

## IN BRIEF

### TN Dy CM Udhayanidhi suffers from fever, cold, advised rest

Chennai, June 2 (UNI) : Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister and DMK Youth Wing icon Udhayanidhi Stalin was suffering from fever, cold and cough and was advised rest for a few days by doctors.

This was disclosed in an official release by the State government. All his programmes have been postponed as he was advised to take rest, it said.

### Countdown begins for DMK regime, AIADMK-BJP alliance to usher in new governance

Chennai, June 2 (UNI) : Senior BJP Leader and Union Minister L Murugan on Monday charged the DMK as a party that has long abandoned democratic values in favour of family dominance, and said its countdown has begun and the AIADMK-BJP alliance will usher in a new transparent and corruption free governance in 2026.

In a statement here, he said the DMK General Council meeting in Madurai was nothing more than a coronation ceremony--an attempt by its President and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to anoint his son as the political heir.

This entire exercise was aimed at reinforcing dynastic politics within the DMK, a party that has long abandoned democratic values in favour of family dominance, he claimed.

Stating that the people of Tamil Nadu are prepared for a change, he said they will no longer tolerate being looted under the guise of the so-called Dravidian model.

They are ready to deliver a historic verdict--one that will punish the corrupt and reward good governance, Mr Murugan, also a former state President of BJP said."In 2026, the AIADMK-BJP alliance will usher in a new era of transparent, development-oriented, and people-first governance", he said.

"The DMK's plush life, funded by public money, will end. Those guilty of corruption will be held accountable, and the aspirations of the people will finally be realized... The countdown to change has begun", he said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with President of Paraguay, Santiago Pena before a meeting at the Hyderabad House, in New Delhi.

## India key player in global aviation ecosystem: Modi

New Delhi, June 2 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that India plays a significant role in the global aviation ecosystem - not just as a vast market but also as a symbol of policy leadership, innovation and inclusive development."Today, India is emerging as a global leader in space-aviation convergence," the Prime Minister said, noting that the civil aviation sector has witnessed historic advancements over the past decade, which are well recognised, an official statement said.

The Prime Minister addressed the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) 81st Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the plenary session of World Air Transport Summit (WATS) at Bharat Mandapam here.

Emphasising that this

summit and dialogue serve as a platform not only for aviation but also for advancing global cooperation, climate commitments, and equitable growth, Modi highlighted that discussions at the summit will provide new direction to global aviation, unlocking its infinite possibilities and optimising its potential.He remarked on humanity's ability to cover vast distances and intercontinental journeys in mere hours, stressing that the aspirations of the 21st century continue to evolve beyond conventional travel.

He noted the rapid pace of innovation and technological advancements, stating that as speed increases, distant destinations are becoming our destiny.

Underscoring that travel is no longer confined to

cities on earth, with increasing ambitions to commercialise space flights and interplanetary journeys, integrating them into civil aviation,

Modi acknowledged that while such developments will take time, they highlight aviation's future as a centre of transformation and innovation, for which India is fully prepared.

Modi also outlined three foundational pillars driving India's aviation sector, first, a vast market—not merely a collection of consumers but a reflection of India's aspirational society. Second, a strong demographic and talent pool—where young innovators are pioneering breakthroughs in Artificial Intelligence, robotics, and clean energy. Third, an open and supportive policy ecosystem—enabling industrial growth.

## Flood situation continues to be grim in Assam, 3.64 lakh affected, death toll rises to 7

Guwahati, June 2 (UNI) Flood situation continued to remain grim in Assam, with over 3 lakh people reportedly affected by the floods in 17 districts of the state on Monday, even as the human casualty due to floods has increased to 7.Apart from the seven persons who died in the flood, five other people died due to a landslide in Assam's capital town, Guwahati, last week.

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority on Monday said that surging floodwaters have inundated 758 villages in the 17 districts, affecting a total of 364,046 people, including children and women.

The government has opened 52 relief camps and 103 relief distribution centres across the food-hit districts to accommodate the marooned people and to distribute the relief materials.

The ASDMA officials said that one embankment was breached at Kampur Revenue Circle of Nagaon District.

## Tamil Film Director Vikram Sugumaran passes away

Chennai, June 2 (UNI) : Well known Tamil film director and screenwriter Vikram Sugumaran, known for his realistic and rooted storytelling, passed away following a heart attack while travelling by bus from Madurai to Chennai, on Monday.

His sudden demise has shocked the Tamil film industry and saddened fans of meaningful cinema.

Vikram Sugumaran made a strong impression with his debut film "Madha Yaanai Koottam" in 2013, which drew attention for its hard-hitting portrayal of caste tensions in rural Tamil Nadu.

Before venturing into direction, he trained under

the legendary Balu Mahendra and contributed as a dialogue writer to the critically acclaimed film 'Subramaniyapuram' (2008). His storytelling stood out for its cultural depth, raw realism, and commitment to social themes.After a break from the spotlight, Vikram returned in 2023 with Ravana Kottam, starring Shanthanu, Anandhi, Prabhu, and Ilavarasu. Although the film carried expectations, it did not fare well at the box office.

He was also working on a new project titled Therum Borum, focused on mountaineering--an unusual shift from his typically village-centric narratives.

## Nominations open for TN RS polls, contest unlikely, all 6 candidates to be elected unopposed

Chennai, June 2 (UNI) : As filing of nominations for the June 19 biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha to fill six vacancies from the Tamil Nadu Assembly began on Monday, a contest is not on the cards and all the six candidates--four from ruling DMK-Led Front and two from the Opposition AIADMK-led alliance--are likely to be elected unopposed.

Of the six incumbent MPs, five are from the DMK, (including one held by its ally MDMK) and the AIADMK's former ally, the PMK held one seat.

The term of six MPs from Tamil Nadu--Dr Anbumani Ramadoss (PMK), M Shanmugam, N Chandrasegharan, M Mohammed Abdulla, P Wilson (all DMK) and Vaiko (MDMK)--will expire on July 24.The filing of nominations for the elections to the Upper House of Parliament began today with the issuance of the notification.

The last date for filing of nominations was June 9 and the scrutiny would take place the next day.

The last date for withdrawal of nominations is June 12. The elections, if necessary would be held on June 19 and the counting would take place the same day.

Going by their strengths in the State Legislative Assembly, the DMK could win four seats and the AIADMK--two.

The DMK had already announced its candidates for the Rajya Sabha polls by allotting one seat to its ally, actor-politician and Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) Founder Kamal Haasan who is all set to enter Parliament for the first time while deciding to contest the other three seats.

## Anna Univ sexual assault case : Life term awarded to accused

Chennai, June 2 (UNI) : A Special Court on Monday sentenced 37-year-old Gnanasekaran, a DMK sympathizer, to rigorous life imprisonment with a minimum term of 30 years in the sensational state-owned Anna University sexual assault case.

After months of hearing arguments from both the sides, the court concluded the proceedings on May 23, 2025.On May 28, the court found Gnanasekaran guilty of the crime while adjourning the sentence to today.

Awarding the quantum of punishment, the court handed a life sentence to Gnanasekaran, specifying that it should be no less than

30 years of rigorous imprisonment--a rare and stern punishment that underscores the gravity of the offense.

In addition, the court also imposed a fine of Rs 90,000 on the convict.

The Judge said that no remission, parole, or other legal concessions should be granted to Gnanasekaran during this sentence.

However, the court allowed that the period he has already spent in judicial custody since his arrest in December 2023 could be counted toward his sentence.

The case had sparked national outrage due to the heinous nature of the crime and the vulnerability of the

victim involved.

The shocking incident took place on December 23, 2023, in the iconic Anna University campus in Chennai.A second year engineering student was conversing with a fellow male student when an unknown man approached them. He reportedly threatened the duo, assaulted the male student, and chased him away. He then sexually assaulted the young woman on campus grounds.

This horrific act that took place in the premises of one of Tamil Nadu's premier educational institutions, triggered widespread condemnation and protests across the country, demanding swift justice.



## If food providers happy, nation will prosper: Chouhan

Reiterating the goal to ensure that all 1.45 billion citizens of India receive sufficient food, the Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that if the food providers were happy, the nation would prosper.While interacting with the farmers of Bihar at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Piprakothi, East Champaran, on Monday, on the Fifth Day of 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan', Chouhan outlined the goal set by Prime Minister Modi to ensure that all 1.45 billion citizens of India receive sufficient food. He said that if the food providers were happy, the nation would certainly prosper. (See on page 2)

## Karol Nawrocki wins Poland's presidential election



Karol Nawrocki, an independent candidate backed by the opposition Law and Justice (PiS) party, won Poland's presidential runoff election, according to the final vote count released by Polish National Electoral Commission (PKW) early Monday.

( See on page 5)

## Boisson stuns Pegula, Gauff ...



French wild card Lois Boisson sent Court Philippe-Chatrier into raptures on Monday evening with a stunning 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over third seed Jessica Pegula, delivering the biggest upset of the tournament so far at Roland-Garros 2025. Earlier in the day, second seed Coco Gauff powered into her fifth consecutive French Open quarterfinal with a commanding 6-0, (See on page 7)

## SC declines plea against Assam's alleged deportation ...



The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain a plea challenging the alleged "sweeping" deportation drive launched by the Assam government against persons suspected to be foreigners.The petition claimed that these actions were being carried out without proper nationality verification or allowing affected individuals to exhaust their legal remedies. (See on page 8)



# If food providers happy, nation will prosper: Chouhan

Motihari, June 2 (UNI) : Reiterating the goal to ensure that all 1.45 billion citizens of India receive sufficient food, the Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that if the food providers were happy, the nation would prosper. While interacting with the farmers of Bihar at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Piprakothi, East Champaran, on Monday, on the Fifth Day of 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan', Chouhan outlined the goal set by Prime Minister Modi to ensure that all 1.45 billion citizens of India receive sufficient food. He said that if the food providers were happy, the nation would certainly prosper.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister described Piprakothi in East Champaran as a sacred land from where Mahatma Gandhi delivered his profound message of Satyagraha and non-violence to the world. He expressed deep reverence

for the region and said that several initiatives, including the establishment of a Krishi Vigyan Kendra, have contributed to agricultural advancement here. He recalled how this land became a battleground for justice when the British oppressed local farmers and how Gandhiji's movement from here laid the foundation for India's freedom struggle.

Considering himself as the foremost servant of farmers, Chouhan said that the vision of a developed India can only be realized through developed agriculture and prosperous farmers, and collective effort is essential in this mission.

Chouhan specifically interacted with litchi growers and assured that concrete research and efforts will be made to ensure that litchi does not perish within 48 hours of harvest. He said that the government would take

concrete steps to address the issue and directed ICAR scientists to research to develop techniques that extend the shelf life of litchis so that farmers receive fair prices. The litchi growers had raised their concerns about the fruit perishing within 48 hours, resulting in losses. He said that to address the issue, the number of cold storage facilities would be increased to support this effort. Speaking about increased kaise production, Chouhan highlighted that due to the effective policies, maize cultivation in Bihar has surged. With the introduction of ethanol production, the demand and prices for maize have increased. Where maize once sold for Rs1200–Rs1500 per quintal, prices have now gone up significantly. Yields have also improved—from 23–24 quintals per hectare earlier to 50–60 quintals per hectare now. During his visit, Chouhan instructed

scientists to conduct research and develop improved seed varieties for both Basmati and other rice types to further enhance yields. Despite owning small plots of land, Bihar's farmers were producing gold from the soil. He shared that two new rice varieties have recently been developed through research that require 20 percent less water and a 30 percent increase in yield.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to boosting crop production in Bihar, Chouhan stressed the need for not only increasing grain output but also focusing on fruits, vegetables, and flowers to ensure that all 1.45 billion citizens have access to sufficient food.

