

IN BRIEF

Former Shani Temple Trustee Nitin Shete found dead in Ahilyanagar

Ahilyanagar, July 28 (UNI) A deeply shocking incident has come to light in Ahilyanagar, where Nitin Shete, a prominent figure, both a former trustee and the current deputy executive officer of the Shani Shingnapur Devasthan, was found dead. Shete, according to initial reports, committed suicide by hanging himself at his residence, sending shockwaves through the local community and the Devasthan Board.

The incident came to light today and the real reason behind Shete's drastic action is still unclear. The police have started an investigation into the matter and are searching for the reasons behind his suicide. The local administration and the Devasthan Board have also taken serious note of this incident.

Police have taken Shete's body into custody and dispatched it for an autopsy. The police say that the exact reason for the suicide will be revealed only after the investigation is completed.

Dead bodies of the missing fishermen retrieved

Alibaug July 28 (UNI) The Dead bodies of the three fishermen who went missing after their boat capsized near the Khanderi Fort were found today.

The bodies were discovered at Dighode, Sasawane, and Kihim in the Alibag taluka.

Despite the fishing ban being in effect, Manohar Ganpat Koli from Karanja in Uran taluka had taken his boat named Tuljai into deep sea fishing on Saturday.

Due to rough seas and strong waves, the boat sank. At the time, there were a total of eight fishermen on board. Five of them managed to swim back to shore. However, three fishermen went missing, and a search operation was ongoing since then.

The Coast Guard, Police, Revenue Department, and local Gram Panchayats were involved in the search for the missing fishermen. Drone cameras were also used in the search operations. Despite the efforts, the whereabouts of the three men remained unknown.

India will respond firmly to any act of terror: Rajnath Singh warns Pakistan from Lok Sabha



New Delhi, July 28 (UNI) : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today issued a stern warning to Pakistan saying India had drawn a new "Lakshman Rekha" on terrorism and would respond firmly and unambiguously to any such act to destabilize our country.

Opening a discussion on Operation Sindoor in Lok Sabha, the Defence Minister said "India has not only showcased its military capability but also demonstrated its national resolve, morality, and political acumen".

"Pakistan is a country built on double standards and falsehoods, and it is now being seen as a failed State. Through Operation Sindoor, India has shown the entire world that we are determined to eradicate the evil game of terrorism from its roots," he said.

He stated that Operation Sindoor symbolised India's strength, sending a clear message that "any harm to our citizens will not go unanswered."

Reiterating his point, he said that when it comes to

national security, India's political leadership and system will act decisively, free from any external influence or hesitation.

"Our missiles will cross physical borders, and our courageous soldiers will crush the enemy's backbone," he warned.

Reiterating that the Government is committed to eliminating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, Rajnath Singh said, "In this context, there is an important point we must understand. Pakistan-sponsored terrorism is not random madness — there is a method to this madness. It is a well-planned strategy. It is driven by a "fundamental rage." "Pakistan-sponsored terrorism is not an act of madness — it is part of a calculated conspiracy. It is a deliberate process that uses terror as a political tool. This is not merely terrorism; it is a toolkit — a toolkit actively employed by Pakistan's military and its agencies as a matter of policy. This toolkit stands in stark opposition to the civilised code of conduct that the rest of the world

chooses to uphold. It is the product of a radical ideology that leaves no room for tolerance".

He asserted that terrorism has been institutionalised as a tool of its foreign policy. The world must no longer harbour any illusions about Pakistan's character, calling it a "nursery of global terrorism."

"The current situation in Pakistan is well-known. A nation that chooses to make terrorism a cornerstone of its foreign policy eventually becomes entangled in its own web," Singh stated.

Emphasising that Pakistan has consistently supported terror networks and elevated them to positions of national honour, Rajnath said, "During Operation Sindoor, the world saw how Pakistan held state funerals for terrorists, with even military officers in attendance. This is the same country that lacks the courage to confront Indian soldiers at the border and instead targets innocent civilians, children, and pilgrims."

He said that Pakistan's military and intelligence agency, the ISI, were using terrorism as a proxy war to destabilise India. "I say this from the temple of democracy that those who dream of inflicting a 'thousand cuts' on India must wake up. This is the new India under Prime Minister Modi's leadership — an India that will go to any extent to fight terrorism."

Mahayuti to contest local elections across Maharashtra: CM

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai July 28 : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced today that the Mahayuti (Grand Alliance) will contest the upcoming local elections across the state. These polls are expected to begin soon with Zilla Parishads, followed by Municipal Councils, and potentially Municipal Corporation elections in November or December.

Addressing the BJP's Mahamanthan Melava (grand rally) in Wardha, Fadnavis said, "We will contest these elections together as part of the Mahayuti." He added that some decision-making powers would be delegated to local units, urging alliance partners to hold discussions and resolve differences to ensure joint contests wherever possible.

"We will give local-level authority for certain decisions. Where an alliance is not feasible, the contest should remain friendly, and no criticism should be directed at our allies," he said.

"Where there are issues, people should discuss with us. As far as possible,

elections should be contested under the Mahayuti. Where that is not possible, no criticism should be made against our ally parties," he suggested.

Cautioning party workers, Fadnavis stressed the importance of maintaining alliance discipline, drawing a contrast with past experiences. "In 2017, Uddhavji was in power with us but still used to abuse us every day—we must not repeat that mistake," he remarked.

While advocating for alliance unity, Fadnavis also underlined the need to assert BJP's strength. "Despite coordination with partners, we must demonstrate BJP's undisputed dominance in these local self-government elections," he told party workers. In areas where the Mahayuti is not fielding a joint candidate, BJP workers were asked to maintain cordial relations and ensure smooth contests.

The Chief Minister's remarks come amid ongoing preparations for a high-stakes electoral season expected to shape local governance across Maharashtra.

26.34 lakh not eligible under 'Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme, says Minister

Mumbai, July 28 (UNI) Maharashtra Women and Child Development Minister has stated that 26.34 lakh people are ineligible under 'Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and that benefits for these ineligible beneficiaries have been suspended from June.

Tatkare said the department of Women and Child Development had sought verification from all government departments about the eligibility of all applicants under 'Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme. The Department of Information and Technology reported that 26.34 lakh beneficiaries were availing of benefits despite being ineligible.

She further informed that the benefits for these ineligible beneficiaries have been suspended from June. Out of the 26.34 lakh ineligible individuals, some were found getting benefits from more than one scheme, some families had more than two beneficiaries, and in some cases, men had applied under the scheme. Based on the information, the benefits of these 26.34 lakh applicants have been temporarily suspended from June this year. "The benefits will be restored only after verification and ascertaining eligibility by district collectors," said the minister.

Mumbai gets respite from heavy rain

Mumbai July 28 (UNI) After a week of heavy downpours, Mumbai today witnessed a brief lull in intense rainfall, offering a welcome breather to residents.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has not issued any weather alert for Monday, marking a shift from the yellow and orange alerts issued last week for Mumbai, Thane and Palghar. While the torrential rains

have eased, light to moderate showers are expected to continue.

This year's early monsoon onset has resulted in Mumbai receiving 45.70 per cent of its average annual rainfall already. The city usually records about 2207 mm of rain annually. As of July 27, the eastern suburbs have received the highest rainfall at 1117.42 mm, followed by the western suburbs at 1032.25 mm and the city area at 876.29 mm.



EAM Jaishankar speaks with new South Korean FM Choties

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today spoke with newly-appointed South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, and discussed ways to strengthen India-South Korean relations. Cho Hyun was appointed as the new Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea on July 18. EAM Jaishankar said in a post on X: "Good to speak with @FMChoHyun of RoK this morning. "Conveyed my best wishes for a successful tenure. Discussed deepening of our bilateral cooperation. "The South Korean FM said in a post on X that he had his first call with the Indian foreign minister.

(See on page 2)

SC launches Veer Parivaar Sahayata Yojana 2025 in ...



The Supreme Court of India today marked a historic step in expanding legal aid to the nation's armed forces and tribal communities with the formal launch of Veer Parivaar Sahayata Yojana 2025 at the North Zone Regional Conference on "Reaffirming the Constitutional Vision of Justice for Defence Personnel and Tribals".

(See on page 4)

President Putin depicts Russian navy as pivotal in safeguarding national security, sovereignty



Russian President Vladimir Putin underscored the navy's pivotal role in protecting Russia's sovereignty and national security, as he oversaw its maneuvers, codenamed "July Storm," during Russia's Navy Day celebrations on Sunday.

(See on page 5)

Mamata alleges BJP-EC coordinated effort to



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today lashed out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Union government, accusing them of orchestrating a "conspiracy" to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in West Bengal with the Election Commission of India (ECI) as a "partner."

