

IN BRIEF

Miscreants torch parked TGSRTC bus in Nalgonda district

Nalgonda, July 23 (UNI) : Tension gripped Tadakamall village in Miryalaguda mandal of Nalgonda district after unidentified miscreants set fire to a Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) bus late Tuesday night.

The incident occurred around midnight when the bus, belonging to the Miryalaguda depot, was parked at the village's main bus stop intersection for its night halt. According to officials, the culprits ignited the rear of the vehicle, sparking a blaze that engulfed the back portion of the bus.

The driver and conductor immediately informed local police and fire services. Firefighters rushed to the spot and managed to douse the fire. A case has been registered by the local police, and investigations are underway to identify the perpetrators behind this act of arson.

Cyberabad Police release WFH advisory amidst heavy rains warning

Hyderabad, July 23 (UNI) : Considering the heavy rain warning, the Cyberabad Police have released an advisory suggesting companies adopt a Work-from-Home (WFH) setup today, as unrelenting rain in Hyderabad is expected to continue for today.

In its advisory note, the Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Cyberabad, requested companies to adopt remote working in order to guarantee public safety, alleviate traffic congestion, preserve productivity, and facilitate continuous emergency services during unfavorable weather conditions.

Public cooperation in dealing with the effects of the rains, particularly on traffic movement as well as emergency response services, has been stressed by the authorities. "We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter," the Joint Commissioner said in its advisory note.

With waterlogging and potential disruptions expected, residents and commuters are advised to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary and to follow weather updates and safety guidelines issued by the authorities, the note added.

Reddy reiterates commitment to BC quota in local body polls



New Delhi/Hyderabad, July 23 (UNI) : Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy today asserted that his government is determined to conduct local body elections in the state with 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs), as mandated by the Telangana High Court.

The court has directed that elections be held within 90 days- by the end of September- and that reservation policies be finalised by the end of July.

Speaking to reporters at his official residence in Delhi, the Chief Minister accused the BJP-led Central government of deliberately delaying the approval of two key bills passed by the Telangana Legislative

Assembly, aimed at extending reservations for BCs in education, employment, and local bodies.

To push for the Centre's nod, Revanth Reddy said he met Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Rajya Sabha LoP Mallikarjun Kharge earlier in the day, explaining the scope and findings of the Socio-Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste Survey (SEEEPC) conducted by the state. He said he would also brief all Congress MPs later in the evening, seeking their support in Parliament.

Highlighting the broad political consensus in the state, the CM noted that BJP, BRS, CPI, and AIMIM had

all supported the 42 per cent BC reservation during Assembly discussions.

However, he lashed out at Union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay for allegedly using the issue of Muslim reservations as a diversion to obstruct BC quotas. Revanth challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to first cancel Muslim reservations in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra—states with BJP governments—before targeting Telangana.

Referring to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's comment in a recent interview, where he acknowledged that Muslim reservations exist in Gujarat and would continue, the CM asked whether BJP had

the courage to take action against him for that statement.

The Chief Minister detailed that the SEEEPC survey began on February 4, 2024, and concluded exactly a year later. He said it covered 3.55 crore people, and the findings revealed that BCs make up 56.4 per cent, SCs 17.45 per cent, STs 10.08 per cent, and upper castes 10.09 per cent of the state's population.

Additionally, 3.09 per cent declared their caste for the first time—an important development, he said. The data has been shared with an Independent Expert Advisory Committee, and the final report will be presented in the Assembly after Cabinet discussion.

Revanth Reddy said February 4 will henceforth be celebrated as Social Justice Day in Telangana, in recognition of the caste survey's significance. He added that while the state was open to data transparency, individual identities would be protected in accordance with the Personal Data Privacy Act.

Claiming Telangana had set a national precedent, the CM said the Centre followed his state's lead and issued a gazette for conducting a caste census only after Telangana completed its own. He called on the Union government to adopt Telangana's road map for a nationwide caste census.

He also credited Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra for prioritising the caste census at the national level and reiterated Gandhi's commitment to implement it if voted to power.

In a final remark, Revanth Reddy declared that the 2029 Lok Sabha elections will serve as a referendum on OBC reservations. He claimed credit for forcing the BJP to retract its position on the farm laws and expressed confidence in steering the caste census and reservation agenda forward.

Telangana celebrates 200 crore free rides under Maha Lakshmi scheme

Hyderabad, July 23 (UNI) : In a major milestone for Telangana's flagship Maha Lakshmi free travel scheme, the state government today celebrated 200 crore free bus journeys made by women in RTC buses, resulting in an estimated Rs 6,680 crore in savings for passengers.

Special programmes and public meetings were held at 97 RTC depots and 341 bus stations across Telangana to mark the achievement.

In Hyderabad, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka participated in the celebrations held at MGBS, with Ministers Ponnampallam Prabhakar and Komatireddy Venkata Reddy also in attendance.

Speaking at the event, Deputy CM Vikramarka said the RTC had turned a corner since the launch of the Maha Lakshmi scheme on December 9, 2023, coinciding with the formation of the new government. "Earlier, RTC was called a sinking boat. Today, it is a profit-making government institution," he said. The state has so far paid Rs 6,680 crore to RTC to cover the fare for 200 crore women passengers.

The Deputy CM added that the scheme has not only empowered women through free travel but has also boosted RTC's operations. "Prior to the scheme, RTC's

occupancy ratio stood at 62 per cent. Today, it has surged to 97 per cent. Daily passenger numbers have increased from 45 lakh to 65 lakh." Highlighting efforts to make Hyderabad a pollution-free city, Vikramarka announced that RTC is transitioning its fleet to electric vehicles. Orders have been placed for 3,000 electric buses, and 11 per cent of these have already been delivered. The goal is to replace 2,800 buses in Hyderabad with electric ones. Since the scheme's launch, the government has purchased 2,400 new buses and introduced new policies through the Transport Department. Further empowering women, the government has enabled women's associations to own RTC buses through interest-free loans. "We recently handed over cheques of Rs 1 crore each to women's groups who now own RTC buses. Petrol stations are also being set up by them," he said. Minister Ponnampallam Prabhakar recalled the official launch of the scheme in the Legislative Assembly and congratulated women on completing 200 crore free journeys. He credited the dedication of RTC drivers and conductors for the successful implementation of the programme.

Elections are stolen in India, this is a reality, alleges Rahul

New Delhi, July 23 (UNI) : Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi today reiterated his allegation that elections in India were being "stolen", calling it a "reality".

Talking to reporters during the INDIA protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, outside in the Parliament complex, Gandhi claimed that his party had found out how the BJP manipulated the voter lists in Karnataka during the Lok Sabha elections. Claiming that the Congress party has done some research in Karnataka,

Gandhi said, "The party carried out deep and detailed study, choosing one constituency to find out how the BJP was stealing the elections". He said that it took six months for the party and eventually everything came out in "black and white". Gandhi again accused the BJP of "stealing the elections in Maharashtra with the support of the Election Commission of India". "Nearly one crore voters were added to the electoral rolls within a span of a few months in the state between the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha elections," Gandhi

alleged. Accusing the Election Commission of colluding with the BJP, he stated that when the Congress requested machine-readable, digital copies of the voter lists, the Commission declined.

He further alleged that when the party demanded video recordings, the rules were altered. Gandhi alleged that having realised that its "game plan of stealing the elections had been exposed", the BJP had now taken a different route in Bihar by getting voters deleted from the electoral rolls in order to prepare a new voter list that suits its interests.

Telangana to witness heavy to very heavy rainfall over next 5 days: IMD warns

Hyderabad, July 23 (UNI) : The Meteorological Centre, Hyderabad, has issued a warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall over several parts of Telangana in the coming days. The alert comes amid a continuing spell of monsoon showers across the state.

In its weather bulletin issued at 1300 hours today, the Met Centre said heavy to very heavy rain is likely at isolated places in Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Mahabubabad,

Warangal, and Hanamkonda districts during the next 24 hours. For tomorrow, similar conditions are expected to continue in Jayashankar Bhupalapally and Mulugu districts. Heavy rainfall is also likely at isolated places in Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Rajanna Sircilla, Khammam, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, and Vikarabad districts within the next 24 hours. Heavy rain is likely to affect areas including Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Mahabubabad, Vikarabad, and Sangareddy districts. The forecast for Friday indicates heavy

rainfall at isolated locations in Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Medak, and Kamareddy districts. On Saturday, isolated heavy rainfall is very likely in Adilabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts. For Sunday, the forecast includes heavy rainfall at isolated places in Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts.



237 Railways projects worth Rs 1,90,333 crore sanctioned in less than 4 years: Vaishnaw

A total of 237 projects (40 new lines, 17 gauge conversion, and 180 doubling) of a total length of 9,703 kms -- costing about Rs 1,90,333 crore -- have been sanctioned across Indian Railways during the last three fiscals and the current financial year (FY26) to date, the Parliament was informed on Wednesday. Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told the Lok Sabha, in a written reply, that during the last three years (2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25) and the current FY26, 892 surveys (267 new line, 11 gauge conversion, and 614 doubling) of total length 61,462 km have been sanctioned across Indian Railways.

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India's nuclear power capacity to touch 22,380 MW by ...



India's installed nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,380 MW by the year 2031-32 from 8,780 MW at present, with the completion of the expansion plans that are currently being implemented, the Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

(See on page 4)

Japan's PM Shigeru Ishiba may resign in End of August



Japan's embattled Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba may announce his resignation by the end of August, Japanese newspaper The Mainichi reported today. The reports came shortly after US President Donald Trump announced that he had reached a "massive Deal" with Japan, and days after Ishiba's governing coalition lost its majority in the country's upper house.

(See on page 5)

Olympic gold medalist defender Pubill lands at Atletico Madrid



Atletico Madrid has confirmed an agreement to sign Spain Under-21 international right back Marc Pubill from second division side Almeria. Atletico will pay an initial 12 million euros for the defender who also won an Olympic gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Pubill has signed a five-year contract until 2030.

(See on page 6)

PM pays tributes to Chandra Shekhar Azad and Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak

New Delhi, July 23 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid tributes to two iconic freedom fighters, Chandra Shekhar Azad and Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, on their birth anniversaries, hailing their courage, conviction, and lasting impact on the nation's struggle for independence.

The Prime Minister said that the legacies of Chandra Shekhar Azad and Lokmanya Tilak continue to inspire generations in the country.

In a post on X, PM Modi wrote, “Tributes to Chandra Shekhar Azad on his birth anniversary. He epitomised unparalleled valour and grit. His role in India's quest for freedom is deeply valued and continues to inspire our youth to stand up for what is just, with courage and conviction.”

Paying tribute to Lokmanya Tilak, the Prime Minister said, “He was a pioneering leader who played a vital role in kindling the spirit of India's freedom movement with

unwavering conviction. He was also an outstanding thinker who believed in the power of knowledge and service to others.”