The Minister said that the government was also planning to explore the export potential of Bihar's flattened rice (chiwra).

Concerned over counterfeit pesticides, he

asserted that strict action will be taken against companies producing fake agrochemicals. No one will be spared, he assured, saying that 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' was an initiative to create miracles in agriculture and to bridge the gap between research labs and agricultural fields. Under the campaign, 16,000 scientists were stepping out of their labs to engage directly with farmers in villages., he informed.

Condemning the terrorist attack of Pahalagam, Chouhan said that India responded strongly by destroying terrorist camps in just 25 minutes, forcing Pakistan to retreat within three days. He added that the Indus Waters Treaty, which had previously allocated 80 percent of the river water to Pakistan, has been annulled, and India has declared firmly that "blood and water cannot flow together." Indian water is for Indian farmers.

## Rahul Gandhi to launch Cong's 'Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan'

Bhopal, June 2 (UNI) : Congress leader and former President Rahul Gandhi will kick-start the party's 'Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan' in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday. This initiative comes after the party's successful implementation of the campaign in Gujarat.

MP Congress President Jitu Patwari said the campaign aims to strengthen the party's organisational structure from the panchayat to the district level, making it more just and equitable. Around 61 observers from across the country will spend three months in MP, holding meetings with workers in every village.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Umang Singh, said that Rahul Gandhi's visit on June 3 will be a historic opportunity for MP Congress, and the 'Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan' will give new energy to the party organisation and direction to the enthusiasm and participation of workers.

The party claims that the campaign was successful in Gujarat, and it will now be implemented in MP and later in Haryana.

## One Killed in firing incident over illegal sand mining in Chittorgarh

Chittorgarh, June 2 (UNI) A young man was shot dead in the Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan, allegedly over a dispute related to illegal sand mining, police said on Monday. Circle Officer Vinay Choudhary said four unidentified men opened fire on Ajay Singh Jhala, who was having lunch at a hotel near Kota national highway in the Kotwali police station area on Sunday, and fled the scene.

Ajay's companions took him to the district hospital, where he was declared dead. The police registered a case under sections related to murder and other offences based on the statements of the deceased's companions, naming some individuals and including around 35 known miscreants.



Troops of the Indian Army and Assam Rifles carry out flood relief operations. The army carried out relief works in Tripura, south Assam, and Jiribam in Manipur, rescuing over 100 civilians from inundated areas, in coordination with civil administration.

# Millions in Vietnam pay emotional respect to sacred Buddha relics that travelled from India

Hanoi/New Delhi, June 2 (UNI) Over seventeen million devotees in Vietnam paid respects and prayed to the Buddhist Holy Relics that travelled from India, in an expression of the close and friendly ties between the two nations. The sacred tour, spanning multiple revered locations from the south to the north of Vietnam, drew more than 17.8 million devotees in total, uniting Buddhists and spiritual seekers in a profound display of reverence and cultural solidarity, a statement said.

The veneration not only affirmed Vietnam's deep-rooted Buddhist heritage but also became a vibrant expression of national unity and peace. Ceremonies included relic processions, meditative gatherings, chanting, and educational sessions, fostering spiritual mindfulness among attendees of all ages. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in a post:

"Celebrating the age old cultural & spiritual connection between India & Vietnam." 14 million devotees paid respects to and prayed at the Buddhist Holy Relics. Travelling from India, the exhibition of these Relics are an expression of our close and friendly ties over centuries."

The Mahabodhi Society of India in posts on X said the sacred Buddha relic was being flown back to India from Vietnam by a special Indian Air Force flight, after a month-long public veneration. "Devotees grew emotional as the relic departed Quan Th? Âm Pagoda in Đà Nẵng for the airport, marking end of a meaningful journey." Earlier, hundreds of devotees had the rare opportunity to glimpse the sacred Buddha relic at Quan Th? Âm Paoda in Đà Nẵng. Earlier, the sacred Buddha relic was ceremoniously carried from Trúc Lâm Yên Tử Zen Monastery in Qu?ng Ninh to Bell Pagoda in Hung Yên Province, Vietnam, for public display. Devotees had the rare opportunity to glimpse the revered relic and pay their respects.

On May 13, the Holy Sarnath Relics of the Buddha entered the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi, and around five lakh people gathered on the streets to welcome the sacred relics. "Emotions were high with many weeping and praying while others chanted aloud."

# Congress slams Nitish government for rape and death of Dalit minor girl

Patna, June 2 (UNI) : Congress on Monday slammed Nitish Kumar government for rape and death of a minor Dalit girl in Kurhni of Muzaffarpur district and took out a protest march to voice its anger over the incident.

Congress took out protest march named as "Halla Bol" to voice its anger over the incident of rape of a minor Dalit girl who was also attacked by the culprits with sharp edged weapon causing serious injuries on 20 spots of her body at Kurhni in Muzaffarpur on May 26. She was being treated in a local hospital and shifted to

Patna on the intervention of Congress leaders, but was left uncared for in an ambulance on the premises of Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) for hours.

She was finally admitted to PMCH, but delay and negligence in treatment led to her death on Saturday morning.

National President of the youth wing of Congress, Uday Bhanu Chib, while speaking on the occasion, said that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar never failed to claim that he had provided good governance to the people

## Haryana BJP leader ridicules Cong for failing to name an LoP

Chandigarh, June 2 (UNI) Taking a dig at the Congress, Haryana Minister and senior BJP leader Anil Vij on Monday said it was "disappointing" that a party which expresses its views on all national issues has failed to name the Leader of the Opposition in the state even after eight months of the formation of the government.

"Congress expresses its views on all national issues and speaks at length about the country's major problems, but they have not been able to decide the Leader of Opposition in just one unit of their own party in a single state – which is very disappointing," said Vij.

Vij was responding to a question regarding Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to Chandigarh and his meeting with Haryana Congress leaders. "It has been over eight months and yet they have not been able to decide on their Leader of Opposition, which is extremely disappointing, especially since several meetings have already taken place and they must have been informed about the matter," he said.

When asked about the infighting within Congress in Haryana, Vij gave a cryptic reply: "Politics is a strange thing.

# Prashant Kishor exhorts people to oust Nitish Kumar government from power

Patna, June 2 (UNI) : Founder of " Jan Suraj " Prashant Kishor on Monday exhorted the people to oust the Nitish Kumar government from power in the next Bihar assembly elections to be held in October-November this year.

Kishor popularly known as PK while addressing a public meeting during his " Badlao Yatra " in East Champaran district

of Bihar, said that it was high time for people of Bihar to oust the Nitish Kumar government from power in the next state assembly elections to be held in October-November this year. The Nitish Kumar government had failed in creating employment opportunities for youths of Bihar, as no factory was established in the state during the last twenty years, he added. " People

should not extend their support to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar even after an appeal made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to them ", PK said, adding that Modi was not at all interested in the development of Bihar. Factories were being established in Gujarat while youths of Bihar were going there to work as labourers, as there were no job opportunities for them in

their home state, he further added. " Jan Suraj is a good option for people of Bihar as the party is prepared to provide a strong political alternative in the next state assembly elections ", Jan Suraj leader said, adding that his party was prepared to serve people of Bihar. Those who had ruled Bihar in the last 35 years were not in a position to fulfill the expectations of the people, he further added.

# World University Games: Shrine Board extends financial assistance to archer Hritk

Jammu, June 2 (UNI) : Promising Archer of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board will be representing India at the World University Games scheduled to be held in Germany.

Shrine Board, Chief Executive Officer, Anshul Garg on Monday said the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) is dedicated to fostering the growth and development of the region's youth.

"To realize this vision, the Shrine Board has established a world-class Sports Complex at Katra as a Centre of Excellence, wherein athletes are being trained to reach their full potential and contribute to the region's sports development and overall well-being," he said in a statement. As part of this endeavor, he said that the Shrine Board has taken a significant step to support budding sports talent, Hritik Sharma, a promising archer from the SMVD Sports Complex, Katra by extending financial assistance amounting to Rs. 2.37 lakh to facilitate his participation in the prestigious World University Games, Germany-2025. He has been training at the Complex since September-2020 and showcased his potential by winning accolades in the Khelo

India University Games, 36th and 38th National Games, 19th NTPC Senior National Championship, North zone Inter university Championship, J&K UT Archery Championship and Second NTPC National Ranking Archery Tournament making him a promising prospect for future sporting excellence.

He said that the sponsorship highlights the Board's dedication to fostering young talent and enabling athletes in the Sports Complex to shine globally. He underscored that by offering vital support, the Shrine Board seeks to facilitate sporting aspirations for bringing accolades to both the region and the nation.

Garg highlighted the Board's sustained investment of Rs.2.5 to 3 crore annually over the past 9-10 years in developing world-class sports infrastructure and nurturing talented athletes at the SMVD Sports Complex. He cited the remarkable success of Rakesh Kumar and Sheetal Devi, two world-class archers trained at the Complex, who have made a significant global impact and were honored with the prestigious Arjuna Awards for their outstanding achievements.

# Bhaderwah in terrorist-infested Doda district of J and K turning into Lavender cultivation hub

New Delhi, June 2 (UNI) Bhaderwah town in terrorist-infested Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a 'fragrant revolution' from obscurity to Lavender production 'adding fragrance' to the hills with young entrepreneurs involved in Lavender cultivation and earning over Rs 65 Lakh annually.

Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, while inaugurating a two-day Lavender Festival 2025 in Bhaderwah, said Lavender had given the small town a national identity and also a national role in India's economic growth, an official spokesman here said.

He also addressed skepticism around India's economic resilience amid aggressive defence postures. "Despite challenging times and operations like Operation Sindoor, India's economy has not only remained buoyant but also grown. That is a fitting reply to skeptics," he asserted.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had boosted the Startup Movement and introduced Bhaderwah's Purple Revolution to the world through a detailed mention in his 'Mann Ki Baat'.

"When the Prime Minister dedicated nearly ten minutes in his 'Mann Ki Baat' to talk about this Lavender mission in detail, it gave the best possible global introduction to Bhaderwah — one that we couldn't have imagined," Dr. Jitendra Singh said.

Fifty distillation units were operational in Bhaderwah, supplying Lavender products to Maharashtra and other states, he said, lauding the Agri-Startup model of Lavender farming as a transformative force that has rewritten the narrative of entrepreneurship in remote and hilly terrains.

The model has not only attracted attention from neighbouring states like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, but also from the North-Eastern states.

"Bhaderwah, once a quiet hilly town, is now a beacon of India's rural startup revolution. Lavender has not just added fragrance to these mountains—it has added identity, income, and inspiration."

"This single mission has answered multiple challenges," Dr Jitendra Singh said, adding "it busted the myth that startups are limited to IT or require foreign degrees. Our youth in Jammu and Kashmir, in collaboration with CSIR-IIIM, have shown that passion, perseverance, and learning can build sustainable ventures rooted in agriculture." He said young entrepreneurs in Bhaderwah are earning an average of Rs 65 lakh annually through lavender cultivation and value-added products, motivating many others to leave conventional jobs and pursue farming as a lucrative business opportunity.



