

IN BRIEF

Eight Naxals surrender in Mulugu Dist

Mulugu (Telangana), May 31 (UNI) : Eight members of the outlawed CPI (Maoists), including a divisional committee member, surrendered before police in the district on Saturday.

The Naxals surrendered before Mulugu District Superintendent of Police Shabarish P, including one divisional committee member (DVCN), two area committee members (ACM) from Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, a police release said here.

With today's surrender, as many as 355 Naxals have surrendered before the Telangana police, including 68 before Mulugu District Police, from January this year.

The Maoists surrendered after knowing about the welfare measures being implemented by the Telangana government and to lead a peaceful life with their family members, the release added.

Ludhiana West By-Election: Six nomination papers filed today: CEO

Chandigarh, May 31 (UNI) : On the sixth day of filing of nominations for the 64-Ludhiana West seat of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, six nomination papers were filed today.

Punjab's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sibin C stated that today, Jatinder Kumar Sharma, candidate from the National Lok Sewa Party, submitted his nomination paper for the 64-Ludhiana West seat.

In addition, five independent candidates Paramjit Singh Bharaj, Albert Dua, Kamal Pawar, Rajesh Sharma and Neetu have also filed their nominations.

He further informed that a total of 14 nomination papers have been filed so far.

It is noteworthy that due to the public holiday tomorrow, June 1, nomination papers cannot be submitted.

June 2 is the last date for filing of nominations, while the scrutiny of nomination papers will be conducted on June 3, for the June 19 by-election.

Thailand's Opal Suchata crowned 72nd Miss World at spectacular event in Hyd



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, May 31 : In a dazzling display of talent, grace, and resilience, Thailand's Opal Suchata Chuangsri was crowned the 72nd Miss World at the grand finale held on Saturday night at the Hitex Exhibition Centre in Madhapur, Hyderabad.

Kristina Piskova, Miss World 2024, crowned Opal Suchata Chuangsri as her successor. Ethiopia secured the first runner-up position, Poland the second runner-up, and Martinique finished as the third runner-up.

Suchata, who hails from Phuket, Thailand, will receive prize money amounting to

Rs. 8.5 crore. Her victory has sparked celebrations across Thailand as she has brought international acclaim to her country. Opal participated in the competition under the campaign slogan "Opal for Her", inspired by her personal battle with cancer. A cancer survivor since the age of 16, she has been

actively raising awareness about breast cancer and collaborating with organisations to support victims. She continues to inspire youth to take the lead in creating positive change. Born on September 20, 2003, in Phuket, she completed her schooling at Kazonkitsuka School and is

currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Politics and International Relations. Opal began her pageant journey in 2021 and was previously crowned Miss Universe Thailand 2024.

The 72nd Miss World pageant featured contestants from 108 countries. Regional winners included Martinique for the Americas and Caribbean, Ethiopia for Africa, Poland for Europe, and Thailand for Asia and Oceania. Miss India, Nandini Gupta, did not reach the top 8. The prestigious panel of judges included Miss World CEO Julia Morley, actor Sonu Sood, actor Rana Daggubati, IAS officer Jayesh Ranjan, former Miss World Manushi Chhillar, actress Namrata Shirodkar, and Donna.

Among the prominent attendees were Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, several state ministers, actor Chiranjeevi, and many other dignitaries and celebrities.

Govt rolls out subsidised green rotti seeds and multi-crop kits for monsoon

Hyderabad, May 31 (UNI) The Agriculture Department has initiated a large-scale seed distribution programme in preparation for the 2025 monsoon season, aiming to support sustainable agriculture and improve soil fertility.

As part of this effort, green rotti (green manure) seeds are being distributed to farmers at subsidised rates through Agro Rythu Seva Kendras and Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies across the state.

A total of 89,302.10 quintals of green rotti seeds have been made available for distribution, of which 56,262.10 quintals have already been purchased by 1,17,912 farmers. Another 33,040 quintals remain in stock to meet ongoing demand. To ensure seamless distribution, the Agriculture Department has entered into agreements with the Telangana State Seed Development Corporation and the National Seed Corporation. In addition to the regular supply of green rotti seeds, the National Seed Corporation (NSC) has stepped in to supply 5-kg multi-crop seed kits in lieu of the originally allotted Jiluga seeds. These kits, used as green manure in other states, are being introduced in Telangana under the direction of the State Agriculture Minister. The NSC has already distributed 750 such kits and has another 5,000 kits ready for immediate distribution. Each kit, priced at Rs. 635, contains a combination of seeds including sorghum, pearl millet, maize, horse gram (bobbarlu), and another variety of sorghum. Two kits are sufficient for one acre of farmland. The Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao highlighted that using this combination of seeds as green manure will enhance soil fertility, suppress weed growth, and improve water retention in the soil. Farmers are encouraged to adopt these kits alongside sorghum to enrich soil quality and ensure a successful cropping season.

Minister, Uttam Kumar Reddy applauds IAF, demands transparency on Rafale losses

Hyderabad/ New Delhi, May 31 (UNI) : Telangana Irrigation, Food & Civil Supplies Minister and former Indian Air Force pilot Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday hailed the Indian Air Force (IAF) for its precision and bravery during the recent Indo-Pak military operation, calling it "a decisive and outstanding victory."

However, he urged the Central Government to show full transparency regarding reported losses, including the downing of Rafale fighter jets.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters, Reddy said, "We in the Congress party are proud of the Indian Air Force's strikes on nine terrorist camps across Pakistan. But the nation also deserves clarity on our own losses—particularly after confirmation from the Chief of Defence Staff and the Director General of Air Operations that Rafale aircraft were indeed brought down." A graduate of the

National Defence Academy and a former ADC to the President of India, Reddy detailed his operational experience flying MiG-21s and MiG-23s, asserting that his background gives him a clear understanding of both tactical challenges and strategic planning.

He also pointed to his legislative experience, having served on the Parliamentary Defence Committee with Rahul Gandhi and other senior Congress leaders.

Reddy raised alarm over the IAF's declining squadron strength, which currently stands at 31 squadrons—far below the sanctioned 42. "Given the dual threat from China and Pakistan, we should be exceeding our sanctioned strength, not falling short," he warned. He also cited over 10 per cent manpower shortages across the armed forces and delays in recruitment post-COVID as key concerns.

Criticising Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

for failing to deliver even the contracted 24 Tejas Mark-1A jets annually, Reddy echoed Air Chief Marshal AP Singh's frustration. "If HAL fails to deliver, it hampers national security. Technology delayed is technology denied," he said, stressing the need to attract top talent to the Air Force's R&D and operational wings. He also questioned the BJP government's initial denial of losses and criticised their attacks on Rahul Gandhi for asking valid questions. "Transparency is not anti-national. The truth empowers our democracy and helps us improve," he said.

Referring to the ceasefire announcement during the operation, Reddy asked how the U.S. President announced it before Indian and Pakistani military channels confirmed it. "This raises serious questions about the government's coordination and clarity in strategic communication," he said.

Union Minister Somanna inspects redevelopment works

Hyderabad, May 31 (UNI) : Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V Somanna conducted a comprehensive inspection of the ongoing redevelopment works at Bidar Railway Station on Saturday. He was accompanied by Arun Kumar Jain, general manager of South Central Railway (SCR), Bhartesh Kumar Jain, divisional railway manager,

Secunderabad Division, and other senior railway officials. The redevelopment of Bidar Railway Station is being undertaken under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at a cost of Rs 24.35 crore.

During the inspection, the Minister reviewed the progress of key upgrades, including the construction of a new 12-meter-wide foot overbridge, installation of lifts and escalators, improvements

to the booking office, and development of parking and circulating areas.

Somanna emphasised the need to expedite the construction to ensure early completion and directed officials to prioritise passenger convenience and safety throughout the modernisation process.

He also inspected the existing passenger amenities and instructed officials to conduct regular

safety audits and minimise disruptions to commuters during the redevelopment phase. The Minister appreciated the efforts being taken to maintain smooth passenger flow and uphold high standards of safety and security during the infrastructure transformation.

He underlined the importance of efficient crowd management, enhanced security protocols, and robust

passenger assistance measures in view of the extensive infrastructural upgrades.

Earlier in the day, Somanna undertook a Rear Window Inspection of the Nagalpalle-Bidar section under the Secunderabad Division. He closely reviewed the track safety features and discussed further rail development plans in the region with SCR officials, a SCR statement said.



Kharge demands special Parliament session over CDS remarks made in Singapore

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday called for a special session of Parliament, alleging that recent remarks made by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) during an interview in Singapore, raise several important questions. Kharge said the "fog of war is clearing," and it's now evident that the Modi government has "misled the nation." "On his social media handle X, Kharge said, "Our IAF pilots were risking their lives fighting the enemy. We have suffered some losses, but our pilots were safe."

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Flood inundates over a thousand houses in Manipur



Over a thousand houses have been completely inundated by flood as the major rivers flowing in Manipur were all running above the danger levels. Hundreds of people have been taken out of their houses, and relief materials distributed.

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Trump gives Elon Musk sendoff, praising him with "colossal



U.S. President Donald Trump bid farewell to Elon Musk in the Oval Office on Friday, after the billionaire announced his decision to step back from his role at the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). "I just want to say that Elon has worked tirelessly,

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Jack Draper on song as Joao Fonseca goes wrong



Britain's Jack Draper produced a dominant display to outclass Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 and enter the fourth round of the French Open for the first time in his career, here on Saturday.

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BJP champion of inflation: Akhilesh

Lucknow, May 31 (UNI) : Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the champion of inflation and its government should first reduce "profiteering" and "donations" and then talk about reducing inflation.

In a statement issued here, Akhilesh Yadav said that the public should also get the benefit of a reduction in import duty on edible oil, not just the domestic producers. "If the cost is decreasing, then the retail price should also decrease. Is it not that this superficial import duty reduction is only for the benefit of some special importers and producers, not for the public?" he said.

He said that at least this proves that the BJP government has accepted that the rampant inflation has broken the back of the public, and now if this record-breaking inflation is not stopped, then the public will start banging empty oil cans outside the houses of BJP leaders.

The SP chief said that the BJP government should logically fix the cost-profit ratio of food items in favour of the public, meaning it should decide on public interest that no food producer will earn profit more than a certain percentage, but for this, the BJP government will first have to take an oath that it will not collect 'BJP

donations' at least from food companies because when it collects donations from companies, the companies consider the money collected as part of the cost and collect it from the public. He said, "Every tax and donation is ultimately collected from the public. That is why 'BJP donations', apart from tax, become a double blow of the BJP on the public and also the reason for inflation. Now, economists should make a new mathematical formula to add 'BJP donations' to the selling price. If the BJP stops collecting donations, the prices of every commodity and service will automatically come down."

Akhilesh said that 'price cap' has never been in the business mindset of the BJP. "To control inflation, the intention and will to do good for the people is necessary, which a profiteering government like the BJP, which has come to power to fulfil the goals of corruption, never has," he said.

He said, "That is why such announcements will be beneficial only when the import duty is reduced and the prices of goods also come down for the public. Now it remains to be seen whether the news of the fall in the prices of edible oils comes after a few days or else the oil will disappear from the plate of the poor. The poor say today, they don't want BJP," he said.

Akhilesh not serious about social issues: Jaiveer Singh

Mainpuri (UP), May 31 (UNI) Tourism and Culture Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, Jaiveer Singh on Saturday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has no plan to send Sindoor to every house.

Talking to reporters, he said that this wrong fact is being propagated in the media. "In the marriages being organised by the government, the Suhaag items being given in them already used to include Sindoor box, in the same Suhaag box will be given with the name Sindoor.

He said that the woman BJP leader whose obscene video is being said to be viral on social media, is not in the party, she has been expelled in 2022 itself. "Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav's statement on this episode makes it clear that he is not serious on social issues as well, his statement on this issue makes it clear his lightness," he said. Singh said that the state government has a clear policy that strict action should be taken against land mafias. "Strict action will be taken against those who occupy the land of the poor and the weak. The Chief Minister has a clear policy that the officers should identify the land mafia and take strict action against them," he said. He said that the government is working rapidly for the development of religious places in UP. "Work is going on for the development of ancient religious places in Mainpuri. Work is also being done on the expansion of the boundary of Mainpuri city and the establishment of a new housing development colony," he said.

