

## IN BRIEF

### Governor extends greetings on Eid Ul Adha

Hyderabad, June 6 (UNI) ::Governor Jishnu Dev Varma extended warm greetings to the people of the state on the auspicious occasion of Eid Ul Adha (Bakrid), which will be celebrated on Saturday.

In his message, the Governor said, “I extend my heartfelt wishes and greetings on the auspicious occasion of Eid Ul Adha.

This festival symbolizes the spirit of sacrifice and supreme devotion. It holds a special place in the Islamic faith, representing the values of sharing, charity, reverence, and supporting the needy. I hope the celebration of this festival further strengthens the spirit of brotherhood, service, and sacrifice. By celebrating Eid Ul Adha in its true spirit, I am confident that peace, harmony, cooperation, compassion, and unity will prevail in our society. I wish you all a very Happy Eid Ul Adha.

### CM extends Bakrid greetings, highlights spirit of sacrifice and devotion

Hyderabad, June 6 (UNI) :Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy extended warm greetings to Muslim brothers and sisters on the occasion of Bakrid (Eid ul Azha), a festival celebrated as a symbol of sacrifice and unwavering devotion. In his message, the Chief Minister recalled that Muslims across the world observe this holy festival in memory of Prophet Ibrahim (A S ), who was willing to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah’s command.

He noted that Bakrid reflects the profound spirit of faith, sacrifice, and devotion shown by the prophets.

The Chief Minister said the festival imparts a universal message to humanity — to remain steadfast on the righteous path, to face life’s challenges with faith in God, and to understand that the greatest charity lies in sharing what one has with others.

He wished for peace, harmony, and the strengthening of brotherhood among all communities during this sacred occasion.

## Telangana can become USD 1 trillion economy in 10 years with people’s support: CM Revanth Reddy

(Standard Post Bureau)

Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, June 6: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday evening said that the state can become a USD 1 trillion economy within the next ten years if the people extend their cooperation.

He was addressing a public meeting after laying the foundation stone for various development works worth Rs 1,051.45 crore in Tirumalagiri village of Aleru constituency in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister stated that his government is committed to inclusive development and will ensure that the poor are actively involved in the state’s reconstruction.

He stated that efforts are being made to transform Telangana on par with developed nations like Japan and Singapore. Revanth Reddy highlighted that for the first time in a hundred years, a caste census has been conducted in the



country, and the survey revealed that 56.36 per cent of the population belongs to weaker sections. In response, the government has implemented 42 per cent reservations in education and employment.

As part of women empowerment initiatives, the Chief Minister said that the government is not only providing free bus travel to women but also distributing 600 buses to self-help groups to enable their participation in business

ventures. He added that women have been entrusted with the management of Indira Mahila Shakti canteens, petrol pumps, Amma Adarsh Schools, and the stitching of school uniforms.

He further announced that 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses have been sanctioned for the poor and noted that many families have already been residing in these homes.

Revanth Reddy said that his government is taking steps to develop the Aler

constituency in all aspects and assured the completion of the Gandamalla reservoir under any circumstances. He announced that Young India Integrated Residential Schools are being established in 100 constituencies at a cost of Rs 20,000 crore, to provide quality education to students from SC, ST, BC, and minority communities.

The Chief Minister also stated that 60,000 jobs were created in the government sector, and another one lakh jobs were generated in the

private sector within the first year of his administration. He pledged to clean the Musi River and fill it with water from the Godavari River.

Criticising the previous government, he questioned the lack of progress in the SLBC and Dindi irrigation projects despite spending Rs 2 lakh crore on irrigation over the past decade. He announced that a Yadagirigutta Temple Development (YTD) Board will be constituted on the lines of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board to manage temple affairs and that the local medical college will be upgraded to university status like Padmavati Mahila University in Tirupati.

He also stated that educational institutions in the area would be developed into nationally recognised universities. Referring to past restrictions, he said that his government had lifted the ban on devotees staying overnight at Yadagirigutta and made necessary arrangements for hill access.

## Modi did not contradict Trump on his claim of making him surrender: Rahul

Rajgir, June 06 (UNI) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said US President Donald Trump had claimed eleven times that he forced Prime Minister Narendra Modi to surrender during operation Sindoor, but he did not contradict it and remained silent. Gandhi, while addressing a conference organised by his party here, said that PM Modi had the habit of surrender. Trump had claimed eleven times that he forced Modi to surrender during the operation Sindoor carried out recently, but the latter did not contradict and remained silent on the issue, he remarked.

Congress leader also took potshots at Modi on his decision to conduct a caste census, saying he was also reluctant on the issue. When he exerted slight pressure on Modi on the caste census, he surrendered and announced the decision of his government to conduct a national-level caste census, he added. PM Modi had rejected the demand of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for a national-level caste census in 2021, when he had called on him, leading an all-party delegation from the state. After his refusal, Nitish Kumar’s government had conducted a caste census in Bihar from its resources and named it as caste survey, as carrying out any sort of census is the right of the Central government. Even in parliament on several occasions and during its replies in the Supreme Court in several cases, the Narendra Modi government had expressed its opinion against the caste census in the country.

## Telangana will not tolerate injustice over Banakacharla Project: Uttam Kumar Reddy

Hyderabad, June 6 (UNI) : Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday strongly opposed the proposed Banakacharla project, warning that Telangana will not accept any move that violates inter-state water agreements or constitutional provisions.

Speaking informally to the media at the State Secretariat, the Minister said the project is in direct contravention of the rules laid down by the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB), Central Water Commission (CWC), and the Apex Council.

Calling Banakacharla a threat to Telangana’s water rights, Uttam Kumar Reddy said, “This project violates the inter-state river water sharing policy. Telangana will not accept it under any circumstances.” He said the

Telangana government had already conveyed its objections to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman through a formal letter and had also written to Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil on January 22.

“We have not received any official proposal from Andhra Pradesh yet.

If we do, we will examine it strictly in line with the law,” he said, adding that CR Patil had written to Telangana in May, assuring that all steps would be taken under legal norms.

“We’ve explained AP’s violations in detail through our representations. I don’t believe the Centre will support Andhra Pradesh in doing something illegal,” the Minister asserted. “If injustice is done to Telangana, we will fight it relentlessly—we will not compromise on our water

rights.” Uttam Kumar Reddy also urged Union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar to intervene and ensure that the Centre does not act against Telangana’s interests. He criticised the previous BRS government for what he termed a decade of cooperation with Andhra Pradesh, even as Telangana was facing injustice in Krishna river water sharing. “Telangana’s rightful share from the combined Andhra Pradesh is 724 TMC, yet during the BRS regime, 1,254 TMC was diverted to Andhra Pradesh,” he claimed.

“If the BRS government had not wasted Rs 68,000 crore on the Kaleshwaram project by building it at Medigadda instead of Tummidihatti, all Krishna basin projects would have been completed by now.”

## Cabinet okays pending DAs for govt staff

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, May 6 : In the backdrop of employee unions threatening agitation over long pending demands, the Telangana Cabinet has approved the release of two pending Dearness Allowances (DAs) to the staff and also sanctioned Rs 700 crore to clear their pending bills. Briefing the media after a marathon cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister a Revanth Reddy held here on Thursday night, Deputy

Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said that a part of the two DAs will be implemented immediately, and another six months.

Bhatti, who heads the cabinet sub-committee on employees’ grievances, gave a detailed presentation and said it was decided that the pending bills of employees amounting to ₹700 crore per month should be cleared without delay. About the health insurance scheme for

employees, he said a trust would be set up under the leadership of the chief secretary and officials would be members of the trust. Under the scheme, each employee will contribute ₹500 per month, and the government will contribute an equal amount, the Deputy CM said. He said the government accepted the employee unions’ demand for a 12.5 per cent quota in the secretariat. The government was also inclined to form a

medical invalidation committee to assess cases of medical retirement, he said. The cabinet decided not to re-employ retired employees, he said. Referring to grading of panchayat staff, Bhatti said employees working in village panchayats would be graded according to the panchayats’ classification. The Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) will be set up for processing employees’ promotions, said the minister. Officers and employees

who were transferred during the election period would be sent back to their original positions, he said.

The government agreed to establish a director of nursing, he said, adding the Cabinet decided to increase Rs 2 lakh towards retirement benefits for Anganwadi workers.

The pending bills related to government officials’ rental vehicles would be cleared, and the vehicle limits will be revised upwards, he added.



### Inflation eases as RBI cuts repo rate to 5.5%

he Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday lowered its inflation forecast for the financial year 2025-26 to 3.7 per cent, down from the earlier projection of 4 per cent, reflecting the positive impact of easing global commodity prices. This represents one of the most optimistic inflation outlooks in recent years. Alongside this revision, the RBI reduced its key policy rate by 50 basis points to 5.5 per cent, aiming to support economic growth while keeping inflation in check. Governor Sanjay Malhotra noted that assuming normal monsoon conditions, inflation is expected to remain moderate throughout the year, with quarterly estimates ranging from 2.9 per cent in June to 4.4 per cent by March. (See on page 2)

### Rahul bats for adequate representation of women in ...



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday strongly advocated for adequate representation of women in all sectors, saying it would help in their empowerment and making them self-reliant. Gandhi, while interacting with women during a function organised by his party here, ( See on page 3)

### French FM denies Paris supplies weapon parts for Israel



France is not supplying Israel with spare parts for weapons used in the Gaza Strip operation, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said on Friday. On Wednesday, Disclose news outlet reported that a cargo ship carrying 14 tonnes of spare parts for submachine guns would dock from the port of Fos-sur-Mer in France to the port of Haifa in Israel. (See on page 5)

### Alcaraz enters final as Musetti ...



Carlos Alcaraz, the defending champion, secured his place in the Roland-Garros final for the second consecutive year after Lorenzo Musetti retired due to a left thigh injury early in the fourth set of their semifinal clash on Friday. (See on page 7)



# Central Railway, Solapur Division Celebrates World Environment Day 2025 with Inspiring Series of Green Initiatives



(Standard Post Bureau) Solapur, June 6 The Solapur Division of Central Railway in alignment with global efforts to promote environmental consciousness, observed World Environment Day 2025 with a fortnight-long campaign of impactful and inclusive activities on the theme “End Plastic Pollution” from 22nd May to 5th June 2025 at various stations including Solapur, Kurduwadi, Kalaburagi, Wadi, Pandharpur and Latur.

The celebrations were inaugurated with a grand "Walkathon" on 22nd May, flagged off by DRM Dr. Sujeet Mishra, promoting the theme of environmental sustainability. Over 150 participants, including railway officials, staff and local social organisations, joined in the rally to spread awareness.

Key highlights included:

- Tree Plantation Drives:** Across locations such as Rail Van Vihar, DRM office, Solapur Railway Hospital, and various stations, more than 500 saplings were planted. Active involvement by environmental groups like Jayasute Foundation, Sant Nirankari Mandal, and Jhade Lava Jhade Jagwa added community strength to the mission.
- Awareness Campaigns**

# SWR, GM, Mukul Saran Mathur, Inspects Hubballi-Toranagallu Section and JSW Steel Facilities



(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, June 6 Mr Mukul Saran Mathur, General Manager, South Western Railway, conducted a window trailing inspection of the SSS Hubballi–Toranagallu section today to assess operational and safety parameters.

