

## IN BRIEF

### Thunderstorm with lightning, strong winds likely in north coastal AP in next 5 days

Amaravati, June 18 (UNI) : Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam during the next five days, Meteorological Centre said on Wednesday.

In a daily weather report here, it said that strong winds with speeds of 40- 50 kmph are likely to occur at isolated places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema during the next five days.

Hot and humid conditions are likely to prevail at Isolated places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema during the same period.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely to occur at one or two places in coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema during the next seven days.Rain occurred at one or two places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and Rayalaseema during the last 24 hours, the report added.

### Statehood is our right, not a favour: Farooq Abdullah

Srinagar, June 18(UNI) : National Conference president and former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said that Statehood is not a gift—it's the people's right, long overdue.He asserted that the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is not a concession but a constitutional right.

He called for an immediate return to full democratic authority in the region.

Speaking at a one-day Workers meeting of at Pulwama Abdullah said, "Statehood is not a gift—it's the people's right, long overdue and repeatedly promised by the ruling government."

The meeting, chaired by Abdullah reviewed party affairs and pressing public issues. He assured party workers that the Omar A b d u l l a h - l e d government is prioritising these challenges.He criticised the Union Territory status as a bottleneck to real governance.

## Navy inducts first anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft Arnala

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Jun 18 : INS Arnala, the first warship in the anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft series equipped to conduct subsurface surveillance, search and rescue missions and low-intensity maritime operations, was inducted into the Indian Navy on Wednesday. The commissioning ceremony at the Naval Dockyard here was presided over by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan.In his address, Gen Chauhan underscored the Navy's remarkable transition from a "buyer's navy" to a "builder's navy", highlighting this as the backbone of the "country's Blue Water aspirations", according to officials.The 77-metre long warship, with a gross tonnage of over 1490 tonnes, is the largest Indian naval warship to be



In this image released by @indiannavy via X, Chief of the Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan attends the commissioning of INS Arnala, the pioneering Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, into the Indian Navy.

propelled by a diesel engine-waterjet combination, the Navy said.The ceremony was hosted by Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command

Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar and attended by senior naval officials, distinguished civilian dignitaries, ex-Commanding Officers of erstwhile

'Arnala', besides representatives from Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) and Larsen & Toubro Shipbuilding, it said."The

warship incorporates more than 80 per cent indigenous content and integrates advanced systems from leading Indian defence firms, including Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), L&T, Mahindra Defence, and MEIL," a Navy spokesperson earlier said.

The event marked the formal induction of the first of the 16 anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW-SWC) class ships into the Indian Navy.

Named after the historic Arnala Fort off Vasai in Maharashtra, the warship reflects India's rich maritime heritage. Constructed in 1737 by the Marathas under the leadership of Chimaji Appa, the fort was strategically positioned to oversee the Vaitarna River's mouth, serving as a sentinel over the northern Konkan coast, the Navy said.

## Three top Maoists killed in encounter

Paderu, June 18 (UNI) Three top-ranked Maoists, including central committee Member Gajarla Ravi alias Uday were killed in a fierce encounter with the Greyhounds personnel at Rampachodavaram village early on Wednesday.

According to the police, a Greyhound team conducted combing at K o n d a m o d a l u , Koyyalagudem and Chintakur villages between Rampachodavaram and Maredumilli mandal in the forest area. The Greyhound team noticed the movements of Maoists near Devipatnam forest area.

When the Greyhounds personnel were nearing them, the Maoists opened fire which the Greyhounds retaliated. Sources said that Maoists central committee member Gajarla Ravi alias Uday, Andhra-Odisha Border ACM Anju and special zone committee member Aruna were killed in the encounter.

The police recovered three AK 47 rifles and ammunition from the

encounter site. One of the deceased, Aruna, was the wife of one of the Maoists' top leaders and Central Committee member Chalapathi Rao, who was killed in an encounter in January, 2025 at the AP-Odisha border. Aruna was an accused in the killings of the then MLA Kidari Sarveswara Rao and former MLA Siveri Somu in the combined Visakhapatnam in 2018 at Dumbiguda village.

Another deceased Gajarla Ravi alias Uday was carrying a reward Rs 25 lakh while Aruna was carrying Rs 20 lakh reward. Aruna belonged to Karakavanipalem of Pendurthi mandal near Visakhapatnam. Additional police forces were deployed from Maredumillu and Devipatnam to the encounter site.The bodies of the three deceased Maoists were being shifted to the GGH in Rampachodavarm, police sources said. This is the first major encounter with the Maoists in Andhra Pradesh since bifurcation of the combined AP state in 2014.

## TTD EO asks security firm to come up more options for Alipiri check point

Tirupati, June 18 (UNI) : Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Executive Officer J Syamala Rao on Wednesday asked RAXA, the renowned company belonging to the GMR Group, to come up with more security options for the Alipiri Check Point, keeping in view the need for the next two decades.

RAXA, which provides Security Solutions, has presented a PowerPoint Presentation on their observations on how to revamp the Security measures and modernise the Alipiri Check Point.Rao

along with the Additional Executive officer Ch Venkaiah Chowdary, who held a review meeting on the revamping of the Alipiri Check Point and enhancing the Security here, suggested that the Company provide both long term and short-term solutions to overcome the time-consuming process of the Security Check at Alipiri.However, the EO has directed the Vigilance Wing of TTD to implement a few measures soon to avoid delay in checking at Alipiri including to set up some physical barriers to prevent cross overs during

checking; to replace the existing luggage scanners with more advanced, rugged scanners; to increase the number of luggage scanners for speeding up luggage scanning process; To check the possibility of increasing Luggage Conveyor Belt avoiding long hours of security check and to bring into utility the last two security lanes at Alipiri by posting more security personnel.RAXA CEO Amit Dar, TTD JEO Veerabrahmam, CVSO Murali Krishna, Chief Engineer Satyanarayana, EE Venu Gopal and GM ( IT) Sessa Reddy, were present.

## Officials told to plug loopholes used for tax evasion

(Standard Post Bureau)

Vijayawada, June 18 : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has made it clear that evading taxes while doing business in the state would no longer be tolerated.

He directed officials to close all loopholes that enable tax evasion and warned that stringent action would be taken against those who attempt to exploit weaknesses in the system to harm government revenues.

The Chief Minister held a meeting in the Secretariat at Amaravati near here with the officials and reviewed the tax collection and issued key directives regarding revenue targets. He also pointed out that traders and taxpayers should not be subjected to harassment during tax collection and instructed that efforts must be made to raise awareness among them about tax obligations.

The Chief Minister advised officials to analyze tax payment data dating back to 2017 and said the government would reconsider the incentives

currently being offered to tax evaders.He also stated that public opinion would be gathered regarding the tax collection process by government departments, stressing that public satisfaction is essential for the coalition government.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that the estimated revenue for the 2025-26 financial year stands at Rs 1.24 lakh crore. Naidu noted that increased revenues would enable the government to enhance both development and welfare efforts.

In a video conference with Joint Commissioners from various districts, the Chief Minister discussed GST and commercial tax collections across the state. He congratulated Joint Commissioners from Chittoor, Kurnool, Kakinada, Anantapur, and Nellore districts for achieving better tax collection results.

Naidu acknowledged that the state is currently facing financial difficulties and said these issues can be resolved only by correcting

the missteps taken by the previous government. Otherwise, he cautioned, the state's finances would remain in perpetual distress. He stressed the importance of cities like Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada contributing more significantly to the state's revenues.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that compared to the previous year, revenue collections have increased. In the Stamps and Registrations Department, collections stood at Rs 906.12 crore in April 2025 and Rs 916 crore in May. For the same period last year, collections were Rs 663.29 crore in April and Rs 583 crore in May.

They also reported a steady rise in GST revenue and clarified that GST and commercial tax collections have grown by 5.71 percent. The department has set a target of Rs 43,020 crore for GST and commercial tax revenue for the current financial year.The Chief Minister directed officials to strengthen the excise system through the new liquor policy.

## Govt unveils Rs 3,000 FASTag annual pass

New Delhi, June 18 (UNI) In a major push towards hassle-free and efficient highway travel, the government on Wednesday announced the launch of a FASTag-based annual pass, priced at Rs 3,000, effective from August 15.The pass, designed exclusively for non-commercial private vehicles such as cars, jeeps, and vans will be valid for one year from the date of activation or up to 200 highway trips, whichever is earlier, Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways posted this information on social media platform X.The annual pass will enable seamless movement across National Highways and aims to address long-standing issues at toll plazas, especially those located within a 60 km range, he said.A dedicated link for activation and renewal will soon be made available on the Rajmarg Yatra App as well as on the official websites of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).This policy will address the long-standing concerns regarding toll plazas located within a 60 km range and simplify the toll payments through a single, affordable transaction.



## Employees under Unified Pension Scheme now eligible ...

The Government on Wednesday said that all central government staff covered under the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) will now be eligible for retirement and death gratuity benefits available under the Old Pension Scheme."This is in keeping with the long-pending demand by a large section of government employees, he said. The move addresses a significant demand of government staff and brings parity in retirement benefits, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said here.

(See on page 5)

## Constitution Assassination Day' observance: Mamata ....



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Central Government today, accusing it of "violating the Constitution daily" while planning to mark June 25 as "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas" (Constitution Assassination Day) to commemorate the anniversary of the Emergency imposed in 1975.

( See on page 4)

## England reveal playing XI for first Test against India



The Ben Stokes-led England confirmed their lineup for the first of five Tests against India at Headingley starting on June 20.The two changes in the lineup that featured in the one-off Test against England is the inclusion seasoned all-rounder Chris Woakes and right-arm quick Brydon Carse.

(See on page 7)

## Committed to overall growth of the youth, says Meghalaya CM



Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma today iterated his government's commitment to the overall growth of the youth, even as he emphasised the importance of education, sports, music, and entrepreneurship.

(See on page 8)



# Governor CP Radhakrishnan distributed school material distribution ceremony

(Standard Post Bureau)  
Mumbai, June 18 : The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has implemented many activities through its department to provide educational opportunities to the children of ordinary Mumbaikars . When a world-renowned organization like the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation makes efforts for you, you should study a lot and achieve the right goals in life. Along with this, along with studying your mother tongue, you should also master a foreign language. For this , take guidance from teachers so that you can soar all over the world , this is the guiding advice given by the Governor of Maharashtra, Mr . C. P. Radhakrishnan to the students at the school entrance ceremony.

The school entrance ceremony and school material distribution ceremony was held yesterday in the chief presence of Governor Mr . C. P. Radhakrishnan at Worli Sea Face Mumbai Public School of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation under the academic year 2025-2026. He was speaking on this occasion.

M u n i c i p a l Commissioner and Administrator Mr. Bhushan Gagrani , Additional Municipal Commissioner (Eastern Suburbs) Dr. Amit Saini , Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor Dr. Prashant Naranware , Deputy Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor Mr. S. Ramamurthy , Municipal Deputy Commissioner (Education) Dr. (Mrs.) Prachi Jambhekar, Education Officer (Primary) Mr. Rajesh Kankal were present.