Indian Army conducts trials of next-gen defence technologies under simulated operational conditions

New Delhi, May 31 (UNI) : The Indian Army is currently undertaking extensive capacity demonstrations at key locations across the country, including the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges, Babina Field Firing Ranges, and Joshimath, with dedicated Air Defence equipment demonstrations also scheduled at Agra and Gopalpur. These field trials are being conducted under near-combat conditions, integrating electronic warfare

simulations to assess the performance of cutting-edge defence systems rigorously, a Defence Ministry statement said.

On May 27, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi, visited Babina Field Firing Ranges and reviewed the ongoing demonstrations and interacted with all stakeholders. The demonstrations feature a wide array of advanced technologies developed under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, aimed at accelerating indigenous capability development.

The trials mark a



Students wear masks as they ride bicycles during a rally organised on ‘World No-Tobacco Day’, in Kolkata.

Delivering justice to last citizen of country is our fundamental duty: CJI Gavai

Prayagraj, May 31 (UNI) : Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai on Saturday said that whether it is the judiciary or the executive, it is our fundamental duty to deliver justice to the last citizen of the country.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the newly constructed chambers and multi-level parking building of Allahabad High Court, the CJI said that in the 75 years of the Constitution, the judiciary and the executive have made many such laws, which have contributed greatly to bringing social and economic equality in India. "Land has been taken from the landlords and given to the people. Farmers were made the owners of the land. There are many such laws, under which the working class and labour class of the country were empowered," he said.

On this occasion, he thanked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for

providing funds for such a big facility for the lawyers. He said that this building is being inaugurated today on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Ahilyabai Holkar, who worked in India with a sense of social justice, and is a matter of pride for us.

The CJI said that when Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar presented the final draft of the Constitution of India before the Constitutional Assembly on November 25, 1949, the speech he gave was a direction-giving one for our country. "At that time, he had warned that unless we remove social and economic inequality, democracy will not be able to be established in this country in the true sense. Today we see that in our 75-year journey, our executive and judiciary have made a big contribution to bringing social and economic equality along with equality in India," he said.

He said that as the CM

also said that our Constitution has strongly taken the country forward towards progress in the period of 75 years. "When the Constitution was being made, it was said that it is too federal. Then Baba Saheb had replied that this is such a Constitution which will keep India united and strong in both normal and emergency situations," he said.

He said, "Today we see what the situation is in our neighbouring countries and India today, after 75 years, is not only progressing, but whenever the country faces a crisis, it has remained strong and united. If the credit for this should be given to anyone, it should be given to the Indian Constitution."

The CJI said, "I am happy that after becoming the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India, I have got the opportunity to speak on the holy land of Prayagraj in the first official programme itself. We have had a very close

relationship with Prayagraj. Just now on the stage, Meghwal ji said that Yogi ji is the most powerful and hardworking CM of this country. I would like to say that the land of Allahabad belongs to powerful people."

He said that the land of Prayagraj has a very dignified contribution in the history of UP. "The name of this land is written in golden letters in the legal field. Before independence, Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, Tej Bahadur Sapru and many such legal scholars are named among the few best lawyers of the country," he said.

He said, "Similarly, in the Hindi literature of India, many scholars of Prayagraj like Mahadevi Verma, Harivansh Rai Bachchan, Sumitranandan Pant, Suryakant Tripathi Nirala, Subhadra Kumari Chauhan have made a significant contribution. The entire country also respects the sacrifice of

Man sentenced to life imprisonment for raping, killing girl

Kaushambi (UP), May 31 (UNI) A man was held guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 35,000 by a local court here on Saturday for rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl in Kaushambi district in Uttar Pradesh, prosecution sources said here.

Prosecution sources said that a man filed a report at Kokhraj police station on April 30, 2018 that a man killed his 14-year-old niece by hitting her with a brick. "In this case, the police filed a report against Sita Sharan under the Indian Penal Code and the Pocco Act, and after investigation, presented the charge sheet in the court," they said. The hearing of the case began in the court of Special Judge POC SO Act. "After hearing the arguments of both the parties and examining the evidence available in the file, the court found the accused Sita Sharan guilty of rape and murder of the minor after which Judge Ashok Kumar Srivastava sentenced the accused to life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 35,000," they said.

Chandrashekhar Azad in the history of India's independence."

The CJI said, "Today, by inaugurating this grand building, we are dedicating it to the citizens of the country. I would like to congratulate the Allahabad High Court, its Chief Justice, all the Justice brothers and sisters and all the members of the Bar Association of Allahabad High Court that you have got such a grand building that will make the Bar Association of the entire country jealous

. I keep roaming a lot in the country, have also gone abroad a lot, but I have not seen such a big building and so many facilities for advocates anywhere in the world," he said.

He said, "For this, I would like to thank the CM for giving such a huge amount of funds. Not only this, with the efforts of the CM, work is also being done on judicial buildings in all the districts. In this, all the facilities will be

provided to the judges as well as the parties, litigants and lawyers."

Justice Gavai said that the government and the High Court have taken care not only of the judges and the lawyers but also of the litigants. "We have been told that a big construction will be done on the adjacent plot and great facilities will be provided to the litigants who come there. There will be special facilities for all, including the disabled and women.

All these things show that we work not only for the lawyers or the judges but also for the citizens of the country, who come to the judiciary in the hope of justice," he said.

He said, "I especially want to mention the judges of the High Court who sacrificed their bungalows for this building. This is a unique example between the bar and the bench. Unless the bar and the bench work together, the chariot of justice cannot move forward."

Army Chief reviews operational preparedness in the Pargwal sector of Jammu

Jammu, May 31 (UNI) Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday reviewed the operational preparedness and lauded the role of ex-servicemen in Operation Sindoor during his visit to the Pargwal sector of Jammu.

Jammu-based Defence spokesman Lt Col Suneel Bartwal here said, "COAS General Upendra Dwivedi reviewed operational preparedness in J&K's Paragwal Sector and visited the Tiger Division where he commended troops for their outstanding performance in Operation Sindoor".

He stressed the importance of staying agile and vigilant in response to evolving security dynamics.

The Army Chief also praised BSF's close operational integration with the Indian Army and lauded the bravery of Assistant Commandant Neha Bhandari and her team for defending forward posts in the Akhnoor Sector. He also acknowledged the valuable contribution of ex-servicemen in supporting the armed forces during 'Operation Sindoor'.

40 women BSF constables pass out after completing training

Hoshirpur, May 31 (UNI) A total of 40 women constables who joined the Border Security Force (BSF) on compassionate grounds passed out after completing 24 weeks of rigorous training at the Subsidiary Training Centre (STC) Kharkan near Hoshiarpur on Saturday.

An attestation parade was held to mark the occasion, with Inspector General (IG) of STC BSF Kharkan, Sindhu Kumar, presiding over the event as the chief guest. He was received by Commandant (Training) Ratnesh Kumar and other officers. The recruits presented a general salute to the chief guest and took oath of allegiance to the Constitution and the country under the national flag. Addressing the gathering, IG Kumar congratulated the recruits on completing their training and praised their display of self-confidence, discipline and coordination. He lauded their decision to join the force and urged them to serve the country with courage and commitment.

He also commended the efforts of the training staff and officers led by Commandant Ratnesh Kumar for shaping the recruits into capable and motivated personnel.

Rain lashes plains of Jammu and Srinagar; fresh snowfall in higher reaches, Mughal road shut

Srinagar/Jammu, May 31 (UNI) : Rain lashed the plains of Jammu and Kashmir while higher reaches experienced fresh snowfall, and the Mughal road has been closed for vehicles, officials here said on Saturday.

They said that fresh snowfall was recorded in the higher reaches of Tulail and Razdan Top in Gurez Valley in Bandipora District of North Kashmir, along with Peer Ki Gali in Shopian District in South Kashmir.

They stated that Zojila Pass on the Srinagar-Leh highway also witnessed the fresh spell of snowfall in the Kashmir division, adding, "In the Jammu region, higher reaches in Bhaderwah and Kishtwar also recorded the fresh snowfall, thus dropping down the temperature, which was notching 3 to 4 degrees above the normal."

However, rain lashed the plains of Jammu and Srinagar, they said.

The Jammu and Kashmir meteorological department has predicted a dry spell with light to moderate rain in the coming week till June 8.

A MeT official on

Saturday said that in the past 24 hours, light to moderate rain lashed with thundershower at most places. Poonch, Baramulla, Samba, Jammu and Kathua recorded rainfall with gusty winds, he said.

He said that on Saturday, there will be intermittent spells of light to moderate rain, light snow over isolated higher reaches, thunder at most places with moderate to heavy rain accompanied with intense showers, and gusty winds at a few places. Sharing a week-long weather forecast, the MeT official said that on June 1-2, there will be a brief spell of light rain and thundershowers at isolated places; on June 4-6, the weather will be generally dry with a brief spell of rain and showers towards late afternoon at isolated places; and on June 7-8, there will be a brief spell of rain and thundershowers at scattered places towards afternoon.

"There is a possibility of landslides and mudslides at a few vulnerable places, and intense showers may generate flash floods at isolated places," they said.

Cong directing ‘Char Patta’ drama to divert attention from failed guarantees: Union Minister



Karimnagar, May 31 (UNI) : Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar lashed out at the Congress party, accusing it of staging a political drama titled ‘Char Patta’ with BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha in the lead role under the so-called banner of "Kalvakuntla Arts".

He said the Congress is using such theatrics to divert public attention from its failure to fulfill the promised six guarantees, which he claimed have deeply angered the people of Telangana.

Speaking to the media during his tour of Karimnagar district, where he inaugurated various development works, Bandi Sanjay said that these political distractions will

yield no benefit to the public.“Congress has mastered the art of misdirection, but people are seeing through the façade. The six guarantees remain unfulfilled, and the people will not forgive such betrayal,” he said.

He also hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for increasing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 Kharif crops, claiming it is in line with the BJP's promise to double farmers' income. He noted a significant increase in the MSP for paddy, which has risen from Rs 1,310 during the UPA regime to Rs 2,389 now—an 81 per cent hike.

“Despite soaring fertiliser prices globally, the Modi government is providing subsidised urea, saving farmers Rs18,000 to

Rs 20,000 per acre. The Centre is also ensuring procurement of the entire paddy crop and has spent over Rs 2.29 lakh crore on it over the past decade,” he added.Bandi Sanjay sharply criticised the Telangana Congress government for failing to support farmers during the Yasangi paddy season. He accused the state administration of harassing farmers at procurement centres and failing to provide promised bonuses.

He also condemned the handling of the recent death of 18 cows at the Vemulawada Rajanna temple and demanded better facilities for cattle care. “It is the government's duty to protect these sacred animals and ensure the

comfort of increasing numbers of devotees,” he stated.

Turning his focus to national politics, Bandi Sanjay slammed Congress leader Revanth Reddy’s recent remarks as “treasonous” and disrespectful to the Indian Army. He defended the use of Rafale jets and criticised the Congress party for its past actions on Kashmir, including dual constitutions and flags.

Responding to reports of an alleged meeting between BJP leader Etala Rajender and BRS leader Harish Rao, Bandi Sanjay dismissed it as another Congress-directed drama, similar to the “Char Patta” narrative. “Congress is producing and directing these political theatrics to mask its failures and divert attention from its broken promises,” he alleged.

He reiterated that there would be no alliance between BJP and BRS, branding the latter as a corrupt, family-run party. “People have experienced the deceit of both Congress and BRS. This time, they are ready to give the BJP a chance. No matter how many conspiracies are hatched, BJP’s rise to power in Telangana is unstoppable,” he added.

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao expresses gratitude for Miss World event's grand success

Hyderabad, May 31 (UNI) : Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has extended heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the resounding success of the 72nd Miss World event held in Hyderabad.

