

IN BRIEF

Governor, CM express anguish over stampede in Bangalore

Vijayawada, June 4 (UNI) : Governor S Abdul Nazeer and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday expressed shock and grief over the death of 11 persons in a stampede in Bangalore.

In a message here, Governor of Andhra Pradesh S Abdul Nazeer expressed deep anguish and profound grief over the tragic stampede incident that occurred at Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday, in which 11 persons are reported to have lost their lives.

The Governor offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members and wished for the speedy recovery of those injured in the incident.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in a message here said: "I deeply saddened by the unfortunate stampede in Bangalore, in which several people have lost their lives. I offer my condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Dharna staged for regularising Anganwadis

Kakinada, June 4 (UNI) : Anganwadis owing allegiance to CITU affiliate AP Anganwadi workers and helpers union staged a dharna in front of the Collectorate here on Wednesday demanding regularisation of the services of 229 Anganwadis who were recruited as conditional Appointees during 2013 in combined East Godavari district.

Anganwadis union state president G Babyrani and CITU district treasurer Malaka Ramana alleged that before giving appointment they were not informed that it was a conditional appointment but after 13 years they were being removed.

They alleged that though in the past, the minister gave an order to regularise the conditional appointees, the officials played mischief and wantonly submitted wrong information to the state High court .

Babyrani said that they called on the district collector Shan Mohan who assured that there was no proposal to remove the conditional appointees.

Cabinet approves special remission to seventeen life convicts



(Standard Post Bureau)

Vijayawada, June 4 : The Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet on Wednesday approved the proposal by the Home Department to grant special remission to seventeen life convicted prisoners eligible as on February 1, 2025, following the issuance of permanent guidelines for premature release of life convicted prisoners in accordance with orders of the Supreme Court of India in SLP (Criminal) No. 529/2021.

The State Cabinet

chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu held in the secretariat at Amaravati near here on Wednesday.

The Cabinet approved the proposal by the Panchayat Raj for a one-time settlement of Rs 575.75 lakh for providing safe drinking water through RO Plants to Uddanam area and tribal areas in Srikakulam District under NTR Sujala Pathakam, and Rs. 822.86 lakh one-time settlement for 15 water treatment plants on cluster-based approach to cover 533 water-scarce habitations in

4 mandals of Kuppam constituency in Chittoor District.

The Cabinet approved the proposal by the Revenue (Lands) Department to transfer a total of 94.497 acres of government land in Pinnamareddypalli village and Nugondapalli village, Agiripalli Mandal, Eluru District, free of cost to the Home Department for establishment of Andhra Pradesh Police Academy, subject to obtaining NOC from local authorities.

The Cabinet also approved the proposal by the Information Technology, Electronics & Communications Department for establishment of Andhra Pradesh State Quantum Mission (SQM).

As part of India's National Quantum Mission, this decision will help achieve the goal of establishing Quantum Valley in Amaravati and advancing research in quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and

cybersecurity by working with institutions like IIT Madras, TCS, and IBM, thereby attracting world-class researchers and bringing international investments to the state.

For the development of Quantum Valley in Amaravati, 50 acres of land has been allocated through CRDA and a Detailed Project Report has been submitted. IBM will deploy their "156-qubit Quantum System 2" in the state, while TCS will partner in software development and L&T will participate in the development of Quantum Valley Tech Park. Through this mission, which will contribute to cutting-edge research in cybersecurity, drug discovery, material science, and high-performance computing, the state will become a national center for quantum technology. A Quantum Summit will be organized in June 2025 to develop strategic action plans with international experts.

CM, Siddaramaiah confirms 11 deaths, announces Rs 10L aid

Bengaluru, June 4 (UNI) : At least 11 people lost their lives and 33 were injured in a tragic stampede outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday, as an overwhelming crowd gathered for Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL victory celebrations.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expressed deep grief over the incident and announced ?10 lakh compensation for the families of each of the deceased, all of whom were young men and women.

"No one anticipated this. Neither the Cricket Association nor the government expected such a huge crowd. The stadium can accommodate only 35,000 people, but over two to three lakh fans turned up," Siddaramaiah told reporters, explaining that the rally had to be organised early this morning following last evening's IPL final.

Thousands of jubilant fans had gathered near the gates of the stadium since early morning, hoping to

catch a glimpse of their favourite players and the trophy. The situation spiralled out of control when the surging crowd overwhelmed entry points, triggering a deadly stampede. "Thirty-three people have been injured, with 47 reported to have sustained varying levels of trauma initially. Some were discharged after treatment," the Chief Minister stated, adding that all injured individuals would receive free medical care.

Siddaramaiah assured that those undergoing treatment in both government and private hospitals will have their medical expenses fully borne by the state. "I have spoken with doctors to ensure proper treatment for all the injured," he said.

The tragedy has cast a shadow over what was meant to be a jubilant public celebration of RCB's maiden IPL title. The Chief Minister has ordered officials to expedite compensation and ensure families of the deceased are supported.

Woman kills four-year-old son, ends life by hanging

Kakinada, June 4 (UNI) : A woman killed her four-year-old son by administering a poisonous substance and later herself committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling fan with a rope, at her residence in Racherlapeta area here in the early hours of Wednesday, police said.

She was married five years ago and returned from Abu Dhabi two months ago. But due to serious domestic problems over financial matters with her in-laws and also with her husband, is said to have led her to take the extreme step.

Three town police have registered the case and shifted the bodies to the government general hospital for postmortem.

They identified the deceased as Rajala Ramyakirshna (30) and her son Priyam Prasad (4).

A case was registered and further investigation is on, police said.

Congress constitutes disciplinary action committee of AP unit

Amaravati, June 4 (IANS) : All India Congress Committee (AICC) has constituted the Disciplinary Action Committee of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC).

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge approved the proposal for the constitution of the Disciplinary Action Committee. Lingamshetty Eswara Rao has been named as the chairman of the disciplinary committee, which will have six members.

The AICC named the following leaders as members of the panel. Amanchi Krishna Mohan, Shaik Mastan Vali, Merajothu Surya Nayak, Udatha Venkata Rao Yadav, Syed Javed Anwar and Arigela Aruna Kumari.

Meanwhile, APCC president Y. S. Sharmila has said that the one-year rule of the NDA in the state is like a distortion of the public mandate, which had brought mad, corrupt and anarchic rule to an end. She alleged that the Chandrababu Naidu-led government

wasted a year in the name of reconstruction.

In her post on 'X', Sharmila said the coalition government threw 'Super Six' promises to the wind. "They stalled development on the pretext of debts and brought public welfare, citing lack of funds," she said. The state Congress chief alleged that the NDA government imposed a burden on the people by hiking the electricity tariff. She asked what happened to the promises made by the Centre to the state in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act.

"The state government did not even ask for the special category status, which was promised by the Centre. When the BJP at the Centre betrayed the state by bringing down the height of the Polavaram project, the state government did not open its mouth," said Sharmila. The Congress leader said it was promised to revive the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, but 4,000 employees were removed from their jobs.

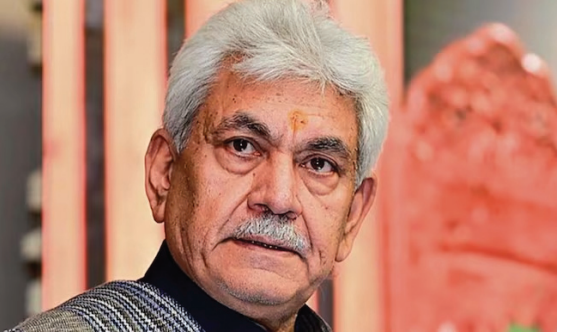


President Murmu confers armed forces with distinguished

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday conferred 92 distinguished service decorations to serving and retired personnel of the Armed Forces, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) during the Defence Investiture Ceremony 2025 (Phase-II) at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. These decorations included 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals (PVSMs), five Uttam Yudh Seva Medals (UYSMs) and 57 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals (AVSMs), a Defence Ministry statement said.

(See on page 2)

Historic Kashmir rail link to usher a new era for J&K: LG



Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari will usher a new era for the Union Territory. The train to Kashmir will end wait of 126 years as Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off a Vande Bharat train from Katra to Kashmir on June 6.

(See on page 4)

Vijay Mallya hails Virat Kohli's 18-year loyalty



Former Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) owner Vijay Mallya on Wednesday described the franchise's maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) title win as the fulfilment of a long-cherished dream, spotlighting Virat Kohli's 18-year loyalty to the team as the emotional core of the triumph.

(See on page 7)

Anyone who opposes BJP is branded anti-national ...



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday said that a "sorry state of affairs" was prevailing in the country as any view or idea opposing the propaganda of the BJP is now being labelled as "anti-national".

(See on page 8)

CM directs that 15 lakh poor families should be adopted by 'Margadarsis' by August 15

Vijayawada, June 4 (UNI) : As part of the Zero Poverty P4 mission, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to ensure that 15 lakh families in the state are adopted by Margadarsis (mentors) by August 15 this year.

He emphasised the need to accelerate the registration of Margadarsis and the adoption process. Stating

that the P4 model is a continuation of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) policy introduced after the economic reforms, the Chief Minister conducted a review on the Zero Poverty P4 initiative at his Undavalli camp office on Wednesday.

He directed that the Smart Andhra Pradesh Foundation be restructured as the Swarna Andhra P4

Foundation. The Chief Minister highlighted Amaravati's land pooling model as a case study for the P4 approach, noting that wealth creation was enabled for 29,000 farmers by making them partners in capital development. In the same spirit, he urged each Margadarsi to adopt a 'Bangaru Kutumbam' (Golden Family) and work

towards their upliftment.

The Chief Minister asserted that he would personally review the progress of the P4 initiative once every 10 days. He also reviewed the P4 logo designs prepared by officials. Officials informed the Chief Minister that several organisations such as Milaap, Project DEEP, Rang De, and Bhargo have

come forward to collaborate as partners in implementing the P4 initiative effectively.

Out of the 19,15,771 families registered as Bangaru Kutumbalu in the state, Margadarsis have so far adopted 70,272 families. Among these, the largest numbers are from the BC community (26,340 families), followed by SCs (14,024 families) and STs (13,115 families).

Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, SCR inaugurated Dhanvantari Special Ward

(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, June 4 : Mr Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway inaugurated ‘Dhanvantari’ a Supervisors special ward at Central Hospital, Lallaguda, Secunderabad today i.e., 4th June, 2025. Smt. Nirmala Rajaram, Principal Chief Medical Director, SCR, Lokesh Vishnoi, Divisional Railway Manager, Hyderabad Division, Dr. I. Siva Naga Prasad, Medical Director, Central Hospital, Lallaguda, Dr. NVBK Sai, Chief Staff Surgeon, Central Hospital, Lallaguda, Principal Heads of the Departments, other senior officials from Headquarters & Division, Doctors, Hospital Staff and representatives from recognized Organizations were also present in the inaugural ceremony.

The Dhanvantari special ward caters to all



supervisory staff of South Central Railway and their family members with special individual rooms’ attender cot, central Oxygen supply, suction facilities, electrically operated cots, ACs, Attached wash rooms, Lift facility, Ramp facility 24 hours nursing care are provided.

The General Manager along with officials planted saplings at the

Nandana Vanamin the hospital premises as part of Environmental Plantation Program. He also inaugurated new lift and ramp facility to facilitate the patients attending Hospital. To promote benefits of healthy life, educative and informative wall paintings were made at the walls of special ward.

Speaking on the occasion, the General

Manager appreciated the medical department for upgradation of the facilities for the benefit of employees and their dependents. The facilities will provide better stay during undergoing the treatment. He also complimented the medical team for the noble initiative of developing Nandana Vanam towards green initiative.