During the visit, Shri Sushil Noval, Executive Vice President of JSW Steel, warmly welcomed Shri Mukul Saran Mathur at Toranagallu JSW Plant. General Manager inspected the South Yard of JSW Steel, engaging in discussions on raw material handling processes. He praised the current operational practices and underscored the need to maintain high standards of efficiency and safety in material management. Additionally, he visited the North Yard to review the handling of rolled

appreciation.

- A compelling Nukkad Natak on “Save Trees, Save Earth” captivated passengers at Solapur station.
- Cleanliness and Digital Initiatives:**
  - Multiple cleanliness drives were conducted at Solapur, Kurduwadi, Kalaburagi, Wadi, Pandharpur and Latur stations.
  - Promotion of digital ticketing via UTS App and QR code systems was carried out to reduce paper usage.
- Ban on Single-Use Plastics:** Mass awareness campaigns and station announcements reinforced the railway’s commitment to eliminating plastic waste.

The concluding function on 5th June, held at the DRM office, included a presentation on the division’s efforts, along with certificate and trophy distribution to recognise the contributions of students, staff and NGOs. A total of 17 staff members were felicitated with appreciation certificates, 10 students were awarded for best drawings, and five trophies were presented for excellence in various green initiatives.

The series of events were coordinated by the EnHM (Environment and House keeping Management) Department with the dynamic leadership of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM/ Solapur) Dr. Sujeet Mishra and Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM/ Solapur) Shri Anshumali Kumar. Solapur Division’s enthusiastic and inclusive observance of World Environment Day 2025 stands as a testament to its commitment toward sustainable development and environmental protection.

# Delhi's district court lawyers to abstain from work on June 9

New Delhi, June 9 (UNI) The lawyers practising in district courts in Delhi have decided to abstain from work on June 9 against the shifting of the Digital Negotiable Instrument Act Courts to the Rouse Avenue court complex.

Nagender Kumar, Chairman, Coordination Committee, All District Court Bar Association of Delhi, has passed a resolution that in an emergent meeting, the Co-ordination committee has taken serious note of unrest among advocates against the shifting of the Digital Courts to Rouse Avenue Court and it has been resolved to register strong grievance/resentment against the same. Accordingly, it has been unanimously decided to abstain from judicial work in all District Courts on Monday i.e. 09.06.2025, Vikas Goyal Adv, Hony Secretary Delhi Bar Association and General Secretary of the Coordination Committee of Delhi District Courts has requested the advocates by sending messages to completely abstain from work on Monday i.e June 9 in all District Courts of Delhi.

# Rahul bats for adequate representation of women in all sectors

Gaya, June 06 (UNI) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday strongly advocated for adequate representation of women in all sectors, saying it would help in their empowerment and making them self-reliant.

Gandhi, while interacting with women during a function organised by his party here, said that they should be given adequate representation in all sectors, including government services, the private sector, and the corporate sector. It was essential to make women self-reliant and empowered, he added.

" Our party has promised to give Rs 2500 per month to every woman in Bihar if voted to power in the next state assembly elections ", the Congress leader said, adding that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MNREGA) scheme was launched by his government. The present regime has made certain changes, and registration and attendance of labourers were being made using apps on cell phones through the internet, he pointed out." Technology should be used to help beneficiaries under any scheme and not to harass them ", Gandhi said, adding that illiterate persons were facing difficulties due to the system of online registration and attendance under MNREGA scheme.

MNREGA labourers should be given at least 100 days of assured jobs annually, he stressed. Women should be given loans by Banks without any harassment to them, he demanded.

Earlier, during his interaction with women, he asked about problems being faced by them. He also asked about their earnings and sought suggestions on what could be done for them. He informed them that they would be given Rs 2500 per month if his party were voted to power.

Women informed him about difficulties being faced by them in getting jobs under MNREGA.

# Overwhelming response to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Heritage Train Tour

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, June 6 : The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) is a 'Navratna' listed company under Ministry of Railways, Government of India. It offers a wide range of services, including Online Railway Ticket Booking, Catering, Tourism, Rail Neer and Hospitality services.

IRCTC aims to make travel across India more convenient, enjoyable and affordable for every passenger.

IRCTC has launched “Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Circuit Train Tour” which will depart from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai on 9th June 2025

Total 710 passengers would avail the tour. With 480 passengers booked in Economy (Sleeper), 190 passengers in Comfort (3AC) and 40 passengers in Superior (2AC).

“Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Circuit” is specially curated tour to showcase the glorious history and the grand heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in a five days journey. The tour is a joint collaboration is a joint collaboration between Maharashtra Government, Indian Railway and IRCTC.

The train covers landmarks such as Raigad Fort, Shivneri Fort, Pratapgarh Fort, Panhala Fort, Lal Mahal, Kasba Ganpati and Shivrushti, all of which depict the important facets of the life of legendary Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. With convenience and accessibility at its core, the train provides a seamless experience to the passengers to explore the glorious past and rich cultural heritage of Maharashtra.“

The 06 days itinerary will commence its journey from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT.)

On Day 1 for Mangaon Railway station on the Konkan Railway network,

# India's active Covid-19 cases near 6,000 as Kerala, Gujarat lead uptick

New Delhi, June 6 (UNI) : India is witnessing a slow uptick in Covid-19 cases, with active infections being reported from nearly every state, except Arunachal Pradesh. As of 8 am on June 6, the total number of active infections across the country has reached 5,862, according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Four deaths have been reported in the last 24 hours against seven fatalities a previous day.

Kerala continues to report the highest daily caseload as it recorded 192 new infections in the past 24 hours, taking its active case tally to 1,679. Two Covid-related deaths were also reported from the state on June 5.

Following Kerala, Gujarat has emerged as the second-most affected state in terms of daily new cases, reporting 107 new infections during the same period while its current active caseload stands at 615. The national capital Delhi reported 30 new cases, with the city having recorded seven deaths related to Covid-19 since January 1, 2025.

What could be a matter of concern to the authorities, states including Delhi, Maharashtra, and Gujarat have crossed the 500 active cases mark.

Health authorities have urged citizens to re-adopt basic preventive measures such as masking in crowded places, maintaining hand hygiene, and staying home if symptomatic. Hospitals and district health centres have been directed to ensure that oxygen beds and ICU facilities are prepared, particularly for patients with comorbidities.



the closest railway link for Raigad fort. The first destination is Raigad, known for the eponymous hill fort where Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's coronation or Rajyabhishek had taken place and was later his capital from where he ruled. On completion of the sightseeing, the tourists would return back to the train as it proceeds for the next destination, Pune wherein the tourists will be having dinner followed by overnight stay at hotel at Pune.

On Day 2 of the tour, the prominent sites that the tourists would be covering at Pune are Lal Mahal, Kasba Ganapati and Shivrushti. Lal Mahal as the name suggests is a red-colored palace constructed by Chhatrapati Shivaji's father Shahaji Bhosale for his wife Jijabai and son in 1630 CE. The present-day structure was rebuilt in 1984 on a part of the land where Lal Mahal stood and houses a vast collection of oil paintings that depicts significant life events of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The temple of Kasba Ganapati, the presiding deity of Pune dates back to the 1893 and is believed to have been earmarked by Jijabai, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's mother. Since then, the city is known as the city of Ganesha. Later in the day, the tourists shall be visiting Shivrushti– the largest historical theme park

showcasing the legend of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Tourists will watch the life story of the Maratha ruler in 3D and will enjoy other interactive sessions.“After a night’s rest at Pune.

On Day 3, the guests will be travelling to Shivneri, situated at a distance of 95 kms from Pune city. The Shivneri Fort is situated on a hilltop overlooking the Junnar City. It is the birthplace of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and a symbol of Maratha pride and resistance against Muslim rule. Post lunch, the tourists will be visiting Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga temple, one of the 12 Jyotirlinga temples before returning back to Pune for night halt.

On Day 4 of the itinerary, the tourists will be boarding the train for onward journey to Satara. The key site to be covered from this station is Pratapgarh Fort which is of immense historical importance because of the Battle of Pratapgad that took place in 1659 between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Bijapur Sultanate general Afzal Khan. This battle had set the stage for the establishment of the Maratha Empire. Post visit, the tourists will take lunch at a suitable place and start back for the train as it proceeds for the last destination of this tour, Kolhapur.“On Day 5, the train will arrive at

Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Terminus Kolhapur Railway Station early morning. Post wash & change and breakfast at a hotel, the tourists will proceed for Mahalakshmi Temple popularly known as Ambabai followed by the Panhala Fort. Sitting atop the Sahyadri range, the hill fort bears a testament to many battles and is closely connected with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj who spent over 500 days as where he was held captive and later escaped. The Panhala Fort – also called as the ‘Fort of Snakes’ since it is zigzag in shape. The Fort is associated with the life history of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Shambhaji Maharaj. It is remembered for the heroic valour shown by Baji Prabhu Deshpande, the commander of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj during the fight in capturing the Fort. In the late evening, the train starts back on its return journey for Mumbai and reaches early morning in Mumbai on Day 6.

The all-inclusive price in all categories will cover train journey in respective classes, night stay at comfortable hotels, all meals (vegetarian only), all transfer & sight-seeing in buses, travel insurance, services of tour escort etc. All necessary efforts will be made by IRCTC to provide a safe and memorable experience to the guests.



## AICC member Sampath Kr slams Harish Rao, calls dharna politically motivated conspiracy



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, June 6 :All India Congress Committee (AICC) member Sampath Kumar on Friday launched a scathing attack on BRS leader Harish Rao, alleging that the latter's recent dharna was a politically motivated ploy aimed at misleading the public.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Sampath Kumar accused Harish Rao of exploiting local sentiments for personal political gain.

He said that despite Harish Rao's political experience, he was behaving in a "depraved manner" and making baseless and provocative statements about a seed factory project, which he alleged was intended to stir public unrest. "Harish Rao is the kind of politician who thrives on controversy and dead issues," Sampath charged.

Refuting the allegations regarding the seed factory,

### Sanjay Seth visits MCEME, highlights Indigenous defence innovations

Hyderabad, June 6 (UNI) Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth visited the Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME) in Secunderabad on Friday.

During the visit, he was briefed by Lt Gen Neeraj Varshney, VSM, Commandant of MCEME, about the institution's training activities. The Minister interacted with soldiers and visited the newly established drone training facility, "Drone Alaya." He also held discussions on the development of indigenous anti-drone systems aimed at countering Kamikaze drone attacks.

Sanjay Seth reviewed new staff-led projects focused on radar technologies in super high-altitude areas, and lauded the contributions of EME technicians in Operation Sindoor.

He appreciated MCEME's proactive role in fostering Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence technology through collaboration with MSMEs and start-ups.