# Dr. Pasupuleti Hariprasad Assumes Charge as Chairman of Lepakshi



(Standard Post Bureau)

Vijayawada, June 2 : Dr. Pasupuleti Hariprasad, a prominent leader of the Jana Sena Party from Tirupati, formally assumed charge on Monday as the Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation (Lepakshi). The ceremony was held with much enthusiasm at the Lepakshi headquarters in Vijayawada, in the presence of his family members and leaders and cadres from Jana Sena, Telugu Desam Party (TDP), and the BJP. The corporation’s Managing Director, Viswa Manoharan, conducted the charge taken ceremony and briefed the new chairman on the institution’s functioning. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Hariprasad expressed his gratitude to party chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, who he said has a deep affection for traditional crafts. Hariprasad remarked that being entrusted with this role has increased his sense of responsibility. He assured that he would work for the welfare and empowerment of artisans in line with the vision of the NDA government, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Dr. Hariprasad shared plans to

expand Lepakshi showrooms and increase sales. He emphasized efforts to revive dying crafts by offering special training programs to interested youth and grooming them into skilled artisans. He promised to utilize his two-year term effectively to ensure Lepakshi’s growth and financial progress.

Addressing the gathering as chief guest, Minister for Civil Supplies Nadendla Manohar stated that Dr. Hariprasad has a proven track record of efficiently handling any responsibility. He emphasized that Hariprasad will work in alignment with the vision of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, who is deeply committed to the promotion of traditional arts and crafts. The minister added that a special action plan would be implemented to popularize Andhra Pradesh’s handicrafts, which are representative of the state’s rich cultural heritage, both nationally and internationally. Noting the increasing market demand for handicrafts and handlooms, Manohar called for well-planned strategies to leverage these opportunities. He also suggested that establishing Lepakshi outlets at major tourist destinations could

significantly boost revenue.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by several dignitaries including Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao, Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu, Tadepalligudem MLA Bolisetty Srinivasulu, former MLA Kilari Roshaiiah, Samineni Udayabhanu, APHMIDC Chairman Srinivasa Rao, Kapu Corporation Chairman Kothapalli Subbarayudu, Krishna and West Godavari DCM Chairmen Bandi Ramakrishna and Murali Krishna, and Jana Sena district presidents from Guntur, Krishna, and NTR districts — Gade Venkateswarlu, Bandreddy Ramakrishna, and Ammishetti Vasu, respectively. Also present were Kapunadu State President Velpuri Srinivasa Rao, TDP leader from Kadapa Hariprasad, Jana Sena leaders Ghanta Swaroop and Keerthana, as well as a large number of party activists, Veera Mahilas, legal cell members, and leaders from all 14 constituencies of the erstwhile Chittoor district. The ceremony began with special prayers, and Lepakshi officials gave a grand welcome with a traditional Poomakumbha reception.

## Ex-CM Jagan Mohan Reddy to console victims of police brutality

Vijayawada, June 2 (UNI) : YSR Congress Party President and former Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will visit Tenali town on June 3 to meet the family of one of three young victims from Dalit and minority communities who were allegedly assaulted by police personnel.

Expressing deep anguish, Jagan Mohan Reddy described the incident as an inhuman act that has shaken the conscience of the state. YSRCP MP from Tirupati, Dr. Maddila Gurumoorthy, met the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Justice V. Ramasubramanian, and the Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), Kishor Makwana, in New Delhi to submit formal complaints.

The MP urged immediate action against the police personnel involved in the brutal assault on three Dalit and minority youths in Tenali town in Guntur district, a few days ago, in public glare and broad daylight. The MP said that former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy would visit the victims of police brutality on Tuesday. Dr. Gurumoorthy highlighted the systemic misuse of the police system by the state government to target YSRCP leaders and suppress marginalized communities, particularly Dalits, tribals, and Backward Classes.

He condemned the rising incidents of custodial violence and lawlessness, the Chandrababu Naidu-led government treating Dalits with contempt and silencing their voices. Both the NHRC and NCSC assured that they would take suo motu cognizance of the issue, issue notices, and register a case to address the grave violations of human rights and constitutional safeguards.

# Kolleru lake residents assured of resolving grievances with humane approach

Vijayawada, June 2 (UNI) : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu stressed the urgent need to protect the environmentally significant Kolleru Lake, while resolving the problems faced by locals with a humane perspective.

On Monday, the Chief Minister held a comprehensive review at the Secretariat at Amaravati near here on court rulings, regulations, central directives, local conditions, and ecological as well as contour-related matters concerning Kolleru. Speaking on the

occasion, the Chief Minister said that in 2018, the National Wildlife Board recommended the exclusion of 20,000 acres of Jirayat and D-Patta lands from the Kolleru sanctuary and proposed new boundaries. A recommendation was sent to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) accordingly.

However, after objections were raised, the Centre sought the opinion of the state government, he revealed. The Chief Minister alleged that the previous YSRCP government, which came to power in 2019, made no

efforts to address the issue. The Chief Minister said, “The Kolleru must not turn into a cesspool of pollution. Drain water entering the lake should be properly treated. The unchecked release of drains is polluting Kolleru—this must be stopped. The drains must be desilted to ensure smooth water flow. Encroachments on Upputeru, which carries water from Kolleru to the sea, must be removed. Silt in Upputeru should be cleared, and all outlets must be completely opened to allow free water flow to the sea. Prepare

estimates and commence work immediately.”

Addressing the concerns of farmers, the Chief Minister stated that there are 20,000 acres of Jirayat and D-Patta lands in the Kolleru area. Given the ongoing contour issues, justice must first be ensured for these farmers. “The state’s proposals must be submitted to the CEC and the Supreme Court, and efforts made to convince them. The action plan must ensure justice not only to the environment and birds but also to the local people,” he mentioned.

## VIMUKTHI urges government to protect rights of sex workers

Vijayawada, June 2 (UNI) : VIMUKTHI, the State Federation of Women Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking, appealed to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to urgently protect the rights of nearly 1.33 lakh sex workers and trafficking survivors in the state.

The Federation demands community-based rehabilitation programs, legal compensation, and inclusion under all relevant welfare schemes. The demand was made by Apoorva, President of VIMUKTHI, during a state-level meeting held on the occasion of International Sex Workers’ Rights Day at the Community Hall in Ranigari Thota, Vijayawada.

International Sex Workers’ Rights Day is observed on June 2nd globally, commemorating the 1975 protest by sex workers in Belgium demanding safety, dignity, and recognition.

Citing the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare’s 2021–22 Annual Report, Apoorva stated that

Andhra Pradesh has the highest number of women in sex work in India, with over 1.33 lakh women dependent on this livelihood. Approximately 2.25 lakh family members rely on them. Including migrant sex workers, the actual number may be even higher. According to APSACS (2022), over 40,000 sex workers in the state are above the age of 40 and unable to exit the profession due to a lack of alternate livelihoods. In Krishna, Guntur, and Prakasam districts, over 35,000 women are engaged in sex work, supporting around 64,000 dependents, including 14,400 elderly women. These women face intense social stigma, loneliness, and mental distress, compounded by poverty and exclusion from state welfare schemes.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), between 2016–2022, 2,460 trafficking survivors were rescued in AP. However, 90 percent received no services or entitlements. Through RTI, VIMUKTHI found that 2,737 survivors were housed in rehabilitation

centers between 2019 and June 2023 of whom 2,265 in Ujjwala home, 447 in Swadhar homes, and 25 victims were in the homes run by NGOs. Yet, only 692 applied for services, and just 592 received any support—a mere 22 percent service coverage. VIMUKTHI also made several demands. Some key demands included phasing out shelter-based rehabilitation and adopting a community-based rehabilitation model, immediate implementation of NHRC recommendations issued in 2020 and 2021, enforcement of 2003, 2012, and 2015 government orders, low-interest loans for alternative livelihoods, ensuring effective implementation of rehabilitation, compensation, healthcare, education, and employment, and institutionalizing community-based rehabilitation at the district and mandal levels.

## Two killed, 21 injured in tractor-trolley accident in MP

Morena, June 2 (UNI) Two people, including a woman, died in a tractor-trolley accident in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh, police said on Monday.

Around 21 people, including women and children, were injured in the accident.

Police sources said the accident took place late Sunday night when a group of people were traveling from village Hati Pura to village Seva for a feast. The tractor-trolley lost control and overturned in the Karah Dham area, resulting in the deaths of Pista, a 30-year-old woman, and Munshi Jatav, a 40-year-old man. The Nurabad police rushed to the scene and shifted the injured to the district hospital, from where five people were referred to Gwalior due to their critical condition.

The police are investigating the cause of the accident.

## Govt approves scheme to boost electric passenger car manufacturing in India

New Delhi, June 2 (UNI) The Central government on Monday approved a forward-looking scheme to promote the domestic manufacture of passenger cars, with a special focus on electric vehicles (EVs).

Addressing a press conference, Union Minister of Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy said, “This landmark initiative aligns with India’s national goals of achieving Net Zero by 2070, fostering sustainable

mobility, driving economic growth, and reducing environmental impact. It is designed to firmly establish India as a premier global destination for automotive manufacturing and innovation”. He said, the scheme is strategically crafted to position India as a global hub for electric vehicle manufacturing. With a minimum investment threshold of Rs 4,150 crore, it provides an enabling policy environment for

leading global and domestic players to establish long-term manufacturing footprints in the country.

Through calibrated customs duty concessions and clearly defined domestic value addition (DVA) milestones, the scheme strikes a balance between introducing cutting-edge EV technologies and nurturing indigenous capabilities, Kumaraswamy said.

## SC agrees to urgently list journalists' plea alleging police assault in MP over sand mafia reports

New Delhi, Jun 2 (UNI) : The Supreme Court today agreed to urgently list a plea filed by two journalists who alleged they were assaulted by Madhya Pradesh police officials in retaliation for their reporting on illegal sand mining activities, often referred to as the 'sand mafia'.

The matter was mentioned before a bench comprising Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, who questioned why the petitioners had not approached the Madhya Pradesh High Court for relief. “Should we entertain all-India anticipatory bail matters only because a journalist is involved?” Justice Sharma asked during the hearing.

According to the petitioners, the incident took place in May in Bhind district, where journalists were allegedly beaten inside the office of the Superintendent of Police. The counsel

representing the journalists submitted that the duo is facing threats to their lives and is at risk of arrest in “false and fabricated” cases. “It’s very serious... they were beaten in a police station... They have now rushed to Delhi to seek refuge,” she said.

Citing financial constraints and lack of safety, the counsel explained why the petitioners had bypassed the Madhya Pradesh High Court and approached the apex court directly.

“This is really one of those cases... they don’t have the wherewithal,” she told the bench.

The counsel also informed the court that the Press Club of India had condemned the alleged assault, emphasising the seriousness of the threat to the journalists’ lives.

Despite their reservations, the bench agreed to urgently list the matter, though it signaled

skepticism about the outcome. “You are running a risk,” Justice Sharma warned, while Justice Karol added, “We are telling you, if it comes before this bench, you know the conclusion.”