Born in 1856, Tilak was a scholar, mathematician, philosopher and one of the earliest advocates of Swaraj or self-rule. He fearlessly challenged British rule through his writings and launched two influential weeklies, Kesari and The Mahratta. As president of the Indian Home Rule League in 1914, Tilak mobilised nationalistic sentiments across the country.Chandra Shekhar Azad, born in 1906, became involved in the national movement as a teenager, participating in the Non-Cooperation Movement at just 15 years of age. He later became a key figure in the Hindustan Republican Association, which he reorganised after the arrest or death of many of its members. Known for his fierce opposition to British rule, Azad led several revolutionary actions, including the 1925 Kakori train robbery.

Bihar’s 98.01 pc electors covered under SIR: EC

New Delhi, July 23 (UNI) : Election Commission today announced that 98.01 per cent of voters in Bihar have been covered under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.According to an official release issued here, the EC also said that so far as many as 20 lakh deceased voters have been reported, while 28 lakh of them have permanently migrated to other states.

While 7 lakh electors were found to be enrolled in more than one place, 1 lakh of them were marked

untraceable, it said.The poll panel said it has received and digitised 7.17 crore enumeration forms, accounting for 90.89 per cent of the state's voters.

However, 15 lakh forms were not returned.

The EC also said the lists of incorrectly included electors and those who have not returned their enumeration forms were shared on July 20 with 1.5 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs) nominated by district presidents of the 12 major political parties in the state, which is scheduled to



Bihar Congress President Rajesh Kumar with opposition MLAs stages a protest against Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound state during the Monsoon session of the state Assembly, in Patna.

Parliament disrupted for third straight day amid Opposition ruckus

New Delhi, July 23 (UNI) : For the third consecutive day today, both Houses of Parliament were adjourned after Opposition members created a ruckus in support of their demands, including demanding withdrawal of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar.

As soon as the Lok Sabha resumed at 2 PM, presiding officer Krishna Prasad Tenneti began the proceedings, but the

Opposition members stormed into the well of the House shouting slogans.

Appealing to the protesting members, Tenneti asked them to allow the House to consider the important bill related to the reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribe members in the Goa Legislative Assembly.

He emphasised that since this is a matter concerning tribal communities, all members should cooperate. He also

pointed out that two days had already been wasted due to the ongoing disruptions.He told the protesting Opposition members, “You have come with placards — this is not appropriate. You don’t want to discuss the bill related to the tribes of Goa.”Despite repeated appeals from Tenneti, the commotion continued, prompting him to adjourn the House for the day.

Earlier, due to the Opposition's uproar in the Lok Sabha demanding the

withdrawal of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar, the Question Hour and Zero Hour could not be held.

Meanwhile, similar situation was witnessed in the Rajya Sabha.

On the third day of the Monsoon Session, the Opposition continued to create an uproar in the House over the SIR of the Bihar voter list.

Presiding Deputy Chairman Bhubaneswar Kalita, while resuming the

Two burns specialists from India land in Dhaka to help with treatment of victims of plane crash tragedy

New Delhi, July 23 (UNI) : India has sent a team of two specialists and a nursing assistant from two of its topmost burn injury treatment hospitals — Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi, to Dhaka to help with the treatment of the victims of the plane crash tragedy of July 21.

They will begin their work at a designated hospital treating these patients from tomorrow morning.

Their visit follows PM @narendramodi’s assurance to extend all possible assistance and support to Bangladesh in the wake of the tragedy, the MEA spokesperson said.On July 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had expressed condolences at the loss of lives in the tragic air crash in Dhaka and had conveyed assurances of support and assistance.The Indian doctors will make an assessment of the condition of patients with recommendation for further treatment and specialised care in India as necessary. Additional medical teams may also follow depending on their preliminary assessment and treatment.

Bihar. Amid the uproar, Sonowal went ahead and introduced the bill.

Kalita asked AIADMK's M Thambidurai to initiate the discussion on the bill. As soon as Thambidurai stood up to speak, Opposition members intensified their sloganeering.The Chair appealed to the members to calm down and return to their seats, but when his appeals had no effect, he adjourned the House for the rest of the day.

Lathi-Charge on Jansuraj workers during assembly march in Patna

Patna, July 23 (UNI) : Police resorted to lathi-charge on workers of the Jansuraj Party marching towards the state assembly under the leadership of political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor here today.

Police sources said here that the protest march, which began from Patna Airport, was trying to move towards the Assembly. However, police stopped the procession at Chitkohra Bridge with heavy barricading and security deployment. Later the police had to restore to mild lathicharge to disperse the mob.

The convoy of Prashant Kishor was blocked at Chitkohra by a massive security cordon following which he could not proceed towards the assembly.

The march was taken out demanding Rs 2 lakh employment assistance for poor families, as promised by the government, which has not been delivered to date,three dismil land to every landless Dalit family which remains unfulfilled and action against rampant corruption in the ongoing land survey process.While talking to the news persons, Kishor said that he had collected signatures from over one crore citizens across Bihar in support of these demands and intended to submit the petition during the ongoing monsoon session of the Bihar Assembly.

Kishor threatened to intensify the movement if the government refused to listen to their demands. He said that Jansuraj will return to the streets with greater force and public support if their demands continue to be ignored.

Meanwhile the protestors alleged that the police resorted to lathi charge on the peaceful march.

Party spokespersons condemned the lathi-charge, calling it a deliberate attempt to suppress public dissent. “Peaceful protest was our constitutional right. Instead of answering people's questions, the government was using batons,” a senior party leader said.

Ahmedabad crash: India working with UK on issue of wrong bodies

New Delhi, July 23 (UNI) Responding to a news report about an alleged mix up in the identification of bodies of two British nationals killed in the Air India flight 171 crash, India today said it is “working closely” with the UK to address the concerns.

Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, responding the Daily Mail’s report, said that that the Indian authorities are working with their UK counterparts.

“We've seen the report and have been working closely with the UK since these concerns were raised. Following the tragic crash, victim identification was carried out by authorities according to established protocols and technical requirements.

All mortal remains were handled with utmost professionalism and dignity. We continue to work with UK authorities to address any related concerns,” the official said in a statement.

Notably, India’s

have election later this year.

Bihar voters temporarily residing outside the state and not registered elsewhere can submit their forms online at <https://electors.eci.gov.in>, through the ECINet mobile app, or by filling a printed form, it announced.The completed and signed printed form can be sent to the respective Booth Level Officer (BLO) via a family member or through WhatsApp, the EC document said.

Voters who have submitted their

Enumeration Forms will be included in the Draft Electoral Roll, to be published on August 1, marking the end of the first phase of SIR.

In case of any discrepancies in the draft roll, voters or political parties can file objections with the concerned ERO or AERO by September 1, it added.Eligible individuals whose names are missing can also file claims until the same date, it said urging people to participate actively in the verification process of electoral rolls.

response on the issue comes as Prime Minister Narendra Modi begins a two-day official visit to the UK.All but one of the 242 people on board were killed as the London-bound Boeing 787 flight crashed soon after take-off from Ahmadabad airport on June 12. Nineteen more people on the ground were also killed.

Fifty-two of the killed were British nationals.

Drone tech boost for fisheries underway: Govt

New Delhi, July 23 (UNI) : A prototype drone is being developed by ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI) for transportation of fish and shrimp from production centre to market with a capacity of 70 kg payload under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada (PMMSY), the Government told Rajya Sabha today.

Fisheries Research Institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have initiated research programmes on drones and expanding its uses to collect water samples for analysis from open-water bodies and difficult terrains; distribution of feed and medicines into culture systems; biomass estimation; health monitoring, etc, said Union Minister of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, George Kurian, in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

The Department of Fisheries has constituted a technical committee to formulate the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) on application of drone technology in fisheries and aquaculture, said the Minister.

He further said that innovations and innovative projects/ activities, technology demonstration including startups, incubators and pilot projects is one of the activities under central sector scheme component of PMMSY which also cover extending financial support for promotion of drone technology in fisheries and aquaculture.

AAP slams BJP's ‘hollow claims’ on waterlogging in Delhi

New Delhi, July 23 (UNI) : In a role reversal for the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the ruling saffron outfit is facing criticism on waterlogging in the national capital, with several leaders from the previous government, including former chief minister Atishi, questioning claims of the present dispensation.

The National Capital Region has been experiencing moderate to heavy rains for the past few days that has caused waterlogging in several areas, leading to massive traffic jams.

The AAP has questioned the Rekha Gupta-led government's planning.

"Chief Minister Rekha

Gupta ji, where is your proper planning? You made big claims in the media about tackling waterlogging, but today, entire Delhi is drowning, and you're relaxing in your grand palace. The public is now swimming on the roads and inviting all BJP leaders to join them for a swim," the AAP said in a statement.

The AAP's comments came as Delhi was lashed by rains that went on for hours today, resulting in waterlogging at many places in the national capital, and disrupting the normal life.Since roads were flooded, and residents posted videos of people swimming on them, the AAP reposted those videos on various social

media platforms, Former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi took a jibe at her successor, "Many congratulations to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta for starting so many swimming pools in Delhi."

AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj, commenting on the flooded roads, said, "free water sports".

Former AAP corporator Geeta Rawat, posted a video of herself in the middle of a submerged road, and asked where local "reel-making MLA" Ravinder Singh Negi was.

"This is the same NH 24 in Patparganj where you were rowing a boat two years ago. The boat is still rowing today. This means you have failed," she said in the caption.

BNS is a progressive and women friendly law: Govt tells RS

New Delhi, July 23 (UNI) The Government today said the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 is a progressive and women-friendly law. For the first time, the legislation incorporates comprehensive provisions specifically aimed at protecting women and children from various crimes.

The new law introduces strict punishments, including life imprisonment and death sentences, for serious offences such as gang rape of minors, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar told Rajya Sabha today.

In a written reply, the Minister emphasized that the statute strengthens victim protection by ensuring sensitive and transparent investigation processes. Measures like

recording victim statements through audio-video means, mandating women magistrates to record statements where possible, and providing free medical treatment to victims underscore the government’s commitment to creating a safer and more supportive environment for women and children.

Giving details, he pointed out that recognizing women as adult members of the family eligible to receive legal summons reflects the law’s intent to empower women and ensure their active participation in legal processes.

“The new law imposes life imprisonment or death sentence for gang rape of a girl below the age of 18. Earlier, the punishment varied based on the victim’s age below 12 or 16 years, but now this distinction has

been removed, and gang rape of any woman under 18 is punishable by life imprisonment or death.

"The law also introduces a new offence of sexual intercourse obtained through false promises such as marriage, employment, promotion, or concealment of identity," he added.

Talking about some of the key provisions for women’s protection, the Minister said that Section 143 mandates strict punishments, including life imprisonment, for trafficking offences. Trafficking involving children attracts a minimum 10-year imprisonment, extendable to life, along with fines. The offence of ‘beggary’ as a form of trafficking exploitation is newly recognized and punishable under this section, he added.