New Benchmark in Ticketing Efficiency with Anti-BOT Measures and Digital Modernization

(Standard Post Bureau)
New Delhi, June 4 : In a major leap towards enhancing transparency, security and user experience, Indian Railways has undertaken a comprehensive digital overhaul of its ticketing infrastructure. Through the deployment of cutting-edge anti-BOT systems and integration with a leading Content Delivery Network (CDN) service provider, the Railways has significantly curbed unauthorised automated bookings by unscrupulous agents and improved the access of the web site to the genuine users.

The new system has

effectively mitigated all bot traffic, which peaks during the first five minutes of Tatkal. Bot traffic accounts for up to 50% of overall login attempts during this period. This enhancement ensures better accessibility for genuine users. Additionally, 2.5 crore suspected user IDs have been deactivated for booking tickets. A landmark achievement was recorded on May 22, 2025, with the highest-ever per-minute booking of 31,814 tickets, showcasing the robustness and scalability of the upgraded platform.

To further enhance fairness and efficiency, new user protocols have been

introduced. Users not authenticated via Aadhaar can book Opening ARP, Tatkal or Premium Tatkal tickets only after 3 days of registration, while Aadhaar-verified users can book tickets without delay. These efforts have delivered measurable improvements. The average daily user logins increased from 69.08 lakh in FY 2023–24 to 82.57 lakh in FY 2024–25, registering a 19.53% rise, while average daily ticket bookings grew by 11.85% in the same period. Additionally, E-Ticketing now accounts for 86.38% of total reserved ticket bookings. Systemic upgrades include: 87% of

static content being served via CDN for faster load times and reduced server load. Active detection and mitigation of bot traffic using sophisticated AI algorithms. Proactive deactivation of suspicious user IDs and complaint lodging via the Cyber Crime Portal. Indian Railways, through IRCTC, remains committed to delivering a seamless, secure and user-friendly ticketing experience. Continuous innovation and modernization will remain central to ensuring equitable access and safeguarding the interests of millions of passengers across the country.

Australia reaffirms support to India against terrorism

New Delhi, June 4 (UNI) Australia on Wednesday reaffirmed support to India in the fight against cross-border terrorism while the two countries discussed further strengthening of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and cooperation in many areas including Defence industrial collaboration. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense of Australia, Richard Marles,

called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here and both leaders underlined the importance of enhancing cooperation in key areas like Defence industrial collaboration, resilient supply chains, xcritical minerals and new and emerging technologies. They reaffirmed that the shared vision for a stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific continued to guide bilateral collaboration.

‘2,000 FB accounts commenting on Assam election being probed’

Guwahati, June 4 (UNI) The Assam police is investigating about 2,000 Facebook accounts, commenting on Assam elections, which are being handled from Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said this on Wednesday in Guwahati while interacting with newsmen. “We have asked the Special Branch of the Assam police to look into it,” he said.

Sarma’s revelation assumes significance as the state is going to elections early next year.

He said that the ISI of Pakistan wants a particular candidate to win in Assam elections slated for next year. “The numbers of fictitious accounts will increase as elections draw near, ISI wants a particular candidate to win and details I will give on September 10. Around

2,000 Facebook accounts have penetrated,” he said.

“If people see the comments, it becomes clear that these are not people from Assam. A call centre is set up in Kolkata, 2,000 accounts belonging to a particular community have sprung up in a day. As these things are under my observation and by September Assam politics will be interesting and I will be able to spell out more things,” he added.

Sarma said the Assam Government recently pushed back several Bangladeshi nationals.

It may be mentioned here that the Assam Chief Minister had recently opposed the inclusion of Lok Sabha MP Gaurav Gogoi in the all-party delegation to be sent to different countries to explain India’s stance on terrorism.

Sikkim govt planning to evacuate stranded tourists by road

Gangtok, June 4 (UNI) The Sikkim government is planning to evacuate the stranded tourists from 9,000 ft high Lachen to safer places in phases by road since the flying of helicopters is dangerous due to the prevailing weather conditions and continuous rain, sources said on Wednesday.

Only 33 stranded tourists were airlifted, and two attempts to airlift further failed.

“As part of the ongoing rescue and evacuation operations, two helicopters have been stationed at Pakyong Airport since June 3. So far, one successful sortie has been conducted, during which 33 stranded tourists were safely airlifted.”

However, due to poor weather conditions, subsequent flights have not been possible. On two separate attempts, the

helicopters had to return mid way. If the weather remains unfavorable in the coming days, we will be moving forward with Plan B: Ground Transshipment,” a government communique said this evening.

Under Plan B, the transshipment operation (Lachen to Chungthang – 28 km) in north Sikkim. There are 4/5 critical block points between Lachen and Chungthang, including damaged sections and collapsed bridges. These areas require crossing on foot and temporary arrangements to ensure safe passage, the communique said.

From the Lachen side, teams comprising the local public, Indian Army, NDRF, and GREF are actively working to construct footpaths and temporary wooden bridges to make the road safe for the stranded tourists.

President Murmu confers armed forces with distinguished service medal

New Delhi, June 4 (UNI) President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday conferred 92 distinguished service decorations to serving and retired personnel of the Armed Forces, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) during the Defence Investiture Ceremony 2025 (Phase-II) at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

These decorations included 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals (PVSMs), five Uttam Yudh Seva Medals (UYSMs) and 57 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals (AVSMs), a Defence Ministry statement said.

Personnel awarded with Param Vishisht Seva Medal included Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar, Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, Lt Gen Ram Chander Tiwari, Lt Gen Ram Chander Tiwari, Lt Gen Chandra Tiwari, Lt Gen Chandra Sharma, Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, Admiral Suraj Berry, Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari and Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari. Personnel conferred with Uttam Yudh Seva Medal were Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, Lt Gen Zubin A Minwalla, Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, Air Marshal Sujet Pushpakar Dharkar and Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha.

Solapur Division of Central Railway to Observe International Level Crossings Awareness Day on 5th June



(Standard Post Bureau)
Solapur , June 4 : Solapur Division of Central Railway will actively participate in the observance of International Level Crossings Awareness Day (ILCAD) on 5th June 2025, as part of a global initiative by the International Union of Railways (UIC). The objective of ILCAD is to improve awareness and enhance safety at level crossings, thereby preventing accidents and saving lives.

In line with Indian Railways’ commitment to safety and public awareness, a series of educational and outreach activities have been planned across the Solapur Division to sensitise road users on the do’s and don’ts while crossing level crossings.

Key Safety Guidelines for the Public at Railway Crossings:

- Stop vehicles near the gate signal, not too close to the gate boom. Always halt on the left side to allow smooth passage for oncoming traffic once the gate reopens.
- Never attempt to pass under or around the gate boom after it has been lowered. A train may be approaching, and no vehicle or person can withstand its momentum.
- Do not try to exit the crossing once

the gate is closed, even if the train hasn’t arrived yet. Such actions can result in fatal accidents and disrupt gate operations.

- Reduce speed well in advance of the speed breaker near railway gates. Failure to do so may cause collisions with the gate and endanger both the vehicle and railway property.
- Respect the authority of the gateman. When the gate is closed, railway operations take precedence. Arguing or obstructing gate staff is a punishable offense.
- Ensure the vehicle height does not exceed 4.5 meters when crossing electrified tracks. Overheight vehicles risk contact with high-voltage 25,000-volt overhead equipment, which can lead to catastrophic fires and loss.

Solapur Division appeals to all road users to strictly adhere to safety guidelines at level crossings. Your cooperation is essential to avoid accidents and ensure safe coexistence between road and rail traffic.

Let us join hands to spread awareness and make our rail crossings safer for everyone.

Stay Alert, Stay Safe at Level Crossings.

MANUU Alumni Felicitated Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan

(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, June 4 : Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) will soon start calligraphy classes especially for women at Urdu Hall, Himayat Nagar. This was revealed by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan. He was speaking at a meeting held with a delegation of MANUU Alumni Association yesterday evening.

He urged the Association to work to connect Urdu intellectuals, teachers and students with Urdu University and ensure more admissions of local students.



Earlier, the Alumni Association, led by Nasir Hussain Shoaib, General Secretary congratulate and felicitate Prof. Ainul Hasan

on being conferred the highest civilian honor of Padma Shri by the President of India. Prof. Ainul Hasan praised Hyderabad’s contribution to Urdu literature, emphasizing the

need to create a platform for scholars to showcase their work and recognize their services. He also shared plans to introduce innovative skill enhancing courses at MANUU to meet

the evolving needs of the students and the academic world. The delegation was accompanied by the Alumni Patron, Dr. Mohd. Mustafa Ali, Associate Professor, MCJ & PRO.

SC rejects Waqf Board's claim over Shahdara property, notes existence of gurdwara

New Delhi, June 4 (UNI) The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea filed by the Delhi Waqf Board asserting rights over a property in Shahdara, observing that a fully functioning Gurudwara exists on the disputed site.

A bench of justices Sanjay Karol and Satish Chandra Sharma refused to entertain the Waqf Board’s special leave petition challenging a 2010 Delhi High Court judgment, which had set aside the Board’s claim over the property.

The case dates back to the 1980s when the Delhi Waqf Board filed a suit for possession of a mosque allegedly located at village Oldanpur, Shahdara, against Hira Singh (now

deceased). The board contended that the property was a Waqf property, dedicated and used for religious purposes since time immemorial.

However, the defendant disputed the claim, arguing that the suit was time-barred and asserting that the property had been sold to him by Mohd. Ahsaan in 1953. He further claimed the premises had been functioning as a gurdwara, under the management of a Gurdwara committee, since before Independence.

The trial court ruled in favour of the Waqf Board, a decision upheld by the first appellate court in 1989. However, the Delhi High Court reversed the findings in 2010, holding that the

board had failed to establish that the property was waqf. The High Court observed: “Neither the permanent dedication/user since time immemorial of the suit property as a waqf property has been proved and nor does the documentary evidence come to his aid... Defendant was admittedly in occupation of this property since 1947-48.”

Unhappy with the verdict, the board approached the Supreme Court in 2012. On Wednesday, senior advocate Sanjoy Ghose, appearing for the board, argued, “The lower courts have held that a mosque was there. Now, some kind of gurdwara is there.” Justice Satish

Chandra Sharma responded firmly, “Not ‘some kind of’ - a properly functioning gurdwara. Once there is a gurdwara, let it be. A religious structure is already functioning there. You should yourself relinquish that claim.”

Justice Sharma, addressing his companion on the Bench, Justice Karol, remarked: “Arrey, azaadi ke pehle ka Gurudwara hai...”

The court then proceeded to summarily dismiss the petition, concluding: “Sorry, sorry... Dismissed.” With that, the Supreme Court ended the decades-old litigation, affirming the High Court’s judgment and putting a quietus to the Waqf Board’s claim over the site.

YSRCP observes ‘Betrayal Day’ across AP

Amaravati, June 4 (IANS) :Accusing the TDP-led NDA of going back on its poll promises, opposition YSR Congress Party observed ‘Betrayal Day’ across Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday.

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders and cadres hit the streets in all the districts to lodge their protest over what they called the betrayal by the coalition government.

Holding banners and placards and raising slogans, they held rallies and participated in other forms of protest. They also gave representations to officials, demanding that the government fulfil the promises.

The protestors raised slogans of ‘Chandrababu down down’ and alleged that the coalition failed to fulfil the promises made to people in last year’s

elections. At a few places, the protestors were detained by the police.

The YSRCP leaders said that the alliance made 143 promises to people but failed to fulfil even ‘Super Six’ promises.