The Counsel however requested the court to take up the matter urgently, to which the Apex Court agreed.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

Notice No. eT-SPDME-WAT-313-2025

**Name of Work:** BLOCKING OF TWO DOORS AND REDUCTION OF THE HEIGHT OF REMAINING TWO DOORS IN ALL DOORS IN BOXN & BOXNHL VARIANT WAGONS AT ORE EXCHANGE COMPLEX(OEC), CENTRAL SICK LINE (CSL) AND VISAKHAPATNAM STEEL PLANT SIDDING DEPOTS AND OTHER SPECIAL REPAIR WORKS AT VISAKHAPATNAM STEEL PLANT SIDDING DEPOT OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

**Approx cost of the work:** ₹ 19,17,15,690.02, EMD: ₹ 11,08,600/-, Completion Period of the work: 18 months

**Tender closing date & time:** at 1500 hrs. of 27.06.2025.

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

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

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

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Coaching), Waltair

PR-192/Q/25-26

### Government of India Ministry of Ayush

Applications/nominations are invited from Ayurveda experts for the National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Award 2025. The award has been instituted by Ministry of Ayush, Government of India to be conferred on Ayurveda experts possessing recognized qualifications as per the provisions of National Commission for Indian Systems of Medicine Act, 2020 or the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and having profound contribution - in the field of Ayurveda. The awardees shall be felicitated with the award on the occasion of 10th Ayurveda Day to be celebrated on 23rd September 2025. The details may be accessed on National - Awards Portal, <http://awards.gov.in> Ministry of Home Affairs. Accordingly applications/nominations may be submitted by 30th June 2025.

cbc 17201/11/0002/2526

  
सत्यमेव जयते

**CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES**  
(Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Govt. of India)  
Manasagangotri, Mysuru -570 006  
**DIPLOMA IN LANGUAGE TRAINING**  
(July 2025 – April 2026)  
**(The Last Date for receipt of duly filled-in application at Central Institute of Indian is 30th June 2025) Languages, Manasagangotri, Mysuru**  
Applications are invited for admission to Diploma in Language Training in any one of the Modern Indian Languages viz. Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu at the Seven Regional Language Centres situated at Mysuru, Bhubaneswar, Pune, Patiala, Solan, Lucknow and Guwahati.  
In- service teachers, prospective teachers, research scholars and general public may Manasagangotri, submit their applications to the Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages Mysuru-570006 on or before the date mentioned above. Please visit [www.ciil.org/langtraining.php](http://www.ciil.org/langtraining.php) for further details.  
Application may be filled and submitted either online or Offline at <https://ciil.org/admission>. Applicant who applies Online has to send the hard copy of the application also and if a plicant wants to submit application through Offline may download the mit by post to the Application from website and sub Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Manasagangotri, Mysuru-570 006 without fail before the due date. Application fee may be remitted either through QR code or through a nationalised Bank Demand Draft.  
**Sd/- Director**  
**Central Institute of Indian Languages**  
**Manasagangotri, Mysuru**  
**cbc 21248/12/0001/2526**



STANDARD POST

Panchatantra’ of Business Management

New Delhi: Of the five basic principles governing business management, the first flows from the reality that all business is ‘human’ activity as it is an operation ‘by the people and for the people’. Various facets of business-promotion of a ‘product’ or ‘service’, the role of an investment banker or a regulator and customer outreach- all involve human interaction and even the ‘return on investment’ or ‘profit and loss’ worked for individuals who owned the business and the shareholders who had stakes in the corporate entity.

Business depends a great deal on the concept of ‘productivity’ leading to ‘profitability’ and this is connected with the ‘efficiency’ of individual employees. Efficiency was, by definition, a measure of the ‘output per unit of time’ and was, therefore, a test of the ability of the organisational leadership to produce a stress-free work environment that enabled the members to work with a greater concentration of mind- ‘concentration’ being a prime determinant of the time-output ratio. Business seeks customer loyalty by enhancing its ‘brand’ appeal, offering incentives and utilising the feedback from the people who came in contact with it at any point of time. Any business is, in the ultimate analysis, run by a set of individuals who make decisions for it. The operation of human factors in business is manifested also in its constant endeavour to find innovative ways of reaching out to potential customers through personalised communications based on the analysis of data on their buying preferences. In the highly competitive environment of these times, the advantage of a business entity is largely determined by the extent to which it can reach out to potential customers with a special appeal and retain the loyalty of its existing circle of buyers.

The second principle of management that must be followed by any business is that knowledge-based decision-making is the ‘anchor of success’ there and that the relevance and reliability of the information used for it would largely decide if the right pitch had been laid for achieving the organisational goal.

A couple of guidelines about accessing information would be helpful. Since most information is publicly shared no sooner than it was produced, giving rise to large data banks-thanks to the Information Technology Revolution- the importance of ‘data analytics’ for producing futuristic readings, had sharply increased.

A certain ‘completeness’ of information was desirable since ‘knowledge comes in integral packages’ -an employer with a large work force of men and women, for instance, had to have knowledge of the laws relating to gender harassment at the workplace.

Also, since businesses had to have coverage of a large number of knowledge points ranging from government policies to socio-cultural trends of the times and since all competitors by and large had access to same information in the present, advantage would come to those who could have ‘a peep into what lay ahead’. This is what Intelligence provides making it clear that ‘all Intelligence is information but all information was not Intelligence’.Business Intelligence gives an idea of the opportunities and risks in the future and by availing of the former and averting the latter, a player could secure a competitive edge. Corporates invest substantially in establishing an internal unit for producing insights through ‘data analytics’ and using Artificial Intelligence and ‘Machine Learning’ for enhancing productivity and evolving new products and services. It can be safely predicted that the Age of Information was transiting to the Age of Intelligence’ setting a new benchmark for global competition. It may be mentioned that the use of cyberspace and social media for ‘misinformation’ and resort to ‘deepfakes’ has added a great deal to the importance of the reliability of data being used for business purposes.

The third guideline of management relates to the changed character of the business organisation, itself. In the era of the ‘knowledge economy’ the traditional concept of an ‘organisation’ that had a hierarchy of leadership, a one-way flow of orders ‘from above’ and a marked divide between those who took decisions and the compliers who constituted the bulk of the pyramid, has changed. The output of individual employees- important as it was- has been overtaken by the team performance with the result that the organisation could be deemed to be an ‘assembly of teams’ carrying out various functions and that the role of the Chief Executive Officer was now better defined as the person at the apex who accepted accountability for internal coordination among the teams, general oversight on productivity and liaison with external authorities.

While constituting teams it had to be remembered that ‘diversity’ could be a source of strength, that the team leader and members should act as one without getting distracted by concerns of credit-sharing and that the team had to be enthusiastic enough about ‘beating the dead line’ rather than just meeting it.

A successful organisation is known for three things-that there was a clear understanding across all its members, of the Mission of the collective body, that the boss-subordinate relationship was ‘nurtural’ in the sense that the senior was free to ‘task’ the junior but was available for providing guidance to the latter when asked for and finally that its management was ethical in the sense that it believed in merit-based evaluations and placed emphasis on the integrity of its employees.

A Decade of Security and Empowerment: Reflecting on 10 Years of PMJJBY and PMSBY



Dr.Tapan Singhel, MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

(By Press Information Bureau/ Standard Post Bureau)

In the journey of a nation, certain milestones stand out, not just for the scale of their execution but for the depth of their impact. In India, the introduction of the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) are two such initiatives that provide financial security and empower millions of families across the country.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of these initiatives, we are not merely celebrating insurance schemes but commemorating a decade of resilience, inclusion and transformation.

Launched in May 2015 under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, PMJJBY and PMSBY were envisioned as foundational steps towards financial inclusion for all, particularly for India’s vast uninsured and under-protected population. These schemes opened

new doors in a country where access to formal financial protection was limited by geography, affordability and awareness.

First, let us take a glance at Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY). The **PMJJBY** provides life insurance cover of **₹ 2 lakh** in the unfortunate event of the insured’s death, regardless of the cause. The scheme is open to individuals between the ages of **18 and 50 years** with a nominal annual **premium of ₹ 436**.

**Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** offers a **coverage of ₹ 2 lakh** in case of death or disability. This includes irrecoverable and complete/ partial loss of eyes, hands and feet. For cases involving partial loss, the scheme provides a **cover of ₹ 1 lakh**. It is available to individuals aged **18 to 70 years** with an affordable **annual premium of ₹ 20**. For both the schemes, the insurance coverage is valid for **one year** and must be **renewed annually** to maintain continuity of benefits.

According to the Department of Financial Services, as of February 2025, PMSBY has recorded close to 50 crore enrolments and has disbursed more than 1.52 lakh claims, while PMJJBY has seen about 23 crore enrolments and has disbursed roughly 8.90 lakh claims. These figures underscore the unmatched reach of the schemes, especially across low-income and rural segments.

With such impressive figures, it is important to note that no scheme of this scale can succeed without a robust coalition of stakeholders. Over the years, banks, insurance companies, government bodies and technology providers built a nationwide safety net. The role of banks was critical; they acted as the primary point of contact for millions of people, from enrolment to claim settlement. Insurance companies brought risk expertise and operational efficiencies to run such large-scale schemes. The Government of India was an unwavering guide, ensuring the scheme’s intent was never diluted even as operational challenges surfaced. It is a shining example of how public-private partnerships can drive profound social impact when guided by a shared vision.

These Schemes Matter in India as a large portion of the workforce comprises the informal/ unorganised sector; about 90% are informal workers. Though this sector contributes about 45% to the country’s GDP, it lacks job security, healthcare, and insurance benefits. In such a scenario, schemes like PMJJBY and PMSBY serve as a safety net for millions.

They offer a life of dignity, protect livelihoods, and prevent families from slipping below the poverty line due to a crisis. For many citizens, these schemes are their first interaction with insurance, paving the way for deeper engagement with financial

products.

As we look to the future, it is time to expand the coverage and the ecosystem around these schemes. While millions have enrolled, there are still pockets of the population, especially informal sector workers, migrant labourers, and urban poor, who remain outside this safety net. Targeted outreach programs using new-age technologies and advanced data analytics can help identify those not covered yet and bridge these gaps. Special enrolment drives can target gig workers, women, and farmers who remain under-covered so far. The time is apt to explore cover enhancement. Though meaningful, the ₹ 2 lakh cap may not reflect today’s inflation-adjusted realities. A tiered premium system can be considered, allowing beneficiaries to opt for higher cover levels. Also, we must deploy the latest technologies to improve claim turnaround times and grievance redressal.

Ten years ago, PMJJBY and PMSBY were ambitious ideas. Today, they are living instruments of change, quietly but powerfully transforming lives across India. These schemes remind us that insurance is not just about protection but dignity, opportunity, and hope. The work is far from over, but the path is clear. With continued collaboration and commitment to innovation, we can ensure that the next decade of PMJJBY and PMSBY will be even more impactful.

PM Modi, Paraguayan President hold productive talks, focus on enhancing trade linkages

New Delhi, June 2 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held a productive meeting with the visiting President of Paraguay Santiago Peña, during which the two sides discussed enhancing economic cooperation and trade linkages.

The PM said in a post on X:

“Had a productive meeting with the President of Paraguay, Mr. Santiago Peña in Delhi. Paraguay is a valued partner in South America and our nations are connected by shared values.

“Our talks covered diverse subjects, prime among which was close economic cooperation.

“There is immense potential in boosting trade linkages. We see sectors such as digital technology, critical minerals, energy, agriculture, health and space as key areas where our nations can work together.”

The Paraguay President said in a post on X that “Paraguay is ready to build bridges with India, with a strategic vision and commitment to a shared future of sustainable

growth.”

“India, with its vast population and global leadership in technology and innovation, represents a key strategic partner for Paraguay.

“During my official visit, I had a productive meeting with the Prime Minister @narendramodi , with whom we agreed on the importance of strengthening our bilateral relationship.

