans, led by serial entrepreneur Achyuthan, who brings the wisdom of six previous ventures into his seventh and most ambitious creation. A vital force in this journey has been Arathy, his wife and steadfast collaborator, whose unwavering support and strategic input played a crucial role during the platform's foundational phase, especially when the idea was born from a hospital bed.

Thousands could have died in crash, BJP politicises tragedies: Shivakumar

Bengaluru, Jun 16 (UNI) : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Congress leader DK Shivakumar on Monday said the Ahmedabad plane crash narrowly missed turning into a catastrophe of far greater scale, while criticising the BJP for attempting to politicise tragedies like Chinnaswamy stampede instead of showing compassion.

Shivakumar, who visited the crash site, said, "The aircraft crashed between two major buildings housing hundreds of students. Had it gone just 500 metres further, thousands more could have been affected. It's a miracle that the toll wasn't far worse."

He noted that officials refrained from showing certain areas of the site due to concerns over contamination. "They told us about the high risk of infection. The burn marks and devastation we saw were shocking," he said.


The senior Congress leader also met several survivors and described the emotional toll of the incident. "Some people have escaped with minor injuries, but the trauma

runs deep. One survivor is mentally disturbed — the psychological impact cannot be ignored," he said.

Shivakumar said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was deeply moved after seeing TV visuals of the crash and had encouraged the party to show solidarity with the victims. "We came here to express our condolences and support. No one should suffer such a fate — not in this country, not anywhere in the world," he said.

On the investigation, he urged restraint. "We are waiting for the black box report. Let's not jump to conclusions. The DGCA is handling it. This is not a time for political scoring."

However, he strongly criticised the BJP for using the Chinnaswamy tragedy to target others. "Even in the face of death and trauma, BJP leaders are busy finding faults. That's their nature. But I will not stoop to politicise such a grave national concern. Let them do what they want — we won't engage in blame games."



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Dated: 17.06.2025


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STANDARD POST

Night shifts may raise risk of asthma in women

Women who work nightshifts are more likely to suffer from moderate or severe asthma compared to women who work in the daytime, according to a study of more than 270,000 people.

However, the study, published in ERJ Open Research, found no such link between asthma and working nightshifts in men. The risk of asthma in men did not alter according to whether they worked days or nights.

Women who only work nightshifts were around 50 per cent more likely to suffer from moderate or severe asthma compared to women who only work in the daytime.

"Asthma disproportionately affects women. Women generally have more severe asthma, and a higher rate of hospitalisation and death from asthma compared to men," said Dr. Robert Maidstone from the University of Manchester, UK.

"This is the first study to evaluate sex differences in the relationship between shift work and asthma. We found that permanent nightshift workers had higher odds of moderate-severe asthma when compared to corresponding day workers," he added.

The study builds on previous research which found a higher risk of moderate or severe asthma in nightshift workers.

To probe further, the team included a total of 274,541 working people and found that 5.3 per cent of those had asthma, with 1.9 per cent suffering from moderate or severe asthma (meaning they were taking an asthma-preventer inhaler and at least one other asthma treatment, such as an oral steroid).Overall, the research found that women who work shifts are more likely to have asthma.

While the research did not explain the link between shift work and asthma, the researchers said, "it could be because shift work disrupts the body clock, including the levels of male and female sex hormones".

High testosterone has previously been shown to be protective against asthma, so lower testosterone in women could play a role. Alternatively, men and women work different types of shift jobs, and this could be a factor, the researchers said.

In postmenopausal women, the risk of moderate or severe asthma was almost doubled in night workers, compared to day workers, in those not taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT)."Our results suggest that HRT might be protective against asthma for nightshift workers, however further research is needed to test this hypothesis in prospective studies and randomised controlled trials," Maidstone said. The researchers next plan to study whether sex hormones play a role in the relationship between shift work and asthma.

SWR Achieves Remarkable Progress in Digitalization to Enhance Passenger Experience and Operational Efficiency

(Standard Post Bureau)

South Western Railway (SWR) has made impressive strides in its digital transformation journey, significantly enhancing passenger convenience, operational efficiency, and transparency across the zone. With a focus on modernization and eco-friendly practices, SWR has implemented a range of digital initiatives to streamline services for both passengers and railway staff.

In May 2025, South Western Railway saw a significant shift toward digital ticket booking modes. Out of the total reserved tickets, a remarkable 85.25% were booked online through the e-ticketing system, while only 14.75% were booked at railway counters.

For unreserved ticket bookings, 68.44% of passengers still used the traditional ticket counters, whereas 26.36% used Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs). Additionally, 5.2% of the unreserved tickets were booked via the UTS mobile app, reflecting a gradual adoption of mobile-based ticketing solutions.

Fast and free Wi-Fi with high-speed internet connectivity is now available at all stations, ensuring passengers remain connected throughout their journey. To promote cashless transactions, facilities for BHIM, RuPay debit cards, and e-wallet payments have been enabled at ticket counters, complemented by the installation of 145 Point of Sale (POS) machines. Additionally, QR Code-based Smart ID cards have been introduced for vendors at all major and minor stations.Digital Luggage (Cloakroom)



Lockers at SWR Stationshas installed smart, IoT-based luggage lockers—also referred to as “digilockers”

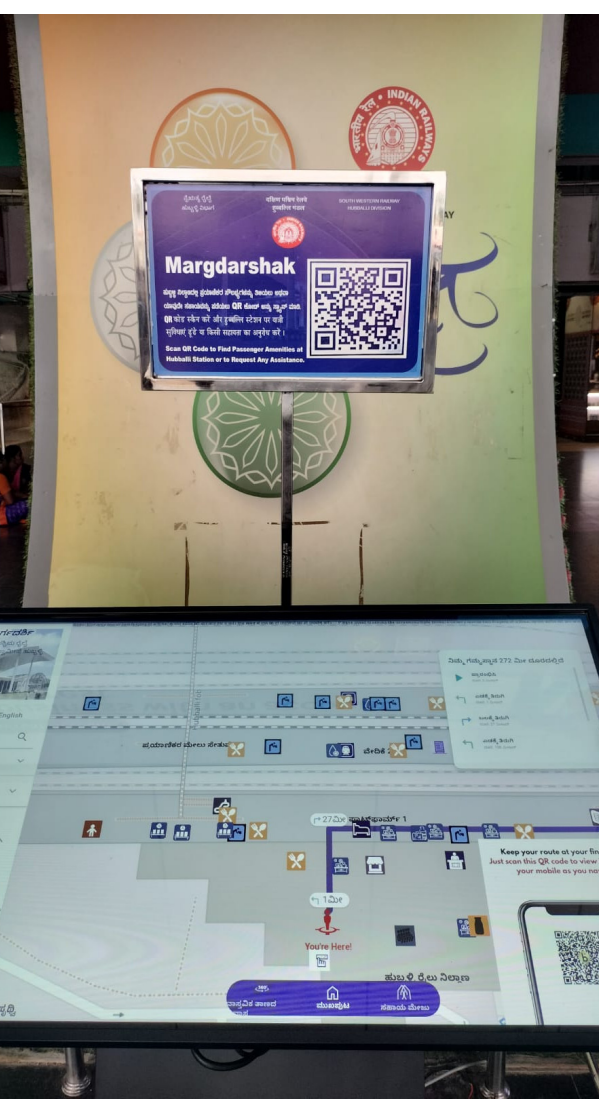
Operational efficiency has been enhanced with 1108 Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs) now equipped with Hand Held Terminals (HHTs), enabling real-time ticket