The Minister expressed special appreciation to the Miss World Organisation, international participants, officials, and all delegates whose efforts helped make the event a memorable celebration of beauty, culture, and global unity.

He also congratulated Miss World 2025 winner Opal Suchata from Thailand, praising her grace, talent, and inspiring presence throughout the competition.Jupally Krishna Rao further acknowledged the behind-the-scenes teams, departments, and supporters for their dedication and seamless coordination, which played a vital role in showcasing Telangana’s renowned hospitality and cultural richness on the global stage.

He reaffirmed the state government’s commitment to hosting international events that foster cultural exchange and elevate Telangana’s profile as a leading global destination.

Congress committed to tribal welfare: TPCC chief Goud

Khammam, May 31 (UNI) : Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and MLA Mahesh Kumar Goud said on Saturday that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was the first leader to recognise tribal hamlets (thandas) and settlements, laying the foundation for tribal welfare in India.

Addressing the Adivasi Training Classes Programme here, Goud highlighted the Congress' consistent efforts to uplift Adivasi communities through targeted support and welfare schemes.

He noted that Indira Gandhi introduced the Land Ceiling Act to empower tribal communities, while full implementation of the Act was achieved under former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao. Goud added that successive

Congress governments have amended laws to advance tribal welfare and development.

Criticising the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government, Goud accused it of neglecting the Adivasi population. In contrast, he said, the Congress government has introduced several landmark welfare initiatives, such as free bus travel for women and subsidised rice distribution.

Goud credited Rahul Gandhi’s Bharat Jodo Yatra for deepening the party’s understanding of the country's grassroots issues. He added that the caste census, a key part of Rahul Gandhi’s vision, has been successfully conducted in Telangana, thanks to the efforts of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his cabinet.

Reaffirming the party’s commitment to the slogan "Jal, Jungle, Zameen" (Water, Forest, Land), Goud emphasised that the Congress government is actively working for the socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

He highlighted the launch of the Indira Solar-Giri Jal Vikasam scheme as a transformative step for tribal communities. Under the Recognition of Forest Rights (ROFR) Act, the Congress government has granted land ownership rights to 2.30 lakh tribal farmers over 6.69 lakh acres.

Goud accused the previous BRS regime of filing false cases against Adivasis fighting for their podu (forest) lands and failing to act on eligible ROFR claims.

Police crack down on spurious seeds; zero tolerance policy in place

Hyderabad, May 31 (UNI) : In a decisive move to protect farmers and safeguard agricultural integrity, the Telangana Police, in coordination with the Agriculture Department and other agencies, have intensified efforts to curb the sale and distribution of spurious, sub-standard, and unapproved seeds across the state.

Fake or spurious seeds, which are not produced as per standard seed production practices and lack proper field history and quality certification, pose a serious threat to farmers.

These include seeds with low germination rates, poor physical purity, incorrect labelling, and even grains falsely sold as seeds. There are also reports of illegal sales of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) cotton seeds, specifically BG-III cotton, which is banned under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986, and has not been approved by the Government of India for cultivation.

To tackle these issues, the Telangana government has formed Joint Task Forces at the district and unit levels, comprising officials from the Police Department, Agriculture Department, and Seed Corporations. These teams are mandated to identify and take strict action against those involved in the manufacturing, sale,

and storage of such illegal seeds.Legal action is being taken under various laws, including the Seeds Act, 1966; the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983; the Environmental Protection Act, 1986; the Essential Commodities Act; and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Offenders face imprisonment of up to seven years or more for serious violations.

In line with its zero-tolerance policy, the Telangana Police has also invoked the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against habitual spurious seed offenders.Authorities have begun seizing properties used for the manufacture, storage, and sale of such seeds under Section 152(1)(b) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), with appropriate approvals from the concerned revenue officials. This is being implemented as a deterrent to those engaged in these illegal practices.

In recent weeks, major raids were conducted in the districts of Vikarabad and Jogulamba Gadwal, as well as in the police commissionerates of Rachakonda, Warangal, and Ramagundam.

During these operations, large quantities of spurious seeds, along with illegally manufactured pesticides and insecticides,

were seized. Police have confirmed that Preventive Detention proceedings will be initiated against the offenders.

Officials have strongly urged farmers to purchase seeds only from authorised dealers and to avoid buying from unlicensed or fly-by-night operators. The public is encouraged to report any suspicious activities related to seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, or insecticides to the nearest police station.

The Telangana Police emphasised that they hold the highest respect for farmers, who are regarded as the "Anna Data," and reiterated their firm commitment to protecting their interests by ensuring that no one involved in the spurious seed trade will be spared, a statement from DGP office said on Saturday.

BJP slams CM for prioritising optics over governance

Hyderabad, May 31 (UNI) : The Telangana unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday, accusing him of turning the Chief Minister’s Office into a platform for photo opportunities and media spectacles rather than focusing on pressing governance issues.

In a strongly worded statement, BJP State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-Charge NV Subash criticised Revanth Reddy for what he termed “bizarre

and irresponsible” conduct, claiming it was unbecoming of a state leader. Subash alleged that the Chief Minister was echoing narratives that align more closely with Pakistan’s propaganda than the sentiments of Indian citizens.Referring to Revanth Reddy’s recent remarks questioning the Modi government’s military record and its stance on Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), Subash remarked, “Is he living in a fantasy? Even a national daily that once reported such claims retracted them following

clarifications from the Defence Ministry.

Yet, the Chief Minister repeats these falsehoods, seemingly to impress his party high command—Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi—thanks to whom he was parachuted into the CM’s chair.”

Subash questioned Revanth’s respect for the Indian Armed Forces, citing past statements from the Directorate General of Military Operations (DGMO) that contradict the Chief Minister’s claims.

“Even a staunch BJP critic like AIMIM’s

Asaduddin Owaisi has openly called out Pakistan’s duplicity. But Revanth Reddy, in a baffling display of ignorance, appears to legitimise the enemy nation’s narrative,” he said.

Criticising the Chief Minister’s priorities, Subash added, “It is unfortunate that Revanth Reddy seems more excited about sharing the spotlight with Miss World on tomorrow’s front pages than showing solidarity with the nation at a time of heightened tension with our rogue neighbour, Pakistan.”He also mocked

the Chief Minister’s prediction that Rahul Gandhi will become India’s next Prime Minister. “Even his own party members would laugh at that suggestion,” Subash quipped.Calling for greater accountability, Subash urged Revanth Reddy to exercise restraint and responsibility in public discourse. “Such reckless statements not only damage the Chief Minister’s credibility but also tarnish the image of Telangana—a state that played aheroic role in India’s freedom struggle,” he said.

Telangana Muslim JAC calls for united fight against Waqf Amendment Act

Hyderabad, May 31 (UNI) : Demanding the withdrawal of the Wakf Amendment Act, 2025 (WAA), the Telangana Muslim Joint Action Committee (JAC), a body comprising various Muslim groups, organised a 'Maha Dharna' at Dharma Chowk, Indira Park, here on Saturday.

Addressing the gathering, Telangana Muslim JAC convenor and Tehreek Mulsim Shabban President Mushtaq Malik called upon the Muslim community to wage a united and determined fight against the controversial Waqf Amendment Act, urging every political party, organisation, and community group to extend their support to the movement.He alleged the government had introduced the Wakf Amendment Act to grab the properties of Muslims.“It is a systematic attempt by the Modi government to target and weaken the Muslim community economically

by grabbing the Wakf properties,” he said.

Mallik claimed that the Act was already being implemented in several BJP-ruled states despite an interim stay granted by the Supreme Court.“We are seeing systematic demolitions of mosques, dargahs, and other Waqf properties in complete violation of the court’s orders,” he alleged.

“If the Act is allowed to continue unchecked, these encroachments will spread across the country and our centuries-old heritage will be lost,” he said

Highlighting the importance of an inclusive approach, Mallik stressed that the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) should act independently and not fall into the trap of any political party while spearheading the movement against the Act.“Only an independent and credible platform can effectively challenge the draconian legislation and ensure that our rights are

protected,” he said.

Mallik praised the presence of leaders from various political parties and organisations who joined the protest, saying their participation proved that the fight against the Waqf Amendment Act was not confined to any single party or ideology.

The march was attended by a large number of leaders cutting across political affiliations and community groups.

Prominent among them were former PCC President V Hanumatha Rao, former Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir, MBT President Majeedullah Khan Farhat, BRS senior leader Shaik Abdullah Sohail, former MP Aziz Pasha, Telangana Jana Samithi President and MLC Prof Kodandaram, Waqf Board Chairman Syed Azmatullah Hussaini, TMREIS President Faheem Qureshi, Haj Committee Chairman Khushro Pasha Biyabani, and Congress leader Osman Mohammed Khan.

Palm Oil farmers at risk due to import duty cut: Kodanda Reddy

Hyderabad, May 31 (UNI) : Telangana Farmers Commission Chairman Kodanda Reddy has raised strong objections to the Central Government's recent decision to reduce import duties on palm oil, warning that it will severely affect palm oil farmers in the state.In a statement issued on Saturday, Kodanda Reddy said the move is ill-timed and counterproductive, particularly when the Telangana government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is actively promoting palm oil cultivation through a host of incentives and subsidies.

“The Revanth Reddy government has been encouraging palm oil cultivation with attractive support schemes, and farmers have begun to show keen interest. At such a critical juncture, the Centre’s sudden decision to lower import duties is like a bolt from the blue for palm

oil farmers,” Kodanda Reddy said.

He expressed concern that the decision would only benefit import-dependent industries and multinational corporations while inflicting economic harm on local cultivators who have made significant investments in palm oil plantations.

“This is not the first time the Central Government has acted in favour of multinational companies by tweaking import duties. These policies result in windfall profits for corporations but damage the long-term sustainability of domestic agriculture,” he added.

Reddy urged the Union Government to immediately consult with the Telangana state administration before implementing such crucial trade policy changes. “Any import or export policy should not be made at the expense of our farmers.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE
DRM (S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works. Name of Work with its Locality: Replacement of defective Quad cable along with Emergency Control circuit, TSS/SP/ SSP communication and cable joints in Miraj to Latur section of Solapur Division in Central Railway. E-Tender Notice No.: SUR-N-T-2025-26-07 Date: 30/05/2025. Cost of the Work: ₹4,38,53,855.07. Cost of Tender Form: NIL. Earnest Money to be Deposited: ₹36,9,300/-. Completion Period of the Work: 12 Months. Date & Time of Closing of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in : 23/06/2025 at 15.30 Hrs. The details are available in IREPS website. Corrigendum amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/ postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with www.ireps.gov.in The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. For further details please visit www.ireps.gov.in
DRM(S&T) Solapur
वेबद्वारे फायदा को बंद रखित्ती में पर कब्जा मना है

EAST COAST RAILWAY
(1) Tender Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-11-2025, Dt. 26.05.2025
NAME OF THE WORK : (1) IMPROVEMENTS TO TOILETS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORKS IN DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER OFFICE COMPLEX IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/ WORKS/ HEAD QUARTER/ WALTAIR AND (2) PROVISION OF MODULAR KITCHEN IN TYPE-V RAILWAY QUARTERS IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/ WORKS/ SOUTH UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ ESTATE/ WALTAIR.
Approx cost of the work : ₹83,99,168.66, EMD: ₹1,68,000/-
(2) Tender Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-12-2025, Dt. 26.05.2025
NAME OF THE WORK : (1) PROVISION OF UNIT EXCHANGE MATERIAL STORAGE FACILITY FOR VANDE BHARAT SPARES AND (2) COMPRESSED AIR SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AT NCC, VISAKHAPATNAM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / DIESEL LOCO SHED & ELECTRIC LOCO SHED / WALTAIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/ WALTAIR.
Approx cost of the work : ₹1,58,11,045.34, EMD: ₹2,29,100/-
(3) Tender Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-13-2025, Dt. 26.05.2025
NAME OF THE WORK : CONSTRUCTION OF LINEN STORAGE FACILITIES AND MATERIAL STORAGE FACILITIES FOR PESTICIDE AND DISTRIBUTION AT EAST SIDE OF VISAKHAPATNAM STATION IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / WEST / WALTAIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/ WALTAIR.
Approx cost of the work : ₹1,92,14,055.81, EMD: ₹2,46,100/-
(4) Tender Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-14-2025, Dt. 26.05.2025
NAME OF THE WORK : AGGREGATION OF CAPACITY OF SICK LINE BY EXTENSION OF COVER SHED AT NCC, VISAKHAPATNAM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / ELECTRIC LOCO SHED & DIESEL LOCO SHED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/ WALTAIR.
Approx cost of the work : ₹3,61,88,360.33, EMD: ₹3,41,000/-
Completion Period of the Work : 06 (Six) Months (for Sl. No. 1), 08 (Eight) Months (for Sl. No. 2,3 and 09 (Nine) Months (for Sl. No. 4).
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 19.06.2025 (for all Tenders).
No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), PR-183/Q/25-26 Waltair

STANDARD POST

Illegal gambling platforms putting minors and youth at risk

A new report on Sunday raised serious concerns about the growing threat of illegal online gambling platforms in India, especially to vulnerable groups like minors and young adults.

