

IN BRIEF

Couple killed as van knocked them down

Nellore, June 17 (UNI) A couple was killed, and three others were injured after a van crashed into a roadside shop at Brahmeswaram village in Duttalur mandal on Tuesday.

Police said that a van ploughed through a shop killing a couple Venkateswarulu and his wife Swarnalatha. Three others were injured in the accident, and they were admitted to the GGH.

Police have registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH for post-mortem. The driver of the van is absconding, police said.

Two debt-ridden farmers end life in Palnadu district

Narasaraopet, June 17 (UNI) Two debt-ridden farmers allegedly committed suicide by consuming pesticide in two different villages in Palnadu district in Chilakaluripet constituency of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday.

Police said that a farmer Chiruboina Gopala Rao (40) at Tubadu village consumed pesticide. Family members said that he incurred loss due to crop damage. Unable to repay debts he committed suicide by consuming pesticide at his agriculture field and died.

Another farmer Nasyam Adinarayana (45) allegedly committed suicide at Nadendla village. Family members said that he borrowed money from money lenders to raise crops in his leased agriculture field but he incurred loss due to withering of crops. Unable to face the pressure mounted by the money lenders, he took the extreme step by consuming pesticide at his agriculture field.

The police registered cases and shifted the two bodies to the Chilakaluripet GGH for postmortem.

Responding to the suicides of two farmers, YSRCP leader and former Minister Vidadala Rajani expressed concern over the suicides of farmers.

The former Minister consoled the bereaved families at Chilakaluripet GGH. She demanded the government to announce ex gratia to the two bereaved families.

AP to have 3 circular economy parks



(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, June 17 :In a move to strengthen the waste management system in the state, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to finalise and bring out a new policy on the circular economy within two months.

He instructed that three circular economy parks be established in different regions of the state within a year and called for increased deployment of modern machinery in waste-to-energy plants. The Chief Minister also ordered immediate clearance of legacy waste. He asked for an action plan on waste segregation and recycling to be submitted within 90 days.

The Chief Minister here on Tuesday conducted a review with officials at the Secretariat on circular economy strategies. The discussions focused on wealth creation from waste and the reuse of resources. Proposals from the Material Recycling Association of

India regarding the establishment of circular economy parks were also reviewed.

In the first phase, a park spread across 400 acres will be set up in Visakhapatnam, designed to meet international standards. The Chief Minister directed officials to develop a comprehensive plan focusing on 11 sectors identified by the Central Government under the circular economy framework: municipal waste, vehicles, lithium batteries, gypsum, tyres, rubber, electronics, agriculture, industry, and aqua waste.

By October 2 this year, the Chief Minister directed that single-use plastics be completely banned in four major cities, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Tirupati, and Rajahmundry, along with 17 other municipal corporations. He called for increased usage of cloth bags in these areas. Furthermore, 157 Reduce-Reuse-Recycle centers are to be established across 87 urban locations.

Agriculture contributes over 4 million metric tonnes of waste annually, while the livestock, aqua, and poultry sectors together generate 34.7 million metric tonnes. In rural areas, 1,329 metric tonnes of waste are generated daily from 8.8 million households. Officials also presented incentives provided for circular economy initiatives in Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Maharashtra for the Chief Minister's consideration.

Effective implementation of the circular economy model in Andhra Pradesh could boost the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by an estimated Rs. 15,000 crore annually.

Additionally, it would allow the supply of materials worth Rs. 10,000 crore to the manufacturing sector. This value addition is expected to generate Rs. 3,000 crore annually in GST revenue.

Women are not safe under TDP rule, alleges YSRCP MLC

(Standard Post Bureau) Visakhapatnam, June 17 : YSRCP MLC and state Women's Wing President Varudu Kalyani today condemned the shocking incident in Narayanapuram village of Kuppam, where a woman named Sirisha was tied to a tree and beaten allegedly by a TDP worker over a loan dispute.

Speaking to the media at the party's city office, she said such incidents "bring shame" to the civil society and show that women in Andhra Pradesh are living without even basic protection under the current government.

Kalyani questioned Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's silence, stating that the atrocity occurred in his constituency. She demanded the immediate arrest and strict punishment of the culprits and said the government didn't even find time to visit or console the

victim's family. She criticised state Home Minister V Anitha for making only a video call instead of visiting the victim personally.

She said women in the state are facing repeated assaults while the government watches silently. Kalyani pointed out that the coalition government itself admitted in the Legislative Council that three crimes against women occur every hour in Andhra Pradesh.

She said Chief Minister N Chandrababu and his Deputy K Pawan Kalyan made promises but failed to take any action when such incidents occurred. Kalyani demanded that the government provide financial help to the victim's family and conduct a serious review on women's safety. She warned that if the government failed to act, YSRCP would launch statewide protests demanding justice

140 participansts in MSME Conclave

(Standard Post Bureau) Visakhapatnam, June 17 : Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), a public sector undertaking shipyard, conducted a vibrant MSME Conclave as part of its 85th Foundation Day celebrations here today. The event witnessed active participation from 140 MSMEs.

The conclave aimed to boost MSME involvement in HSL's upcoming projects and service contracts. Vendors were briefed on business opportunities and recent reforms — from Ease of Doing Business to Speed of Doing Business.

Speaking on the occasion, HSL Chairman and Managing Director Cmde Hemant Khatri, urged vendors to maintain high safety standards and good engineering practices at worksites. A. Srinu, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO, Vizag, shared key government initiatives for MSMEs. The interactive session strengthened ties, addressed vendor concerns, and reaffirmed HSL's commitment to long-term, win-win partnerships.

Renigunta Airport to be named as Sri Venkateswara Intl Airport : TTD Chairman

(Standard Post Bureau) Tirumala, June 17 :The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) has recommended to the Civil Aviation Ministry that the Renigunta Airport be renamed Sri Venkateswara International Airport, a senior official said today.

TTD Chairman BR Naidu told the media here the Airport will be re-designed replicating Tirumala aesthetics, bringing spiritual beauty.

Naidu was speaking after the Trust Board during meeting held at Annamaiah Bhavan here.

During his recent visit to Bengaluru for attending Srinivasa Kalyanam, the TTD Chairman has formally met Karnataka Chief Minister Siddharamaiah.

It was decided to build a Srivari temple in a prime location at Bengaluru as soon as the Karnataka government allocates the required land to TTD, he said.

Union Heavy Industries Minister Kumara Swamy came forward to allocate 100 electric buses to TTD from the Central Government and steps are being taken to bring the buses to Tirumala soon, said Naidu. The TTD has decided to allot some space on lease basis to a CSIR Lab to be set up by the Central Government in Tirupati, where the quality of ghee, water and food items used can be verified for free, he added.



Union Home Secretary reviews security preparedness for ...

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan today chaired a high-level meeting here to review the security preparedness for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra, set to begin on July 3. The meeting was attended by top civil and security officials of Jammu and Kashmir, including Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, General Officer Commanding (GoC) of Srinagar based 15 Corps Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, and senior officers from intelligence agencies.

(See on page 2)

Congress doing vote bank politics over caste census: BJP

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP and spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi on Tuesday criticised the Congress party, asserting that it has been engaging in vote bank politics under the guise of reservation policies. At the same time, he emphasised that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

(See on page 4)

Trump warns Iranians to leave Tehran amid escalating tensions



US President Donald Trump has called for a mass exodus in the Iranian capital, as Israel's war with Iran has entered its fifth day, with massive strikes being carried out by Tel Aviv against Tehran.

(See on page 5)

Ronaldo loan move to Al-Hilal ...



The chief executive of Saudi Pro League club Al-Hilal said that a loan move for Cristiano Ronaldo before the Club World Cup would have been "completely counter-intuitive" because he played for their "biggest opponent" Al-Nassr. Al-Hilal were linked with a possible deal for the 40-year-old Portugal forward after Fifa introduced an additional transfer window earlier this month because of the revamped tournament.

(See on page 7)

Solapur Division of Central Railway Successfully Concludes Pension Adalat 2025, Resolves 92 Grievances on the Spot



(Standard Post Bureau)

Solapur, June 17 : The Solapur Division of Central Railway organised a Pension Adalat as part of the good governance initiative under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India on 16th June 2025 at the Divisional Railway Office, Solapur. This special initiative was aimed at promptly addressing the

concerns and grievances of retired railway employees and family pensioners. The Pension Adalat served as an effective platform to provide immediate redressal of issues. It saw active participation from representatives of retired railway employees' associations, individual pensioners and family members. During the Adalat, a total of 112

complaints were received from retired employees. In a significant achievement, 92 complaints were resolved on the spot, demonstrating the Division's commitment to efficient service delivery and pensioner welfare. Additionally, an amount of Rs 69,832 was disbursed directly into the bank accounts of eligible retired employees and family

pensioners through NEFT, further enhancing transparency and efficiency. Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM) Mr Anshumali Kumar, senior railway officials and staff worked proactively to ensure a seamless grievance resolution process, reflecting the division's dedication to its retired workforce and their families.



Renowned businessman Muhammad Ashif Karnire, CEO of Expertise Contracting Company Limited was honoured with the 'Global Beary of Business Youth Icon' at the Beary Mela 2025. Expertise founded in 2008 is a leading industrial conglomerate operating in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Middle East.

Hubballi Division Conducts Intensive Ticket Checking Drive at SSS Hubballi Station



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 17 : In a determined effort to curb ticketless travel and ensure authorized journeys, the Hubballi Division of South Western Railway conducted a comprehensive Fortress Ticket Checking Drive at SSS Hubballi Railway Station on 13th June 2025 (Friday). The Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Hubballi Division emphasized, such intensive checks underscore our commitment to fair travel practices and passenger safety; we aim to foster a

culture of compliance and accountability among all travelers. A total of 23 Ticket Checking staff and 10 Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel were deployed for the operation, which lasted from 07:00 AM to 07:00 PM. The check covered 25 trains, including both originating and passing-through trains. The drive resulted in the detection of 181 cases, which included traveling without a valid ticket, carriage of unbooked luggage, and unauthorized

vending activities. These violations collectively led to the realization of penalties exceeding Rs 1 lakh. SSS Hubballi station, which handles the highest number of train operations approximately 80 trains every Friday, witnessed a significant boost in ticket sales on the day of the check. A comparative analysis revealed a 20% increase in ticket sales and a 62% rise in the number of passengers compared to the same Friday last year (14.06.2024). Additionally, when

compared to the previous Friday (06.06.2025), there was a 10% increase in ticket sales and a 24% rise in passenger numbers. during the current financial year April to May 2025 Hubballi Division has collected a ticket checking revenue of Rs 2.17 crore, marking an increase of over 24% compared to the same period last year. The aim of such checks is to promote authorized travel, deter ticketless and irregular travel, and instill a sense of moral accountability among the passengers. To further support convenient and lawful travel, SSS Hubballi station provided with round the clock ticketing services for the purchase of general and unreserved tickets. In this regard, an appeal is made to the general public to avoid ticketless travel and to travel with a valid ticket.