checking and data access. SWR has also fully implemented the e-office system in all its administrative offices and introduced e-TRR for freight loading to support paperless transactions.

In a significant business-friendly move, SWR has launched e-auctions, e-Tenders

platform to simplify and speed up contractual processes. Demonstrating its leadership in regional connectivity, SWR was the first railway among SR, SCR, and SWR to implement the Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) mobile app in the regional language Kannada, from 18th January 2023. A total of 107 Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs), first introduced in October 2015 at Bengaluru, Hubballi, and Mysuru stations, are currently functional across the zone.

SWR was also the first railway to introduce mobile ticketing across its entire network. To further improve passenger access, 5 new Yatri Ticketing Suvidha Kendras (YTSKs) were commissioned in 2024-25, increasing the total to 24 by March 2025. Likewise, 20 new Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBAs) were added during the



the zone to streamline energy billing and grievance redressal.

Importantly, railway passengers can now conveniently lodge complaints and grievances through the Rail Madad App, ensuring faster redressal and improved communication between passengers and railway authorities.

In a major step towards enhancing passenger convenience, the Hubballi Division of South Western Railway has introduced ‘Margadarshak’, a digital map and navigation system at SSS-Hubballi Railway Station.

With these pioneering digital initiatives, South Western Railway continues to lead the way in creating a smarter, greener, and more passenger-centric railway system.

Kamineni Hospitals Marks World Blood Donor Day with Successful Camp



(Standard Post Bureau)

On the occasion of World Blood Donor Day, Kamineni Hospitals, LB Nagar, successfully organized a large-scale Blood Donation Camp to support children affected by Thalassemia. The event witnessed an overwhelming response, with over 100 individuals voluntarily donating blood, including several doctors,

nurses, and hospital staff, showcasing the institution’s commitment to social responsibility and compassionate healthcare.

The hospital management expressed heartfelt appreciation for all the participants.

As part of the program, volunteers who have donated blood the most number of times at Kamineni Hospitals were

felicitated. Mr. Dayakar Reddy, who has donated blood more than 100 times, was specially honored during the event.

Dr. Vivekananda, Head of Blood Centre, along with Dr. Puneeth Babu, and Mr. Satyanarayana, Marketing Group Head, honored the top donors and personally handed out certificates to all individuals who donated blood during the camp.

same period, bringing the total to 131.

A 100% online Coaching E-Balance Sheet system, along with integrated UTS & PRS e-Balance Sheet and E-CR Note systems, has been implemented at all UTS and PRS locations. To enhance transparency in catering services, QR

codes with approved menus and tariffs have been introduced in static units and pantry cars.

SWR has also achieved full digitalization of freight revenue collection through e-payment and Online Payment Systems. The Rail Bijli Samadhan App has been launched across



Brihaspathi Technologies Celebrated Fatherhood with a Heartwarming Father's Day

Brihaspathi Technologies, a leader in CCTV surveillance and IT solutions, celebrated Father's Day by recognizing and appreciating the fathers within its workforce. The company organized a heart-warming event that highlighted the love, commitment, and strength fathers bring to both their families and their professional lives.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Rajasekhar Papolu, Managing Director, Brihaspathi Technologies Limited, said, "Fathers are often the foundation of strength in every family. At Brihaspathi Technologies, we have always believed in valuing our people not just as professionals, but also as individuals with meaningful roles that extend beyond the workplace. Celebrating our employees who are fathers was our way of showing

appreciation for everything they do — both at work and at home."

Ms. Reshal H. Melkar, HR Manager, added, "It was heartening to see the workplace filled with emotion and connection. We wanted our employees to take pride in their role as fathers. This celebration reminded us all how important it is to acknowledge the people behind the job titles."

The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony, and gift hampers were presented to all employees who are fathers, making the day even more memorable.

This celebration reflected Brihaspathi Technologies’ ongoing commitment to building a people-first culture where personal milestones and family values are recognized and cherished.

Home & Garden



Indoor gardening Go green at home

Thinking about indoor gardening? Here's all you need to know...



Bengaluru is turning out to be a densely populated city and one has to battle a space crunch. With buildings and offices mushrooming in every nook, there is hardly any space left for gardens and green zones. Added to this is the fact that homes are getting smaller, directly in proportion to the rising rates. And this is why indoor gardening that one can indulge in, even at small homes, is gaining popularity. Women are opting for tiny kitchen gardens with a few favourite herbs in a bid to beckon some green into the house. A variety of chic and colourful containers, pots and planters are being used give homes an evergreen feel. Sonam Gupta, interior consultant and Rashmi Attavar, from an Indo-American hybrid seed company, share tips that can help you begin an indoor garden...

Location:

Choose a plant that is suitable for the location you wish to place it in. There are some plants that do well indoors or in the shade. They can be moved indoors when

required.

Plant choice: Choose a plant according to your space. A balcony would look pretty with a single orchid or a hanging basket. If you have a railing, a window box with flowers plants would brighten up the space.

Maintenance:

Choose plants that are low on maintenance. Make sure planter trays are emptied at least twice a week to avoid mosquitoes and 'wet feet' for the plant.

Containers: You can use ceramic planters in vibrant colours or even metal containers to accentuate the plants.