Cabinet meeting scheduled for July 25

Hyderabad, July 23 (UNI) : The meeting of the Telangana State Council of Ministers will be held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on July 25.

According to an official statement issued here on today, the cabinet meeting will take place at 1600 hours in the Cabinet Meeting Hall, 6th Floor, Dr B R Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat.Key administrative and policy matters are expected to be discussed during the meeting.

Cyberabad police recover 827 stolen and lost phones worth Rs 2 cr

Hyderabad, July 23 (UNI) : In a major achievement, the Cyberabad Central Crime Station (CCS) has successfully recovered 827 stolen and lost mobile phones worth approximately Rs 2 crore under the 8th phase of its recovery operation.

The initiative was led by DCP Crimes A. Muthyam Reddy, with coordination across all five CCS zones. The phones were recovered over the last 45 days using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal and were formally handed over to their rightful owners at a ceremony held at the Cyberabad Police Auditorium on Wednesday.

Zone-wise, the recoveries included-- Madhapur CCS – 180 phones, Balanagar CCS – 174 phones, Medchal CCS – 176 phones, Rajendranagar CCS – 153 phones and Shamshabad CCS – 144 phones

DCP Muthyam Reddy urged the public to promptly report lost or stolen phones at the nearest police station or via the CEIR portal, stressing the value these devices often hold both personally and in terms of data.Since the beginning of this initiative, Cyberabad Police have recovered and returned 6,233 mobile phones in eight phases. Citizens were also advised to stay alert against cyber frauds and report suspicious activities via the 1930 cybercrime helpline or cybercrime.gov.in.Beneficiaries expressed heartfelt gratitude, with many citing emotional and practical value attached to their recovered devices.

Govt completes pilot survey in 5 villages without maps: Minister

Hyderabad, July 23 (UNI) : In a historic step towards resolving long-pending land mapping issues, Telangana Revenue, Housing, and I&PR Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced the successful completion of a pilot land survey in five out of 413 villages in the state that have remained without official maps for decades.

The minister said that the survey, carried out using drone/aerial mapping and ground truthing rover technology, was completed in Salar Nagar of Gandeed mandal in Mahabubnagar district, Kommanapalli-



Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi speaks to the media during the Monsoon session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

EOW police arrest one accused in major cheating case involving Rs 6 crore investment fraud

Hyderabad, July 23 (UNI) : The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Cyberabad, has arrested one accused in a high-profile cheating case involving Rs 6 crore investment fraud under the guise of high returns here today.

The accused involved the collection of public deposits under false promises of high returns.

A case was registered following a complaint received from Talakokula Akhil, a 25-year-old private employee from Chandanagar, Hyderabad.

Based on credible intelligence, a police team

apprehended Nikhil Kumar Goel from his residence at Mothinagar, in the city, said A. Muthyam Reddy, Deputy Commissioner of Police, (Crimes) EOW, Cyberabad, in a release here.During the interrogation, the accused voluntarily confessed to his role in the fraudulent investment scheme and confessed to having collected around Rs 6 crore from around 50-60 clients.

The accused also revealed that the idea was initially proposed in 2017 by his associate Cyrus Hormusji and together, they executed an agreement titled “TURNKEY &

C O N S U L T A N C Y MANAGEMENT” in 2018 and began collecting funds.Nikhil Kumar, who previously worked at Wells Fargo, lured investors by misrepresenting Fibwave Analytics as a legally compliant investment firm.

The accused handed over his mobile phone used in the scam, which has been seized as evidence.Efforts to trace and apprehend Cyrus Hormusji, who is currently absconding, are ongoing. The case is being investigated by B.Somnarayan Singh, Asst. Commissioner of Police, Economic Offences Wing, Cyberabad.

Congress leaders involved in urea black marketing, alleges BJP Chief Ramchander Rao

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, July 23 : Telangana BJP President N Ramchander Rao today accused Congress leaders of engaging in black marketing of urea that was supplied by the central government for the benefit of farmers in the state.

Addressing party workers from the Makthal Assembly constituency of Narayanpet district at the BJP state headquarters here, Rao alleged that the Congress government in the state has been creating an artificial scarcity of urea despite receiving excess supplies from the Centre.

"Local body elections are approaching. It is the responsibility of our cadre to expose the misdeeds of the state Congress government, particularly its

failure in ensuring proper distribution of urea," he said.The BJP chief questioned the rationale behind the alleged shortage, pointing out that the Modi government had supplied over 12 lakh metric tonnes of urea to Telangana, even though the Revanth Reddy-led government had sought only 9.5 lakh metric tonnes.

"Why are farmers still lining up at fertiliser shops? Who is responsible for the black marketing? The state government owes an answer," he remarked.

Calling it "unfortunate," he said even regions like Makthal, known for cotton cultivation, are facing supply issues due to the negligence of the Congress government."Farmers are suffering because the state

administration has failed to deliver fertilisers to where they are needed," he said.

Rao urged party workers to stay vigilant and actively campaign from the ward level up to ZPTC level in the upcoming local body polls.

"Unity is crucial. People have confidence in the BJP, and the political climate is in our favour. All leaders and karyakartas must work together to bring the party to power in Telangana," he said.Leaders from the Makthal region pledged their commitment to the party and vowed to ensure victory in both the local body and upcoming Assembly elections.

Rao is scheduled to visit Narayanpet district on July 26 as part of his outreach programme.

Telangana’s GI count reaches 27, Nalgonda tops the list

Hyderabad, July 23 (UNI) : Telangana has reached a new milestone in the preservation of its cultural and tribal heritage with the filing of its 27th Geographical Indication (GI) application.

Two traditional art forms from Nalgonda-Banjara Tribal Jewellery and Banjara Needle Craft - have been submitted for GI status by GI practitioner Subhajit Saha, marking a landmark step in recognising the craftsmanship of the Banjara (Lambada) community.Filed under application numbers 1597 and 1598 on behalf of The Devarakonda Banjara and Tribal Artisans Multipurpose Mutually Aided Cooperative Society Limited, and supported by the Commissionerate of Industries, Government of Telangana, the move underscores the growing institutional support for GI-based rural and tribal empowerment.With this, Telangana's GI tally has climbed to 27, with four more products in advanced stages of application. Nalgonda district now leads the state with four GI filings, emerging as the most active GI zone in Telangana.Previous GI entries from the state include Jagtial Sesame, Kollapur Benishan Mango, Warangal Rangasaipet Brassware, Mahadevpur Tussar Silk, and local produce like Nalgonda Nimma (lemon) and Nalgonda Dosakai (cucumber).The Nalgonda Banjara Tribal Jewellery, practised for over a century in villages like Kondabheemanapally and Devarakonda, is known for its striking use of silver, old coins, German silver, and distinctive ghoonguria bells that produce melodious chimes.

Meanwhile, the Nalgonda Banjara Needle Craft features over 20 types of intricate embroidery stitches, mirror work, coins, beads, cowrie shells, and geometric patterns rooted in local tradition.Subhajit Saha is also spearheading efforts to secure Authorised User (AU) registrations for other Telangana GI products like Hyderabad Lac Bangles and Cheriyal Paintings, enhancing the recognition and benefit-sharing framework for artisans. “Each stitch and shimmer tells a story — and now, those stories will be protected,” said Subhajit Saha, emphasising the state’s continued push to document and legally safeguard its cultural assets.

Shashidhar also stated that it is observed that the ‘ Ganesh Festival Economy in Twin cities during this festival season generates a revenue of more than Rs 5000 crore in these festivities.

He requested all the Pandal Organisers and devotees to support the Nation by using Swadeshi products during the Ganesh Chaturthi Festivals.In addition to celebrating the 'Samuhik Ganesh Utsav', the Samithi (BGUS) this year has chosen to highlight the “150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel, 125th Birth anniversary of Dr Shyam Prasad Mukherjee, the pioneer in National Unity and Integration and 100th year Celebration of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh” under our ‘ Swadeshi-Swadharma and Swasamskruthi” ideology according to the activities of “ Pancha parivarthana” which include the Parisara Samrakshan, Samajik Samarasatha, Kutumba Vyavastha , Swaadharitha Jeevana and Nagarik Karthvyam advocated by RSS will be taken up across the Ganesh Pandals and Festivities, he said.

The meeting was attended by Sangareddy District Collector Praveenya, Survey Land Settlement Joint Director Prasanna Lakshmi, RDOs and Tahsildars from the five villages, Assistant Directors from the Survey Department, and representatives of the agencies that carried out the survey, an official statement said.

He stated that every land parcel would be accurately mapped, and a Bhudhaar number—similar to an Aadhaar number—would be assigned to each plot. The minister said that the government is considering implementing these two aspects in the five surveyed villages and will also issue new survey numbers for plots with fragmented holdings. Records will be updated with details of revenue, forest, endowment, and wakf lands.

Minister Ponguleti said that the ultimate goal is to ensure that people are satisfied with the process

Sridhar Babu assures full support to investors

Hyderabad, July 23 (UNI) :IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu today reaffirmed the state government’s commitment to making Telangana an attractive hub for industries.

He said the public welfare-oriented government led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is determined to create jobs and foster inclusive industrial growth.

The minister held a key brainstorming session with representatives of major industrial bodies including CII, FICCI, FTCCI, ELIP, TIFF, TOPMA and TSTMA at the Dr B R Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, aimed at formulating strategies to boost industrial development.

“We will support every industry contributing to Telangana’s progress. There is no intention to burden industrialists with unnecessary regulations. We will stand by them and especially encourage the

MSME sector, which is the backbone of our economy,” said Sridhar Babu.

He emphasised that the government would protect both industries and workers, ensuring a balanced and inclusive approach. “Unlike the previous government, we will not act unilaterally. Our administration believes in participation and consensus. We are here to listen, adapt, and implement the best ideas for Telangana’s future,” he said.Highlighting Telangana’s success, the minister informed the gathering that over Rs 3 lakh crore worth of new investments had been secured in the state over the past 18 months, generating employment for more than one lakh people in the private sector.

He also dismissed opposition claims that industries were exiting the state. “BRS and BJP are deliberately spreading misinformation. The truth is that Telangana has become

a role model in industrial growth, and we continue to attract significant investments,” Sridhar Babu clarified.

The minister urged industry leaders to share their challenges, suggestions, and policy inputs, assuring that the government would act swiftly on their concerns. He also directed senior officials to take immediate action to resolve issues raised during the session.

Key officials present at the meeting included Minimum Wages Advisory Board Chairman B Janak Prasad, Special Chief Secretary Sanjay Kumar (IT & Industries), Principal Secretary Dana Kishore (Labour), and Industries Director Nikhil Chakravarthy.Several industry representatives, including Samiuddin, Rajiv Venkataramana, Ramchandra Rao, Sekhar Reddy, Jayadev, Sujatha, Ramadevi, and others, participated, an official statement said.