Temporary Diversion of Trains : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hubballi, June 17 : Due to the launching of Foot Over Bridge (FOB) No. 03 at Bengaluru Cantonment station as part of the station redevelopment works, the following train services will be rescheduled/diverted as detailed below:
1. Train No. 06269 Mysuru – SMVT Bengaluru Daily Passenger Special, journey commencing on 23rd, 25th,

and 26th June 2025, will be diverted to run via KSR Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, Hebbal, Banaswadi and SMVT Bengaluru, skipping stoppage at Bengaluru Cantonment.
2. Train No. 16593 KSR Bengaluru – Nanded Daily Express, journey commencing on 23rd, 25th, and 26th June 2025, will be rescheduled by 45 minutes from KSR Bengaluru and diverted to run via KSR

Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, Yelahanka, and Dharmavaram, skipping stoppage at Bengaluru Cantonment.
3. Train No. 16022 Mysuru – Dr MGR Chennai Central Daily Express, journey commencing on 23rd, 25th, and 26th June 2025, will be diverted to run via SMVT Bengaluru, Banaswadi, Yesvantpur, Hebbal, Banaswadi, Baiyyappanahalli, and

Krishnarajapuram, skipping stoppage at Bengaluru Cantonment.
4. Train No. 06270 SMVT Bengaluru – Mysuru Daily Passenger Special, journey commencing on 23rd, 25th, and 26th June 2025, will be diverted to run via SMVT Bengaluru, Banaswadi, Yesvantpur, and KSR Bengaluru, skipping stoppage at Bengaluru Cantonment.

Youth Congress to organise job fair on June 19

New Delhi, June 17 (UNI) To mark the birthday of Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, the Indian Youth Congress will hold a job fair here on June 19.

Announcing this at a press conference here on Tuesday, IYC president Uday Bhanu Chib, Delhi IYC in-charge Khusbhu Sharma and Delhi Youth Congress president Ajay Lakra said, about 100 companies will participate in the job fair to be organised at the Talkatora Stadium here. Chib said that there have been about 20,000 registrations so far. He said, all the youth having studied from Plus-Two to PhD can participate in the fair, as there will be varied job options depending upon the educational qualification of the applicants. He said besides the job fair in Delhi, similar fairs will be held in different states, besides blood donation camps and seminars on caste census.

Chib said that this will also be reminder to the BJP led central government that it had failed to provide jobs to youth when it had promised to provide two crore jobs every year.

The IYC president said that unemployment in the country right now was worse in last 40-50 years as the BJP government had failed to generate jobs.

MEA sets up 24x7 control room in view of continuing Iran-Israel hostilities

New Delhi, June 17 (UNI) : The Ministry of External Affairs has set up a 24x7 control room amid the continuing hostilities between Iran and Israel and in view of the large number of Indians residing in both nations.

The Indian Embassy in Tehran, Iran has also set up a 24x7 emergency helpline with contact details provided.

The MEA in a statement said: "A 24x7 Control Room has been established in Ministry of External Affairs in view of the ongoing developments in Iran and Israel.

"The contact details of the control room are as under:

- 1800118797 (Toll free)
 - +91-11-23012113
 - +91-11-23014104
 - +91-11-23017905
 - +91-9968291988 (Whatsapp)
 - situationroom@mea.gov.in
- In addition, the Embassy of India in Tehran, Iran has set up a 24x7 emergency helpline with contact details below
For call only :
1. +98 9128109115, +98 9128109109
For WhatsApp:
2. +98 901044557, +98 9015993320, +91 8086871709.
3. ?Bandar Abbas: +98 9177699036
4. ?Zahedan: +98 9396356649
cons.tehran@mea.gov.in." There are around 1,300 Indian students in Iran who have appealed to the government to evacuate them.

Indian Army contingent departs for France to participate in exercise Shakti

New Delhi, June 17 (UNI) An Indian Army contingent departed on Tuesday to participate in the 8th edition of the biennial India-France joint military exercise, Shakti, scheduled to be held from June 18 to July 1, at Camp Larzac, La Cavalerie, in France.

The Indian contingent comprising of 90 personnel is being represented primarily by a Battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles besides personnel from other arms and services. The French contingent comprising of 90 personnel will be represented by the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (13th DBLE), a Defence Ministry statement said. Exercise Shakti is a biennial training engagement between the Indian and French Armies, aimed at enhancing interoperability, operational coordination, and military to military connect. This edition will focus on joint operations in a sub-conventional environment under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, with training being conducted in semi-urban terrain.

The exercise will provide a platform for both contingents to rehearse and refine tactical drills, share best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs), train on new generation equipment (contemporary military technologies) and strengthen physical endurance. It will also foster esprit-de-corps, mutual respect and professional camaraderie between the two armies.

Exercise Shakti-VIII underscores the growing defence cooperation between India and France and will strengthen strategic ties between the two friendly nations.

Cong accuses Modi Govt of delaying caste census, calls it political diversion

New Delhi, June 17 (UNI) The Congress on Tuesday slammed the Modi government for what it called a deliberate "delay in conducting a caste census", accusing it of politicising the issue to divert public attention — much like the women's reservation bill.

Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot, while addressing a press conference here, said that the demand for a caste census, led prominently by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, has long been a priority for the Congress, and the government has only "yielded to this pressure in principle, not in action".

"The Modi government is simply managing headlines, not genuinely addressing the issue," Pilot said, adding that the formal notification lacks any

mention of a "caste-based enumeration".

"The government has claimed that the caste census will begin in 2027, but concerns are growing due to the glaring budgetary shortfall. Only Rs 574 crore has been allocated, whereas such a massive exercise requires at least Rs 8,000 to 10,000 crore," Pilot alleged.

Accusing the central government of lacking both intent and commitment, Pilot said, "The objective is not just to collect data on an individual's caste but to understand the living conditions of these families and create policies to substantially improve their livelihoods."

Without tangible data, no state or central government can implement targeted interventions, which is what we aimed to achieve."

Cities drive sustainability with green waste management

New Delhi, June 17 (UNI) : From the bustling streets of Guntur in Andhra Pradesh to the busy neighborhoods of Chennai and the clean corridors of Indore, electric vehicles (EVs) are reshaping how cities handle waste as India races towards its ambitious goal of Net Carbon Zero by 2070.

These zero-emission vehicles promoted under the Central flagship Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), reduce carbon emissions during waste collection with their cutting-edge technology, thus paving the way for much-needed urban sustainability amidst climate change threat.

Take the case of Guntur. Over 200 electric autos now cruise through the city, collecting waste from every

household with the precision of a well-oiled machine. No longer reliant on noisy, polluting diesel trucks, these eco-friendly vehicles are a model of efficiency, covering 159.46 square kilometers of the city and reducing over 21,000 tonnes of carbon emissions over the next decade, an official from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) shared the details.

Talking about the initiatives being taken amidst India's vision of Net Carbon Zero by 2070 as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the official pointed out that the shift is more than just environmental—it's also economic, lowering maintenance costs, creating jobs, and boosting

Union Home Secretary reviews security preparedness for Amarnath Yatra in Srinagar

Srinagar, June 17 (UNI) Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan today chaired a high-level meeting here to review the security preparedness for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra, set to begin on July 3.

The meeting was attended by top civil and security officials of Jammu and Kashmir, including Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, General Officer Commanding (GoC) of Srinagar based 15 Corps Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, and senior officers from intelligence agencies.

Although there was no official statement issued after the meeting, sources said the review focused on the overall security arrangements for the Yatra, with special emphasis on coordination among the Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

A multi-tiered security setup has been put in place along both routes to the holy cave shrine — Pahalgam and Baltal —as well as at base camps, transit camps, and along the convoy route from Jammu.

According to sources, the Union Home Secretary instructed officials to ensure that the pilgrimage is conducted peacefully and that the safety and comfort of devotees remain top priority.

He stressed the need for seamless coordination between security forces and intelligence agencies throughout the Yatra. Senior officers from the Jammu and Kashmir administration provided a comprehensive briefing on the elaborate preparations being made to facilitate the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

The enhanced security comes in the wake of the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of 25 tourists and a local resident. Each year, thousands of devotees undertake the arduous journey to pay obeisance at the cave shrine nestled in the Himalayas.

Cities drive sustainability with green waste management

Similarly, down South India, Chennai has rolled out a fleet of 5,478 battery-operated E-rickshaws, each one working tirelessly to reduce the city's carbon footprint. With these silent, efficient vehicles covering 24,621 streets and serving over 2.1 million households, the city is slashing daily carbon emissions by 41 tonnes, or 15,160 tonnes annually. But the impact goes beyond just reducing pollution. These E-rickshaws promote waste segregation, educate the public through audio campaigns, and create employment for thousands of people, further weaving sustainability into the fabric of the community, said the official.

TTDs trust to modernise its SV college in New Delhi

Tirumala, June 17 (UNI) : Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Trust Board in its meeting held here on Tuesday decided to modernise the 73-year old prestigious TTD run SV College at New Delhi.

Briefing the decisions to the media persons after the boarding meeting held at Annamaiah Bhavan earlier here, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Chairman BR Naidu said that we have requested the APPSC to stall the recruitment of lecturer posts in Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam.

To solve the problem of 200 contract lecturers who are already working from the past two decades, a three-member committee has been set up as per the instructions of the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu comprising Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Chairman, EO and AP Minister for Endowments to sort out the issue, said Naidu.

Elaborating the various Dharmic programmes under

pipeline by HDPP as a part of spreading Hindu Sanatana Dharma in a big way, he said it is proposed to conduct training programs on various Vratams and Pooja procedures in addition to the existing training programme in SVETA for the persons hailing from backward and fishermen communities in Priesthood.

The board decided to train the students of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam-run schools in imparting ethical values and personality development through a unique program called 'Sadgamaya', he informed. An exclusive programme for the women by name 'Saubhagya' to be observed in both the Telugu states on the auspicious day of Varalakshmi Vratam on August 8, he said.

'Akshara Govindam' is an Akshrabhyasa samskaram which is a part of teaching literacy practices as mentioned in Hindu Sanatana Dharma

to children from a tender age by providing a kit with the blessings of Sri Venkateswara, said Naidu.

Besides, programs like 'Harikatha Vaibhavam' for sustaining the legacy of Harikatha Parayanam, 'Bhagavad Gita Anushtana Bodhana' to provide insight to youth to withstand the challenges that come up in day to day life, a training programme in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada Bhajans through 'Bhaje Srinivasam', unique plantation program through 'Vana-Nidhi', Srinivasa Kalyanams and other spiritual programs in Tribal areas through 'Giri Janardhanam', inculcating the ethical values to lead a righteous path of life among prisoners through "Sanmargam" have also been contemplated, h added.