Colour code it:

Greek blue and ochre will dominate 2015, say interior designers. These colours are also getting popular when it comes to home design and when combined with rich velvet jewel tones, they give a royal look. These colours can be incorporated into your home gardens via planters, pots, plant holder, etc., to give it a chic look.

Smart gadgets have really made a foray into the modern kitchen. And the tech driven lifestyle that everyone leads today, makes it essential to have gadgets that make the food preparation much simpler. Here are some gadget must haves for a kitchen:

Nutcracker

You need not use this gadget on a regular basis, but a nutcracker comes handy when it comes to cracking the farm fresh nuts that you would like to use it for cakes and sweet dishes.

Can opener

Taking from opening that fruit conserve to a can of peaches or apricots, this is another must have which finds its place in the kitchen's utility section.

Garlic press

Even though the mortar and the pestle do the trick to crush garlic, pressing garlic and inhaling the aroma of freshly pressed garlic in a well designed high end garlic press is a different

The tech age really helps make the cooking process simple as you have an array of gadgets that come handy in the kitchen.

Gadget must-haves in your kitchen



experience altogether. An absolute essential.

Bottle opener

A simple gadget which will allow flexibility to open bottles taking from that soft drink to a bottle of ketchup - bottle opener is another useful gadget in the kitchen.

Cork remover

Well, it's party time and you want to uncork the Champaign. So go ahead and do it because you have the swanky cork opener at your service. An absolute party essential, what say?

Knife sharpener

Not a must have essentially, but it helps immensely if you

have a knife sharpener. It saves you the hassle of looking around in the market for the right outlet which provides such services.

Magnetic knife holder

This gadget can be used when space is a constraint in the kitchen and you are feeling too lazy to pick that knife each time from the shelf. The magnetic knife holder can be installed at a safer location away from children too.

Coconut grater or a knife

Coconut is an integral part of Indian cooking. A coconut knife or a grater is always useful when the soft texture of grated coconut is to be desired.



Care for your Artefacts



Here's how to take care of your artefacts...

Maintaining masks: Masks lend a certain character to your house, so, make sure you place them artistically. If you have masks that are made of wood or fibre, you must always dust them on a regular basis. Make sure the wall on which you have placed them is clear of cobwebs. It should not be near your kitchen or outdoors, as it will attract oil and dust.

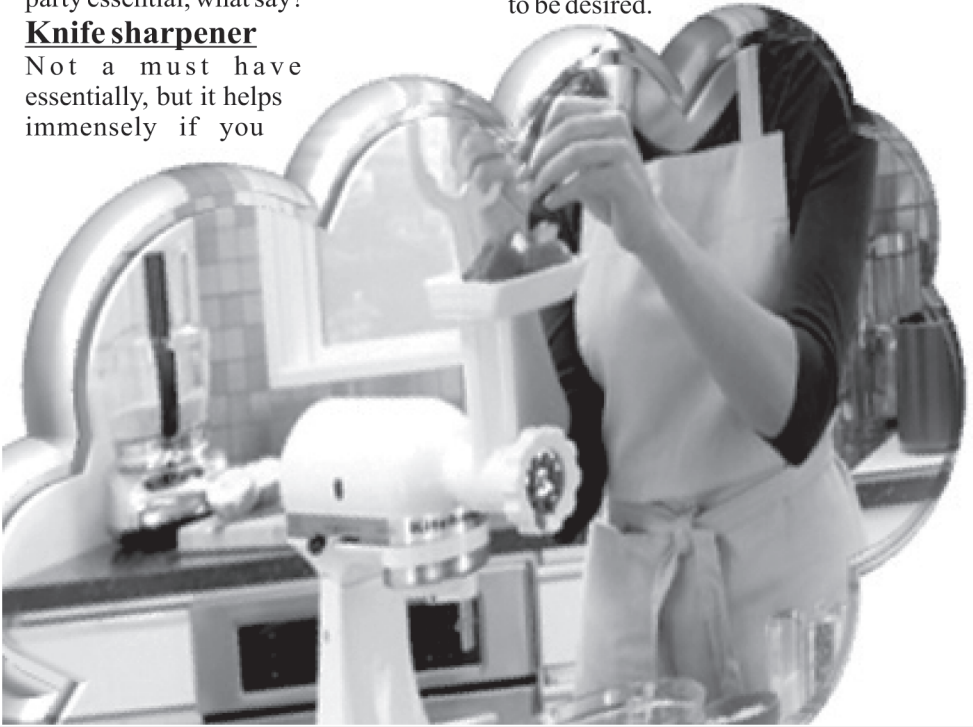
Clean your paintings regularly: An art wall can change the look of the room, provided your paintings and photographs are arranged properly. Before hanging an oil painting on the wall, make sure you coat the surface of the painting with varnish. This

way the piece will not get spoilt. Whenever you have to clean the painting, take it down without touching the painted surface. Handle it with clean hands. Regularly clean the paintings with soft brushes and cotton wool.

Brass items need to be polished: You can use normal household products to clean brass items. Tamarind pulp is the most popular product used to clean brass objects. Fresh lemon with some table salt also does wonders and gives a brilliant

shine. Make sure you clean brass items regularly, as keeping them unclean for a long duration might lead to discolouration due to dust and moisture. Also, wipe them with a soft cotton cloth, two-three times a week to preserve them well.