YSRCP president and former chief minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy posted on ‘X’ that exactly a year ago, Chandrababu Naidu came to power with grand promises, but not a single one has been fulfilled. “Instead, he has betrayed the very people who believed in him. His false statements, broken assurances, and blatant backstabbing have pushed the state into disillusionment. That’s why today, we call for Betrayal Day! And people from all walks of life have come out in huge numbers, expressing their deep anguish and anger. This

isn’t just a protest; it’s a powerful message that the people of Andhra Pradesh will not remain silent in the face of lies and deception,” wrote Jagan Mohan Reddy.

“The massive turnout for this state-wide programme reflects the pain, frustration, and resistance of the betrayed public. I sincerely thank every YSRCP leader, worker, and citizen who stood up today, shoulder to shoulder, to voice this truth alongside the needy people. Our fight for justice, dignity, people’s rights and their cause will only grow stronger and stronger,” added the YSRCP chief.

YSRCP state coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy said that the grand success of ‘Betrayal Day’ reflects the ire of the people who felt cheated as none of the poll promises were implemented

by the coalition government. He said that anti-incumbency has set in much earlier.

He said, despite the police restrictions, the ‘Betrayal Day’ was a grand success with people voicing their dissent in unison as the election promises were not fulfilled by Chandrababu Naidu and drew a contrast with YS Jagan Mohan Reddy’s term, where 99 per cent of the promises were delivered on the dot. People felt cheated as the existing schemes were stopped and the promised ones were not rolled out, and this has a clear reflection in success of ‘Betrayal Day’, he said adding that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy even in opposition was always with the people while Chandrababu away from the people and the State between 2019-24.



Farmers protest against the Punjab Government over a village land allotment dispute, demanding a resolution, in Patiala.

Rahul Gandhi is ‘crushing’ India’s pride and self-respect: BJP

New Delhi, June 4 (UNI) : The BJP on Wednesday strongly reacted to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s allegation of “India’s surrender” during Operation Sindoor, stating that post-independence, the country’s history under the grand old party is filled with instances of “surrender” to Pakistan.

“Since independence, India’s history has been filled with incidents of surrender to Pakistan during the Congress tenure, and it is this dangerous mindset, habit, temperament, and mischief that are crushing the country’s and the army’s pride and self-respect,” said BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi at a press conference here.

He said, “On one hand, members of the joint parliamentary delegation sent by India—comprising MPs from various Opposition parties, including Congress—are returning after sincerely representing the country’s stance across different countries and uniting the nation.

“On the other hand, Congress’s self-proclaimed, self-glorified, all-time top leader and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi is making utterly petty and baseless statements to show the world that even after becoming Leader of the Opposition, he lacks seriousness and maturity.”

Trivedi also took a jibe at Rahul Gandhi for

comparing the bravery displayed by the Indian armed forces during Operation Sindoor to surrender, calling his “mindset highly ill and dangerous”.

He said Rahul Gandhi’s statement reflects “juvenile thinking” as comparing the success of Operation Sindoor to ‘surrender’ not only shows deep disrespect for India’s armed forces but also reveals his weak mentality. “While he is often considered a poster boy for Pakistan, neither the Pakistani army nor terrorist organisations have made such shameful remarks,” the BJP spokesperson said, adding that, “Rahul Gandhi has made a statement that even Pakistan’s army chief, any terrorist organisation in Pakistan, Maulana Masood Azhar, or Hafiz Saeed have not uttered. No one has said that India has surrendered; rather, they have expressed their grievances intermittently. So I ask Rahul Gandhi—are you trying to go a step further than those leaders?”

Trivedi further stated, “The Indian armed forces announced the success of Operation Sindoor, not BJP leaders or their spokespersons. To illustrate genuine surrender, two years ago, Rahul Gandhi questioned why defenders of democracy in Europe and America are silent and why they are not intervening in India’s internal affairs—that was

surrender.” “For instance, on July 15, 2011, Rahul Gandhi said that completely controlling terrorism is impossible—that was surrender. After the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, the UPA government said that comprehensive talks with Pakistan would continue despite terrorist activities—that too was surrender. In 1971, after a decisive military victory and the surrender of 93,000 Pakistani soldiers, the Congress leadership ‘surrendered’ Pakistani-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

“Similarly, in 1962, the surrender of Aksai Chin; in 1960, the surrender of 80% of the Indus waters in the Indus Waters Treaty; in 1948, the surrender of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir; and in 1947, the surrender of one-third of India’s territory to the Muslim League—all are recorded as surrenders by Congress.” “We are the

only civilisation in the world that remains vibrant after thousands of invasions, and you refuse to accept this. Our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, is like a lion of Mother India—that is, our Narendra is the tiger of Mother India.”

Trivedi warned that “due to habit, temperament, mischief, agitation, and cunningness”, Rahul Gandhi can say whatever he wants about the Prime Minister or BJP, but he should not hurt India’s and the Indian Army’s pride and self-respect. He pointed out that Rahul Gandhi’s speeches, which are “increasingly in favour of Pakistan”, surpass the confessions and statements of Pakistan Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif and Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir, leading to the impression that Rahul Gandhi is actually speaking not as Rahul Gandhi but as “Rahul Sharif or Rahul Munir”.

Australian policeman kneels on Indian origin man's neck, injuring him grievously

New Delhi, June 4 (UNI) An Indian origin man was grievously injured after an Australian policeman knelt on his neck pinning him down to the ground until he became unconscious, bringing back the memories of a similar incident of George Floyd in the US in 2020.

Forty-two-year-old

Gaurav Kundli was with his partner when the policeman trying to arrest him, pinned him down to the ground despite Gaurav pleading innocence. He is now on life support system at a hospital with almost no chances of recovery.

Reports said Gaurav was pinned to the ground even as his partner

78 lakh unreserved tickets booked through ATVM in FY 2024-25

Vijayawada, June 4 (UNI) Vijayawada Railway Division in South Central Railway continues to enhance passenger convenience and promote digital initiatives with the successful operation of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) across its network.

These user-friendly machines have significantly streamlined unreserved ticketing, enabling faster, contactless, and hassle-free travel for lakhs of daily commuters.

In a significant achievement, the Vijayawada Division has emerged as a frontrunner in ATVM utilisation. Presently, 72 ATVMs are operational across 29 major railway stations, supported by 94 facilitators to assist passengers. As a result of continued awareness campaigns and improved accessibility, 33% (78,19,581) of the total (2,41,51,165) unreserved tickets in the Division were now booked through ATVMs.

Narendra A Patil, Divisional Railway Manager, Vijayawada Division congratulated passengers and staff alike on this achievement, stating, “The rise in ATVM ticketing is a clear sign of passengers embracing technology for a smoother travel experience. This initiative supports our broader vision of making Indian Railways smarter, faster, and more passenger-friendly. We will continue to innovate and improve digital access across all our stations,” he asserted.

Alliance leaders celebrate end of YSRCP's 'anarchic rule'; list achievements of govt

Kakinada, June 4 (UNI) : The Alliance leaders at a meeting held at the camp office of Rajya Sabha member Saana Sathish at Koppavaram near here on Wednesday, said that the “anarchic rule” of YSRCP has ended a year ago and that Andhra Pradesh is going ahead with accelerated growth both in development and in welfare schemes.

During his inaugural address, TDP district president Jyothula Naveen Kumar claimed that the government had implemented 70 percent of its election-eve promises.

He claimed that during the past one year roads were developed spending Rs.1,200 Crores, fishermen

Anantapur MP Valmiki flags off extended service of Anantapur-KSR Bengaluru MEMU

Anantapur, June 4 (UNI) : Anantapur Parliament member Ambica G. Lakshminarayana Valmiki, flagged off the extended service of Train No. 66560 Anantapur – KSR Bengaluru MEMU, from Anantapur Railway station, here on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Valmiki stated that a long-cherished dream of the people of Anantapur has come true with the flagging off of the first train originating from the district.

He announced that, after sustained efforts, the extension of Train No. 66559/66560 KSR Bengaluru – Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam – KSR Bengaluru MEMU service up to Anantapur has been approved. He stated that that the extension of this train will be especially beneficial for students, parents, traders, and local residents traveling for medical and other essential purposes.

Highlighting the affordability of rail transport, he stated that passengers can travel from Anantapur to Bengaluru for just Rs.50, making railways the most cost-effective mode of transport. The MP expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Modi, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and the Minister of Railways for their guidance and continued support in enhancing the rail infrastructure of Andhra Pradesh.

He further informed that the state has received a record budget allocation of Rs. 9,417 crore for the financial year 2025–26, the highest ever compared to previous years.

Lakshminarayana also stated that Anantapur Railway Station is being redeveloped at a cost of Rs. 29.20 crores in a phased manner under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS). The redeveloped station will be equipped with modern passenger amenities and world-class facilities, he said. Additionally, Dharmavaram, Hindupuram, Tadipatri, and Gooty Railway stations are also being redeveloped under the ABSS, he added.

MLA, Paritala Sunitha, who attended the event, appreciated the efforts of the Anantapur MP in ensuring the extension of train service up to Anantapur.

She stated that the extended service will cater to the needs of various groups in the society.

She also requested for more trains from Anantapur towards Vijayawada and Guntur. Earlier in his welcome address, Chandrashekar Gupta, Divisional Railway Manager, Guntakal Division, stated that the extension of the Anantapur – KSR Bengaluru MEMU marks a significant milestone in enhancing Rail connectivity and re-affirming Railways’ commitment towards providing best Rail infrastructure for the people in the region.

Udaynath Kotla, Deputy General Manager (G), SCR also addressed the gathering on the occasion.

Yenimireddi Malakondaiah said that the BJP government at the center was extending all out help to Andhra Pradesh to achieve accelerated growth.

They alleged that Jagan used to go to Delhi only to sort out the cases against him. Rajya Sabha member Saana Sathish Babu, Prathipadu MLA Varupula Satya Prabha, TDP leader Pilli Satyanarayana Murty, MLC Perabathula Rajasekhar, TDP leaders Vasireddi Yesudas, Nurukurti Venkateswara Rao, Bolla Krishna Mohan, Vennapu Chakradhararao, were among those who spoke on the Andhra government’s one-year achievements.

MP highlights India’s efforts to protect environment at BRICS meet

Vijayawada, June 4 (UNI) : Telugu Desam Party Lok Sabha MP Dr Shabri Byreddy took part in the 11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum held in Brazil from June 3–5, 2025, representing India as a woman parliamentarian on an international platform.

Speaking at the session on ‘Empowering Women to Face the Climate Crisis’, Dr. Shabri highlighted how India has always been active in protecting the environment, even before global discussions on climate change began. She referred to the Chipko Movement of the 1970s, where rural women played a key role in saving forests. She also spoke about India’s progress on climate goals, including a 24% reduction in emission intensity over 2005 levels, and achieving 159 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity, already meeting its 40% target. She mentioned that India now has the largest number of Ramsar sites in entire South Asia.

Dr Shabri also spoke about the need for gender-inclusive climate policies, and the important role women can play in environmental protection. She said Indian women, seen as “Shakti”, have the power to bring about change and heal the world. She also focused on the role of women in the age of Artificial Intelligence, calling for digital literacy, equal access, and inclusion in new technologies.

“It was truly enriching to engage and exchange ideas with fellow parliamentarians from across the globe, especially from BRICS nations. These interactions reinforced the importance of dialogue, solidarity, and shared commitment to progress and equality,” she said.

She thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Chief Minister of Chandrababu Naidu for the opportunity to be a part of the international event. The delegation of parliamentarians participating in the Summit was led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Tender Notice No. ET-HQ-WAT-15-2025, DL 29.05.2025

Name of Work : (1) IMPROVEMENTS TO TYPSTY RAILWAY COLONIES IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR ENGINEER/W/EAST AND (2) REPLACEMENT OF DILAPIDATED DOORS AND WINDOWS IN THE SIMHAGIRI EAST AND WEST RAILWAY COLONIES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ESTATE/WALTAIR.