(See on page 8)

Student appreciation and honor ceremony held on behalf of Kunbi Social Development Board, Murbad



(By Rajesh undi)
Murbad, July 28 : Student appreciation and honor ceremony was held with great enthusiasm on behalf of Kunbi Social Development Board, Murbad Taluka on Sunday, July 27 at Kunbi Bhavan, Murbad. The present MLA of Murbad Legislative Assembly, Kisan Kathore and former MLA Gotirambhau Pawar were present at this honor ceremony and the students were honored by their hands and wished the

students for their future journey. A total of 300 meritorious students who have excelled in various fields of the Kunbi community in the academic year 2024-25 were honored by the dignitaries present on this occasion. In this, M.P.S.C. 6 students who passed the competitive examination, including 2 PSIs, 1 Tax Inspector, 2 Tax Assistants, 1 Revenue Assistants, while 16 students from the Medical Department, 16 from Chartered

Accountants, Legal Management, Higher Degree, 9 from the Vidya Lachaspati (P.H.D.), 10 from the Special Service Award, 32 from the Engineering and Architecture Department, 8 from the Pharmaceutical Industry Department, those who obtained special marks in the Degree and Post-Graduate, 12th Arts, Commerce and Science Department, as well as those who obtained special marks in Class 10th, were duly felicitated on this occasion. After the Corona

pandemic, such a grand program was not organized by the Social Promotion Board, but the Board's new President Ganpat Vish, Secretary Arvind Vish, Vice President Jyoti Tai Godambe and the entire Board of Directors celebrated this year's felicitation ceremony with great enthusiasm. For this ceremony, Hon. President Shantaram Bangar, Ulhas Bangar, Jairam Padwal, Subhash Gharat, Atmaram Sase, Rambhau Dalvi, Balu Karlag, Madhukar

Mohape, Prakash Pawar, Deepak Pawar, Bhaskar Harad, Pandurang Kor, Mohan Sase, Santosh Vishesh, Pandhari Alam, Suvarnatai Thackeray, Prajakta Bhavarthe, Dhanaji Dalvi, Manohar Isame, Milind Madke, Ramesh Tungar, along with a large number of Kunbi community members, students and parents were present. This evergreen program was conducted by Sharad Chaudhary and Deepshree Isame as well as Vinod Kor and Rajkumar Kadav.

Only 3 pc Hepatitis B Patients in India aware of their ailment

New Delhi, July 28(UNI) : Just about three per cent of Hepatitis B Patients in India are

aware about their ailment, and less than one per cent of them receive treatment, said Rajesh Bhushan, Former Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India today.

"Only 3 pc of hepatitis B patients in India are aware of their condition, and less than 1% of eligible individuals are receiving antiviral treatment. These are not just statistics, they reflect a silent public health crisis that demands immediate, coordinated action," said Bhushan while addressing the 'Illness to Wellness' Awareness Conference held in New Delhi on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day.

The Illness to Wellness Foundation organised the conference in New Delhi today, to mark World Hepatitis Day, centred around the theme "Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment for Hepatitis." The event brought together medical experts, policymakers, and public health advocates to highlight the urgency of tackling India's growing hepatitis burden through policy reform, improved access, and greater public

awareness. Bhushan underscored the need for bold, systemic efforts. He identified five urgent priorities to address the increasing hepatitis cases - expanded screening and surveillance, ensuring timely birth-dose vaccination, decentralisation of treatment access, driving community-level awareness, and using real-time data for action.

He also stressed the need for robust partnerships and said, "Strategic interventions must be driven not only by the government but also through collaboration with

civil society, the private sector, public health professionals, and the medical community".

During the session, health experts highlighted alarming global data that only 45 per cent of new-borns receive the hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth, which is a critical gap in prevention. They also emphasised that WHO's 2030 target to eliminate hepatitis, which calls for a 90% reduction in new infections and 80% treatment coverage, hinges on several key strategies: universal vaccination, timely diagnosis, people-centred care, and widespread public awareness to combat stigma.

EAM Jaishankar speaks with new South Korean FM Cho Hyun, discusses deepening of bilateral ties

New Delhi, July 28 (UNI) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today spoke with newly-appointed South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, and discussed ways to strengthen India-South Korean relations.

Cho Hyun was appointed as the new Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea on July 18.

EAM Jaishankar said in a post on X: "Good to speak with @FMChoHyun of RoK this morning." Conveyed my best wishes for a successful tenure. Discussed deepening of our bilateral cooperation."

The South Korean FM said in a post on X that he had

his first call with the Indian foreign minister.

"I reaffirmed our commitment expressed at the G7 Summit and during the special envoy's visit. We agreed to enhance high-level exchanges and practical cooperation," he posted. Cho Hyun previously served as the first Vice Foreign Minister under former President Moon Jae-in and represented South Korea at the UN from 2019-2022.

The phone conversation comes days after the visit by South Korean President Lee Jae-Myun's delegation of special envoys to India, led by former prime minister Kim Booyum. The special envoys had called on PM Modi and also met with the EAM in Delhi, during which the two sides had discussed cooperation in economic, technology, defence and maritime spheres.

Fluoride-affected habitations dropped to 248 under Jal Jeevan Mission: Union Govt

New Delhi, July 28(UNI) The number of rural habitations affected by fluoride contamination in drinking water has seen a significant decline from 7,996 in April 2019 to 248 as of July 2025, according to data released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

This reduction is attributed to ongoing efforts under the 'Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal', launched in August 2019 to ensure universal access to potable tap water in rural areas, the Government said today.

"The Mission, implemented in partnership with States and Union Territories, adopts BIS 10500 standards as the benchmark for water quality. While water supply remains a State subject, the Centre supports implementation through financial and technical assistance," said Minister of State for Jal Shakti V Somanna in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today.

Focus on Chemical Contaminants

Fluoride contamination has been identified as a key chemical challenge in several rural regions. "States have been directed to prioritise such areas while planning piped water supply schemes. Until these schemes are fully operational, community water purification plants (CWPPs) and individual household purifiers (IHPs) have been installed to provide interim relief," said the Minister.

As per the Jal Jeevan Mission's Integrated Management Information System (JJM-IMIS), all 248 fluoride-affected habitations currently have access to safe drinking and cooking water to the extent of 8–10 litres per person per day through CWPPs or IHPs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Public notice is hereby given to whomsoever may concern that the owner of the following property **KIRTNABEN PRAFULBHAI UPADHYAY** has submitted before me that following Gift Deed And original registration fee receipts of Giftdeed have been lost. If any person, Bank, or financial institute has any interest in the said property, contact me at my address mentioned herein below with in 7 days of publication of this notice with all relevant documents. Upon expiration of the notice period, if no objection will be received, I will proceed further. Thereafter, nobody has any right, interest in the said property and if anybody has any rights or interest in the said property, he / she has waved the said right. Subsequently No objection will be considered. Please Note.

Detail of Lost Documents :-

1. Original Gift Deed And Its Registration Receipt Registered Vide **Registration No. 7996 Dated 25.08.2023** With The Office Of Sub Registrar Of Surat-Hajira.

Property Detail of Lost Documents

Plot No.1226 (Private Plot No.F-128), as per Revenue Records Block No.187/1226 admeasuring 92.06 Sq. Mts.,alongwith construction made thereon Ground floor + 1th Floor construction adm.120.46 sq.mtrs., Built-up area together with undivided proportionate share in Roads & C.O.P. of **“Glorina Valley”**, situated at land bearing Block No.187 admeasuring 239574 Sq. Mts. paiki 202931 Sq. Mts. of **Village: Kansad**, Taluka: Choryasi, District: Surat.

Sd/-
TUFEL HABIB VHORA
Advocate (B.Com LLB.
Office No.A/407, 3rd Floor Padam Arcade,
Beside Handloom House, Nanpura, Surat,
Mobile : 7777913138

Assam CM calls on PM Modi, briefs him on development works in his state

New Delhi, July 28 (UNI) Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here today and briefed him on the strides his state has taken across socio-economic indicators and the near saturation of major welfare schemes. The Prime Minister's Office said in post on X "CM of Assam, Shri @himantabiswa met Prime Minister @narendramodi."

The Assam Chief Minister said on X "I had the privilege of calling upon Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji in New Delhi today. Briefed him on Assam's notable strides across socio-economic indicators and the near saturation of major welfare schemes."

The Chief Minister said that on behalf of the people of Assam, he conveyed anticipation to welcome the Prime Minister on September 8, "a moment that will mark another milestone in our state's development journey."

The Prime Minister will visit Assam on September 8 to attend some official programmes. The Chief Minister also met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and invited her to visit Assam to lay the foundation stone of the upcoming Kanaklata Barua University in Gohpur.

Focus on Op Sindoor's success, rather than raising questions: Rajnath

New Delhi, July 28 (UNI) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today strongly defended Operation Sindoor, urging Opposition members to focus on the mission's success rather than raising questions that undermine national sentiment.

Opening a discussion on Operation Sindoor in Lok Sabha, the Defence Minister said, "The reason behind why Operation Sindoor was launched has been provided earlier and I have also informed the House today."

Without naming Rahul Gandhi Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, the Defence Minister took aim at repeated queries from Opposition members about the number of Indian aircraft allegedly downed during the operation.