The Chairman also said World Yoga Day will be observed in big way in the Parade Grounds of Tirumala Tirupati Administrative Building in Tirupati on June 21.

Opposition YSRCP alleges ex-MLA Chevireddy framed in liquor case

(Standard Post Bureau)

Vijayawada, June 17 : YSRCP leader Chevireddy Mohith Reddy strongly condemned the TDP-led coalition government for plotting to falsely implicate former government whip Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy in the so-called liquor scam. Speaking at the party central office at Tadepalli near here on Tuesday, he alleged that SIT officials were using coercion and police force to extract false statements from former gunmen of Bhaskar Reddy.

Mohith Reddy revealed that SIT officers had summoned former gunmen, including Giri and head constable Madan Reddy, and subjected them to physical torture when they refused to provide fabricated statements. He said Madan Reddy was beaten so severely that he

had to be hospitalized and is currently under treatment. Photos of the injured constable were shown during the press meet.

The YSRCP leader questioned whether refusing to lie against Bhaskar Reddy was a crime and condemned the SIT's brutal treatment. Mohith Reddy stated that Madan Reddy has filed a petition in the High Court seeking protection from further harassment, which clearly shows how law enforcement is being misused. The YSRCP leader warned the government that using police as pawns to frame YSRCP leaders would not go unchallenged.

He also cautioned police officers that unlawful actions will make them answerable before the court.

Employees' Associations Must Shoulder Social Responsibility: Mukesh Kumar Meena



(Standard Post Bureau)

Vijayawada, June 17 : Principal Secretary of the Excise Department, Sri Mukesh Kumar Meena, called upon departmental employees' associations to go beyond service matters and actively contribute to the betterment of society. He stated that associations should focus on ethical leadership, transparency, and public service values while safeguarding the interests of their members.

Mr. Meena made these remarks when the newly elected executive committee of the Andhra Pradesh Excise Gazetted Officers Association met him at the State Secretariat on Tuesday.

On the occasion, the association felicitated him for his guidance and support to the department.

The association's elections were held in Vijayawada, where Dr R S Kumareswaran was

unanimously elected as State President and Sri Bodapati Narasimhulu as General Secretary. Other key office bearers include D. Rajasekar Goud as Organising Secretary, Smt Sreelatha as Treasurer and Sri Ram Mohan Reddy, Sri Srinivas & Sri Balaiah as Vice Presidents, and Sri Ajay Singh, Sri Sreedhar Rai and Jalli Ramesh as Joint Secretaries. Executive members elected, including Smt Aruna Kumari, Sri Chandra sekar Reddy, Smt Renuka and B Subba Rao as Executive members, "The team assured that it would work with integrity, maintain a constructive relationship with the department, and serve the interests of excise officers across the state.

Sanitary workers stir demanding benefits of welfare schemes

Kakinada, June 17 (UNI) : The Municipal sanitary workers, under the aegis of AP Municipal Workers Union, an affiliate of AITUC, staged a dharna in front of the municipal corporation office here on Tuesday in support of their demands, especially implementation of welfare scheme benefits for them. They raised slogans demanding either to regularise their services or implement the benefits of welfare schemes to them.

Union president Bobbili Srinivasarao led the dharna. Addressing the protesters, AITUC district general secretary Thokala Prasad demanded implementation of the benefits of welfare schemes to municipal sanitary workers and to those working in government offices including GGH, RTC, electricity departments, colleges, Banks as contract and outsourcing basis. "Regularise their services or extend the benefit of welfare schemes or enhance their wages," he said.

Prasad also questioned the propriety in imposing restrictions on welfare schemes which were promised during elections. As a part of election promise, he said, the Thalliki Vandanam scheme benefit should be extended to all without restrictions.

Later they called on the additional commissioner in a delegation and submitted a memorandum listing out their demands.

Telangana Jagruthi head calls for statewide Rail Roko on July 17 over BC reservation bills

Hyderabad, June 17 (UNI) : Telangana Jagruthi President and BRS MLC K Kavitha on Tuesday announced a statewide Rail Roko protest on July 17, demanding that the Central government approve the bills passed by the Telangana Assembly for providing 42 per cent reservations to Backward Classes (BCs) in local bodies, education and employment. Addressing a BC Round Table meeting organised jointly by Telangana Jagruthi and United Phule Front in Medak, Kavitha, the daughter of BRS President and Former CM KCR, emphasised the need to exert pressure on the Central government to approve the bills.

"This Rail Roko will not just be a protest, but a declaration of Telangana BCs' strength to the rulers in Delhi," she said, adding, "we will take All BC organizations and leaders together in this protest". The protest would send a strong message to the BJP government at Centre, she said. The BRS MLC criticised the Congress-led state government, alleging it was conspiring to conduct local body elections without implementing the proposed 42 per cent reservations for BCs. "We will not allow elections without these reservations", she cautioned.

"The Congress government has merely sent the bills to the Centre and washed its hands off the responsibility," she said, questioning why the state government is not intensifying its efforts to ensure President's approval.

(Standard Post Bureau)

Vijayawada, June 17 : Telugu Desam party NTR District President, Netu Raghuram, said on Tuesday that the 'Thalliki Vandanam' scheme has come as a boon to the mothers of students in the State and money is being credited into their accounts.

Talking to the media in Jaggaiahpet, KDCC Bank Chairman, former minister and TDP NTR District President Netu Raghuram said that the smiles on mothers' faces in the State today are due to Minister Nara Lokesh's initiatives.

Mothers no longer need to borrow money to pay school fees of their children as the government is disbursing money under Thalliki Vandanam, he noted.

Unable to digest this,

YSRCP is spreading lies, he criticized.

The former minister revealed that under the TDP-led coalition government, every student in a household is eligible for Rs 15,000 under this scheme, he mentioned. In contrast, YSRCP limited the benefit and misled the public, betraying students during their regime, he lashed out.

Raghuram dismissed the allegation that Rs 2,000 is being siphoned by Minister Lokesh as false and malicious.

"If they have proof, they should present it. Throwing baseless accusations has become routine for YSRCP," Raghuram slammed.

He stated that Rs 8,700 crore has been released to credit funds into mothers'

accounts under Thalliki Vandanam before school reopening in the State, he said, adding that the scheme also includes students entering Grade 1 and Intermediate First Year, covering nearly 11 lakh more beneficiaries.

"Children without mothers will have funds credited to the father or legal guardian. Orphans will benefit upon verification by the District Collector. The government is ensuring full transparency, publishing eligible lists in village and ward secretariats," N Raghuram explained.

TDP leaders Mullangi Ramakrishna Reddy, Meka Venkateswarlu, Talluri Venkateswarlu, Ginjupalli Ramesh were among those who were present.





ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

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- Mode: Offline (Physical)
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- Course Fee: Rs.4,75,000

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EAST COAST RAILWAY

Notice No. eT-West-WAT-22-2025
Dt. 10.06.2025

NAME OF THE WORK : SUPPLY OF WELDING PORTION 600 NOS. FOR 60 KG/60EI-R260/60EI-R350 GRADE RAILS BY AT/SKY PROCESS (SINGLE SHOT CRUCIBLE TECHNIQUE) AT SITE UNDER SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / WEST / WALT AIR ON WALT AIR DIVISION.

Advised Value : ₹14,42,784.00, EMD : ₹ 28,900/-, Completion Period of the Work : 06 Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time : 03.07.2025 at 1500 Hrs.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person 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

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

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), PR-245/Q/25-26, Waltair

EAST COAST RAILWAY

SUPPLY OF MATERIALS

Tender No. 30255592A, Dt. 10.06.2025

NAME OF WORK : (1) CHECK VALVE TO KBI PART NO. 776470 FOR 20CP, QUANTITY : 47 NOS., (2) CONTROL NODE ASSEMBLY, EPCU, FT5000 FOR ERCP TO KB PART NO. 789992 FOR CCB BRAKE SYSTEM LOCOS (ALL NODES) FOR HHP DIESEL LOCOS, QUANTITY : 10 NOS., (3) CONTROL NODE ASSEMBLY, EBV, FT5000 L/SOFTWARE AS PER KBI PART NO. 789991 FOR CCB BRAKE SYSTEM LOCOS, QUANTITY : 20 NOS., (4) BRAKE VALVE CONTROLLER TO KBI PART NO. 774902 FOR CCB 1.5 BRAKE SYSTEM, QUANTITY : 2 NOS., (5) CONTROL NODE ASSEMBLY, EBV, FT5000 L/SOFTWARE TO KBI PART NO. 789991 FOR CCB BRAKE SYSTEM, QUANTITY : 6 NOS., (6) WARRANTY PERIOD : 30 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF DELIVERY (FOR ALL SL NOS.), INSPECTION BY : TPIAGENCY.

Note : Material to be supplied within 30 days.

Date and Time of Opening of Tender : 02.07.2025 at 1500 Hrs.

Complete details available at : www.irops.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager / PR-248/Q/25-26, Waltair

IIFL HOME FINANCE LIMITED
IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park,
Road No. 16V, Plot No. B-23, MIDC
Thane Industrial Area,
Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604
CIN No. : U65993MH2006PLC166475

By virtue of this notice, the general public and customers of IIFL Home Finance Ltd. are hereby informed that the IIFL Home Loan Branch at D. No. 7-334/2, 1st Floor, Main Road, Siddhartha Scan Centre, Piduguralla, Palnadu, Andhra Pradesh - 522413 will be shifted to the **new address** i.e., D. No. 9-12-1, 2nd Floor, SR Plaza, Opp. Court Building, Railway Station Road, Narasaraopet, Guntur Dist-522601 w.e.f. **20th September, 2025.**

All the customers and general public are requested to take note of the above and visit iiflhomeloans.com /locate-us to find other IIFL Home Loan branches near you.

STANDARD POST

Total area sown under kharif crops crosses 89 lakh hectares so far

The area under the ongoing kharif crop sowing has gone up to 89.29 lakh hectares so far this year compared to 87.81 lakh hectares in the same period last year, data released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare showed.

The increase of 1.48 lakh hectares in sown area in the early part of the season augurs well for higher production, which, in turn, would increase the incomes of farmers and also help to keep food inflation in check.

The official figures show that the area under rice, the sowing of which has just got underway, is 4.53 lakh hectares as on June 13 this year, as compared to 4 lakh hectares during the same period last year.

The area under pulses such as urad and moong has been reported at 3.07 lakh hectares as compared to 2.6 lakh hectares during the same period last year. This increase of 0.49 lakh hectares in the early part of the season is a good beginning, as an increase in the production of pulses plays a key role in controlling inflation.

The area sown under oilseeds as on June 13 this year has also gone up to 2.05 lakh hectares from 1.5 lakh hectares in the same period last year.

The area covered under coarse cereals or millets such as jowar, bajra, and ragi has touched the 5.89 lakh hectare mark so far.