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 1,90,16,027.37, EMD: ₹ 2,45,100/-

(2) Tender Notice No. ET-HQ-WAT-16-2025, DL 29.05.2025

Name of Work : (1) REPLACEMENT OF DILAPIDATED DOORS AND WINDOWS IN THE DOLPHIN NOSE AND HARBOUR COLONY IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/W/EAST AND (2) REPLACEMENT OF DILAPIDATED DOORS AND WINDOWS IN THE SIMHAGIRI EAST AND WEST RAILWAY COLONY OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/W/NORTH UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ESTATE/WALTAIR.

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 2,03,57,468.55, EMD: ₹ 2,51,800/-

Completion Period of the work: 08 months (for SI. No. 1) & 06 months (for SI. No. 2).

Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of 23.06.2025 (for both tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be 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.irpgs.gov.in

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

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), Waltair, PR-195/Q/25-26

STANDARD POST

Large language models can accurately predict plant gene functions

Large language models (LLMs), when trained on extensive plant genomic data, can accurately predict gene functions and regulatory elements, researchers said .

By leveraging the structural parallels between genomic sequences and natural language, these AI-driven models can decode complex genetic information, offering unprecedented insights into plant biology.

This advancement holds promise for accelerating crop improvement, enhancing biodiversity conservation, and bolstering food security in the face of global challenges, said the study published in Tropical Plants journal.

Traditionally, plant genomics has grappled with the intricacies of vast and complex datasets, often limited by the specificity of traditional machine learning models and the scarcity of annotated data.

While LLMs have revolutionised fields like natural language processing, their application in plant genomics remained nascent. The primary hurdle has been adapting these models to interpret the unique "language" of plant genomes, which differ significantly from human linguistic patterns.

In this study, researchers explored the potential of LLMs in plant genomics.

By drawing parallels between the structures of natural language and genomic sequences, the study highlights how LLMs can be trained to understand and predict gene functions, regulatory elements, and expression patterns in plants.

The research discusses various LLM architectures, including encoder-only models like DNABERT, decoder-only models such as DNAGPT, and encoder-decoder models like ENBED.

The team employed a methodology that involved pre-training LLMs on vast datasets of plant genomic sequences, followed by fine-tuning with specific annotated data to enhance accuracy.

By treating DNA sequences akin to linguistic sentences, the models could identify patterns and relationships within the genetic code.

These models have shown promise in tasks like promoter prediction, enhancer identification, and gene expression analysis.

Notably, plant-specific models like AgroNT and FloraBERT have been developed, demonstrating improved performance in annotating plant genomes and predicting tissue-specific gene expression.

However, the study also notes that most existing LLMs are trained on animal or microbial data, which often lack comprehensive genomic annotations, showcasing the versatility and robustness of LLMs in diverse plant species.

In summary, this study underscores the immense potential of integrating artificial intelligence, particularly large language models, into plant genomics research.

The study was conducted by Meiling Zou, Haiwei Chai and Zhiqiang Xia’s team from Hainan University.

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link

Engineering Excellence Amid Himalayan Extremes



(By Santosh Kumar Jha)
The Udhampur – Srinagar - Baramulla Rail Link Project was the most challenging Project being undertaken post-independence. It was highly essential to provide an alternative and a reliable transportation system to Jammu & Kashmir to join Kashmir valley to the Indian

due to natural challenges which includes major earthquake zones, extreme temperatures and inhospitable terrain which made it very difficult to access the complete geology in advance.

Considering the varying geological conditions, adjustments in design were needed to be made as the work progressed. Construction of longer tunnels with wider cross-section for station yards was a difficult task for which proper methodologies were being roped in with requisite machinery. Extensive engineering works were required to be done for tunnel portals, deep cuttings, bridges and approach roads.

Socio-economic impact of the Project Boost to



size of cross – section parallel to main tunnel. The tunnels on this project are constructed using the state-of-art-technology of New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM)) and conventional method.



Railways network. In view of importance of this project in providing seamless and hassle free connectivity in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, the Project was declared as ‘National Project’ in 2002.

A part of this project from Katra - Dharam from 30 km to 72.390 km and 91 km to 101.635 km had been assigned (total of 52.20 km) to Konkan Railway for execution. It comprises 44.59 km i.e. 85.5% of the route in tunnels, 4.6 km i.e. 8.8% of the route on bridges and the balance 5.7% of route in cuttings and embankments. In addition, Konkan Railway constructed 172 km of project roads including a road tunnel of 404 meter length, a 138 meter long bridge across the mighty Chenab Valley and many temporary Bailey bridges to gain access to the Katra - Dharam section.

The alignment of this project passes through three major geological thrust zones namely Reasi thrust, Muree thrust and PirPanjal thrust. The geological strata vary from loose conglomerate, clay, silt stones, crushed and faulted sand stones and dolomites. Geology changes very frequently

tourism:Tourists can travel all over the country to visit various parts of J&K specially the valley.

Better facilities for students of J&K to travel to other parts of the country for educational purposes.

The completion of this project will provide an all-weather and reliable connectivity to the J&K State with rest of the country by the railway network, also provide connectivity by rail to far flung areas of J&K which will result in overall economic development of the state.

Construction of Access Roads:About 172 km approach roads to work sites have been constructed, these roads will provide connectivity to far-flung villages and connect them to the main stream.

Tunnelling

There are 16 main tunnels with aggregating length of 44.59 km. In addition, about 25.12 km length of tunnelling also done for rescue/safety tunnels, cross passages and adits. The longest tunnel is tunnel No. 42 of 9.274 km length. Four tunnels i.e. tunnel No. 34, 36, 42 and 43 are provided with a separate access and rescue tunnel with smaller

meters having 17 spans, in which one span of main arch portion across Chenab river is of 467 meters length. The viaduct portion comprises straight and curved portion. The curvilinear portion of viaduct is located on the sharp curve of 2.74 degree. The curved portion of viaduct portion has been launched by end-on launching using launching nose. This is the first time in India that this technique has been successfully carried out on Curve and USBRL team need special commendation for having successfully executed the work. Fabrication work of the super structure of this viaduct was carried out by installing and commissioning of an extremely efficient and technically superior workshop at the site.

The erection of Arch is carried out from both ends with the help of Cable

the longest in the world. Pylon at height of 127 meter is higher than QutubMinar by 72 meter.

3. First time in the globe, the bridge has been designed for blast load in consultation with DRDO.

4. Redundancy kept in design.

5. Removal of one pier/trestle.

6. Bridge shall not collapse and remains operational at 30 kmph.

7. Bridge remains repairable.

8. For the first time in country, launching of plate girder by pushing from one end of curve of 2.74 degrees has been successfully completed (overall length of curvilinear portion is 268 meter).

9. First time in Indian Railways, use of Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing machine for inspection of welds in bridges in India.

10. Chenab bridge

Indian Railways. The Anji Bridge mainly includes the main bridge having length of 473.25 meter, the ancillary viaduct having length of 120 meter and the central embankment (between main bridge and ancillary viaduct) having a length of 64.25 meter. The specific feature of the bridge is its main span having length of 290 meter and height (193 meter) above top of Well Cap. The single Pylon (inverted Y shape) is 193 meter high above Well Cap and 331 meter high above river bed.

The bridge is supported by total 96 cables and single Pylon of 193 meter height placed on Reasi end. The bridge is designed by M/s Italferr SPA, an Italian consultant.

The Bridge has integrated monitoring system by means of numerous sensors installed at specified locations for recording various critical parameters on real time basis to monitor the structural health of the bridge.

To move heavy materials, KRCL had constructed a 138 meter long road bridge over river Chenab near Dhamkund on Ramban - Gool State highway. This road bridge is connecting surrounding villages i.e. Sangaldan, Gool, Mahore, Arnas, Kanthan and Reasi in Jammu & Kashmir. Also, to increase the progress of approach road work and have additional work fronts,



Chenab Bridge: The project alignment crosses deep gorge of Chenab river near Salal Hydro Power Dam, which necessitated construction of a mega bridge across river Chenab. Chenab Bridge, at 359 meter above river bed and having 467 meter of single arch span across mighty Chenab river is the highest railway arch bridge in the world. This iconic bridge soaring 359 meter above the bed of the river Chenab is 35 meter higher than the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris.

he overall length of Chenab bridge is 1315

Crane. It consists of 2 arches (one upstream and other downstream) joined by wind bracings together parabolic in shape having crown at 359 meter height from river bed making it the World’s Highest Railway Arch Bridge. State-of-the-art technology is used to control the geometry of the Arch.

Unique Features of Chenab Bridge

1. Highest railway arch bridge in the world at 359 meter.

2. Cable crane assembly including Pylons with a span of 915 meter is

site lab has been accredited by NABL (National Accreditation Board for Laboratories) for testing of welded elements for first time on Indian Railways.

11. Highest structural steel pier at 130.855 meter at S-40 foundation, which is higher than QutubMinar by 72 meter.

B) **Anji Bridge:** The AnjiKhad bridge is a asymmetrical cable stayed bridge which connect Katra and Reasi Section of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project. This is the first cable stayed bridge constructed in

more than 260 MT machineries like excavators, twin drilling jumbo, road roller, dozers, dumpers, shotcrete machines, concrete mixers, generators etc., were shifted using world’s largest cargo Helicopters MI 26 from Indian Air Force in 21 sorties. The required Helipad at Surukote village was constructed manually using hand tools as there was no other access for the vehicles.

Konkan Railway always remains committed to contributing to the growth and development of the nation.

Historic Kashmir rail link to usher a new era for J&K: LG

Srinagar, June 4 (UNI) : Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari will usher a new era for the Union Territory.The train to Kashmir will end wait of 126 years as Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off a Vande Bharat train from Katra to Kashmir on June 6.

The PM will also inaugurate the Chenab bridge, which will be the world's highest railway arch bridge.

Days ahead of the flag off of Kashmir train, the Lieutenant Governor said that world's highest Chenab Railway Bridge, a network of 36 tunnels and 943 other

bridges for year-round connectivity reflects a rising Kashmir's dreams and commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in shaping Jammu Kashmir Union Territory's new chapter.LG said that Prime Minister has created an inclusive and vibrant future for Jammu Kashmir.

“Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir has witnessed a new dynamism in every sector and inclusive growth has ensured no section of society is left behind.Prime Minister’s vision and speedy implementation of development projects on the ground has left a significant imprint on Jammu Kashmir’s growth and what earlier seemed impossible has been made

possible,” Sinha said.The Lieutenant Governor elaborated that Prime Minister Modi visited Jammu Kashmir 5 times since 2022 to inaugurate and to lay the foundation of major infrastructure projects worth Rs 64,400 Crores besides 53 projects worth Rs 58,477 Crore under PMDP, other connectivity and development projects worth thousands of Crores are setting Jammu Kashmir on a trajectory of rapid growth.

“The Rail Project worth Rs 43,780 Crores, connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari is an engineering excellence that will create an ideal environment for trade, business, all weather transportation and

Relationships



School kids Growing up too fast?

Life was all rosy for 13-year-old Chitra studying in a reputed school in Mumbai until she laid eyes on a magazine brought in by her senior school-mate Aman who was 15-years-old. Excited and titilated by the explicit visual content - she soon developed a habit to drool over the magazine with her school friend on a daily basis. In no time, this habit took a physical turn and one fine day the two youngsters decided to experiment with sex out of sheer curiosity. Tragedy struck as Chitra got pregnant at the age of 13 and Aman could never come out of the guilt. This real-life instance shared by the principal of a reputed school from Mumbai on conditions of anonymity reveals the grave side effects associated with young school children indulging in reading pornography. Be it the curiosity to watch porn, getting a taste of alcohol or enjoying the ecstasy of drugs - modern school kids are choosing to live life in the fast lane...so unaware of the speed breakers and dead ends that lie ahead.