The report by public policy think tank CUTS International warns that these platforms are not only targeting impressionable users with addictive, high-risk games but are also bypassing basic safety checks, such as age verification and identity confirmation.

It highlights that the scale of the problem is massive. Between April 2024 and March 2025, there were more than 5.4 billion visits to the top 15 illegal gambling platforms, spread across 40 mirror websites.

Some platforms like Parimatch, 1xBet, Stake, Fairplay, and BateryBet are among the most visited.

In fact, Parimatch's web traffic in March 2025 was higher than popular platforms like Google India, Amazon, Wikipedia, and Hotstar, revealing the alarming reach of these operations.CUTS International estimates that users are depositing close to \$100 billion annually into these illegal betting platforms.

Many of these platforms are based overseas and use loopholes in India’s payment systems and advertising networks to operate freely, posing a major risk to both consumer safety and national security.

Pradeep Mehta, Founder and Secretary General of CUTS International, said that illegal gambling operators are exploiting India's digital infrastructure while evading any form of accountability.

"This presents a major national security threat and also exposes Indian consumers to serious harm," Mehta said at the report’s release.

One of the most disturbing findings of the report is how easily minors can access these gambling sites.

These platforms often avoid even the most basic checks like KYC (Know Your Customer) or age verification.

Some even offer cash-on-delivery payment options, allowing teenagers with no access to digital wallets or cards to gamble repeatedly without any supervision.

The use of high-stakes, psychologically addictive game designs makes them even more dangerous for young, sensation-seeking users.

The report also reveals how these platforms attract such massive traffic. Around 66 per cent of users visit directly, often through saved links, private messages, or bookmarks, giving a false impression of trust and legitimacy. Big media campaigns, celebrity endorsements, billboards, and SEO-boosted search visibility further increase their reach.

ICAR Honors Dr. B. Dayakar Rao at Grand Felicitation Ceremony for His Pioneering Role in Millet Research and Agribusiness Innovation



(By Snaps India)

In a fitting tribute to a visionary scientist, the historic Nizam Club in Hyderabad hosted a grand felicitation ceremony for Dr. B. Dayakar Rao, Principal Scientist at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR) and CEO/Director of Nutrihub, on the occasion of his superannuation. The event celebrated his remarkable contributions to millet research, value chain development, and the transformation of India’s agri-entrepreneurship landscape.

Dr. Rao, part of the 38th batch of scientists recruited into ICAR, leaves behind a legacy defined by innovation, dedication, and national impact. With over three decades of service, he has become synonymous with India’s millet movement, playing a key role in elevating these ancient grains to the center

of national and global food security agendas.

Shri Raghunandan Rao, IAS, Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Telangana, graced the occasion with his esteemed presence at the day-long event held at Nizam Club. He extended his heartfelt respects and lauded Dr. Dayakar Rao for his unwavering dedication to transforming India’s millet ecosystem. As a token of appreciation, he presented a shawl to Dr. Rao, honoring his remarkable contributions.

The celebration was attended by an esteemed gathering of dignitaries, including scientists, bureaucrats, policymakers, religious leaders, celebrities, media professionals, and well-wishers from across the country. The event also highlighted the retirement of his fellow ICAR batch mates, including Dr.



M.V.L.N. Raju, Dr. B.L.N. Reddy, Dr. Mukesh Sehgal, Dr. Asokan R., and Dr. Amrish Tyagi, each distinguished in their respective fields.

"The Editor of Snaps India Mohammad Shamsuddin also praised Dr. Dayakar Rao for his significant contributions to the agriculture industry, calling his work in spearheading the millet revolution one of his greatest achievements." Fareed Barlas, a USA-based philanthropist, has extended his support to globalize millet-based products, with a focus on Canada and Nordic countries including Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. He lauded Dr. Dayakar Rao’s pioneering role in the millet revolution, calling it a game-changer for agriculture. Their collaboration aims to boost international millet markets, advancing health,

sustainability, and rural livelihoods through innovative product development and global value chain integration.

Mrs. Rose talks about her elder brother:

At a young age, my elder brother took on the responsibility of managing our family. He is a God-fearing and hardworking man, and despite carrying many burdens on his shoulders, he never raised his voice. He always remained calm, composed, and deeply dedicated. Even with all the challenges he faced, he excelled in his studies and consistently secured first class.

Today, he is blessed with our 85-year-old mother by his side, and she was present on that special day, witnessing everything with pride and love.

A Catalyst for the Millet

Revolution Dr. Dayakar Rao has been instrumental in building India’s millet ecosystem—from farm to fork. As CEO of Nutrihub, he mentored more than 500 startups and facilitated the development of over 60 millet-based technologies. His work enabled the commercialization of millets across India, supporting both nutritional security and farmer livelihoods.

His efforts were especially lauded during the International Year of Millets 2023, where he served as a key advisor and strategist in showcasing India’s leadership in millet research, production, and innovation. His vision not only revitalized interest in millets but also shaped government policy, private sector engagement, and global awareness.

Tributes from Across the Globe during the ceremony, Sri M. Raghunandan Rao, IAS,

Secretary to the Government, felicitated Dr. Rao and praised his commitment to food and nutritional security. Speaking at the event, Dr. S. B. Barbuddhe, Director of the National Meat Research Institute, described Dr. Rao as “an institution in himself,” highlighting his pivotal role in shaping ICAR’s agri-business ecosystem.

Tributes poured in from across the globe, including a video message from a senior scientist in Ghana. Dr. Kondapi Srinivas, Principal Scientist at the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, reflected on Dr. Rao’s mentorship and policy influence. Ashok Dalwai, retired IAS officer and Chairman of the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, sent a video message commending Dr. Rao’s far-reaching impact on a g r i c u l t u r a l transformation in India.

A Lasting Impact, the felicitation marked more than just a retirement—it celebrated the enduring legacy of a scientist whose work continues to inspire innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship in Indian agriculture. Dr. Dayakar Rao’s journey from researcher to national thought leader is a testament to the power of vision, commitment, and science-driven change.

Kia Announces Prices for New Carens Clavis

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kia India, a leading mass-premium automaker, today launched its Big, Bold Family Vehicle, the new Kia Carens Clavis for Indian consumers at a compelling price starting at INR 11.49 lacs. Designed for modern, big families, this premium recreational vehicle bridges the gap between MPVs and SUVs. With its bold exterior, spacious interior, and advanced features, the Carens Clavis caters to new-age families seeking comfort, versatility, and style.

Style That Commands Attention

The exterior design reflects Kia’s ‘Opposites United’ philosophy, that effortlessly combines a strong presence with a modern and futuristic look. Elements like the Kia Digital Tiger Face, Ice Cube MFR LED headlamps with LED daytime running lights, and Starmap LED connected taillamps, create a distinctive visual identity. Adding to its road presence are R17-43.66 cm (17”) crystal-cut dual-tone alloy wheels, durable front and rear skid plates with a satin chrome finish, metal-painted side door garnish inserts, and a new Ivory Silver Gloss body colour that enhances its premium quotient.

Crafted for Comfort, Built for the Journey

The interior of Carens Clavis combines everyday



practicality with modern luxury and thoughtful design, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable journey for families who love to travel together.

The key comfort features include: Spacious 3rd-row seating and 2nd-row seats with sliding, reclining, and one-touch easy electric tumble for flexible comfort in 6- and 7-seater options

Segment-first walk-in lever (Boss Mode) for effortless access and optimal space adjustment

Best-in-segment 67.62 cm (26.62”) Dual Panoramic Display Panel for a seamless infotainment and driving interface

64-colour ambient lighting to customize the cabin atmosphere

Seat-mounted Smart Pure Air Purifier with AQI Display and roof-mounted diffused air vents for cleaner, evenly distributed airflow

Dual-pane panoramic sunroof offering expansive views and a light-filled cabin

Ventilated front seats and a 4-way powered driver’s seat for enhanced comfort

BOSE Premium Sound System with 8 Speakers delivering rich, immersive audio on every drive

Advanced Safety Suite

The Kia Carens Clavis comes equipped with Level 2 of the Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), having 20 autonomous safety features, including:

Smart Cruise Control (SCC) with Stop and Go

Front Collision-Avoidance Assist- Car, Pedestrian, Cyclist

Front Collision-Avoidance Assist – Direct Oncoming Lane Keeping Assist

Blind Spot Collision Warning

Blind View Monitor in Cluster

Rear Cross Traffic Collision Avoidance Assist

Additionally, as part of the robust standard safety package, it comprises of 18 advanced safety features, including:

Flood inundates over a thousand houses in Manipur, rivers on rampage

Imphal, May 31 (UNI) : Over a thousand houses have been completely inundated by flood as the major rivers flowing in Manipur were all running above the danger levels.

Hundreds of people have been taken out of their houses, and relief materials distributed.

Many people, including women and children, who were taking shelter on the rooftop were safely evacuated. In a daring rescue operations at Imphal East local volunteers managed to reach a house and safely rescued two young children. In coordinated high-risk operations, so far, 277 persons have been evacuated.

Heavy machinery like excavators was utilised at the affected areas to prevent breaches in the flooded areas and clearance of debris in the landslide-affected areas by the Water Resource Department. Eight Relief camps/shelters were opened. Most of the affected people have gone to the houses of their relatives, and about 800 persons were living in the relief camps.

Manipur Governor, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, visited various flood-affected areas of Imphal city. He went around different locations on the banks of the Imphal River, assessing its overall condition. The key locations that were visited included Kangla

Nongpok Thong, Lairikyengbam Leikai, and Singjamei Bridge.

The governor instructed the officials to monitor the river situation closely and to implement pre-emptive measures. Further, directions have been given to Deputy Commissioners to arrange evacuation and temporary relief measures for affected people. SDRF and NDRF units have also been alerted.

Meanwhile, some officials and police conducted an aerial inspection of the flood-affected areas . A disaster management official said there are large numbers of inundation of houses inundated due to breaches/overflow/ seepage. Breaches of river banks were reported at Maiba Khul, Khurai Heikrumakhong, Sanjenthong, Kontha Ahallup, New Checkon, Mahaballi, Koirengei Thumbu Thong in Imphal, and Makhruai village, Viewland, Vakhoh, Karong in Senapati District, and various landslides were reported in Tamenglong, Ukhrul, Noney, Pherzawl districts.

Hundreds of people helped by Assam Rifles, NDRF, SDRF, Fire Brigade, Police, and other agencies were working on the ground to help the affected people.

IG Assam Rifles (S) said eight columns of Assam Rifles, along with boats and

engineers from 57 Mountain Division, are undertaking rescue works. Columns reached all the areas where people reached out to the Assam Rifles helpline, including a major rescue work at All India Radio, where sophisticated machinery and expensive equipment were safely taken out and installed at a safer place to ensure uninterrupted radio service.

Assam Rifles will be providing medicines, food, and other necessary items to the stranded people, he further said. Commander 9 Sector Assam Rifles are monitoring the situation in coordination with state disaster management officials, he added. Assam Rifles troops are stationed in various locations to rush in whenever the government officials and public call for help.