The sown area has gone up in the current season as better monsoon rains have facilitated the sowing in unirrigated areas of the country, which account for close to 50 per cent of the country’s farmland.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on May 28, approved an increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 14 kharif crops for the marketing season 2025-26 to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their crops and incentivise production.

The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for nigerseed (Rs 820 per quintal), followed by ragi (Rs 596 per quintal), cotton (Rs 589 per quintal) and sesamum (Rs 579 per quintal).

The increase in MSP for kharif crops for the 2025-26 marketing season is in line with the policy of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the all-India weighted average cost of production, The expected margin to farmers over their cost of production are estimated to be highest in case of bajra (63 per cent) followed by maize (59 per cent), tur (59 per cent) and urad (53 per cent). For the rest of the crops, the margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be at 50 per cent.

The total cost includes all paid out costs such as those incurred on account of hired human labour, bullock labour/machine labour, rent paid for leased in land, expenses incurred on use of material inputs like seeds, fertilisers, manures, irrigation charges, depreciation on implements and farm buildings, interest on working capital, diesel/electricity for operation of pump sets etc., miscellaneous expenses, and imputed value of family labour.

“Indian Railways has undergone a historic transformation under the leadership of PM Modi” : Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

(Standard Post Bureau)

Union Railway Minister Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw today said that Indian Railways has witnessed an unprecedented transformation in the last 11 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He said that before 2014, Railways remained a victim of neglect for decades, with an annual investment of only ₹ 25-30 thousand crores. But now this investment has increased to ₹ 2.5 lakh crores, which is accelerating the development of railway infrastructure and facilities.

Mr Vaishnaw said, “Legacy problems accumulated in Railways over the years are now being eliminated one by one. Stations, trains, toilets, tracks, cleanliness, technology—every sector has been improved comprehensively. New facilities are being provided to passengers and integrated development is being given priority in collaboration with the industry.”

Speaking at the inauguration of the railway siding facility at Maruti Plant in Manesar, Haryana, Mr. Vaishnav listed the major announcements and achievements

- 100 new Main Line EMU (MEMU) trains
- To upgrade passenger trains, 16 and 20 coach Main Line EMU trains will now be manufactured. Till now, MEMUs were manufactured with 8 or 12 coaches. This project will be implemented in a new factory being started in Kazipet, Telangana. This will provide great relief to short distance travel.
- 50 new ‘NaMo Bharat’ AC passenger trains
- ‘NaMo Bharat’ trains have received a great response from the passengers. Now 50 new AC passenger trains will be added. Earlier, two trains were started between Ahmedabad-Bhuj and Patna-Jaynagar. In total, 150 new passenger trains will come into service.
- More than 1200 new general coaches



- Last year In 2018, keeping in mind the demand of passengers, Railways has added more than 1200 general coaches. This campaign is being run continuously for the last 2.5 years.
- Amrit Bharat Station Scheme
- So far, work of 1300 Amrit Bharat stations has been approved. Out of these, 103 stations have been completed recently and the Prime Minister inaugurated it from Bikaner. 100 more stations will be completed by December 2025 and 500 more stations by the year 2026.
- Improvement in ticketing system
- To prevent misuse of bots in Tatkal ticket booking, only KYC verified passengers will get the facility of online booking from July 1. ID will also be mandatory on window booking.
- Innovation in chart publishing
- Bikaner Division has started publishing the chart 24 hours in advance (earlier it was 4 hours in advance) as an innovative initiative. This has reduced

- uncertainty among the passengers and is facilitating them in making better plans.
- Extension of Vande Bharat and Amrit Bharat trains
- The number of Amrit Bharat Express trains will soon increase by 6 more. 50 more trains are under construction. Vande Bharat trains are also being extended to new routes.
- Freight Corridors and Freight Services
- India now ranks second in the world in both freight and passenger traffic. Last year, 7.2 billion passengers travelled by rail and 1617 million tonnes of goods were carried. The freight corridor is now fully operational and about 400 freight trains are running on it every day.
- Railway Infrastructure Makeover in Haryana
- Mr Vaishnav informed that before 2014, Haryana used to get an allocation of just ₹ 315 crore, which has now increased to ₹ 3416 crore. In Haryana:
- 823 km of new tracks laid—more than the total rail network of UAE.
- 100% electrification of rail network*
- 34 stations: being redeveloped under the AMRUT Bharat Yojana.
- 540 Flyovers and underpasses have been constructed.
- Railway factory in Sonipat is being “modernised”.
- Railways is investing Rs 11,800 crore in Haryana. Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Terminals
- In line with the vision of the Prime Minister, Railways undertook major reforms in 2021 to strengthen multi-modal logistics, resulting in the construction of 108 multi-modal cargo terminals in a short span of time. The terminal in Haryana, where the announcement was made, is spread over 45 acres and has a cargo handling capacity of up to 4.5 lakh cars.
- Mr Vaishnaw concluded, “Indian Railways’ journey of transformation, led by Prime Minister Modi, is creating a new age railway—fast, clean, modern and people-friendly. We are committed to take it to greater heights in the years to come.”

AICTE Launches Industry Fellowship Programme to Strengthen Industry-Academia Collaboration and Upskill Faculty for Viksit Bharat @2047

(Standard Post Bureau)

In a landmark initiative aimed at transforming technical education in India, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) today launched the AICTE Industry Fellowship Programme (AIFP) — a pioneering scheme designed to immerse faculty members from technical institutions into real-world industrial environments. This move is a decisive step toward bridging the long-standing gap between academia and industry, ensuring that technical education in India remains current, practical, and globally competitive.

The programme was officially inaugurated by Prof. T.G. Sitharam, Chairman, AICTE, in the presence of AICTE Vice Chairman Dr. Abhay Jere and Member Secretary Prof. Rajive Kumar. The scheme



supports the national development vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, preparing faculty—and by extension, students—for the future economy through practical skill-building, contemporary exposure, and collaboration.

While India boasts one of the largest networks of technical institutions globally, a persistent

challenge has been the limited exposure of faculty to real-time industrial practices and emerging technologies. This often results in outdated teaching methods and a disconnect between what students learn and what industries require.

“We cannot expect our students to be industry-ready if our faculty themselves are not

equipped with industry-relevant knowledge,” said Prof. T.G. Sitharam, while launching the programme. “Through this fellowship, faculty members will become active participants in the industrial ecosystem, gaining insight, expertise, and confidence to transform the way they teach. This is a vital step in creating national resources that are fit for the future”,

Congress doing vote bank politics over caste census: BJP

New Delhi, June 17 (UNI) : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP and spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi on Tuesday criticised the Congress party, asserting that it has been engaging in vote bank politics under the guise of reservation policies.

At the same time, he emphasised that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is committed to ensuring dignity and upliftment for all castes through the conduct of a comprehensive caste census.

“Under the leadership of PM Modi, the cabinet has decided to conduct the census. In the press release, it was clearly stated that, for the first time in the history of independent India, a social, economic survey, and caste census will be carried out along with the national census,” Trivedi stated during a press conference here.

He further highlighted that the NDA government stands for ‘Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas’ (inclusive development), contrasting it with the Congress party’s approach.

The BJP spokesperson accused the Congress of neglecting important issues such as Operation Sadbhav and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), and criticised their opposition to the caste census. “The Congress party has a habit of overlooking crucial matters. They are spreading false claims about the caste census and attempting to divert attention from the genuine goal of ensuring social justice,” he added.

Trivedi raised concerns over Congress’ alleged efforts to manipulate reservation policies, citing examples from Karnataka, Telangana, and West Bengal. “I want to ask the Congress party what they

have to say about the people of the minority community, the castes, that they have tried to include in such a large number in Karnataka and Telangana, about which the court has also commented? After all, whose part do you want to take?

“The West Bengal government has included a large number of Muslim community members in OBC lists, with reports indicating that 73 out of 91 castes are from the Muslim community. Such practices reflect vote bank politics aimed at undermining the share of backward classes,” he stated. He further sought to clarify that the ongoing survey in Telangana is not a full caste census but merely a social and economic survey. “The notification of the caste census is issued by the central government. States can only conduct surveys, not full censuses,” Trivedi explained. He alleged that Congress kept power within one family and failed to support real economic development even though it ruled India for decades. “The Congress is busy in destructive policy. Wherever the Congress came in power, the fiscal position of that state has deteriorated because of their ‘khata khat’ model of engaging in expenditure spree,” Trivedi said referring to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy’s acknowledgment of the state’s precarious fiscal position.

Addressing the upcoming population census scheduled to begin in March 2027, he said it will be a comprehensive drive to be conducted in two phases, gathering demographic, socio-economic, and cultural details of every individual besides collecting data on housing conditions, assets, and amenities.

he added.

The AICTE Industry Fellowship Programme is set to roll out its pilot phase in 2025–26, selecting 350 faculty members from AICTE-approved institutions for full-time industry immersion. Building on its initial success, the programme aims to scale up and train 1,500 faculty members annually over the next three to five years.

Each fellowship will span a period of 6 to 12 months, allowing faculty to work closely with leading industries across priority sectors.

To ensure robust financial support, AICTE will provide a monthly fellowship of ₹75,000, while participating industries will contribute a minimum of ₹25,000 per month. Additionally, the fellows will continue to receive their

regular salary from their parent academic institutions, making the AIFP one of the most financially attractive and secure fellowship models in the country for faculty upskilling.

“We often talk about industry-academia linkages, but these have largely remained transactional or formal. With this programme, we’re initiating deep, long-term collaboration,” said Dr. Abhay Jere, Vice Chairman, AICTE. “Our goal is to emotionally integrate faculty with the industry—so that they return with a mission, not just experience.”

The AICTE Industry Fellowship Programme has been strategically designed to address three core challenges currently facing India’s technical education ecosystem.

Israel says killed Iran's military chief in strike on Tehran

Jerusalem, June 17 (UNI) The Israeli military said on Tuesday that it has killed Ali Shadmani, Iran's wartime chief of staff and one of the Islamic Republic's most senior military figures, in an overnight airstrike on a command centre in central Tehran.

The strike was carried out by the Israeli Air Force following "precise intelligence" and a "sudden opportunity," the military said in a statement.

Shadmani, described by the Israeli military as the top operational commander of the Iranian armed forces and a close associate of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had commanded both the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Iranian army.

He was appointed to lead Iran's armed forces at the start of the ongoing five-day warfare after Israel assassinated his predecessor, Alaa Ali Rashid, in an earlier strike that started the current fighting.His killing "adds to a series of eliminations targeting Iran's most senior military leadership and disrupts the chain of command," the Israeli military said.

12 killed in bus-truck collision in KwaZulu-Natal Province

Johannesburg, June 17 (UNI) : A bus and a truck collided head-on on the R34 near Vryheid, South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province, on Monday, resulting in the death of 12 people, said a KwaZulu-Natal provincial government official on Tuesday.