Dr. Samir Parikh, chief psychiatrist, Max Healthcare, who recently conducted a survey in Delhi reveals, "26 percent of the boys surveyed fell in the moderate category and 21 percent fell in the high category when it came to talks about visiting porn sites, being a common conversation in schools. Among girls, 24 percent fell in the moderate category and 5 percent in the high category."

Though figures of drug addiction in schools were comparatively lower, but it was quite prominent as these young party animals often hit night clubs and pubs to enjoy themselves. Moving away from the national Capital the scene was equally disappointing in other parts of the country as well. Pramod Sharma, Principal of Mayo College, Ajmer reveals, "Being a residential school, Internet access is quite controlled and well monitored at our institution. Also, we have installed special software which blocks certain sites, but still on a number of occasions we have found kids receiving porn stuff on their E-mails."

Ritu Nanda, a clinical psychologist and of anonymity, a teacher from a Delhi-based girl's government school reveals, "It was a shock to find a girl showing a sleazy MMS to her friends, especially when we knew that her parents barely managed a square meal a day for their family. On enquiring we got to know that it was gifted to her by her boyfriend. Not just this, girls as young as 11 and 12 proudly boast about their boyfriends to their classmates." The reasons for this forward behaviour in school children experts say can be blamed on an easy access

counselor, Delhi Public School, Bhopal, narrates a different saga of addiction, which is governed by the availability of addictive. "Fortunately, we have not received any complaints of drug addiction, but instances of alcohol addiction have come to our notice, since it is easily available in comparison to drugs."

Taking the availability clause further, Ritu adds, "The main aim of school kids is to experience a feeling of high and if they do not get access to drugs and alcohol, a lot of them resort to other readily available options like inhaling petrol and even thinner, which they get along with the white corrective fluid or in the form of nail polish remover. When inhaled in abundance, fumes from petrol or the thinner leaves them hallucinating and in a state of ecstasy."

Usha Reddy, principal, Meridian School, Hyderabad shares some confessions made by adolescent kids in a 'Closed Box Session', which is an adolescent counseling session that is held in the school. "One of the kids said, 'I have done it thrice with my friend and now I can't study for my exams'. Another one who came for help expressed his guilt saying, 'I am bad as I watch bad things on my computer, I don't want to see them, but I cannot control my urges,'" reveals Usha.

The biggest shock comes from the fact reveal ation that these honest

confessions were from kids who were all under 15 years of age. And the fact that some of them couldn't even put their actions into words was enough to reveal their maturity levels

Even kids studying in government schools are displaying promiscuous behavior. On conditions

to technology like mobile phones as well as the Internet being readily used mainly to complete school projects, untapped access and lack of control over children's Internet-habits by their busy parents.

Also, excess exposure to an overwhelming party culture and availability of easy money opens the door for many bad habits. "They want to try something new, cool and happening and unfortunately these addictions act as magnet to their wants. Then comes peer pressure and the need of social recognition combined with little knowledge that ends up proving dangerous for them," explains Ritu.

Meghna Manchanda, mother to a 12-year-old Samir says, "My husband and I are not at all Internet savvy. Even for our requirements we depend upon our son. On one such day when he was opening a site many pornographic pictures started popping up and on being asking, my son told us that he has become an online member to one such site. Though we couldn't stop him from using the Internet, after that they we as parents became extra vigilant."

Experts tag such promiscuous behaviour as the 'Gang-age', when doing everything in groups and gangs is considered uber cool!

Usha explains, "More than displaying a cool quotient, it is about creating a comfort zone of their own. When one child goes to a porn site accidentally or intentionally, mixed feelings of excitement and guilt start groping their mind. Excitement makes them visit the sites again, while the feeling of guilt makes them spill the beans in their peer group proving that 'it's not just me but every one who's indulging in the same behaviour.'" In today's scenario, trying to shield a child from such addictions seems absolutely impossible to many parents. So what's the way to help them to keep off the porn addiction?

1. The right way is to counsel your child well in advance so that there's a proper time for everything and getting into such habits in their age will only defocus them," advises Reddy.

2. Most children maintain these habits in seclusion which bears testimony to the constant guilt that grows inside them. So inculcate a habit in them of not doing anything in the world that they feel ashamed of telling their parents. Open the doors of communication. "Yelling, scolding and public insult can spoil things further, instead counsel them by telling them the pros and cons of every little step they take in their life," advises Reddy.

3. "Cutting upon their pocket money is not the solution. Instead develop a mutual trust between you and your kid. Make him spend the pocket money as he likes and in return he should give you an account of every single rupee he's splurged," suggests Veena Venugopal, vice principal, Abhayasa Residential Pub School.

4. Keeping a constant check on kids is nearly impossible for parents in a modern context. But they should ensure that the computer is in a common room rather than in kids' room. Also, the time of accessing the Internet should be fixed and surprise visits into the room must be maintained so that the youngster is not indulging in net surfing without the fear of supervision.

5. Software that can bar certain sites (containing adult content) can also be installed on machines at home as well as in schools.

The influences that work on a young mind in today's modern context is not easy to monitor, but being cautious as parents helps to keep your child safe from harm.

Step-parenting tips

Being a step-parent is a tough ask. But, you can easily work your way around to having a happy family if you follow a few basic rules.

The first is and the most important rule is to never put your wife/husband in an awkward situation, where they end up having to choose between you or the children. This will bring in immediate dislike from the children towards you, especially if your spouse ends up choosing you over them. Accept your step-children with all their shortcomings. Remember, they are looking for a mentor, a guiding light from you. They are having as tough a chance when it comes to accepting the new surroundings at home as you are. Give them reassurance and reinforcements. In the case of becoming a stepfather, remember that you need to be the strong supportive figure. They need to know that they can trust you. As for stepmothers, you will have to be their emotional anchor.



Is summer a ‘fur’nace for your pets?

The summer sun is brutal for our furry and feathered companions too. Here are some pointers on what to do for your pets as the weather starts hotting up.

Did you know that dogs and cats don't sweat, but instead pant to release heat? Veterinary surgeon Dr Afzal H Mohamed says, "Dogs and cats have sweat glands, but they are poorly developed and are of no use in thermoregulation."

Outdoor vs indoor

Contrary to popular opinion, indoor pets don't need to be kept in an air conditioned environment all the time. This actually reduces their tolerance to heat. "Even long-haired breeds don't necessarily need an air conditioner on all the time," says Dr Afzal. "If they have

been bred for generations in a tropical climate, they are probably well-adapted to the heat. It depends on how the individual dog or cat is raised."

Moreover, dogs adapted to living outdoors will do fine outside as long as they have shady spots to sleep in and access to water at all times, he adds.

Shedding in summer

We look for thin, comfortable clothes to wear during summer. Imagine having a fur coat on all the time! No wonder our pets want to shed all that hair...

"Most breeds have a soft undercoat and a fairly coarse overcoat. The undercoat grows out during the cooler months — this is what is shed during summer," says veterinarian Dr Priyadarshini Govind. "A good 10 to 15 minutes of brushing every day helps to bring the shedding under control."

An ice cube a day

Dogs and cats go through some minor changes in their eating patterns. "They may prefer to eat during the cooler parts of the day, like in the early morning and late evening," says Dr Priya. "Ensure they have fresh water easily available - especially if you're giving them mainly dry food (kibbles)."

But what about pets that are poor water drinkers? "A bowl of chicken soup, chilled butter milk or tender coconut water is an alternative," she says. "You can also freeze these into ice cubes and offer these as a treat during the day."

Travelling by car

Sure, your dog loves to come along on a

drive! But summers mean you have to be extra careful about taking your pets out on that joyride. Dr Afzal warns, "Under NO circumstances should a dog or cat be left in an exposed parked car for even a short while. If parked in the shade, keep the air conditioner running and roll down the windows a couple of inches." Be a Good Samaritan



If you think summer is hard on your pets, imagine the animals - dogs, cats, birds, cows - who live off our streets. Here are two simple things you could do:

1. Keep a big bowl of fresh water outside your house / shop / office and try to ensure it is filled at all times. Cement water bowls can be put up in street corners for this purpose.

2. Dogs often take shelter from the sun under parked cars. Always look under your vehicle before you start.

Warning signs of heat stress "Heat stroke is an emergency!" says Dr Afzal. Watch out for these signs:

- Dullness

- Constant panting
- Dry nose
- Glazed eyes
- Vomiting
- Fast heart rate
- Weakness progressing to depression
- Blindness
- Inco-ordination while walking
- Collapse

- Seizures
- Coma
- If you suspect heat stress/heat stroke:
 - Move your pet immediately to a cool environment (air conditioned)
 - Wet it with room-temperature water
 - Place under a fan to increase convective heat loss
 - You may also need to hurry to your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Summer's also not a good time for you to consider mating your pet. Dr Priya says, "I generally discourage my clients from breeding in the summer due to the stress of the heat that makes it very difficult for both the mother and puppies. Pregnant dogs can go into abortion if they have the slightest of heat stress."

Tips:

- Walk your dog in the early morning or late evening, never in the afternoon
- Never leave your pet unattended in a car
- Ensure there is always plenty of fresh water available
- Ensure there is plenty of shade available



Four public transport buses of Navi Mumbai Municipal Transport (NMMT) gutted in a fire at NMMT's Ghansoli Bus Depot, in Navi Mumbai.

Fire destroys 4 NMMT buses in Navi Mumbai

(Standard Post Bureau)

Navi Mumbai, June 4 : A fire broke out at the Ghansoli depot of Navi Mumbai Municipal Transport (NMMT) early Wednesday morning, reducing four buses to

ashes. The blaze, which started around 7 am, involved three diesel buses and one electric. Firefighters promptly arrived at the scene and managed to bring the fire under control. According to

Yogesh Kaduskar, general manager of Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation Transport, one of the diesel buses had been parked at the depot for maintenance since May 28. The fire originated in this bus and

quickly spread to three other buses parked nearby, resulting in the total loss of four vehicles. Kaduskar said the engineering department would conduct a thorough investigation to determine the exact cause of the fire.

India will play more significant global role in future: Paraguay Presdient in Mumbai

Mumbai, June 4 (UNI) : Paraguay President Santiago Peña Palacios on Wednesday expressed hope that India will play an even more significant role on the global stage in the years ahead.

Speaking at a reception hosted in his honour by Maharashtra Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan, Palacios said his country has much to offer and is keen to build

strong partnerships with India in areas like agriculture and green energy.

Palacios, who is on a three-day visit to India, expressed his deep admiration for all that he has witnessed during the trip.

He expressed the hope that India, as the world's fourth-largest economy and largest democracy, will play a more significant

global role in the coming years. Highlighting Paraguay's strengths as the 'food basket of Latin America', the President emphasised that his country and India share many common values and interests, forming a solid foundation for enhanced cooperation across multiple sectors.

The Paraguayan President said Paraguay is

not involved in any war or conflict.

He told the Governor that Latin America is suffering from organised crime and drug trafficking. He said Latin America is a large producer of drugs, although Europe is the consumer. He called for international cooperation to fight the menace of the drug mafia. The visiting President said in 1955,

Two passengers killed, 15 others injured in road accident in Jalgaon

Jalgaon, June 4 (UNI)

Two passengers were killed on the spot and more than 15 others were injured in collision between a private travel bus and a truck on the national highway near Muktainagar in the district early on Wednesday.

According to police, a bus of private travel company going to Akola from Jalgaon hit a truck near Muktainagar early this morning. Due to the accident, the traffic on the highway has been disrupted. Upon getting information of accident, the locals rushed to the spot and immediately admitted injured passengers to the nearest hospital. Some of them are in critical condition. The cause of accident has yet to be ascertained.

Police have registered a case against the truck driver and are investigating the matter, sources added.