Governor mr C. P. Radhakrishnan welcomed the students by giving chocolates to each student in the hall. He also interacted with the students and wished them well. Five students were distributed 27 types of school supplies in a representative manner by the Governor .

While guiding the students, the Governor Mr . C. P. Radhakrishnan said , along with the school curriculum, outdoor sports are also very important in life. Physical exercise keeps us constantly energized. Therefore, make time for exercise from now on. Also, the Governor suggested that since there are few playgrounds in Mumbai due to lack of space, schools should be provided with playgrounds in a cyclical manner . The



Governor mentioned that some teachers of the Municipal Corporation should be sent to understand the education system there , citing the example of the education system in Finland .

Along with the school curriculum, master other languages, including your mother tongue. Learning new languages will open up many avenues of progress. It will create the ability to soar around the world. Always be in search of new opportunities. Keep taking guidance from teachers about things and interesting information about which you are curious. Keep asking questions , this valuable advice was given to the students by the Honorable Governor Mr C. P. Radhakrishnan.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation distributes all kinds of

school supplies free of cost to the students. These supplies include uniforms , notebooks , compass boxes , painting supplies , pencils , water bottles , cans , backpacks , shoes , sandals , socks , etc. All these supplies were distributed to five students by the Hon'ble Governor. This year, Akshara Ajay Verma (96.80 percent) from Worli Sea Face Municipal Corporation Secondary School, who passed with the highest marks in Class 10, was felicitated.

In the introduction, Additional Municipal Commissioner (Eastern Suburbs) Dr. Amit Saini gave information about the Education Department of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. After this, the Governor visited the kindergarten classroom and science laboratory of Worli Sea Face School. The Governor appreciated the

furniture in this classroom.

School entrance ceremony at Kavalemath Mumbai Public School

Meanwhile , at the school entrance ceremony at Kavalemat Mumbai Public School in Walkeshwar (Malabar Hill) area, the Minister for Skills , Employment , Entrepreneurship and Innovation and Co-Parent Minister of Mumbai Suburban District, Shri Mangal Prabhat Lodha, distributed school supplies to the students today (June 17, 2025).

Minister Shri Mangal Prabhat Lodha directed that

## Himachal Chief Secretary chairs review meeting on monsoon preparedness

Dharamshala, June 18 (UNI) : The Himachal Pradesh government, under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Prabodh Saxena held a high-level video conferencing meeting today to review the state's monsoon preparedness.

Senior officials from all districts, along with representatives from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and dam authorities, participated in the meeting. Each district presented a detailed report on the pre-monsoon measures implemented in their respective regions. Representatives from IMD, NDRF, and dam authorities

## WR announces separate compartment for senior citizens in Mumbai local trains

(Standard Post Bureau)  
Mumbai, June 18 : In a relief for the over 50,000 elderly commuters who take the overcrowded Mumbai local trains every day, the Western Railway today announced the introduction of a dedicated compartment for senior citizens in its suburban trains.

Currently, Mumbai's local trains reserve only 14 seats per train for senior citizens, usually located in the third and twelfth coaches from the Churchgate end. However, with the overwhelming rush during peak hours, accessing these seats is often difficult, forcing many elderly commuters to travel under hazardous conditions. "To address this, Western Railway will convert one luggage compartment in each train into a dedicated senior citizen compartment. The plan covers all 105 non-AC local train rakes of WR, including 90 twelve-coach and 15 fifteen-coach trains. These redesigned compartments will feature seating capacity for 13 passengers and standing space for 91, significantly improving accessibility and comfort for older commuters," said an official.

# India kicks off IDY celebrations

New Delhi, June 18 (UNI) : As India gears up for the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) on June 21, a nationwide wave of yogic celebrations has already gained momentum under the banner of Yoga Maha Kumbh, the Government said today.

A vibrant three-day Yoga Maha Kumbh event has been kick-started from the Heartfulness Meditation Centre in RK Puram here which was organised by the Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), in collaboration with the Heartfulness Institute.

"The event aims to foster holistic well-being across communities. The program features a series of yoga demonstrations, wellness sessions, and cultural performances, all centered around the themes of mindfulness, health, and community well-being," said a statement from the Ministry said.

Another Yoga Maha Kumbh event began in Ladakh on June 15 in the rarefied air of Ladakh's high-altitude terrain. The International Festival of Yoga and Meditation (IFYM) 2025 in Ladakh has already captivated global and national attention by bringing yoga to awe-inspiring locations such as Pangong Lake (13,000+ ft), Nubra Valley, Sindhu Ghat, and the MIMC Devachan Campus, said the Ministry. This year's theme is "Yoga for One Earth, One Health."

Similarly, the second Yoga Maha Kumbh event also started on June 15 in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Arham Dhyani Yog launched its Yoga Maha Kumbh in Sector 50, Noida, bringing together youth and families for Harit Yoga sessions, essay and debate competitions, and interactive engagements at Ved Van Park, Sector 78. Their upcoming event on 21st June at Shivalik Park in Sector 33A, will align with the nationwide Yoga Sangam celebrations. Arham Dhyani Yog is also conducting parallel sessions globally, further amplifying the IDY 2025 movement, said the statement.

Yet another statement issued by Ministry of Coal said that the Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a Singrauli based Miniratna Company under its arm is organising a massive awareness campaign from June 15 to June 20, 2025, to promote yoga and its health benefits in the local community in the run up to the D Day.

On the D-Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu and the Union Minister of State (IC) for the Ministry of Ayush and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, will lead more than 5 lakh yoga enthusiasts in performing the Common Yoga Protocol.

# India launches Operation Sindhu to evacuate Indians from conflict-hit Iran

New Delhi, June 18 (UNI) : India today launched Operation Sindhu to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran, amid the deteriorating situation as a result of the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel.

The Government of India has been taking various steps over the last several days for the safety and security of Indian nationals in Iran.

As a first step, the Indian Embassy has evacuated 110 Indian students from northern Iran, assisting them in safely crossing over into Armenia on June 17.

The students have travelled by road to the

Armenian capital, Yerevan, under the supervision of our Missions in Iran and Armenia.

These students departed Yerevan on a special flight at 1455 hrs on June 18th and will arrive in New Delhi in the early hours of June 19 as part of the initial stages of Operation Sindhu, a statement said.

The Government of India is grateful to the Governments of Iran and Armenia for the smooth facilitation of the evacuation process.

India accords highest priority to the safety and security of Indian nationals abroad. As part

of the ongoing operation, the Indian Embassy in Iran has been assisting large numbers of Indian nationals in moving from areas seeing increased hostilities to relatively safer areas within the country and to subsequently evacuate them using the available and feasible options.

Indian nationals in Iran are advised to stay in touch with the Indian Embassy in Tehran through its emergency helpline, and with the 24x7 Control Room established by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.

Emergency Helpline numbers of Embassy of

India in Tehran:  
i. For call only : +98 9128109115, +98 9128109109  
ii. For WhatsApp: +98 901044557, +98 9015993320, +91 8086871709  
iii. ?Bandar Abbas: +98 9177699036  
iv. Zahedan: +98 9396356649  
v. Email- cons.tehran@mea.gov.in  
Helpline numbers of 24 X 7 Control Room set-up by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi: 800118797 (Toll free) , +91-11-23012113, +91-11-23014104, +91-11-23017905  
WhatsApp: +91-9968291988 ; Email- situationroom@mea.gov.in

## Nitish gets relief from Patna HC in disrespecting National Anthem case

Patna, June 18 (UNI)  
Patna High Court today granted relief to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in a complaint case lodged against him in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate for disrespecting the National anthem. Justice Chandrashekhara Jha while hearing a petition filed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar against the complaint case filed in court of Chief Judicial Magistrate of Begusarai and also notice issued to him in connection with disrespecting national anthem case, quashed the complaint case and related notice issued to him. The Court found that first class judicial magistrate Mayank Kumar Pandey, who was in-charge Chief Judicial Magistrate issued notice to Chief Minister Kumar in the case, ignoring legal provisions as available under sections 223 and 226 of BNSS. Accordingly, the entire complaint, proceedings and notice issued to Chief Minister Kumar, stood quashed. Vikash Paswan, a native of Begusarai, had filed a case in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate of the district, alleging that Chief Minister Kumar was seen in "Pranam Mudra" and also talking to a person standing next to him when national anthem was played during inauguration of World Cup Sepak Takraw on March 20, 2025.

# Kupwara boy once near detention under PSA, shines in NEET exams

Srinagar, June 18 (UNI)  
A year ago, 23 year-old Zubair's future seemed all but sealed. With a Public Safety Act (PSA) dossier ready against his name, the young boy from Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir stood on the edge. But hard work and a few helping hands had something else in store.

The boy in the recently declared NEET-UG results excelled and scored 535 marks. He is in all possibility to make a career in medicine.

The Peoples Conference Chairman and MLA Sajad Lone said that all should rejoice Zubair's success as it is a victory of the concepts of love and compassion.

"..Zuber has excelled

academically. But Zuber is much more than a young boy who has cracked NEET. The life of Zuber is a story. And I too am a part of that story. And I share a special bond with him. From depths of despair a year back Zuber has bounced back and will soon embark on a career in medicine," Lone said in a post on X.

"An year back Zuber was all set to be booked under the PSA. The dossier was ready. His family approached me. He is a couple of years older than my children. I don't know what happened. But I was convinced that Zubair has to be saved. I was convinced that Zubair is special and can deliver academically and move on to have an excellent career.

I believed that Zubair deserves a chance," he added. The PSA allows detention without trial for up to two years.

Lone said he approached SSP Kupwara who was very apprehensive.

"I volunteered to personally guarantee his conduct. We talked so many times over phone and the conversation would end with disagreements. I still remember I got a call from the SSP Kupwara. He said he had given it a thought and that he too is convinced that Zubair needs to be given a chance. And congratulations to SSP Kupwara. His decision to release Zubair means he has added a doctor to the society," MLA Lone said.

# PSWC takes swift action after shocking assault on elderly woman

Phagwara, Jun 18 (UNI)  
: The Punjab State Women Commission (PSWC) has sought a full inquiry from the district administration under urgent timelines after a video showing an elderly woman being assaulted in Jalandhar's Nakodar area surfaced on social media.

The video, which quickly went viral, prompted the Commission to step in. The incident, which occurred in Raipur Gujran village, shows a man Gurjeet Singh and an

unnamed woman—brutally beating a senior citizen. The footage sparked outrage across social media platforms, leading to widespread calls for justice.

Acting under Section 12 of the PSWC Act, 2001, Commission Chairperson Raj Lali Gill took suo motu cognisance of the incident and issued firm instructions to the local administration. She directed that an immediate investigation be launched, and that a

detailed report be submitted to the Commission no later than Thursday, June 19.