Siboniso Duma, member of the Executive Council for Transport and Human Settlements in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, said the accident occurred around midnight on Monday.He confirmed that ten people died at the scene, while another ten were seriously injured and taken to nearby hospitals. Two more victims later succumbed to their injuries in the hospital.

"Based on the report from the Road Traffic Inspectorate, after the head-on collision, the truck struck the side of the bus," said Duma.He said an investigation was underway to determine the cause of the collision.

Open AI receives \$200 mil contract from US Defence Dept for prototype intel bot

San Francisco, June 17 (UNI) : The US based generative AI giant OpenAI has received a \$200 million contract from the US Department of Defence to develop a prototype artificial intelligence tool to perform national security tasks, the department said.

"OpenAI Public Sector LLC, San Francisco, California, has been awarded a fixed amount, prototype, other transaction agreement (HQ0883-25-9-0012) with a value of \$200,000,000."Under this award, the performer will develop prototype frontier AI capabilities to address critical national security challenges in both warfighting and enterprise domains," the department said in a statement on Monday. The development of the AI toll should be completed in July 2026, the statement read.

Iran launched over 700 drones at Israel since start of true promise 3

Tehran, June 17 (UNI) Iran has conducted over 700 retaliatory drone attacks against Israel since the beginning of Operation True Promise 3, the Fars news agency reported on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, Iran started a new missile attack on Israel, the news agency reported.

In the early hours on Friday, Israel launched an operation against Iran, accusing it of running a secret military nuclear program that allegedly approached the point of no return. Among the targets of aerial bombing and sabotage raids were nuclear facilities, senior military officials, nuclear scientists, air bases, air defences, and surface-to-surface missiles.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called the attack a crime and threatened Israel with a "bitter and terrible fate." Iran retaliated by launching Operation True Promise 3 on Friday evening that hit military targets inside Israel.Israel said that more than 20 people were killed and over 600 injured by Iranian strikes. Iran said more than 220 died and more than 1,200 were injured.

China makes substantial strides in combating desertification, says govt

Beijing, June 17 (UNI) : China has made substantial strides in combating desertification, with 365 million mu (about 24.3 million hectares) of desertified areas turned into green land since 2012, data from the National Forestry and Grassland Administration showed Tuesday.About 27.94 million mu of land has been put under protection against desertification over the past 13 years, said the administration on the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, which falls on June 17 each year.Official data also showed that from 2000 to 2019, the total amount of wind-eroded soil in the country's major deserts and sandy land has declined by about 40%, and China is the first nation to achieve zero growth in land degradation.

Under China's Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program (TSFP), the world's largest afforestation program launched in 1978 to tackle desertification in northwestern, northern and northeastern parts of the country. As a result, a total of 480 million mu of forests have been planted and preserved, and 1.28 billion mu of degraded grasslands have been restored. In regions covered by the TSFP, the forest coverage ratio has risen from 5.05 percent in 1977 to 13.84% today, with 61% of soil erosion areas effectively controlled and 450 million mu of farmland protected. China is also actively fulfilling its commitments under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

G7 leaders support Israel, criticise Iran for being principal source of terror



Alberta (Canada), June 17 (UNI) : Leaders of G-7 countries on Tuesday strongly criticised Iran for 'being the principal source of regional instability and terror,' making it clear that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon, and affirmed that Israel has a right to defend itself.

The G-7 leaders also reiterated their commitment to peace and stability in the

Middle East.'We, the leaders of the G7, reiterate our commitment to peace and stability in the Middle East. In this context, we affirm that Israel has a right to defend itself. We reiterate our support for the security of Israel,' The G-7 leaders said in a statement on the recent developments between Israel and Iran.

The leaders affirmed the importance of protection of

civilians and urged that the resolution of the Iranian crisis leads to a broader de-escalation of hostilities in the Middle East, including a ceasefire in Gaza.

The statement said the G-7 'will remain vigilant' to the implications for international energy markets and stand ready to coordinate, including with like-minded partners, to safeguard market stability.

Netanyahu says war against Iran has ignited a ‘light to freedom’ for Iranians

Tel Aviv/Tehran, June 17 (UNI): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called Israel's ongoing war with Iran a campaign to rid the country of its "evil rulers", stating that the regime's days were numbered, and "a light" to "freedom" has been lit.

"A light has been lit — carry it to freedom," Netanyahu told Iran International.

Netanyahu said Israel's military campaign against Iran is giving its people a chance to topple the Islamic Republic, adding that the ruling system's days were numbered.

"This is the time," he said. "Your hour of freedom is near — it's happening now."Calling the regime an enduring threat against Israel with its nuclear weapons ambitions and ballistic missile programmes, he said that the "tyrants of Iran" would stop at nothing short of the complete destruction of the Jewish state.Stating that Iran's project for Israel's

destruction was to be carried out in two stages, he said "One is to rush forward with their nuclear programme to develop atomic bombs to destroy Israel."Second, they've programmed to build a vast missile, ballistic missile arsenal ... Each missile carrying a one-ton payload, just slamming into our cities, killing our women, our children."

"They were going to build 20,000 of these," he added.Netanyahu called Israel's ongoing campaign as both a defensive war and an opportunity for the leadership in Tehran to be overthrown.

"This is evil against good, and it's time for good people to stand up with the good, the good people of Iran, and good people everywhere against this madness foisted on all of us by this radical tyranny. It's about to end."

He went to add that while Tehran feared Israel, its biggest fear was its own people, due to the regime's massive unpopularity in

US, UK sign trade deal at G7 summit

Alberta, June 17 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer signed a trade deal at the G7 summit in Canada. "We signed it and it's done," Trump said.

Starmer noted that the deal would implement bilateral agreements on auto tariffs and aerospace.

The White House issued an executive order on Monday to implement the general terms of the trade deal announced on May 8.The United States will establish an annual tariff-rate quota of 100,000 automobiles, allowing a 10% tariff for imports within the quota, according to the order.Meanwhile, imports of automobiles exceeding the given quota shall be subject to the 25% tariff imposed by the

proclamation on adjusting imports of automobiles and parts on March 26.

However, the American imports of Britain-made automotive parts for use in British automobiles would be subject to a 10% tariff rather than the 25% tariffs imposed by the above-mentioned proclamation.

Moreover, the United States decided to exempt British civil aircraft from the application of steel and aluminium proclamations issued on March 8 and an executive order released on April 2.Trump directed U.S. secretary of commerce to design and establish a tariff-rate quota for aluminium and steel articles and derivative articles made in Britain in the future.Vietnam bars government employees from establishing or m a n a g i n g

At least 15 killed, 75 injured in major Russian attack on Ukraine

Kiev, June 17 (UNI) At least 15 people were killed and 75 others injured in Russian missile and drone strikes on Ukraine overnight Tuesday, Ukrainian Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said in a statement.

The capital Kiev was hit hardest in the attack, where a ballistic missile struck a nine-story apartment building, killing 14 people and injuring 60 others, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency cited the minister as saying.

In the southern city of Odesa, one person was killed and 10 others injured. Casualties were also reported in the Kiev and Chernihiv regions.

Tymur Tkachenko, head of the Kiev City Military Administration, said Russia launched a total of 175 drones, along with more than 14 cruise missiles and two ballistic missiles at the capital, hitting residential areas.

The Interior Ministry said that 27 locations in Kiev, including apartment buildings, educational institutions and critical infrastructure facilities, were under attack overnight.Search and rescue operations are ongoing at the sites of the strikes, the State Service for Emergencies said

Trump warns Iranians to leave Tehran amid escalating tensions

Washington/Tel Aviv/Tehran, June 17 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump has called for a mass exodus in the Iranian capital, as Israel's war with Iran has entered its fifth day, with massive strikes being carried out by Tel Aviv against Tehran.

"Iran should have signed the 'deal' I told them to sign. What a shame, and waste of human life. Simply stated, IRAN CAN NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON.I said it over and over again!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social, according to Iran International.

"Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran!" he added.

"AMERICA FIRST means many GREAT things, including the fact that, IRAN CAN NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!!"

Trump's post and announcement came after Israel struck Iran's state-run IRIB media agency during a live broadcast, after 8 Israeli citizens were killed in

UN General Assembly declares Dec 4 as int'l day against unilateral coercive measures

United Nations, June 17 (UNI) : The General Assembly on Monday adopted a resolution to proclaim Dec 4 every year as the International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures.

The resolution urges states to refrain from adopting, promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the UN Charter that impede or undermine the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries.

It expresses the conviction that the establishment of the International Day will complement ongoing efforts aimed at raising global awareness of the adverse effects of unilateral coercive measures and promote greater international cooperation and solidarity among nations in addressing the consequences of such measures.

The resolution was adopted with 116 votes in favor, 51 against, and 6 abstentions. Global North countries, including EU states and Australia, Britain,

Canada, Japan, the United States, voted against it.

The resolution requests the UN secretary-general to take the necessary measures and arrangements for the United Nations to commemorate and promote the International Day, including as part of global efforts to raise awareness about the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law and the UN Charter.

The resolution invites all UN member states and observers, organizations of the UN system and other international and regional organisations, as well as civil society, individuals and other relevant stakeholders to observe the International Day and to raise awareness of the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law and the UN Charter, particularly for developing countries.

It requests the president of the General Assembly to organise, on an annual basis and starting from 2025, an informal plenary meeting of the assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day.

defensive posture in the region," he said.

White House spokesperson Alex Pfeiffer rebutted the suggestion that the moves indicate that the U.S. has joined the war. "American forces are maintaining their defensive posture, and that has not changed. We will defend American interests," he said on X.

"We are vigilant. We are prepared. We have messaged consistently from the beginning that we're in the region to defend our people and our assets," Hegseth said on Fox News on Monday.

Earlier on Monday, Trump urged Iran to pursue immediate talks with Israel to deescalate hostilities, warning that continued conflict could have dire consequences.

"Iran is not winning this war, and they should talk, and they should talk immediately before it's too late," Trump told reporters at the beginning of a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on the sidelines of the G7 summit.

Typhoon Wutip leaves 7 dead in central Vietnam

Hanoi, June 17 (UNI) :Heavy rains and flooding triggered by Typhoon Wutip have left seven people dead and caused extensive agricultural and property damage in central Vietnam, the Vietnam News Agency reported Tuesday. Four deaths were reported in Quang Binh

province and three in Quang Tri province, while one person was injured in Quang Tri, according to the Department of Dike Management and Natural Disaster Prevention.

According to reports, floods have submerged more than 33,000 hectares of rice fields, along with

thousands of hectares of aquaculture ponds, while eight ships have been sunk or damaged.

Local authorities have visited affected families and mobilized emergency forces to support recovery efforts and help residents resume normal life, the report said.