BMC prepares for Eid al-Adha as over 1.5 lakh animals arrive at Deonar

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 4 : With only days remaining for Eid al-Adha, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is making extensive preparations at the Deonar abattoir, Asia's largest slaughterhouse, as over 1.5 lakh animals, including goats and 8,000 buffaloes, have already arrived at the facility.

Thousands of traders from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and other states began bringing their livestock nearly 15 days ahead of the festival, which is slated for June 7 this year.

The BMC has set up elaborate arrangements to accommodate the animals and ensure smooth operations during the busy period. Over 500 security and sanitation personnel will be deployed at the abattoir, which spans 77,580 square meters.

Temporary sheds and shelters have been erected to house the animals, while two health centers and three ambulances for humans, along with two first aid centers for animals, have been arranged on-site.

To manage the large influx, 109 designated

facilities across Mumbai have been earmarked for the religious slaughter of goats, while buffalo slaughter is permitted only within the Deonar premises. The ritual slaughter is expected to take place from June 7 to June 9, following traditional customs.

Kaleem Pasha Pathan, general manager of the Deonar abattoir, explained that the registration of traders and management of animal movement has been digitized through a QR code system. While 1.5 lakh goats and 8,000 buffaloes have arrived so far, an additional 20,000 to 30,000 animals are expected in the coming days, depending on market demand.

The BMC has also allocated four vehicles specifically for the transportation and disposal of deceased animals. To maintain cleanliness, 300 sanitation workers will operate in three shifts, supported by pickup vans, JCBs, and dumpers. Security measures include over 200 personnel working in two shifts, CCTV surveillance, and the installation of seven hand-metal and door-metal

detectors.

Strict action will be taken against unauthorized slaughter outside the abattoir, with dedicated monitoring teams deployed across the city's eastern and western suburbs and the island city division to enforce compliance.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, while chairing a high-level law and order meeting at Mumbai's Sahyadri Guest House on Monday evening in connection with Eid al-Adha celebrations, directed senior officials to maintain communal harmony and ensure the peaceful conduct of the festival across the state.

This directive came in the wake of recent discussions surrounding animal sacrifice and the closure of cattle markets in certain regions.

The Deonar abattoir experiences peak footfall of up to 1.5 lakh people daily during the festival, underscoring the importance of the BMC's c o m p r e h e n s i v e preparations to ensure a safe, orderly, and hygienic environment for the religious celebrations.

Delhi Court permits Tihar jail to file response to Tahawwur Rana's application to speak with family

New Delhi, June 4 (UNI) : A Delhi court on Wednesday permitted Tihar Jail authorities to file their response to the application of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana who has sought permission to speak to his family members.

Special Judge Chander Jit Singh after the hearing permitted Tihar Jail Authorities to file their response to the application of Rana and adjourned the matter for June 9.

National Investigation Agency filed its reply on the application of Rana and

also supplied its copy to the Jail Authorities on the direction of the Court.

Tahawwur Rana, 64, a Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman, is allegedly a close associate of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks main conspirator David Coleman Headley alias Daood Gilani, a US citizen. The court had earlier also dismissed the application of Rana seeking to talk with his family members.

A group of 10 Pakistani terrorists went on a rampage in Mumbai in November 2008, carrying out a coordinated attack on a railway station, two luxury

hotels and a Jewish centre, after they sneaked into Mumbai using the sea route in the Arabian Sea. About 166 people were killed due in this assault.

Rana is accused of conspiring with Headley and operatives of designated terrorist organisations to carry out the three-day terror siege of India's financial capital.

The US Supreme Court last month dismissed the review petition of Rana, a key accused in the 2008 terror attacks, against his extradition and cleared the way for his transfer to Indian custody.

Chance for higher education abroad for Maratha-Kunbi students through Sarathi

Nanded, June 4 (UNI) : The Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad Sarathi, which provides financial assistance to meritorious students of Maratha, Kunbi, Kunbi-Maratha, Maratha-Kunbi castes to pursue higher education in renowned universities abroad, is implementing a scholarship scheme for meritorious boys and girls for higher education abroad. According to the deputy managing director of Sarathi, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar has appealed Wednesday to Interested students that they should submit an

online application in the prescribed format on the official website by June 16, 2025. It is being implemented effectively from the academic year 2023-24. Scholarships are provided to 75 students every year through this scheme. This scheme will encourage meritorious students of the Maratha-Kunbi community to pursue education at the global level.

The beneficiary should be a resident of Maharashtra and should belong to the Maratha, Kunbi, Kunbi-Maratha, caste and an Indian citizen.

Sadhu Vaswani Mission commemorates 92 years of Mira movement in education

Pune, June 4 (UNI) : Inspiring Satsangs on Wednesday commemorated 92 years of Mira movement of education, that was started by Sadhu Vaswani. Three satsangs at dawn, noon and evening marked the celebrations.

At the break of dawn, satsang was held commemorating the time at which Sadhu Vaswani started the movement in 1933. The satsang included readings from the sacred scripture of Sadhu Vaswani—the Nuri Granth and recitations from the writings of saints—Sant Dnyaneshwar, Sant Tukaram, Shah Abdul Latif, and Jesus, echoing the timeless call to live and spread the light in the world, said a release here. The noon and evening satsangs were marked by gathering of students, teachers, and devotees.

Dr Manju Nichani, director of Sadhu Vaswani Schools, in her address, described June four as a landmark day in the history of Indian education. She reaffirmed Sadhu Vaswani's ideal that education should go beyond academics — shaping hearts, not just minds.

Blaze destroys multiple warehouses in Thane's Diva area

Mumbai, June 4 (UNI) A major fire broke out in a cluster of scrap godowns at Chowdhari Compound on Khardi Road in Diva, in Thane district, destroying six warehouses owned by different individuals, officials said on Wednesday.

According to Yasin Tadvi, chief of the Disaster Management Cell of Thane Municipal Corporation, the blaze started late Tuesday evening in one godown and rapidly spread to five adjoining warehouses.

Firefighters responded swiftly with three fire engines, alongside personnel from Daighar police station and the regional disaster management cell. The fire was brought under control by 1:30 am on Wednesday, though cooling operations continued. No injuries were reported in the incident.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, officials said. This incident follows a similar fire that occurred on May 30 at a scrapyard in the Shil area of Thane. That fire broke out around 11 pm at Bablu Compound and affected five godowns before

being extinguished by early morning. No casualties were reported in that blaze either, and authorities have launched an inquiry to determine its cause.

SCBA president writes to CJI, objects to SCAORA's alleged overreach

New Delhi, June 4 (UNI) : The President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), Senior Advocate Vikas Singh, has written to Chief Justice of India BR Gavai raising concerns over the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) allegedly acting beyond its mandate.

In his letter, Singh stated that the intention behind placing the concerns on record was to ensure that there remains a unified voice within the Bar on issues relating to Supreme Court lawyers.

"I am placing these concerns on record to set the matter straight and to ensure that the functioning of this institution remains cohesive, disciplined, and free from unnecessary overlaps or conflicts, particularly in matters concerning the general interests of the Bar or the infrastructure of the Supreme Court." The letter alleged that the SCAORA has recently taken positions on issues that fall under the exclusive domain of the SCBA. It stated that the SCBA alone represents the interests of all categories of lawyers practising in the Supreme Court. The letter highlighted that SCBA currently has 22,734 members, including 10,013 permanent and 12,309 temporary members, as well

as 906 Senior Advocates, AoRs, and about 19,000 non-AoR practitioners. It added that while there are 3,786 registered AoRs with the Supreme Court, only about 3,000 are members of SCAORA.

Singh referred to a communication issued by SCAORA on June 2, 2025, to the Secretary General of the Supreme Court regarding biometric entry for lawyers. The letter alleged that the issue was presented as one concerning the entire Bar, which Singh objected to.

"There is absolutely no question of members of the Bar voluntarily offering such extensive personal information to the Registry of the Supreme Court. If, on the other hand, there is any mandate from the Supreme Court for security reasons, upon discussion with the SCBA, the Bar would, of course, fully cooperate."

The letter stated that the existing proximity card system for lawyers was functioning efficiently and raised concerns about data privacy in the context of biometric data collection.

Singh also referred to the Supreme Court's decision in the Supreme Court Bar Assn. v. B.D. Kaushik, stating that the Court has recognised SCBA as the only association representing all members of the Supreme Court Bar, including Senior Advocates, Advocates, and AoRs.

Mumbai, June 4 (UNI) : Three people were arrested by BKC police station on Wednesday for their alleged involvement in a fake gold scam, where a man was duped of Rs two lakh.

The accused allegedly created a bogus Instagram account offering imported gold at discounted rates and lured unsuspecting buyers with the promise of profitable deals, officials said here.

The accused were arrested near CST Road in Kalina, Santacruz East, after police laid a trap based on specific inputs.

A case was registered at BKC police station under Sections 318(4) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). During the investigation, police used technical surveillance and local sources to track the suspects.

Further investigation revealed that the suspects have cases of cheating registered against them in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

SPP in Mumbai's Kukreja murder case not paid his fees

Mumbai, June 4 (UNI) Mumbai's special public prosecutor Pradeep Gharat, hired to represent the police in the Jhanvi Kukreja murder case, on Wednesday claimed that neither the state government nor the police has paid him his legal fees since 2021 when the trial began.

As per the prosecution, 19-year-old Kukreja was assaulted by her boyfriend, Shree Jogdhankar, 23, and his friend, Diya Padalkar, 19, on the night of December 31, 2020, during the New Year party on the rooftop of the eight-floor building in a city suburb.

Talking to UNI, Gharat said he was appointed SPP in 2021 and since then he has been representing the Mumbai police and the

prosecution, but so far he has not received any payment for his services.

He said he has written thrice to the police in-charge handling the matter and has also sent messages, but has not received any response.

On Tuesday he moved an application in the court seeking permission to withdraw himself from the case, but the court turned down his plea saying that the trial was at a crucial juncture and that the court cannot allow such a plea by the prosecution.

However, the court directed the police to consider the SPP's request expeditiously.

The case is posted for hearing on June 16 for further proceedings.

Indian Women's Hockey Team to open their Asia Cup 2025 campaign against Thailand



New Delhi, June 4 (UNI) The Indian Women's Hockey Team is set to kick off their Women's Asia Cup 2025 campaign against Thailand on September 5.

The Indian Team has been placed in Pool B, alongside defending Asia Cup champions Japan, Thailand, and Singapore, while Pool A consists of hosts China, Korea, Malaysia, and Chinese Taipei.

The tournament is set to take place in Hangzhou, China, from September 5 to 14.

Team India, which claimed the Bronze medal in the previous edition, will be eyeing the top podium finish this time. A victory not only brings continental glory but also guarantees a direct qualification to the 2026 Women's FIH Hockey World Cup, as the Asia Cup champions earn an automatic berth in the prestigious quadrennial event.

Speaking on the tournament, India Captain Salima Tete said, "We are excited to begin our campaign in the Women's

Asia Cup. Being placed in Pool B alongside defending champions Japan will test our skills and character from the very start. However, facing them in the pool stage will be a great opportunity to measure ourselves early in the tournament. Our focus will be on playing smart, disciplined hockey and taking it one match at a time. The ultimate goal is to lift the trophy and earn a direct spot in the 2026 Women's FIH Hockey World Cup."

Echoing Salima's sentiments, Vice Captain Navneet Kaur said, "It will be a challenging tournament with Asia's top teams competing with each other, but we see it as a chance to bring out our best right from the first whistle. We've been training with intensity and purpose, and we will aim to execute our plans on the field during the tournament. Playing against Japan in the group stage gives us an early look at high-pressure hockey, which can only help us grow stronger as a unit. We're determined to make

this Asia Cup campaign count and make the country proud."