“I expressed my gratitude for the warm welcome and shared with him all that Paraguay has to offer the world: clean and renewable energy, fertile land, abundant fresh water, and a hardworking population committed to development and progress.

“We discussed the need to promote closer cooperation in key sectors such as technology, agriculture, health, education, defense, and science, guided by the values we share: peace, development, and mutual respect.”

On his talk with EAM Jaishankar earlier in the day, he posted:

“Together with Indian Foreign Minister Dr.

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, we addressed a broad agenda focused on cooperation in technology, science, education, economics, and trade.

“As a result of this meeting, the foreign ministers of Paraguay and India signed a Memorandum of Understanding that strengthens our bilateral relationship and lays the groundwork for advancing joint projects that benefit both countries.”

The MEA spokesperson said in a post on X that the Paraguayan President strongly condemned the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam and expressed solidarity with the Indian people.

“PM @narendramodi held wide-ranging talks with President @SantiPenap of Paraguay at Hyderabad House. They discussed enhancing cooperation in the fields on agriculture, Pharma, technology, renewable energy, health, critical minerals, railways & people to people contacts.

President @SantiPenap strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack in

Pahalgam & expressed solidarity with the Indian people. Both sides also exchanged views on global & regional issues of mutual interest.”

On the sidelines, India and Paraguay concluded an MoU for the establishment of a Joint Commission Mechanism between the two nations.

It was inked by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Paraguayan counterpart Ruben Ramirez.

The EAM said in a post on X:

“Concluded an MoU with FM @rramirezlezcano for establishment of Joint Commission Mechanism (JCM) between India and Paraguay.

“A significant step in widening our dialogue and cooperation.”

Earlier, the EAM had called on the visiting Paraguayan President at the start of his visit to India.

“Pleased to call on President @SantiPenap of Paraguay at the start of his State Visit to India.

“Appreciate his positive sentiments and guidance for enhancing

Himachal CM inaugurates SDPO Office in Nadaun

Hamirpur, June 2 (UNI) Himachal Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today inaugurated the newly-established office of the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) at Nadaun, aiming to strengthen the law and order infrastructure in the area.

The SDPO office will oversee the functioning of Police Station Nadaun and Police Station Sujampur, enhancing coordination, efficiency, and operational oversight.

Serving a wide jurisdiction that includes 82 Gram Panchayats and one Nagar Panchayat (NAC), the new office is expected to ensure improved policing, faster response times, and more effective supervision of law enforcement activities.

In addition, the Chief Minister also inaugurated the newly-constructed ‘Rajasva Sadan’ at Nadaun, completed at a cost of Rs 18.50 lakh and dedicated the Panchayat Ghar, Kalur constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.14 Crore.

While addressing a gathering in Kalur, the Chief Minister said that when the construction of the Panchayat Ghar started, he was MLA at that time and was happy to inaugurate it today. He announced that the liquor shop in Kalur will be shifted back to its previous location.

He stated that ever since the state government has reinstated the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), the state has been facing financial restrictions from the Union government. As a result, Rs. 1,600 crore as financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh has been curtailed by Union Government. The Chief Minister further announced that the Rajiv Gandhi Day-Boarding School in Amlehar will commence from the next academic session. This will be the first CBSE-affiliated Rajiv Gandhi Day-Boarding School in the state. Along with quality education, the state government will also ensure nutritious meals in this school and in the coming years, around one thousand students were expected to enroll in this institution.

He added that the state government has fixed a minimum support price of Rs. 90 per kilogram for naturally grown raw turmeric, Rs. 40 per kilogram for maize, and Rs. 60 per kilogram for wheat. He also said that improvements in the state’s healthcare services is underway and the medical college and a cancer hospital would soon be operational in Hamirpur.

Sukhu also inspected the ongoing construction of a state-of-the-art Multipurpose Sports Complex at Kharidi in the Nadaun area. Being developed at a cost of Rs 65 crore, the facility is set to become a major hub for sports and youth engagement in the region. He directed the officers to complete the work by the end of this year.

The modern complex will feature an eight-lane swimming pool, a shooting range, and dedicated spaces for wrestling, boxing, kabaddi, yoga, table tennis, and badminton. The Chief Minister stated that similar multipurpose sports complexes are being developed across the state to provide constructive avenues for youth and to help curb the menace of drug abuse.

Emphasising the critical role of sports in promoting a healthy and disciplined lifestyle, the Chief Minister said, “This sports complex will be a symbol of our commitment to nurturing talent and ensuring the physical and mental well-being of our youth.” He later inspected the ongoing work of Rajiv Gandhi Day Boarding School at Amlehar in Nadaun assembly constituency.

bilateral cooperation in many domains.

“Confident that his talks with PM @narendramodi today will open new avenues for India’s engagement with Paraguay and the South America region.”

The President of Paraguay, who has continued with his country’s pro-Taiwan stance, is on a three-day State Visit to India from June 2-4.

President Pena is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers, senior officials and business representatives. He will also visit Mumbai.

The visit is the second by a Paraguayan president to India.

President Peña is a 46-year-old economist and former finance minister.

President Droupadi Murmu is expected to meet President Peña, and host a banquet in his honour.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar is expected to call on the visiting President of Paraguay.

India and Paraguay established diplomatic relations on September 13,

1961, cultivating warm and friendly ties between the two nations.

Both countries have since developed cooperation in various sectors, including trade, agriculture, health, pharmaceuticals and information technology.

Paraguay is an important trading partner for India in the Latin American region. Several Indian companies in the auto-mobile and pharmaceuticals sector have their presence in Paraguay and some Paraguayan companies, mainly through Joint Venture entities, are present in India, thereby contributing to the economic ties between the two nations.

The two countries share common views on various international issues, including UN reforms, climate change, renewable energy, and combating terrorism.

In Mumbai, President Peña will meet the state political leadership, business and industry representatives, startups, innovators and tech leaders.



## Afghan authorities destroy drug lab in southern Kandahar

Kabul, Jun 2 (UNI) :Security personnel have discovered and destroyed a drug processing lab in southern Afghanistan's Kandahar province, a spokesman of the National Army in the province, Nazir Ahmad Shukib, said Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, the security personnel launched operations and discovered the drug lab in Shorabak district on Sunday, the official said.

The security personnel during the operations also recovered 146 kg of materials used in manufacturing heroin and set them on fire, the official further said, adding that five individuals have been detained and referred to judiciary organs for further investigation.

In a similar drive against illegal drugs in the same province, police discovered 14 kg of opium poppy and 90 grams of heroin and took into custody 17 alleged drug smugglers last week.

## Rare gas detected on distant exoplanet sheds light on planet formation: study

Sydney, June 2 (UNI) : Astronomers have detected silicon monoxide gas in the atmosphere of a planet 850 lightyears from Earth, the first time the gas has ever been observed on any planet, including those in the solar system.According to a press release from the University of Newcastle in Australia on Monday, the research offers unprecedented insight into the formation and atmospheric chemistry of exoplanet WASP-121b, also known as Tylos.The planet, discovered in 2015, is an ultra-hot gas giant similar in size to Jupiter but far hotter, with temperatures exceeding 2,500 degrees Celsius, the release said.

The international team, led by Tom Evans-Soma from the University of Newcastle and involved 18 institutions across Australia, Germany, the United States, Britain and India, used NASA's James Webb Space Telescope to observe Tylos continuously for 40 hours, which is the most comprehensive observation ever made of an exoplanet completing a full orbit, it said.Over 3,500 exposures, about one every minute, were captured, allowing researchers to analyze both the dayside and nightside atmospheres, said the study published in Nature Astronomy.

While expected molecules like water vapor and carbon monoxide were found, the surprising detection of silicon monoxide and methane, rare on such hot planets, challenges existing atmospheric models, Evans-Soma said.The study suggests Tylos formed in a cold, distant region rich in ice and rocky material before migrating closer to its star, where intense heat vaporized the rocks into silicon monoxide, a planet born in ice and forged in fire, he said. Though Tylos is uninhabitable, the study advances the search for Earth-like planets by improving techniques to detect potential signs of life in distant atmospheres, he added.

## Afghan police foil attempt to smuggle 790 sheep abroad

Kabul, June 2 (UNI) : The Afghan police have foiled an attempt to smuggle 790 sheep abroad, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock reported late Sunday.Without giving details on whether anyone was arrested on the charge of the case, the ministry added that the police would not allow anyone to smuggle livestock.The police thwarted attempts to smuggle 500 sheep from northern Badakhshan province to neighboring Tajikistan a couple of months ago.

Animal smugglers occasionally try to transport livestock across borders to neighboring countries in pursuit of profit. Afghan security forces remain vigilant and consistently intercept these attempts.

## Myanmar undertakes relief ops in Kachin state following massive flooding

Kachin, June 2 (UNI) : Myanmar authorities are undertaking flood relief operations in Kachin state, following a swollen Ayeyarwady River, which has caused widespread damage to public infrastructure, disrupting communication and transport, as well as damaging homes.According to the state-owned-Global Light of Myanmar, relief efforts by authorities have been ongoing in the city of Myitkyina since the evening of May 31, with ten flood relief camps assisting 4,020 people from 810 households.

Reportedly, the Ayeyarwady River, had risen by about 10 feet that morning, and remains at 1,105 centimetres — just 95 centimetres below the danger level of 1,200 centimetres—causing huge flooding in low-lying areas.Supervised by the state government, Kachin's Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan inspected the flood relief camps, assessed the efforts of state authorities in carrying out relief work, and reviewed the operational readiness of rescue boats and equipment.In addition, he evaluated arrangements for swift evacuations, and search and rescue operations using boats.He urged flood relief team, aided by rescue teams from both the police and the military, to continuously monitor the situation, keep communication lines open and inform the public, conduct timely search and rescue operations, and also presented awards to the rescue teams.He also inspected the flood relief camp at No 12 Basic Education High School in Lekon (Zeelun) Ward, reviewing the conditions of 1,228 evacuated people from 151 households, rallying the public and delivering powerful speeches to the flood victims and provided them with rice, oil, eggs, instant noodles, porridge sachets, and drinking water for their families.



The multi-party Indian delegation led by BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad after paying tribute at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Tavistock Square Gardens in central London on Monday.

## Sudan's PM dissolves government : Reports

Beirut, June 2 (UNI) : Sudanese Transitional Prime Minister Kamil Idris has dissolved the government, Sudanese state news agency SUNA has reported.

Idris informed the government staff of the decision to dissolve the cabinet and assign the secretaries-general and undersecretaries of ministries to run the government's duties until a new government is formed, according to the report published on Sunday.

Idris was sworn in as Sudan's first prime minister since the 2021 military-led coup on Saturday. In a Sunday address, Idris pledged to maintain neutrality among political factions and prioritize stability, security and reconstruction. He outlined a state program centered on comprehensive national recovery.

## Myanmar to implement micro industry project in 198 villages in 2025-26 FY

Yangon, June 2 (UNI) : Myanmar's Department of Small Scale Industries under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development has planned to implement a micro industry project in 198 villages across the country during the 2025-26 fiscal year, state-owned Myanmar Radio and Television reported on Monday.

The initiative aims to help local residents start micro businesses and improve family incomes by providing training, materials, and equipment, the report said.The department will use over 2.47 billion kyats (approximately 1.17 million U.S. dollars) for the project, the report said.

Under the project, the department was offering courses in soap making, sewing, consumer product production, motorcycle repair, in-home electrical wiring, home electronics repair, and diesel engine repair, the report said.