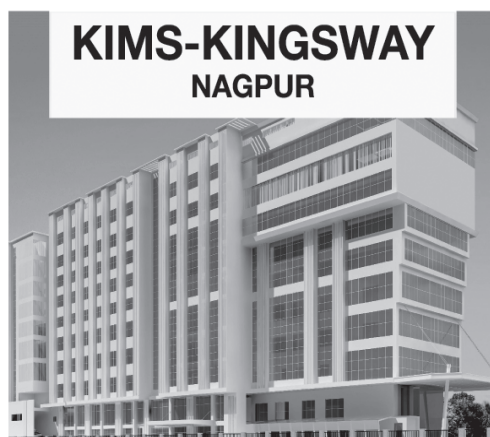
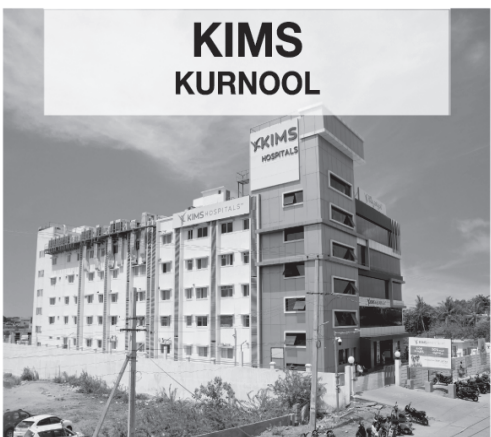
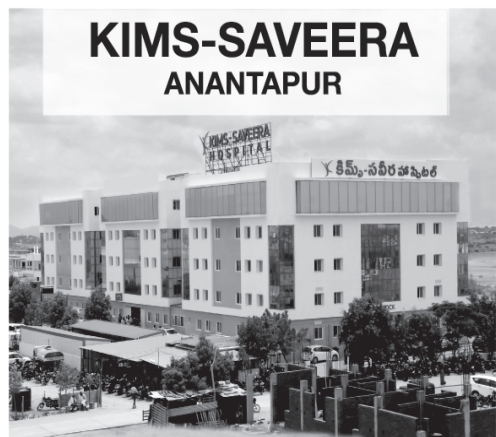
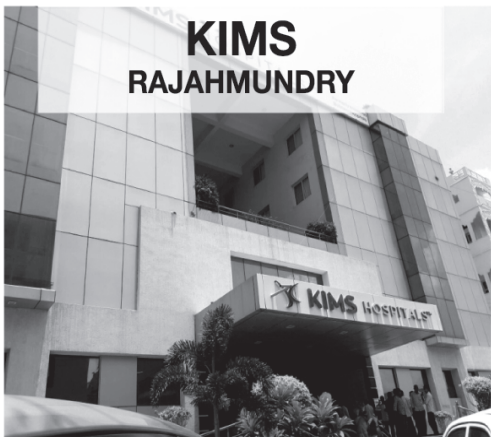
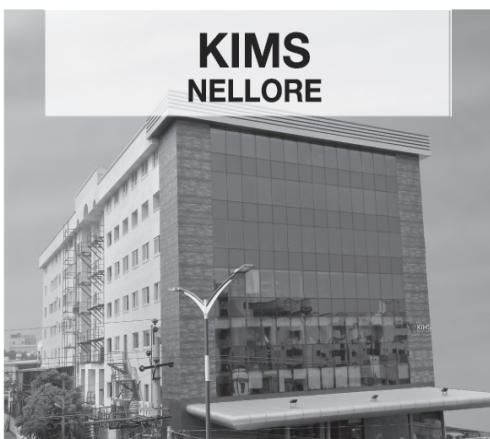
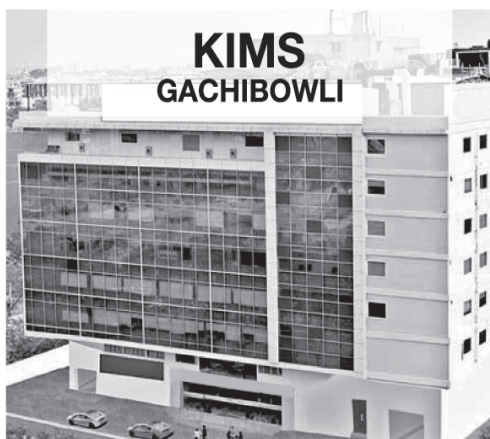
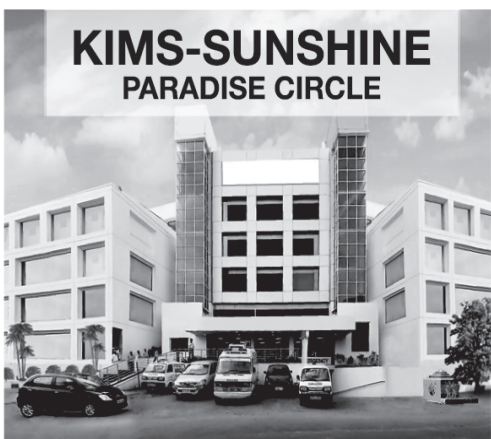
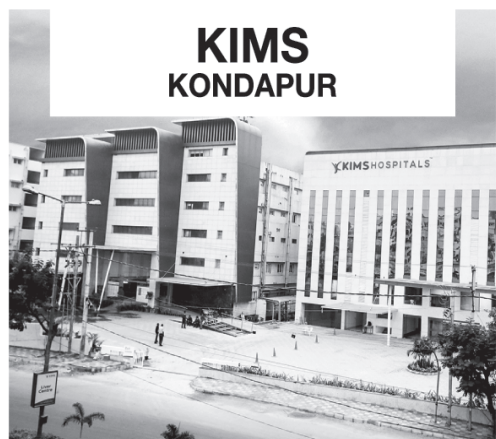
To Preserve wooden artefacts: Keep the wooden artefacts away from direct sunlight and humidity. Don't use them for outdoor decoration. To prevent them from termites, it is advisable to fumigate the house regularly (especially the corners). Clean your art pieces often by using soft brushes and dusters. Do not use water or a damp cloth to clean them.



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ECoR, Waltair Division and Indian Navy hosts Yoga Session ahead of International Day of Yoga 2025



(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, June 16 : As a run up to the International Day of Yoga 2025, Waltair Division of East Coast Railway, in collaboration with the Indian Navy, conducted a yoga session at Visakhapatnam Railway Station today. The event aimed to

promote the practice of yoga and raise awareness about its benefits among both railway personnel and the general public. The yoga camp, jointly organized by the Waltair Division and INS Viswakarma, included a variety of yoga asanas, pranayama, and meditation techniques

led by experienced yoga instructors. Under the guidance of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Shri K. Sandeep and SrDCM-II Shri K. Pawan Kumar, more than 100 officials from the railways and 25 Officials from the Indian Navy (Eastern Naval Command) actively participated in the session.

Indian Women's Hockey team ready to give their all against mighty Argentina

London, June 16 (UNI) : After a narrow defeat against Australia, the Indian Women's Hockey Team is set to give their all against World No. 2 Argentina in their upcoming FIH Pro League 2024-25 (Women) matches in London on June 17 and 18. Currently ranked 7th with 9 points, India is expecting a tough battle against Argentina, who are placed 2nd on the FIH Pro League (Women) points table. Speaking about the upcoming matches, Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain Salima Tete said, "Argentina is ranked No. 2 in the world and has won 7 of their 12 FIH Pro League matches so far. Coming into this leg of the league, we knew they would be one of the toughest teams to beat. But we won't go down without a fight — we'll give it our all in both matches. The team has been training well to take them on and has been working on various strategies to win crucial points against them."