Notably, the Indian Women's Hockey Team last won the Asia Cup back in 2017, when they defeated China in the Final to lift the title.

India's schedule for Asia Cup 2025 Pool B matches:

5th September 2025: India vs Thailand

6th September 2025: Japan vs India

8th September 2025: India vs Singapore

According to the tournament format, the top two teams from each pool will advance to the Super 4s Pool, where each team will play one match against each of the other three teams.

The top two teams from the Super 4s Pool will qualify for the Final, while the third- and fourth-placed teams will compete in the 3rd/4th place match. The bottom two teams from Pool A and Pool B will play classification matches to determine the 5th to 8th positions in the tournament.

Nineteen GMs to feature in Aurionpro International GM Chess

Mumbai, June 4 (UNI) Nineteen GMs, 11 IMs and four WIMs, representing 19 countries, will feature in the Rs 40 lakh prize money Aurionpro International Grandmaster Chess Tournament, revived by Indian Chess School after an interval of five years, to be played at the World Trade Centre, here, from June 16 to 24.

The tournament includes an International Open Grandmasters Chess event, offering prize money of Rs 25 lakh, and an Under-13 competition, offering prize money of Rs 15 lakh, regarded as the highest prize money tournament in the world for juniors.

Young chess players from across India and abroad will be competing in four age categories: Under-7, Under-9, Under-11, and Under-13. National champions will receive free entry and accommodation, while national school champions will get free entry, making the tournament accessible to the country's brightest emerging talent.

"Chess is no longer confined to a few geographies; it is expanding fast and wide," said Ashish Rai, Group CEO, Aurionpro Solutions. "We're witnessing a surge of bold, brilliant players ready to compete on the global stage. This tournament is just the beginning of a new era, filled with immense, untapped potential."

The tournament is being organized by the Indian Chess School, a respected institution in youth chess development.

With participation expected from across the country and international entries as well, it offers a unique stage for young talent to gain exposure, experience, and recognition.

"The goal of the tournament has always been to encourage analytical thinking and mental resilience in youth," said Praful Zaveri, Founder of Indian Chess School. "It's inspiring to see a tech company like Aurionpro recognize that the same skills which produce great chess players are critical for navigating today's digital challenges. This partnership validates the idea that strategy is a universal language, whether in technology or over the board."

With this partnership, the Aurionpro International Grandmaster Chess Tournament is set to become a leading event in youth chess and a powerful step forward for the game's future. The earlier editions have thrown up junior winners, who have gone on to carve a place for themselves in the global chess world, prominent among them current World Champion Gukesh.

The top three winners of the Grandmaster event will take home Rs 4 lakh, 3 lakh and two lakh respectively, while the winners of the junior event will win Rs 3 lakh, 2 lakh and 1 lakh respectively.

India's GM Diptayan Ghosh is the top seed of the GM event and will be challenged by the second seed GM Levan Pantsulaia of Georgia and third seed GM Petrosyan Manuel of Armenia.

This cup is yours too, roars Virat Kohli

Bengaluru, June 4 (UNI) : "Ee Saala Cup Namdu!" — Virat Kohli's thunderous declaration at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday sent a sea of red-and-gold into raptures, as Royal Challengers Bengaluru celebrated their historic maiden IPL title with thousands of euphoric fans.

Addressing a jam-packed stadium during the victory celebration, Kohli said, "I don't have much time, we need to wrap this up and show you the trophy, so please let me talk." He then added with a smile, "I'm going to start off by repeating what I said after we won the trophy — it's no more 'Ee Saala Cup Namde', it's 'Ee Saala Cup Namdu!'"

The phrase — which had long been a hopeful chant among RCB supporters — has now become a triumphant anthem for a team that finally ended its 18-year wait for an IPL crown.

"This is not just for the players or someone like me who has been here for 18 years," Kohli said, his voice emotional. "This is for all of you — the people of this wonderful city, who have supported RCB through all these years."

The scenes at the stadium were jubilant, with fans waving flags, chanting team slogans and cheering for their heroes as the RCB squad displayed the coveted trophy.

Kohli, who has been the face of the franchise since 2008, was at the centre of the celebrations — a fitting image for a player whose loyalty and passion have defined the spirit of RCB.

Vijay Mallya hails Virat Kohli's 18-year loyalty

Bengaluru, June 4 (UNI) : Former Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) owner Vijay Mallya on Wednesday described the franchise's maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) title win as the fulfilment of a long-cherished dream, spotlighting Virat Kohli's 18-year loyalty to the team as the emotional core of the triumph.

"I had the privilege of picking the legendary King Kohli as a youngster and it is remarkable that he has stayed with RCB for 18 years," Mallya said in a heartfelt social media post, following RCB's historic win in the 2025 IPL final.

Founded in 2008 under Mallya's ownership, RCB had long been regarded as the IPL's perennial underachievers despite boasting some of the biggest names in world cricket. The 2025 title win, coming after nearly two decades of heartbreaks, near-misses, and unwavering fan support, marked a watershed moment in the franchise's journey.

"When I founded RCB, it was my dream that the IPL trophy should come to Bengaluru," Mallya recalled. "Finally, the IPL trophy arrives in Bengaluru. Congratulations and thanks again to all who made my dream come true."

Mallya also paid tribute to other iconic players he had signed during his tenure - Chris Gayle, famously dubbed the "Universe Boss", and AB de Villiers, affectionately known as "Mr 360" for his audacious strokeplay.

"I had the honour of picking Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers, who remain an indelible part of RCB history," he said, tying the current glory to the contributions of past legends.

Hailing the team's performance in the 2025 edition, Mallya praised the coaching staff, balanced squad, and the "Play Bold" attitude that defined the campaign.

"RCB are IPL Champions finally after 18 years. Superb campaign right through the 2025 tournament. A well-balanced team playing bold with outstanding coaching and support staff. Many congratulations! Ee Sala Cup Namde!!" He reserved a special note of thanks for the fan base, whose patience and passion have remained undiminished through the years. "RCB fans are the very best and they deserve the IPL trophy. Ee Sala Cup Bengaluru baruthe!"

RCB's title win in Ahmedabad has sent waves of celebration across Bengaluru and beyond, with Kohli's long-awaited crowning moment widely seen as poetic justice for one of the game's greatest modern players.

RCB's triumphant return marred by stampede

Bengaluru, June 4 (UNI) : A bittersweet blend of jubilation and sorrow swept across Bengaluru on Wednesday as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) returned home with their maiden IPL title, even as a tragic stampede outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium earlier in the day claimed 11 lives.

The stampede occurred outside the stadium prior to the event, leaving 11 dead and 33 injured, chief minister Siddaramiah said.

While no reference was made to the incident during the felicitation or fan interaction, it is believed the players were unaware of the unfolding tragedy at the time. Thousands of jubilant fans had gathered near the

gates of the stadium since early morning, hoping to catch a glimpse of their favourite players and the trophy. The situation spiralled out of control when the surging crowd overwhelmed entry points, triggering a deadly stampede.

"Thirty-three people have been injured, with 47 reported to have sustained varying levels of trauma initially. Some were discharged after treatment," the Chief Minister stated, adding that all injured individuals would receive free medical care. The city had erupted in celebration as the newly-crowned champions were felicitated by the Karnataka government at the Vidhana Soudha. Chief Minister

Siddaramaiah received the long-awaited trophy celebration. Inside a packed stadium, RCB players took centre stage atop the gallery, proudly flaunting the golden IPL trophy. Addressing the thunderous fans, Kohli declared: "It's no more 'Ee Salaa Cup Namde', it's 'Ee Salaa Cup Namdu'. We have done it — not just for the players or someone like me who has been here 18 years, but for all of you, the people of this

wonderful city."

The team then took a victory lap, with Rajat Patidar, Krunal Pandya, Dinesh Karthik and others joining in the celebrations. Police personnel and organisers worked to manage the surging crowd and enthusiastic camerapersons. The open-top bus parade from Vidhana Soudha to the stadium, originally scheduled as part of the victory procession, was shelved due to security

reasons.

RCB's maiden title win ends an 18-year wait and marks a crowning moment for both the franchise and star batsman Kohli, who has remained a loyal servant of the team since the IPL's inception in 2008.

But as the fireworks lit up the sky and chants of "RCB" echoed through the night, Bengaluru remained painfully aware of the human cost that marred what should have been a wholly joyous homecoming.

Brazil feeling Ancelotti effect

Rio De Janeiro, June 4 (UNI) : Defender Marquinhos has praised the early impact of Carlo Ancelotti on Brazil's national team, expressing confidence that the newly appointed manager can inject a spark into the squad as it prepares for crucial World Cup qualifiers. Ancelotti, who officially took charge last week after leaving Real Madrid, will lead Brazil for the first time on Thursday when the Selecao confronts Ecuador in Guayaquil.

Five days later, Brazil will host Paraguay in Sao Paulo. Wins in both matches will all but secure the five-time world champion a place at the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. Brazil currently sits fourth in South America's qualifying standings, with the top six teams earning

direct entry. "The expectations, desire and ambition are the best possible," Marquinhos told a news conference from Brazil's training base in Teresopolis, near Rio de Janeiro, on Tuesday.

"The new manager has already shown the strength he has and what he can do in football, the intelligence he has. That's what the national team needs."

The 31-year-old said the squad had already begun to respond to the Italian's leadership and charisma.

"You can see already that Carlo brings a certain energy," the former Corinthians and Roma player said. "There is a feeling of something new and that something is coming. This short period before the [2026] World Cup is going to be very important." But it's just a

start and we know that everything will depend on what we do on the pitch. When we start winning we can also get the fans and the press on our side and everything will be easier. Hopefully this good energy can help us to get the job done on the pitch."

Marquinhos arrived in Brazil less than three days after captaining Paris Saint-Germain to its first-ever UEFA Champions League title with a 5-0 victory over Inter Milan at Allianz Arena in Munich. "My voice is coming back a little now. But these were days and nights of great emotion," he said. "I think it's worth mentioning that Paris believed in a project for 12 years, even back when it seemed distant. Having managed to achieve a goal in such a way was very special. Being part of that was gratifying."

Spain beat England to qualify for Nations League finals

Barcelona, June 4 (UNI) : Two second-half goals from substitute Claudia Pina saw Spain overturn a 1-0 halftime deficit to beat England 2-1 in Group C of the UEFA Women's Nations League.

The victory secures Spain's place in the competition's finals in late October, while dashing England's hopes of progression.

England needed a win to advance to the finals and was on track at halftime, but Pina's introduction turned the 2023 World Cup final rematch on its head, as she worked space to score with a left-foot shot to level things up in the 60th minute just after coming on as a substitute on Tuesday.

A draw would have been enough for Spain to qualify, but the Barcelona forward ended any doubts with 20 minutes left to play, cutting inside and scoring with a 25-meter shot that went in off the inside of the post.

After Pina's double, Spain controlled the ball and England was never able to get the possession they needed to try to get

back into the match.

Spain started the game strongly and England goalkeeper Hannah Hampton - who looks set to be first choice in the upcoming European Championship after Mary Earps' retirement - made a fine reflex stop to deny Esther Gonzalez after a corner had dropped invitingly for the Spain forward. Gonzalez forced another chance moments later, pressuring Leah Williamson into an error, but chipping wide with Hampton stranded off her line.

Spain was quick and aggressive and England was unable to get out of their half until the 22nd minute. Salma Paralluelo slipped under a challenge and Niamh Charles slid a fine pass in for Alessia Russo to get in behind the Spain defense and put the ball past Cata Coll to put England ahead. Charles and England had a big let-off moments later when the left-back seemed to handle in the area, but the referee failed to see it and there was no VAR to correct the decision.