In addition to the training, the department was also providing the necessary tools and materials to support the start of these micro businesses, the report said.

# NKorea deploys mysterious balloons to conceal damage to flagship destroyer

Pyongyang, June 2 (UNI) : North Korea reportedly has deployed a cluster of mysterious balloon-like objects around a partially submerged warship that was severely damaged during a failed launch on 21 May. The balloons, captured by satellite images of Maxar Technologies, look like an apparent attempt to conceal the extent of the damage, and its repairing, according to analysts.

The 5,000-ton destroyer — a flagship of Pyongyang's naval modernisation push — was being launched at a shipyard in the northeastern port city of Chongjin when a malfunction caused it to slip into the water prematurely. The vessel's stern became

submerged while the bow remained stranded on the slipway, reportedly causing significant structural damage.

President Kim Jong Un, who witnessed the launch, called the failure a “criminal act” and ordered a round the clock repair of the megaton destroyer before the late-June plenary session of the ruling Workers’ Party, calling it a matter of national pride, according to CNN.

So far, four individuals, including the shipyard’s chief engineer, have since been detained.

Defence analysts and military experts suggest, that the mysterious balloons serve more than one purpose.

“It looks like they’re not being used to refloat the

ship, but to prevent further flooding,” said South Korean lawmaker and military analyst Yu Yong-weon.Retired US Navy captain Carl Schuster said they might also be intended to obstruct low-altitude drone surveillance or alleviate pressure on the ship’s damaged stern. “That area likely suffered the most severe damage and is under considerable stress,” he said.

Some analysts have likened the objects to aerostat aircrafts — smaller dirigibles that use gas for buoyancy in air or water. However, they noted that there was an absence of standard flotation equipment typically used in maritime salvage.

“This suggests North Korea’s naval recovery

capabilities may lack sophistication,” Schuster noted.

While Pyongyang claims the damage to be superficial, reporting only minor flooding and hull scratches, maritime experts are far from convinced, with some suggesting that the ship may have to be dismantled altogether.

“Having it half in and half out of the water is the worst possible scenario,” said Decker Eveleth, a defence analyst at CNA. He warned that any attempt to pull the submerged stern could twist and fracture the keel, rendering the ship beyond repair.

Nick Childs, senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, warned that the ship’s current position —

wedged between land and sea — poses a significant salvage challenge. “Raising it from above could twist the keel and cause irreparable damage. In many cases, you’d have to dismantle parts of the vessel just to move it,” he said.The botched naval launch of the massively hyped vessel, serves as a major embarrassment for both Kim Jon Un, and the North Korean military, which has been doubling down on its drive for naval modernisation in recent years, and looking to expand its maritime capabilities amid mounting regional tensions. The full extent of the damage remains unclear, but analysts suggest repairs could take months — if the vessel is salvageable at all.

## Historical site unveiled in Afghanistan's Nangarhar, reveals traces of Kushan, Mughal eras

Kabul, June 2 (UNI) A new historical site has been unveiled in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, bearing traces of both the Mughal and Kushan empires, the country's Ministry of Information and Culture said in a statement on Monday.Shedding new light on the region's rich cultural and historical heritage, the site discovered in the Torkham area lies 597 meters above sea level and was mapped using satellite coordinates, the ministry cited Mawlawi Zabihullah Noorani, provincial director of information and culture, as saying.Traces of artifacts from the Mughal era and the Kushan civilization have been uncovered in this area, indicating the site's rich and layered historical past,said the official.Authorities plan to dispatch a specialised archaeological team to conduct further investigation and fomally register the site as a protected historical location of the ministry, Noorani explained. Afghanistan has long been a crossroads of civilizations, including the Kushan Empire and the Mughal period, with its strategic location linking South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East.

## MIT bars Indian-American student from attending graduation ceremony over pro-Palestine speech

New York, June 2 (UNI) : An Indian-American student, Megha Vemuri, was barred by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) from attending the graduation commencement ceremony after she delivered a pro-Palestinian speech at an event last week.

The ban on Vemuri, a neuroscience undergrad and class of 2025 President at MIT, came after she took the stage at an MIT event on Thursday to speak about the war in Gaza, her support for Palestine and condemnation of MIT in relation to the Gaza war.

Vemuri's speech on Thursday at the OneMIT ceremony was not the one provided to the institution in advance, according to an MIT spokesperson.

While the institution supports free expression, it stands by the decision to not allow the student at the Friday events because she “deliberately and repeatedly” misled commencement organisers and led a “protest from the stage, disrupting an important Institute ceremony.”

With a keffiyah around her shoulders over her cloak, Vemuri told the students on Thursday: "You showed the world that MIT wants a free Palestine."

“You called for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, and you stood in solidarity with the pro-Palestine activists on campus. You faced threats, intimidation, and suppression coming from all directions, especially your own university officials. But you prevailed because the MIT community that I know would never tolerate a genocide,” she continued.

Vemuri spoke against Israel, saying that the country was trying to “wipe Palestine off the face of the earth,” adding that MIT was complicit.

Vemuri argued that MIT’s ties with the IDF meant that “Israel’s assault on the Palestinian people is not only aided and abetted by our country, but our school.”

Vemuri was met with yells from the crowd, some students jumping out of their seats in support of her words and others shaking their heads seemingly not in support of her speech.

Vemuri continued her speech by stating that the undergraduate and graduate union voted to cut ties with “the genocidal Israeli military” last spring and for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.



Home & Garden

How to choose the best Furniture

Try to lift the chair you like and see how it feels. A good quality chair, table, sofa, or chaise will have more raw materials including springs, frame, and cushion; such pieces are usually heavier than average quality models.

Observe the finish

The piece should have a rich and deep finish or paint that hasn't been applied to cover flaws. A translucent finish would ideally be even and the wood's grain would show through. An opaque finish will again have even

Look for furniture that is ample in size. To see if the seating space in a chair is roomy, park yourself in it.

consistency sans any bubbles or remnants of brush strokes. As for items made from wicker and rattan, they won't have any splinters or loose ends, while the weaves will be uniform.

Mind the cushions

The perfect cushion is neat, has well-defined corners if angular or curves if rounded, comes with

buttons and detailing that are rock solid, and inconspicuous seams. Other key elements of quality cushions are plump contours; a squashed cushion is a sign of inadequate stuffing. A cushion that leaks feathers has not been properly sewn and lined.

Turn the piece over

Lift the furniture or look beneath

h the surface to gauge its construction. Watch out for inaccuracies like badly sewn padding and loose screws, uneven support, and unprotected springs. You can't expect perfection since you will be looking at a raw sample at the department store but this trick will give you an idea about how carefully the item was made.

Examine the details

The hallmarks of good quality furniture are impeccable sanding and finishing, discreet welding, straight welting and details that hide hardware. The nuts, screws and bolts must be painted in a colour that matches the furniture.

Plan by location

It's not enough to find good quality furniture. Think about where you will place the piece and what it will be surrounded by. If your chair is going to sit in front of a window, its fabric might fade over time due to exposure to the sun. So, buy one that has a simple print and few colours. If the table is for the study where your boisterous kids also solve puzzles, look for one with a tough finish.

Choose the perfect colour combo for Your house



Using the perfect combination for the colour story of the walls, floor and ceiling can complete a room. Here's how colour changes perception...

- For a wider look in your room, use a dark floor with pale walls and ceiling.
  - When you have a dark floor and ceiling, it widens the room and also cuts short the height of the room.
  - If you want to emphasise the horizontal lines, then have dark walls, but keep the floor and ceiling light.
  - When your floor, ceiling and back wall are light, while the other three walls are relatively darker, the room will look narrower, deeper and higher.
  - In order to decrease the depth of space in a room, you need to have a dark back wall with pale side walls and a pale floor.
  - For a basement-like effect, keep the colour of the ceiling light. The floor and all four walls of your room could be dark.
  - If you have a pale and light floor and a similar back wall, but dark side walls and ceiling, then you could end up creating a tunnel effect in a room.
- Psst...
- If you opt for an all-dark look, the space may lose its personality and shape. An all-light floor and walls may look spacious, but would give off an impersonal aura.

Helpful ways to make your home eco-friendly!

With the rising temperatures, global warming is making its presence felt, making it the right time to develop an eco conscience. Did you know that small modifications at home can make your living space eco-friendly? TOI helps you go green with these simple tips...

Switch to CFL lights

They may not be as soothing as incandescent lights, but CFL bulbs save a lot of energy. For those who complain about them being too bright, there are several options available in the market these days so that you get the effect you desire. What's more, CFL bulbs are light on your pocket.

Plant a herb garden

Many of us like having potted plants at home, but instead of growing decorative flowers, plant a herb garden. They don't require a lot of effort since they are easy to grow. Plus, it's great to know that your herbs are pesticide-free and that what you are eating is healthy.

Make a compost bin

Composting is a great way to turn household trash into nutrient-rich supplement for plants. Take a bin (such as an old bucket) and make a couple of holes on the side and bottom. Layer this with broken bricks and sprinkle some water. Now place bagasse (the residue of sugarcane once the juice is squeezed out) and place it on the bricks. Sprinkle more water. Add a fistful of compost and the pit is ready.

Stop using plastic bags

The reason you have to pay for plastic bags at stores is to discourage its use. Keep a reusable bag in your handbag or car so that it comes in handy whenever you go shopping -be it at the grocery store or the mall.

Use cloth instead of paper to clean

Find yourself always reaching out for kitchen towels or tissues to clean up a mess? Break the habit and use cloth instead. And you don't have to go out and buy fancy towels either; simply recycle and make rags out of old T shirts or towels.

Use low flow shower heads

Replace your existing shower heads with low flow ones as this can save around a 100 litres of water a day (depending on use). Also ensure that your water heater is insulated well to save energy, or replace it with a solar heater.

Switch off all lights at home

Most Indian families leave at least one light on at night as people believe that a house must not be draped in darkness. But this is a criminal waste of electricity and is really not required.

Plug leaks

Have a leaky faucet? Get it fixed! You may think that the single drop of water that drips every few seconds isn't some thing that you must bother about, but that single drop accumulates into sever al litres a day . Pay a plumber a nominal . fee to fix a leak and to save water and see a marked difference in your water bill.

Live an unplugged life

Electric appliances like TVs, computers and iPod docks continue to consume large amounts of energy even when they are in standby mode. So ensure that you switch them off completely and even take the socket out of the plug point.



Simple ways to freshen up your home

The first rule of contemporary decorating is - lighten up! It's not necessary to change every room or throw out all the old furniture, but there are lots of ways to lighten up and freshen up your home for a wonderful seasonal change.



Here are some more easy ways to bring the best of the season into your home. Take out any dark accessories like velvet pillows, wool throws, and even that dark leather club chair and ottoman. Don't worry! You can bring them back in when the weather changes. Nothing brings freshness like a casual decor. Use wicker, rush, iron, or painted white garden

furnitu re in place of heavy upholstered pieces. Add colourful pillows. Sheer, pretty curtains keep a room feeling cool and open while offering some privacy. White is always a good choice, but don't shy away from some of the new citrusy pastels. Subtle colour and texture make a big difference to mind and body. Colour choices such as white, almond, soft shades of

orchid, dusky blue and corn silk yellow can turn your bedroom into an oasis of calm. Don't forget to bring the outdoors in. Toss out leggy, brown plants that you're trying to nurse. Bring in fresh, flowering new ones. Flowers bring freshness into any room. Choose your favourite glass vase or colourful ceramic jug and keep it full of fresh cut stems from your garden, the neighbours, or the flower market. Add fresh flowers and plants to your guest room or bedroom. Enjoy colourful, cheery, summery new flowered bed linens. Layer sheer, frothy fabrics on tables, , as a second layer on a bed skirts, and even make a sheer pillow cover for a dark pillow. Add a touch of whimsy with embroidered sheer fabric.