"The Commission is deeply concerned by the inhuman treatment meted out to the elderly woman," said Chairperson Raj Lali Gill in an official statement. "We will ensure strict action is taken.

There is zero tolerance for violence against women, especially the elderly, who deserve our utmost respect and protection."



# Swararaga Avadhanam – A Testament to the Great Intellectual Strength of Telugus

## Acharya Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad in Dallas



Telugu literary event in Dallas, USA, organized jointly by TANA and TANTEX under the coordination of Rajesh Adusumilli and Paramesh Devineni. The event featured a captivating performance of Swararaga Avadhanam by Garikapati Prabhakar.

In his address, Acharya Yarlagadda described Avadhanam as a cherished literary tradition of the Telugu community. He noted that literary Avadhanam gained prominence through poets like Tirupati Venkata Kavulu and the Kopparapu brothers. Introducing musical ragas into the Avadhanam format and evolving it into Swararaga Avadhanam is a commendable innovation, he added. He appreciated Garikapati Prabhakar's efforts in popularizing this art form and encouraged him to train a new generation of disciples. Dr. Totakura Prasad and several other dignitaries participated in the event.

## Protect Vedas, save ancient tradition and culture: Udupi Sirur Mutt Seer

Kakinada, June 18 (UNI) : Udupi Sirur Mutt Chief Sri Veda Vardhan Teertha swamiji has called upon the people to save Hindu Dharma through protecting the Vedas.

During his first visit to the Sri Satyadeva Mandir in Godarigunta area here on Wednesday, Swamiji told the disciples that by protecting the Vedas the Hindu dharma could be saved and the ancient tradition and culture and their values could be passed on to the future generations.

Swamiji said he is going to organise a special programme at the Udupi shrine for four years for protection of Vedas under the slogan 'Veda Akhilam Dharma Moolam'.

Reciting Vedas and hearing the recital is of great use. During the period daily twenty vedic pundits recite four Vedas and deliver lectures. The sound of vedic hymns recital is very sacred. By hearing the recital we receive the blessings of the God,' Swamiji said.

Earlier on his arrival Madhwa purohit Yathagiri Madhwesh accorded a rousing reception to Swamiji with Poorna kumbham. Dr Parasuram Thungamani, Madhwesh Mounika couple performed Paada Pooja to Swamiji.

Ramamurthy Bhat, Raghavendra Brindavanam Seva Samithi Trust Treasurer Venkatesh, Prem Kumar, Dhruvee, Manojna Manohar, Tungamani, retired MRO Kaluri Narasimharao were among those who attended and received the blessings of Swamiji.

## Collector asks officials to beef up security at EVM godowns

Kakinada, June 18 (UNI) : District Collector Shan Mohan has instructed the officials of Revenue, fire services and elections departments to beef up security at the EVM godowns to ensure safety of the EVMs and VVPats.

He said this to officials after inspecting the EVM godowns near the Collectorate along with the representatives of the recognised political parties here today, under the instructions from the Central Election Commission every month inspecting the EVM godowns and sending a report on EVMs safety.

Similarly for every three months along with the recognised political parties the godowns are being inspected thread bare, ensuring safety of the EVMs and VVPats, he added. District Revenue officer J Venkatrao, district assistant fire officer Subbarao, Kakinada urban Tahasildar V. Jithendra, Collector election cell deputy Tahasildar M Jagannadham, representatives of recognised political parties G Saibaba (TDP), S Apparao (BSP), P Kishore (Congress), M. Satyanarayana (Janasena) MVV Ramana (CPM) accompanied the Collector during the inspection of EVMs and VV Pats.

# Officials told to achieve world records in holding Yogandhra event

Vijayawada, June 18 (UNI) : Chief Secretary K Vijayanand has instructed the officials to make all efforts to achieve several world records and place AP at the first position in the country by organising the YogaAndhra programme, which will be organized across the State on the International Yoga Day June 21 in Visakhapatnam.

The Chief Secretary held a video conference with the secretaries of the concerned departments and district collectors from the State Secretariat on Wednesday regarding the YogaAndhra program.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that almost all the arrangements for the organization of this programme had been completed and advised the officers of all departments to work continuously for the next three days to make

this programme a complete success.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that everyone should work hard to achieve as many world records as possible in various aspects, such as participation in the yoga programme in large numbers, organizing yoga at many venues, and issuing certificates and to place Andhra Pradesh at the first place in the country in yoga.

The Chief Secretary has instructed the district collectors to organize a major yoga event with at least 5,000 people in each district centre in connection with the main event to be held in Visakhapatnam on June 21, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi would participate.

He noted that steps are being taken to organize the

Yogandhra programme in more than 1.50 lakh venues across the state, and 1,28,000 venues have already been registered so far, adding that the government has set a target of more than two crore citizens participating in this programme and all the necessary arrangements have been completed.

Special Chief Secretary Medical and Health and State Nodal Officer M T Krishna Babu, who participated virtually in the video conference, said that the arrangements are almost complete to successfully organize the International Yoga Day in Visakhapatnam along with the main event in all the districts across the state down to the village level.

Several officials, district collectors and others also participated virtually in this conference.

# KCR, Jagan Reddy both involved in phone-tapping, alleges Sharmila

Visakhapatnam, June 18 (IANS) : Congress' Andhra Pradesh President Y.S. Sharmila on Wednesday alleged that the previous YSRCP government, headed by her brother Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, tapped the phones of its political opponents. She claimed that phone tapping was a joint operation carried out by the then Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Chief Ministers to target her.

Talking to media persons here, Sharmila alleged that K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy tapped the phones of the leaders of opposition parties. She claimed that she, her husband and those close to them were the victims of phone tapping.

She said YSRCP leader Y. V. Subba Reddy had told her that their phones were being tapped and even had played an audio of her phone recording before her. Sharmila demanded that Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Andhra

Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu should get a thorough probe conducted into phone-tapping. She offered to cooperate in the investigation. Alleging that KCR and Jagan Mohan Reddy had a close association, she said they tapped her phones to harm her political and economic interests.

Sharmila said she had kept quiet over phone-tapping as the then situation in both states was different. She alleged that both Jagan Mohan Reddy and KCR had indulged in misuse, and phone-tapping was nothing when compared to their misdeeds.

The Congress leader alleged that her brother conspired to stop her political and economic progress.

Sharmila had floated the YSR Telangana Party in Telangana in 2021. She merged the party with Congress in January last year and was appointed President of the Congress's Andhra Pradesh unit.

In last year's elections, she had campaigned aggressively against the ruling YSR Congress headed by her brother.

Sharmila made sensational allegations about phone-tapping at a time when the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Telangana police has intensified its probe into allegations that the previous government of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) had tapped phones of its political opponents and other individuals, including businessmen, journalists and celebrities.

(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, June 18 : "Swararaga Avadhanam is a unique testament to the

intellectual and cultural brilliance of Telugu people," said Padma Bhushan awardee and

Vishwa Hindi Parishad President, Acharya Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad. He was speaking at a grand

## Monsoon weakens over Karnataka, to revive after a week: IMD

Bengaluru, Jun 18 (UNI) The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday predicted a lull in monsoon activity over Karnataka in the coming days, with rainfall expected to significantly decrease across most regions of the state, including Bengaluru. Speaking to reporters, IMD Scientist and Head of Forecasting Dr N Puviarasan said, "The monsoon activity is currently decreasing, especially over coastal Karnataka. A Yellow Alert for rainfall has been issued for today, but from tomorrow onwards, no weather alerts are in place."

Dr Puviarasan stated that light to moderate rainfall may continue over parts of coastal Karnataka and three adjoining districts, but interior regions will remain largely dry. "The past two to three days have already seen deficient rain over most parts of Karnataka. Only the Western Ghats and adjoining districts have received excess rainfall," he stated.

He also warned of rising temperatures in Bengaluru in the coming days. "Maximum temperature in Bengaluru will gradually increase. Light rain is expected today and tomorrow, but from the day after tomorrow, the weather will turn dry with clear skies and increased sunshine," he noted. Dr Puviarasan further explained that the monsoon currently is now strengthening over North India. "The monsoon is moving northward towards Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Delhi. Gujarat, in particular, is likely to receive very heavy rainfall soon," he said.

However, he hinted at a possible revival of monsoon activity in Karnataka after a week.

# Dental doctors distribute mind game playing kits to Autistic kids

Kakinada, June 18 (UNI) The dental doctors of the Kakinada branch Indian Dental Association distributed mind game playing kits to the autistic kids here today to mark the World Autistic pride day.

Dr Addala Satyanarayana, secretary of the Indian dental association Kakinada branch, while distributing the kits said that "Autistic Pride Day is a global celebration that throws light on the strengths, achievements and unique perspectives of people with

autism spectrum disorder. "This important awareness day highlights the value of autistic individuals as integral members of the society, encouraging acceptance, understanding and empowerment. Every year, communities, organizations and individuals come together to promote inclusivity and challenge misconceptions about autism," he added. The secretary further said that Autistic Pride Day was dedicated to recognising and celebrating the

diversity and contributions of autistic people.

It emphasises the idea that autism is a difference but not a deficit and that neuro diversity enriches our world. On this day autistic individuals and their allies advocate for acceptance rather than just awareness, aiming to foster environments where everyone feels valued for who they are, he added.

Dr Srivalli, Dr Yerusha, Dr Tejeswera Rao and staff and children of Autism school were among those who attended.

# 'Pardon My French' bookshelf launching on today

Thiruvananthapuram, June 18 (UNI) : 'Pardon My French' bookshelf will be launched with a literary conversation between Lok Sabha member Dr Shashi Tharoor and Dr Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India, here on June 19. The Pardon My French programme is organised by the DC Bookstore, in partnership with The French Institute in India, with a view to bringing French literature to bookstores across the nation, in dedicated corners with a list curated for local readers, in partnership with independent bookstores.

The programme aims to ensure that the Indian bibliophile has as much access to French titles as their international counterparts. The selection includes iconic French classics from Sartre to Proust, those contemporary French titles with an established following in India (Marjane Satrapi, Annie Ernaux) as well as new voices seeing international acclaim (Victoria Mas, Édouard Louis, Virginie Despentes) and more. The conversation will explore Dr. Tharoor's personal journey with French literature, from his

earliest literary encounters to his most cherished reading experiences.

French thinkers have shaped not only a global canon of literature but also politics and philosophy with their contributions – from the political zeitgeist leading to the first French Revolution, to their post-war defining ideas around existentialism, feminism and more. The conversation promises to be a warm exploration of how great literature shapes a reader's imagination – touching on favourite classics, memorable first impressions, and the unique experience of encountering beloved French works in different languages.

As a speaker fluent in both Malayalam and French in addition to Tharoor's other languages, this promises to be a unique confluence of two literary cultures in conversation.