Telangana CID arrest two more accused in human organ trafficking case

Hyderabad, July 23 (IANS) : CID has arrested two more accused, including the prime accused, in the inter-state human organ trafficking case. Pamulapati Pavan Kumar and Pradeep Kumar Gupta have been arrested in the case relating to inter-state human organ trafficking under the guise of organ donation and transplantation.

Pavan Kumar, a native of Tadepalligudem in Andhra Pradesh, was apprehended at LB Nagar in Hyderabad, while Gupta, a resident of Haryana, was arrested at Chandigarh.

Both were produced before a magistrate in Hyderabad for judicial remand, Additional Director General of Police, CID, Charu Sinha, said.

With the arrest of the two accused, the number of accused arrested in the case so far has gone up to 19.According to the CID, Pavan Kumar is the prime accused in the case, and in connivance with other accused, Dr Rajashekar and Dr Avinash and other doctors, had arranged donors and recipients for illegal kidney transplantation surgeries done at Alakananda, Janani, and Aruna Hospitals in Hyderabad.

Pavan Kumar had set up brokers in Tamil Nadu who would trace, identify the innocent poor people for donating their kidneys. He also set up brokers, namely Pradeep Kumar in Bengaluru and Gupta in Haryana who would identify patients in need of kidneys and could afford to pay huge amount for their kidney transplantations.

In each kidney transplantation, he used to take Rs 10 to 15 lakh as commission and lead a lavish life by spending the money on purchasing luxury cars and visiting casinos in Sri Lanka.

STANDARD POST

Bill on campus discrimination triggers debate

In the buzzing corridors of Karnataka’s Vidhana Soudha, a storm is brewing, one not just of politics, but of memory, identity, and law. At the heart of it is the Karnataka Rohith Vemula (Prevention of Exclusion or Injustice) Bill, 2025, a proposed legislation that claims to fight caste discrimination in higher education, but critics say it might be weaponising tragedy and inviting chaos into classrooms.

The bill, as the name suggests, is wrapped in the memory of Rohith Vemula, the University of Hyderabad scholar whose 2016 suicide note became a chilling indictment of caste-based exclusion. “My birth is my fatal accident,” he had written—a line that seared itself into the nation’s conscience. Yet today, that memory is being reshaped, and some argue, repurposed.

For many, Vemula’s story symbolised the silent struggles of Dalit youth navigating elite academic spaces. For the Congress-led Karnataka government, it now serves as the emblem of a sweeping bill that seeks to criminalise any form of discrimination in colleges and universities—public or private. Offences under the bill are no slap on the wrist: up to three years in prison, hefty fines, institutional penalties, and even loss of government funding.

But here’s the rub. In 2024, Telangana Police quietly closed the case into Vemula’s death, finding no conclusive evidence of caste-based harassment. That hasn’t stopped his name from becoming the banner for what critics call a “legal overreach in the guise of justice.”

So, is this legislation a noble step toward equality—or a cynical rebranding of a complex tragedy?

On paper, the bill seems airtight: fight exclusion, punish casteism, protect the marginalised. But dig deeper, and a maze of complications emerge.

Any form of “direct or indirect” discrimination is now a cognisable and non-bailable offence. Translation: a student or staff member can be arrested without a warrant for an alleged insult, comment, or disagreement—no matter how ambiguous. No bail. No waiting. And it doesn’t stop there. Compensation of up to ₹1 lakh can be claimed before the trial even begins. Not by just the victim, but by parents, siblings, colleagues, or distant relatives. “Imagine a classroom argument being spun into a criminal case by someone who wasn’t even present,” said one senior professor Gangadhar Swamy from Bengaluru. “That’s not justice. That’s fear.” Legal minds are ringing alarm bells. The SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 already exists to punish caste discrimination, and with far greater legal clarity. But this new bill overlaps it, adds more layers, and strips away safeguards.

The most dreaded clause? Personal criminal liability for heads of institutions. If a college fails to act—or is accused of failing to act—the principal or vice-chancellor can face jail time. “It turns administrators into potential convicts,” said expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal. “It’s asking us to police every word spoken on campus.”

“The bill has ulterior motives other than for the welfare or to protect the dignity of SC, ST, OBC, and minority students,” Yatnal said. “The act is a tool of the Congress government for caste-based political mobilisation aimed at appeasing the SC, ST, OBC, and its most trusted Muslim vote bank. The act creates a victimhood narrative and is devised with a malicious and mischievous intent of dividing the Hindus. The act is yet another tried and tested strategy of replicating the Divide and Rule of the British,” he stated. Private universities are equally worried. With a single allegation, their government grants could vanish. “No one wants to invest in an institution that could be shut down over a vague complaint,” said Yatnal.

The unintended consequences are already visible in similar attempts elsewhere. Maharashtra’s 2019 Social Boycott Act was praised for its intent but saw a surge of complaints, many later deemed frivolous. Faculty members withdrew from mentoring students of other castes. Group projects dissolved. Campus interactions turned cautious, even cold. In Karnataka, with its even broader provisions, the risks of self-censorship and reverse segregation are real. Instead of building bridges, the fear is this bill might build walls—where caste becomes not something we rise above, but something we constantly tiptoe around.

Even the United Nations has weighed in. Special rapporteur KP Ashwini has urged the Karnataka government to rethink the bill’s vague wording and far-reaching penalties. While applauding the goal of inclusivity, they warned that laws without clarity often hurt the very communities they aim to protect.

Supporters of the bill, however, remain steadfast. “The primary objective of the proposed legislation is to ensure that all students, regardless of caste, class, creed, gender, or nationality, are provided equal access to higher education, as well as to safeguard their dignity and right to fair treatment on campus,” Karnataka Minister HK Patil said.

But critics caution that justice enforced without fairness can become another form of injustice.

As the bill heads to the monsoon session of the Karnataka Assembly, it carries with it the weight of a nation’s conscience—and its contradictions. It dares to ask: can you legislate dignity? Can you criminalise exclusion without stifling expression?

Earlier voters elected govts, now govt choose voters: Tejashwi Yadav

(By IANS Interview)
Political temperatures in Bihar are soaring as Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav launched a scathing attack on the Election Commission and the NDA government.

In an exclusive interview with IANS on Wednesday from Patna, Yadav accused the ruling alliance of “manipulating” the ongoing voter verification drive (SIR – Special Intensive Revision) to “eliminate” genuine voters and “subvert” democracy.

He even hinted that the Opposition might consider boycotting the upcoming elections if the situation continues.

Interview excerpts:
IANS: There was chaos in the Bihar Assembly today. What triggered it?

Tejashwi Yadav: A very serious issue was being discussed. Bihar is the cradle of democracy, and it’s here that attempts are being made to kill it. NDA members don’t want any debate on the SIR. We had even been granted permission to speak, but Chief Minister Nitish Kumar interrupted midway, so I sat down. When he spoke, it was clear he didn’t even know the discussion was about SIR. He started speaking off-topic. Later, when the Speaker gave us time, NDA ministers kept



interrupting us. They don’t want the truth about SIR to come out.

IANS: Do you believe the Bihar elections are being compromised?

Tejashwi Yadav: It certainly seems that way. The Election Commission hasn’t even held a press conference yet, despite the drive being underway. Earlier, voters chose the government; now, the government is choosing voters. We had no option but to go to court because our questions are being ignored. The EC is only trying to show inflated figures - saying 96 per cent or 98 per cent revision is done - just to respond in the Supreme Court. But the ground reality is very different. This drive is being carried out in a completely fraudulent manner. The Election Commission is acting on the BJP’s directions.

IANS: Are you

considering a boycott of the Bihar elections?

Tejashwi Yadav: That option is certainly on the table. We’ll discuss it within the alliance and also take public opinion. If the BJP wants to contest elections based on a fake list, then just give them an extension and let them run the government. What’s the point of holding elections if they’re rigged? If the entire process is dishonest, then there’s no meaning to democracy.

IANS: Rahul Gandhi has alleged election manipulation in other states too. Do you agree?

Tejashwi Yadav: Absolutely. In one case, 70 voters were registered under the address of a single BJP worker in Bihar. We have proof of such manipulations. Even the Supreme Court had slammed the authorities in the Chandigarh case. These things are

In an exclusive interview with IANS on Wednesday from Patna, Yadav accused the ruling alliance of “manipulating” the ongoing voter verification drive (SIR – Special Intensive Revision) to “eliminate” genuine voters and “subvert” democracy.

happening everywhere.

IANS: You are demanding a full discussion on SIR in the Monsoon Session. Why is this so important?

Tejashwi Yadav: We are elected representatives, and if our voters’ names are being removed, what purpose do we serve? If we can’t protect our own voters, then what’s the point of the Assembly? The first and foremost discussion must be on this issue.

IANS: The Congress hasn’t made any formal announcement yet on seat sharing or supporting you as the Chief Minister’s face. What’s the status?

Tejashwi Yadav: Everything has been decided internally. We will soon make a joint announcement through a press conference. In the next few days, everything will be clear.

IANS: The NDA keeps

raising the issue of “jungle raj” under your party’s past rule. How do you respond?

Tejashwi Yadav: They have no real issues to talk about, no development roadmap. These are tired leaders with no achievements, only interested in saving their chairs. That’s why they keep going back to “jungle raj.”

IANS: What’s your take on Nitish Kumar’s son Nishant possibly entering politics?

Tejashwi Yadav: If he joins, that’s fine, but it’s a decision for their party to make. Whether Nishant wants to join or Nitish Kumar wants to bring him in - or if someone is stopping him - that only they can say. But let’s be honest, this is Nitish Kumar’s last election, and JD-U is on the verge of collapse. Only time will tell who can revive it.

India’s nuclear power capacity to touch 22,380 MW by 2031-32: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, July 23 (IANS) India’s installed nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,380 MW by the year 2031-32 from 8,780 MW at present, with the completion of the expansion plans that are currently being implemented, the Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

Presently, the installed nuclear power capacity in the country comprises 24 reactors with a total capacity of 8780 MW (excluding RAPS-1 (100 MW) under extended shutdown). In addition, a total capacity of 13,600 MW (including 500 MW PFBR being implemented by BHAVINI) is under different stages of implementation, Minister of State for Atomic Energy Dr Jitendra Singh told the Lok Sabha in a written reply. On the progressive completion of these expansion plans, the country’s installed nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,380 MW by the year 2031-32, he said.

India’s nuclear power plants generated 56,681 million units (MUs) of electricity in the financial year 2024-25, which constitutes about 3 per cent of the total electricity generated in the country, the minister said..

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



(By Snaps India)

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

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

of national and global food security agendas.

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

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



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

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

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

Mrs. Rose talks about her elder brother:

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

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

A Catalyst for the Millet

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

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

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

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

Tributes poured in from across the globe, including a video message from a senior scientist in Ghana. Dr. Kondapi Srinivas, Principal Scientist at the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, reflected on Dr. Rao’s mentorship and policy influence. Ashok Dalwai, retired IAS officer and Chairman of the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, sent a video message commending Dr. Rao’s far-reaching impact on agricultural transformation in India.