The Ithai barrage has been opened to manage the water level. As more reports of breakage of water banks at Imphal, Nambul, Iril rivers were coming in NDRF team, consisting of 29 personnel with four boats, was deployed in the inundated areas for a search and rescue operation. Twenty personnel with an additional team were kept on standby, equipped with two boats in the inundated areas.

The Fire Services team, consisting 47 personnel with three boats was deployed in the inundated areas .

Israeli military claims to have eliminated Hamas military wing leader Sinwar

Tel Aviv, May 31 (UNI) : The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said on Saturday that the leader of Hamas' military wing in the Gaza Strip, Mohammad Sinwar, had been eliminated along with several senior members of the Palestinian movement in an airstrike on a hospital in the southern Gazan city of Khan Yunis.

"The IDF, in cooperation with the ISA [Israeli Security Agency], conducted a targeted operation against Hamas terrorists who were present in a command and control compound established inside underground infrastructure beneath the European Hospital in Khan Yunis ... The strike was carried out through synchronized action by IAF aircraft, deploying precision-guided munitions simultaneously, targeting the underground compound where key Hamas terrorists — among them Mohammad Sinwar and Mohammad Sabaneh — had recently been present," the IDF wrote on Telegram.

Afghan govt issues 575,000 electronic national IDS to citizens in two months

Kabul, May 31 (UNI) : The National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) of Afghanistan said nearly 575,000 national electronic identity cards (IDs) have been distributed to Afghan citizens over the past two months, local media Tolonews reported Saturday.

According to the NSIA, the services provided included the issuance of 1,978 new paper ID cards and 509 replacement cards, the verification of 2,068 existing documents, and the correction of citizenship information of 3,088 people via the remote portal.

In order to ensure timely and equitable services for citizens, electronic ID distribution centers have been extended to remote areas and districts, facilitating easier access to identification for residents.

I dead in house fire in Philippines

Manila, May 31 (UNI) : Two teenage girls and a young boy were killed in a house fire in Bulacan province, north of Manila, authorities said Saturday.

Rosario Mariano, chief of the Bulakan Municipal Disaster Reduction and Management Office, said the victims, a 16-year-old girl, her toddler brother, and their 15-year-old cousin, died after a fire broke out at their grandmother's house past 1 p.m. local time on Friday.

Mariano said the three victims were napping in a room when the fire broke out. Another child of the family, who was also sleeping, ran out of the burning room to safety. Firefighters extinguished the blaze less than 30 minutes later.

Mariano said the bodies of the three were charred when rescuers arrived at the house. The room's only window was reportedly too small for the children to escape. An initial investigation identified faulty wiring from an overused electric fan as the cause of the fire.

Man arrested after car collides with pedestrians in Britain

London, May 31 (UNI) : A man has been arrested after a car collided with a number of pedestrians in Leicester in central England, police said on Saturday.

The 31-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Two men and two women were injured following the incident shortly after 12:30 a.m. (2330 GMT), reportedly after a fight at the same location, police said. Three of those hurt are in hospital with serious injuries. The man remains in police custody while the investigation is ongoing.

Russia warns Germany against supplying Kyiv with Taurus missiles

Moscow, May 31 (UNI) : Warning Germany of dire consequences should it supply Kyiv with Taurus long-range cruise missiles, Russian ambassador Vassily Nebenzia at the UN Security Council said that if Germany gets directly involved in the conflict, it will give Russia the right to "consider all options" to "properly" respond to such a move.

"Germany is going to be drawn further into a war with Russia through these actions, which will give us the right to consider all options so as to properly respond to this unfriendly step," Nebenzia said.

If Berlin has any common sense left, they should understand possible dire consequences of such actions, the diplomat added. "Germany is going to be drawn further into a war with Russia through these actions (providing Taurus missiles), which will give us the right to consider all options so as to properly respond to this unfriendly step. If there is any common sense left in Berlin, if there are still people there who have not forgotten history, they cannot but understand what these new aggressive actions of Germany against Russia will result in," he explained.

Taking a jibe at German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Nebenzia claimed that Merz cannot fool anyone with his speeches, and his actions could cause Berlin to be drawn into a direct conflict with Moscow, should he stay the current course.

"Afterwards, the German leader did try to backtrack and started to say that Germany was in fact going to help Ukraine to independently produce long-range missiles. Without a doubt, these clumsy manoeuvrings didn't fool anybody," he elaborated.

Russia has been fiercely opposed to any potential German supply of its Taurus long-range cruise missiles to Ukraine, viewing it as a significant provocation.

Hamas says consulting with Palestinian factions on Gaza ceasefire proposal put forward by U.S.



Gaza, May 31 (UNI) : Hamas said on Friday that it is consulting with Palestinian forces and factions regarding the Gaza ceasefire proposal put forward by U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff.

A source from the movement, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the consultations aim

to examine the details of the proposal and ensure its compatibility with Palestinian interests ahead of determining a final position.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday that his government accepts Witkoff's proposal for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release, Israel's state-

owned Kan TV news reported.

Quoting a senior Israeli official, Kan reported that the proposal includes a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza in exchange for the release of 10 living hostages and 18 bodies in two phases. Israel would release 1,236 Palestinian detainees and prisoners, along with the bodies of 180 Palestinians.

Russia to continue military campaign in Ukraine until resolution of core causes

Moscow, May 31 (UNI) : Russia will not halt its military campaign in Ukraine until the underlying causes of the conflict are resolved and peace agreements are formally ratified, senior Russian officials have said.

Andrey Kartapolov, chairman of the Russian State Duma's Defence Committee, ruled out any unconditional ceasefire, stating that Moscow would

continue its assault unless things are not "put into writing".

"We will not agree to a ceasefire just for the sake of it," he said on the country's federal TV agency Channel One, according to Russian-state-media-TASS.

"Only if everything is put in writing, passed into law, ratified by parliaments, and becomes part of a genuine, lasting

agreement—only then can peace be considered. Until then, the special military operation will continue."

Stating that the Kremlin won't be deterred by any "false assurances", he referenced the West's "empty promises" to Moscow in prior negotiations, and said Russia would not be "deceived again by golden illusions".

At the United Nations,

Russia's ambassador

Vassily Nebenzia echoed the same stance, stating that Moscow is willing to consider a ceasefire "in principle", but only if Kyiv takes tangible steps toward a long-term settlement.

"A simple ceasefire is not enough," he told the UN Security Council, reports Sputnik. "We stood at this crossroads before with the Minsk agreements, which were consistently

6,000 people affected by severe weather conditions in Sri Lanka

Colombo, May 31 (UNI) Nearly 6,000 people have been affected by severe weather across Sri Lanka, according to the latest report from the nation's Disaster Management Centre (DMC).

The adverse conditions have impacted 5,974 individuals from 1,579 families, with 1,545 homes sustaining partial damage.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's state-run Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) reported over 50,000 power outages by 8 p.m. Friday, following intense rainfall and strong winds brought by the ongoing monsoon season.

The meteorological department warned on Saturday that heavy rains and winds, gusting between 30 to 40 kilometres per hour, are expected to persist for the

next 24 hours. Residents have been advised to take precautions against localised strong winds and lightning during thunderstorms.

Sri Lanka, due to its position as a tropical island nation in the monsoon belt is heavily prone to extreme weather events such as these. The country experiences two main monsoon seasons: the southwest monsoon (May to September) and the northeast monsoon (December to March).

These periods frequently bring about heavy rainfall, strong winds, and can lead to widespread flooding and landslides, resulting in damages to infrastructure, affecting sectors such as transport, mobile communications, and causing massive power outages.

violated by Western-

backed Ukraine." Nebenzia added that Russia's military is capable of escalating operations if necessary. "The Russian Armed Forces can continue and ramp up military operations for as long as it takes," he said.

Accusing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of deliberately prolonging the conflict to avoid facing democratic

accountability and corruption allegations, Nebenzia said, "Ending the war means elections, scrutiny, and questions about where the money went."

He also accused some 'warmongers' in Europe of stalling any peace talks, misleading the US and forcing them to stay engaged. "European warmongers are determined to keep America in this," he said.

OPEC+ announces larger-than-expected oil output increase

Vienna, May 31 (UNI) The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, collectively known as OPEC+, announced on Saturday that they will increase oil output by 411,000 barrels per day (bpd) in July.

According to a statement on the OPEC website, the decision was made during a virtual meeting where member countries, including Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman, assessed global market conditions and outlook.

The OPEC+ countries had originally planned to raise output by 134,000 bpd in July as part of a plan to gradually unwind their most recent layer of output cuts. However, the group adjusted its strategy, citing "a steady global economic outlook and current healthy market fundamentals, as reflected in the low oil inventories." The statement also noted that the gradual increases may be paused or reversed subject to evolving market conditions. Initially announced in November 2023, the 2.2 million bpd production cuts were introduced for the first quarter of 2024. The cuts have been extended multiple times since then, with the latest extension pushing them through the first quarter of 2025.

Death toll of Indonesia's quarry landslides rises to 14

Jakarta, May 31 (UNI) : The number of casualties of landslides at a quarry in Indonesia's West Java province increased to 14, and 11 others are still missing, an official said on Saturday. Search for the missing victims after the landslides on Friday in the Gunung Kuda mine located in Bobos village of Cirebon Regency is ongoing, said Hadi Rahmat Hardjasasmita, spokesperson for the Disaster Management and Mitigation Agency of West Java province. "The number of casualties reached 14, and the number of persons being buried is predicted to be eleven," he told Xinhua. The search operation also involved soldiers, policemen, the personnel of the local Disaster Management and Mitigation Agency, and those from other government institutions. "However, large amounts of landslide materials and worries about further landslides during the evacuation are challenging the operation," he said. The authorities in the province had warned the firm operating in the mine of violating technical procedures in mining methods, said Vivi Silvia C., a press officer at the Administration Office of West Java province.

Myanmar authorities seize 2 million stimulant tablets, 134 kg of heroin in massive drug bust

Naypyidaw, May 31 (UNI) : Myanmar authorities have seized nearly two million stimulant tablets and over 134 kg of heroin in one of the country's largest recent drug busts, valued at about US \$3 million), according to a statement released by the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on tip-off, the operation unfolded late on May 20 in Lewe Township. Led by a joint team from the Drug Enforcement Division, the authorities stopped a Fuso 12-wheel truck late on May 20 as it travelled from Aungnangcho to Pinyinmana, reports Global Light of Myanmar.

The truck, driven by Zin Myo Htet Aung (aka Kala Lay) and accompanied by Min Khant Kyaw and Myat Soe Oo (aka Super), was found to be carrying 1 , 9 9 9 , 4 0 0

methamphetamine pills and 134.2 kilograms of heroin.

Simultaneously, two Chevrolets believed to be escort vehicles were also intercepted. Drivers Thurein Ko Ko, along with Kyaw Myo Hlaing (aka Kyaw Gyi) and Nay Oo Shein, were taken into custody.

The investigation led to further arrests the next morning. At a hotel in Pinyinmana Township, police apprehended Paw Lu (aka Paw Lu Chan), Soe Lwin, and Thein San Htun (aka Kala Lay), believed to be key figures in a trafficking network moving drugs from Shan State to Mandalay.

Legal proceedings have begun for those arrested, with the police stating that efforts are underway to identify and detain additional individuals involved in the massive trafficking operation.

Trump gives Elon Musk sendoff, praising him with "colossal change"

Washington, May 31 (UNI) U.S. President Donald Trump bid farewell to Elon Musk in the Oval Office on Friday, after the billionaire announced his decision to step back from his role at the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). "I just want to say that Elon has worked tirelessly, helping lead the most sweeping and consequential government reform programme in generations," said Trump. Trump credited

Musk with "a colossal change in the old ways of doing business in Washington" and said some of his staff would remain in the administration. "I look forward to continuing to be a friend and advisor to the president," Musk told reporters after Trump handed a golden key as a gift. Having spent approximately 300 million U.S. dollars to back Trump's presidential campaign and other Republicans, Musk

recently said that he plans to cut his political spending substantially, because "I think I've done enough."