When you enter a home, the first scent you smell makes a significant impact on you. You may quickly formulate impressions or opinions about the home, even if you are not conscious of this occurring. Make sure you fill your own home with inviting and pleasant scents, both for your own enjoyment and the enjoyment of guests. Make a homemade liquid potpourri to simmer on your stove top. Revive your home and perk up your senses with homemade liquid potpourri. A few items from your cupboard or refrigerator are all you need to create an aroma that is pleasing. Use potpourri in the bathroom or bedroom to create a mood. Potpourri mixes can be purchased from stores, but you can experiment with different combinations of fruits and spices until you find the perfect fragrance for your home.

Don't ignore your kitchens. Invest in a kitchen chimney, which will keep the heat and smoke of cooking out of the home. Kitchens with steel partitions instead of wooden ones ensure proper ventilation and retard heat and dampness. While you may not be able to decorate every room in the house, there are numerous ways to add flair to your living space. Lighten up your colours, accessories, and decorate your home with less. Pare down, and let the air circulate. Now sit back and sip a cool pinacolada.



## Lewandowski feeling good but in no hurry to decide future

Madrid, June 2 (UNI) : FC Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski expressed confidence in his ability to continue performing at a high level but declined to set a specific end date for his career at the club.

The 36-year-old played a key role in Barcelona's La Liga and Copa del Rey double-winning season, scoring 42 goals across all competitions despite being sidelined late in the campaign with a muscle injury.

Speaking to the Barcelona-based El Mundo Deportivo newspaper, Lewandowski was asked about his future and whether he has considered extending his stay beyond the remaining year on his contract.

"I think I have enough time to decide what I want to do after next season. I can play at the same level as last season," said Lewandowski, who noted that there could always be "something else outside of football that can ultimately change what's on my mind." "That's why I think it's too early to think about these things now. I have a little time to rest, then I also have time for preseason and to prepare well for the season. I'm sure I'll be physically fit," he explained. Lewandowski emphasized that his age was not a limiting factor. He said his 36 years were "just numbers. I feel very good both physically and mentally," and reflected positively on the recent season. "I think it was almost perfect. We won La Liga, the Cup, Supercup and we got to the semifinals of the Champions League and we were really close to playing in the final, but I think we have to be happy, not just because we won titles, but because of the way we played. People can see this team has a heart and that's why we have to be happy," he concluded.

## Mexico's Cruz Azul wins CONCACAF Champions Cup

Mexico City, June 2 (UNI): Mexico international forward Angel Sepulveda scored twice as Cruz Azul clinched the CONCACAF Champions Cup with a 5-0 victory over Vancouver Whitecaps here.

Ignacio Rivero gave the Mexican side the lead in the eighth minute at Estadio Olimpico Universitario by sweeping a low first-time shot into the far corner on Sunday. Lorenzo Faravelli doubled the lead when he capitalized on a defensive error to fire home from outside the area. Sepulveda made it 3-0 with a sliding effort from inside the six-yard box after meeting Carlos Rotondi's cross at the near post. Poland international midfielder Mateusz Bogusz completed a dominant first-half from the hosts as he intercepted a wayward defensive clearance and sent a 16-yard drive into the far corner. The Canadian club struggled to keep possession and failed to put a single shot on target against the Liga MX side, which shifted into cruise control for much of the second half.



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's captain Rajat Patidar and Punjab Kings' captain Shreyas Iyer during a press conference on the eve of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 final cricket match between Bengaluru and Punjab, in Ahmedabad.

# SSPL T10 tennis ball tourney offering Rs 3 cr prize fund launched, final likely in Sharjah

Chennai, June 2 (UNI) : The Southern Street Premier League (SSPL), the first T10 Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament of its kind in the South was launch here on Monday with the summit clash in all possibility could be held in Sharjah.

Aiming to unearth grassroots talent from across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Pondicherry and Goa, this will be a true gamechanger.

A total of 12 powerhouse teams featuring the best will battle it out this August for India's biggest ever Tennis Ball cricket that carries a prize fund of a whopping Rs 3 crores.

N a w a b z a d a Mohammed Asif Ali – Chairman, SSPL, Ravi Mohan – Celebrity Patron & L.T. Anand – CEO &

Director, SSPL launched the event at a glittering ceremony that featured dignitaries, businessmen, VIPs. The stunning 5-foot-high trophy was unveiled with great fanfare, alongside the reveal of the official SSPL logo and a high-octane anthem setting the tone for the adrenaline-fueled season ahead.

Cricket is an integral part of every boy in India, and most of them start with Tennis Ball Cricket. Cricket to Indians after all is more than just a sport—it's a religion, uniting people across regions, languages, and cultures.

While stadiums may host cricket's legends, a peek into the country's narrow lanes and bustling bylanes are where future stars are truly born, we believe! India has no dearth of cricketing talent, there just wasn't a platform to

take it to the fore, the organisers said at the launch. Gully cricket, played with makeshift wickets and tennis balls, has long paved way for raw, unfiltered talent.

It's here that many of India's cricketing greats including Dhoni and Virat Kohli first honed their reflexes, creativity, and grit.

From these humble beginnings, countless cricketers have risen to national and international fame, proving that passion, not privilege, defines greatness. The Southern Street Premier League (SSPL) taps into this very spirit, providing a structured platform where gully cricket's finest can take centre-stage.

The South Street Premier League (SSPL) is an ambitious T10 Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament designed to bring the

unmatched passion of street cricket to world class stadiums. This T10 Tennis Ball Cricket League (8 Overs Tennis Ball & 2 Overs Tape ball) is open to players above the age of 12 and does not have an upper age cap. The selections will be held in all states, at metro cities and non-metros.

The 3-stage selection process will be spread over a month. What sets SSPL apart is its commitment to technological innovation in player selection and game monitoring, authenticating the credibility and excitement of tennis ball cricket to professional standards.

The core idea is to take local talent to international levels, they said.

The interest garnered so far has led to consideration of holding of the finals in Sharjah, subject to stadium availability.

## Gurdeep Singh new Hockey J&K Chief

Jammu, June 2 (UNI) : Gurdeep Singh has been elected as the new President of Hockey Jammu and Kashmir during an election meeting held at Srinagar under the observation of Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council and Hockey India.

As per the official communiqué, the new body was elected and announced in the presence of Sekar J Manmohan, Treasurer, Hockey India, who acted as the observer from Hockey India and Musbat Ismail, Deputy Legal Remembreancer was deputed as Returning Officer and Goutam Shukla as observer by the J&K Sports Council for the conduct of smooth elections.

Manmohan said that Indian Hockey is doing its best, and as of now, no other field game association is performing like Hockey India.

"Right now, four teams are in Europe and Argentina, and he congratulated the new team of Hockey J&K and assured them of all possible support to promote hockey in J&K," he added. Ismail also congratulated the elected team and expected them to work for the promotion of the game.

New President Gurdeep Singh however, to head the new team comprising Jameel Mustafa, Sanjeev Kumar (Senior Vice Presidents), Manjeet Singh, Manbeer Kour, Amarjeet Singh Nangyal, Jasvinder Kour (Vice Presidents), Dr. Taran Singh (Secretary General), Tejinder Singh (Secretary), Raja Fazal Abass, Shaista Shafi (Joint Secretaries), Raviraj Singh (Treasurer), Baljeet Kour, Ranbir Singh (Resident Secretaries), Binod Singh, Shelav Sharma, Sandeep Malgotra, Rinkal, Sheikh Tanveer UI Haq, Robin Singh and Magandeep Sudan (Member Executives).

# Indian women's national team ready for round two against Uzbekistan

Bengaluru, June 2 (UNI) : Regrouped and refreshed after the 0-1 defeat against Uzbekistan in the first of two FIFA Women's International Friendlies, the senior Indian women's national team are gearing up for round two against the White Wolves.

The Blue Tigresses face Uzbekistan in the second friendly at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence here on Tuesday, with the kick-off slated for 16.30 IST.

India head coach Crispin Chettri, who dished out debuts to three players in the first match (Manisha Naik, Malavika P, and Priyadharshini Selladurai), expressed his desire to continue in the same experimental vein for the second match as well.

"Both these matches are completely experimental for us. Giving chances to new players and seeing their mindset at this level is of paramount importance," said Chettri. "Maybe we could experiment with a certain change in system as well, but the core

# Djokovic beats Norrie, enters Roland-Garros century club

Paris, June 2 (UNI) : Novak Djokovic continues to etch his name in tennis history, securing his 100th match victory at Roland-Garros with a decisive 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 triumph over Britain's Cameron Norrie on Monday. This achievement places him alongside Rafael Nadal as the only men to reach a century of singles wins at the French Open, with Nadal holding the record at 112 victories.

The world No. 1 showcased his dominance on Court Philippe-Chatrier, dispatching Norrie in just over two hours.

This victory not only marks his 100th at Roland-Garros but also surpasses his previous best of 99 match wins at the Australian Open, making the French Open his most successful Grand Slam in terms of match victories.

At 38, Djokovic becomes the oldest man to reach the quarterfinals at Roland-Garros since Istvan Gulyas in 1971. He has now

reached the quarterfinals in Paris for 16 consecutive years, boasting a perfect 19-0 record in fourth-round matches at the tournament.

Reflecting on his performance, Djokovic expressed satisfaction with his form, stating, "I'm feeling good on the court and hope to continue this level in the next rounds."

In the upcoming quarterfinals, Djokovic is set to face Germany's Alexander Zverev, who advanced after his opponent, Tallon Griekspoor, retired due to injury. Elsewhere, British No. 2 Jack Draper faced a challenging match against Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik on Court Suzanne-Lenglen. The two were evenly matched at 4-4 in the first set, indicating a tightly contested battle ahead.

As the French Open progresses, Djokovic's pursuit of a record 25th Grand Slam title continues to captivate fans and solidify his legacy in the sport.

# Britons Salisbury and Skupski reach last eight

Paris, June 2 (UNI) : British pair Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski cruised into the French Open quarter-finals with a clinical win over Portuguese-French duo Nuno Borges and Arthur Rinderknech on Monday.

The eighth seeds were 7-6 (7-5) 6-4 winners on Court Simonne Mathieu to set up a meeting with Australian 15th seeds Matthew Ebden and John Peers.

Salisbury and Skupski, who paired up at the start of the 2025 season, have won nine Grand Slam titles between them, but neither have gone beyond the quarter-finals of the men's doubles at Roland Garros.

Elsewhere, British duo Henry Patten and Olivia Nicholls were unable to contest their mixed doubles quarter-final with Italian fourth seeds Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori after Nicholls failed to recover from a hand injury.

British sixth seeds Julian Cash and Lloyd Glasspool take on Briton Luke Johnson and Sander Arends of the Netherlands later on Monday, the BBC reported.

Glasspool is also in mixed doubles action on Monday as he and Mexican partner Giuliana Olmos face Chinese-Salvadorian second seeds Zhang Shuai and Marcelo Arevalo.

philosophy will remain the same. "We must maintain composure, and not just kick the ball and hope things will happen."