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

Japan’s PM Shigeru Ishiba may resign in End of August

Moscow, July 23 (UNI) : Japan’s embattled Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba may announce his resignation by the end of August, Japanese newspaper The Mainichi reported today.

The reports came shortly after US President Donald Trump announced that he had reached a “massive Deal” with Japan, and days after Ishiba’s governing coalition lost its majority in the country’s upper house.

Meanwhile, the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper reported that Ishiba plans to announce his resignation already by the end of July to take responsibility for the ruling coalition's defeat in the recent upper house elections.On Sunday, the Japanese ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Komeito party failed to secure the 50 seats they needed for parliamentary majority in the upper house. The ruling coalition now has 122 of 248 seats, compared to 141 seats before the election. The opposition, on the other hand, has significantly increased its presence in the upper house, now holding 126 seats.After the election, the prime minister said he had no plans to resign, reshape the government or expand the coalition.

Zelenskyy fears probe into his coterie : Reports

Moscow, July 23 (UNI) : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hasty signing of the law on restricting anti-corruption bodies may be due to the fact that the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) has launched an investigation against members of his inner circle, The Economist magazine reported, citing sources.

On Tuesday, the Ukrainian parliament passed a bill that limits the autonomy of the NABU and the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAP). Several lawmakers criticized the government for trying to terminate the anti-corruption watchdogs. Later, Zelenskyy signed the bill into law.

The law, aimed at undermining the most influential anti-corruption reforms in Ukraine, casts a shadow on the country's future course, the report said on Tuesday. According to the magazine, the European Union pressured Zelenskyy to pause, stating that the adoption of this law would have a negative impact on negotiations on Ukraine's accession to the EU.

Zelenskyy’s decision has shocked many in his team, the report added.

Ukrainian media reported on Monday that the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) had conducted searches in the houses of NABU detectives. The NABU later confirmed the searches and stated that they were carried out without a court order.

Ambassadors of the G7 countries expressed serious concern regarding the SBU’s investigation into NABU on Monday, saying they would raise the issue with the Ukrainian government.

Afghan journalists in Iran and Pakistan face dire conditions, warns group

Kabul, July 23 (IANS) Describing their situation as "dire" and "disastrous", the Afghanistan Journalists Support Organisation on Wednesday said that Afghan journalists in Iran and Pakistan continue to face dire conditions, including threats, arrests and denial of basic services.Many of these journalists, Afghan news agency Khaama Press reported, had left Afghanistan as they faced threats, persecution and censorship under Taliban rule. However, they are now facing serious risks to their safety and dignity in the host nations, including forced deportation, arbitrary arrest and lack of basic services.Many Afghan journalists are in legal limbo in Pakistan due to the suspension of visa renewals, making them vulnerable to potential police detention and deportation. Others have said that they face similar difficulties in Iran, where access to essential services is either denied or limited.

The organisation called on international organisations to take urgent action. It requested United Nations, the European Union, Reporters Without Borders, and Western governments to expedite asylum processes and provide immediate support, the news agency reported.

The group's warning comes amid crackdowns on Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran, with many journalists also facing dire economic conditions and lack of protection.

They emphasised that global community's silence would only deteriorate the humanitarian crisis. The lives and freedoms of journalists continue to remain at risk without swift intervention.

Earlier in May, The Committee to Protect Journalists, alongside PEN International and 13 partner organisations, urged Pakistan's government to immediately halt the arbitrary mass deportation of Afghan journalists and other nationals at risk of Taliban persecution.

In the statement, the organisations expressed concern over Pakistan’s 'Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan' that was announced on October 3, 2023. Local and international bodies, including the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the International Organization for Migration, have criticized the Pakistan government's plan and urged the government to uphold its international obligations and continue offering protection to at-risk Afghans.In the joint statement, the organisations urged the international community to provide safe and legal pathways for Afghan journalists, writers, artists, human rights defenders, and other vulnerable individuals seeking refuge from Taliban persecution due to their peaceful expression.

Health advisor slammed for 'closeness' with Yunus, called 'product of nepotism'



Dhaka, July 23 (IANS): The Chief Coordinator of Bangladesh National Citizens Party (NCP), Hasnat Abdullah on Wednesday demanded the resignation of the interim government's health advisor Nurjahan Begum, branding her as a "product of nepotism and favouritism" backed by Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus.

Addressing a public rally in Chandpur district, the NCP leader stated that the health advisor must resign by returning her salary and allowances.

"We have a health advisor, do you know her? She came in under the 'brotherhood quota' of Yunus. This health advisor is the biggest example of Yunus's nepotism. I have always said that there is no need for this health advisor. Have you seen any meaningful activity from her? The salary she draws is unjustified, and the government vehicle she uses is an insult to the taxpayers. She understands neither healthcare nor the medical system. Her only qualification is his connection to Grameen

Bank and her closeness to Yunus," Bangladesh's Bengali daily 'Jugantor' quoted Hasnat as saying.

"The unfortunate part is that she goes to Singapore for her own treatment. When we speak up about it, they tend to get angry. I once raised the issue, and since then she has stopped talking to us. She should deposit the salary and allowances given to this health advisor in the state treasury and resign immediately," he added.

"Planes are crashing, buildings are collapsing; this is not the Bangladesh we want," Hasnat further said.The remarks came after Monday's horrific plane crash in Dhaka that killed 32 people, mostly children, and injured more than 165.

The newly-formed party formed by student leaders who once collaborated with Yunus to overthrow the democratically-elected Awami League government led by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is now at loggerheads and the much-flaunted unity, which was on full display during the ousting of Hasina, seems to have faded

Russia-Yemen intergovernmental commission to hold first Meeting in September

Moscow, July 23 (UNI) - The first meeting of the Russian-Yemeni Intergovernmental Commission will take place in September in the Russian city of Makhachkala, the Russian Energy Ministry said today."Russian Deputy Minister of Energy Roman Marshavin has held a business meeting with ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Yemen, Ahmed Salem Al-Wahishi. The main topic of the meeting was the preparation for the first meeting of the Russian-Yemeni Intergovernmental Commission, which will take place in September 2025 in Makhachkala," the ministry said in a statement.

The officials also discussed a number of documents to be signed within the framework of the commission and outlined further steps for strengthening bilateral cooperation between Russia and Yemen, the ministry said.

Trump announces ‘massive’ trade agreement with Japan

Washington, July 23 (UNI) US President Donald Trump has announced a long-awaited trade agreement with Japan, a framework between allies and major trading partners that appeared elusive just weeks ago.

“We just completed a massive Deal with Japan, perhaps the largest Deal ever made,” Trump said on Truth Social last night.

As part of the deal, US importers will pay 15 percent “reciprocal” tariffs on Japanese goods exported to the United States. Also, Japan will invest US\$550 billion dollars into the United States, the president said.

Trump noted that the US “will receive 90 percent of the profits”, without elaborating on how those investments would work or how profits would be calculated, reported CNN.

“This Deal will create Hundreds of Thousands of Jobs — There has never been anything like it. Perhaps most importantly, Japan will open their Country to Trade including Cars and Trucks, Rice and certain other Agricultural Products, and other things. Japan will pay Reciprocal Tariffs to the United States of 15 percent,” Trump posted.

The Japan agreement was the third such trade-related news Trump announced yesterday. This comes after months of negotiations with key trading partners like the European Union, South Korea, India and dozens of others at a standstill as Trump’s latest August one deadline for higher tariffs looms.

Torrential rainfall, flash floods in Pakistan kill 234 people

Islamabad, July 23 (IANS)As torrential rainfall continues to wreak havoc across Pakistan, at least 234 people have lost their lives, and 596 have been injured since the onset of monsoon in the South Asian nation, local media reported on Wednesday.

According to the latest figures released by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), most of the 596 injuries reported nationwide involved children, women, and elderly persons, highlighting the disproportionate impact of

US to spend USD 253 million at UK’s RAF Lakenheath on facilities supporting nuclear operations

Moscow, July 23 (UNI) : The United States plans to spend USD 253 million on two major construction projects, including a hardened Primary Command Post and a Defender Operations Compound, at the RAF Lakenheath air base in the United Kingdom to support future nuclear missions, a Sputnik correspondent’s analysis of recently released US Air Force’s fiscal year 2026 budget report revealed.

The projects include a USD 104 million Primary Command Post and a \$149 million Defender Operations Compound. They are part of a broader effort to prepare the base for what is known as the Surety mission, which focuses on ensuring the safety, security, and control of nuclear assets. The upgrades are designed to modernize the base’s ability to command operations and respond rapidly to potential threats involving specialized weapons.

The construction comes amid multiple media reports this week that US nuclear weapons, specifically B61-12 thermonuclear gravity bombs, have been transferred to a newly constructed secure storage facility at RAF Lakenheath, marking their return to UK soil for the first time since at least 2008. The bombs, reportedly flown from the US Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center in New Mexico, are modernized, low-yield tactical weapons with variable explosive power and precision guidance, compatible with

the F-35A Lightning II aircraft operated by the 48th Fighter Wing’s 493rd and 495th Fighter Squadrons at the base.

Although neither the US Department of Defense nor the UK Ministry of Defense has confirmed the reports due to their policy of not commenting on nuclear weapon locations, this development suggests a significant shift in NATO’s nuclear posture in Europe amid heightened tensions with Russia and a renewed emphasis on deterrence.

The new Primary Command Post will replace a facility built in 1979 that no longer meets the demands of current and future missions. The upgraded center will consolidate key operational functions, including crisis response, emergency management, and secure communications. It is also being built to withstand high-altitude electromagnetic threats and meet modern standards for intelligence and communications infrastructure.

According to the budget documents, the existing command post lacks adequate space, modern equipment, and secure access. Without the upgrade, officials say the base would not be able to support an expanded nuclear role in Europe. Construction is expected to be completed by July 2031.

The second project, known as the Defender Operations Compound, is aimed at strengthening protections for potential nuclear assets at the base.

the relentless rain on the country's vulnerable groups.

The devastating impact of rainfall and flash floods has damaged 826 homes in the country. In addition, a rain-induced disaster claimed the lives of two men, two women, and eight children over the past 24 hours on Tuesday, while ten others were wounded.

Pakistan's Punjab province has been the worst affected with a devastating death toll of 135, which included 48 men, 24 women, and 63 children, while 470 sustained injuries.The high number of

child casualties reflected the severe impact of the recent downpours on young lives, the leading Pakistani newspaper, The Express Tribune, reported.

Additionally, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) province recorded 56 deaths, comprising 16 men, 10 women, and 30 children. Another 71 individuals have been injured in the province due to devastating monsoon rain.

Meanwhile, in the Swat region of the K-P province, five children lost their lives in separate rain-related incidents.