In an interview with CBS News on Tuesday, Musk criticized Trump's "One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act," describing the legislation, a mix of tax cuts and enhanced immigration enforcement, as a "massive spending bill" that increases the federal deficit and "undermines the work" of DOGE.

Health

Eat right for a good Sleep



Read on to know what nutrients you need to add to your diet for a peaceful nightly nap. A new study has, for the first time, shown that certain nutrients may play an underlying role in short and long sleep duration, and that people who report eating a large variety of foods — an indicator of an overall healthy diet — had the healthiest sleep patterns.

Long sleep

According to the study, long sleep is associated with less intake of total carbohydrates and other nutrients like:

- 1. **Theobromine:** It is found in tea and chocolate. In fact, it is present in all cocoa products. Though it is a heart stimulant increasing heart beat, it also dilates the blood vessel to lower the pressure.
- 2. **Decanoic acid:** A saturated fat, it is found in mother's milk, dairy products, nuts, seeds and their oils. It is good for the heart and helps reduce total cholesterol. Its antibacterial properties also help fight gastritis.
- 3. **Choline:** Found in eggs and fatty meats that includes beef, liver, fish, crabs, eggs, cauliflower, tofu, almonds, peanut butter and Navy

Short sleep

Experts suggest that short sleep is an issue when the body doesn't get enough of water along with the following:

- 1. **Vitamin C:** Good sources of vitamin C include strawberries, oranges, grapefruit, lemons, papaya, black currant, kiwi and bell peppers. An adequate amount of Vitamin C is also known to build a strong immune system and helps fight diseases.
- 2. **Selenium:** Found in nuts, meat and shellfish, Selenium is a trace mineral important for all body functions and is vital for immunity. Non-vegetarian sources of selenium are tuna, sardines, oysters, shrimps,

clams, chicken, turkey, beef, liver, lamb, pork and eggs. Vegetarian sources include nuts, sunflower seeds, mushrooms, onions, wheatgerm, barley, brown rice and oats. PS: Lutein and Zeaxanthin are two of the most abundant carotenoids found in green leafy. Scientists say how our bodies react to these chemicals can cause bad sleep disturbances.

beans, it contributes to the structure of our cell membranes. It protects the liver from fat deposits and damage, and also offers protection against cardiovascular disease.

About the study

Researchers from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania analysed data from the 2007-2008 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which includes demographic, socioeconomic, dietary, and health-related questions.

Findings

Food variety was highest in normal sleepers and lowest in very short sleepers. Differences across groups were found for many types of nutrients, including proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. The authors found that total caloric intake varied across groups. Short sleepers consumed the maximum calories, followed by normal sleepers. They were followed by very short sleepers who were followed by long sleepers.



How to manage Diabetes in 5 steps

It's a common fact that once you manage to lower your sugar level you need to control in and maintain it so that it doesn't spike.

Besides following a diabetic diet, there are few important parameters that you should have in place. To help you out and to chalk a diabetes control plan we have Dr. Shalini Jaggi, Senior Consultant at Action Diabetic Centre, Delhi based Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute. She tells us five basic ways to control and manage diabetes



effectively. How to manage diabetes Taking regular medications and going for periodic check-ups with doctors helps keep diabetes under control. Following a strict diet keeps diabetes under check. A person with diabetes should follow a diet which is low in carbohydrates, high in fiber and contains adequate amounts of proteins, vitamins and minerals and avoid fatty foods and sweets. He/she should also take frequent small meals (5 meals pattern). A person with diabetes should engage in some brisk physical exercise daily for about 45 minutes to 1 hour. Such lifestyle modifications keep the disease in control to a great extent. To keep one's diabetes in check, a person should do a self monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) level.

Secrets to staying slim



Most people struggle with weight. You may eat healthy and exercise regularly but there may be another problem. For too long, people have lived under a 'clean your plate' mentality. From a young age, people are trained to eat everything before them, whether they fill up or not. Overeating is a serious problem, but you can put an end to it with ease. Along with avoiding uttering the phrase 'super-size', there are measures you can take to stop yourself from eating too much. It may seem difficult, but with a few simple tips you can trick your brain into stopping yourself. You may think this will prevent you from feeling full, but it is quite the opposite. The mind is a powerful tool, and your grumbling stomach doesn't stand a chance. **Small sips** When drinking anything other than water,

sip slowly, and sip small. When drinking large amounts of liquid at once, people don't realise how much they are drinking. Sure it's a liquid, but they have calories too. Some of the biggest offenders are orange juice, beer, soda, and those 'healthy' drinks like vitamin water.

Savour the 'odours'

Now, don't rummage through the garbage for food. Find something with a powerful fragrance. The olfactory glands play a big part in your appetite as well as how your brain reacts to things. In a study, people sat in rooms with varying intensities of vanilla smell. Then they were offered vanilla custard to eat. The ones who smelled it the most already, stopped sooner. The point is when your nose gets a mouthful before you do, you will feel fuller, sooner. Try this with odorous cheeses, vegetables, and seasonings.

Contrast your colours

Mashed potatoes are delicious and you will want seconds. But that may be because you ate off a white plate, and couldn't tell how much you ate. If you eat food off a plate that is very different in colour, you notice yourself clearing space. Your brain takes this as a sign of how much you really ate. It will alert the stomach sooner that you are full, before you gorge.

Use a smaller plate

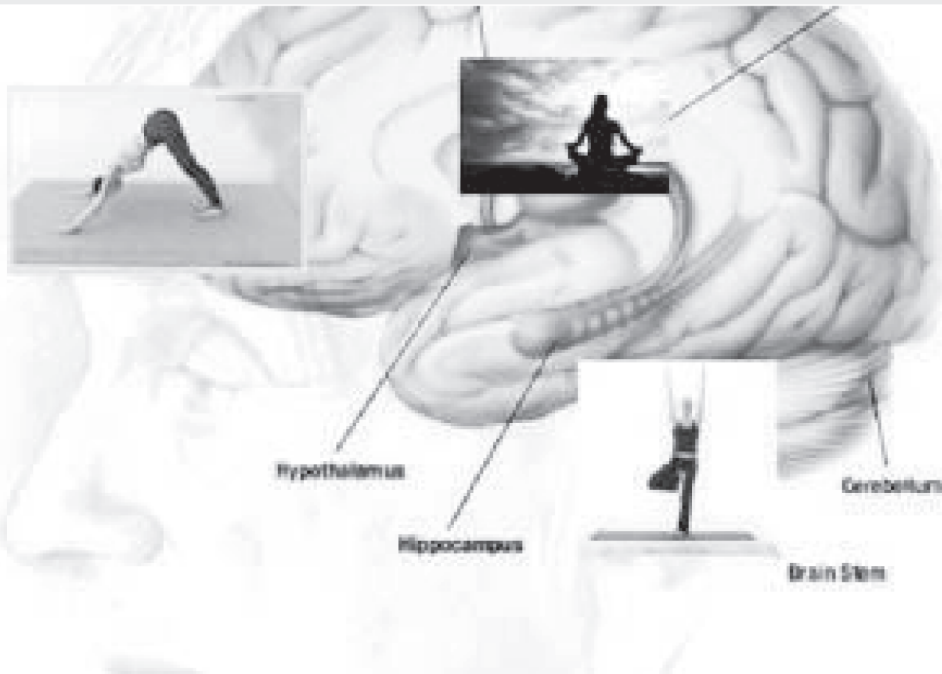
A large plate will appear to fox you of how much food you got. A small plate with the same portion will naturally seem like much more; in some cases, too much more. It's simple as that.

Dim the lights, turn down the tunes

Studies have shown that restaurant atmospheres actually stop people from eating too much. This is to produce a turnover of customers. If it works there, why not try it at home?



20 minutes of yoga boosts Memory



While yoga exercises are known to help build one's physical stamina, a new study has explored the benefits of this ancient Indian practice of meditation for the brain too.

According to the research, 20 minutes of yoga per day effectively improves a person's mental ability in terms of memory and concentration. Moreover, yoga is found to be more effective at boosting brain power than conventional aerobic exercise.

Conducted on 30 female students, the

experiment required the participants to do experimental 20-minute yoga sessions involving seated, standing and supine yoga postures that included isometric contraction and relaxation of different muscle groups and regulated breathing. The session concluded with a meditative posture and deep breathing. The researchers compared the benefits of yoga to vigorous exercises by asking the participants to run on the treadmill for 20 minutes. The cognitive assessment taken post both the sessions revealed that the participants' concentration levels were higher post the yoga session. According to the study, enhanced self-awareness that comes with meditation exercises and the reduction of anxiety and stress leads to increased brain function.

Tweak lifestyle to prevent Thyroid problems

In recent times, the prevalence of thyroid disorders in urban women in their early 30s, has increased and is on the rise.

Earlier, it was unusual for young women to have a thyroid affliction; it was an ailment that scourged older women mostly. "But now," says weight management expert Dr Amrapali Patil, "Almost 30% to 35% of women belonging to this age group are affected." She also claims the phenomenon is global.

According to her, a healthy diet that has all the necessary nutrition and stress reduction in your daily life, may minimise the chance of developing thyroid problems. An under-active thyroid can respond to natural remedies such as acupuncture, yoga, panchakarma, ayurveda etc. And the following can help in hypothyroid states — sea-kelp, selenium, flaxseed oil, zinc and multi-vitamins. Dr Patil talks about some more tips that should be followed to deal with thyroid problems, along with your doctor's prescription...Following a low glycemic index diet (a diet which doesn't enable the immediate pouring of sugar in blood) helps. Cut out energy-sapping foods such as those with high sugar and fat content.

-Also, regular exercise is crucial. Exercise not only enables weight-loss benefits but also releases 'happy hormones' in the body, thereby reducing the stress levels, and helping you deal with low moods and depression.-Strong tea, coffee and tobacco should be avoided when suffering from hyperthyroidism. Supplements having vitamins and nutrients such as riboflavin, lecithin and thiamin may help.



England's bowling all-rounder Jamie Overton ruled out of West Indies ODIs

London, May 31 (UNI) : England's bowling all-rounder Jamie Overton will miss the remainder of the West Indies ODIs due to a broken right little finger.

The all-rounder sustained the injury during England's first ODI victory at Edgbaston on Thursday.

Overton had scored a solitary run with the bat before picking three wickets during the West Indies innings. Playing in just his sixth ODI, Overton's 3/22 were his best bowling figures in the format to date.

England scored 400/8 before winning the game by 238 runs as the tourists were bundled out in the 27th over.

Overton will now undergo a period of rehabilitation under the supervision of the England medical team. No replacement will be added to the ODI squad, an ICC report said.

England v West Indies ODI series:

2nd ODI: Cardiff, June 1
3rd ODI: The Oval, June 3

The two sides will also feature in a three-game T20I series following the conclusion of the ODI contests. This injury compounds England's concerns, as the side are already without Gus

Atkinson who picked up an injury in the one-off Test against Zimbabwe.

Taylor claims joint share of lead in Memorial

Ohio (USA), May 31 (UNI) : Canadian Nick Taylor shot an impressive four-under-par round of 68 to take a share of the lead at the Memorial Tournament in Columbus, here. The 37-year-old made four birdies during his second round as he joined overnight leader Ben

Griffin, who carded an even-par 72, at the top of the leaderboard.

Griffin's fellow American Akshay Bhatia is a further two shots behind the pair in third at five under.

World number one Scott Scheffler is within striking distance after he finished the day at four under following back-to-back rounds of 70 at the Muirfield Village Golf Club, according to a BBC news.

Shoaib Akhtar gets legal notice from broadcaster

Islamabad, May 31 (UNI) : Veteran sports broadcaster and former PTV Sports anchor Dr Nauman Niaz has served a legal notice to former Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, alleging a sustained "malicious defamation campaign" over a period of three years, conducted via television channels and digital media platforms.

