

## IN BRIEF

### Indigo issues travel advisory for passengers in bad weather hit Mumbai

Mumbai, July 23 (UNI) IndiGo Airlines today issued a travel advisory for commuters in Mumbai and Delhi following heavy rainfall and traffic congestion in the city. The advisory highlights severe traffic disruptions, especially on roads leading to airports.

The airline urged passengers travelling today to leave earlier than usual to avoid delays. Rain has affected vehicular movement, causing traffic snarls in multiple areas, particularly around airport routes. In an X post shared by IndiGo, they mentioned, "Heavy traffic has been reported on several roads across #Delhi and #Mumbai, particularly on key routes leading to the airport. If you are travelling today, please consider planning ahead and leaving earlier than usual." They also informed commuters that they can check real-time updates, stating, "For your convenience, real-time updates are available on our app and website to help you stay informed about your flight status <https://it.>

### North Indian student assaulted by group for not speaking in Marathi

Mumbai July 23 (UNI) : A 20-year-old student from north India studying in neighbouring Navi Mumbai city was allegedly assaulted with a hockey stick by a group of people after he was asked to speak in Marathi, officials said here today. Police have registered a case against them, under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 118 (1) (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 351(2) and 351(3) (criminal intimidation), section 3(5) (common intention) and others. According to the details, the incident occurred around 10.30 am on Tuesday outside a college in Vashi area of new Mumbai when accused persons had arguments with the student on some pittey matter later it turned into violent after they asked him to speak in marathi on his refusal they attacked him.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets as he emplanes for London, in New Delhi.

## Housing policy sets ambitious target of construction of 35 lakh houses

Mumbai, July 23 (IANS) : In a serious bid to pursue its vision of "My House, My Right", by 2030, the Maharashtra government on Wednesday released a government resolution on the Housing Policy 2025.

The government, which expects an investment of Rs 70,000 crore during the implementation of this ambitious housing policy, proposes to construct 35 lakh houses in five years.

Further, the government plans to increase the size of MahaAwas Fund to Rs 20,000 crore. The ultimate target is to build 50 lakh houses in the next 10 years. To achieve this ambitious target, existing provisions under the Development Control and Promotion

Regulations/Unified Development Control and Promotion Regulations and relevant institutional frameworks will be strengthened and modified as needed.

Additionally, active participation from the private sector will be promoted through a range of incentive-based measures.

The government proposes to carry out a comprehensive programme for slum rehabilitation and redevelopment. The specific needs of low-income earners, senior citizens, women, industrial workers and students will be given priority consideration in the policy.

The district land banks of the government and semi-

government lands will be created. The state-level portal will soon be developed for providing information on housing development through government-private sector partnership, through developers and also through state-run undertakings.

The policy, which focuses on housing for all, also aims to achieve a slum-free state by laying emphasis on the economically weaker sections (EWS), lower income group (LIG) and middle income group (MIG) segments of the policy.

The policy proposes affordable housing initiatives, redevelopment of old buildings to improve living conditions and  
**(Contd on page 3)**

## Mumbai braces for more rain: IMD issues orange alert for today

Mumbai, July 23 (UNI) : Heavy monsoon rains pounded Mumbai for the third consecutive day today, triggering partial wall collapses, widespread tree falls, and severe waterlogging across the metropolis. While no injuries were reported, authorities confirmed 11 incidents of uprooted trees, two partial structural collapses, and seven short-circuit cases in the past 24 hours.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a fresh nowcast warning for Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, and Raigad, predicting moderate rainfall in isolated areas over the next 3-4 hours. Between Tuesday and Wednesday morning, the city's coastal observatory at Colaba recorded 87 mm of rainfall, while Santacruz logged 85 mm. The Andheri Subway was closed due to 1-1.5 feet of water accumulation, causing critical infrastructure disruptions and diverting traffic to Gokhale Bridge and Thackeray Bridge. Local train services on Central and Harbour lines faced delays of 15-20 minutes during morning commutes.

The IMD upgraded its alert to orange for July 24, forecasting heavy to very

heavy rainfall exceeding 150 mm in 24-36 hours. A yellow alert remains active for Wednesday. South Mumbai neighborhoods—including Byculla, Lalbaug, CSMT, and Churchgate—experienced intense overnight and early-morning downpours.

With forecasts indicating peak intensity from today afternoon through night, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has deployed emergency teams and activated control rooms. Dewatering pumps are on standby in chronically flood-prone zones such as Sion, King's Circle, Hindmata, Kurla, Andheri Subway, and M a l a d / D a h i s a r underpasses.