Marking the occasion, the Minister also planted a sapling on the college premises, underscoring the importance of environmental responsibility alongside defence innovation, a defence statement said.

Sampath clarified that neither the Congress government nor Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had any links to the project.

"It is Harish Rao who is peddling lies about the factory, despite knowing full well that any investment exceeding Rs 50 crore requires central government clearance, which has been duly obtained, including from the Environment and Pollution Control Boards," he stated.

Sampath also questioned whether Harish Rao, as a senior leader, was unaware of the role of the local BJP MP, hinting at political doublespeak.

He accused BRS of "playing with the lives of local people" by spreading misinformation and obstructing development efforts. He further revealed that Minister Sridhar Babu and concerned officials had already taken public feedback on the project and

## Congress committed to strengthening party from grassroots: TPCC President

Hyderabad, June 7 (UNI) :Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud on Friday said that the party is firmly committed to strengthening its base from the grassroots level.

The Karimnagar Parliament Constituency Review Meeting was held at Gandhi Bhavan, chaired by Mahesh Kumar Goud. The meeting aimed to evaluate party performance and reinforce the organizational structure ahead of the upcoming elections. AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, Government Whip Adi Srinivas, PCC Advisory Committee member Jeevan Reddy, MLC Balamuri Venkat, MLA and DCC President Kavampally Satyanarayana, and several senior leaders attended the session. Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud described the appointment of Meenakshi Natarajan as AICC in-charge as "auspicious" and praised her leadership. He stressed the need to revitalise the party from the booth and village levels, urging leaders and cadres to work with renewed enthusiasm, especially while in power.

He asserted that the Congress has a real chance to retain power, provided the party functions

were proceeding only after consulting with technical experts.

"Not a single cent of land has been taken by the government without due process," he affirmed.

Calling out what he described as a deliberate campaign of defamation, Sampath Kumar alleged that BRS MLCs and MLAs had demanded huge sums from the seed company and turned against it when their demands were not met.

"Now they're burning cloth and blaming me and CM Revanth for a thorn that supposedly grew in his house," he said sarcastically.

He challenged Harish Rao to protest against the "atrocities" committed by his brother-in-law and accused him of shedding "crocodile tears" for farmers while hiding his own misdeeds.

"Congress is committed to cleansing the sins committed by the ten-year BRS regime," Sampath added.

efficiently and remains people-centric. "The government is functioning transparently, without any deception, and has launched several welfare schemes — ranging from free bus travel to distribution of fine rice," he stated. Goud acknowledged the growing discontent among grassroots workers and underlined the importance of better coordination and engagement. He called on leaders to focus on critical areas such as employment, education, and healthcare, adding that the government's efforts in these sectors have not received the publicity they deserve.

On internal matters, he said the expansion of the PCC Executive and State Cabinet is expected to be completed in June. He urged MLAs to introspect and evaluate their performance, noting that the majority need to significantly improve to ensure better outcomes in the local body elections.

Highlighting the Congress party's progressive measures, Goud cited the provision of 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) and the scientific caste survey as landmark achievements. He criticised BJP leaders Nitin Gadkari and Amit Shah for their lack of interest in these socially important issues.

## Govt to build Indiramma houses in urban areas using G+3 model: Ponguleti

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, June 6 :The government is now extending its flagship Indiramma Housing Scheme to urban areas, aiming to provide dignified housing for the urban poor without disrupting their livelihoods, said State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy.

Speaking after a review meeting on the housing scheme held on Friday, the Minister said that under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the

construction of Indiramma houses in rural areas has reached a crucial phase, and the government has now shifted focus towards urban regions.

"In cities like Hyderabad, the poor prefer to stay where they live and work. When houses are built far from their workplaces, they hesitate to relocate due to livelihood concerns.

In the past, 42,000 houses were built far from the city, but only 19,000 people moved in. A recent survey revealed that only 13,000 are currently residing

in those houses," the Minister explained.

To address this issue, the government has decided to construct G+3 model apartments directly in slum areas, ensuring that beneficiaries can continue their livelihoods uninterrupted. As part of the first phase, 16 slums in Hyderabad have been identified. Similar initiatives will be launched in other urban centers including Warangal, Nizamabad, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, and Karimnagar.

In a significant move towards uplifting tribal

communities, Minister Ponguleti announced that 22,016 Indiramma houses have been sanctioned specifically for tribals. Of these, 13,266 houses have been approved for Chenchu, Kolam, Thoti, and Kondareddy tribes in the four ITDA regions — Bhadrachalam, Utnoor, Eturunagaram, and Munnanur — while 8,750 houses have been allotted across the 16 ST constituencies in the state.

He directed officials to promptly identify beneficiaries and begin the construction process

without delay. "Officials must continuously monitor the progress of construction and align their work with the government's commitment to providing homes for every eligible person," he added.

Highlighting the financial commitment of the government, he stated, "No other state in the country has spent Rs 5 lakh per house for the poor.

Our government is committed to fulfilling the electoral promise of providing Indiramma houses to every deserving household in Telangana."

## Minister Uttam vows to intensify fight against AP's illegal Banakacharla project

Hyderabad, June 6 (UNI) : Irrigation Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy reaffirmed the state government's determination to resist Andhra Pradesh's proposed Godavari-Banakacharla Link Project, calling it a blatant violation of inter-state water-sharing norms.

Speaking to the media at the Dr B R Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Friday, the Minister said he had written multiple letters to the Centre, exposing Andhra Pradesh's attempt

to divert Godavari floodwaters to Rayalaseema without mandatory approvals.

He noted that AP unveiled the project in December 2024 without submitting a Detailed Project Report (DPR) or obtaining clearances from the Central Water Commission (CWC), GRMB, KRMB, or the Apex Council, as mandated under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act (APRA), 2014.

Reddy warned that the project also violates the

Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) Award, which allocated 966 TMC to Telangana. He accused Andhra Pradesh of trying to unilaterally divert unallocated floodwaters, directly affecting Telangana's drought-prone areas.

He criticised the previous BRS government for failing to protect Telangana's water rights, alleging secret political understandings that weakened the state's position.

He urged Union

Ministers Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay to support Telangana and press the Centre to halt Andhra Pradesh's illegal attempts.

Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, in his response, confirmed that no formal proposal had been received from AP and assured that any future submission would be scrutinized as per law.

"Telangana will fight tooth and nail to protect every drop of its rightful share," Uttam Kumar Reddy declared.

## CM vows all-around development of Aleru, announces Yadagirigutta Temple Board

(Standard Post Bureau)

Yadadri-Bhongir, June 6 : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday said his government is committed to comprehensive development across the state, with special focus on the Aleru constituency.

Addressing a public meeting after laying the foundation stone for development works worth Rs 1,051.45 crore in Tirumalapur village of Turkapalli Mandal, the Chief Minister announced the formation of the Yadagirigutta Temple Development Board on the lines of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.

"With the blessings of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, we formed a people's government," Revanth said, vowing to elevate the Yadagirigutta temple-linked medical college into a full-fledged university.

Reaffirming his commitment to cleaning the Musi River, the Chief Minister recalled his symbolic foot march last November and declared, "If Prime Minister Modi can clean the Ganga and Sabarmati, why not the Musi? Nalgonda's children deserve better."

He criticised the previous BRS government for neglecting Nalgonda's irrigation projects like the SLBC and Bunadigani Canal. Referring to BRS as "DRS—Demons' Rashtra Samithi", Revanth accused them of reducing villages like Vasalamarri to ruins and failing to complete key infrastructure in a decade.

Highlighting the current government's initiatives, he said, "We've provided free bus travel for women, gas cylinders at Rs 500, waived

off Rs 2 lakh farm loans, and ensured Rs 21,000 crore in bank linkages for women's groups."

He also cited the government's move for a 42 per cent BC reservation through caste census data and classification of SCs as long-awaited reforms now fulfilled.

Calling Nalgonda "a land of consciousness and courage," Revanth assured that those who malign the government will face resistance from its people. "I have no other desire. My only aim is to make Telangana a model state," he said, promising all-round development of the Aleru constituency.

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said that fine rice is being supplied to feed 80 per cent of the population, and Rs 11,000 crore is being spent for the purpose.

He said that the Gandhamalla Balancing Reservoir, pending for over a decade, will be completed at a cost of Rs 574 crore. The reservoir capacity has been reduced to 1.4 TMC to avoid submergence of surrounding villages while still providing irrigation to 60,000 acres.

He criticised the previous government for neglecting the SLBC, Dindi, and Krishna river lift irrigation projects and assured that all ongoing projects in the erstwhile Nalgonda district will be completed during the current government's tenure.

He appealed to the legislators to expedite land acquisition for these projects.

He added that the Dindi project will be taken up from the Edula reservoir at a cost

of Rs 1,800 crore and will be completed during their tenure. The SLBC will also be completed using the most advanced technologies available, he said.

Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy reaffirmed the government's commitment to the poor, stating that fine rice is being supplied for two meals a day.

He said that the government is fulfilling not just its promises but also the needs that were not addressed earlier. He assured that every household in the Aleru constituency would receive drinking water under Mission Bhagiratha and that water supply, housing, and drainage facilities would be developed in Yadagirigutta Municipality.

Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy detailed various schemes being implemented by the government for the welfare of the poor.

Aleru MLA and Government Whip Birla Ilayya, who presided over the meeting, urged the Chief Minister to complete the remaining 10 km of sub-canal works under the AMRP in the constituency. He also requested an industrial park for Turkapalli mandal, funds for Gundala canal works, resolution of road and drainage problems in Bommalararamam, and support for the struggling Mother Dairy.

Earlier, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the Gandamalla reservoir project at a cost of Rs 574.56 crore. He also laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Young

India Residential School worth Rs 200 crore and a new government medical college building costing ₹183 crore in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

Additionally, he launched development works in Yadagirigutta Municipality including CC and BT roads and stormwater drainage in 12 wards at a cost of Rs 25.50 crore. He initiated the HLB works in Kolanupaka and Kalwala costing Rs 7.5 crore and Rs 6 crore respectively, and the construction of administrative buildings at Motakondur mandal centre at a cost of Rs 8.25 crore.

A 20,000 metric ton capacity godown at Datarpalli village in Yadagirigutta mandal is also being constructed at a cost of Rs 22.75 crore.

The foundation stone was also laid for BT road works and CRR/MRR works in the Aleru constituency worth Rs 21.14 crore and for a 2,500 metric ton capacity godown in Aleru market yard at a cost of Rs 2.75 crore.

On this occasion, pattas were distributed to three Indiramma housing beneficiaries, and bank linkage cheques worth Rs 54.70 crore were distributed to women self-help groups. The event was attended by State Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy, State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha, Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Panchayati Raj Minister Danasari Seethakka, MLAs, MLCs and several others present on the occasion.



STANDARD POST

Will Rahul Gandhi's 'Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan' help Congress regain ground in MP?

After Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's visit to Bhopal on Tuesday, where he launched the 'Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan' aimed at strengthening the party's organisation and grassroots presence in Madhya Pradesh, a pertinent question arises: Can this initiative help the party regain its lost ground and prestige in the state?

As Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Gandhi interacted with senior leaders and grassroots workers through four separate meetings, conveying a stern message to all.

Notably, his analogy of "race horses, wedding horses, and lame horses" has sparked discussion among party members. Gandhi had said that "race horses" would be sent to races, "wedding horses" would be used in weddings, and "lame horses" would be retired. Party insiders suggest that Gandhi's statement is aimed at older leaders who are no longer effective or energetic.

The Congress has been out of power in the state for over two decades, and this initiative aims to revitalise the organisation.

According to party sources, Gandhi made it clear in his speech that the 'Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan' will lead to the appointment of new district presidents, who will be responsible for running the organisation at the district level.

The appointment and evaluation of these presidents will be based on reports from observers appointed by the central organisation.

As per the sources, Gandhi warned that no leaders should think that they can ignore the district presidents. The district presidents' role would be important in the distribution of election tickets.

Sources indicate that district presidents are likely to be appointed within the next three months as part of the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan initiative. This will be followed by a similar process for the block Congress presidents.

Congress's state in-charge, Harish Chaudhary, has stated that the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan has been launched in two phases and will be expanded further.

Sources say that since the Congress party has been out of power in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh for over two decades (except for the 15-month Kamal Nath government in Madhya Pradesh), the decision has been taken to start strengthening the organisation in both states at the central level.

The party leadership is optimistic that the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan will help the Congress perform better in the upcoming assembly elections in 2028 and other elections.

The campaign's objective is not limited to elections but also aims to strengthen the party's grassroots presence across the country. Some leaders view this initiative as a "generation change" in the party organisation, where young, energetic, and capable leaders and workers will come forward.

Sources also said that the central organisation has appointed strong and experienced leaders as observers to oversee the process. These observers will be sent to each district, and leaders who have previously held important positions in the state organisation and central organisation will be given the responsibility of district observers.

Such observers will efficiently carry out their duties, even in areas dominated by established leaders.

Political observers believe that Gandhi's visit was highly successful from the party organisation's perspective.

He was able to convey a stern message to senior leaders who have been damaging the organisation, while also giving a message to grassroots workers and leaders that their voices will now be heard directly by the central organisation.

However, observers are apprehensive that senior leaders who are being sidelined may unite and cause damage to the organisation. Talking to UNI over a phone call, Mukesh Nayak, head of the Congress party's state media department, said that the campaign will bring about a positive change in the party's atmosphere and lead to a fundamental shift. New people will get opportunities to advance democratically, and the party's factionalism, which is the biggest problem, will be eliminated. The Party will now be able to make decisions better, he added.

Regarding Gandhi's "horse" analogy, Nayak said that "wedding horses" are leaders or workers who have loyalty to the party, "race horses" are those with loyalty and capability, and "lame horses" are those who, despite being incapable, prevent capable people from moving forward. He added that the party will now be successful in regaining its ground and prestige.

On the other hand, BJP's state media in-charge, Ashish Agrawal, told UNI that under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, the UPA has lost numerous elections, including Lok Sabha and assembly elections. Therefore, launching the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan under his leadership seems absurd.

J&K is the crown jewel of India: PM

PM inaugurates Chenab bridge - world's highest railway - India's first cable-stayed rail bridge

(Standard Post Bureau)

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 46,000 crore at Katra, Jammu & Kashmir today. Saluting the land of the brave Veer Zorawar Singh, he remarked that today's event is a grand celebration of India's unity and determination. Shri Modi said that with the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi, the Valley of Kashmir is now connected to India's vast railway network. "We have always invoked Maa Bharati with deep reverence, saying 'from Kashmir to Kanyakumari,' today, this has become a reality even in our railway network", exclaimed the Prime Minister, emphasising that the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Line Project is not just a name but a symbol of Jammu and Kashmir's new strength and a testament to India's growing capabilities. In line with the commitment to boost rail infrastructure and connectivity in the region, he inaugurated the Chenab and Anji rail bridges and flagged off Vande Bharat Trains, enhancing connectivity within Jammu and Kashmir. Additionally, Shri Modi also laid the foundation stone for a new medical college in Jammu, reinforcing the government's commitment to strengthening healthcare facilities in the region, stating that '46,000 crore worth of projects will accelerate development in Jammu and Kashmir, driving progress and prosperity. The Prime Minister extended his best wishes and congratulated the people on this new era of growth and transformation.

Underlining that generations in Jammu and Kashmir had long dreamt of railway connectivity, Shri Modi said today, that dream has become a reality. Referring to a recent statement by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Prime Minister noted that even as a student in seventh or eighth grade, Shri Abdullah had been anticipating the completion of this project. Shri Modi emphasized that the fulfillment of this long-awaited aspiration marks a historic moment for millions of people in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for enhanced connectivity and progress.

Stating that it is a privilege for their government that this ambitious railway project gained momentum during their tenure and has now been successfully completed, Shri Modi emphasized the challenges encountered, like the difficult terrain, extreme weather conditions, and falling rocks in the mountains, making the project immensely tough and demanding. However, he remarked that their government has consistently chosen to face challenges head-on and overcome them with determination. The Prime Minister noted that numerous all-weather infrastructure projects



underway in Jammu and Kashmir exemplify this commitment. He cited the recently opened Sonmarg Tunnel and his experience traveling over the Chenab Bridge and Anji Bridge as remarkable milestones. Shri Modi lauded the engineering brilliance and unwavering dedication of India's engineers and workers, stating that the Chenab Bridge, the world's tallest railway arch bridge, stands as a testament to India's ambition. He observed that while people travel to Paris to see the Eiffel Tower, the Chenab Bridge surpasses it in height, making it not only a crucial infrastructure achievement but also an emerging tourist attraction. Similarly, the Prime Minister described the Anji Bridge as an engineering marvel, being India's first cable-supported railway bridge. He asserted that these structures are not just steel and concrete, but living symbols of India's strength, standing tall in the rugged Pir Panjal mountains. Shri Modi declared that these achievements represent India's vision for a developed nation, proving that as grand as India's dream of progress is, so too is its resilience, capability, and determination. Above all, he emphasized that pure intentions and relentless dedication are the driving forces behind India's transformation.

Emphasizing that both Chenab Bridge and Anji Bridge will serve as catalysts for prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, the Prime Minister said, "these landmark projects will not only boost tourism but also benefit various sectors of the economy, creating new opportunities for businesses and industries". He highlighted that enhanced rail connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir will open new doors for local entrepreneurs, driving economic growth. Shri Modi noted that Kashmir's apples will now reach major

markets across India at lower costs, making trade more efficient. Furthermore, dry fruits and Kashmir's renowned Pashmina shawls, along with other traditional handicrafts, will now be easily transported to every corner of the country, strengthening the region's artisanal industry. The Prime Minister stated that this improved connectivity will also make travel more convenient for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, allowing smoother movement across different parts of India.

Shri Modi shared a touching comment from a student in Sangaldan, who stated that until now, only those who had traveled outside their village had seen a train in real life. Most villagers had only watched trains in videos, unable to believe that soon, a real train would pass right before their eyes. The Prime Minister also mentioned that many residents are already memorizing train schedules, excited about the new connectivity. He highlighted a thoughtful remark from a young girl who stated, now, the weather will no longer decide whether the roads remain open or closed. This new train service will help people in all seasons. "Jammu and Kashmir as the crown of Mother India, adorned with dazzling jewels—each representing the region's immense strength and beauty", described the Prime Minister, praising its ancient culture, traditions, spiritual consciousness, breathtaking landscapes, medicinal herbs, flourishing orchards, and vibrant youth talent, stating that these qualities shine like precious gemstones in India's crown. Having visited Jammu and Kashmir for decades, the Prime Minister affirmed his deep understanding of the region's potential and reiterated his dedication to the continuous development and

upliftment of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring prosperity for its people.

"Jammu and Kashmir has long been a pillar of India's education and cultural heritage", affirmed the Prime Minister. He added that as India establishes itself as a global knowledge hub, the growing participation of Jammu and Kashmir in this transformation. Shri Modi pointed out the presence of premier institutions such as IIT, IIM, AIIMS, and NIT, alongside Central Universities in Jammu and Srinagar, strengthening academic excellence in the region. He also noted the expansion of the research ecosystem, further enhancing innovation and learning opportunities.

The Prime Minister emphasized that remarkable advancements have been made in healthcare, with two state-level cancer institutes established in recent years. Over the last five years, seven new medical colleges have been opened, significantly benefiting both patients and aspiring medical students. Shri Modi highlighted that MBBS seats in Jammu and Kashmir have risen from 500 to 1,300, ensuring greater access to medical education. Additionally, the Reasi district is set to receive a new medical college, enhancing healthcare facilities for the region. The Prime Minister praised the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence, describing it as not only a modern hospital but also an embodiment of India's rich tradition of philanthropy. He also lauded the contributions of devotees from across India, whose donations helped establish the institution. Extending his best wishes, Shri Modi congratulated the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for its dedicated efforts in this noble endeavor. He also announced that the hospital's capacity would be expanded from 300 to 500 beds, further improving

medical services. The Prime Minister noted that this development would provide greater convenience to devotees visiting Mata Vaishno Devi in Katra.

Highlighting that their government has now completed 11 years in office, dedicating this period to uplifting the poor and empowering citizens, the Prime Minister outlined several key welfare initiatives that have transformed millions of lives. He listed out the Pradhan Mantri Awas

their government had worked for the honest, tax-paying middle class.

Underlining that their government is consistently creating new employment opportunities for the youth, with tourism emerging as a significant driver of economic growth and connectivity, Shri Modi highlighted that tourism not only generates jobs but also fosters unity among people. Condemning Pakistan's repeated attempts to disrupt this progress, the Prime Minister stated that it stands against humanity, social harmony, and economic prosperity. Referring to the April 22 incident in Pahalgam, Shri Modi asserted that Pakistan attacked both Kashmiriyat and humanity, intending to incite violence in India and cripple the earnings of hardworking Kashmiris. He pointed out that this deliberate attack on tourists was meant to sabotage the flourishing tourism industry in Jammu and Kashmir, which had witnessed record-high visitor numbers over the past few years. The Prime Minister remarked that Pakistan's malicious intent directly impacted local workers, including horse riders, porters, guides, guest house owners, and shopkeepers, aiming to destroy their livelihoods. He praised the courage of young Adil, who stood against terrorists, but tragically lost his life while striving to support his family through honest labor. Shri Modi reaffirmed his government's commitment to protecting the people of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that terrorism will never succeed in halting the region's progress.

Lauding the resilience of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the Prime Minister stated that their firm stand against Pakistan's conspiracy sends a powerful message. He remarked that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are now determined to confront terrorism head-on. Shri Modi condemned the destructive impact of terrorism, recalling how it burned schools, devastated hospitals, and shattered generations in the valley. He noted that terrorism even made free and fair elections a major challenge, depriving people of their right to choose their representatives. The Prime Minister affirmed that the strength and determination displayed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir marks a turning point, signaling their commitment to peace, progress, and a brighter future.