As a scholar, Dr. Mathou's main focus is on India-China relations and Himalayan studies. He is a notable specialist in Bhutan studies. Dr. Thierry Mathou took office as French Ambassador to India on September 17, 2023. He is both a career diplomat and

a scholar specialised in Asian studies. He started his diplomatic career in 1989 at the French Embassy in Washington, DC. In 1993 he was assigned to the French Embassy in Beijing.

In 1996 he was posted at the Department of European Affairs of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris, where he dealt mainly with multilateral trade issues and EU-Asia relations.

Specialised in Asian Affairs, he was assigned three times to China (Beijing and Shanghai), where he spent 13 years and held several positions, including Consul general in Shanghai (2006-2010) during the 2010 World Expo.

He also served as Deputy Director of the Department for International Economic and Financial Affairs at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2004 to 2006.

From 2010 to 2015 he was Ambassador of France to Myanmar. From 2015 to 2017 he served as Ambassador of France to the Philippines, and Non-Resident Ambassador to Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, based in Manila.

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## STANDARD POST

## Air India to cut international flights on wide body aircraft by 15 pc

Air India said it has decided to reduce its international services on wide-body aircraft by 15 per cent for the next few weeks. The cuts will be implemented between now and June 20, and will continue thereafter, until at least mid-July.

“This effectively adds to our reserve aircraft availability to take care of any unplanned disruptions,” said the airline, as it remains in mourning on the tragic loss of 241 passengers and crew members aboard flight AI 171.

The decision is taken “to ensure stability of our operations, better efficiency and to minimise inconvenience to passengers”.

“Air India apologises to the passengers affected due to these curtailments, and will inform them in advance and make its best efforts to accommodate them on alternate flights. Passengers will also be offered a choice to reschedule their travel without any cost or to be given full refund, as per their choice. The revised schedule of our international services effective from 20 June, 2025 will be shared shortly,” the airline explained.

It said that the curtailments are a painful measure to take, but are necessary following a devastating event which we are still working through and an unusual combination of external events.

“It is done to restore operational stability, and to minimise last-minute inconvenience to passengers. With the continued support of our passengers, the regulatory authorities, Ministry of Civil Aviation and India at large, we will come out stronger through this tragic incident and reestablish the confidence of our passengers and all stakeholders in our services, at the earliest,” Air India noted.

In coordination with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Government of Gujarat, Air India is putting all possible efforts to support the family members of the deceased and the injured.

The investigating authorities are also continuing their efforts to find out the reasons for the accident. The DGCA had mandated ‘Enhanced Safety Inspection’ across Air India’s Boeing 787-8/9 aircraft fleet. Out of total 33 aircraft, inspections have now been completed on 26 and these have been cleared for service, while inspection of the remainder will be complete in the coming days. The fact that 26 aircraft have been cleared gives reassurance in the safety measures and procedures that we follow, said Air India. “As a matter of added precaution, Air India will also undertake enhanced safety checks on its Boeing 777 fleet and, going forward, we will continue to cooperate with the authorities, viz AAIB, DGCA, MoCA to ensure the safety of our passengers, our crew and our aircraft, which remains our highest priority,” it added.

## Understating Brain Tumours

(Standard Post Bureau)

When we hear the words "brain tumour," it often brings a very grim image to mind. However, the reality is that many brain tumours can be successfully treated if diagnosed early. There is still a lack of awareness among the public about the symptoms and available treatment options for brain tumours. This Brain Tumour Day gives us an opportunity to spread awareness and educate people about the advancements in treatment.

A brain tumour refers to any abnormal growth or mass in the brain. It can be either benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous).

Benign tumours do not spread and are usually curable, while malignant tumours can grow rapidly, spread to other parts, and may return even after treatment.

The location of the tumour plays a major role in determining the outcome of treatment.

To know the exact nature of the tumour, doctors need to examine a sample of the tissue under a microscope, which is



Dr. Rohit Bansil, Associate Director - Neuro Surgery & Neuro Spine, BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital, Delhi

done through a biopsy. Often, the biopsy is performed along with the removal of the tumour in the same surgery. The approach to surgery can be open, minimally invasive, or endoscopic, depending on where the tumour is located in the brain.

In recent years, brain surgeries have become much safer and more precise due to technological advancements. Tools like neuronavigation, intraoperative nerve monitoring, high-resolution microscopes, and robotic

assistance have improved outcomes significantly. Neuronavigation helps guide the surgeon in real-time during the operation, allowing for safer and more complete tumour removal. Intraoperative nerve monitoring helps prevent damage to important nerves during surgery, while microscopes offer a clearer view of delicate areas in the brain.

Brain tumours can present a range of symptoms such as early morning headaches, blurring of vision, vomiting

that brings temporary relief from headache, changes in vision, hearing problems, difficulty walking, weakness on one side of the body, and seizures. Early diagnosis using MRI and PET CT scans can significantly improve the chances of a successful outcome. Once the tumour is surgically removed, the next steps depend on the biopsy report. If the tumour is benign, no further treatment may be needed. However, if the tumour is malignant, the patient may require additional treatment such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy. In some cases, repeat surgeries may also be necessary.

With the help of modern technology, brain tumour surgeries have become safer and more effective. Today, most patients recover well and are discharged within 4–5 days of surgery. The key to success lies in early detection and timely medical attention. On this Brain Tumour Day, let us focus on increasing awareness, encouraging early check-ups, and supporting complete and effective treatment for those affected.

## Urinary Incontinence is Not a Woman’s Fate - It’s a Treatable Condition,” say Expert in Odisha



(Standard Post Bureau)

Across India, an estimated 27.1% of women are living with urinary incontinence (UI)—a condition that affects not just physical health, but emotional and social well-being. Among them, stress urinary incontinence (SUI) alone impacts 15.9%, and is especially common in nulliparous women, with prevalence as high as 22.5%. Now, with rising awareness and access to care, India is poised to see a 25% increase in women

seeking treatment for UI by 2025.[ <https://www.ijcmph.com/index.php/ijcmph/article/view/11135>]

In Odisha, the issue is particularly underdiagnosed, with many women from rural areas like Khordha and Nayagarh living with UI silently—avoiding travel, skipping social gatherings, and enduring the embarrassment of leakage in public. However, specialists across Bhubaneswar and Cuttack are seeing a growing trend: women are starting to speak up and seek help.

Dr. Jyoti Mohan Tosh, Consultant – Urology & Renal Transplant Care, Multispeciality Hospital, Bhubaneswar, shared insights from her recent clinical experience: “Just last month, I treated a 32-year-old school teacher from Puri who was afraid to

even stand for long periods in the classroom due to frequent leaks. She thought it was something she had to live with. In another case, a young homemaker from Bhadrak had been using cloth pads quietly for over five years, too ashamed to even tell her husband. These stories are far too common in our region.”

“The good news is—UI is treatable. With simple pelvic floor exercises, minor medication adjustments, and lifestyle changes like reducing caffeine and weight management, more than half of my patients see major improvement within 6 to 8 months. Some even regain complete continence.

But the first step is breaking the silence. Women in Odisha must know this is not their fate—it’s a condition, and it can be managed.”

Treating urinary

incontinence in India currently costs between ₹10,000 to ₹20,000 per patient, making early intervention a cost-effective and life-changing solution. Experts recommend expanding primary care screenings, increasing community-level health education, and investing in training for ASHA workers and ANMs who can recognize symptoms early.

Dr. Tosh adds, “As doctors, we’re ready. But we need the community, the policymakers, and even family members to support these women. 2025 can be the year we no longer whisper about UI behind closed doors—it can be the year we solve it, together.”

With the right attention and action, the goal of reducing urinary incontinence prevalence in India is not just ambitious—it’s achievable.

## 24th Great June Uprising, Unity Day observed Tributes paid to 18 martyrs of 2001 people’s movement

Imphal, June 18 ( IT News) : Great June Uprising, Unity Day was observed today at Kekrupat in Imphal with solemn tributes to the 18 martyrs who laid down their lives during the mass agitation in June 2001, protesting against the extension of the NSCN-IM ceasefire agreement “without territorial limits” to Manipur. Later, the number of casualties rose to 21. Thousands of people from across the state gathered at the Kekrupat Memorial Complex, located near the historic Kangla Fort, to pay floral tributes to the photographs of the martyrs.

Shops, educational institutions, private offices, banks, and business establishments remained closed throughout the day



as a mark of respect. Vehicular movement was also restricted in parts of

Imphal city to facilitate public observance.

The uprising was

triggered following the signing of the Bangkok Declaration on June 14,

## Constitution Assassination Day’ observance: Mamata Banerjee accuses BJP of hypocrisy

Kolkata, June 18 (UNI) : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Central Government today, accusing it of “violating the Constitution daily” while planning to mark June 25 as “Samvidhan Hatya Diwas” (Constitution Assassination Day) to commemorate the anniversary of the Emergency imposed in 1975.

Addressing a press conference here, Banerjee questioned the BJP’s credibility in observing such a day, claiming the party has itself become a “persistent violator” of constitutional values and democratic norms.

“Those who break the Constitution every day are now pretending to mourn its death. This is pure hypocrisy,” the Trinamool Congress supremo said, lashing out at the Centre’s ruling coalition spearhead.

She pointed to instances such as the toppling of elected governments in Maharashtra and Bihar as evidence of what she called the BJP’s “backdoor politics” and erosion of federalism.

Is removing elected governments through backdoor deals not an attack on the Constitution?” she asked.

The chief minister was referring to a letter written to state chief secretary Monoj Pant where it has been mentioned that June 25 has been notified as “Samvidhan Hatya Diwas” (Constitution Assassination Day) vide Ministry of Home Affairs Notification dated 11 July 2024. “Emergency Witnessed a sweeping suspension of civil liberties, erosion of constitutional safeguards and unprecedented centralisation of executive power. Fundamental rights were breached, press silenced under strict

ensorship, thousands of political leaders, journalists, and civil society members were imprisoned,” the letter read.

“This year, on 23th June 2025, the nation observes the 50th anniversary of the imposition of the Emergency - an occasion not merely for remembrance but for deep reflection and renewed commitment to democratic values and constitutional morality. In this regard, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is undertaking a year long commemoration starting on June 25, 2025 till June 25, 2026,” the letter added.

The letter requested the chief secretary to appoint a Nodal Officer from the state for coordination with the Ministry of Culture so that the details of the programme can be shared.

Banerjee dismissed the Centre’s move as a political smokescreen meant to distract from ongoing subversions of democracy. “What we are witnessing today is a silent emergency — one without announcements, but with more dangerous implications,” she said, accusing the BJP of systematically weakening institutions, silencing dissent, and misusing central agencies for political vendetta.

Her remarks come amid rising tensions between the Centre and non-BJP-ruled states, with several opposition leaders alleging overreach by central authorities and interference in state governance.

In response, BJP leaders accused Banerjee of trying to whitewash the Congress’s legacy and deflect attention from her own government’s record. Party spokespersons defended the June 25 observance, saying it serves as a national reminder of the perils of constitutional misuse.

the contentious phrase “without territorial limit.” The clause was removed following widespread protests and the deaths of 21 civilians during the June uprising.