Polish PM unveils major cabinet reshuffle to streamline govt

Warsaw, July 23 (IANS) Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced a sweeping government reshuffle on Wednesday, which includes the creation of two new ministries and a significant reduction in the size of the Council of Ministers. Under the reorganisation, a new Ministry of Finance and Economy will be established, to be headed by current Finance Minister Andrzej Domanski. A separate Ministry of Energy will also be formed, with Milosz Motyka, currently deputy minister of climate and environment, appointed as its

leader.Wojciech Balczun will take the helm of the Ministry of State Assets, while Stefan Krajewski, deputy minister of agriculture and rural development, will be promoted to lead the Ministry of Agriculture.Two existing ministries, the Ministry of Development and Technology, and the Ministry of Industry, will be dissolved as part of the restructuring.

Tusk said the reshuffle aims to improve efficiency and streamline the executive branch, Xinhua News Agency reported. "We will go from having one of the largest governments in Europe to one of the smallest in terms of structure," he said.

Home & Garden



3 ideas for container Gardening

You love plants and want to have your own little garden, but you don't have the space in/outside your house for a flower bed?



Guess what, you can still do gardening by growing your plants in containers.1. Used water bottles are great recycled objects in which you can grow a plant. Be creative and go for bottles in unique shapes, sizes as well as colours. You can hang these in your terrace, outside the door or even inside your bedroom. Smaller bottles are ideal for growing seedlings, while larger bottles make excellent pots for flowering plants. Cut off the top of the bottle and make some holes at the bottom for water to drain.2. Tin cans can also be converted fabulous wire pots. Drill holes in either side to pass wire or string through, or wrap around the can if it has a lip.3. Since you have space constraints, you can grow tiny plants like herbs as they don't grow too large. You can grow herbs like mint, coriander, basil etc. These can be also used in cooking.

How to clean your mouse and keyboard

Before cleaning your mouse and keyboard, shut down your computer. Unplug the mouse and the keyboard.



For keyboard: Tilt the keyboard upside down and shake it to remove the dust particles that might have accumulated inside. Use a cotton swab dipped in alcohol to clean the keyboard keys.

For mouse: Turn your mouse upside down after unplugging it from the system. The rubbery feet at the back of the mouse usually gather dust. A cotton swab dipped in alcohol should be used to clean them. Use a different cotton swab to clean the central eye of the mouse. Wipe your mouse with disinfectant wipes to clean the remaining area.

Decorate your living spaces with the following plants to that will filter the air you breath



From optical illusion to colour schemes and fine art, there are plenty of ideas to dig into for a more spacious-looking living space

- 1. Don't clutter with furniture**
"People tend to have too much furniture in their house in a bid to show off their taste. This doesn't give a feeling of lightness, but only creates clutter and makes your room look smaller than it already is," says interior designer Shehzad Khan. Conversely, spacing your furniture out and resting it flat against the wall is a fool's errand. It doesn't ensure a bigger room, instead your room ends up looking sparse. The trick is to angle it right. For instance, you can place a small console behind the sofa to create a sense of space. You can do the same thing with your bed and a side table in the bedroom.
- 2. Don't use too many small paintings**
Fine art lends aesthetics and a sense of timelessness to your home. However, scattering small paintings or prints all over the walls will make a shoebox-sized home look smaller and more congested than it already is. Instead, invest in one life-size three-dimensional scenic painting on canvas, the keywords here being life-size and scenic. "Use wall cladding on the chosen surface and install the 3D canvas on it," says Gogia. Scenery gives a lot of depth to the wall. A DIY option is to paint the wall yourself. This way, you get to express and show off your creativity too. The market is also flooded with readymade wallpapers of scenic pictures that can be directly purchased and applied to one wall.

6 ways to make your room look Bigger

- 3. Do install French windows**
Floor-to-ceiling glass windows is how the French won the West over, at least when it comes to decor. French windows automatically give spaciousness to the room. There are two reasons for this. They provide more natural light to stream into your room. Also, instead of an opaque wall, you have glass and openness extending beyond it.
- 4. Do have a white floor or ceiling**
This may sound too stark for us Indians, since we love colour and all things vibrant. Having a stark white ceiling or floor is an international trend that is catching on in India. The easiest option for a white floor is marble. There is a variety available out there, so feel free to experiment. For a bit of warmth, lay out a soft rug. As for the ceiling, white is usually right. Says Girish Gogia, former interior decorator,



- 5. Do invest in multi-functional decor**
Streamline your room with multi-functional pieces. For instance, a dining table that folds into a coffee table or seater. A trunk or an ottoman with built-in storage to keep your reading material in. In the mood to splurge? A number of decor labels are now available in India. For a DIY approach, look up the internet to design your own functional pieces.

6. Do use paints in pastels
As far as walls are concerned, try to paints from the pastel family to make it appear brighter. Pastel colours are also easy on the eyes. "In fact, you can take the pastel theme further and do up your home with upholstery in pastel shades," says interior decorator Suraj Dutta. "Looking at the current scenario in Mumbai where the apartments are small, opt for lighter shades. The flooring shouldn't have too much design. It should have straight lines. Silver leafing and champagne leafing on the walls and even on the ceiling make your room appear larger. The technique adds a royal touch to your home and is quite the rage right now. It looks equally good in a 2 BHK flat as it does in an apartment studio of a bachelor."

Don't let your home Make you sick

Your living room is probably where you and your family spend a lot of time. Make sure you clean your couch every night - studies say that couches and sofas are some of the most unclean places in the house because they tend to accumulate food droppings, dirt and a lot of other stuff. The carpets and rugs in your house may look great but can also attract a lot of dust and cause respiratory ailments and allergies. Make it a habit to dust them out every couple of days and regularly vacuum them. Your surroundings can play a big role on your psyche. Surround yourself with cheerful paintings or photographs, something that will make you happy. Is the lighting in your house done correctly? Very often, people don't even realise that incorrect lighting is giving them headaches. Replace harsh lighting with subtle lights especially in the bedroom. People often tend to neglect



their linen, which ideally should be changed on a weekly basis. Your bedsheets, pillow covers and curtains can gather dust mites and other allergens causing anything from skin problems to breathing ailments. Use a disinfectant while washing linen. The bathroom is another place which tends to gather a lot of bacteria, thanks to its damp environment. An exhaust fan keeps the bathroom airy.

It often happens that in the hustle and bustle of daily life, we tend to neglect our houses. And over time, an untidy home becomes an unhealthy home. Imagine coming home after a long and tiring day to a messy and unkempt house. Not only will this affect your mood but also play a detrimental role on your health. Here's how you can keep your home healthy...

Houseplants that will purify your home

Bamboo palm is a great plant to have in your house as it can get rid of all sorts of chemicals in the atmosphere. It doesn't require too much direct sunlight so it can be kept inside, where there is a shady spot. It eliminates carbon monoxide, benzene, formaldehyde, xylene, chloroform and more, making it the best choice for the laundry room, living room or bedroom. In India, rubber plants are very common. They need a lot of bright light, water and fertilizer to keep them healthy. This is a great choice for eliminating carbon monoxide,

formaldehyde and trichloroethylene. The Areca palm is also like the bamboo palm. It has arch-like leaves that are attractive and graceful looking. It needs more sunlight and water to keep it growing. It's a great choice for humidifying the air as well as eliminating benzene, carbon monoxide, xylene, trichloroethylene and formaldehyde. The pretty Chrysanthemums don't just look lovely in the house but is also an air purifier. Place it under indirect sunlight and check the soil every day for moisture. It gets rid of ammonia.



Match officials appointed for FIFA U-20 World Cup Chile 2025

Zurich (Switzerland), July 23 (UNI): The FIFA Referees Committee has announced the match officials who will oversee games at the FIFA U-20 World Cup Chile 2025, which will take place from 27 September 27 to October 19. A total of 54 match officials (18 referees and 36 assistant referees) from 22 FIFA Member Associations are set to take charge of the matches.

Following the success of the FIFA Club World Cup, we look forward to another exciting tournament, for which we have once again appointed a very strong Team One line-up. From a refereeing perspective, it's very important that the officials have the opportunity to be involved at a tournament featuring the stars of tomorrow and for us to

Athletic Bilbao signs right back Areso from Osasuna for second time

Madrid, July 23 (UNI) Right back Jesus Areso completed a return to Athletic Bilbao when he joined the club from Osasuna for the second time in his career.

Areso joins for a fee close to his 12-million-euro (14 million US dollars) release clause and has signed a six-year contract until the end of June 2031, with Athletic holding off interest from Atletico Madrid.

The transfer marks the 26-year-old's second move from Osasuna to Athletic Bilbao, following his initial transfer in 2017, when Athletic paid 450,000 euros for his services.

He spent three seasons in the club's B-team making 55 appearances, but rejected offers of a new contract to return to Osasuna in 2021 and after overcoming a serious leg injury, he has been first choice for the Pamplona-based club in the last two seasons, making 76 appearances in La Liga.

A rapid and powerful attacking right back, Areso replaces Oscar de Marcos, who retired at the end of last season after a record 572 appearances for the club. Athletic is also thought to be close to a deal to re-sign Spain international Aymeric Laporte from Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr as the club prepares to return to the Champions League next season after last season's fourth place finish in La Liga.

Uganda to host Asia/Africa play-off for 2027 Rugby World Cup

Kampala, July 23 (UNI): Uganda will host the Asia/Africa play-off match for the 2027 Rugby World Cup, with Namibia facing the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on July 26 at Mandela National Stadium here.

Namibia, who lost to Zimbabwe in the African qualifiers, will have a second chance to keep their World Cup hopes alive in this decisive encounter against UAE. "We are happy the

carry out further testing of Football Video Support (FVS), which has been a great success so far," said the Chairman of the FIFA Referees Committee, Pierluigi Collina.

The use of Football Video Support (FVS) at the tournament follows on from the trials implemented last year at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Colombia and the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in the Dominican Republic.

The FVS trials followed numerous requests from member associations for an alternative, cost-effective way of using technology to support match officials. Unlike the video assistant referee (VAR) system, FVS does not use dedicated video match officials and therefore does not check all match-changing incidents. Instead, the onus falls on

NCSSR conducts meeting on ethical standards in sports science research

New Delhi, July 23 (UNI) The National Centre for Sports Science and Research (NCSSR), today said that it convened the inaugural meeting of its Institutional Ethical Committee (IEC) on July 18, 2025 here at the SAI Head Office, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

This landmark session marked a significant milestone in formalizing ethical practices for scientific research involving human participants in the field of sports and allied sciences.

Chaired by Prof. Jugal Kishore, Director Professor and Former Head of Community Medicine at Vardhman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital, the meeting brought together distinguished committee members from premier institutes and government bodies. Discussions focused on standardising ethical protocols for research approvals, safeguarding participant welfare, and ensuring scientific integrity across all NCSSR research initiatives.