Vice Captain Navneet Kaur agreed, adding, "As you saw, the team gave Australia a tough fight in the last two matches, and we're planning to do the same against Argentina. We'll give it our all and aim to come out victorious. A win against Argentina will not only help us gain points but will also give the team a big morale boost as we head to Antwerp and then Berlin for our matches against Belgium and China." The Indian Women's Hockey Team will play their first match against Argentina on June 17, followed by the second match on June 18. Both matches will take place at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre in London. All FIH Pro League 2024-25 (Men and Women) matches will be streamed live on JioCinema and broadcast on Star Sports Select.

India U23 men's head coach Moosa names 23-member squad for Tajikistan tour

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) : The India U23 men's team head coach Naushad Moosa, on Monday, announced a 23-member squad for the friendly matches against Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

The Blue Colts have been training at the AIFF National Centre of Excellence in Kolkata since June 1 and departed for Tajikistan on Monday afternoon.

As part of their preparations for the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers in September, India will face Tajikistan on June 18 before squaring off against Kyrgyz Republic on June 21. Both matches, kicking off at 20:30 IST, will take place at the Hisor Central Stadium in Hisor, about 25 kilometres from

Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe. "These two matches against Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic will help us understand the level of our players, and what more we need to add to it. For now, I'm happy with the way we have prepared. We won a couple of practice matches by big margins, but it wasn't much of a competition," said Moosa.

The camp began with 29 players, of whom 20 made the final list. Moosa's squad was boosted by the addition of forward Suhail Ahmad Bhat, midfielder Ayush Chhetri and defender Tekcham Abhishek Singh, who joined the U23 camp after finishing their duties with the senior national team during the June FIFA

Window games against Thailand and Hong Kong.

"After these friendlies, we will get more understanding of our players and what else we need to work on. The opponents are of a pretty good level, I believe. It's important to play against such teams when you're preparing for the U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers, where we will face Qatar and Bahrain," Moosa added.

India U23's 23-member squad for June friendlies in Tajikistan: Goalkeepers: Mohd Arbaz, Priyansh Dubey, Sahil. Defenders: Bikash Yumnam, Dipendu Biswas, Muhammed Saheef AP, Nikhil Barla, Pramveer, Subham Bhattacharya, Tekcham Abhishek Singh.

Midfielders: Ayush

Chhetri, Chingangbam Shivaldo Singh, Lalremtluanga Fanai, Lalrinliana Hnamte, Macarton Louis Nickson, Mohammed Aimen, Vbin Mohanan, Vinith Venkatesh.

Forwards: Joseph Sunny, Mohammed Sanan K, Parthib Sundar Gogoi, Suhail Ahmad Bhat, Thingujam Korou Singh.

Head Coach: Naushad Moosa
Assistant Coach: Remus Damiao Gomes

Goalkeeper Coach: Dipankar Choudhary
Strength and Conditioning Coach: Diwakar Manohar

India U23's Match Schedule:

June 18: Tajikistan vs India (20:30 IST)

June 21: India vs Kyrgyz Republic (20:30 IST)

Mathews slams shrinking Test calendar for Sri Lankan

Galle, June 16 (UNI) : Veteran all-rounder Angelo Mathews, playing his farewell Test series against Bangladesh at Galle, has voiced deep concern over Sri Lanka's shrinking Test calendar, calling it "quite sad" and urging the global cricketing fraternity to ensure greater equity for nations outside the Big Three. "This is the first time since 2008 that I've played only four Test matches in a year," Mathews told reporters ahead of the first Test against Bangladesh. "It's quite sad. The younger generation is eager to play Test cricket — the pinnacle of the game. We must push for at least ten matches a year."

Mathews compared Sri Lanka's schedule with those of England, India, and Australia, who each play

upwards of 15 Tests annually. "Why can't we play as many? We've won World Cups, produced legends, and contributed richly to cricket. We deserve the same opportunities."

His remarks have reignited debate around the structure of the ICC's Future Tours Programme (FTP), which many feel is skewed in favour of a few dominant nations. Mathews' comments resonate with growing calls from former players and administrators to democratise Test cricket.

Speaking emotionally during his final appearance in whites, the 37-year-old also paid tribute to his parents when asked who his heroes were. "My heroes are my parents. I know the struggle they

went through to raise me and my siblings. I learned so much from them about life. They are the reason I'm here."

Mathews, who began his international journey as a promising all-rounder in 2008, acknowledged the physical toll of playing across all formats. "Until about 2015, I played all formats and didn't manage my workload well — especially as captain. I gave everything to win every game, and it eventually took a toll on my body. But I have no regrets. I gave my best for my country."

As Sri Lanka looks to transition into a new era, Mathews' farewell has not only stirred emotion but also sparked a critical conversation about the future of Test cricket in the island nation.

SL, Bangladesh kick off new WTC cycle in Galle

Galle, June 17 (UNI) : The new cycle of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) gets underway on Tuesday with hosts Sri Lanka taking on Bangladesh in the first of a two-Test series at the Galle International Cricket Stadium, a ground where the visitors have never tasted victory in the format.

Since their first Test encounter in 2001, Sri Lanka have won 18 of the 26 Tests between the two sides, with Bangladesh registering just one win. The islanders have also not lost any of their last eight Tests against the Tigers, a psychological edge as the WTC 2025–27 cycle opens.

Despite this dominance, both teams enter the new WTC phase with patchy recent form. Sri Lanka have lost each of their last four Tests, though significantly, all came against WTC 2023–25 finalists South Africa and Australia. Bangladesh, in contrast, have won two of their last three Tests — against Zimbabwe and the West Indies — and are eyeing a competitive start, even if conditions are heavily stacked against them. Sri Lankan captain

Dhananjaya de Silva, taking charge after their near miss in the previous WTC cycle, is determined to reset momentum. However, his side begins a new era without long-time opener Dimuth Karunaratne, who recently retired. Pathum Nissanka is expected to anchor the top order, supported by the seasoned Kusal Mendis and allrounders Angelo Mathews and Akila Dananjaya. Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya remains their key threat on a turning Galle track.

Bangladesh, under captain Najmul Hossain Shanto, are fielding a squad rich in experience but short on results in Sri Lanka conditions. The side banks on the batting depth of Litton Das, Mushfiqur Rahim and

Mominul Haque, while Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Taijul Islam will shoulder the spin responsibilities.