Monday's deluge had already disrupted normal life in Andheri, Powai, Sakinaka, and Kurla's LBS Road. The IMD cautioned that isolated intense spells could severely impact road and rail traffic over the next two days, urging residents to avoid non-essential travel during peak rainfall hours.

As Mumbai braces for escalating monsoon fury, authorities emphasize vigilance—particularly for communities in low-lying areas—amid saturated ground conditions heightening flood risks.



## 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.

**(See on page 8)**

## 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)**

## Tejashwi Yadav hints at possible election boycott over voter list revision

Patna, July 23 (IANS) : In a significant escalation of the political standoff over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list, Bihar Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav has hinted at the possibility of boycotting the upcoming Assembly elections in protest against a "deliberate" disenfranchisement of voters.

When asked by the media whether the opposition could consider boycotting elections by mutual consent, Tejashwi said: "This can also be discussed. We will see what the public wants and what everyone's opinion is."

He further questioned the legitimacy of holding elections under the current circumstances. "When elections are not being conducted honestly, then why are we conducting elections? The elections have been compromised," Yadav said. Tejashwi Yadav alleged that under the guise of the voter list revision, the BJP and the Election Commission are working together to clean opposition voters rather than cleansing the democratic process. "The Election Commission revised the voter list in January this year, and it has also claimed that 18.66 lakh dead voters were found between 25 January and 24 June 2025. Did 18.66 lakh people die in these months? Why were they retained on the voter list for years? Was the Election Commission sleeping before this?"

The claim that 26.01 lakh voters shifted permanently within four months is "doubtful," as such a mass shift is improbable without physical verification. The ECI's assertion that 3.7 lakh voters are registered at two places lacks transparency, with no clear process of personal notice or confirmation. The figure that 6.62 per cent of voters are absent from their address is being used to "solve electoral mathematics at the behest of the government."

Tejashwi demanded to know how many among the 52.66 lakh voters whose names are to be deleted are actually foreign nationals. "Preparations are being made to delete lakhs of names without BLOs visiting doorsteps, especially targeting voters opposing the government," he said.

## India and China express satisfaction with peace, tranquility in border areas

New Delhi, July 23 (IANS) : Reviewing the situation in border areas, India and China on Wednesday expressed satisfaction with the general prevalence of peace and tranquility in the region, leading to gradual normalisation of bilateral relations. The two nations agreed to maintain regular exchanges and contacts on issues related to the boundary affairs at the diplomatic and military levels through established mechanisms.

The situation was reviewed during the 34th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) held in New Delhi on Wednesday. The Indian delegation at the meeting was led by Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary (East Asia) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Chinese delegation was headed by Hong Liang, Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The two sides reviewed the situation in the India-

China border areas. They expressed satisfaction with the general prevalence of peace and tranquility in the border areas, leading to gradual normalization of bilateral relations. They agreed to maintain regular exchanges and contacts on issues related to the boundary affairs at the diplomatic and military levels through established mechanisms," the MEA stated after the meeting.

"With a view to advancing effective border management and sustaining peace & tranquillity, the two sides deliberated on various measures as explored during the previous (23rd) round of SR Talks and the 33rd meeting of WMCC. The two sides also prepared for the next round of the Special Representatives' Talks on the India-China Boundary Question to be held in India later this year," it added.

The Chinese delegation leader also called on Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, according to the MEA statement. Notably, the 33rd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs

(WMCC) was held in Beijing on March 25.

Meanwhile, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson on Wednesday welcomed India's resumption of tourist visas for Chinese citizens, terming it a "positive move." The spokesperson expressed China's willingness to maintain communication and consultation with India to further facilitate travel between the two nations.

"We take note of India's resumption of tourist visas for Chinese citizens. This is a positive move. Easing cross-border travel is widely beneficial. China will maintain communication & consultation with India to further facilitate travel between the 2 countries," the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on X. Earlier this month, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing and discussed the trajectory of India-China bilateral relations. He conveyed warm greetings from President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Chinese President during the meeting.