"The establishment of the IEC represents our firm commitment to upholding the highest standards of ethics in sports science research. This committee will play a pivotal role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and participant protection in all scientific endeavours under NCSSR," said Vishnu Kant Tiwari, Secretary (SAI).

Serving as the Member Secretary, Brig (Dr.) Bibhu Kalyan Nayak, Director of NCSSR, emphasized the need for robust ethical oversight as the centre embarks on multiple interdisciplinary research projects. "Our vision is not just to advance sports science but to do so responsibly and ethically," he said. "The deliberations of this first meeting will serve as a foundation for all future work." During the session, the committee reviewed procedures for research project submission, evaluation, and monitoring, while also discussing legal and ethical considerations specific to studies involving athletes and human subjects. Key concerns included informed consent, data protection, and the long-term impact of research on athletes' health and performance.

"Ethical scrutiny is essential in research involving human subjects, especially in sports science where both physical and psychological factors are at play," noted Prof. Jugal Kishore. "Our role as an ethical committee is not to hinder research but to ensure it is conducted with dignity, care, and accountability." The IEC's mandate will be instrumental in ensuring all NCSSR projects comply with national and international ethical guidelines. The committee reaffirmed its collective responsibility to foster a culture of ethical excellence and scientific rigour.

Asia/Africa play-off will also come to Uganda," said Rugby Africa president Herbert Mensah. "It's a great opportunity for Uganda to host another major match.

We thank the government and the Uganda Rugby Union for making this possible."

The UAE team arrived in Uganda on Tuesday. A win over Namibia would send them to the

respective head coaches, who are allowed to make a limited number of review requests per game when they feel that a clear and obvious error has been made in match-changing incidents, such as goals, penalty decisions, direct red card incidents or cases of mistaken identity. The players can also recommend that their coaches request a review.

"Chile is a football-loving country, and we have an excellent opportunity to ensure that this year's edition of the FIFA U-20 World Cup leaves a legacy on a refereeing level.

The (FIFA) U-20 World Cup is a highly competitive tournament that requires officials to have a sound reading of the game," noted FIFA Director of Refereeing Massimo Busacca.

Olympic gold medalist defender Pubill lands at Atletico Madrid

Madrid, July 23 (UNI) Atletico Madrid has confirmed an agreement to sign Spain Under-21 international right back Marc Pubill from second division side Almeria.

Atletico will pay an initial 12 million euros for the defender who also won an Olympic gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Pubill has signed a five-year contract until 2030.

The announcement came shortly after the club confirmed it had missed out on signing Jesus Areso from Osasuna, with Areso opting to join Athletic Bilbao for a similar fee.

The defender will have his medical tests in Madrid today, before joining with his new teammates in their summer training camp at Los Angeles de San Rafael to the north of Madrid. Pubill's arrival could pave the way for Argentine international Nahuel Molina to leave the club, as Atletico must reduce its non-European Union player quota after signing Thiago Almada. The club currently has four non-EU players, but only three are permitted.

Pakistan receives formal invitation to join FIH Hockey Pro League

Lausanne (Switzerland), July 23 (UNI) : After Hockey New Zealand notified the International Hockey Federation (FIH) of their decision not to participate in the next FIH Hockey Pro League Men's season despite having won the FIH Hockey Nations Cup last month, FIH has, in accordance with the regulations, extended an invitation to the Nations Cup runners-up, namely Pakistan, to join the 2025-26 Pro League edition. The Pakistan Hockey Association has been given a deadline of August 12 to inform FIH of their decision to accept or deny the invitation.

The 2024-25 FIH Hockey Pro League crowned both Dutch teams, Women's and Men's, as champions. The upcoming season will be the seventh one of the "League of the Best".

Jamshedpur FC face Tribhuvan Army FC in Group C opener

Jamshedpur, July 23 (UNI) : Indian Super League (ISL) outfit Jamshedpur FC will kick off their Durand Cup 2025 campaign on Thursday as they face Nepal's Tribhuvan Army FC at the JRD Tata Sports Complex here.

The Men of Steel had a commendable run in the previous ISL season, reaching the semi-finals, and followed it up with a runners-up finish in the Kalinga Super Cup.

Head coach Khalid Jamil will be eager to see his side rediscover that form and build on it as they aim for a stronger showing in the Durand Cup, having exited at the group stage last year.



India's Koneru Humpy during semifinal chess match against China's Tingjie Lei at FIDE Women's World Cup 2025, in Batumi, Georgia.

Karthi hopes for India call-up after key learnings with India A team

Bengaluru, July 23 (UNI) Hockey India's endeavour to create more depth in the talent pool by giving right international exposure for the fringe players to showcase their potential with the India 'A' side has renewed hope for players like Karthi Selvam, who last played for the Senior India team at the Asian Champions Trophy Chennai in 2023.

Karthi's return to the core probable group for the national camp and subsequent call-up for the India 'A' side was stoked by his performance in the revamped Hockey India League earlier this year where he impressed for the Tamil Nadu Dragons.

The recent tour to

Europe was nothing but a learning experience for Karthi. "The recent India 'A' tour to Europe has instilled fresh hope for India comeback for me. It's going to be two years since I last wore the India colours and there've been a lot of learnings for me in this tour which had a combination of young players and those who have played for India," expressed Karthi.

The India 'A' side under Coach and former India striker Shivendra Singh, began the tour with back-to-back wins against Ireland (6-1 and 6-0) followed by a win and a loss against France (3-2 and 2-0). While their match against England

was close (2-3), India 'A' lost 1-3 to Belgium, and suffered 0-3 and 2-8 loss against the Netherlands.

"We started the tour very well and the match against England was also quite close. But we couldn't finish the tour on a high with the Netherlands posing stiff competition. Overall, it was a top experience for us," he said.

Speaking about his own game, Karthi said, "There have been some specific inputs that Craig (Fulton) has given me and also Cosma, our Analytical Coach, has provided valuable inputs for my game particularly on off-the-ball tactics. I've been implementing this in

Cameroon coach resigns over claims of unpaid wages

Yaounde, July 23 (UNI) Cameroon head coach of the national men's football team, Marc Brys resigned today citing "contract violations" as the reason for his departure. In his resignation letter addressed to the country's Minister of Sports and Physical Education, Narcisse Mouelle Kombi, the Belgian said he was quitting his job "due to the non-payment of my salary and that of my staff for more than 60 days".

my game and look forward to breaking into the India side again," stated an optimistic Karthi.

The India 'A' side has returned to their base in SAI, Bengaluru where they will join the Senior India players for the remainder of the national camp. The team will also be part of the selection process for the upcoming Australia Tour and Asia Cup in Bihar next month.

"There is still a lot of hardwork to do. There is a fine difference in how the senior team performs and how we have fared as a development team. There are some gaps that we need to work on, and that will be our focus in this camp," he concluded.

Odisha tribal girl's journey from remote Malkangiri to National Spotlight to feature in Govt Magazine

Bhubaneswar, July 23 (UNI) : Defying all odds, Bibhuti Mundagadia, a young tribal girl from the remote district of Malkangiri in Odisha, is rewriting the narrative of perseverance, passion, and purpose.

A Class 10 student at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in Sindhirmala, Bibhuti has risen to become a national-level handball player—an inspiring achievement that has earned her a place in the upcoming edition of a prestigious national magazine published by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of India.

The magazine features the success stories of

exceptional students from across the country.

Born into a modest tribal family, Bibhuti's journey has been shaped by resilience and hard work. Her father works as a mason, while her mother cultivates mushrooms to support the household. Despite financial hardships, her parents have consistently encouraged her aspirations.

Amid these challenging circumstances, Bibhuti discovered a passion for sports, particularly handball, which she pursued with remarkable dedication.

At her residential school under the KGBV scheme, she excelled not

only in academics but also distinguished herself in district- and state-level handball competitions.

Her perseverance paid off when she was selected to represent Odisha in the Junior National School Sports Handball Championship held in Madhya Pradesh—a proud moment for her school, family, and state. Now, her inspiring journey is set to reach a national audience.

Bibhuti dreams of playing handball at the international level. Her story is not just one of personal triumph—it represents hope and possibility for thousands of girls across India, particularly those from

Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and other marginalized communities.

Launched in 2004, the KGBV scheme aims to promote education among disadvantaged girls. In Bibhuti, the initiative has found a shining ambassador. Her success stands as a powerful reminder that with the right support and indomitable spirit, even the most remote parts of India can produce national champions.

As her story is shared across the country, Bibhuti Mundagadia becomes more than a name—she becomes a symbol of courage, commitment, and the life-changing power of education.

Sindhu defeat World No. 6 Tomoka Miyazaki to enter China Open Pre-Quarters

Changzhou, July 23 (UNI) : Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu scripted a thrilling victory to storm into the Women's Singles Round-of-16 at the China Open 2025, a prestigious BWF Super 1000 tournament underway at the Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium here today.

Facing World No. 6 Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan, Sindhu (WR 15) displayed her trademark resilience

to clinch a gritty 21-15, 8-21, 21-17 win in a fiercely contested three-game battle. After conceding

the second game, the Indian ace maintained a commanding lead in the decider to seal the win.

In the Men's Doubles draw, Satwik-Chirag, the World No. 12 duo, put up a dominant performance to progress into the Round-of-16.

The pair outclassed Japan's Kenya Mitsuhashi and Hiroki Okamura with a

convincing 21-13, 21-9 straight-game win.

Meanwhile, in Women's Doubles, the Panda sisters, Rutaparna and Swetaparna, faced a tough challenge against the experienced Hong Kong China duo and concluded their campaign.

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Email : standardposthyd@gmail.com**

CR organises Station Mahotsav at Byculla Station

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, July 23 : After the successful completion of Station Mahotsav events at 7 stations of Central Railway, Station Mahotsav was organised at Byculla Station on Mumbai Division on 23.07.2025 as part of the Station Mahotsav Celebrations of Railway Stations as advised by Railway Board.

7 Station Mahotsavs had recently been held at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Nagpur, Reay Road, Asangaon, Vasind, Kasara and Igatpuri stations of Central Railway.

A total of 15 stations on all 5 Divisions of Central Railway are among those identified for celebrations of Station Mahotsavs.

Byculla Station :- is one of the oldest Railway stations in India, in operation since 1853. It was one of the halts of the first train that ran on the Indian subcontinent from Bori Bunder to Tannah(known as Thane now) on 16th April 1853. The current station building built in



Old GIPR Ticket window frame



Old Carraige & Wagon badges

1891 is a fine example of Victorian architecture.

The Station wore a festive look with decorations and a grand rangoli as part of the Station Mahotsav celebrations. The Celebrations featured a Heritage exhibition

wherein various artefacts belonging to the GIPR era were displayed. Sketches and Black n White photos of Old Byculla station were also displayed.

The highlight of the exhibition was a GIPR monogram made of gun



Photo of Old Byculla

metal and an Old ticket window frame made of gunmetal which was a part of Byculla station till a few years back.