Singh said, "Some Opposition members have been asking how many of our aircraft were shot down? I feel that their question does not adequately represent our national sentiments. Not once have they asked how many enemy aircraft our forces shot down. If questions must be asked, it should be whether India destroyed terrorist bases - and the answer to that is, yes".

"I want to tell the Opposition that if you have to ask a question, then ask this question: Was Operation Sindoor successful? The answer is, yes." he asserted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the PUBLIC that my client, Mr. Prabhakar Mestry's father, the **Late Shantaram Dhondu Mestry**, is the owner of **Flat No. 1105, Eleventh Floor**, in the Society known as **“Omkar Sai (S.R.A.) Co - operative Housing Society Limited,”** constructed on land bearing C.T.S. No. **375, 375/1 to 4, 376, 376/1 to 17, 377, 377/1 to 15, 379, 379/1 to 80**, lying and situated at **Village : Vile Parle, Shivaji Nagar, Sai Mandir Road, Vile Parle (East), Mumbai – 400 057**. The flat was allotted by my client's father, Late Shantaram Dhondu Mestry from M/s. M. R. Realtors, to Allotment of Tenement dated 27/07/2016, but my client's father, the **Late Shantaram Dhondu Mestry**, died on June 11, 2010, in Mumbai. And also, my client's mother, Shewanti Shantaram Mestry died on July 06, 2011, at 1, Bhujbal Chawl, Ch. Shivaji Nagar, Sai Mandir Rd., Koldongri, Vile Parle (East), Mumbai - 400057. **Late. Shantaram Dhondu Mestry** and **Late. Shewanti Shantaram Mestry** leaves behind their legal heirs : **1. Smt. Shashikala Anant Panchal** (daughter), **2. Mr. Prabhakar Shantaram Mestry** (son), **3. Mr. Eknath Shantaram Mestry** (son), **4. Smt. Suvarna Ramesh Dabholkar** (daughter), **5. Smt. Sunita Shivaji Mane** (daughter), **6. Smt. Shubhangi Arvind Panchal** (daughter), **7. Smt. Geetanjali Gangadhar Mervekar** (daughter). Following the death of my client's father, the late Shantaram Dhondu Mestry, his 100% share of the aforementioned property passed to his legal heir: **Mr. Prabhakar Shantaram Mestry** (son). However, these legal heirs have provided a no-objection letter regarding the said flat's full share, which is now in the name of their brother. The said flat has been registered in the name of **Mr. Prabhakar Shantaram Mestry**. If any person has any kind of claim, right, interest, or authority, they must submit their written objection within 14 days of the date of publication of this notice and report it to the address below. Otherwise, it would be assumed that no rights or interests exist, and any existing rights will be deemed waived and certified as address such.

Sd/-
Adv. Miss. Amruta Pravin Patel
B.A., LL.B.,
Advocate, Bombay High Court
Off. Add : 003, A 2 Wing, Ground Floor,
Sundaram Lokprabhat CHSL,
Nr. Canara Bank, Bolinj, Virar (West),
Tal : Vasai, Dist : Palghar - 401 303.



MAHAGENCO
Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd.

BTPS
E-Tender Notice No. 81/ 2025-26

Online Tenders are invited from Bhusawal Thermal Power Station for the following supply/works.

Sr. No.	(e-Tender) Rfx No. / Section Name	Tenders Specification	Estimated value of tender /EMD (Rs.)
1	RFX- 3000060095 Coal Handling Plant	Bi-yearly maintenance contract for mechanical maintenance of zone B at CHP 2x500MW BTPS Deepnagar.	Rs.4,30,70,959/- Rs.4,34,200/-
2	RFX- 3000060120 Coal Handling Plant	Work contract for providing & fixing of belt tracking impact kit for transfer points in CHP 2x500 MW Bhusawal TPS.	Rs.2,16,70,000/- Rs.2,20,200/-
3	RFX- 3000060254 Ash Handling Plant	Work of inspection rectification and structure strengthening of various ADPL rack structures along with tanks at AHP C/R & IPH AHP 210 MW unit#3 BTPS Deepnagar.	Rs.52,59,330/- Rs. 56,100/-
4	RFX- 3000060192 Safety	Supply of safety shoes for Employees of BTPS.	Rs.42,42,250/- Rs.45,900/-
5	RFX- 3000059533 Boiler Maintenance	Contract for work of in situ repairs of HP control valves main steam stop valves & isolating valves of Boiler During AOH of Unit-% at 2x500 MW BTPS.	Rs.30,86,272/- Rs.34,400/-

Tender Cost is Rs 1,180/- (Including GST). For details please visit <https://eprocurement.mahagenco.in/>.

Chief Engineer (O&M) , BTPS, Deepnagar.

Rane claims that NCP-SP MLA Rohit Pawar was ready to join BJP in 2019

Ratnagiri July 28 (UNI) Bharatiya Janata Party Minister Nitesh Rane said here today that NCP-SP MLA Rohit Pawar was ready to join BJP in 2019, and he (Rohit) only physically remained with Sharad Pawar.

Rane created a political stir in Maharashtra by revealing that "Yes, Rohit Pawar was set to join the BJP back in 2019."Rane, is in Ratnagiri to attend the foundation stone-laying ceremony for the second phase of development works at the Mirkarwada port in Ratnagiri city. While speaking to reporters he directly targeted Sharad Pawar’s NCP and gave a suggestive warning.

BJP President Ravindra Chavan meets PM Modi

Mumbai July 28 (UNI): :State BJP President Ravindra Chavan paid a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi today in New Delhi.

During the meeting, Chavan briefed the Prime Minister on organizational developments within the Maharashtra BJP, planning of upcoming programs, and the roadmap for the party's growth.State BJP office said that he also presented

a report to the Prime Minister summarizing the party activities carried out during his tenure as BJP Maharashtra’s Acting State President from January to June 2025. This report includes a comprehensive overview of booth-level organizational work, membership drives, training of office bearers, outreach campaigns, and initiatives by the women's and youth wings of the party in Maharashtra.

Congress leader slams Dy CM Shinde

Mumbai July 28 (UNI) Taking potshots at the Bharatiya Janata Party alliance government, the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee President Harshavardhan Sapkal called the Mahayuti administration a stain on Maharashtra, accusing it of having crossed all limits in its lust for power.

“It’s not only the ruling party’s MLAs, office bearers, and ministers who have lost all sense of propriety—Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who once held the Chief Minister’s post, has also lost his grip on reality.

“He has openly supported the dance bar associated with Minister of State for Home Yogesh Kadam, which is the height of shamelessness. If not for public decency, at least have a sense of self-respect,” said Sapkal.Taking aim at the BJP-led government and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, the Congress state president said that a dance bar named ‘Savli’ was being operated in Kandivali, Mumbai, under the name of Home Minister Yogesh Kadam’s mother.



People carry holy water from River Ganga during their pilgrimage in the month of ‘Shrawan’, in Mumbai.

Uddhav Sena submits honey trap evidence to Governor, demands ouster of ministers

Mumbai, July 28 (UNI) : Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena leaders met Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan today, submitted evidence about the honey trap case and asked for the ouster of ministers from the Devendra Fadnavis-led Mahayuti cabinet.

Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena leader Anil Parab submitted many documents and evidence regarding Minister of State for Home Affairs Yogesh Kadam, Minister for Social Justice Sanjay Shirsat as well as some honey trap-related evidence to the Maharashtra Governor.

"We have also complained about Ministers Nitesh Rane and Sandipan Bhumre. The (Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena leader) Sanjay Gaikwad assault case and the gang war in the legislature have brought the legislature into

disrepute. The Governor said that he is aware of the situation and that it is his duty as the Governor to maintain the dignity of Maharashtra," Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena leader Sushma Andhare said."I will discuss this matter with the Chief Minister. We have demanded the resignations of Minister of State for Home Affairs Yogesh Kadam, Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan, Minister for Social Justice Sanjay Shirsat, Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate and Minister of Ports Development Nitesh Rane besides Sandipan Bhumre," Ms Andhare told media persons after meeting the Maharashtra Governor.However, Shiv Sena chief and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde strongly supported MoS Yogesh Kadam, who has been facing political fire for

allegedly running a ladies' dance bar in Kandivali in his mother's name as well as his alleged involvement in the illegal sand mining in Dapoli constituency.

Shinde condemned all allegations and assured Kadam of full backing from the party.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Meenatai Thackeray Cultural Centre in Khed taluka, Shinde said, “Yogesh (Kadam) has no need to worry about these accusations. Shiv Sena and I are firmly with him. He is a dedicated worker. Making baseless allegations or demanding resignation is absolutely wrong. Those who themselves are looters are now calling others thieves. This won't work. Our focus is on development, and we will continue on that path. No matter what conspiracies are played, the Kadam family will always stand

with the people.”