With consistent low bounce expected for the first two days and sharper turn by Day 3, the toss will be crucial. Both teams are likely to bat first, knowing Galle's history of deteriorating surfaces. Rain and high humidity are forecast through the Test, potentially disrupting play across all five days. Predicted Playing XI's:

Sri Lanka: Oshada Fernando, Pathum Nissanka, Pavan Rathnayake, Pasindu Sooriyabandara, Kusal Mendis (wk), Akila Dananjaya, Dhananjaya de Silva (c), Angelo Mathews, Kasun Rajitha, Milan Rathnayake, Prabath Jayasuriya

India face Pak in Oct as ICC announces Women's WC 2025 itinerary

Dubai, June 16 (UNI) : Cricket fans across the subcontinent are set for a blockbuster showdown as India and Pakistan are slated to meet in a high-voltage league-stage clash at the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, with the full schedule officially announced on Monday by the International Cricket Council.

In a much-anticipated fixture likely to draw massive viewership, India will face arch-rivals Pakistan in Colombo on 11 October, setting the stage for one of the most emotionally charged encounters of the tournament.

The 2025 edition of the Women's World Cup will be held jointly in India and Sri Lanka from 30 September to 2 November, returning to Indian soil after over a

decade. Hosts India will launch their campaign against Sri Lanka in the tournament opener at Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, while defending champions Australia will begin their title defence against New Zealand on 1 October in Indore.

The tournament format follows a single round-robin league where the eight qualified teams, India, Australia, England, South Africa, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, will face each other once, with the top four advancing to the semifinals.

In the build-up, India will play two warm-up games, including a key preparatory clash against 2022 runners-up England on 24 September in Bengaluru, followed by South Africa in Guwahati on 27 September. Matches will

be spread across five cities - Bengaluru, Indore, Visakhapatnam, Guwahati, and Colombo, with semifinals scheduled in Bengaluru and either Guwahati or Colombo, and the Final set for 2 November in either Bengaluru or Colombo.

This will be the 13th edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup since its inception in 1973. Australia, who secured their record seventh title in 2022, qualified automatically along with the top six finishers of the ICC Women's Championship. Pakistan and Bangladesh sealed the final two spots via the global qualifiers earlier this year. As the countdown begins, all eyes will be on the India-Pakistan face-off, a contest that continues to transcend sport and capture imaginations across the globe.

ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 schedule announced

Dubai, June 16 (UNI) : The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday unveiled the complete schedule for the 2025 edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup.

Hosts India will take on Sri Lanka in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 opener on September 30 in Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, reigning champions Australia will open their title defence against Trans-Tasman rivals and defending T20 World Cup champions, New Zealand, in Indore on October 1. The schedule for the eight-team tournament was confirmed by the ICC on Monday, with the event to run in India and Sri Lanka from September 30 to November 2.

A total of five cities across the two countries will host matches, with Bengaluru, Vizag, Indore, Guwahati and Colombo all scheduled for fixtures.

One semi-final will be held in Bengaluru, with the other to be played in either Colombo or Guwahati. The Final is scheduled for 2 November

in Bengaluru or Colombo.

The eight-team tournament will be played with teams facing the rest of the competition in a single round-robin, with the top four sides progressing to the semi-finals. Teams will also contest in two warm-up matches each, starting on September 24.

Hosts India will be facing the runners-up from the 2022 edition of the tournament, England, in Bengaluru on September 24, followed by a clash against South Africa three days later in Guwahati. The upcoming edition will be the 13th since the tournament's inception in 1973. Defending champions Australia, who clinched their seventh title in 2022, went on to top ICC Women's Championship Standings, with the top six teams of the competition qualifying automatically for the World Cup.

England, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka also punched their ticket via the Women's Championship alongside hosts India, with the final two spots decided by the

Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier earlier in the year.

Pakistan and Bangladesh booked their passage by finishing in the top two at the Qualifier back in April.

ICC Chairman, Jay Shah said, "The confirmation of the schedule only builds further excitement and anticipation for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025."

"With the eight best teams in the women's game descending on India, alongside incredible venues and what promises to be record-breaking crowds, we are all looking forward to an unforgettable tournament," he added.

ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 schedule: Tuesday 30 September: India v Sri Lanka – Bengaluru – 15h00

Wednesday 1 October: Australia v New Zealand – Indore – 15h00

Thursday 2 October: Bangladesh v Pakistan – Colombo – 15h00

Friday 3 October: England v South Africa –

Bengaluru – 15h00

Saturday 4 October: Australia v Sri Lanka – Colombo – 15h00

Sunday 5 October: India v Pakistan – Colombo – 15h00

Monday 6 October: New Zealand v South Africa – Indore – 15h00

Tuesday 7 October: England v Bangladesh – Guwahati – 15h00

Wednesday 8 October: Australia v Pakistan – Colombo – 15h00

Thursday 9 October: India v South Africa – Vizag – 15h00

Friday 10 October: New Zealand v Bangladesh – Vizag – 15h00

Saturday 11 October: England v Sri Lanka – Guwahati – 15h00

Sunday 12 October: India v Australia – Vizag – 15h00

Monday 13 October: South Africa v Bangladesh – Vizag – 15h00

Tuesday 14 October: New Zealand v Sri Lanka – Colombo – 15h00

Wednesday 15 October: England v Pakistan – Colombo – 15h00

Friday 17 October: Sri Lanka v Bangladesh – Colombo – 15h00

Thursday 16 October: Australia v Bangladesh – Vizag – 15h00

Friday 17 October: South Africa v Sri Lanka – Colombo – 15h00

Saturday 18 October: New Zealand v Pakistan – Colombo – 15h00

Sunday 19 October: India v England – Indore – 15h00

Monday 20 October: Sri Lanka v Bangladesh – Colombo – 15h00

Tuesday 21 October: South Africa v Pakistan – Colombo – 15h00

Wednesday 22 October: Australia v England – Indore – 15h00

Thursday 23 October: India v New Zealand – Guwahati – 15h00

Friday 24 October: Pakistan v Sri Lanka – Colombo – 15h00

Saturday 25 October: Australia v Sri Lanka – Indore – 15h00

Sunday 26 October: England v New Zealand – Guwahati – 11h00

Sunday 26 October: India v Bangladesh – Bengaluru – 15h00

Wednesday 29 October: Semi-final 1 – Guwahati/Colombo – 15h00

Printed by R. Srinivasan,
Published and Owned by Mohammed Shafi

Printed at Global Graphics,
H.No.60, Thennan Salai Road,
Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Puducherry - 605013 and
Published from # H.No.156, First Floor,
Thiruvalluvar Salai, Pillaitthottam,
Puducherry - 605013.