Beauty

5 exotic Hairstyles for Young Brides



Side-parted braid bun

This is a very popular hairdo which shows off great facial features and is especially perfect for those with straight hair. It is a very easy style and barely takes five minutes — all you have to do is part your hair on the side and braid it tightly. If you want to make the braid look more intricate and elaborate, try the fishtail braid or the mermaid braid, which brings a great modern twist. Then wrap the braid around and pin it neatly into a bun with several bobby pins. If you want to add an additional oomph factor, use bedazzled bobby pins or fresh flowers which match your bouquet. This hairdo works best for those that don't have bangs, so that the side partition will be more evident. If, however, you do have bangs, then pin them neatly to the side and make sure you use lots of hair spray to keep in

place. In order to look extra polished, make sure that you comb your hair and keep it tangle free. A hair accessory like a hair comb can also be pinned on the top of the bun for a nice sophisticated effect.

Half updo

This is a lovely romantic hairdo that's elegant but actually very low maintenance, hardly taking two minutes to create. Loosely gather the top half of your hair and pin it in place. Make sure there is a little volume at the top, otherwise it will end up looking flat and limp, so do some gentle backcombing if necessary. "For this style, I recommend using bobby pins that are similar to your hair colour, so that the effect is more subtle and don't forget to use hairspray to keep the hair in place and avoid humidity," says hairstylist Asgar Saboo. Add a flower chain or a string of pearls to add to that romantic bohemian vibe, which is something we are seeing more on celebrities who want to bring a fresh take to their wedding look.

The head wrap chain

If you want to add an exotic vibe to your look, wear a head wrap chain. The style options are endless, ranging from the styles with big stones and crystal to the delicate ones with small chains and bells. "If you have smaller facial features, then I recommend opting for the more delicate and subtle head chain, whilst those with bigger features can get away with a more extravagant look," says Asgar. You can choose to wear the chain with your hair tied up in a bun, but this accessory looks best when the hair is left down and flowing. Also make sure that the hair is parted in the middle, since symmetry is important for this accessory to look glamorous and exotic.

Messy twisted braid

This hairstyle is perfect for women with thick hair, which is very common with my clients from the Middle East and India. To get this look, gather all your hair and braid it loosely. Don't be worried if you have a lot of flyways, it adds to the charm of the hair style, but make sure that you add bobby pins so the braid stays in place. "If you really want to take the hair style a step further, go into the garden and pluck some flowers," says hair dresser Agnes

Chen. You can find brightly coloured flowers all over the world that look gorgeous when you braid them into your hair. Make sure that when you pick the flowers that they have a small stem at the bottom for you to use. This is a very bold hair style, so pair it with some subtle earrings.

French twist

This is a hairstyle that suits all hair textures and brings glamour to any bride's look. Grab all your hair into a low pony and twist it all around, twice. Tuck the ends inside the twist and secure it firmly with bobby pins - that's how simple this style is to do. You can customise this

hairstyle according to how much volume you want around your face, and you can accessorise by wearing a headband or a hair comb at the back. If you want, you can even tuck some flowers beneath the twist, which gives the style a little edge and modernity. However, it's really important to ensure that you use enough bobby pins to place your locks firmly in place, otherwise you will be fiddling with your hair throughout your big day. Adding some hairspray is all you need to fix the hair once this is done, leaving you to relax and enjoy your wedding day in style.



How to wear coloured mascaras!



Coloured mascaras are not as bizarre a make-up trend as they sound.

There's one for everyone, and there is a right way to wear it, of course. Depending on the colour of your eyes, there's a coloured mascara for everyone. Available in hues of blues, greens, yellows, oranges, pinks and purple, let's have a look at what's meant for you...

Brown eyes: Plum and dark blue look perfect on brown eyes. Its deep look draws attention and you don't need to put on any more eye make-up

Black eyes: Black eyes can be accentuated well with deeper shades. Thus, plum, navy blue and olive green and great picks

Blue eyes: For blue eyes, navy blue is a good choice since the layering works well. Due to the lighter tint of the eyes, brown stands out

Green eyes: Flatter green eyes with purple mascaras. Again, layering works well here and so, green mascara is a good option

Hazel eyes: Clear, hazel coloured eyes can take on blue, purple and green mascaras well.

With coloured mascaras, you don't have to do much eye make-up. While it can be completely avoided, you can at the most apply a double-liner, a subtle lipstick and subdued eye-shadows.

Go rock the look!



Five-minute Beauty hacks for working women

Manisha Chopra, cosmetologist, beauty expert, co-founder, cosmetic brand SeaSoul Cosmeceuticals, shares five-minute beauty tips:

* Whether your eyes look puffy due to lack of sleep or you've developed a hint of dark circles, applying concealer correctly can save the day. Instead of following the age-old practice of dotting your concealer under the eyes, apply it in a triangular shape. After rubbing it in gently, dab on some translucent yellow powder and watch your whole face come alive.

* You must have noticed that after a few hours at work, your lipstick begins to fade and lose its initial vibrancy. And who has time to reapply colour in between the hectic daily schedule? Apply one coat of your chosen lip colour. Now lightly hold a tissue over your lips and dust off some translucent powder over the tissue. This seals your lip colour for a long time.

* Always wanted that beautiful smokey eye look that the celebrities seem to don so effortlessly? Here's an ultra-cool way of getting perfect smokey eyes for a party or for work. Use your eyeliner and draw a slanted hashtag on the outer corner of your eyelid. Now blend this in with the rest of your make-up and voila, it's done!

* Doing a winged eyeliner at home may seem tough but it really isn't. All you need is a few minutes and some scotch tape. Place a piece of tape at the corner of your eye, going towards your eyebrow. Now use your liner pencil to draw a thin line across your upper lash line extending all the way to the edge of the tape. Trace the edge of the tape with your liner and now

A busy schedule can be a dampener for your beauty regime. But who says you can't do make-up in just five minutes?

make the line thicker on the outside edge than the inside. It makes your whole face look more defined.



* A white eyeliner or kohl pencil can work wonders. It is also a beautiful way to make smaller or droopy eyes pop. Use it on the inner corners of your eyes for a wide-eyed look. Draw a sideways V and then gently blend it in.

Lips with soft pink and coral can add to the fresh look.

* Using a BB cream instead of a foundation is also a good idea since it is an all-in-one moisturizer, SPF, foundation, compact and primer. A good BB cream can compensate for multiple layers since in one layer it does it all. It is light and comfortable on the skin.

* Avoid heavy make-up and dark eyes in monsoon. Smokey eyes is a big no! Lip and cheek tint is a good idea for summer or monsoon as well, since it's light

weight and gives a natural hint of colour. * Avoid glosses in monsoon since they have a sticky feel to it which makes it extremely uncomfortable in humid weather.

Get your beauty fix from the benefits of Seaweed

Want some TLC for your skin? Forget that exotic Moroccan rose soak or a mint chocolate wrap.

Of late, the new skin pampering comes in the way of seaweed. More people are waking up to the benefits of the stringy, green algae that may look gross, but has powerful ingredients that help to tone and repair the skin. Here's what's the lure is about...

Party quick-fix

Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton reportedly pampers herself with seaweed facials. Closer home, several people in Mumbai are going in for a 'seaweed wrap' before a night out, reveals skin expert, Dr Rashmi Shetty. "It's a no-harm quick-fix for the skin and people are trying this just before they have to get into their dress for a party or walk the red carpet. The wrap is applied to the body and as it's warming, it causes the person to sweat. During this process, the body eliminates excess toxins, urea creatinine and water. This temporarily reduces puffiness and redness (if any), as well as the appearance of cellulite. You feel lighter and drop half an inch all over. But to see extended benefits, one has to try this more often — once a week is quite safe to do so," she says.



Post-holiday skin recovery

Seaweed is also increasingly being touted as the solution to ease skin stress after a holiday. "During this time, various factors like harsh climate, humidity levels, water, an erratic lifestyle, even dehydration on flights — all play havoc on the skin. Seaweed helps to re-mineralise the skin and combat the damages due to these conditions. It has a kind of restorative ability," affirms spa expert Nisha Jhaveri. "People use it on the face, but I recommend it more on the body. What's popular is the seaweed body scrub or polish, which removes dead cells and helps even out the skin tone. You can also try the body envelopment, which has seaweed extract."

Real Madrid prepares for 2025 Club World Cup debut

Miami, June 17 (UNI) Expectations are high ahead of Real Madrid's debut at the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup, as they face Al Hilal at Hard Rock Stadium here on Wednesday.

The match marks Xabi Alonso's first official game as Real Madrid head coach. Although the former Madrid midfielder and ex-Bayer Leverkusen boss has had just over a week with the squad, all eyes will be on what early changes he has implemented.

Under former coach Carlo Ancelotti, Real Madrid covered among the least distance on the pitch and rarely applied a high press, instead relying on the pace of Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Jr. and Rodrygo to hit on the break.

Alonso favored a high-pressing style at Leverkusen, with his players disrupting opponents' buildup from the back. Whether he can instill that mentality in Madrid after only a few sessions, particularly in Miami's heat, remains to be seen. At Leverkusen, Alonso frequently deployed a back three with attacking full-backs. It is unclear if he will adopt a similar system with Madrid.

The arrival of Trent Alexander-Arnold from Liverpool supports the use of wing-backs, and the England international appears poised to make his Real Madrid debut, along with Dean Huijsen, who signed from Bournemouth. Huijsen impressed during the recent international break. His height and composure on the ball offer Madrid added flexibility, and it's easy to envision Mbappe and Vinicius exploiting gaps behind Al Hilal's defense as Huijsen delivers long passes from deep.

Vinicius remains under scrutiny following a disappointing domestic campaign, while Alonso must also finalize his central midfield pairing, likely Fede Valverde and possibly Dani Ceballos.

Al Hilal's lineup features several players familiar to Spanish fans, including former Barcelona and Manchester City defender Joao Cancelo, forward Malcom, and former Atletico Madrid left-back Renan Lodi.

With a sell-out crowd expected, the match promises to provide a strong benchmark of the Saudi League's level against one of Europe's top clubs.

Naushad Moosa's U23 boys all set for Tajikistan test on June 18

Dushanbe, June 17 (UNI): The India U23 men's team have arrived in Tajikistan to play two friendly matches against the hosts and Kyrgyz Republic.

The Blue Colts will first take on Tajikistan on Wednesday at the Hisor Central Stadium.

Led by head coach Naushad Moosa, the India U23s had been camping in Kolkata since June 1 before travelling to the Central Asian nation. After landing in the capital Dushanbe on Monday evening, Moosa's 23-member squad had a mobility session on Tuesday morning and will hold a 90-minute training session in the evening.

On June 21, India will meet Kyrgyz Republic in the second game.

"The boys are very eager for tomorrow. I've been talking to them about how important these games will be for us," said Moosa, for whom it's his second tour with the U23 team, after coaching them in two friendlies against Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur last year.