The event was organised as part of a special celebration for senior Shiv Sena leader and former minister Ramdas Kadam’s 73rd birthday.Later on Monday, social activist Anjali Damania reacted to Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's open support to MoS Yogesh Kadam and said, "Eknath Shinde had once said that he closed 50 dance bars. I sent a list of 15 dance bars running in Thane to the Home ministry along with videos and other details. They are still running in Shinde's stronghold of Thane. Once a raid is conducted everything will be revealed about what Shinde says and what the real situation is. If such dance bars run in the name of the mother of the Minister of State for Home Affairs (Yogesh Kadam), that is not good for Maharashtra."

Ganeshotsav starts with traditional Vasapujan ceremony

Pune July 28 (UNI) Additional Commissioner of Police (West Region) Rajesh Bansode during the Vasapujan ceremony of the historic Shrimant Bhausaheb Rangari Ganpati Trust, today urged each volunteer of the Ganesh mandals to work with the same dedication and discipline as police officers to ensure that the festival goes off smoothly.

"The globally renowned Pune Ganeshotsav sees lakhs of devotees every year, but the police force is limited in number. Hence,

each volunteer of the Ganesh mandals should work with the same dedication and discipline as police officers," urged Bansode.The puja ceremony was performed by the officer himself.

Punit Balan (Festival Chief and Trustee of the Mandal), Assistant Police Commissioner Sainath Thombre, Sunil Rasane (Shreemant Dagdusheth Halwai Ganpati Mandal), along with a large number of office bearers and volunteers were present on the occasion.

It may be recalled that the opposition has been mounting political pressure to remove around eight ministers from the Maharashtra cabinet. Pressure to remove Agriculture minister Manikrao Kokate increased after he was caught using a gambling application on his mobile phone in the premises of the state assembly. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has hinted at Kokate's exit.

Minister for Social Justice Sanjay Shirsat is embroiled in controversy after bundles of currency notes were found at his house. Earlier, he was accused of rigging the auction of a hotel which was to be purchased by his son.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Yogesh Kadam has been in trouble after a ladies' dance bar was found to be running in the name of his mother.Minister for Food and Drugs Administration Narhari Zirwal has been accused of lack of communication and poor performance.

Minister of Ports Development Nitesh Rane is always in the news for making controversial statements.Rural Development Minister Jayakumar Gore has courted controversy after allegations made by a woman and School Education minister Dada Bhuse came under a cloud after the decision to make Hindi compulsory since Class 1.

पनवेल महानगरपालिका

ता. पनवेल, जि. रायगड, पिन नं. ४१० २०६

कार्यालय : २७४५८०४०/४१/४२

फॅक्स नं. : ०२२-२७४५२२३३

Email ID : panvelcorporation@gmail.com

जा. क्र. पमपा/जनसंपर्क/१९२५/प्र.क्र.०३/१९९२५४३/२०२५

दिनांक : २८/०७/२०२५

जाहिर निविदा

उपायुक्त, पनवेल महानगरपालिका, पनवेल हे खालील बाबींकरिता जाहिर दरपत्रके सिलबंध लिफाफ्यात मागवित आहेत.

कामाचे नाव :- पनवेल महानगरपालिका कार्यक्षेत्रामधील प्रगतीशील पनवेल शॉर्ट फिल्म (लघुपट) स्पर्धाचे आयोजन करण्याकरिता त्रयस्त संस्थेची निवड करणेबाबत.

नोंदणीकृत संस्थेकडून पनवेल महानगरपालिका कार्यक्षेत्रामधील प्रगतीशील पनवेल शॉर्ट फिल्म (लघुपट) स्पर्धाचे आयोजन करण्याकरिता त्रयस्त संस्थेची निवड करणेकामी पनवेल महानगरपालिकेमार्फत दरपत्रक मागविण्यात येत आहे.

अ.क्र.	कामाचा तपशिल	अंदाजपत्रकीय रक्कम	काम पूर्णत्वाचा कालावधी	अनामत रक्कम	निविदा प्रपत्रकाची किंमत
१.	या स्पर्धेद्वारे जवळपास २०० लघुपट अपेक्षित आहेत.				
२.	स्पर्धेतील सहभागाची अंतिम तारीख ३०/०८/२०२५ रोजी असेल.				
३.	सर्व लघुपटांचे परिक्षण करून घेणे.				
४.	यासाठी या क्षेत्रातील ५ तज्ञ लोकांची परिक्षक म्हणून नेमणुक करून घेणे.				
५.	परिक्षकांचे मानधन देणे.				
६.	लघुपट दाखविण्याकरिता मिनि थिएटरची व्यवस्था करणे.				
७.	परिक्षकांना सर्व लघुपट दाखविणे व त्यांचे योग्य परिक्षण करून अंतिम २० लघुपटांची निवड करणे.	९,७८,२००/-	कार्यादेश दिल्यापासून काम पुर्ण होईपर्यंत.	९,७८२/-	रु.५९० /- (GST सह)
८.	अंतिम २० लघुपटांचे परिक्षण तसेच महानगरपालिकेच्या वरीष्ठ अधिकाऱ्यासमोर सादरीकरण करणे.				
९.	निवडक लघुपटांमधून पनवेल महानगरपालिकेसाठी उच्च दर्जाचे तीन लघुपट तयार करून (१०-१५ मिनिटे) व त्यांचे प्रसारण करणे.				
१०.	पारितोषिक समारंभ आयोजित करणे.				

या कामी अटी व शर्ती खालील प्रमाणे :-

- महानगरपालिका / नगरपरिषदेमध्ये स्पर्धाचे आयोजन केल्याचा अनुभव दाखला / कार्यदेश व पात्रता समर्थनार्थ कागदपत्र, पॅनकार्ड, जी.एस.टी रजिस्ट्रेशन सर्टिफिकेट, संस्था नोंदणी सर्टिफिकेट, मागील ०१ वर्षांचे IT Return, अनामत रक्कमेचा डिमांड ड्राफ्ट इ. कागदपत्र असावे.
- आर्थिक लिफाफा क्र. २ मध्ये निवेदची आर्थिक बोली व सादर करावे.
- याकामी निविदा प्रपत्र रोख रक्कम भरणा करून दिनांक ०४/०८/२०२५ रोजी दुपारी २.०० वाजेपर्यंत कार्यालयीन वेळेत जनसंपर्क विभागात उपलब्ध होतील. तसेच संबंधित सल्लागार यांनी सिलबंद निविदा पनवेल महानगरपालिकेच्या जनसंपर्क विभागात दिनांक ०४/०८/२०२५ रोजी सायंकाळी ५.०० वाजेपर्यंत सादर करण्यात यावी.
- जाहिर निविदा स्वीकारण्याचे अथवा नाकारण्याचे अधिकार निम्न स्वाक्षरीधारक यांना राहतील.
- नमुद केलेले दर हे सर्व प्रकारचे कर व वाहतुक खर्चासह समाविष्ट असावेत

सही/-

(प्रसेनजित कारलेकर)

उपायुक्त,

माहिती व जनसंपर्क विभाग,
पनवेल महानगरपालिका

Monsoon report shows mixed results across eight districts of Marathwada

Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, July 28 (UNI) : The Marathwada region continues to witness varied monsoon performance across its eight districts, with the latest data released yesterday revealing disparities in the distribution of rainfall that could impact agricultural activities and water resources management for the season ahead.


The Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar (formerly Aurangabad) division, encompassing the drought-prone districts of Marathwada, has recorded an overall rainfall of 94.29 per cent of the normal precipitation from June onwards, showing a marginally deficit monsoon pattern that has become characteristic of this agriculturally crucial region in the recent years.

Jalna district has come up as the frontrunner in monsoon performance, recording 120.72 per cent of normal rainfall from June onwards, making it the only district in the division to exceed the normal precipitation levels. The divisional headquarters of Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar follows as the second-best performer with 110.86 per cent of normal rainfall, highlighting relatively favorable monsoon conditions in the northern parts of Marathwada.

Hingoli district ranks third with 97.89 per cent of normal rainfall, performing close to normal levels and receiving 361.9 millimeters against a normal of 369.7 millimeters from June onwards. The rainfall data shows that these three districts have received adequate to above-adequate precipitation to support the agricultural activities, with Jalna recording 335

millimeters against a normal of 277.5 millimeters and Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar receiving 285.8 millimeters against a normal of 257.8 millimeters from June onwards.

Dharashiv district also demonstrates near-normal monsoon performance with 97.4 per cent of normal rainfall, receiving 239.9 millimeters against a normal of 246.3 millimeters, indicating that four out of eight districts in the division are performing at or above satisfactory levels.



महावितरण
महानगरपालिका निविदा अर्ज

ई-निविदा सूचना

कल्याण पूर्व विभागांतर्गत महावितरणमध्ये ई-नोंदणी केलेल्या अनुभवी कंत्राटदाराकडून निम्नलिखित कामाकरिता ई-निविदा मागविण्यात येत आहेत. सदर ई-निविदा कंपनीच्या संकेतस्थळ <http://works.mahadiscom.in./e-Tender/etender> वर उपलब्ध आहेत.