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126th ZRUCC Meeting held on Central Railway - Representatives elected

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 16 : The 126th Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee (ZRUCC) meeting was held on Central Railway at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai on 05.06.2025. A total of 44 ZRUCC members, were present during the meeting.

In addition to discussion of various railway related issues, the following members were also elected as representatives as per details below: Mr Nitin Sohanlal Parmar, Member ZRUCC was elected as representative to serve on the Suburban Railway

Users' Consultative Committee (SRUCC).

Mr Ajay Dubey, Member ZRUCC was elected as representative to exercise spot checks over Central Railway regarding Claims Preventive Measures.

The term of the present ZRUCC is upto 30.09.2026."

Central Railway to launch "Focused Ticket Checking Drive in 1st Class Coaches of Suburban Trains"

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 16 : Central Railway's Mumbai Division in a bold and decisive move to elevate travel experience, while prioritizing the safety and comfort of passengers, has undertaken a unique initiative to curb irregular travel and uphold the standards of its 1st Class suburban commuters - Focused Ticket Checking Drive in 1st Class Coaches of Suburban Trains.

The new system will come into effect from Monday, 16th June 2025."In response to persistent complaints received regarding unauthorized

travel in 1st Class compartments, ticket-checking squads of Mumbai Division will now be specially deployed in all 1st Class coaches during peak hours on rotational basis, accompanied by RPF personnel. This team will operate on an end-to-end basis, ensuring thorough checks throughout the train's journey.

The teams will apprehend irregular travellers on the spot and levy penalties inside the train itself. In case of non-payment, such passengers will be handed over at the next scheduled station, where station-based TC

staff will take over and, if necessary, complete the legal process of prosecution. This initiative is aimed at protecting the rights of genuine 1st Class commuters and reinforcing fare integrity across the suburban network.

This initiative comes in the wake of the resounding success of the AC Local Help Line Ticket Checking initiative launched by Central Railway earlier. "Mumbai Division, Central Railway appeals to all commuters to travel with valid tickets or passes and cooperate with the checking staff in ensuring a smoother and fairer journey for all.

Arun Kumar Jain, GM, SCR Inaugurates various Digital and Eco-Friendly Initiatives



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, June 16 : Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway inaugurated various digital and eco-friendly initiatives on SCR today , 2025 including Unified Command & Control Centre (UCCC) at Rail Nilayam; launch of Zonal Interchange Monitoring System (ZIMS) & Station Information Monitoring System (SIMS) and inauguration of 198 Kwp (kilowatt peak) Solar plant at Signal & Telecom workshop, Mettuguda, Secunderabad. Shri Neeraj Agrawal, Additional General Manager, SCR; other Principal Heads of the Departments, senior officials and staff were also present on the occasions.

The UCCC, set up at the Disaster Management Control Room (DMCR), has been established in line with the Ministry of Railways' directive to improve monitoring and co-ordination during emergencies such as natural calamities, supply chain disruptions, and operational exigencies etc.

The facility features high-end digital displays, including two 86-inch screens and two 65-inch interactive displays, integrated with a dashboard that offers real-time feeds from data loggers, CCTV surveillance of stations & locos, and systems like FOIS (Freight Operations Information System) and COA (Control Office Application).

The Zonal Interchange Monitoring System (ZIMS) is a tool to monitor interchange of trains performance across six divisions. It gives real-time information about rake and loco details through a live dashboard, facilitating smoother train operations. Another system, Station Information Monitoring System (SIMS), is a central database designed to enhance operational efficiency across the zone. This platform ensures quick and seamless access to crucial data related to each station, which supports effective decision-making and seamless operations.

The 198 kWp capacity solar plant commissioned

at the S&T Workshop marks a significant step towards sustainable and energy-efficient operations. Designed to generate approximately 320,760 units of solar energy annually, the plant is expected to reduce nearly 259.8 tons of CO₂ emissions every year. The solar plant with capacity of 198 Kwp at 4.5 units per day will fully meet the workshop's annual energy consumption needs, effectively transforming it into an "Energy Neutral Workshop."

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Arun Kumar Jain, stated that the digital initiatives will make railway operations smarter, faster, and more efficient. These innovations will improve safety, and ensure smooth functioning during both normal and emergency situations," he said. Speaking on eco-friendly initiatives, the General Manager stated that the solar plant reflects SCR's consistent efforts towards adopting green energy solutions.

Temporary closure of footover bridge at Gate No.3 : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, June 16 : Waltair Division of East Coast Railway has made temporary changes to platform access at Visakhapatnam Railway Station due to essential construction works on the Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at the South End near Gate No. 3 with effect from 16.06.2025 (Today). This FOB will be available to access to platform No. 2 & 3 only.

As a part of ongoing efforts to improve passenger convenience and operational efficiency, the South End FOB near Gate No. 3 will be temporarily closed to facilitate its extension to Platforms 6, 7, and 8. During this period, passengers are advised to use the other two Foot Over Bridges and the lifts available at the station for platform access.

Divisional Railway Manager Mr Lalit Bohra, along with senior officials is closely monitoring the works of construction. To ensure smooth passenger movement, station staff have been instructed to monitor crowd management and provide necessary assistance to avoid any last-minute inconvenience.

We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused and appeal for cooperation from passengers during this important phase of infrastructure enhancement. These works are essential for improving connectivity, safety, and the overall improvement of passenger convenience.

Cong slams census notification, demands clarity on caste enumeration

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) : Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday criticised the Gazette notification issued by the Government on the 16th Census, calling it a "damp squib" that offers no clarity and "remains silent on the inclusion of caste data".

On his social media handle X, Ramesh said that the notification merely reiterates what was already announced on April 30, 2025, and questioned the government's intent regarding caste enumeration.

Ramesh alleged, "It is entirely because of the persistence and insistence of the Indian National Congress that the PM surrendered to the demand for a caste census. He had called Congress leaders as urban Naxals for making this demand".

The Modi government had earlier rejected the idea of a caste census in both Parliament and the Supreme Court, the Rajya Sabha MP alleged.

"Today's Gazette Notification is, however, SILENT on the inclusion of caste in the 16th Census. Is this yet another U-turn by the ustad of U-turns? Or will details be announced later?" Ramesh asked, targetting the PM.