Shri Modi stated that for years, Jammu and Kashmir endured terrorism, leading many to abandon their dreams and accept violence as their fate. However, he emphasized that their government has changed this reality, enabling the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to dream again—and fulfill those dreams. The Prime Minister expressed that Kashmir's youth now take joy in seeing bustling markets, vibrant shopping malls, and flourishing cinema halls.



## French FM denies Paris supplies weapon parts for Israel

Paris, June 6 (UNI) France is not supplying Israel with spare parts for weapons used in the Gaza Strip operation, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said on Friday.On Wednesday, Disclose news outlet reported that a cargo ship carrying 14 tonnes of spare parts for submachine guns would dock from the port of Fos-sur-Mer in France to the port of Haifa in Israel. It was the third delivery of this kind since the beginning of 2025, the report said. Later, the outlet added that cannon tubes would also be delivered. However, longshoremen refused to load it onto a ship, saying they "will not participate in the ongoing genocide organized by the Israeli government."

"We do not deliver military equipment used in Gaza. There are two exceptions: components that allow Israel to defend itself – including for the Iron Dome – and for equipment that can be assembled in Israel, but intended for re-export," Barrot told RTL radio. If any French-supplied parts were used in armed clashes, the manufacturing company would be violating the law, the minister added.French President Emmanuel Macron said last week that European countries must toughen their stance on Israel over its ongoing military operation in the Gaza Strip. The French leader also noted that recognizing a Palestinian state "is not only a moral obligation, but also a political necessity."

## Trump administration shuts down "Quiet Skies" passenger surveillance program

New York, June 6 (UNI) :The Trump administration has closed a controversial program that used undercover U.S. air marshals on flights to surveil passengers, and removed a government official who took responsibility for putting Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard in it.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem called for an investigation into the program as she announced its closure on Thursday. DHS said the program cost taxpayers 200 million U.S. dollars a year and "failed to stop a single terrorist attack."

In a recent meeting, administration officials confronted leadership at the Transportation Security Administration over what they said was politically motivated use of the Quiet Skies program under the Biden administration, reported The Wall Street Journal on Friday about the move."The clash over Quiet Skies, a program that has long been a cause for concern for civil liberties advocates, is the latest example of the Trump administration accusing career officials of political weaponization," it noted.

The program was launched in 2010, and its existence was first uncovered by the Boston Globe in 2018. Undercover U.S. air marshals travel on flights with individuals included in the program.

## US resumes development of ARRW hypersonic missile – Air Force Chief of Staff

Washington, June 6 (UNI) : The US Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Allvin has announced the resumption of the development of the hypersonic AGM-183A Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW), despite the program being previously suspended due to mixed testing results and a halt in investment support."I will tell you that we are developing — and you'll see in the budget submission, assuming it's what we put forward — two different programs. One is a larger form factor that is more strategic [and] long range that we have already tested several times — it's called ARRW," Allvin was cited as saying during a House Armed Services Committee hearing on Thursday by the DefenseScoop news outlet.

According to the Defense One news portal, the ARRW program was launched in 2018 with a \$480 million contract awarded to Lockheed Martin company. The missile belongs to the class of boost-glide hypersonic weapons launched from an aircraft, it uses a rocket booster to reach high altitudes and then descends toward its target at speed five times higher than the speed of sound, maneuvering in flight. Such systems are considered virtually invulnerable to existing air defense systems.

## Philippines unemployment sees slight uptick in April, rises to 4.1 pc to Mar 3.9 pc

Manila, June 6 (UNI) The job market in the Philippines has seen a slight dip in April, as the nation's unemployment rate rose to 4.1% in April, compared to 3.9% in March, according to figures released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on Friday.

This translated to an estimated 2.06 million Filipinos out of work last month, a marginal increase from the 2.04 million recorded in April 2024, as confirmed by PSA Chief Dennis Mapa in a press conference.

Philippines, which is already facing a lot of economic hassles such as global trade fluctuations and domestic challenges like high inflation, corruption, and climate change-related disruptions, this slight uptick in unemployment rates is an issue which could potentially exacerbate problems to new levels.

However, the country's Department of Economy, Planning, and Development has maintained a positive outlook in the face of this latest development with Rosemarie Edillon, the department's acting head and Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, stating that the local Philippine labour market continues to demonstrate resilience amid global headwinds.

## Belarus gold, foreign currency reserves set new record

Minsk, June 6 (UNI) : Belarusian gold and foreign currency reserves reached 11.16 billion U.S. dollars as of June 1, 2025, setting a new historical record, the country's central bank said on Friday.In May 2025, gold and foreign exchange reserves increased by 215.7 million U.S. dollars (2 percent) after an increase of 872.8 million dollars (8.7 percent) in April.The volume of foreign currency in reserves amounted to 4.09 billion dollars, having increased by 267.9 million dollars in May 2025. The volume of monetary gold was 5.67 billion dollars, having decreased by 47 million dollars.The Belarusian authorities determined the country's international assets should amount to no less than 7.1 billion dollars at the end of 2025.

## Tesla boss alleges US President part of infamous Epstein Files

Washington, June 6 (UNI) : The Donald Trump and Elon Musk bromance seems to have all but ended now with the world's richest man alleging that the US President's name figures in the classified Epstein files.

Musk's nuclear escalation of his feud with Donald Trump came after duo traded blows for days over the US head of state's flagship domestic policy proposal, the "One Big Beautiful Bill" (OB BB), which the world's richest man had earlier branded a "disgusting abomination."

On Thursday, the SpaceX CEO dropped a dirty bomb on the US President and wrote on X: "Time to drop the really big bomb: @realDonaldTrump is in the Epstein files. That is the real reason they have not been made public. Have a nice day, DJT!"

The Epstein files refers to the vast array of classified files and documents, related to the

convicted billionaire sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, with whom Trump was friends with decades ago.

While Epstein was sentenced to 18 months in prison, the US courts had ruled that Trump was not in on his former friend's criminal life.

The feud between the two global titans had been turning increasingly sour, owing to Musk's own disdain for the bill, which Trump fully justified as being a very big necessity for the US.

The US President had earlier expressed his disappointment over Musk's remarks, saying it may just be the end of their "great relationship."

Attacking his former 'First Buddy', Trump earlier wrote on social media "Elon knew the inner workings of this bill better than anyone... and he only developed a problem when he found out I would cut the EV (electric vehicle) mandate... And it really is

## Bangladesh CA Mohd Yunus announces national elections in April 2026

Dhaka, June 6 (UNI) Bangladesh Interim Government Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus today announced that the much-awaited next national election will take place in the first half of April 2026.

In a televised address to the nation on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha, he said that the Election Commission will provide a detailed roadmap for the elections in due course, the Daily Star reported.He said the interim government took office based on the three main mandates of having reform, justice and elections.

"In that regard, I believe that by the next Eid-ul-Fitr, we will be able to reach an acceptable point on reform and justice. Especially, all will be able to see visible progress on the trial of crimes against humanity – which is the government's collective responsibility towards the martyrs of the July mass uprising," he said."The government has held discussions with all parties to organise the most free, fair, competitive and

acceptable elections in history. In addition, after reviewing the ongoing reform activities related to justice, reform and elections, I am announcing to the people of the country today that the next national elections will be held on a day in the first half of April 2026," Yunus said. This is a major development in the context of Bangladesh's politics after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government in August 2024.Yunus, on several occasions during the past few months, has said that the next elections will take place between December 2025 and June 2026, based on the extent of reforms.

However, BNP and like minded parties have been demanding that the election takes place by December this year.

National Citizen Party, the newly formed political party comprised of July uprising leaders, have been pushing for the election to be held after the reforms are completed.Jamaat-e-Islami

# Shashi Tharoor asked by his son about Pak involvement in Pahalgam terror attack



India would not have retaliated the way it did if there was not convincing evidence against Pakistan.

"I'm very glad you raised this. I didn't plant it, I promise you. Very simply, no one had any doubt, and we were not asked for evidence. But the media

have asked in two or three places. Let me say very clearly that India would not have done this without convincing evidence. But there were three particular reasons I want to draw your attention to all of you.

"The first is that we've had a 37-year pattern of

## Netherlands to hold general elections on Oct 29: minister

The Hague, June 6 (UNI) The Netherlands will hold new general elections on Oct. 29, outgoing Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations Judith Uitermark announced Friday. The Dutch government collapsed earlier this week.

The Electoral Council proposed the date to the outgoing minister, who accepted the recommendation and submitted it to the Council of Ministers the same day. The council approved the proposal, making the election date official.

After the government fell on Tuesday, members of the House of Representatives pushed for new elections as soon as possible. Until then, the outgoing caretaker cabinet without the Party for Freedom (PVV), which withdrew from the coalition over disagreements on migration policy, will continue handling day-to-day affairs.

The Electoral Council considered Oct. 29 as the earliest feasible date for elections. Factoring in the summer holidays and the standard three-month preparation period, this date allows municipalities and political parties sufficient time to organize.

The last general elections were held on Nov. 22, 2023, during which, the far-right PVV won 37 of the 150 seats in the House of Representatives, becoming the largest party for the first time in history.

The GreenLeft-Labor alliance (GroenLinks-PvdA) came in second with 25 seats, followed by the right-wing People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) with 24, and the centrist newcomer New Social Contract (NSC) garnered 20 seats.

The government led by Prime Minister Dick Schoof was sworn in on July 2, 2024, comprising the PVV, NSC, VVD, and the Farmer-Citizen Movement (BBB). However, the coalition collapsed Tuesday when PVV leader Geert Wilders withdrew his party from the government over a dispute regarding asylum policies.

repeated terror attacks from Pakistan, accompanied by repeated denials. I mean, Americans haven't forgotten that Pakistan didn't know, allegedly, where Osama bin Laden was until he was found in a Pakistani safe house right next to an army camp in a

cantonment city. That's Pakistan. Mumbai attacks- they denied having anything to do with it...So we know what Pakistan's all about."They will dispatch terrorists, they will deny they did so until they're actually caught with red hands..." Shashi Tharoor said.

## Russia air defence systems intercepted 174 Ukrainian drones, says Ukrainian drones, says Defence Ministry

Moscow, June 6 (UNI) Russian air defence systems intercepted and shot down 174 Ukrainian drones on Thursday night, the Russian Defence Ministry claimed on Friday."During the past night from 20:00 Moscow time (17:00 GMT) on June 5 to (04:20 Moscow time) on June 6, air defence systems duty intercepted and destroyed 174 Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles of the aircraft type over the territories of the Bryansk, Rostov, Saratov, Voronezh, Kaluga, Kursk, Oryol, Ryazan, Tula, Belgorod, Tambov, Moscow regions and the Republic of Crimea," the ministry said in a statement.Ten drones were shot down while approaching Moscow, according to the capital's mayor. Authorities temporarily closed three airports in the Moscow area for safety, but they have since reopened, according to Bloomberg.