For the Blue Colts, these matches in Tajikistan are part of their preparations for the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers that will be held in September. India will face Bahrain, Qatar and Brunei Darussalam as they aim to qualify for the U23 continental event for the first time. Despite Dushanbe being located 700 metres above sea level, the weather is hot at this time of the year, soaring to almost 40 degrees during the day. What the Blue Colts mainly have to adjust to is the artificial turf surface of the Hisor Central Stadium, located 25 kilometres from the city of Dushanbe.

ECoR, Waltair Division hosts yoga sessions over the division ahead of International day of Yoga 2025



(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, June 17

: As the International Day of Yoga 2025 is nearing, Waltair Division of East Coast Railway, organising yoga sessions at Railway Stations over the Division to promote physical and mental healthiness among the railway employees and their family members. Waltair Division is organizing a series of events of Yoga from 16.06.2025 to 19.06.2025 and on 21.06.2025 at major railway stations including

Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Araku, Rayagada, Koraput, Jagdalpur by involving active participation of Railway Officers, staff, their family members, Scouts & Guides, Civil Defense, Navy Personnel etc. The events aimed to encourage the practice of yoga and raise awareness about its benefits among the general public as well as railway fraternity.

At the yoga camp, a variety of yoga asanas, pranayam, and meditation

techniques are being taught by experienced yoga instructors.

Under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lalit Bohra, Railway officers and Staff are taking part enthusiastically in good numbers at all the nominated stations of the Division. On the 21st June 2025, on the International Yoga Day, Waltair Division will conduct Yoga session at Waltair Railway Cricket Stadium.

Speaking on the

Netherlands & Nepal overdeliver in triple Super Over tussle

Titwood (Glasgow), June 17 (UNI) : First-ever triple Super Over played out in international cricket in tri-series meeting between the Netherlands and Nepal.

The Nepal men's national team lived up to their "Cardiac Kids" moniker once more, though were this time on the wrong side of another international thriller, losing a tri-series T20I to The Netherlands in a never-seen-before third Super Over on Monday.

After 40 overs failed to separate the two teams in Glasgow, both scoring 152 in their respective innings, the teams walked back out for the first Super Over, both plundering 19 runs in six balls.

Having taken the match to a second Super Over through a Max O'Dowd four, the Dutch batted first in the second Super Over, hitting 13 runs off the first three balls, though were held at the end of the over through a wicket to Lalit Rajbanshi to finish with 17.

It was Nepal's turn to match the lofty six-ball score set, with Rohit Paudel and Dipendra Singh Airee combining with 17 between them, capped off with an Airee six to trigger unprecedented scenes in the international game, an ICC report said.

Eventually, it was the Dutch to hold their nerve, with Zach Lion-Cachet's spin taking two wickets and ending Nepal's third crack at breaking the deadlock, with the Dutch youngster also at the other end for Michael Levitt's six to finally finish proceedings.

It's the first time a men's professional T20 match has needed a third Super Over across domestic, franchise, and International cricket.

occasion DRM Mr Lait Bohra said Yoga should be inculcated from childhood as part of daily habit and create awareness among the neighbours to follow the healthy practice. He said Yoga enhances physical and mental wellness by improving muscular flexibility, mental strength, body balance, and reduced anxiety and stress. It can enhance immunity, and improve health by increasing energy levels and positive attitude, he added.

Benfica holds Boca; Chelsea, Flamengo win at Club World Cup

New York, June 17 (UNI) : Benfica left it late to hold Boca Juniors while Chelsea and Flamengo secured comfortable wins at the FIFA Club World Cup on Tuesday.

Nicolas Otamendi scored an 84th-minute equalizer as Benfica recovered from two goals down to earn a 2-2 draw with Boca Juniors in a tense encounter at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

Miguel Merentiel gave the Argentine side the lead by angling a first-time effort into the far corner after Lautaro Blanco's fine run and cross from the left flank.

Rodrigo Battaglia made it 2-0, latching onto Ayrton Costa's nodded pass from a corner with a low header that beat goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin in his near post. Angel Di Maria pulled a goal back from the penalty spot after a soft foul from Carlos Palacios on Otamendi.

The Portuguese side was reduced to 10 men in the 72nd minute when Andrea Belotti was shown a straight red card for catching Costa with a boot to the head. Despite the numerical disadvantage, Benfica pushed for an equalizer and the Lisbon-based club was rewarded as Otamendi met Orkun Kokcu's corner with a thumping header.

Boca also finished with 10 men after Jorge Figo was dismissed for a studs-up challenge on Florentino Luis two minutes from time. "It's a strange feeling, to be honest," Boca captain Merentiel said afterwards.

"It leaves a bit of a bitter taste, and now it's about moving forward. Now, we'll focus on

Ronaldo loan move to Al-Hilal counter intuitive

Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), June 17 (UNI) : The chief executive of Saudi Pro League club Al-Hilal said that a loan move for Cristiano Ronaldo before the Club World Cup would have been "completely counter-intuitive" because he played for their "biggest opponent" Al-Nassr.

Al-Hilal were linked with a possible deal for the 40-year-old Portugal forward after Fifa introduced an additional transfer window earlier this month because of the revamped tournament.

Both rival Riyadh clubs are controlled by the country's Public Investment Fund (PIF), and Ronaldo is out of contract at Al-Nassr at the end of June.

But when asked if they came close to a move for the forward, Esteve Calzada told BBC Sport: "We normally don't comment on players' situations, particularly because our name is always put out there, when a player or an agent wants to negotiate a

better deal with his club, or is trying to move out.

"It's been a very weird transfer window, it's a very short period of time.

"You don't want to take a decision thinking about this tournament that then you have to carry on with for the next two or three years.

"As much as I respect Ronaldo as a huge player, as we all recognise he is, it's certainly completely counter-intuitive that you bring the biggest player of your biggest opponent to play with you.

"Even more when it's only for three to four weeks.

"We've been trying to see if we can reinforce the team. But some players were with a mindset of 'holidays already', some players were sometimes just asking for too much money, and we're aware that our team is extremely competitive.

"We'll go into the traditional transfer window after the tournament still with the biggest ambitions to see if we can reinforce the team even more."

Aryna Sabalenka apologises to Coco Gauff for comments

Berlin, June 17 (UNI) : Aryna Sabalenka said she wrote to Coco Gauff to apologise for her "completely unprofessional" remarks after the American beat her in the French Open final.

World number one Sabalenka put in an error-strewn performance in a 6-7 (5-7) 6-2 6-4 loss to Gauff earlier this month.

The Belarusian said afterwards it was the "worst final I ever played", adding: "I think she won the match not because she played incredibly but just because I made all of those mistakes."

Speaking 10 days on from the Paris final, Sabalenka said she "absolutely regretted" her

remarks. "That was just completely unprofessional of me. I let my emotions get the better of me," the 27-year-old told Eurosport Germany.

"I'm just a human being who's still learning in life. I think we all have those days when we lose control.

"I wrote to Coco afterwards - not immediately, but recently."

Sabalenka, a three-time Grand Slam singles champion, has lost both of the major finals she has reached this year, according to a BBC news.

She lost to Madison Keys in the Australian Open final, where she was two-time defending champion, before the defeat by Gauff. She

committed 70 unforced errors against Gauff, one of the best defenders on the women's tour, and struggled to keep her composure.

"I was super emotional and not very smart at that press conference," Sabalenka added.

"It took me a while to revisit it, to approach it with open eyes and to understand.

"I realised a lot about myself. Why did I lose so many finals? I kept getting so emotional." So it was a tough but very instructive lesson for me." Sabalenka begins her grass-court season at the Berlin Open, where she is the top seed, before Wimbledon gets under way on June 30.

World Padel League gears up for its third season with two new franchises

Mumbai, June 17 (UNI) : The World Padel League (WPL), licensed and managed by Iconik Sports and Events Ltd., on Tuesday announced the return of its much-anticipated third season.

The league, supported by Indian Padel Federation, is set to take place between August 12-16 at the Nesco Center here, promising fans world-class padel action.

In the upcoming season, WPL is set to grow from four franchises to six, with two new teams joining the mix. The addition of the new teams is a testament to the growth and popularity of padel in India, and the continued success of WPL in its debut year in the country.

In the past year, India has witnessed over 2x growth in padel participation and infrastructure development, signalling the country's growing appetite for the sport.

With the successful conclusion of the previous season in February 2025, which saw 32 international players battle it out for the trophy, the stage is now set for an even more exciting third edition. The upcoming season promises five days of action-packed matches in the heart of Mumbai, featuring top global padel players - a treat and massive opportunity for the Indian padel community.

Expressing excitement for the upcoming season, Hemali Sharma, Co-

Founder, World Padel League said, "The growth of padel in India has been a journey to watch out for. Just six months since our last edition, Season 3 of the WPL marks a major milestone as we expand the scale of competition and set new benchmarks for the sport. India is fast emerging as a high-potential growth hub for padel. Our ambition goes beyond fostering the sport as we aim to craft a dynamic, world-class sporting experience that captivates seasoned fans and first-time audiences alike." Commenting on the league, Krishnan Kannan, Promoter, Iconik Sports and Events Ltd. added, "When we decided to bring WPL for the Indian audiences early this year, our aim was to scale the league and bring world class action tailored for this rapidly expanding market. With new teams and an extended player roster, Season 3 of the World Padel League is a celebration of the sport's incredible progress and a glimpse of where it's headed. The energy this season is electric, and the journey has just started." Sneha Abraham Sehgal, President, Indian Padel Federation added, "The World Padel League has played a crucial role in elevating padel's visibility in India. With a growing ecosystem of players, clubs, and infrastructure investments, the country is poised to become a key padel destination in the region.

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Central Railway, GM, Dharam Veer Meena presents Safety Award to 12 employees of Central Railway



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 17 : Mr Dharam Veer Meena, General Manager, Central Railway felicitated 12 Central Railway employees i.e. 6 from Mumbai Division, 3 from Pune Division, 2 from Bhusaval Division and 1 from Nagpur Division with Safety Award in a function held at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Mumbai on 17.06.2025.

The Safety awards were presented in recognition of the respective employee's alertness during duty, their contribution in averting untoward incidents and ensuring safety in train operations during the previous months. Each award consists of a medal, commendation certificate, a citation of exemplary safety work and cash prize of Rs 2000/-.

Details of the Awardees Mumbai Division

1. Shri Vicky Kumar, Senior Train Manager, Panvel, Mumbai division, while on duty on Train no 61021 Vasai-Diva MEMU on 13.05.2025, on the Kharbao-Bhiwandi Road section heard an unusual sound from the Goods train

passing by and saw dust emanating from it. He immediately alerted the Train Manager of the goods train with danger hand signal. The train was stopped and upon examination by the Train Manager of the goods train was found to be a case of derailment. Shri Vicky Kumar's alertness and immediate action helped avert a big mishap.

"2. Shri Changdev S Dunge, Master Craftsman, Kurla Carshed, Mumbai division, while on duty on 01.05.2025, noticed that the pan of the pantograph of Vashi local, unit no 2143 was in broken and dangling condition. Shri Dunge immediately isolated the coach and thus helped avert a potential mishap.