The event was jointly organized by the United Committee Manipur (UCM) and the All Manipur United Clubs’ Organisation (AMUCO). Pheiroijam Nando Luwang, chairman of the Observation Committee and president of AMUCO, led the gathering in offering floral tributes and stated that the observance reflects the people’s united stand against the Centre’s alleged “divide and rule” tactics intended to fragment the social fabric of Manipur. The day passed peacefully with no untoward incidents reported until the time of filing this report.



## High-level Thai Buddhist delegation on six-day India visit

New Delhi, June 18 (UNI) A high-level Thai Buddhist delegation led by Somdet Phra Thirayanamuni, the acting Supreme Patriarch of Thailand, is on a six-day visit to India, reinforcing the enduring historical and spiritual links between the two nations, according to a statement from the Union Culture Ministry.

The delegation visited the National Museum here to offer prayers at the Holy Relics shrine, accompanied by a Pali chanting ceremony.

The visit follows Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent trip to Thailand, where he underscored the shared Buddhist heritage and announced the forthcoming exposition of the Holy Relics of Devni Mori in Thailand.

Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat met the delegation, highlighting the shared heritage of Buddhism and Hinduism, including linguistic and cultural ties like the Ramayana tradition in Thailand. Shekhawat also invited the visiting monks to Ayodhya, citing the Patriarch’s interest in Hindu mythology.Somdet Phra Thirayanamuni, a royal monk and prominent religious leader, plays a key role in Buddhist education and international propagation.The visit is expected to further enhance India-Thailand cultural diplomacy, religious tourism, and bilateral cooperation in heritage and education, said the statement.

## Chhattisgarh cabinet okays key decisions on Renewable energy, wildlife conservation

Raipur, June 18 (UNI) In a significant move, the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai on Wednesday took several important decisions promoting Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, renewable energy, and wildlife conservation, including tiger protection and eco-tourism.

The Cabinet approved providing state scholarships and stipends to students from the Dihari Korwa, Baghel Kshatri, Sansari Oraon, Pabiya/Pawiya/Pawiya Samaj, and Domra castes, treating them at par with Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, respectively. These students will also be eligible for admission to hostels and ashrams.

The Cabinet also decided to promote renewable energy and provide financial assistance to electricity consumers by implementing the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Under this scheme, the state government will provide additional financial assistance to households for installing solar rooftop plants, over and above the central financial assistance. The target is to install 60,000 solar power plants in 2025-26 and 70,000 in 2026-27, with a financial outlay of Rs 180 crore and Rs 210 crore, respectively.To promote wildlife conservation and eco-tourism, the Cabinet decided to establish the Chhattisgarh Tiger Foundation Society, which will work under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The society will be self-financed and will raise funds from individuals and institutions. It will be directly involved in tiger and wildlife conservation activities, promote eco-tourism, and provide employment opportunities to local communities.

The Cabinet also approved the merger of Vivekananda Institute of Social Health Welfare and Services, Chhattisgarh (VISHWAS) with Ramakrishna Mission Ashram Narayanpur. Additionally, 100 acres of land will be provided free of cost to the Horticulture Department for establishing a College of Horticulture (Horticulture University) in Bemetara district.

The Jashpur district's self-help groups' herbal and mahua tea products, marketed under the 'Jashpur' brand, will be transferred to the state government or Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation (CSIDC) to provide a wider market and boost marketing.



Vishwas Kumar Ramesh, the sole survivor of the Air India plane crash, during the cremation of his deceased brother Ajay who was flying with him on the same aircraft, in Diu. Vishwas was discharged from the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital following his recovery.

## SC grants protection to minor girl forced into marriage, issues notice to Bihar, Delhi police

New Delhi, June 18 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Wednesday stepped in to protect a 16-year-old girl from Bihar who alleged she was forcibly married to a man twice her age and subjected to repeated abuse.

The court directed both the Bihar Director General of Police and the Delhi Police Commissioner to ensure her safety, along with that of her friend who helped her escape the marriage and now faces kidnapping charges.

A bench comprising Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manmohan issued the directions while hearing a petition filed by the girl through her friend. The petition sought annulment of the marriage under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, and protection from any

coercive action by the police.

The girl, who had just appeared for her Class 10 board examinations, was allegedly married off on December 9, 2024, under pressure from her family.

The man she was married to, a 33-year-old civil contractor, reportedly demanded the marriage as repayment for financial support extended to the family.

According to the plea, the girl was sent to live with him immediately after the ceremony and was denied return to her parental home.

She alleged that her in-laws pressured her to bear a child and blocked her from continuing her education.

The petition further claimed that she was subjected to emotional and physical abuse,

### J&K Cabinet sends sub-committee draft on reservation policy

Srinagar, June 18 (UNI) Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet has sent the draft of its sub-committee on rationalisation of the reservation policy to the law department, government sources said today.The Cabinet meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here.While there is no official word from the J & K government about the decisions of the Cabinet, government sources said the report of the sub-committee was presented before the Cabinet which sent it to the law department for legal opinion.“The report will be examined by the law department first,” the sources said.The three-member sub-committee to review the policy, comprised education minister Sakina Itoo, forest minister Javed Ahmad Rana, and science and technology minister Satish Sharma submitted their report to the government earlier this month.The amended reservation policy that was introduced last year in March by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had met with protests by the Open Merit candidates, who claimed that despite being 70% of the UT's population, they got less than 30% of the share in government jobs and scholarships.

especially after she resisted sexual advances.

In January 2025, her maternal uncle managed to bring her back to her parents' home temporarily. However, her pleas to terminate the marriage and resume her studies were ignored.

On March 31, 2025, the girl fled her home with the help of a friend and has been on the run since, fearing for her life.

The petition revealed that her husband made public threats to kill her, reportedly saying he would “happily go to jail” for it.

Her mother subsequently filed a kidnapping case against her friend at Piplawan Naubatpur Police Station in Patna, allegedly concealing the fact that the girl had been married off.The petition

emphasised the urgency of the situation fearing that she would be killed if apprehended or forced to return. She urged the Court to protect her from police action until the matter is fully adjudicated.

Taking note of the threat to the minor's life, the Supreme Court ordered both Bihar and Delhi Police to provide the girl and her friend with emergency contact numbers for immediate assistance and to ensure their security.

The court also directed the police chiefs to submit a status report before the next hearing and issued notices to the girl's mother and the civil contractor husband, who have been named as parties in the case.

The matter is scheduled for further hearing in July.

## MP govt issues instructions to Collectors for 11th International Yoga Day

Bhopal, June 18 (UNI) : The Madhya Pradesh Government has instructed District Collectors to motivate all institutions regarding the organisation of the 11th International Yoga Day on June 21.

As per the directives, all institutions in the district will be motivated to participate in the International Yoga Day celebrations, and all programme organisers will have to register themselves.The Yoga Day programme will be organised at Panchayat headquarters, other villages, and all urban local bodies' headquarters and wards with the cooperation of people's representatives.

The programme will be conducted as per the

yoga protocol determined by the Central Government. For this programme, yoga instructors and volunteers affiliated with institutions like Patanjali Yoga Sansthan, Shri Ram Chandra Mission Heartfulness Institute, Jan Abhiyan Parishad, MP Yoga Commission, and other associate institutions will be available.The live broadcast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav's address on June 21 will be screened in all villages and wards across the state. The programme will be held from 6 am to 6:45 am, and the broadcast link will be provided by the Madhya Pradesh Public Relations Department.The

## Two Congress MLAs among nine convicted over blocking pathway

Jaipur, June 18 (UNI) : A district court in Jaipur on Wednesday sentenced nine individuals, including two Congress MLAs, to one-year imprisonment in an 11-year-old case of obstructing a pathway and assembling unlawfully

The court convicted

Mukesh Bhaker, MLA from Ladnun, Manish Yadav, MLA from Shahpura, Abhishek Choudhary, a former Congress candidate from Jhotwara, Rajesh Meena, Ravi Kirad, Wasim Khan, Dron Yadav, Bhanu Pratap Singh, and Vidhyadhar Meel for obstructing a

### Electors to get EPICs within 15 days of update in electoral rolls: ECI

Chandigarh, June 18 (UNI) To ensure faster delivery of Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) to the electors, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) enabling the delivery of EPICs within 15 days of an update in the electoral rolls, including new enrolment of an elector or change in any particulars of an existing elector.

The initiative is in line with the various measures being undertaken by the ECI for the convenience of electors as envisaged by the Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar along with Election Commissioners Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi, a release said.

The new system will ensure real-time tracking of each stage right from the EPIC generation by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) till the delivery of EPIC to the elector through the Department of Posts (DoP).

Electors will also receive notifications via SMS at each stage, keeping them informed about the status of their EPICs.

For this purpose, ECI has introduced a dedicated IT module on its recently launched ECINet platform. The new IT platform will replace the existing process by re-engineering the current system and streamlining the workflow.

DoP's Application Programme Interface (API) will be integrated with the ECINet for seamless delivery. This initiative aims to enhance service delivery while maintaining data security.

## Employees under Unified Pension Scheme now eligible for retirement, death gratuity benefits: Govt

New Delhi, June 18 (UNI) :The Government on Wednesday said that all central government staff covered under the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) will now be eligible for retirement and death gratuity benefits available under the Old Pension Scheme.

“This is in keeping with the long-pending demand by a large section of government employees, he said. The move addresses a significant demand of government staff and brings parity in retirement benefits, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said here.

He further said the new provision reflects the government’s commitment to ensure social security for all categories of employees under the National Pension System.

The central government employees covered under the UPS will now be eligible for retirement and death gratuity benefits, as per the provisions of the Central Civil Services Rules, 2021, Singh said at a press conference here.

The Department of Pension and Pensioners’ Welfare, under the

Personnel Ministry, on Wednesday issued an order on the "options to avail benefits under Old Pension Scheme on death of government servant during service or his discharge from government service on account of invalidation or disability for central government servants covered under Unified Pension Scheme".

The DoPPW had notified the Central Civil Services Rules, 2021, to regulate service-related matters of central government employees covered under the NPS.

The Minister also deliberated in detail on the "transformational" journey of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions over the last 11 years, stating that "a series of reforms aimed at simplifying governance, empowering citizens, and humanising administration had been undertaken."

Dr Singh said, "for instance we have repealed over 1,600 outdated provisions many of them colonial-era legacies as a strong message of trust in citizens, particularly India's youth."