अ. क्र.	निविदा क्र.	कामाचे स्वरूप/कार्यालय	निविदा रक्कम	निविदा शुल्क (जीएसटी सह (नापरतावा))	ईसारा रक्कम (रूपये)
१	काअ/कपूर्वि/२०२५-२६/टी-०१	नादुरुस्त व दुरुस्त झालेले विद्युत रोहित्र, ऑईल ड्रम चे ने/आण व लोडींग/अनलोडींग चे काम कल्याण पूर्व विभागांतर्गत करणे तसेच मुख्य भांडार नेतिवली अंतर्गत कंपनीच्या सामुग्रीची ने/आण व लोडींग/अनलोडींग चे काम करणे.	रुपये १५ लाख	रुपये ११८०/-	रुपये १५,०००/-

निविदा अर्ज वेबसाईटवरून घेण्याचा कालावधी दि.२९.०७.२०२५ ते दि.०८.०८.२०२५ दुपारी १२.०० वाजेपर्यंत

निविदा वेबसाईटवर भरण्याचा अंतिम दिनांक ०८.०८.२०२५ दुपारी २ वाजेपर्यंत

निविदा उघडण्याचा दिनांक ०८.०८.२०२५ दुपारी ३ वाजेपासून पुढे

अधिक माहितीसाठी कार्यकारी अभियंता यांचे कार्यालय, म.रा.वि.वि.क.मर्या., कल्याण पूर्व विभाग, सिद्धीविनायक कॉम्प्लेक्स समोर, कल्याण-शिक रोड, टाटा पॉवर हाऊस जवळ, एम.आय.डी.सी., फेज-१, डोंबिवली पूर्व-४२१ २०३, दुरध्वनी : कार्या.२४३१७९३, E-mail:- eekalyaneast@ho.mahadiscom.in

कार्यकारी अभियंता, कल्याण पूर्व विभाग

STANDARD POST

Indian Space Start-Ups team up to reach new heights

In India’s rapidly evolving space sector, a growing number of start-ups are discovering that collaboration—even with competitors—is a powerful strategy for success.

Particularly in the satellite segment, these partnerships are becoming more common, inspired perhaps by automotive alliances like Renault-Nissan and Toyota-Suzuki.

Notable collaborations include: Kepler Aerospace Pvt Ltd with Astrome Technologies Pvt Ltd

GalaxEye Space with Ananth Technologies
SatSure with Dhruva Space Pvt Ltd
Pixxel with Dhruva Space

Industry experts anticipate that more such alliances will emerge, accelerating innovation and boosting revenue potential.

A.K. Bhatt, Director General of the Indian Space Association (ISpA), emphasised the importance of both domestic and international partnerships for co-development and knowledge exchange.

Suyash Singh, CEO and Co-Founder of GalaxEye Space, underscored the strategic value of such tie-ups. GalaxEye has partnered with Ananth Technologies for its first satellite, which is currently in the assembly, integration, and testing phase.

The satellite is slated for launch by the end of the year.

One of the most recent partnerships involves Kepler Aerospace, a small satellite manufacturer, and Astrome Technologies, which specializes in advanced satellite communication systems across a wide frequency range—from S-band to E-band.

Their collaboration aims to meet the growing demand for high-bandwidth satellite communication through satellite swarm solutions.

Navneet Singh, CEO of Kepler Aerospace, described the two-year MoU as a strategic leap.

“By combining our satellite platform expertise with Astrome’s cutting-edge communication technologies, we’re positioned to deliver superior satellite swarm solutions to the global market,” Singh said.

Astrome CEO Dr. Neha Satak added: “This partnership will accelerate the development of next-gen satellite communication systems for defense, governments, and satellite operators worldwide.”

Under the agreement, Kepler Aerospace will lead satellite bus design and integration, mission planning, deployment strategies, and project management.

Astrome Technologies will focus on communication subsystems, advanced phased-array antennas, satellite-to-ground and inter-satellite data links, secure TT&C systems, and user modem technologies.

This alliance follows Kepler Aerospace’s contract win under the Indian government’s Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) program.

The deal, which includes \$4 million in grants and launch support, will help develop the world’s first autonomous swarming satellite constellation for the Defence Space Agency and HQ-IDS. The launch is scheduled for 2027.

In July this year, Dhruva Space, a full-stack space-tech company, entered into a partnership with Pixxel, a satellite manufacturer and constellation operator. Under the deal, Pixxel will procure solar panels from Dhruva Space for its missions.

Pixxel CTO and Co-Founder Kshitij Khandelwal said: “This collaboration reflects our shared drive for engineering excellence and our commitment to delivering accessible satellite data for global challenges. It’s a key step in strengthening India’s space hardware ecosystem.”

Abhay Egoor, CTO and Co-Founder of Dhruva Space, added: “This isn’t just a hardware deal—it signals to the global market that Indian space-tech firms are ready with flight heritage, scalability, and export capabilities. We’re proud to support another NewSpace leader with reliable, mission-critical power systems.” Previously, Dhruva Space also teamed up with SatSure, an Earth observation and decision intelligence company, to provide a full Earth Observation Satellite-as-a-Service (EOSaaS) offering.

Jammu and Kashmir Witnesses Rapid Upgradation of Rail Tracks and Coaches



(Standard Post Bureau)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link project with Chenab and Anji bridges on 06th June 2025. It is a historic milestone in establishing connectivity between the Kashmir valley and Jammu. Vande Bharat Express train between Katra and Srinagar has become an important mode of transportation on this route.

Track maintenance: Over and above the new train services, opening of this line has made a fundamental change in the ability to maintain rail tracks in Kashmir valley. The railway link has enabled movement of track maintenance machines to the Kashmir valley. Maintenance is now being done with modern machines, unlike manual maintenance earlier. This is leading to significant improvement in track quality.

Increased deployment of track machines: To strengthen track maintenance activities in the Kashmir valley, the deployment of machines has been augmented as follows:

A Tamping Machine has been deployed since early June, 2025. This machine packs the stone chips under the tracks to ensure proper alignment and stability of the tracks. It has so far tamped approximately 88 km of track in the valley. This has improved the ballast cushion and will make the ride smooth.

Two Ballast Cleaning Machines (BCMs) have also been deployed. Ballast is the stone chip collection on tracks. It provides support to railway tracks. These machines are



working in tandem and have deep-screened around 11.5 km track. Cleaner ballast leads to safer operation.

Two additional BCMs were sent to the valley in July, 2025. These machines have undertaken deep screening and have executed approximately 2.5 km of track.

To supplement the tamping and deep screening work by recoupment of ballast, 17 ballast rakes were sent and unloaded in Kashmir valley tracks from ballast depots at Kathua, Qazigund, Madhopur & Jind. Consequently, 19,000 cu m of ballasting was done.

Track Recording Car (TRC) and Oscillation Monitoring System (OMS) runs were also conducted in June, 2025 and July, 2025

respectively. The track quality has been assessed and track stretches requiring attention have been identified.

All these works have significantly improved track quality in the Kashmir valley.

(Tamping machine working in valley section) (Ballast Cleaning Machine working in valley section)

Track upgradation throughout the country: Tracks are being upgraded across the country. Better tracks improve safety and ride quality. By early 2025, 78% of India’s tracks have been upgraded to 110 kmph or more. This number was just 39% in 2014. This higher proportion should be seen in light of the rise in the total length of tracks in



working conditions for track maintenance staff.”

New era of passenger coach upgradation in Jammu and Kashmir

Along with track upgradation, a paradigm shift has happened in the maintenance and upgradation of passenger coaches in Jammu and Kashmir.

Till the opening of Jammu-Srinagar rail link, there was no rail connectivity of Kashmir valley with the rest of the Indian Railway network. The DEMU/MEMU rakes in Kashmir valley could not be brought to the workshop for periodic maintenance and upgradation.

Periodic Overhauling (POH) was being done by transporting bogies from Budgam to Lucknow on road trailers. This was sub-optimal. For the first time, rakes from the valley have been brought to Lucknow through rail for POH.

The condition of all the rakes in Budgam is being improved in a timebound manner. The following rakes are undergoing maintenance and upgradation:

POH of one MEMU rake has been completed. The upgraded MEMU rake is now operational in the valley. POH of another MEMU rake is likely to be completed by the end of July, 2025.

OH of one DEMU rake has been completed at Charbagh workshop. Another DEMU rake is undergoing POH at Charbagh workshop. It is likely to be completed by the mid of August, 2025.

One more DEMU rake is undergoing renovation at Jalandhar shed. It is expected to be made operational by the end of July, 2025.

Four more DEMU rakes have been planned for

upgradation at Charbagh workshop and Jalandhar shed.