Pension Adalat June-2025 concluded at Ratlam Division

(Standard Post Bureau)

Ratlam, June 16 : To resolve pension related grievances at Western Railway Ratlam Division, a Pension Adalat was organized on June 16, 2025 under the chairmanship of Divisional Railway Manager Mr Ashwani Kumar.

Applications were earlier sought from railway pensioners and family pensioners. A total of 56 applications were received in this Pension Adalat by the prescribed date and 28 applications on the day of Pension Adalat. All 84 applications were settled. During the Pension Adalat, PPO (Pension Payment Order) was also provided to 10 pensioners by Divisional Railway Manager Mr Kumar.

During this, information about the rules of the railway was provided to the employees and family pensioners by Senior Divisional Personnel Officer Mrs. Areema Bhatnagar. Divisional Railway Manager Shri Ashwani Kumar assured all the railway pensioners and family pensioners present that not only in the Pension Adalat but also on other working days, the Personnel Department and the Accounts Department will provide full support to the pensioners on their problems."

About 100 railway pensioners and family



pensioners, senior citizens, their representatives and bank employees were present in the Pension Adalat. The Pension Adalat was conducted in a cordial

manner. On this occasion, Divisional Manager Shri Ashwani Kumar, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer Smt. Areema Bhatnagar, Assistant

Divisional Finance Manager, Assistant Personnel Officer and other related employees of the Personnel and Accounts Department were present."

Bhiwandi City no Water Supply on Wednesday and Thursday, due to repair work

(Standard Post Bureau)

Bhiwandi , June 16 : This is to inform the citizens of Bhiwandi Nizampur City Municipal Corporation that Stem Water Dist. & Infra. Company Pvt. Ltd. Thane will be shut down for 24 hours from Wednesday 18/06/2025 9.00 am to Thursday 19/06/2025 9.00 am for daily maintenance and repair. Due to this, the water supply through Stem for Bhiwandi city will remain closed and the water supply will be at low pressure and in low quantity for the next one day.

However, Mamta Tank, Chavindra Village, Patel Nagar, Bala Compound, Faridwag, Warkya

Compound, Sangampada, Kacheropada, Kasarali, Kombadpada, Adarsh Park, Ajaynagar, Nazrana Compound, Gokulnagar, Indiranagar, Kalyan Road, Thangeali, Tinwatti, Shivajinagar Staff Quarters, G u r u c h a r a n p a d a , Ajmernagar, Patel Company.. Shamanagar, Sainath Society, Anjurphata, Devjinagar Narpoli, Vitthalnagar, Sonowai Company.. Khaliq Compound, Bhandari Compound, Narpoli Village, Devjinagar, I.G.M. Water Tank, Nizampura, Islampura, Ampada, Arwachatapada, MHADA Colony, Shashrinagar, Nehrunagar, Millat 1.2.3. Navivasti,

Kondajiwadi, Chavan Colony, Vetalpada, Wala Compound, Khandpada. Ansar Mohalla, Dolare Petrol Pump, Khoka Compound, Kamatghar, Anjurphata. Juni Tadali, Navi Tadali. Bhagyannagar, Hanuman Nagar, Kamala Hotel Precinct, Ganesh Cinema, Navjeevan Colony, Padyanagar, Ashoknagar, Ghunghatnagar, Kotargate, Varaf Galli, Kapali, Urdu Road. Kureshnagar, Lahoti Compound, Bhadwad, Temghar, Varaladevi Nagar, Chandanwag, Oswalwadi, Railway Station Road, Sathe Nagar, Naveen Tadali, Nadinaka, Haji Compound, Patel Nagar, Khadkarrad, Nagaon,

Aslam Nagar, Mushtaq Compound, Padmanagar Upper Part, Chaudhary Compound, Kamatghar. Padmanagar Walu Patil Chowk, Padmanagar Gayatri Nagar, Asabivi Precinct. Khadi Machine Road, Kalyan Road, Shashrinagar Post Office Precinct, Gebinagar Anand Tanks in the back area. Bharat Compound, Muralidhar Company. Narayan Company. Subhashnagar Gevinagar, Ganesh Society Gaibinagar, Ashoknagar, Gopalnagar. Citizens of Tinbatti Jetunpura etc. areas are requested to take note of this and cooperate with the Municipal Corporation.

Temporary Cancellation of Weekly Special Train Services : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hubballi, June 16 : South Western Railway will be temporarily cancelling the following Weekly Express Special trains due to operational reasons:

A) Cancellations Due to Operational Constraints Over Central Railway:

1. Train No. 07315 SSS Hubballi – Muzaffarpur Weekly Express Special, journey commencing on 30.06.2025 will be cancelled.
2. Train No. 07316 Muzaffarpur – SSS Hubballi Weekly Express Special, journey commencing on 03.07.2025, will be cancelled.
3. Train No. 06281 Mysuru – Ajmer Weekly

Express Special, journeys commencing on 21.06.2025 and 28.06.2025 will be cancelled.

4. Train No. 06282 Ajmer – Mysuru Weekly Express Special, journeys commencing on 23.06.2025 and 30.06.2025 will be cancelled.

B) Cancellations Due to Rath Yatra Festival Restrictions:

1. Train No. 07325 SSS Hubballi – Katihar Weekly Express Special, journey commencing on 18.06.2025 will be cancelled.
2. Train No. 07326 Katihar – SSS Hubballi Weekly Express Special, journey commencing on 21.06.2025 will be cancelled.
3. Train No. 06565

SMVT Bengaluru – Malda Town Weekly Express Special, journeys commencing on 22.06.2025 and 29.06.2025 will be cancelled.

4. Train No. 06566 Malda Town – SMVT Bengaluru Weekly Express Special, journeys commencing on 25.06.2025 and 02.07.2025 will be cancelled.

5. Train No. 06559 SMVT Bengaluru – Narangi Weekly Express Special, journeys commencing on 17.06.2025 and 24.06.2025 will be cancelled.

6. Train No. 06560 Narangi – SMVT Bengaluru Weekly Express Special, journeys commencing on 21.06.2025 and 28.06.2025 will be cancelled.

Sonia Gandhi admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI) : Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on Sunday night.

According to hospital sources, it was a routine medical checkup. They, however, refused to provide further details. Notably, the Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson earlier this month was admitted to the Indira Gandhi Medical College Hospital in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.