Teenager Roman earns Chile call-up

Santiago, June 4 (UNI) : Uncapped Atletico Mineiro teenager Ivan Roman has been drafted into Chile's squad for World Cup qualifiers against Argentina and Bolivia, the Chilean football association said.

The 18-year-old replaces 36 year-old Universidad de Chile midfielder Charles Aranguiz, who was cut from the squad due to a leg muscle injury.

Roman, who has represented Chile at youth level, has had limited opportunities at Atletico Mineiro with just two league appearances since joining the Brazilian top flight club in February.

Chile will meet Argentina in Santiago on June 5 and Bolivia in El Alto five days later.

The Roja is currently last in the 10-team South American group and is seeking to win both matches to have an outside chance of securing a berth at next year's World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

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ECoR, Waltair Division strengthens RPF Patrolling with 13 New Motorcycles



(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, June 4 : The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Waltair Division has been equipped with 13 new motorcycles to enhance patrolling and mobility across key areas of the Division. The two-wheelers were officially handed over to RPF personnel today by Shri Alok Bohra, IG/RPF and Principal Chief Security Commissioner, East Coast Railway, along with Shri Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager, in the presence of Shri Ajay Prakash Dubey, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner, RPF.

This initiative marks a

significant step toward the motorization of RPF units, aiming to improve response times, strengthen presence in vulnerable and remote sections, and boost overall efficiency in security operations.

The newly procured motorcycles will be deployed across various strategic locations, including the Kottavalasa–Kirandul Line, Koraput–Rayagada Line, Rayagada–Vizianagaram Section, and other important areas within the Division. These terrains often pose mobility challenges, and the new vehicles are expected to provide RPF

personnel with greater agility and reach.

Speaking at the flag-off ceremony, DRM Shri Lalit Bohra remarked, “Our RPF teams often need to respond swiftly — whether patrolling trains, station premises, or pursuing offenders in remote regions. These motorcycles will significantly enhance our ability to act quickly and ensure passenger safety across the Division.”

Shri Alok Bohra, who played a key role in expediting the procurement process, emphasized the importance of continued modernization to meet evolving security needs.

MANUU extends last date for Admissions in merit based programmes

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, June 4 : Maulana Azad National Urdu University has extended the last date for admissions into merit based programmes for the academic year 2025-26 to June 19, 2025.

According to Prof. M. Vanaja, Director, Admissions, in view of the various representations received from different stakeholders across the country, the university administration has decided to extend the last date of admissions for 15 days.

Admissions are being offered in 24 various postgraduate courses apart from a full-time PG Diploma in Teaching English, four part-time PG Diploma programmes, 10 part-time Diploma programme, seven part-time certificate programme and Certificate, Diploma & B.Sc. in (Fashion Technology & Interior Design). Detailed prospectus can be accessed on University portal.

For more details or any clarifications interested candidates can email to admissionregular@manuuedu.in and for general queries admission help desk can be contacted on 040- 23006612 EXTN- 1801. The online application forms are available on website <https://manuuedu.in/regularAdmission/>.

Anyone who opposes BJP is branded anti-national nowadays: Punjab CM

Chandigarh, June 4 (UNI) Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday said that a "sorry state of affairs" was prevailing in the country as any view or idea opposing the propaganda of the BJP is now being labelled as "anti-national".

Interacting with the media persons here at his official residence, the Chief Minister said that it is "ironic" that Union Minister of State Ravneet Singh Bittu has contradicted his stand on Operation Sindoor by saying that he was echoing the voice of Pakistan.

He said it is "unfortunate" that Bittu has issued such "irrational statements", whereas his "masters sitting in Delhi have been giving hypothetical and baseless statements". Mann said the Union Minister has forgotten that his own party has "backtracked" from their decision to send Sindoor to every household, according to a media release from the chief minister's office.

The Chief Minister said that such an attitude is "unwarranted and undesirable," adding that it is not in the country's interest.

He said for the first time in world history, a government is sending its nominees across the globe to tell everyone that they have emerged victorious in a war. Mann said there is no need to tell anyone about the victory as the triumph is self-speaking.

Minister of Railways Approved the Project of Miraj Chord Line at Cost of Rs 128.78 Crores

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, June 4 : In a major step towards enhancing rail connectivity and freight movement efficiency, the Minister of Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, has approved the sanction of the Miraj Chord Line (1.73 km) project under Central Railway at an estimated cost of Rs 128.78

crores. This strategic initiative, proposed under the umbrella of Multi tracking/Flyover/Bypass Line Capacity Augmentation, aims to significantly ease train operations at Miraj Junction, a key interchange point connecting routes such as Miraj–Pune, Miraj–Kolhapur, Miraj–Pandharpur, and Miraj–

Londa. Currently, trains arriving from Kurduwadi or Hubballi and heading towards Kolhapur experience an average detention time of 120 minutes due to engine or brakevan reversal at Miraj. The proposed chord line will remove these operational delays, thereby improving network

efficiency. This is a significant step forward in strengthening the railway infrastructure in Western Maharashtra and will pave the way for more efficient goods and passenger train operations in the region. This fulfils long standing demand of Passenger for speedier travel from Miraj to Kolhapur.

Your IRCTC Account May Be Closed - Get It Verified Quickly!

(Standard Post Bureau)

New Delhi, June 4 : Every day, around 225,000 passengers book Tatkal tickets through the online platform of Indian Railways. An analysis of the online Tatkal ticket booking pattern from 24 May to 2 June revealed that, on average, only 5,615 out of 108,000 AC class tickets were booked in the first minute after the window opened.

However, 22,827 tickets were booked in the second minute. In the AC class, an average of 67,159 tickets were booked online within the first 10 minutes of the window opening, representing 62.5% of all tickets booked online. Rest 37.5% tickets were booked between 10 minutes till chart preparation in which 3.01% of Tatkal tickets were booked after 10 hours of the window opening. In the

non-AC category, from 24 May to 2 June, an average of 118,567 tickets were booked online daily. Of these, 4,724 tickets — about 4% — were booked within the first minute, while 20,786 tickets — about 17.5% — were booked in the second minute. Approximately 66.4% of tickets were sold within the first 10 minutes after the window opened. Additionally, approximately 84.02% of tickets were sold within the first hour of the window opening, with the remaining tickets sold over the next 10 hours.

This clearly shows that Tatkal tickets are made available to passengers through the online system, and around 12% of Tatkal tickets are still booked 8 to 10 hours after the window opens.

The railways have launched a campaign

against the use of automated tools to book tickets online, employing artificial intelligence for this effort. Through special monitoring efforts, the railways have deactivated and blocked over 24 million users in the past six months. Additionally, around 2 million other accounts have been flagged as suspicious and are under investigation based on their Aadhaar and other documents. Currently, there are more than 130 million active subscribers on the IRCTC website, of which only 12 million are Aadhaar-verified. IRCTC has decided to conduct special verification for all accounts that are not authenticated with Aadhaar. Accounts found to be suspicious will be closed. The railways aim to ensure that genuine passengers receive all type of Tatkal tickets. Account

holders who link their accounts with Aadhaar will get priority booking during the first 10 minutes of Tatkal ticket sales. Even authorized IRCTC agents are not allowed to book tickets within the first 10 minutes of the Tatkal window opening. Therefore, it has become necessary to verify your IRCTC account through Aadhaar.

The Railways is planning to make the Tatkal ticketing process more robust by making some of the rules more stringent, like only Aadhar verified accounts will be allowed to book online Tatkal tickets, Aadhar based OTP authentication shall also be required for booking. Sources said that counter based tatkal ticket may also be booked after Aadhar verification to control malpractices.

PM to inaugurate Chenab bridge - world’s highest railway arch bridge

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 4 : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Jammu and Kashmir on 6th June. In line with his commitment to boost rail infrastructure and connectivity in the region, Prime Minister will inaugurate the Chenab bridge and visit the bridge deck at around 11 AM. Thereafter, he will visit and inaugurate the Anji bridge. He will flag off Vande Bharat Trains at around 12 noon. Thereafter, he will lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 46,000 crore at Katra.

Chenab and Anji rail bridges

The architectural marvel Chenab Rail Bridge, situated at a height of 359 meters above the river, is the world's highest railway arch bridge. It is a 1,315-metre-long steel arch bridge engineered to withstand seismic and wind conditions. A key impact of the bridge will be in enhancing connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar. Through Vande

Bharat train moving on the bridge, it will take just about 3 hours to travel between Katra and Srinagar, reducing existing travel time by 2-3 hours.

The Anji Bridge is India's first cable-stayed rail bridge that will serve the nation in a challenging terrain.

Connectivity projects and other development initiatives

Prime Minister will also dedicate Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project to the nation. The 272 km long USBRL project, constructed worth around Rs 43,780 crore includes 36 tunnels (spanning 119 km) and 943 bridges. The project establishes all-weather, seamless rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country aiming to transform regional mobility and driving socio-economic integration.

Prime Minister will also flag off two Vande Bharat Express trains from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Srinagar and back. They will offer a swift, comfortable, and reliable

travel option for residents, tourists, pilgrims among others.

In a major boost to last mile connectivity especially in border areas, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate various road projects. He will lay the foundation stone of road widening project from Rafiabad to Kupwara on National Highway-701 and the construction of Shopian bypass road on NH-444 worth over Rs 1,952 crore. He will also inaugurate two flyover projects at Sangrama Junction on National Highway-1 in Srinagar and at Bemina Junction on National Highway-44. These projects will ease traffic congestion and enhance traffic flow for the commuters.

Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence in Katra worth over Rs 350 crore.

It will be the first medical college in Reasi district contributing substantially to the healthcare infrastructure in the region.

Sajad Lone accuses NC of 'only going after Kashmiris'

Srinagar, June 4 (UNI) J&K Peoples Conference President Sajad Lone on Wednesday lashed out at National Conference and its current administration, accusing them of targeting Kashmiris and running a system steeped in “lies, inaction, and brazen corruption.”

Addressing a press conference, Lone said the NC has no power to impact anyone except the common Kashmiri.

“They are going after the very people who voted for them. And those who didn’t, they are being treated with callousness.

This is exactly what we expected from them,” Lone remarked.

He went on to cite rampant corruption and inefficiency in the current setup.

“We will begin collecting evidence, Insha’ Allah. They have done no work till date—just lie after lie. Where is the government? What have they delivered to the people?” he questioned.

Taking a swipe at the frequent official review meetings, he said, “They’ve been holding these meetings for eons here—only to sip tea and eat kebabs.

Public awareness about electricity safety in Kalyan Circle through essay and painting competition

Mahavitaran's Electricity Safety Week



(Standard Post Bureau)

Kalyan/Vasai/Palghar, June 4 : On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Mahavitaran, Electricity Safety Week is being celebrated across the state from 1st to 6th June with the concept of 'Zero Accident Mahavitaran, Zero Accident Maharashtra'. On the third and fourth day of the week, Tuesday and Wednesday (04 June), public awareness about electricity safety was created through essay and painting competitions at various places in Kalyan Circle.

Under the leadership and guidance of Chief Engineer Chandramani Mishra, Safety Week is being celebrated with great enthusiasm in Kalyan Circle and awareness of electricity safety is being created through various means by officers and employees. In the presence of Superintendent Engineer Anil Thorat, essay and painting competitions were organized at various places in Kalyan Circle, Kalyan East and West as well as in Dombivli Division. Students at the



Government Industrial Training Institute in Umbarde and employees and children were given lessons on electricity safety at the training center in Tejashree Building.

In the presence of

Superintendent Engineer Vijay Funde, painting and essay competitions on electricity safety were held for employees and children of Mahavitaran and school students in Ulhasnagar One and Two, Badlapur,

be held on electricity safety and savings at the level of all ten department offices in the Mandal on Thursday (June 05). On the morning of June 6, the public in all the branch offices in the Mandal will take a pledge on electricity safety.