## Panchayati Raj Ministry and Bhashini partner to boost governance at grassroot level

New Delhi, June 18 (UNI) : Union Panchayati Raj Ministry and Bhashini, an AI-powered language translation platform under MeitY, are collaborating to harness AI-powered language technologies to help people interact smoothly with Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs), especially in diverse linguistic regions in the country.The pact will be signed on Thursday in the national capital in the presence of Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Professor SP Singh Baghel.The initiative is a strategic collaboration to expand multilingual access across the ministry’s digital platforms and outreach efforts, enabling wider public participation in Panchayati Raj initiatives, programmes, dialogues, and live events through advanced translation technologies, said a statement from the Ministry.“With the signing of the MoU, the partnership will enhance language accessibility across major portals and platforms of the Union Panchayati Raj Ministry, while also promoting the use of AI-enabled public digital infrastructure to

empower Panchayati Raj Institutions and reinforce participatory democracy at the grassroots,” it said.

Earlier this month, the Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) and the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) collaborated on the development and deployment of multilingual artificial intelligence solutions across key public-facing railway platforms.

Launched in July 2022, Bhashini aims to create a language technology platform that provides tools and services for translation, voice-based interactions, and content creation in 22 scheduled Indian languages.

The partnership aims to integrate Bhashini’s state-of-the-art language technology stack, comprising Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), Text-to-Text Translation, Text-to-Speech (TTS), and Optical Character Recognition (OCR), into CRIS-managed systems such as the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) and RailMadad, added the statement.As part of the event, a specially-curated digital launch video showcasing the integration of Bhashini with eGramSwaraj will also be unveiled.



# Career&tech



## 5 things you should learn from your First job

So it's your first job and you have to make sure that you create the right impression and yet stick to your deadlines.

### 10 tips for email Etiquette

The digital age has made communication much easier and more hassle-free, what with several apps available for mobile phone chat. However, people often forget that they have to use a different, more formal tone for official email correspondence, and end up peppering their emails with too many emojis and abbreviations. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when you're sending out a work email.

**1. INTRODUCTIONS ARE IMPORTANT:** Always introduce yourself if you are writing to someone you don't know or haven't corresponded with previously. If you've got the sender's address from a mutual friend, mention that in your email. Introducing yourself is especially important if you're sending out a survey or questionnaire to people whose addresses you have got from a database.

**2. ALWAYS RUN A SPELL-CHECK:** It's important to run a spell-check for official correspondence, especially if you're sending an email from your phone. You don't want the auto-correct feature to backfire on an official email, after all. Ensure your grammar and punctuation are correct as well.

**3. USE THE REPLY-ALL FEATURE SPARINGLY:** Only use the reply-all feature for an email that really needs it. If the reply is meant for only one person, just reply to him/her. And don't use it to reply to a sender's greetings for the festive

season — you could find yourself being blamed for starting an unnecessary email thread.

**4. USE BCC FOR GENERIC MAILS:** Use the Bcc field for when you are sending out mails to a very large number of people who may not all know each other. It's also a way to ensure that all your contacts' addresses are not out there for people unknown to them to access.

**5. RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS YOU SEND:** Send heavy files via file-hosting services so that you don't

underlining in the middle of a lot of text. Don't use fancy fonts or multiple font colours either.

**8. WATCH YOUR TONE:** Always be careful about how your email sounds. It may be an official email, but it should not sound too abrupt. You shouldn't sound over-friendly either, especially if this is the first time you are corresponding with the recipient. Moreover, don't send out an email if you're upset. Save it as a draft and re-read it when you're calmer.

**9. FIX YOUR FORWARDS:** Make it a point to clean up forwards before you, in turn, forward them to other people. Not only does this make the email look cleaner, but it also ensures that you don't give away anyone else's email addresses.

**10. CHECK WHO YOU'RE SENDING AN EMAIL TO:**

Always check the To field of an unsent email before you send it. You don't want the wrong email being sent to the wrong person. What every official email should contain

**Subject line:** This is the first thing that recipients will see in their inboxes and it will determine whether they will read it or not. It should be clear and direct.

**Salutation:** Always start an email by greeting the recipient by using the word 'dear' followed by his/her name. If you aren't on a first-name basis with the recipient, use a title and a surname.

**Concise body:** Get straight to the point. If you have more than one issue to address, start with the most important, and list the rest point-by-point.

**Sign off:** Always sign off on your emails. Phrases like 'Yours sincerely' and 'yours faithfully' are acceptable for formal emails. 'Best regards' or 'kind regards' work in most other situations.



clog the recipient's inbox. You could also zip files or resize pictures. If you know you're sending an email to someone who accesses his/her inbox on the phone, don't send several attachments with it.

**6. DON'T OVER-ABBREVIATE:** Don't use too many abbreviations or in your email, like FYI, PFA, PDF or FYR. It may confuse the recipient, who may also get the impression that you don't have the time to type out a proper email. If you must use them, restrict it only to the subject line.

**7. FORMATTING FUNDAS:** Do not use all caps and bold fonts as this will give the recipient the impression that you are shouting at him/her. The same goes for

And while you are busy maintaining a balance between creating the right impression, sticking to deadlines, you also have to see that you learn various things from your job which doesn't really come under your job responsibilities. From how to cracking the meeting to how to talk to break the ice with the seniors here is a list of things that you learn both knowingly and unknowingly on your first job.

#### Sticking to deadlines

So while you were in college or school deadlines were something that you were quite flexible with. But things change when you step out in the world and get into the work zone. From bringing out a story

within a deadline or cracking a deal within a deadline, this word matters the most in the work zone and should be given utmost priority.

#### Work-home balance isn't a myth

So while you may think that balancing your work responsibilities and home chores is a total myth, in reality is isn't. While, initially it may all seem very surreal to manage all, gradually you will get used to it and then managing both becomes quite easy.

#### Every penny counts

Gone are the days when you can buy a dress or shoe or cosmetics without thinking much about the cost. When you start working you get to know the real value of hard earned money.

So in a sense your first job teaches you where to be a spendthrift and where to be a true-blue stingy.

#### Being a smart worker

Well, it is good you are a hard worker, but amidst deadlines one has to be a smart worker and make sure that he/she finishes work in time and with less errors.

#### Socialize right and smart

Certainly, there are many who are glued to social media, but when you get into a work pace and add people from your work space one has to be doubly sure to see what kind of messages and pictures they are sharing on social media. The reason being that a lot of employers these days goes through our social pages and decides whether to hire or not.

### 5 essential skills today's employers want

Apart from relevant, organisations are now looking at hiring graduates with people skills and an aptitude for leadership

In a competitive job market, a degree that highlights your core competencies and skills is not enough to get you a job. Employers are now looking for candidates with not only the right attitude, but also the right aptitude while hiring. Here are some of the essential skills that fresh graduates will need to cultivate to secure a job:

**Communication skills:** The most significant step towards getting through the interview process is to polish your communication skills, both written and verbal.

This is the best way to stand out in the crowded candidate market and it also aids in building a strong professional network.

**Aptitude for leadership:** It is not just the academic record and domain expertise that matter these days, but also your proficiency to be a leader that companies look out for. Not everyone can master this skill; however, one can work on building their inherent leadership qualities by taking initiatives and responsibility.

**Being a people's person and a team player:** Good interpersonal skills are a key to securing your dream job. Having this skill



reflects that you are sociable and can work harmoniously with others. Interviewers will most likely test your ability of being a team player through questions relating to real-life scenarios . Some interviewers give a lot of importance to the extra-curricular abilities of the interviewee - excellence in sports, participation in student organization activities, community assistance roles with NGOs, etc - to judge the individual's ability to work in teams and inspire innovative ideas.

**Problem solving and analytical skills:** Impromptu thinking and problem solving skills are the qualities that prospective employers look for in candidates. So it is essential to build on these capabilities and flaunt them when you present yourself in the job market as this will help you gain bonus points.

**Open to learning and being proactive:** It is vital for a candidate to come across as independent and not someone who needs to be pushed for a task to be completed. In addition to this, out-of-the-box thinking and innovative ideas can get you the competitive corporate advantage. Interviewers will also try to gauge if a candidate is open to maintaining a continuous learning curve to re-skill themselves in a dynamic workplace and stay ahead. Interviewers are impressed not with how much you know, but with how well you can convince the opposite person to think and accept your point of view. By demonstrating the right qualities and by marketing yourself efficiently, you can certainly land your first big career break!



# DG J&K YSS for speedy completion of developmental works



Jammu, June 18 (UNI) : Jammu and Kashmir Director General Youth Services and Sports, Anuradha Gupta on Wednesday directed for speedy completion of developmental works during her visit to the Khel Gaon Nagrota here in the city outskirts.She served strict instructions to the concerned authorities for speedy completion of developmental works.

While inspecting the developmental works, Anuradha batted for early completion of the infrastructural facilities at this venue, which is the first of its kind multipurpose sports facility owned by the Department.

While inspected the ongoing developmental work of Hockey Turf, Synthetic Athletic Track, Cycle Track and Multipurpose Hall, the work of which was in full

## England reveal playing XI for first Test against India

London, June 18 (UNI) : The Ben Stokes-led England confirmed their lineup for the first of five Tests against India at Headingley starting on June 20.The two changes in the lineup that featured in the one-off Test against England is the inclusion seasoned all-rounder Chris Woakes and right-arm quick Brydon Carse.Woakes, who is coming on the back of recovering from an ankle injury, last featured during England's tour of New Zealand in December 2024.

England XI: Ben Stokes (C), Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, ?Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith (WK), Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Josh Tongue, Shoaib Bashir

The 36-year-old was recently in action for England Lions during their game against India A in Northampton, where he finished with five wickets across the two innings, an ICC report said.Brydon Carse, who also featured during the New Zealand Test series, is also returning after a bout with a toe injury that sidelined him from the ICC Champions Trophy earlier this year.

The hosts will be bolstered by an in-form batting line-up that was on display during a high-scoring outing against Zimbabwe last month.

The top-three of Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley and Ollie Pope, all amassed centuries as England won by an innings and 45 runs.

Shoaib Bashir, who nabbed nine wickets through the Test and was named the Player of the Match, features as the sole spinner in the attack.

swing at this venue.

On the occasion, Executive Engineer Sanjeev Sharma,AEE Gautam Raina, JE Kunal and Incharge Khel Gaon, Vishal Bharti Slathia, Incharge Works were present.

The officers assured of early completion of the construction works.

Terming the venue as an asset for the Department rather a sporting hub, the Director General Youth Services and Sports said that the Department was committed to raise sports infrastructure at all levels and in every nook and corner of the Union Territory,adding that making Khel Gaon a sporting hub was the need of the hour.

"Khel Gaon caters to the needs of thousands of sportspersons as it is a multipurpose sports facility. The dire need is to enhance sports infra at the

## Top GMs show their class

Mumbai, June 18 (UNI) : Top seeded Grandmasters lived upto their billing, recording dominant victories across the top boards in round 2 of the the Aurionpro Mumbai International Grandmaster Chess Tournament at the World Trade Centre here on Wednesday.Top seed GM Levan Pantsulaia showcased his class by defeating Bhaavan Kolla in 33 moves with the French variation of the Sicilian Defence. GM Petrosyan Manuel employed the London System and brilliantly converted an exchange sacrifice into a full point, while GM Paichadze Luka played a sharp and aggressive Caro-Kann to dismantle his opponent.