# 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,

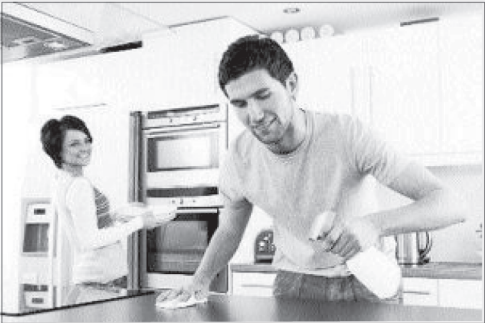


- 5. Do invest in multi-functional decor**  
Streamline your room with multi-functional pieces. For instance, a dining table that folds into a coffee table or seater. A trunk or an ottoman with built-in storage to keep your reading material in. In the mood to splurge? A number of decor labels are now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





# Shiv Sena leader urges Deputy CM Shinde to relax reservation rules for small plot holders

Goyal contended that relaxing this rule could have a dual benefit as it will not only boost state revenue but also simultaneously help reduce the instances of unauthorized constructions. He appealed to the government to take the same inclusive approach as it did by scrapping the "plot division ban" law, and now offer similar relief by relaxing amenity space regulations for small plot holders.

# HC allows Mumbai International Airport to finalise ground and bridge handling services tenders



During the program, Lokmanya Tilak's patriotism, ideology and social work were reviewed and his work was remembered. Taking inspiration from the work of such great men, the officers resolved to continue working for the welfare of the society.

**(Contd from page 1)**

It promotes inclusive housing by capturing resources created by the private market, integrated townships that offer affordable housing with essential services,

Affordable housing has been given infrastructure status. This enables the developers to avail of External Commercial Borrowing (ECB), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for their projects. It is also a sector eligible for Priority Sector Lending (PSL) from Banks and HFCs.

On the concept of Walk to Work, around 10 per cent to 30 per cent land should be reserved for housing in MIDC (Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation) areas. Such land should be handed over to the appropriate authority at the applicable acquisition price, so that authority can create an adequate housing stock in such areas. The authority can also partner with the private industries to provide housing for industrial workers in a PPP model. The policy proposes to reserve 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the land suitable for housing projects adjacent to the ambitious infrastructure projects (adjacent to Amambudhi Highway, Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor).

The policy focuses on green building initiatives to promote sustainable development through eco-friendly practices and certifications. To ensure inclusive development, the policy also attempts to address affordable housing for other vulnerable groups such as senior citizens, working women, students, Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and migrant workers.

Senior citizen housing addresses unique safety and accessibility needs, and community support,

projects.

Affordable rental housing schemes cater to transient populations, including migrant workers and students. Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) scheme under PMAY and rental housing projects under other state schemes will be leveraged to provide rental housing for migrant industrial workers.

Amid burgeoning challenges due to climate change, the policy advocates the construction of resilient housing towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. Such housing is designed to minimise damage, reduce vulnerability and reduce the impacts of adverse weather conditions.

The policy proposes a slew of incentives including single window clearance, 1 per cent GST, floor space index (FSI) up to 2.5 per cent, commercial use permitted up to 10 per cent of utilised FSI, concession in development charges, waiver of Registration and Stamp Duty charges to the operators, reduced Property Tax for first ten years of operation and 100 per cent deduction on the profit of operating student housing.

# Tribal family treks 10 km with girl's dead body in Jharkhand after hospital denies ambulance

Sahibganj (Jharkhand),  
July 23 (IANS) In a

shocking incident, a tribal family in J h a r k h a n d ' s Sahibganj district was forced to carry the body of a teenage girl on a cot for over 10 km after they were denied an ambulance by the hospital.

The deceased, Badrin Pahadin, belonged to the vulnerable 'Pahariya Janjati' community. She had been brought to the Sadar Hospital in Sahibganj on Monday in a critical condition. With no road connectivity to their remote village in Lodoni Pahad under Mandro block, her family carried her on a cot for 10 km to seek treatment. Tragically, she died during treatment at the hospital.

Mumbai, July 23 (UNI) : The Bombay High Court today allowed Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), to finalise awarding new contracts for ground and bridge handling services at the city's international airport following the termination of Turkish aviation firm Celebi's contract.

Justice Somasekhar Sunderesan set aside the earlier interim order passed in May, which had restrained MIAL from finalising the tender based on a plea by Celebi.

The judge noted that the interim protection could not be continued, as the Delhi High Court earlier this month dismissed Celebi's petition against a similar contract termination at the Delhi airport and the revocation of its security clearance.

It is now clear that holding up the decision of finding a replacement is not possible and tenable. Continuation of the ad-interim order is no longer reasonable and hence stands vacated," the court said.