In a post on social media platform X, Dr Niaz stated that the campaign against him had been "one-sided" and included repeated personal attacks and "derogatory remarks contrary to reality." He specifically cited Episode



ICC chairman Jay Shah during a meeting with UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin, ahead of Saturday's Champions League final between Inter Milan and Paris Saint-Germain, in Munich on Saturday.

WADA president vows to keep calling out U S anti-doping system flaws

Warsaw, May 31 (UNI) : World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) President Witold Banka vowed to continue speaking out forcefully about what he sees as serious flaws in the American anti-doping system, following his reelection to a third and final term as head of the global watchdog.

Banka, a former Polish sprinter and Minister of Sport and Tourism, along with China's former Winter Olympic champion Yang Yang, was re-elected during a virtual Foundation Board meeting on Thursday.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) later, in a social media post, called it the "ultimate 'bait and switch,' first promising governance reforms following the Russian anti-doping scandal and then

quietly changing the rules the second the world looked away."

On Friday, WADA's president responded to USADA's criticism. "I'm not particularly surprised that such words were said in the USA," Banka told Polish outlet Sportowe Fakty.

"Representatives of this country actually tried to undermine my leadership in WADA and attempted to change the leader. The American government stopped its contribution to WADA, lost a representative on the board of our institution and ultimately also influence on the elections." "I'll continue to speak boldly about the shortcomings of the American anti-doping system," he added.

"Large and highly

developed Western countries love to lecture us all. They love to talk about how the anti-doping system should look, but when we look at their solutions, it turns out that the biggest problem is with them," he said.

"This applies to the US, for example, but also to Germany. When we had the case of 23 Chinese swimmers, they were the loudest, but they don't pay attention to how big a problem they have with their own national systems," Banka explained. Banka and Yang were originally elected as WADA's president and vice president at the 2019 World Conference on Doping in Sport. Both will begin their new three-year terms on Jan. 1, 2026, and serve until Dec. 31, 2028.

Sinner storms into French Open fourth round

Paris, May 31 (UNI) World No. 1 Jannik Sinner delivered a masterclass at Roland Garros, overwhelming Czech Jiri Lehecka 6-0, 6-1, 6-2 in just 94 minutes to secure his place in the fourth round of the French Open.

The Italian top seed has now extended his Grand Slam match-winning streak to 17, following his titles at the 2024 US Open and the 2025 Australian Open. Sinner, who has been in blistering form this season, dictated play from the baseline and barely gave his opponent any room to manoeuvre.

Sinner seized control early, racing to a 6-0, 5-0 lead before Lehecka finally managed to hold serve. In total, the Italian won 91

points to Lehecka's 45 and never faced a break point. He finished with 31 winners to just nine unforced errors, underlining his clinical efficiency. "I felt really good on court today," Sinner said after the match. "We've been working on a few things with my team, and it's great to see it all come together like this."

Lehecka, who has shown promise on hard courts in recent months, struggled to contain Sinner's powerful groundstrokes and swift court coverage. The Czech player was broken seven times during the match and could win only 43% of points on his first serve.

The one-sided contest lasted just an hour and 34 minutes, with Sinner

converting 7 of 18 break points and winning 85% of points behind his second serve — a telling statistic that reflects his all-round dominance. Sinner's next opponent will be 17th seed Andrey Rublev, who advanced following the withdrawal of Frenchman Arthur Fils due to a back injury. With top seed Novak Djokovic and defending champion Carlos Alcaraz both in the opposite half of the draw, Sinner's path to a potential maiden title in Paris remains strong. Having already won the Australian Open earlier this year, Sinner is eyeing his second Major of the season and, on current form, remains one of the top contenders to lift the Coupe des Mousquetaires.

man who carried players' bags during his tenure with the national team, an assertion Dr Niaz has labelled as false, derogatory, and damaging to his reputation.

The legal notice demands an unconditional public apology and a formal retraction of the remarks made. The notice also sets a deadline of 14 days for compliance, failing which defamation proceedings will be initiated under Pakistan's Defamation Ordinance 2002, including a claim for Rs 1 billion in damages. Dr Niaz has emphasised that he has held significant administrative roles within

the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and has contributed extensively to the field of sports journalism over the years. He contends that Akhtar's remarks are part of a broader pattern of targeted attacks intended to undermine his professional standing.

This is not the first time the two public figures have clashed. In October 2021, a widely publicised incident during a live broadcast on PTV Sports saw Dr Niaz asking Akhtar to leave the studio mid-show following an on-air disagreement. The episode sparked national debate and led to both figures being taken off-air temporarily pending an inquiry.

Jack Draper on song as Joao Fonseca goes wrong

Paris, May 31 (UNI) Britain's Jack Draper produced a dominant display to outclass Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 and enter the fourth round of the French Open for the first time in his career, here on Saturday.

Draper, seeded fifth, needed just under two hours on Court Suzanne Lenglen to dismantle the challenge of the 18-year-old Fonseca, who had caught the public's imagination with his fearless run in Paris.

The 23-year-old Briton won an impressive 93 per cent of points on his first serve and saved both break points he faced, while converting five of the 11 break points he earned on the Fonseca serve. The Brazilian, despite flashes of brilliance, struggled with consistency and finished with 38 unforced errors.

Draper dictated terms from the outset, racing through the first set in under half an hour. Fonseca attempted to mount a challenge in the second but failed to sustain pressure on the Draper serve. The third set followed a similar pattern, with Draper maintaining control to seal a comprehensive straight-sets victory. "It's special to reach the second week of a Slam for the first time, and to do it here at Roland Garros feels amazing," Draper said after the match.

Fonseca, who had stunned higher-ranked opponents en route to the third round, exits the tournament with his reputation enhanced. He is the youngest man to reach the third round in Paris since Carlos Alcaraz in 2021.

Draper will next face Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik in the fourth round.

Top players advance as Zheng cruises into French Open last 16

Paris, May 31 (UNI) : Paris Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen of China advanced to the women's singles Round of 16 at the French Open for the second time, as top seeds continued to shine at Roland Garros.

The eighth seed spent under 90 minutes on Friday to beat 18-year-old Canadian qualifier Victoria Mboko 6-3, 6-4 in their first career meeting, marking her second appearance in the last 16 at Roland Garros after her breakthrough run in 2022.

"I was born in China in a really hot place, which is called Wuhan. So I handled the hot weather quite well," Zheng said in her post-match interview.

"Last year, when I played the Olympic Games, it was hotter than this. So actually I like this condition, but I want to say thanks to all the crowd who suffered here under the sun today with me."

Zheng also praised her young opponent. "I want

to say congrats to the opponent because I feel she played really well, and I think we pushed each other to play our best tennis. And sometimes we had really good points. It was not an easy match."

Top seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus also continued her strong showing with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Serbia's Olga Danilovic, advancing into the tournament's fourth round for the third consecutive year.

Four-time winner Iga Swiatek of Poland overcame a spirited challenge from Romania's Jaqueline Cristian in straight sets, stretching her tournament's winning streak to 24 matches. "I'm just happy that I was super solid in the last game and didn't give any free points," said Swiatek. "It was a great match and I think it was pretty entertaining. We both played nice. I'm happy I'm through and happy with the performance." Last year's finalist Jasmine

Paolini of Italy prevailed 6-4, 6-1 over Ukrainian lucky loser Yuliia Starodubtseva for her ninth straight win on clay.

"The first few games were tough," said Paolini. "I had to adjust a little bit with the conditions, but then I felt better on court. Happy to be in the fourth round here in Roland Garros."

On the men's side, defending men's champion Carlos Alcaraz of Spain survived a stern test from Bosnian Damir Dzumhur, eventually sealing a 6-1, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 win. The Spaniard is through to the second week in Paris and will face American Ben Shelton for a spot in the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, 10th seed Holger Rune came from behind to defeat home favorite Quentin Halys 4-6, 6-2, 5-7, 7-5, 6-2.

The Dane has now reached the round of 16 at Roland Garros for the fourth consecutive year. He will meet eighth seed Lorenzo Musetti in the next round.

Ecuador names Valencia, Plata in squad for World Cup qualifiers

Quito, May 31 (UNI) : Brazil-based forwards Enner Valencia and Gonzalo Plata have been included in Ecuador's squad for World Cup qualifiers against Brazil and Peru despite injury concerns, the Ecuadorian football federation said.

Internacional's Valencia has missed the Porto Alegre club's past six games due to a hamstring strain, while Flamengo's Plata has been sidelined since April with a knee injury.

"They are in a complicated situation but they are currently in the process of recovering," Ecuador manager Sebastian Beccacece told reporters on Friday.

The Argentine coach recalled Leonardo Campana and Angelo Preciado, who missed Ecuador's last double header of qualifiers in March with injuries.

As expected, the 28-man squad includes Brighton left-back Pervis Estupinan, Paris Saint-Germain center-back Willian Pacheco and Bayer Leverkusen

defender Piero Hincapié. Ecuador will meet Brazil in Guayaquil on June 5 and Peru in Lima five days later. Beccacece's men are currently second in the 10-team South American group with four qualifiers remaining.

The top six teams will automatically qualify for next year's World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada while the seventh-ranked side will dispute a playoff. Ecuador squad: Goalkeepers: Hernan Galindez, Moises Ramirez, David Cabezas, Gonzalo Valle Defenders: Pervis Estupinan, Cristian Ramirez, Xavier Arreaga, Willian Pacheco, Piero Hincapié, Joel Ordonez, Felix Torres, Angelo Preciado Midfielders: Bryan Ramirez, Jhegson Mendez, Alan Franco, Moises Caicedo, Pedro Vite, Kendry Paez, Alan Minda, Yaimar Medina, Gonzalo Plata, John Yeboah, Jhon Mercado, Nilson Angulo, Denil Castillo Forwards: Leonardo Campana, Kevin Rodriguez, Enner Valencia.

Bipin Singh leaves Mumbai City FC after seven seasons

Mumbai, May 31 (UNI) : Indian Super League (ISL) side Mumbai City FC on Saturday announced that Bipin Singh will be leaving the club after seven seasons. The winger will depart the Islanders upon the expiry of his contract on May 31, having made 158 appearances across all competitions. During his time with the club, he played a crucial role in

helping them win two ISL League Shields and two ISL Cup titles. "It's hard to say goodbye, but I leave with nothing but gratitude in my heart. Mumbai City has been my home for seven unforgettable years; this club has given me everything," Singh told Mumbai City FC. "To the fans, teammates, staff, and everyone who's been part of this journey, thank you for the love and belief. Mumbai City will always be a part of me," he added.

Since joining Mumbai City FC from ATK in 2018, the Manipur-born winger has been an integral part of the Islanders' rise. Over his seven-season spell at the club, he scored 25 goals and registered 11 assists in the ISL, tallying 28 goals across all competitions.

His standout season came in 2020-21, when Mumbai City FC created history by becoming the

first team to win both the ISL Shield and the ISL Cup in the same campaign. He played a key role, contributing six goals and four assists, including a memorable winning strike in the final against Mohun Bagan Super Giant.

Remarkably, he repeated the feat in 2024, once again scoring in the ISL final against the same opponent, helping the Islanders lift their second ISL Cup. Singh departs as one of Mumbai City FC's all-time greats. His 36 goal contributions are the second-highest for the club in the ISL, only behind Lallianzuala Chhangte (40). His 25 ISL goals also place him second on the club's all-time scoring list, just behind Chhangte (26). He made the most appearances for Mumbai City FC in the ISL (129); in fact, he is the only player to have played 100+ ISL games for the Islanders.

In honour of his legacy, Mumbai City FC will retire his iconic number 29 jersey. Kandarp Chandra — CEO, Mumbai City FC, commented, "Bipin's journey with Mumbai City has been truly special. Over the years, he's made a meaningful impact on and off the pitch, delivering key moments and showing unwavering commitment to the club. His connection

with our fans and his contributions to our success speak for themselves." "As we bid farewell, with immense gratitude and pride, retiring the No. 29 jersey is a small gesture to honour everything he has meant to us and the legacy he leaves behind. He will always have a place in the Mumbai City family," Chandra said.