The details of the upgradation works being carried out are as follows:

Exterior PU Painting with anti-graffiti of the entire rake, with a new vibrant colour

Fitting of bio tanks in toilets

Fitting of new water raising pumps for proper functioning of toilets

Repairing of seats and replacement with polycarbonate seats

Provision of new standing handles

Renewal of PVC flooring

Buffing of all stainless steel items

Repairing of all windows and ensuring hopper type windows

Ensuring proper functioning of Public Address & Passenger Information System

Provision of adequate power and automatic change over switch panel for supply to water raising apparatus. This will ensure uninterrupted operation of water raising apparatus even in the absence of generator supply in summer season.

Provision of A & C type of mobile charging sockets (with inbuilt short circuit and overload protection) and modular switches for fans Overhauling and renewal of all fans and lights

The upgradation works of passenger coaches in the Kashmir valley will be completed by 31st August, 2025. All rakes in service will be renovated and upgraded within this timeframe. Indian Railways is often called the ‘lifeline of the nation’. With the opening of Jammu-Srinagar rail line and the ongoing upgradation works, it will provide a new lifeline to Jammu and Kashmir.

SC launches Veer Parivaar Sahayata Yojana 2025 in Srinagar

Srinagar, Jul 26 (UNI) The Supreme Court of India today marked a historic step in expanding legal aid to the nation’s armed forces and tribal communities with the formal launch of Veer Parivaar Sahayata Yojana 2025 at the North Zone Regional Conference on “Reaffirming the Constitutional Vision of Justice for Defence Personnel and Tribals”.

The event was organised by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in collaboration with the High Court of

Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and the J&K Legal Services Authority at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

Presiding over the landmark event, Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA, set an inspirational tone with a quote from Kashmiri Sufi poet Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Mahjoor, calling upon the nation to cultivate a “spring of unity, compassion, and justice.” He said,

“This gathering in

Kashmir is not just about technical discussions; it is about national integration and honouring the selfless service of our armed forces.”

Justice Surya Kant described Veer Parivaar Sahayata Yojana 2025 as a “historic milestone” in NALSA’s three-decade-long mission to extend justice to marginalized citizens.

“Our jawans face land disputes, service entitlements, and matrimonial issues, just like any other citizen. But their service conditions make legal

access harder. This scheme is our solemn pledge to stand by them,” he said.

He detailed the three key pillars of the scheme: Dedicated Legal Services Clinics at Zilla, Rajya, and Kendriya Sainik Boards. Trained Nodal Officers and Legal Counsels, including ex-servicemen, to offer timely and empathetic assistance.

Digital mechanisms like online mediation, e-Lok Adalats, and legal portals to ensure quick redressal.

Quoting Article 39A of the Constitution, Justice Kant reminded the gathering, “If we fail to extend this support to our jawans and their families, we fail in our constitutional duty. Just as they safeguard our freedom, we must safeguard their dignity and rights.”

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, the Guest of Honour, praised the initiative, saying it echoes the government’s focus on inclusive justice and digital empowerment. “This is a true representation of ‘Sabka

Nyay’,” he said.

Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli, welcomed the judiciary’s efforts to leverage technology to prioritise and fast-track cases involving defence personnel.

The conference was graced by a strong contingent of Supreme Court judges including, Justice B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India, who arrived in Srinagar earlier today; Justice P.S. Narasimha, Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh.

3 dead, several injured in train derailment in Germany

Berlin, July 28 (UNI).: A regional express train derailed Sunday evening in the southern German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, leaving three people dead and several others seriously injured, local police said.

The accident occurred near the town of Riedlingen when two carriages of the train left the tracks. Local police have established a command center at the scene and deployed a large number of rescue personnel, according to a police statement.

The affected railway line, along with a nearby road, has been closed. The cause of the derailment remains under investigation, the statement added.

The area had been hit by a storm earlier, according to a report by the German Press Agency.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz expressed his condolences following the incident. "We mourn the victims. I express my sympathy to their families," he wrote on the social media platform X.

Egyptian, Qatari FM's discuss humanitarian developments in Gaza

Cairo, July 28 (UNI) : Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani discussed the escalating situation in the Gaza Strip and efforts to secure a ceasefire during a phone call on Sunday.The discussion focused on measures to alleviate the severe humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, according to a statement from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Both ministers reiterated their commitment to the ongoing negotiations, pledging to expedite a comprehensive ceasefire agreement, which is key to the urgent delivery of humanitarian and relief aid into Gaza, and to halt further Israeli actions.

The officials also touched upon developments related to Egypt's hosting of an international conference for Gaza's post-war recovery and reconstruction, part of Arab-Islamic plan for rebuilding the war-torn Strip.

Furthermore, the ministers underscored the importance of sustained coordination between Egypt and Qatar, and agreed to continue mobilizing international support for the establishment of a Palestinian state based on the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Israeli military on Sunday announced a daily 10-hour humanitarian pause in its operations in parts of the Gaza Strip, along with the opening of secure routes for aid delivery.

Also on Sunday, trucks loaded with humanitarian aid began entering the Gaza Strip through the Kerem Shalom border crossing, according to local Palestinian sources.The flow of humanitarian assistance comes amid growing international appeals to facilitate urgent aid delivery to Gaza, where residents continue to face severe shortages of food, medicine, and other essential supplies.

16 killed, 51 injured in truck-bus collision in Ivory Coast

Côte d'Ivoire, July 28 (UNI) :At least 16 people were killed and 51 were injured in a collision between a dump truck and a bus in Ivory Coast, the country's transport ministry said.

"The accident involved a public transport bus and a dump truck with a crane on board. According to preliminary estimates, 16 people were killed and 51 were injured," the ministry said on social media.

According to the transport ministry, the bus was traveling between the city of San Pedro in Ivory Coast and the capital of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou.

The accident occurred on the highway between the cities of Katiola and Niakara in northern Ivory Coast, the ministry clarified.

The victims were evacuated to the regional medical center in Katiola, the authorities have ordered an investigation into the incident, the ministry added.

US scientists planned test to dim sunlight with seawater clouds

Moscow, July 28 (UNI) : A California-based team of researchers, known for an aborted cloud-creation experiment on a retired aircraft carrier last year, is now under scrutiny for their plans to conduct an even larger solar geoengineering project.

The multimillion-dollar initiative, aimed at using saltwater spraying to dim the sun's rays, could have involved cloud formation over an area of ocean larger than Puerto Rico.

But initial testing of the technology was halted due to disagreement from local authorities, Politico reported, citing internal documents.

A group of researchers in California received backlash last year after a canceled experiment on a decommissioned aircraft carrier to test a cloud-making machine, but they were planning a much larger and riskier study of seawater spray equipment that could eventually be used to dim the sun's rays, the publication said.

Although the researchers were initially able to secure government funding for their work and planned to gain access to government ships and aircraft, after the initial test failed, they were forced to admit that they would not be able to secure significant support from local governments, it said.

The publication noted that the researchers had discussed with sponsors and consultants conducting a cloud-making test over an area of about 10,000 square kilometers off the western coast of North America, Chile, or the coast of south-central Africa.

Egyptian, Qatari FM's discuss humanitarian devts in Gaza

Cairo, July 28 (UNI) : Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani discussed the escalating situation in the Gaza Strip and efforts to secure a ceasefire during a phone call on Sunday.

The discussion focused on measures to alleviate the severe humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, according to a statement from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Both ministers reiterated their commitment to the ongoing negotiations, pledging to expedite a comprehensive ceasefire agreement, which is key to the urgent delivery of humanitarian and relief aid into Gaza, and to halt further Israeli actions.

The officials also touched upon developments related to Egypt's hosting of an international conference for Gaza's post-war recovery and reconstruction, part of Arab-Islamic plan for rebuilding the war-torn Strip.Furthermore, the ministers underscored the importance of sustained coordination between Egypt and Qatar, and agreed to continue mobilizing international support for the establishment of a Palestinian state based on the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.The Israeli military on Sunday announced a daily 10-hour humanitarian pause in its operations in parts of the Gaza Strip, along with the opening of secure routes for aid delivery.

Also on Sunday, trucks loaded with humanitarian aid began entering the Gaza Strip through the Kerem Shalom border crossing, according to local Palestinian sources.The flow of humanitarian assistance comes amid growing international appeals to facilitate urgent aid delivery to Gaza, where residents continue to face severe shortages of food, medicine, and other essential supplies.

Thai acting PM says to discuss measures for ceasefire with Cambodian counterpart

Bangkok, July 28 (UNI) : Thailand's acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai told the media today that concrete measures for implementing the ceasefire will be discussed in his talks with the Cambodian side.

The Thai official made the remarks ahead of his flight to Malaysia for discussions on the Thai-Cambodian border issue.

Phumtham said he is expected to meet with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet today afternoon, and the key objective is to reach an immediate ceasefire between the two sides and prevent further harm to civilians.

Hun Manet said yesterday that he will attend the Malaysia meeting.

Japanese minister meets FS Misri, discusses PM Modi's visit to Tokyo

Tokyo/New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) : Japan's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Takehiro Funakoshi on Monday held discussions with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Pramod Kumar Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, on the entire spectrum of the multifaceted India-Japan bilateral relationship, including PM Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to the country later this year.