Chettri was all praises for India's opponents on the eve of the match. "They are quite good, both physically and technically. All the players are technically aware of their responsibilities, and are very good at set-pieces, be it corners, free-kicks, or throw-ins. "We can't make too many changes in such a short time, but we've worked on a few things that we were lacking at," he said. India midfielder Sangita Basfore is

confident that the Blue Tigresses are up for the challenge.

"We were all upset after the loss in the last game because we knew we had the potential to win. But we learned some valuable lessons, and the girls are determined to not repeat the same mistakes again," said Sangita. "I personally feel mentally refreshed and ready for the next challenge. I'm confident that we will set up and perform better in the next game." Uzbekistan head coach Kotryna Kulbyte was pleased to see her training routines come through in the first match.

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

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

Editor: Mohammed Shafi

RNI No.: PONENG/2017/77178

Cell : 9849881368

Email : standardpostpuducherry@gmail.com

# Former Lyon, Arsenal manager Montemurro named head coach of Australia's Matildas

Sydney, June 2 (UNI) : Football Australia (FA) has appointed Joe Montemurro as the new head coach of the women's national team, the Matildas.

FA on Monday officially unveiled Montemurro as the 15th permanent head coach of the Matildas, concluding a 10-month search.

The 55-year-old Australian joins the national team from French giants Lyon, where he led the club to the domestic league title and the UEFA Women's Champions

League semifinals.

Prior to his tenure at Lyon, Montemurro won league titles with the women's teams of Juventus, Arsenal and Melbourne City.

"Joe brings world-class experience, a deep understanding of the Australian football landscape, and a genuine connection to our national identity," Heather Garriock, interim chief executive of FA, said in a statement.

She added that Montemurro brings an "unparalleled

understanding" of what it takes to succeed at the top level of modern football, along with a proven ability to build high-performing teams.

Speaking at a press conference in Sydney, Montemurro said he was "humbled" by the opportunity to shape the next chapter of the women's national team. His appointment was announced ahead of the Matildas' friendly match against Argentina in Canberra on Monday night, which will be the final game in charge for

interim head coach Tom Sermanni.

It comes 10 months after the departure of previous head coach Tony Gustavsson, who guided Australia to the semifinals of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Montemurro's first games as Matildas head coach will be a pair of friendlies against Slovenia on June 26 and 28. His first major tournament will be the 2026 Asian Football Confederation Women's Asian Cup, which will be hosted in Australia.



## Minister of State for Railways & Jal Shakti V. Somanna Conducts Comprehensive Inspection of Railway Stations in Solapur Division

(Standard Post Bureau)

Solapur, June 2 : Mr V. Somanna, Minister of State for Railways & Jal Shakti undertook an extensive inspection tour of Taj Sultanpur, Kalaburagi and Solapur stations of the Solapur Division, Central Railway on 1st June 2025.

The Hon'ble Minister commenced his visit of Solapur Division at Taj Sultanpur station, where he inspected the goods shed and reviewed the facilities and operational plan in place. Officials briefed him on the strategic role of the goods shed in freight handling and its impact on regional commerce."

At Kalaburagi station, Shri Somanna received a warm welcome. He conducted a detailed inspection of the Amrit Station Master Plan, emphasising the importance of modern, sustainable infrastructure in enhancing passenger experience.

The Minister also held a grievance redressal meeting with representatives, reflecting his commitment to public engagement and transparent governance."

During a press conference at Kalaburagi, Shri Somanna addressed the media, sharing



insights into various ongoing and upcoming railway development projects. He highlighted the significant budget allocations earmarked for Karnataka, reiterating the Government's focus on inclusive growth and connectivity. The Minister answered several media queries, providing clear and detailed responses on key initiatives."

In the final leg of the visit at Solapur, the Hon'ble Minister was given a presentation on the layout of Solapur station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The scheme aims to transform Solapur station into a modern, passenger-friendly hub with upgraded amenities.

Shri V. Somanna was accompanied throughout the tour by Dr. Sujeet Mishra, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Solapur Division, along with Divisional Railway Branch Officers and other railway staff. This visit underscores the Indian Railways' unwavering focus on accelerating infrastructure upgrades and improving passenger services across the Indian Railways network.

## Railways to run LTT-Secunderabad-LTT Duronto Express & Kalaburagi-Kolhapur-Kalaburagi Express with revised composition

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 2 : Railways will run LTT-Secunderabad-LTT Duronto Express & Kalaburagi-Kolhapur-Kalaburagi Express with revised composition as below:

Train no 12219/12220 LTT-Secunderabad-LTT Duronto Express will run with revised composition Ex-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus with effect from 07.06.2025 and Ex-Secunderabad with effect from 06.06.2025

Revised composition of Train no 12219/12220 LTT-Secunderabad-LTT Duronto Express

One AC 1st Class, Four AC 2-Tier, 10 AC 3-Tier, 1 Second Seating cum Guard's Brake Van & 1 Generator Car- (17Coaches)"

Train no 22155/22156 Kalaburagi-Kolhapur-Kalaburagi Express will run with revised composition Ex- Kalaburagi & Ex-Shri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Terminus, Kolhapur with effect from 10.06.2025

Revised composition of Train no 22155/22156 Kalaburagi-Kolhapur-Kalaburagi Express.

Two AC 3-Tier, 3 Sleeper Class, 10 Second Class Chair Car, 3 General Second Class and 2 Second Seating cum Guard's Brake Van- (20Coaches)

For detailed timings and halts of these trains, please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in) or download NTES App.

Passengers to please note the above changes

## Electricity safety awareness in residential societies in Kalyan Circle



(Standard Post Bureau)

Kalyan/Vasai/Palghar, June 2 : On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Mahavitaran, the Electricity Safety Week is being celebrated across the state from 1st to 6th June with the concept of 'Zero Accidents Mahavitaran, Zero Accidents Maharashtra'. On the second day of the week, on Monday (02 June), an electricity safety awareness awareness was held in all 40 sub-divisions of Kalyan Circle. Under the leadership of Chief Engineer Chandramani Mishra, officers and employees created public awareness about electricity safety in societies in urban areas of the circle and in villages in rural areas. With the

slogan 'We are the architects of safety, we will achieve the goal of Mahavitaran with zero accidents', the Electricity Safety Week was launched on 1st June in Kalyan Circle. On Monday, electricity consumers were reached at the sub-divisional level and awareness was raised about the precautions to be taken while using electricity. In 10 sub-divisions under Kalyan Mandal I (Kalyan East and West, Dombivli), in 12 sub-divisions under Kalyan Mandal II (Ulhasnagar, Ambernath, Badlapur, Shahapur, Titwala, Murbad), in 9 sub-divisions under Vasai Mandal (Vasai, Virar, Nalasopara, Achole, Wada) and in 9 sub-divisions

under Palghar Mandal (Boisar, Dahanu, Jawhar, Palghar, Mokhada, Safala, Talasari, Vikramgad), electricity safety awareness was raised. During the Safety Week, an essay/painting competition on electricity safety has been organized on June 3 and 4 for the children and families of employees and school students. On June 5, a rally on electricity safety and savings will be held at all ten divisional levels on Vasundhara Day. On the morning of June 6, the Janamitras of all the branch offices in the circle will take a pledge on electricity safety. On this day, the 20th anniversary of Mahavitaran will be celebrated with enthusiasm in all the offices.

## WR to provide additional stoppage to two Pairs of special trains at Jaipur Station

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 2 : For the convenience of passengers, Western Railway will provide additional stoppage at Jaipur station to Train No. 09001/09002 Mumbai Central-Khatipura Superfast Special and Train No. 09007/09008 Valsad-Khatipura Superfast Express.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer,

Shri Vineet Abhishek of Western Railway, the details are as under:-

1. Train No. 09001 Mumbai Central-Khatipura has been provided with additional halt at Jaipur station w.e.f journey commencing from Mumbai Central on 2nd June, 2025. The train will arrive Jaipur station at 15:45 hrs and depart at 15:55 hrs. Similarly, Train No. 09002 Khatipura - Mumbai

Central has been provided with additional halt at Jaipur station w.e.f journey commencing from Khatipura station on 3rd June, 2025. The train will arrive Jaipur station at 19:15 hrs and depart at 19:25 hrs.

2. Train No. 09007 Valsad - Khatipura Special has been provided with additional halt at Jaipur station w.e.f journey commencing from Valsad on 5th June, 2025. The train will arrive Jaipur station at

07:00 hrs and depart at 07:10 hrs. Similarly, Train No. 09008 Khatipura - Valsad Special has been provided with additional halt at Jaipur station w.e.f journey commencing from Khatipura on 6th June, 2025. The train will arrive Jaipur station at 19:15 hrs and depart at 19:25 hrs.

For detailed information, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

## Change in halt timings of Sawantwadi Road-Diva Express at Kalamboli station and Trivandrum North-Bhavnagar Express

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 2 : Railways will change the halt timings of following express trains at detailed information, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in) or download NTES App.

For detailed timings and halts please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in) or download NTES App.

## SWR General Manager Shri Mukul Saran Mathur Inspects Subrahmanya Road Railway Station

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 2 : Mr Mukul Saran Mathur, General Manager of South Western Railway, conducted an inspection of Subrahmanya Road Railway Station today, which is currently undergoing redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme."

During the inspection, Shri Mathur reviewed the progress of the ongoing station redevelopment works and emphasized the importance of maintaining high-quality standards while ensuring the timely completion of all works.

The General Manager also took stock of the electrification works underway in the section. He inspected key infrastructure components including curves, bridges, and track parameters to assess and ensure operational safety and efficiency. A special focus was laid on the tunnel works in the ghat section, which are crucial for smooth and safe train operations in this monsoon season. He was



accompanied by DRM/ Mysuru, Shri Mudit Mittal,

Chief Project Manager/Gati Shakti, Shri Anand Bharati,

and other Senior Branch officials from Mysuru Division.

## SC declines plea against Assam's alleged deportation drive, asks petitioner to approach Gauhati HC

New Delhi, June 2 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain a plea challenging the alleged "sweeping" deportation drive launched by the Assam government against persons suspected to be foreigners.

The petitioner claimed that these actions were being carried out without proper nationality verification or allowing affected individuals to exhaust their legal remedies. A bench comprising Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma directed the petitioner, All BTC Minority Students Union, to approach the Gauhati High Court for appropriate relief. "Why are you not going to the Gauhati High Court?" the bench asked Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde, who appeared for the petitioner. Hegde responded that the plea was filed based on a prior order passed by the apex court. However, the bench insisted, "Please go to the Gauhati High Court." Following this, Hegde sought permission to withdraw the plea to pursue remedies before the High Court, which the bench allowed. The plea, filed through

Advocate Adeel Ahmed, referred to a Supreme Court order dated February 4, which directed the Assam government to begin deportation of 63 declared foreign nationals whose nationalities were known within two weeks.

The petitioner claimed that pursuant to this directive, the Assam government had initiated a widespread and indiscriminate crackdown against individuals suspected of being foreigners.

According to the plea, this included actions even in cases where there was no formal declaration from a Foreigners Tribunal, no verification of nationality, or no completion of legal recourse. It cited media reports, including one involving a retired school teacher allegedly pushed back into Bangladesh without due process.

"These instances reflect a growing pattern of deportations through informal 'push back' mechanisms without judicial oversight, violating constitutional safeguards," the plea claimed.