All top 15 boards were won by titled players, reaffirming their superiority early in the tournament. Despite the dominance at the top, the round wasn't without its surprises. Hemal Varshan held Manas Gaikwad (ELO 2232) to a draw, while several 1800-rated players impressed by drawing against opponents rated 2100 and above, adding intrigue to the mid-field battles.The tournament, organised by Indian Chess School under the aegis of the All India Chess Federation (AICF), features 293 players from 18 countries. With a prize fund of Rs 25 lakh, including Rs 4 lakh for the winner, the 9-round Swiss event promises many more exciting clashes ahead.

Key Results of Round 2:

Kolla Bhavan 0 lost to GM Pantsulaia Levan 1

GM Petrosyan Manuel 1 beat FM Prakash Ram 0

Rachit Gurnani 0 lost to GM Paichadze Luka 1

GM Nikitenko Mihail 1 beat Devesh Naik 0

CM Vyom Malhotra 0 lost to GM Lalit Babu MR

GM Gharibyan Mamikon 1 beat Nisha Jawalkar

AFM Arhan Jain 0 lost to GM Savchenko Boris 1

FM Vedant Panesar 1 beat CM Vedant Varasada 0

Jagreet Misra 0 lost to GM Sanikidze Tornike 1

GM Deepan Chakravarthy beat Medhvanish Madeti

## Tilak Varma signs four-game Hampshire deal

London, June 18 (UNI) : Hampshire have signed India white-ball batter Tilak Varma on a short-term deal for four County Championship matches.

Varma has made an outstanding start to his international T20 career, hitting 749 runs in 25 games with an average of 49.93 and a strike rate of 155.

The 22-year-old left-hander has two centuries and three half-centuries in the format and has scored nearly 1,500 runs in 54 innings in the Indian Premier League.

He will be available from June 22 until August 1 for games at Essex, at home to Worcestershire and Nottinghamshire and the return against the Pears at New Road at the end of July."It's fantastic to have Tilak available for the next four County Championship matches," director of cricket Giles White said."He's an exciting talent who has already made a big impact on the international stage and in the IPL, and we look forward to seeing what he can do for Hampshire this summer."After the first batch of seven County Championship matches, Hampshire are seventh in the Division One table, with two wins, two defeats and three draws, according to a BBC news.

## England reveal playing XI for first Test against India

London, June 18 (UNI) : The Ben Stokes-led England confirmed their lineup for the first of five Tests against India at Headingley starting on June 20.The contest will mark the first assignment for the two sides in the new ICC World Test Championship cycle.England XI: Ben Stokes (C), Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, ?Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith (WK), Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Josh Tongue, Shoaib Bashir, an ICC report said.

## British veteran Evans given Wimbledon wildcard

London, June 18 (UNI) : Former British number one Dan Evans has been given a wildcard into the men's singles draw at Wimbledon later this month.

Evans, 35, recently regained his place in the world's top 200 and the news comes two days after the former world number 21 earned his biggest win in two years.Two-time women's singles champion Petra Kvitova has also received a wildcard, which are given to players who are not ranked high enough for direct entry.Czech former world number two Kvitova is the only non-British player named in the initial batch of wildcards announced on Wednesday. Teenagers Mika Stojsavljevic - the US Open girls' champion last year - and Hannah Klugman - the French Open girls' finalist earlier this month - have also been given entry into the main draw, the BBC reported.

Jodie Burrage, Harriet Dart, Francesca Jones and Heather Watson will join them, but French Open semi-finalist Lois Boisson is a notable omission.The grass-court Grand Slam tournament begins at the All England Club on June 30.

## UST Trivandrum Marathon on Oct 12

Thiruvananthapuram, June 18 (UNI) : UST Trivandrum Marathon, the Kerala capital's largest ever marathon, is back for its second iteration.

UST Trivandrum Marathon 2025 will be organised on October 12, 2025.Organised by UST, a leading digital transformation company, in collaboration with NEB Sports, the second edition of the UST Trivandrum Marathon will start from UST Campus, and will include four different events, such as Full Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K Run, and 5K Fun Run, similar to what was organised in the previous year's event.

More than 10,000 participants are expected to run in the different categories of the UST Trivandrum Marathon 2025.

Three training runs will be organised before the runners get set for the main event of the second edition. The first training run will be held at the UST Campus Trivandrum on June 22 and subsequent runs will be scheduled as events to help participants prepare well for the main race day.

# Full schedule unveiled for ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026

Dubai, June 18 (UNI) : The full schedule for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 has officially been revealed on Wednesday with renowned venues up and down the country set to host 24 days of thrilling international sport.

The tournament will open with England taking on Sri Lanka under lights at Edgbaston June 12, kicking off a whirlwind month of world-class action that will see 12 teams battling it out for the prestigious trophy, currently held by New Zealand.

Hundreds of thousands of cricket fans will have the opportunity to witness nail-biting showdowns between the likes of Australia and South Africa, India and Pakistan, and New Zealand and the West Indies, as the tournament travels the length of the country, firmly propelling women's cricket into the mainstream.

With the semi-finals and final already confirmed to take place in London, at The Oval and Lord's respectively; iconic venues such as Headingley, Old Trafford Cricket Ground, Bristol County Ground and Hampshire Bowl will also play their part in showcasing world-class cricket throughout the earlier stages of the landmark tournament.

England captain, Nat Sciver-Brunt, said, "World Cups are always special, but this one already feels different — it has the potential to be truly game-changing. It's going to be a huge moment for our sport and a brilliant opportunity to inspire young people and captivate fans across

the country. Playing on home soil, for the biggest prize, against the best players in the world, it's going to be unmissable.

I can't wait to be a part of it."

The tournament will not only give fans across the nation a chance to see world-famous cricketers in action but will also affect lasting change by inspiring countless women and girls across the country to get involved with cricket.

Tournament Director, Beth Barrett-Wild, commented, "The ICC Women's T20 World Cup provides us with an unparalleled opportunity to transform a month of sporting excellence into a movement that will rewrite the narrative about women's cricket. At iconic venues across the country, we'll see incredible, world-class athletes battling it out in out in front of hundreds of thousands of fans, who with every ball bowled and run scored, will be contributing to lasting change. It's our opportunity to give women's cricket, and women's sport, the stage it deserves."

The newly expanded competition will see 12 teams descend on England and Wales in 2026. Eight countries are already sure of their place, with the final four participants to be decided through an ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier next year.

England and Wales were awarded hosting rights for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in 2022, with the seven host venues selected subsequently following

evaluation of various criteria.

ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Groups:

Group 1: Australia, South Africa, India, Pakistan, Qualifier, Qualifier

Group 2: West Indies, England, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Qualifier, Qualifier

Full ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Schedule:

Friday June 12: England v Sri Lanka, Edgbaston 18:30 BST

Saturday June 13: Qualifier v Qualifier, Old Trafford Cricket Ground 10:30 BST

Saturday June 13: Australia v South Africa, Old Trafford Cricket Ground 14:30 BST

Saturday June 13: West Indies v New Zealand, Hampshire Bowl 18:30 BST

Sunday June 14: Qualifier v Qualifier, Edgbaston 10:30 BST

Sunday June 14: India v Pakistan, Edgbaston 14:30 BST

Tuesday June 16: New Zealand v Sri Lanka, Hampshire Bowl 14:30 BST

Tuesday June 16: England v Qualifier, Hampshire Bowl 18:30 BST

Wednesday June 17: Australia v Qualifier, Headingley 10:30 BST

Wednesday June 17: India v Qualifier, Headingley 14:30 BST

Wednesday June 17: South Africa v Pakistan, Edgbaston 18:30 BST

Thursday June 18: West Indies v Qualifier, Headingley 18:30 BST

Friday June 19: New Zealand v Qualifier, Hampshire Bowl 18:30 BST

Saturday June 20: Australia v Qualifier, Hampshire Bowl 10:30 BST

Saturday June 20: Pakistan v Qualifier,

Hampshire Bowl 14:30 BST

Saturday June 20: England v Qualifier, Headingley 18:30 BST

Sunday June 21: West Indies v Sri Lanka, Bristol County Ground 10:30 BST

Sunday June 21: South Africa v India, Old Trafford Cricket Ground 14:30 BST

Tuesday June 23: New Zealand v Qualifier, Bristol County Ground 10:30 BST

Tuesday June 23: Sri Lanka v Qualifier, Bristol County Ground 14:30 BST

Tuesday June 23: Australia v Pakistan, Headingley 18:30 BST

Wednesday June 24: England v West Indies, Lord's Cricket Ground 18:30 BST

Thursday June 25: India v Qualifier, Old Trafford Cricket Ground 14:30 BST

Thursday June 25: South Africa v Qualifier, Bristol County Ground 18:30 BST

Friday June 26: Sri Lanka v Qualifier, Old Trafford Cricket Ground 18:30 BST

Saturday June 27: Pakistan v Qualifier, Bristol County Ground 10:30 BST

Saturday June 27: West Indies v Qualifier, Bristol County Ground 14:30 BST

Saturday June 27: England v New Zealand, The Oval 18:30 BST

Sunday June 28: South Africa v Qualifier, Lord's Cricket Ground 10:30 BST

Sunday June 28: Australia v India, Lord's Cricket Ground 14:30 BST

Tuesday June 30: TBC v TBC (Semi Final 1), The Oval 14:30 BST

Thursday July 2: TBC v TBC (Semi Final 2), The Oval 18:30 BST

Sunday July 5: TBC v TBC (The Final), Lord's Cricket Ground 14:30 BST

## Teenager Vasu Sehgal shoots error-free 67 to storm into lead in round two of PGTI NEXGEN

Ludhiana, June 18 (UNI) : Teenager Vasu Sehgal of Chandigarh shot an error-free five-under 67 in round two to gain two spots and move into the lead at a total of eight-under 100 at the PGTI NEXGEN Imperial Golf Estate being played here on Wednesday.

The 19-year-old Sehgal enjoyed a commanding three-shot lead.

Noida's Lakshya Nagar too carded a bogey-free 67 that helped him rise 13 spots to tie second position at a total of five-under 103.Karnal's Tushar Pannu, the overnight leader, signed for a 72 to also be placed tied second.Gurugram-based duo of Digraj Singh

Gill (67) and Manish Thakran (68) along with Karnal's Rohit Narwal (71) were tied fourth at four-under 104.

The Imperial Golf Estate is a par-72 nine-hole course where the nine holes are played twice to comprise a round.The cut was declared at two-over 110. Forty professionals progressed to the third and final round.Vasu Sehgal (33-67), who was overnight tied third and two shots off the lead, began well with two birdies on the first three holes. Vasu then went on to accumulate three consecutive birdies from the 10th through the 12th to end up with a flawless five-under for the day.