It added that following the revocation of security clearance, all employees and equipment of the petitioner firm had been placed under the control of another company, Indo

## WESTERN RAILWAY

## CONSTRUCTION OF HEALTH UNIT

Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. invites **E-tender**  
**Notice No: BCT/25-26/155 dt:22/07/2025.**  
**Work and location: Virar:- Construction of Health Unit (Balance quantity schedule) (Composite Tender). Approx. cost of work:-**  
**Rs. 2,72,84,642.60. EMD: Rs. 2,86,400/-.**  
**Date & time of submission: Till 19.08.2025,15:00 hrs. Date & time of opening: On 19.08.2025 at 15:30 hrs.** For further details please visit our website **[www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)** **0420**


**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

**Publication of E-Tender Notice No.**  
**B/TRD.2025-26/13 Dated: 17-07-2025**  
The undersigned, on behalf of the  
President of India, Invites E-Tenders for  
the following works:

Name of work	Approx. Value
OHE modification in connection with proposed Grid siding work of M/s BPCL Ltd at Devangonthi Station.	Rs. 2,01,55,170.83
Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 08-08-2025	
For details log on to: <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>	
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD Bengaluru	
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unserved tickets	

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**


**SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS & OTHER ITEMS**

**Name of work with its Location :**  
Supply of Raw Materials, Fruits, Bread, Eggs, Milk & Vegetables for Hospital Kitchen at Dr. B.A.M. Hospital, Central Railway, Byculla, Mumbai. **Approx. Cost of Work :** ₹1,27,10,519.34 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Seven Lakhs Ten Thousand Five Hundred Nineteen & Paise Thirty Four only) inclusive all. **Contract Period :** 365 Days (One Year) **Earnest Money :** ₹2,13,600/- **Cost of Tender Form :** E-tender form shall be issued free of cost to all the tenderers. **Date and Time of Closing of Tender Submission 08/08/2025 up to 15.00 hrs.** online through IREPS portal only. Tenderers shall be accepted only in E-Tendering format through the website <https://www.ireps.gov.in> Tender document is available on the website.

**Open Tender Notice No.: BAMHKitchen**  
**RawMat25-26 Date 18/07/2025** [Sai/289]

**अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है**

CENTRAL RAILWAY			
ADVT. TENDER NOTICE NO. e-05/2025 dt. 23/07/2025			
E-Tender is invited by Dy. CMM (C) CSMT			
Details are as under :			
Tender No.	Description	Quantity	T.O.D
03255091	Catenary Wire size 65 sq. mm.	202.80 Km	18/08/2025
03255094	Contact Wire size 107 sq. mm.	180.80 Km	18/08/2025
Details to be seen on website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>			
Dy. Chief Materials Manager (C) CSMT, Mumbai			
अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है			
			Sai/293



# BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

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## **TREE AUTHORITY**

### **- PUBLIC NOTICE -**

In accordance with the provision under section 8 (3) (C) of the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection & Preservation of Trees Act 1975 (As modified upto 24th January 2021), **03** Proposals from **K/East Ward** in **Zone-III** Total **03** proposals are received for getting approval of Municipal Commissioner/Chairman. Tree Authority for removal of trees under section 8 (6) of the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection & Preservation of Trees Act 1975. (As modified upto 24th Jan 2021).

The information of the trees for cutting/ Transplanting in above mentioned proposals is available on BMC website → [www.mcgm.gov.in](http://www.mcgm.gov.in)  
 → About us → wards/Department → Department manuals → Gardens & Tree Authority → Docs → Tree Permission 21 Days → 409 (K/East), 410 (K/East), 411 (K/East) - Zone -3.

### **Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer of the Tree Authority**

Office of Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer,  
 2nd Floor, Humboldt Penguin Building,  
 Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan & Zoo,  
 Sant Savta Mali Marg, Byculla (East),  
 Mumbai - 400 027.  
 Tel No : 23742162

Email : [dysg.ta@mcgm.gov.in](mailto:dysg.ta@mcgm.gov.in)

**PRO/1096/ADV/2025 - 26**

**Avoid self medication.**

**Sd/-  
Supdt. of Gardens  
& Tree Officer**



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 a g r i c u l t u r a l transformation in India.

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



## 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.





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# 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

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 Sindhrimala, 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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**Editor: Mohammed Shafi**  
**R.N.I.No. : MAHENG/2014/59632**  
**Cell : 9849881368**  
**Email : standardpostmumbai@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.

## 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](http://www.manuu.edu.in) or email to [admissionsregular@manuu.edu.in](mailto: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.

# 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.

and the 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.