Additionally, the air defence systems destroyed three Ukrainian Neptune-MD guided missiles over the Black Sea, the statement read. Russian Air Force also destroyed two Ukrainian drones headed for the country's Tula region, leaving three people injured, according to Dmitry Milyayev, reports Sputnik."This past night, air defence units of the Russian Defence Ministry destroyed two Ukrainian aircraft-type unmanned aerial vehicles that attacked the Tula Region. As a result of the enemy attack, three people were injured," Milyayev wrote on Telegram.

## Judge temporarily blocks Trump's visa ban on Harvard's int'l students

San Francisco, June 6 (UNI) :A federal judge on Thursday temporarily blocked U.S. President Donald Trump's visa ban on Harvard's foreign students.

U.S. District Court Judge Allison Burroughs issued a temporary restraining order that prohibits anyone from "implementing, instituting, maintaining, enforcing, or giving force or effect to the Presidential Proclamation" that Trump issued Wednesday.

Thursday's order will reinstate international students' ability to enter the country to attend Harvard until a hearing on June 16.

In granting the order blocking implementation of Trump's proclamation and the effort of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Burroughs wrote that she was acting "to preserve the status quo pending a hearing."

Burroughs deemed that Harvard had made a "sufficient showing" that the proclamation would sustain "immediate and

irreparable harm" unless a temporary restraining order was granted.

Trump's proclamation targeting Harvard followed an attempt by the DHS late last month to limit Harvard's ability to enroll foreign students by revoking its certification in the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, which was temporarily blocked by Burroughs.

Burroughs also announced that the court would extend the temporary restraining order first granted to Harvard on May 23 until June 20, or until a preliminary injunction order can be issued.

Harvard University filed a legal challenge in federal court on Thursday against the Trump administration's ban on international students from entering the United States on visas to attend Harvard.

The filing came less than 24 hours after Trump issued a proclamation suspending entry for foreign nationals intending to study at Harvard.



Beauty

Unmanageable hair screams the arrival of monsoon, and such weather calls for some extra attention to your tresses.

# Monsoon Hair care 101: expert speak



Dr.Sunaina Hameed, Consultant Dermatologist at Whitefield Columbia Asia Hospital believes that acid rain, dirty water and increased levels of humidity have an adverse effect on the hair and scalp. However, a few

simple tweaks in your daily schedule can save you from these problems. If you get caught in the rain, wash your hair with a mild shampoo as soon as possible. Don't forget to use

a conditioner after rinse. Also, limit the use of hair dryers and opt for air-drying instead. Apply warmargan oil to your scalp and run a comb through your hair to get the oil to reach up to the tips.

Smooth out wet and tangled hair using a wide-toothed comb. This will help prevent hair fall and breakage. Monsoon humidity can cause an itchy scalp and dandruff. Natural cures include rubbing neem oil and lemon on your scalp to get rid of itchiness. In case these aren't enough, use a mild ketoconazole or zinc pyrithione (ZPTO) shampoo. This season can leave your scalp prone to tiny painful pus filled boils. This is a medical condition known as folliculitis caused by bacterial or fungal infection in the hair follicles. Use an anti-bacterial shampoo (like Cetrilak) every day. In case it doesn't help, consult a dermatologist for antibiotics. Humidity can cause your hair to get frizzy. Use a heavy cream based conditioner and a leave-on hair serum to tame the frizz. Tone down the use of waxes and gels. Do not tie or braid your hair when it is wet. Minimize the use of hot irons and curling irons during this season. Aloe vera gel is an excellent hair mask and beer is an excellent conditioner. Use them once a week for nourishment. When you can't tame your hair on a bad hair day, just accessorise! Use a scarfs, bandanas or colourful hair bands as temporary fixes. Curry leaf extract, neem oil, hibiscus extract, black tea, henna, coffee powder, reeta (soapnut powder), gooseberry and acacia (shikakhai) are excellent herbal and home-based remedies to darken your hair.

## Simple steps to glowing Skin

Here are some tips to boost your skin's health, reports femalefirst.co.uk:

### Drink lots of water:

Every system and function in our body depends on water. Skin is no different. Dry skin has less resilience and is more prone to wrinkling, so ensure you take in enough water to reach your skin and keep it hydrated. Two to three litres a day is usually about right.

### Multi-task:

Looking after your skin doesn't have to stop at home, so carry a multi-tasking quick-fix with you in your handbag for dewy skin on the go. A water spray can be used to cool and calm even the most sensitive complexions. Not only does it tone the skin, but it can also be used to set make-up and refresh skin on a hot day, as well as soothing and softening skin on the go.

### Always remove make-up:

It sounds obvious, but one in five women still admit to sleeping with make-up on when away from home. During summer nights, one is naturally warmer and sweater and if make-up is left on overnight, and bacteria is more likely to develop, leaving pores



blocked and resulting in an increased chance of waking up with bad skin outbreaks - whether spots or dry patches.

### Stick to products meant for your skin:

The internet can give out weird and wonderful information, but not all of it is accurate. Be aware that not everything you read will work. A common mistake is using toothpaste on spots - toothpaste is meant for your teeth which are one of the hardest surfaces in your body. Using a product on your skin which is actually intended for the teeth will damage your skin and cause it to completely dry out.

### Wear SPF throughout the year:

It's easy to assume that just because the sun isn't out, you don't need to use a product with SPF in it. But UVA rays are constantly present, no matter the season or the weather and these are the ones that cause the skin to age because they are able to penetrate much deeper into the surface of the skin, damaging the cells beneath.

## Reverse shampoo routine for healthier hair

Want softer and bouncy curls? Then try the reverse shampooing technique.

One of the hottest haircare trends, this method requires you to first condition your hair and then wash it off with shampoo. Experts and those who have tried this method swear by its results, confirming that the hair is much shiny and manageable than before.

The logic behind it There are two ways of looking at it. Anooradha Mittal, a hairdresser, says, "When you douse your hair with conditioner at the end of a wash, you run the risk of not rinsing it off completely. So, chances of your hair becoming greasy and accumulating dirt is high. The logic behind conditioning first is to let the conditioner do its job completely — protect hair from chemicals present in the shampoo and lock the moisture and natural oils. However, most salon experts follow the process of applying a conditioner towards the end." How to reverse hair wash Wet your hair. Pour a coin-sized



amount of conditioner on your palm and apply it evenly. Avoid the roots and scalp, and concentrate more on the strands. Leave it on for five minutes before washing. Shampoo the regular way and rinse off all lather. What are the benefits? According to trichologist Srimadh Bave, with this technique, your hair gets the moisturising benefits from

the conditioner and proper cleansing from the shampoo, without leaving behind any residue. "If not washed well, conditioners at the end of a routine leave behind a coating on strands, which attract dirt and grime."

When your hair is wet, it's at a high risk of breakage. A pre-conditioning routine fortifies hair. You can even leave a light conditioner on for about half an hour before shampooing it off.

This regime adds volume to hair, makes it shiny and gives a soft texture. It also makes your curls frizz-free.

A mixture of a light conditioner and water can act as a good detangler. Separate hair into sections after applying the mix and slowly remove the knots.

The biggest advantages of reverse hair wash? It's low maintenance (because you are not buying any extra high-end haircare product but using your routine conditioner and shampoo) and you spend the same time putting this process into practice.



It's not a bad idea after all to go bare faced sometimes, but make sure you have healthy and glowing skin. Ensure drinking water and using sunscreen to get that glow.



# Gabriel signs new Arsenal deal until 2029



London, June 6 (UNI) : Arsenal defender Gabriel Magalhaes has signed a new long-term contract to keep him at the club until 2029.

The Brazilian was already under contract until 2027, but this new deal reflects his importance to manager Mikel Arteta's project at Emirates Stadium.

Gabriel, 27, has been a key player for Arsenal since joining the club in a £27m move from Lille in 2020, making 210 appearances in all competitions, according to a BBC news.

"I arrived here as a young player and after

almost five years I'm so happy and I've learned a lot," Gabriel said.

"I'm so proud of myself, it's an amazing journey, and I'm so happy to continue it. I hope I win some trophies with this club, because I love this club and my family loves the club, too.

"Arsenal is an amazing club and I'm so proud to sign a new contract. I love the supporters, my teammates, I love this stadium. I'm so proud and thank you for all the support. We continue together for the future."

Since 2022 he has formed a strong partnership

with William Saliba in the centre of defence, and proven to be a major threat from set pieces.

Gabriel missed the final two months of the 2024-25 season with a hamstring injury and his absence was keenly felt - Arsenal dropped out of the Premier League title race and were defeated in the Uefa Champions League semi-finals by eventual winners Paris St-Germain.

Meanwhile, the Gunners are hoping to complete a deal for Real Sociedad midfielder Martin Zubimendi, and are working to sign a new striker.

## Klugman ends GB's long wait for Paris junior finalist

Paris, June 6 (UNI) : Teenager Hannah Klugman underlined her potential by becoming the first British player in almost 50 years to reach a French Open junior singles final on Friday.

The 16-year-old fought back to win 1-6 6-3 6-3 against 18-year-old Bulgarian Rositsa Dencheva on the Roland Garros clay.

"I'm just a bit shocked, to be honest," Klugman said.

"I wasn't playing my best and I found it tough to get myself into the match.

"I felt like as soon as I did that I was in a good space and I thought I could do well if I got into the match."

Klugman, who was born in London and raised in Wimbledon, will play Austria's Lilli Tagger on Saturday for the trophy.

She is aiming to emulate Britain's Michelle Tyler, who won the French Open girls' title in 1976.

It is a first Grand Slam girls' singles final for the highly-rated Klugman, who already has some impressive results to her name.

She shot to wider prominence by winning the Orange Bowl junior championships in Florida at the age of 14.

Past winners of the Orange Bowl include French Open finalist Coco Gauff, as well as Grand Slam champions Chris Evert, Caroline Wozniacki and Bianca Andreescu.

Klugman has also contested two Grand Slam girls' doubles finals, losing the 2023 Wimbledon and this year's Australian Open trophy matches.

"I think I've been mentally very good this week. I think I'm staying calm in big moments, and also just trying to take it in," Klugman added.

"These moments don't happen a lot, so trying to enjoy it is a big part.

"My coach and physio are basically saying go out there and enjoy it because you might never be in the spot again."

# Vinayak Bhoir stars in SoBo Mumbai Falcons' hat-trick win

Mumbai, June 6 (UNI) : Angkrish Raghuvanshi's heroics in the Powerplay and Vinayak Bhoir's all-round show helped SoBo Mumbai Falcons register a hat-trick of victories in T20 Mumbai league's third edition with a four-wicket win against Triumph Knights Mumbai North East on Friday.

Making their maiden appearance at the Wankhede Stadium and icon player Shreyas Iyer taking over there in for the first time, the SoBo Mumbai Falcons chased down a target of 146 with four balls to spare.

It was a high-profile clash between Shreyas and Suryakumar Yadav leading the two teams. While both the stalwart batters were dismissed early, it was the maidan 'crisis man' Bhoir, who rose to the occasion.