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## WR launches safety campaign to promote safe travel awareness in collaboration with 'Chhota Bheem'



(1st photo) The Exhibition kiosk set up at Churchgate station. In the 2nd & 3rd photos, Visitors to the exhibition is seen participating in the Safety Quiz and clicking photos with Chhota Bheem.

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 18 : In a first-of-its-kind initiative, Western Railway has launched a novel Safety Awareness Campaign in collaboration with the much-loved cartoon character Chhota Bheem, with a special focus on sensitizing passengers about the dangers of Trespassing and the hazards of boarding or alighting from moving trains. The Campaign was inaugurated on 18th June, 2025 at Churchgate and Indore stations under Mumbai Central and Ratlam Divisions respectively. It will also

be run at Andheri, Borivali, Ujjain & Ratlam stations over a period of 15 days.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, this unique campaign has been conceptualised with an aim to have a maximum outreach to commuters with special focus on younger audiences and families. Initially, the campaign has been planned to cover Mumbai Central & Ratlam Divisions with the topic of "Trespassing" & "Not Boarding or Alighting from

moving trains". The campaign has been designed to blend engaging visuals with impactful safety messages, leveraging the popularity of Chhota Bheem. It is aimed to make important safety lessons more simpler and effective. Subsequently, this campaign will be extended to other stations & Divisions also and more such themes on various railway related social awareness will be promoted.

Mr Vineet informed that to ensure a broad and multi-dimensional outreach, Western Railway is executing the campaign

across multiple platforms such as Digital and Social media, Hoardings and Station banners, Radio spots and SMS campaign. As part of the initiative, exhibition kiosks have been set up at Churchgate and Indore, and will soon be expanded to Andheri, Borivali, Ujjain, and Ratlam stations over the period of next 15 days. The exhibition engages passengers of all ages with its creative backdrop visuals and Safety Quiz.

Mr Vineet further added that in a unique initiative to promote public awareness and railway safety, Western Railway has entered into a collaboration with Chhota Bheem. Through this strategic collaboration, WR aims to harness the wide appeal of the Chhota Bheem characters to effectively communicate essential messages on railway safety and responsible behaviour in railway premises, particularly targeting younger audiences and families. Notably, the nationwide and global popularity of Chhota Bheem has a good impact on children and has the potential to influence them positively. Western Railway's initiative aligns with this sentiment by integrating these familiar characters into public interest campaigns to enhance reach and engagement.

Western Railway remains committed to innovating and enhancing safety awareness through community-friendly and inclusive efforts. With this campaign, it takes yet another step towards building a safer railway ecosystem for all.

## Revision in Arrival Timings of Miraj – Belagavi Special Trains : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hubballi, June 18 : South Western Railway has revised the arrival timings of Train No. 07302 Miraj-Belagavi Unreserved Special and Train No. 07304 Miraj-Belagavi Unreserved Special at Belagavi station with effect from 19th June 2025.

Accordingly, the arrival timing of Train No. 07302 Miraj – Belagavi Unreserved Special at Belagavi has been revised from the existing 12:50 hrs to 13:00 hrs. Similarly, the arrival timing of Train No. 07304 Miraj – Belagavi Unreserved Special has been revised from 20:35 hrs to 21:00 hrs at Belagavi station.

There is no change in the timings between Miraj-Sambre stations for both trains.

## II. Elimination of Stoppage of trains at Bellampalli

South Central Railway has notified the elimination of stoppage at Bellampalli for two trains due to engineering works at Bellampalli Yard, in connection with the commissioning of the new third line between Rechni Road and Bellampalli stations on the Balharshah-Kazipet section of the Secunderabad Division.

1. Train No. 07323 SSS Hubballi – Banaras Weekly Express Special, commencing its journey from Hubballi on 21st June 2025, will not halt at Bellampalli. As an alternative, the train will provide a halt at Sirpur Kagaznagar.
2. Train No. 12975 Mysuru – Jaipur Bi-weekly Express, journey commencing on 21st June 2025, will also skip the scheduled halt at Bellampalli.

## ECoR, Waltair division conducted various competitions on Yoga



(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, June 18 : To mark the 11th International Day of Yoga, Waltair Division of East Coast Railway organized a poster drawing competition for school children across various locations over the Division. More than 100 enthusiastic participants, including students from local schools and children of railway employees, showcased their creativity by illustrating the numerous benefits of Yoga. The event also encouraged young minds to explore thought-provoking essays on the scientific aspects of Yoga. In addition, an essay writing competition was conducted today for

employees across the Division to foster greater awareness and involvement in the practice of Yoga. As the people are increasingly recognizing its holistic benefits—promoting physical health, mental calmness, spiritual renovation, and a balanced lifestyle—passing this knowledge to the next generation remains vital. The Personnel branch of Waltair Division under the guidance of Senior Divisional Personnel Officer Shri Jusuf Kabir Ansari conducted these competitions.

Further, Yoga sessions were also conducted over the Division at various stations with the

participation of railway staff and Scouts & Guides. Scouts & Guides cadets conducted awareness rally in the Railway Colonies to promote Yoga.

In his message to all participants, Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lalit Bohra conveyed that Yoga can be performed by all age groups. He said anyone can practice Yoga—children and adults alike. It is a proven path to harmonize the body, mind, and soul. Shri Lalit Bohra also highlighted the wide-ranging benefits of Yoga, including its positive impact on various health conditions, weight management, and stress & anxiety management.

## Permanent augmentation of trains : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, June 18 : In order to provide comfortable journey to the passengers, it has been decided to permanently augment by South Central Railway to trains with additional coaches on permanent basis as detailed below:

1. The Train No. 07027/07028 Charlapalli-Brahmapur-Charlapalli Special Express will be augmented with One 3rd AC Coach on permanent basis with effect from 13.06.2025 from Charlapalli and from 14.06.2025 leaving from Brahmapur.

Composition: These pair of trains will have 2nd AC-02, 3rd AC-03, Sleeper class

coaches-11, General Second class-05, Second class cum luggage-02 in its composition.

2. The train No. 17243/17244 Guntur-Rayagada-Guntur Express will be augmented with Two Sleeper Class and One 3rd AC Coach on a permanent basis with effect from 18.06.2025 leaving from Guntur and from 19.06.2025 leaving from Rayagada.

Composition: These pair of trains will have 3rd AC-02, Sleeper class coaches-13, General Second class-05, Second class cum luggage-02 in its composition.

People are requested to make use of these special train services.

## Shindawane - Ambale of Pune - Miraj Doubling Project With this, doubling of 145 KM Pune - Satara section is complete : CR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 18 : Central Railway has successfully completed the doubling of the Shindawane-Ambale Ghat section, marking a major milestone in the ongoing Pune-Miraj doubling project. This 9.45 km stretch is widely regarded as the most challenging segment of the entire corridor due to its difficult terrain and complex engineering requirements. With this, the doubling of the important section of Pune – Satara is now complete. The Shindawane-Ambale section was commissioned following the inspection by the Commissioner of Railway Safety on 17.06.2025. With the completion of this section, a total of 258 km out of 279 km of the Pune-Miraj



doubling project has now been commissioned.

The completion of Shindawane – Ambale section posed several engineering and logistical challenges:

- 1 tunnel measuring 140 metres in length
- A ruling gradient of 1 in 100, requiring meticulous alignment and construction planning
- 1 critical viaduct

bridge consisting of 13 spans of 30.5 metres each, with the tallest pier reaching 42 metres, completed within a single calendar year and designed for Long Welded Rail (LWR) compliance

- 5 major viaduct bridges featuring piers and abutments up to 18.3 metres high, with PSC and composite girders
- 30 lakh cubic metres of earthwork in



embankment, with the highest bank reaching 35 metres

- 20 lakh cubic metres of earthwork in cutting, with a maximum depth of 25 metres
  - 23 minor bridges spread across the section
  - 16 sharp curves, including one with a 6-degree curvature
- Overcoming geographical constraints,

high embankments, deep cuttings, and major bridge works, this section stands as a testament to Central Railway's commitment to timely and high-quality infrastructure execution.

This doubling will help decongest the route, enhance punctuality, increase capacity, and facilitate the introduction of additional passenger and freight services.

## Committed to overall growth of the youth, says Meghalaya CM

Tura, June 18 (UNI) : Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma today iterated his government's commitment to the overall growth of the youth, even as he emphasised the importance of education, sports, music, and entrepreneurship.

“Our focus has been on holistic education, and in the last few years, we have ensured renovation, revamp, and new building construction for all

government lower primary schools, secondary schools, and higher secondary schools,” Sangma said.

Inaugurating the newly constructed school building of Dalu Government Higher Secondary School in West Garo Hills district, the Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensure an overall upgrade in infrastructure for educational institutes

and new college infrastructure, including the opening of new colleges.

The two-storey school building was constructed under Mission Education Phase I, a state scheme launched in 2021.

“Captain Williamson Sangma State University, the first state University, is testimony of our government's commitment to accord priority in the education sector”, he

added. Informing that close to Rs. 3000 Crore has been invested in education, sports and entrepreneurship through different programmes including CM Elevate and PRIME, Sangma underscored on the importance of channelising the positive energy of the youth.

“We are building robust sports infrastructures across the state. In the run up to

National Games to be held in our state, we are preparing a plan to promote our sportspersons”, he said.

He asserted that Meghalaya was awarded the hosting right of the National Games because IOA is aware of the state's preparedness and capacity.

“Our youth are our asset and we are doing our best to showcase, groom our talents, be it music or sports”, he added.

## Executive Engineers Cleared Misunderstandings of Customers in Kailas Homes Society

### TOD Meters Are for the Benefit of Electricity Customers!

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kalyan, June 18 : A case has been registered at Khadakpada Police Station regarding the assault on an agency employee while installing a TOD meter in Kailas Homes Society at Gauripada in Kalyan West. Meanwhile, Milind Chaudhary, Executive Engineer of Kalyan West Division, visited the society and cleared the misconceptions of electricity customers regarding TOD meters. Customers have responded positively to the information he provided about the benefits of TOD meters. Mahavitaran is installing such sophisticated TOD (Time of Day) meters across the state with low-voltage electricity consumers. Mahavitaran's new electricity tariff proposal proposes a discount in the rate depending on the time when the consumer uses electricity. This discount will not be available without a TOD meter. The meters being installed with electricity consumers are not prepaid but postpaid. Therefore, the bill will be issued after using electricity as before. Since the meter is modern, it has



new facilities such as accurate reading and continuous understanding of electricity consumption by Mahavitaran and customers on mobile.

The main thing is that Mahavitaran is installing this meter free of cost to the customers through the Central Government sponsored scheme 'Revised Distribution Sector Scheme' (RDSS).

Executive Engineer Chaudhary informed that

so far, 24 thousand low-voltage electricity customers have been installed with TOD meters in the Kalyan West division of Mahavitaran.

Along with this, he mentioned that it is not only the responsibility of Mahavitaran but also the right to install modern meters with customers for accurate electricity bills of customers as per the provisions of the Electricity Regulatory Commission.