Sujay Sharma - Director of Football, Mumbai City

Bangladesh slip to 10th

Dhaka, May 31 (UNI) : After losing the first two matches of the three-match T20I series against Pakistan, Bangladesh have slipped to No 10 in the ICC Men's T20I rankings in the latest rankings update.

Before the series, Bangladesh were ninth in the rankings. But after the 57-run defeat in the second T20I on Friday in Lahore, the Tigers have slipped down one spot to 10th with 220 rating points, below Afghanistan.

Bangladesh are now ranked 10th in both white-ball formats. The Tigers had slipped to 10th in ODIs earlier this month, the Daily Star reported.

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SWR General Manager Mukul Saran Mathur Inspects Ashokapuram Railway Workshop



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, May 31 : Mr Mukul Saran Mathur, General Manager of South Western Railway, conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Ashokapuram Railway Workshop, Mysore today. He was accompanied by Mr Mudit Mittal, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Mysuru; Mr V.K. Chadha, Chief Workshop Manager; Shri Umesh Kumar, Chief Mechanical Engineer; along with other senior officers of South Western Railway. During the visit, Mr

Mathur reviewed the ongoing works, assessed the progress of various projects, and discussed future development plans for the workshop. He interacted extensively with the employees, gathering insights into workshop performance, earnings, and staff strength.

A highlight of the visit was the ceremonial flagging off of a newly introduced Train Bus, aimed at improving operational efficiency and connectivity. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from employees and senior

officials.

In his address, Mr Mukul Saran Mathur commended the dedication and hard work of the staff and emphasized the importance of adopting modern technologies, continuous skill development, and fostering teamwork to enhance productivity and service standards.

The visit underlined South Western Railway's commitment to infrastructure development, employee engagement, and excellence in railway operations.

Kharge demands special Parliament session over CDS remarks made in Singapore

New Delhi, May 31 (UNI) : Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday called for a special session of Parliament, alleging that recent remarks made by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) during an interview in Singapore, raise several important questions.

Kharge said the "fog of war is clearing," and it's now evident that the Modi government has "misled the nation."

On his social media handle X, Kharge said, "Our IAF pilots were risking their lives fighting the enemy. We have suffered some losses, but our pilots were safe. As per CDS's interview, "we made, remedy it, rectify it, and then implement it again after two days and flew all our jets again, targeting at long range".

"We salute their resolute courage and bravery. However, a comprehensive strategic review is the need of the hour," Kharge said.

He further demanded the constitution of an independent expert committee to conduct a comprehensive review of India's defence preparedness, similar to the Kargil Review Committee established after the 1999 Kargil conflict. Raising concerns over Trump's repeated assertions about brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, Kharge said, "US President Donald Trump has again repeated his claim about BROKERING a CEASEFIRE.

This is a direct affront to the Shimla Agreement".

Shailendra Nath Gupta takes charge as Director General Defence Estates

New Delhi, May 31 (UNI) Shailendra Nath Gupta on Saturday assumed the office of Director General of Defence Estates.

A 1990-batch Indian Defence Estates Service officer, Gupta has a distinguished career in Cantonments and Defence land management, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Prior to this appointment, the officer has served in various capacities including CEO of various Cantt Boards, Defence Estate Officer of various circles, staff officer, Director Defence Estates, Central Command and Principal Director, Defence Estates, Eastern Command.

Directorate General of Defence Estates is responsible for the management and maintenance of about 18 lakh acres of defence land across the country. It operates under six commands, 38 Defence Estates Circles and 61 Cantonment Boards.

Punjab Mail enters its glorious 114th year of Service

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, May 31 : The Punjab Mail, one of the earliest trains in Indian Railways, which continues to cater people, will enter its glorious 114th year on 1st June 2025.

It will complete 113 years of service to its esteemed passengers.

The Journey

- The Punjab Mail first steamed out on 1st June 1912 from the Ballard Pier Mole station, which at the time was a hub for GIPR (Great Indian Peninsula Railway) services.

- The train used to run on fixed mail days from Bombay's Ballard Pier Mole station all the way to Peshawar, covering a distance of 2,496 km in approximately 47 hours.

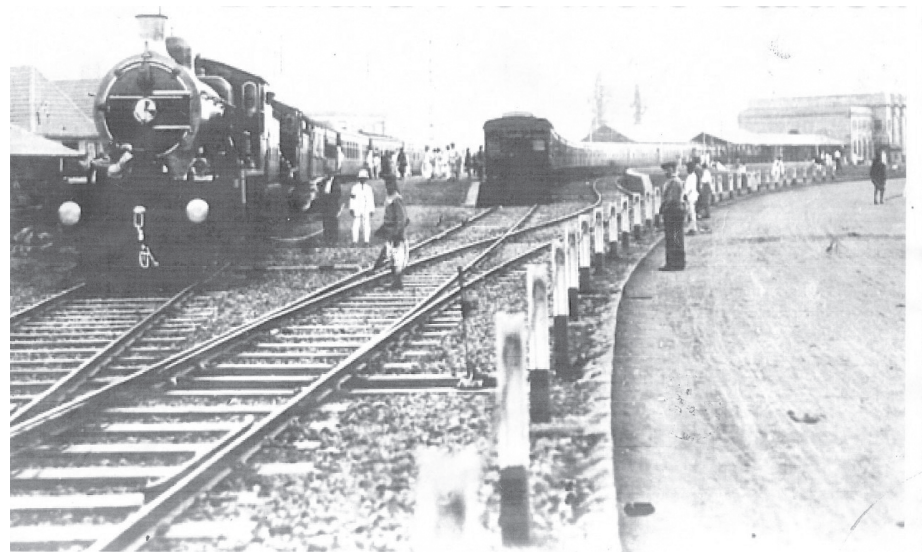
- The train's route ran predominantly over the GIPR track and passed through major cities like Itarsi, Agra, Delhi, and Lahore before terminating at Peshawar Cantonment.

- In 1914, the service shifted to originate and terminate at Bombay VT (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai) and became a daily service covering the 1,541 km, Bombay-Delhi GIPR route in 29 hours and 30 minutes.

- By the early 1920s, this transit time was reduced further to 27 hours and 10 minutes.

- However in 1972, the travel time was extended back to 29 hours with added stoppages.

- Today, the Punjab



Mail covers a distance of 1,928 km between Mumbai and Firozpur Cantonment in 33 hours and 35 minutes halting at 52 stations enroute.

Coaches & Traction over the years

- The train originally consisted of six coaches: three for passengers and three for postal goods and mail. The three passenger coaches carried approximately 288 passengers.

- In the mid-1930s, IIIrd class coaches were introduced.

- In 1945, air-conditioned coaches were introduced.

- In 1968, the train was dieselized up to Jhansi and later extended from Jhansi to New Delhi by 1976, and finally to Firozpur.

- By the late 1970s/early 1980s, dual-current locomotives (WCAM/1) were used to run the train on electric traction up to Igatpuri with a traction changeover for its further journey.

- The conventional coaches of Punjab Mail were replaced with LHB

coaches and the train started running with LHB coaches from 1st December, 2020 onwards.

- The train is now electric-hauled and its restaurant car has been replaced by a pantry car.

- Currently, the train runs with an occupancy of more than 250% and includes: "1 AC First Class cum AC-2 Tier, 2 AC-2 Tier, 6 AC-3 Tier, 6 Sleeper Class, 4 General second class coaches, 1 Generator van and 1 SLR (Second Luggage and Guard van)

Deccan Queen enters its glorious 96th year of Service



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, May 31 : The "Deccan Queen" one of Central Railway's most prestigious and popular train will enter its glorious 96th year of service on 1st June 2025. It will complete 95 years of service to its esteemed passengers.

The train, introduced between Mumbai and Pune, the two premier cities of Maharashtra on 1st June 1930 was a major landmark in the history of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, the forerunner of the Central Railway.

This was the first deluxe train introduced on the railway to serve 2 important cities of the region and was aptly named as "Deccan Queen" or "Dakkan ki Rani"

Journey till now

- The "Deccan Queen" was initially introduced with 2 rakes of 7 coaches each, one of which was painted in silver with scarlet mouldings and the other with royal blue with gold lines.

- The under frames of the coaches of the original rakes were built in England while the coach bodies were built at



Matunga Workshop of the GIP Railway.

- The coaches of the original rakes were replaced in 1966 by anti-telescopic steel bodied integral coaches built by Integral Coach Factory, Perambur. "The number of coaches were increased from 7 to 12

- The old rakes were replaced with new air brake rakes in 1995

- The Mumbai-Pune Deccan Queen was attached with a Vistadome coach with effect from 15.8.2021. This provided passengers a golden opportunity to have a wonderful view of the breathtaking scenery as the train traversed through the Western Ghats.

- All the Conventional coaches of Deccan Queen Express were replaced with LHB coaches in June 2022, under Project Utkrisht. These coaches have modern facilities like LED lights, Bio toilets, Braille Signages etc.

- The train now runs with revised composition of 16 Coaches viz. Three AC Chair Car, 9 Second Class Chair Car, One Vista dome coach, One Dining Car, One General Second class cum Guard's brake van and Generator Car.

First time in India

Deccan Queen has the distinction of having many Firsts to its credit.

- Coaches with roller bearings introduced

for the 1st time

- End on generation coaches replaced with self-generating coaches with 110 volts system for the 1st time

- First and Second class Chair Cars introduced for the 1st time

Unique Feature- The only train with a Dining Car

The Deccan Queen is the only running train with facility of a Dining Car, which offers table service and has modern pantry facilities such as microwave oven, deep freezer and toaster. The dining car is also tastefully furnished with cushioned chairs and carpet.

The history of Deccan Queen (Dakkan ki Rani) is literally a tale of two cities. The public of both the cities are happy with the impeccable record of "right time start" and "arrival" of Deccan Queen. Over the last 95 years of its colourful history, the train has grown from a mere medium of transportation between two cities into an institution binding generation of intensely loyal passengers.

V. Somanna, Minister of State for Railways Lays Foundation Stones for Goods Shed



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, May 31 : V. Somanna, Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, Government of India laid the foundation stones for construction of goods shed at Khanapur Jn. Railway station and Road Under Bridge (in lieu of level crossing no. 71 between Bhalki and Kalgupur Railway stations) today at Khanapur Jn. Railway Station. Mr Rahim Khan, Minister for Municipal Administration & Haj, Govt. of Karnataka; Shri Sagar Eshwar Khandre, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bidar; Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly – Dr. Shailendra K. Beldale, Dr. Sidhhlingappa N. Patil, Prabhu B. Chauhan, Sharanu Salagar and Dr. M.G Muley, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Council & other dignitaries also graced the occasion. Shri Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, SCR; Shri Neeraj Agrawal, Additional General Manager, SCR; Shri Bhartesh Kumar Jain, Divisional Railway

Manager, Secunderabad Division and other officials were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr V. Somanna stated that the goods shed at Khanapur Jn Railway station is being constructed with a cost of Rs. 15 crores. He stated that the station is convenient for new goods shed which will further boost the freight loading in the region. He advised the officials to ensure development of new goods shed keeping in mind the requirements for the next 50 years.

He stated that transportation through Railways is cheaper as compared to road transportation and also helps the small-scale industries in transporting their manufactured goods to different locations. He stated that under the guidance and visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, the Rail developments in Karnataka State are progressing at a fast pace. Further, he stated

that foundation stone has also been laid for construction of Road Under Bridge in lieu of level crossing no. 71 at Bhalki with a cost of Rs. 10.85 crores. He stated that once the RUB work is completed, it will facilitate smooth movement of vehicular traffic and enhances safety.

The Minister of State also informed that the redevelopment of Bidar Railway station has been taken up with a cost of Rs. 24.35 crores and the works are nearing completion. He also stated that Yadgir station is being developed with Rs. 26.12 crores, while Raichur station redevelopment has been taken up with Rs. 21.71 crores in the SCR jurisdiction. Apart from these another 58 Railway stations are being redeveloped under ABSS in Karnataka State. He also stated that the 'KAVACH' train protection system has been deployed on 1465 RKms across SCR jurisdiction and plans for further installation is being taken up in phased manner.