When Bhoir – the left-hander who had played his part with the ball with three economical overs – took to the crease, captain Shreyas had been dismissed, lbw off a flipper by leggie Parikshit Valsangkar. That

dismissal pegged the Falcons back despite Raghuvanshi (42 off 25) tonking 22 runs in the last over of the Powerplay.

Even before Bhoir took guard, Harsh Aghav also got out and at 75 for five in the 11th over, the onus was on the allrounder duo of Bhoir and Parkar to take the game deep. The seasoned campaigners did so to perfection. Despite the pitch offering turn to spinners, the duo batted sensibly, focusing

more on rotating strike rather than taking any undue risk.

With 30 required off 18 balls, Bhoir chased a wide delivery outside off stump by pacer Hrishikesh Gore and tonked him over long-off for a huge six. The next ball was cramped into his body, but he whipped it to the short boundary at square leg. While he perished later on in the same over trying to finish the proceedings off in a hurry, the damage had been done.

With five runs required off five balls, Parkar opened

up his shoulders for the first time and finished the game off with a six over long-on.

Just like Thursday, though, the win was set by the Falcons' bowlers. Siddharth Raut started with a maiden and even though the in-form pacer had to head back to the dressing room after injuring himself, the rest of the well-oiled bowling pack never let the seasoned campaigners like Suryakumar and Siddhant Addhatrao cut loose. Had it not been for Suryansh Shedge's pyrotechnics in the end, the Falcons would have restricted the Knights to a sub-130 total.

Player of the Match: Vinayak Bhoir

Brief scores:

Triumph Knights Mumbai North East 145/5 (Siddhant Addhatrao 57, Suryansh Shedge 49\*; Siddharth Raut 1/8, Yash Dicholkar 1/21, Vinayak Bhoir 1/21) lost to SoBo Mumbai Falcons 147/6 in 19.2 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 42, Vinayak Bhoir 33, Akash Parkar 30 not out; Hitesh Kadam 2/22).

# Jansen reveals Ponting's parting IPL gift ahead of WTC Final

Arundel (England), June 6 (UNI) : Marco Jansen has revealed the piece of sage advice he recently received from Australian great Ricky Ponting that has the South African quick in top form ahead of the ICC World Test Championship Final. Jansen was in scintillating form during the recent Indian Premier League (IPL) season, with the towering left-armer collecting 16 wickets from 14 matches for the Punjab Kings under the expert coaching of Ponting prior to meeting up with his international teammates ahead of the World Test Championship Final against Australia at Lord's from June 11.

It's the first time that Jansen's path has crossed with Ponting's and the South African has been supremely impressed with what the Punjab Kings coach achieved in his first year in charge of the franchise, as he led the side to a runners-up finish behind eventual champions Royal Challengers Bangalore. Jansen said Ponting had instilled great confidence in his bowling since he joined up with the Kings earlier this year and he is planning to use that newfound belief when the Proteas take on Australia in the one-off Ultimate Test.

"Before I left (India), he (Ponting) just said 'good luck, I hope you do well, but I hope you lose'," Jansen told ICC Digital from here on Tuesday after the opening day of South Africa's warm-up match against Zimbabwe was washed out due to persistent rain.

"I learnt a lot from him, especially from a mental point of view. He is always positive and he always sees the good stuff instead of the bad stuff, if it makes

sense," he said.

"And I think that's why he's a legend of the game, because you always lean towards what could happen instead of what could go wrong. For me personally in the IPL, he's helped a lot in that regard, because he always reminds you what could be, what you can do and what could happen instead of what couldn't happen," Jansen said.

Recently, the Proteas announced that recently retired fast bowler Stuart Broad would join the team in a consulting role prior to the World Test Championship Final and this has Jansen excited about what advice he might receive from the England legend. Broad was known to get under the skin of Australia's batters during his illustrious Test career and took more than 110 wickets at the iconic Lord's venue alone and Jansen

## Bihar to host Table Tennis tournament for first time

Patna, June 6 (UNI) : Bihar will be hosting the State Ranking Table Tennis tournament for the first time between June 19 and 22 at the indoor stadium of Patliputra Sports Complex, here. Bihar State Sports Authority (BSSA) Director General - cum - CEO Raveendra Sankaran said here on Friday that the tournament will be jointly organised under the banner of Sports Department, BSSA and Bihar Table Tennis Association. Sankaran said that the tournaments would bring organized at the state level to determine the top players in each state. The tournament plays an important role for players to qualify for national and international competitions. The tournament will feature table tennis competitions for various age-groups of Under 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 for both boys and girls as well as men's and women's singles, Sankaran said and added that players from across the state can participate in the tournament.

# Rajasthan Cricket Association's internal disputes disappointing cricket lovers: Ashok Gehlot

Jaipur, June 6 (UNI) Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday expressed concern over the ongoing disputes within the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA), saying that the infighting has caused great disappointment among cricket lovers in the state.

Gehlot said since the BJP government came to power in the state, the RCA has been plagued by controversies, which have made it challenging to even organise IPL matches. He criticised the state government for remaining a silent spectator to the disputes between the ad-hoc committee, sports council, and sports department.

Gehlot pointed out that the ad-hoc committee, which was formed by the government, was only meant to be a temporary measure for three months, during which elections should have been

held. However, elections have not been held for over a year and a half.

He recalled the positive developments that took place during Vaibhav Gehlot's tenure as RCA president, including the lifting of the ban imposed by the BCCI in 2019, the organisation of international and IPL matches in Rajasthan, and the renovation of the Barkatullah Khan Stadium in Jodhpur.

However, Gehlot lamented that the work on the proposed world-class cricket stadium in Jaipur, which was to be built in collaboration with the Vedanta group, has also come to a standstill. Gehlot urged the state government to intervene and put an end to the bitter infighting within the RCA, considering the future of cricket and cricketers in Rajasthan, as well as the sentiments of millions of cricket lovers.

# Rahil Pillarisetty, Savion Sabu grab pole positions in Pro-Stock categories

Chennai, June 6 (UNI) : Hyderabad businessman Rahil Pillarisetty (RACR Castrol Power1) ended a four-year wait for a pole position as he topped the qualifying session in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc category to kickstart his campaign in the first round of the MRF MMSC-FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2025 at the Madras International Circuit, here on Friday.

Later, riding under dark rain clouds, Bengaluru's Savion Sabu (Mad Rabbit Racing) put the hammer down to qualify for pole position in the debut class, the Pro-Stock 165-200cc.

The 17-year-old clocked an impressive hot lap of 01:57.898 to outpace the 12-rider field, all on factory-supported GP 200R based on Apache RTR 200 4V that is specially crafted for racing.

In P2 was the experienced Coimbatore challenger Senthil Kumar (01:58.862) of RDX Torque

Racing, ahead of Chennai's Venkatesan Iyappan (01:58.992) of Rookies Racing.

Equally impressive was Aizawl's 22-year-old Lal Nunsanga (Motul Sparks Racing) who grabbed the pole position in the Novice (Stock 165cc) class. It was his first pole in six years, the last being in the Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup.

Mohamed Mikhail (Mad Rabbit Racing) from Thiruvallur, a graduate from the Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup, also qualified for the pole position in the Stock 301-400cc (Novice) class.

A beaming Pillarisetty attributed his pole position to his Yamaha R3 and switching team to RACR after four seasons with Gusto Racing where he rode a KTM. "I am not surprised by the pole position.

I have always practiced on a Yamaha R3 though with Gusto I was on a KTM. But I am happy with my performance today and

expect an exciting race tomorrow," said the 27-year-old Hyderabad.

In fact, Pillarisetty finished ahead of Hosur-based Alwin Sundar (Petronas TVS Racing), a former Novice National champion, who nudged out team-mate and reigning National champion Sarthak Chavan from Pune who had to be content with P3. The race is expected to be close as just 1.2 secs cover the top six qualifiers.

Nunsanga, who hails from a modest background and manages to participate in the championship courtesy local sponsors (airfare) and his team (accommodation), said, "It is because of their help that I can take part. My father is unable to work due to an accident some years ago and we are a family of five (now four after he lost his elder brother). We somehow survive. I also do some odd jobs and earn prize money, very small amounts, from local races. Anyway, I am very happy

with the pole position after six years and hope to do well in the races this weekend," he said.

Ranged behind Nunsanga are Hyderabad's Rajender Beedani (MAI Racing) and Yashwant Varma (Motul Sparks Racing) from Visakhapatnam.

In the Petronas TVS One-Make Championship, Chennai riders dominated the qualifying session in the Expert (Apache RR 310) class as Manoj Yesuadiyan managed to keep his nose in front to qualify for the pole position ahead of last year's Stock 301-400cc champion Kaushik Subbiah Ganesan and Mohan Babu, all three covered by less than one second.

Local rider Elakiya Ravi snatched pole position in the Girls (Apache RTR 200) category, pushing National champion Jagathishree Kumaresan to P2 while Bengaluru's Shuriya SP completed the front row.

In the Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup, the front row in the Honda CB 300F

class was taken up by Chennai riders, R Solomon, former multiple National girls champion Ann Jennifer and Deepak Kumar, in that order ahead of Saturday's race will see a grid of 12.

The results (Qualifying – top 3):

National Championship – Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open: 1. Rahil Pillarisetty (Hyderabad, RACR Castrol Power1) (01min, 49.184sec); 2. Alwin Sundar (Chennai, Petronas TVS Racing) (01:49.669); 3. Sarthak Chavan (Pune, Petronas TVS Racing) (01:49.674). Pro-Stock 165-200cc Open: 1. Savion Babu (Bengaluru, MadRabbit Racing) 01:57.898);

2. Senthilkumar (Coimbatore, RDX Torque Racing) (01:58.862); 3. Venkatesan Iyappan (Chennai, Rookies Racing) (01:58.992), Stock 301-400cc (Novice): 1. Mohamed Mikail (Thiruvallur, Mad Rabbit Racing) (02:01.197); 2. Arjun Kanwar (Delhi, RACR Castrol Power1)

(02:01.477); 3. Varun Patil (Bengaluru, Mad Rabbit Racing) (02:01.493).

Stock 165cc (Novice): 1. Lal Nunsanga (Aizwal, Motul Sparks Racing) (02:09.397); 2. Rajender Beedani (Hyderabad, MAI Racing) (02:09.581); 3. Yashwant Varma (Visakhapatnam, Motul Sparks Racing) (02:09.950).

O n e - M a k e Championship:

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (CB 300F): 1. Solomon R (Chennai) (02:08.297); 2. Ann Jennifer (Chennai) (02:09.806); 3. Deepak Kumar (Chennai)

TVS Expert (Apache RR310): 1. Manoj Yesuadiyan (Chennai) (01:56.031); 2. Kaushik Subbiah Ganesan (Chennai) (01:56.228); 3. Mohan Babu (Chennai) (01:56.233).

TVS Girls (Apache RTR 200): 1. Elakiya Ravi (Chennai) (02:13.431); 2. Jagathishree Kumaresan (Chennai) (02:13.897); 3. Shuriya SP (Bengaluru) (02:14.289).