Among the items on display were a GIPR era Bench, Iron sleepers, Old Telephone instrument, Official Stamps and Measuring weights made of brass, Gate Keeper's badge, Old Carraige & Wagon plates, Rotary switches, Engineering wooden scale box and Old track hand

levers used for changing the track. Miniature models of Steam locomotives of the GIPR era were also part of the display.

In addition to the Old, the exhibition also displayed a model of the Vande Bharat Trains in service presently and a model of the Bullet Train expected to be operational in the near future.

Selfie points were also put up for visitors to take photos as a remembrance.

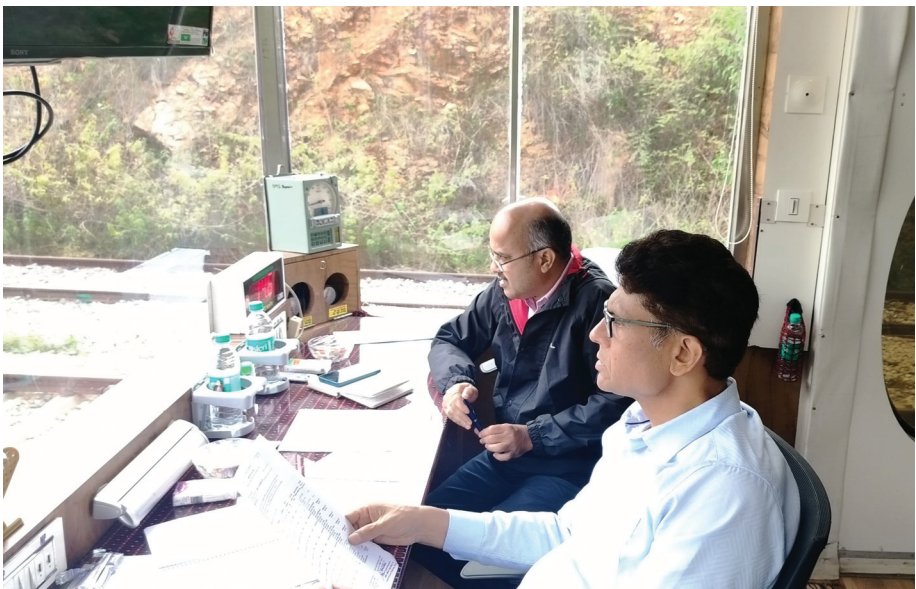
The exhibition, was a trip down memory lane with a large number of visitors including Students, Office going people, Professionals, Heritage enthusiasts, Rail Fans and passengers. The Station Mahotsav Celebrations were a memorable blend of history, culture, education, and celebration—truly befitting stations that have served the passengers of Indian Railways with dedication for over a century.

General Manager SWR Conducts Window Trailing Inspection and Reviews Station Redevelopment Works

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 23 : Mukul Saran Mathur, General Manager, South Western Railway, conducted a window trailing inspection between Kadur and Chikkamagaluru section today, reviewing various operational and safety parameters along the route.

During the inspection, Shri Vinayak R Nayak, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM), Mysuru Division, along with senior officers of South Western Railway, accompanied the General Manager and provided key inputs on the section's



performance infrastructure.

Later, he also inspected the ongoing

redevelopment works at Chikkamagaluru Railway

Station, which is being developed under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS), aimed at transforming railway stations into modern, passenger-friendly hubs equipped with world-class amenities.

Mr Mathur emphasized the importance of ensuring quality, timely execution of works and adherence to safety standards. He appreciated the efforts of the Mysuru Division in advancing the redevelopment initiatives in line with Indian Railways' vision for enhanced passenger experience.

237 Railways projects worth Rs 1,90,333 crore sanctioned in less than 4 years: Vaishnaw

New Delhi, July 23 (IANS) A total of 237 projects (40 new lines, 17 gauge conversion, and 180 doubling) of a total length of 9,703 kms -- costing about Rs 1,90,333 crore -- have been sanctioned across Indian Railways during the last three fiscals and the current financial year (FY26) to date, the Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told the Lok Sabha, in a written reply, that during the last three years (2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25) and the current FY26, 892 surveys (267 new line, 11 gauge conversion, and 614 doubling) of total length 61,462 km have been sanctioned across Indian Railways.

While from 2009-2014, the total tracks commissioned

were for 7,599 km (4.2 km per day), a total of 34,428 km tracks were sanctioned (8.57 km per day) from 2014-2025.

"As a result of comprehensive planning of Railway projects under PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan and better coordination among various stakeholders, the sanction of service, sanction of projects and the pace of laying/commissioning of new tracks have also increased," the minister said. The PM Gati Shakti Institutional mechanism is being extensively used for ground surveys, land records, alignment of route and has led to enhancement in the quality of preparation of the Detailed Project Report and reduction in project cost.

The Indian Railway launched the Amrit Bharat Station

scheme aimed at providing world-class amenities to passengers and improving efficiency in train operations at railway stations. So far, 1,337 stations have been taken up for redevelopment in the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, according to the minister. To enhance passenger experience and provide a comfortable journey, the state-of-the-art Vande Bharat trains, Amrit Bharat Trains and Namoo Bharat Rapid Rail with modern features have been introduced on Indian Railways. "To improve safety in train operations, Kavach has been developed as a National Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system on Indian Railways. The work of implementation of Kavach has been taken up in mission mode on Indian Railways," said the minister.

Final Phase Admissions for ET programmes in MANUU

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, July 23 : Maulana Azad National Urdu University is offering seats through final phase admissions for entrance based programmes. The candidates who have appeared and qualified the MANUU entrance test but could not secure a seat in the previous list can avail this opportunity.

According to Prof. M. Vanaja, Director, Directorate of Admissions, those candidates who could not pay the course fee may also participate in ET spot admission. The sliding option will be open on July 24, 2025. Document verification at the concerned department/CTE/Polytechnic will be done on July 31 and the list of selected candidates will be displayed on August 02. Fee payment date is August 02 & 03. The candidates who report in person will only be considered for admission.

For details visit University website www.manuu.edu.in or email to admissionsregular@manuu.edu.in for assistance and for general queries admission help desk can be contacted on 040- 23006612 Extn- 1801.

Collective effort of Centre, RBI brings PSB NPAs down to 2.58 pc: Economist

New Delhi, July 23 (IANS) The significant reduction in gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of India's public sector banks (PSBs) is a result of combined efforts of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the union government, a leading economist said on Wednesday.

Economist Pankaj Jaiswal told IANS that the improvement in NPAs had been made possible due to the joint initiative of the RBI and the Centre.

According to him, the two were complementary to one another and collaborated closely to achieve the same objective. Jaiswal noted that gross non-performing assets (NPAs) had decreased to 2.58 per cent in 2025, citing a statement by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary. He called this a significant accomplishment for the central government.

He discussed the role of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and said that 10 years ago, there was a widespread culture of evergreening, many industrial sector accounts were under stress, and NPAs were much higher.

Additional stoppage provided to Mumbai Central - Gandhinagar Capital vande Bharat Express at Valsad Station

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 23 : For the convenience of passengers, Western Railway has provided an additional stoppage at Valsad station to Train No. 20901/20902 Mumbai Central – Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express on experimental basis. According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details are as under:

Train No. 20901 Mumbai Central – Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express will halt at Valsad station for journey commencing from Mumbai Central on 28th July, 2025. The train will arrive Valsad station at 08:19 hrs and depart at 08:21 hrs. Due to this, the timings of this train has been revised at Surat, Vadodara, Anand & Ahmedabad stations.

Similarly, Train No. 20902 Gandhinagar Capital – Mumbai Central Vande Bharat Express will halt at Valsad station for journey commencing from Gandhinagar Capital on 27th July, 2025. The train will arrive Valsad station at 17:51 hrs and depart at 17:53 hrs. Due to this Train No. 20902 will depart from Gandhinagar Capital at 14:00 hrs. instead of 14:05 hrs. Similarly, the timings of this train has been revised at Ahmedabad, Anand, Vadodara & Surat stations.

The detailed timings of the train are as below.

Ratan Thiyam, Maestro of Indian Theatre, Bows Out Forever



Imphal, July 23 (Waari Singbul Network) : Thiyam, a towering figure in Indian theatre whose spellbinding visual aesthetic and philosophical depth transformed the stage into sacred ritual, passed away this morning at the age of 77. The legendary Manipuri playwright, director, and cultural thinker breathed his last at RIMS Hospital in Imphal after prolonged post-COVID and related health complications.

As the theatre world mourns a colossal loss, the Manipur State Film Development Society (MSFDS) held a candlelight memorial at 6:00 PM today at the Memorial Stone of Manipuri Cinema within the MSFDS complex. The solemn gathering, open to the public, was organised to offer the film community's final respects to Ratan Thiyam—not just a titan of theatre, but one of the finest artists Manipur has ever produced. "Though his medium was theatre, his influence transcended disciplines—deeply inspiring Manipuri cinema, visual storytelling, and the state's broader cultural imagination.

The glowing candles, lit in reverence, will stand as flickers of the enduring legacy he leaves behind," said MSFDS Secretary Sunzu Bachaspatimayum. A true son of Manipur and one of the world's finest theatre directors, Thiyam leaves behind a body of work that reshaped the contours of Indian performance. His passing marks the end of an era—but his vision, steeped in ancient Indian wisdom and tuned to the cries of a fractured modernity, will continue to illuminate stages across the world. Born on January 20, 1948 in Nabadwip, West Bengal, and raised in Imphal, Ratan Thiyam's life was rooted in Manipur's cultural soil but reached far beyond its borders.

A graduate of the National School of Drama (1974), Thiyam returned to Imphal to establish the Chorus Repertory Theatre in 1976—planting a seed that grew into a global institution. Under his direction, the Chorus stage became an altar where dance, martial arts, poetry, and ritual fused into unforgettable dramatic experiences. With landmark productions such as Chakravayuha, Uttar Priyadarshi, Urubhangam, Antigone, and When We Dead Awaken, Thiyam forged a new idiom of "theatre of roots"—a movement that reclaimed traditional Indian forms and made them vessels for contemporary critique. His theatre was austere yet spectacular, meditative yet urgent, drawing from Vaishnavism, Meitei culture, and classical texts to address social injustice, war, identity, and spiritual longing. His legacy was not only artistic but deeply political. Thiyam returned his Padma Shri in 2001 to protest threats to Manipur's territorial integrity, and in recent years, stood against the Government of India's silence over the ethnic conflict that has scarred the state. For Thiyam, Manipur was not merely home—it was an ideal of co-existence, a cultural ark where many voices must sing in harmony. Accolades trailed him throughout his life: the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Fringe Firsts Award at Edinburgh, the Kalidas Samman, the Rockefeller Award, and most recently, a Lifetime Achievement Award conferred by the Government of Manipur in 2024.