During the bilateral Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister Dialogue in New Delhi, Misri and Funakoshi reaffirmed the growing importance of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership for peace, prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

"At the Japan-India Vice-Ministerial Dialogue, the two Secretaries confirmed that, in anticipation of Prime Minister Modi's visit to Japan scheduled for this year, they would work to strengthen bilateral relations in a wide range of



areas, including security, economy, and people-to-people exchanges, and would further cooperate, including within the Japan-US-Australia-India framework, towards the realization of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific," read a statement issued by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday evening.

"In addition to bilateral relations, the two Secretaries also exchanged views on regional

situations, and agreed to continue to cooperate closely between the two Secretaries. During the exchange of views with Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office, the two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations," it added.

Misri and Funakoshi exchanged views on political ties, defence and security, economic security, trade and investment, infrastructure cooperation, technology

and people-to-people exchanges. They also exchanged views on global and regional issues of importance.

"The dialogue was instrumental in reviewing progress in various dimensions of our ties, exploring new areas of collaboration and contributing to further deepening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Japan," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated.

Thai, Cambodian leaders meet at Malaysian PM residence to discuss border truce

Kuala Lumpur, July 28 (UNI) Leaders of Thailand and Cambodia met at the Malaysian Prime Minister's residence today to discuss a ceasefire between the two countries.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thai acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai, along with their respective delegations, arrived at the official residence of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who is hosting and facilitating the talks to discuss a ceasefire

on a conflict that broke out along the border of Cambodia and Thailand last week.Before the meeting, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers released a joint statement early this morning, calling on both sides to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from taking any actions that may undermine ceasefire efforts."We are deeply concerned over the ongoing situation at the border areas between the Kingdom of Cambodia and

the Kingdom of Thailand which have resulted in an increasing number of casualties on both sides and destruction of public properties, as well as displacement of a large number of people along the border areas," the statement said.

"We further urge both sides to cease all hostilities, return to the negotiating table to restore peace and stability, and settle disputes and differences by peaceful means, based on the principles of the Charter of

the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter, as well as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and in the spirit of ASEAN family, unity and good neighbourliness," it added.

Armed clashes between Cambodian and Thai soldiers over disputed border areas have entered the fifth day as more than 100 people have been killed or injured with thousands evacuated on both sides, according to figures provided by the two countries.

President Putin depicts Russian navy as pivotal in safeguarding national security, sovereignty

Moscow, July 28 (UNI) : Russian President Vladimir Putin underscored the navy's pivotal role in protecting Russia's sovereignty and national security, as he oversaw its maneuvers, codenamed "July Storm," during Russia's Navy Day celebrations on Sunday.

"Our primary task is to ensure Russia's security and defend its sovereignty and national interests. The navy plays a crucial role in this mission," Putin said.

The large-scale operational maneuvers,

which commenced on July 23, are being conducted simultaneously across multiple regions, notably the Pacific and Arctic Oceans, as well as the Caspian and Baltic Seas, according to the Russian Ministry of Defense.

The "July Storm" exercise involves over 150 warships and support vessels, 120 aircraft, 10 coastal missile systems, 950 units of military equipment, and more than 15,000 personnel, the ministry said.

Putin said that the

exercise draws on lessons learned from the ongoing special military operation in Ukraine. "We will continue to enhance the combat readiness of our surface ships, submarines, coastal units and aviation, equipping them with the latest technologies and weaponry."

He also revealed plans to strengthen the navy's capabilities, noting that five Marine Corps brigades will be upgraded to divisions, with two already scheduled for this year.

"This transformation

will significantly improve the navy's strike power and operational effectiveness," Putin added.

Due to security concerns, this year's main naval parade, traditionally held in St. Petersburg, has been canceled.

"While Navy Day is a festive occasion, given the current circumstances, it is more appropriate to observe it in a combat-ready environment, with the navy demonstrating its operational prowess," Putin explained.

Following the

Yemen's Houthis say to target "all foreign ships" linked to Israel

Sanaa, July 28 (UNI) : Yemen's Houthi armed group said in a statement late Sunday night that it will begin targeting "all foreign ships linked to Israel... regardless of their destination," citing retaliation for what it called Israel's "blockade and starvation" campaign against Gaza."This escalation includes targeting all ships belonging to any company that deals with Israeli ports, regardless of their nationality and wherever they may be, within our forces' reach," Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in the statement aired by Houthi-run al-Masirah TV.

"We warn all companies to cease their dealings with Israeli ports, starting the hour this statement is issued," he said, calling on all countries to pressure Israel to halt its aggression and lift the blockade on the Gaza Strip "if they wish to avoid this escalation."

Earlier this month, the Houthis claimed responsibility for sinking two commercial vessels -- Magic Seas and Eternity C -- in the Red Sea. In 2024 alone, the group has attacked and sunk four ships. In 2023, it seized the Galaxy Leader and detained its crew, who were later released through Omani mediation, though the ship remains in Houthi custody.

The Houthi group, which controls much of northern Yemen, has been targeting Israel and Israeli-linked vessels in the Red Sea since November 2023 to show solidarity with Palestinians, as acts of solidarity with Palestinians and an effort to pressure Israel to end its military operations in Gaza. Enditem

UN N-watchdog team to visit Iran

Vienna/Tehran, July 28 (UNI) : A team of the United Nation's nuclear watchdog group -- the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) -- will visit Iran within the next two weeks, said Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei today.A manual regarding the future of Iran's cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog will be presented, based on a recent parliamentary bill restricting such cooperation, Baghaei said, reports Times of Israel.The bill was passed following Iran's 12-day war with Israel last month, in which Israel targeted Iran's nuclear program.On June 25, the Iranian parliament passed a national resolution ending its cooperation with the IAEA, charging it of political bias, and supplying Israel of critical information regarding its nuclear program.Nonetheless, some scope for talks has opened up recently, with an official from Tehran stating that Iran was willing to allow an IAEA team for technical talks, but not inspections. This was also confirmed by the watchdog chief Rafael Grossi.

US-EU deal does not include lifting US 50 per cent tariffs on Steel, Aluminium

Moscow, July 28 (UNI) : The US-EU deal does not provide for the abolition of US tariffs of 50 per cent on steel and aluminum, but they could be reduced as a result of further negotiations, the New York Times reported, citing a senior US official.European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and US President Donald Trump reached a trade deal on July 27, according to which almost all EU exports to the US would now be subject to tariffs of 15 per

cent. In addition, the European Union has committed to purchasing LNG, nuclear fuel and weapons from the United States.The 50 per cent tariff that the Trump administration has imposed on steel and aluminum globally is not part of the deal, although von der Leyen indicated that they could be reduced as a result of further talks, the publication's source claims.

On April 2, the US leader signed an executive order introducing "reciprocal"

tariffs on imports from other countries. Their basic rate was 10 per cent, and for 57 countries, increased rates were applied from April 9, which were calculated based on the United States' trade deficit with a specific country: so that there would be a balance instead of a deficit.However, on April 9, Trump announced that more than 75 countries had not taken retaliatory measures and had requested negotiations, so for 90 days, that is, until July 9, basic import tariffs of 10% came into effect for them.



A well-designed cooking area has minimal clutter and maximum efficiency. Whether you're redecorating or totally remodelling, we list some of the best ideas for small spaces as we know every inch counts

Choose Pretty Tools

If your cabinets are too cramped to fit all of your kitchen gear, stealthily use the cuter items as decor. For instance, chunky vintage cutting boards or bright colanders can double as artwork. And a row of matching mixing bowls stuck above cabinets looks intentional, not messy.

Try a Drop-Leaf Table

If you yearn for an eat-in kitchen, but a large table just won't fit, consider a foldable option. The leaves flip up so everyone has a spot come dinner time, but tuck out of the way when not in use.

Add a Breakfast Bar

Open space, like the edge of a

counter, windowsill, or kitchen pass-through, magically morphs into extra eating space with a board and a few benches.

Lighten Up

Barbara Westbrook, interior designer and author of Gracious Homes, knows the power of pale hues. She chose Pratt and Lambert's Chalk Grey paint for this kitchen's walls and range hood to brighten the room and impart a sense of openness.

Go with big shelves

Open shelving can offer a ton of flexible storage, but requires a full commitment for it to look stylish. A wall dedicated to shelves looks like a purposeful design statement, but a lowly cart just looks like clutter.



Get Rolling

While you're cooking, a wheeled cart is as helpful as a big island, but can roll out of the way when you're done.

Squeeze in Seating

Even an awkward, narrow nook can comfortably seat six, if you choose efficient built-in benches instead of chairs. Bonus: Extra storage hides under the lovely seats.

Look Up

Hanging pots and pans from the ceiling frees cabinets of bulky equipment and creates visual



interest, too. Designer Jason Grant used a natural timber to



create a rustic look - try a vintage ladder for a similar effect.