# Alcaraz enters final as Musetti retires injured

Paris, June 6 (UNI) : Carlos Alcaraz, the defending champion, secured his place in the Roland-Garros final for the second consecutive year after Lorenzo Musetti retired due to a left thigh injury early in the fourth set of their semifinal clash on Friday.

Musetti started the match strongly, taking the first set 6-4 by capitalizing on Alcaraz's unforced errors and maintaining consistent baseline play. The Italian fended off a break point at 3-3 and broke Alcaraz at 5-4 to clinch the set. In the second set, both players exchanged breaks early, with Alcaraz breaking to love for a 2-1 lead, only for Musetti to break back immediately. The set culminated in a tense tiebreak, where Alcaraz surged ahead to win 7-6(3), leveling the match. Alcaraz dominated the third set, winning it 6-0 in just 21 minutes, as Musetti began to show signs of physical discomfort. The Italian called for medical attention during the set, indicating a left thigh issue.

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## CR Mumbai Division Observes International Level Crossing Awareness Day 2025 with Extensive Awareness Activities



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 6 : Mumbai Division of Central Railway observed International Level Crossing Awareness Day on 5th June 2025 by organizing a series of impactful awareness activities aimed at promoting safety at manned and unmanned level crossing

A joint initiative involving officers and senior subordinates from all departments, along with the Civil Defence and Railway Cultural Teams, was conducted across various level crossing gates. The programmes focused on educating road users about the importance of safety while crossing

railway tracks at LC gates.

**The key highlights of the campaign included:**

- Display of informative banners at level crossing gates.
- Distribution of approximately 1,600 multilingual pamphlets (Marathi, Hindi, and English) highlighting do's and don'ts at level crossings.
- Organization of Nukkad Nataks (street plays) by Civil Defence and Railway Cultural teams to demonstrate real-life scenarios and safety measures.
- Intensive counselling of over 8,746 road users and 76 gatemen.
- Use of digital media platforms including

WhatsApp and SMS to circulate safety messages.

- Active announcements by RPF personnel through megaphones to sensitize the public at LC gates.
  - Meetings with Gram Panchayat members and rural hospital representatives to increase outreach in local communities.
  - Inspection of 65 level crossing gates and conduct of 7 safety seminars and meetings.
- Mumbai Division reaffirmed its commitment to safety by integrating one-to-one interactions and real-time demonstrations, such as showing school children the dangers of crossing under closed gates.

## Mega Block over Mumbai Division of Central Railway on Sunday

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 6 : Central Railway, Mumbai Division will operate Mega Block on its suburban sections for carrying out various engineering and maintenance works on Sunday, 08.06.2025

**Main Line Block Section :**

5th & 6th lines between Vidyavihar and Thane stations from 08.00 hrs to 13.30 hrs

**Diversion of UP Mail/Express trains**

Following UP Mail/Express trains will be diverted on UP Fast line at Thane. \*LTT bound trains will be re-diverted on 6th line at Vidyavihar station.

- \* Train no 11010 Pune-CSMT Sinhadag Express
- \* Train no 12124 Pune-CSMT Deccan Queen
- \* Train no 13201 Patna-LTT Express
- \* Train no 17221 Kakinada-LTT Express
- \* Train no 12126 Pune-CSMT Pragati Express
- \* Train no 12140

Nagpur – CSMT Express

\* Train no 22226 Solapur-CSMT Vande Bharat Express

\* Train no 12168 Banaras-LTT Express

\* Train no 12321 Howrah-CSMT Express

\* Train no 12812 Hatia-LTT Express

\* Train no 11012 Solapur-CSMT Vande Bharat Express

**Diversion of DOWN Mail/Express trains**

Following DOWN Mail/Express trains will be diverted on DOWN Fast line at Vidyavihar station and will be re-diverted at Thane on 5th line.

- \* Train no 11055 LTT-Gorakhpur Express
  - \* Train no 11061 LTT-Jaynagar Express
  - \* Train no 16345 LTT-Tiruvananthapuram Netravati Express
  - \* Train no 17222 LTT-Kakinada Express
- UP & DOWN Harbour lines between Panvel and Vashi stations (excluding PORT line) from 11.05 hrs**

to 16.05 hrs

**Harbour Line Block Section**

UP Harbour line services towards CSMT leaving Panvel from 10.33 hrs to 15.49 hrs and DOWN Harbour line services to Panvel/Belapur leaving CSMT from 9.45 hrs to 15.12 hrs will remain cancelled.

**Trans Harbour Line Block Section**

UP Trans-harbour line services towards Thane leaving Panvel from 11.02 hrs to 15.53 hrs and DOWN Trans-harbour line services towards Panvel leaving Thane from 10.01 hrs to 15.20 hrs will remain cancelled.

Special local trains will run on CSMT Mumbai – Vashi section during the block period.

Trans-harbour line services will be available between Thane-Vashi/ Nerul stations during the block period.

PORT line services will be available between Belapur/ Nerul and Uran stations during the block period.

## 4 thousand 181 regular and outsourced employees in Kalyan Circle took the oath of electricity safety

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kalyan/Vasai/Palghar, June 6 : On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Mahavitaran, the Electricity Safety Week is being celebrated across the state from 1st to 6th June with the concept of 'Zero Accidents Maharashtra'. On the last day of the week, Friday (06th June), 4 thousand 181 regular and outsourced employees took the oath of electricity safety in Kalyan Circle, four divisional offices, ten divisional offices, as well as 40 sub-divisional and 181 branch offices. This includes 2 thousand 642 regular employees and 1 thousand 539 contractual workers.

Under the leadership and guidance of Chief Engineer Chandramani Mishra, the Safety Week is being celebrated with great enthusiasm in Kalyan Circle. During this week, officers and employees created awareness about electricity safety through various means such as marathons, rallies, painting and essay competitions, and visits to residential societies. On Friday morning, the main program of taking the oath of electricity safety was held in the presence of Chief Engineer Mr. Mishra in the



premises of the Circle Office. On this occasion, Superintendent Engineer Anil Thorat of Kalyan Mandal I, Superintendent Engineer Vijay Funde of Kalyan Mandal II, Superintendent Engineer Mohan Kaloge of the Construction Department, Superintendent Engineer

Maresh Anchinmane of the Infrastructure Planning Department, Superintendent Engineer Mandar Atr of the Testing Department, Deputy Chief Industrial Relations Officer Ramgopal Ahir, Deputy Chief Public Relations Officer Ajit Igatpurikar along with engineers,

officers, regular employees and contractual workers were present in large numbers. “

An oath of electricity safety was taken at the Palghar and Vasai divisional offices in the presence of Superintendent Engineer Dilip Khanande and Superintendent Engineer Sanjay Khandare,

respectively. The oath was taken to work with safety as the top priority. On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Mahavitaran, entertainment programs have been organized for employees and families in Kalyan, Palghar and Vasai on Friday evening.

## Major Block on All Lines Between Mira Road and Bhayandar Stations for launching of Girders for Metro Line-9 : Western Railway

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 6 : A block of 1.45 hrs will be undertaken on 07/08 June, 2025 (Saturday/Sunday) while a block of 1.15 hrs will be undertaken on 08/09 June, 2025 (Sunday/Monday) & 09/10 June, 2025 (Monday/Tuesday), a block of 1.15 hrs will be undertaken from 01:45 hrs to 3:00 hrs.

Western Railway will undertake a major block on all lines between Mira Road and Bhayander stations in connection with the work of launching girders for Metro Line 9. On the intervening night of 07th / 08th June,

2025 (Saturday/Sunday), a block of 1.45 hrs will be undertaken from 01:30 hrs to 3:15 hrs. Similarly, on the intervening night of 08th / 09th June, 2025 (Sunday/Monday) & 09th/10th June, 2025 (Monday/Tuesday), a block of 1.15 hrs will be undertaken from 01:45 hrs to 3:00 hrs.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, during the execution of work a few suburban services will be affected while some will

remain cancelled. Details of the same are as below: -

Repercussions on Suburban Services on 07th / 08th June, 2025 (Saturday / Sunday)

The last local train for Virar from Churchgate will depart at 00:20 hrs.

The last local train for Churchgate from Virar will depart at 00:05 hrs

Repercussions on Suburban Services on 09th / 10th June, 2025 (Monday / Tuesday)

The last local train for Virar from Churchgate will depart at 00:20 hrs.

The last local train for Churchgate from Virar will depart at 00:05 hrs

Repercussions on Suburban Services on 08th

/ 09th June, 2025 (Sunday / Monday)

The last local train for Virar from Churchgate will depart at 00:20 hrs.

The last local train for Churchgate from Virar will depart at 00:05 hrs

Repercussions on Suburban Services on 09th / 10th June, 2025 (Monday / Tuesday)

The last local train for Virar from Churchgate will depart at 00:20 hrs.

The last local train for Churchgate from Virar will depart at 00:05 hrs

## Day Block over Western Railway on Sunday

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 6 : To carry out maintenance work of tracks, signaling and overhead equipment, a Jumbo Block of five hours will be taken on UP and Down slow lines from 10:35 hrs to 15:35 hrs between Churchgate and Mumbai Central Station on Sunday, i.e. 08th June, 2025.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public

Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, during the block period, all Slow line trains will be run on fast lines between Churchgate and Mumbai Central station.

Due to the block some UP and Down local trains will remain cancelled and some Churchgate bound trains will be short terminated/reversed from Bandra/Dadar.

Detailed information to this effect is available at concerned Station Master's office.

## WR Extends trips of weekly special trains

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, June 6 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand, Western Railway has extended the trips of Train No.09059/09060 Udhna – Khurda Road (Weekly)

Special on the same composition, timings, halts and path.

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

Train No. 09059 Udhna – Khurda Road Special has been extended from 9th July, 2025 up to 30th July, 2025 Train No. 09060 Khurda Road – Udhna Special has been extended from 11th July, up to 01st August, 2025 The booking

for extended trips of Train No. 09059 opens on 07.06.2025 at PRS counters and IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

## Inflation eases as RBI cuts repo rate to 5.5%

Mumbai, June 6 (UNI) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday lowered its inflation forecast for the financial year 2025-26 to 3.7 per cent, down from the earlier projection of 4 per cent, reflecting the positive impact of easing global commodity prices. This represents one of the most optimistic inflation

outlooks in recent years. Alongside this revision, the RBI reduced its key policy rate by 50 basis points to 5.5 per cent, aiming to support economic growth while keeping inflation in check. Governor Sanjay Malhotra noted that assuming normal monsoon conditions, inflation is expected to remain

moderate throughout the year, with quarterly estimates ranging from 2.9 per cent in June to 4.4 per cent by March. April's retail inflation eased to 3.16 per cent, the lowest in nearly six years, driven by abundant food supplies and steady core inflation. The RBI highlighted record wheat and pulses production during the Rabi

season, coupled with an anticipated above-average monsoon, as factors likely to sustain food availability and moderate prices.

Malhotra emphasized that inflation expectations, especially in rural areas, are trending downward, supported by forecasts of stable crude oil prices and other key commodities.