"3. Smt. Mittal Narendra Gadling, Assistant Loco Pilot, Kurla, Mumbai division, was on duty on 08.03.2025 at Dadar yard. While taking charge of shunting engine on line-1, Smt Mittal noticed that catenary wire of about 10 meters was dangling on the contact wire. She immediately informed the Crew control and thus

helped avert a potential mishap.

"4. Shri Sandeep Nana Bhalshankar, Master Craftsman(C&W), Igatpuri, Mumbai division, while on duty on 18.04.2025, during brake power testing of a PNCS/BCN Goods train, noticed the centre pivot of one of the BCN wagon in a dislocated state. His keen sense of observation and alertness helped avert a potential mishap.

"5. Shri Nilesh Shinde, Junior Engineer(C&W), Kalamboli, Mumbai division, while on duty on 08.05.2025, during examination of Goods train, noticed that the wheel difference in one wheel is 22 mm in single axle and one wheel flange is 775 mm, both of which were much less than the prescribed limits. His keen sense of observation and alertness helped avert a potential mishap.

"6. Shri Chandan Kumar, Track Maintainer, Vidyavihar, Mumbai division, while on duty on 09.05.2025, noticed a crack on the diamond crossing at Kms 18/00 between Vidyavihar and Ghatkopar.

He immediately took the necessary safety precautions and informed all concerned. His alertness and immediate action helped avert a big mishap.

Pune Division

"7. Shri Abhishek Lohiya, Deputy Station Manager, Nimblak, Pune division, while on duty on 03.05.2025, during exchange of signals with a passing goods train, heard an unusual sound from the 7th wagon. He immediately informed all concerned. The train was stopped at the next station and an examination revealed a 90 mm flat tyre in one of the wheels of the said wagon. Shri Lohiya's alertness and immediate action helped avert a big mishap.

"8. Shri Abhichandra Yadav, Loco Pilot(Goods), Lonavala, Pune division, after taking charge of the goods train, during routine inspection of the loco, noticed that the secondary suspension outer helical spring near wheel no 4 of the loco was in broken condition. He immediately informed all concerned and declared the loco as unfit. Shri Yadav's alertness and

immediate action helped avert a big mishap.

"9. Shri Sandeep Pawar, Inspector, Railway Protection Force, Pune, Pune division. On 09.05.2025 at 12.15 pm, information was received that some suspicious items were kept near Pimpri station. On immediately inspecting the spot with other colleagues, 11 old ammunition was found buried in the soil 25 meters away in the nearby bush, which was later deactivated. Shri Pawar's alertness helped avert a possible unpleasant incident.

Bhusaval Division

"10. Shri Uday Pratap Patel, Senior Section Engineer (PWay), Bodwad, Bhusaval division, while on duty at Malkapur station on 09.04.2025, noticed the 16th wagon of a passing goods train in an abnormal condition. He immediately informed all concerned. The train was immediately stopped and an inspection revealed that the EM pad of the said wagon was found melted, the brake pad of the front wheel was missing and the front axle was crooked. Due to his

alertness, a possible accident was averted.

"11. Shri Darshan Rajesh Chandan, Pointsman, Gaigaon, Bhusaval division, while on duty on 19.05.2025, during exchange of signals with a passing goods train, noticed a hot axle on the 42nd wagon. He immediately informed all concerned, the train was stopped at Paras station where the wagon was declared unfit. His alertness and immediate action helped avert a big mishap.

Nagpur Division

"12. Shri M P Dev, Loco Pilot(Mail), Nagpur, Nagpur division, while on duty on Train no 22691 Bengaluru-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani express, on 30.03.2025 experienced rough riding on the Multai-Jaulkheda section. The train was stopped at the IBH signal and all concerned were informed. Inspections revealed that serious defects in the rail track. His alertness and immediate action helped avert a big mishap.

"Congratulating the awardees and complimenting them for their alertness and dedication towards their duties, the General Manager said that such acts of alertness and dedication will motivate others to sincerely work towards the safety of passengers and avert loss of life, freight and railway property.

Mr Prateek Goswami, Additional General Manager, Shri Chandra Kishore Prasad, Principal Chief Safety Officer, Other Departments and Senior Officers of Central Railway were present on the occasion.

WR to run two superfast weekly special trains

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 17 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand, Western Railway will run two superfast weekly Special Trains on Special fare between Bandra Terminus - Virangana Lakshmi Bai Jhansi & Bandra Terminus - Subedarganj stations.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, the details of these trains are as under:

1. Train no. 02200 / 02199 Bandra Terminus - Virangana Lakshmi Bai Jhansi Superfast Weekly Special [26 Trips]

Train No. 02200 Bandra Terminus - Virangana Lakshmi Bai Jhansi Superfast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Saturday at 05.10 hrs, and will reach Virangana Lakshmi Bai Jhansi at 05.00 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 05th July to 27th September, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 02199 Virangana Lakshmi Bai Jhansi - Bandra Terminus Superfast Special will depart from Virangana Lakshmi Bai Jhansi every Thursday at 16.50 hrs, and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 16.10 hrs the next day. This train will run from 03rd July to 25th September, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Godhra, Dahod, Ratlam, Nagda, Ujjain, Maksi, Biyavra Rajgarh, Chachaura Binaganj, Ruthiyai, Guna, Shivpuri, Gwalior, Dabra and Datia stations in both directions. This train comprises of

AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, AC 3-Tier (Economy), Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

2. Train No. 04126 / 04125 Bandra Terminus - Subedarganj Superfast Weekly Special [26 Trips]

Train No. 04126 Bandra Terminus - Subedarganj Superfast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Tuesday at 11.15 hrs, and will reach Subedarganj at 17.00 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 08th July to 30th September, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 04125 Subedarganj - Bandra Terminus Superfast Special will depart from Subedarganj every Monday at 05.20 hrs, and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 09.30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 07th July to 29th September, 2025.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Vadodara, Ratlam, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Bayana, Rupbas, Fatehpur Sikri, Idgah, Tundla, Etawah, Govindpuri and Fatehpur stations in both directions.

This train comprises AC 3-Tier, AC 3-Tier (Economy), Sleeper Class and General Second Class coaches. However, the composition for Train No. 04126 of 08th July 2025 and Train No. 04125 of 07th July 2025 will consist of AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class coaches only.

The booking for Train No. 02200 & 04126 will open from 19.06.2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Western Railway to celebrates 'Bandra Station Mahotsav'

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 17 : Western Railway is all set to celebrate the "Station Mahotsav" of the historic Bandra suburban station with a series of engaging activities and cultural events. This grand celebration is aimed at highlighting the station's rich heritage, its transformation over the years and the enduring public connect it holds. A wide range of events have been planned during the month of June and July, 2025 to mark this remarkable milestone.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the Station Mahotsav will feature multiple programs designed to involve commuters and the public at large. The official inauguration of the celebration will be held on 20th June, 2025. On this occasion a special commemorative postal stamp will be released as well as vibrant cultural program showcasing local artistic talent will be organized. As part of this Mahotsav, Bandra station has been beautified to improve the aesthetics & visual appeal.

Mr Vineet further stated that, to foster wider community participation, several competitions and initiatives such as Art &



Craft Competition, Vlog making competition, Making a Badge of Bandra, Purani Yaadein etc. are being organized. In the Art & Craft Competition, creative submissions are invited such as Drawings, Paintings, Digital Artwork and Clay models that revolve around the theme of Bandra station's legacy. The Vlog Making Competition will allow participants to express their vision of the station's heritage and transformation through short videos. In addition to this, a nostalgic initiative titled "Purani Yaadein" is also planned which encourages the public to share photos, videos or voice clips reminiscing their personal connection with Bandra Station. The last date to submit entries for all three events is 30th June 2025. Selected entries will be displayed at Bandra Station on 13th July, 2025 and will also be featured on Western Railway's official social media platforms. Mr Vineet added that, as a part of the commemorative festivities, a special Light & Sound Show and Photo Exhibition will be held on 5th and 6th July, 2025, portraying the station's historic journey and its contribution to Mumbai's development. A series of interviews of eminent personalities and railway enthusiasts will also be conducted, capturing their insights and memorable experiences with Bandra Station. Moreover, a badge-making initiative has been planned to create a symbolic emblem in honour of the station's 160 years glorious journey. The closing ceremony of the event will be held on 27th July, 2025, followed by felicitation of the

winners of the various competitions.

Western Railway invites all citizens, art lovers, commuters and history enthusiasts to participate enthusiastically in this grand celebration and help make "Bandra Station Mahotsav" a truly memorable event, paying homage to the legacy of one of Mumbai's most cherished railway stations. Interested participants can register through a dedicated Google Form link available on the official social media handles of Mumbai Division - @WerMumbai on Instagram and @MumbaiWR on Facebook or may scan the QR Code alongside. Participants are encouraged to use hashtags such as #StationMahotsav, #BandraStation, and #HeritageMahotsav while sharing their entries online. A distinguished panel of judges will evaluate the entries, and winners will receive exciting prizes.

Bandra Railway station is one of the finest suburban railway stations of Mumbai. It projects a distinctive 19th century architectural form with its cascade of roof line. Thus, it has rightly been notified as a Grade I heritage structure in the Government of Maharashtra's heritage regulations of 1995. More than a century old railway station, it is an excellent architectural blend of Victorian Gothic and the Vernacular style, which stands out as a prominent landmark on its site. Bandra Station was opened on 28th November, 1864. However, the magnificent heritage Bandra Station Building was built 24 years later in 1888.



Malhotra released 141st issue of magazine 'Rail Rajbhasha'

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 17 : The 155th meeting of the Railway Board Official Language Implementation Committee was organized by the Railway Board, where 25 employees were honored for their outstanding contribution to the official language. The meeting was held at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi and was chaired by Member (Operations and Business Development), Mr Hitendra Malhotra.

During the meeting, Mr Malhotra released the 141st issue of the official language magazine 'Rail Rajbhasha' and the booklet 'Railbani' (Indian Railways - A Melange of Regional Languages). In his presidential address, he expressed satisfaction with the efforts and programs being undertaken by the Official Language Directorate of the Railway Board for the progressive use of the



official language. He also suggested that a presentation on the works of Hindi litterateurs and their contribution to Hindi literature be included in future meetings.

Member (Finance), Smt. Usha Venugopal, suggested that committee members work towards better implementation of the official language. Member (Traction and Rolling Stock), Shri B. M. Agarwal, emphasized that the use of the official language is a constitutional responsibility, and advised all members to continuously strive to

achieve the targets related to its use.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of the official language in the Railway Board and its undertakings for the quarter ending March 2025. Subsequently, 25 employees who made outstanding contributions to the official language in the zonal railways were awarded the Kamalapati Tripathi Official Language Gold Medal and the Railway Minister's Official Language Silver Medal.