(With inputs from good-housekeeping)

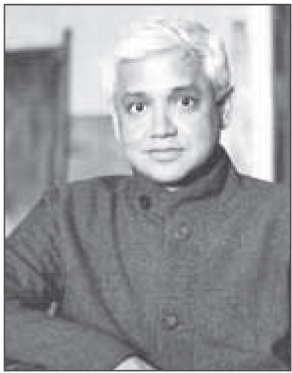
India has always had a rich literary heritage and over the years, the number of Indian and Indian origin authors making their mark in the international field of English writing has increased exponentially. If you enjoy reading and want to expand your repertoire, here are seven Indian authors you must absolutely read this year.

Jhumpa Lahiri

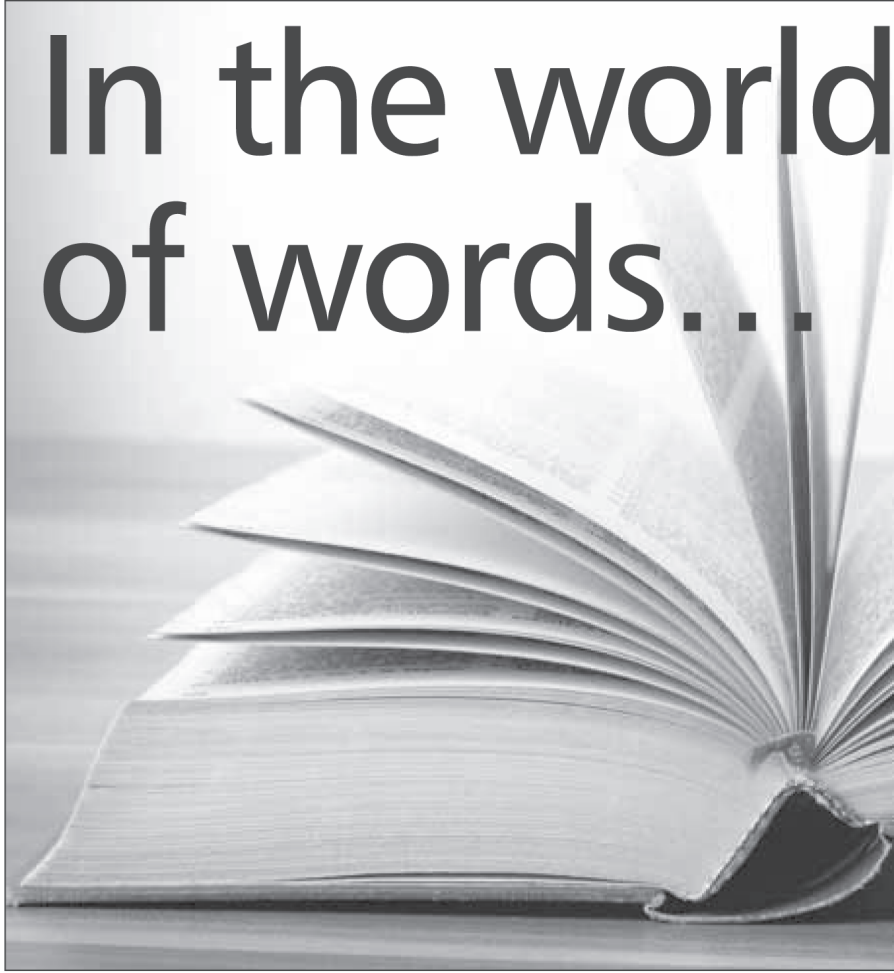


An Indian American author, Lahiri won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2000 for her debut collection of short stories, The Interpreter of Maladies. Her 2013 The Lowland was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize and the National Book Award for Fiction. Drawing from her own life, Lahiri's writing often explores the conflict Indian immigrants feel when adapting to a new life in America.

Amitav Ghosh



Amitav Ghosh is a Bengali writer from India living and teaching in New York. He's the author of some absolutely wonderful literary gems like The Circle of Reason, The Calcutta Chromosome, The Hungry Tide, Sea of Poppies and River of Smoke



(the first two installments of the Ibis Trilogy) etc. I simply love the attention to detail in his books something that literally transports you into a different time and place.

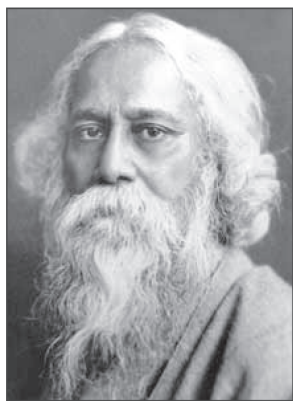
Vikram Seth



An Indian writer and poet, Vikram Seth is an established author in the international literary field. His book A Suitable Boy is the longest single volume novel in the English language and his collection of poems such as Beastly Tales is an important

contribution to the English language poetry Canon.

Rabindranath Tagore



Tagore was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature (1913). Gitanjali (translates to 'offerings of song') is considered to be one of the most beautiful examples of verse. He is also the author of the Indian, Bangladesh and Sri Lankan national anthems. Tagore famously returned his knighthood to the British in 1919 in response to the

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.

Devdutt Pattanaik



A physician turned writer, Pattanaik is a mythologist, author and illustrator. Author of the hugely popular Jaya, Sita, The Pregnant King etc, Devdutt Pattanaik has a huge fanbase in India. His simple yet gripping retelling of Hindu epics, coupled with some absolutely charming illustrations make his books very popular. If you're interested in Hindu mythology, he has to be on your reading list.

Although English has been passed over in India as a colonial tradition, the novels written in English have been deeply expressive, rich and culturally embedded. Check out some of the top selling Indian novels you'll love reading

Ruskin Bond



Born to English parents in pre-independent India, Ruskin Bond continues to live in the country of his birth. He is the author of children's classics such as The Room On The Roof, The Blue Umbrella, Ghost Stories From The Raj, Funny Side Up etc. His writing draws heavily from his own life living in the hills in north India and his rich experiences there. A must read author for all age groups!



Khushwant Singh

Lawyer, politician, journalist and novelist, Khushwant Singh did it all. Best known for his biting wit, sarcasm and acid laced opinions, he is the author of internationally acclaimed books like Train To Pakistan, The Company Of Women, Truth, Love and a Little Malice etc Khushwant Singh is definitely an interesting addition to any reading list.

FINGER LICKING GOOD



Whether you love cozying up with a well-written memoir or just want a little juicy entertainment this weekend, these are the ones that you need to get on your shelf

The discovery of a new recipe usually involves an interesting background story. In many cultures the art of cooking and eating is central to national identity and heritage. Take one classic Julia Child recipe, add a tablespoon of food blogger Molly Wizenberg and stir in some of Marco Pierre White's reminiscences, now simmer: before you can utter the word diet, you'll have cooked up a sexy literary feast well worth a nibble.

MY LIFE IN FRANCE BY JULIA CHILD

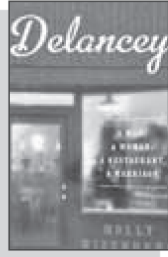
Julia Child may be better known as the person who introduced average



Joe America to the art of French cooking, but here she recounts her trials and tribulations of becoming a successful chef, moving to France, enrolling in cookery classes at Cordon Bleu and immersing herself in French culture. She doesn't boast or brag, simply retells in pages of pure enjoyment how she got to her revered position in the nation's hearts.

DELANCEY BY MOLLY WIZENBERG

Closing each chapter with a mouth-watering recipe, Molly Wizenberg discloses in this book what happened when her husband left school without graduating to become a pizza chef. Years of pizza research later, they are still married and their love for pizza's still going strong. Beware: you'll develop cravings for melted mozzarella on crispy pizza dough while devouring this book!



THE DEVIL IN THE KITCHEN BY MARCO PIERRE WHITE

This book simply oozes sex appeal, which cannot come as a total



surprise, given that the world's first celebrity chef and bad boy of the kitchen, Marco Pierre White, is the perpetrator. Recounting his UK upbringing in a working class environment to the moment when he transformed himself into one of the most revered and feared chefs in the industry, White gives us valuable insight into why he's so temperamental.

MIRIAM'S KITCHEN BY ELIZABETH

EHRLICH

Published in the late 1990s, Elizabeth Ehrlich's memoir recounts how she spent her formative years being quite undecided about her Jewish heritage. Cooking family favorites with her mother, a Holocaust survivor, provides Elizabeth with the chance to hear stories and anecdotes that are not just part of immediate family history but also important to Jewish history as a whole.



TOAST BY NIGEL SLATER

Remembering the reason for his life-long passion for food and cooking, chef Nigel Slater recounts the early 1960s, when British cuisine was the laughing stock of the world. Following his mother's untimely death, Slater's father hired a housekeeper. The housekeeper teaches young Nigel the basics of cooking and the rest, as they say, is British food legend.



A TIGER IN THE KITCHEN BY CHERYL LU-LIEN TAN

This is a delicious tale of growing up in Singapore and emigrating at 18 years of age to New York, a personal journey as aromatic as Singapore Noodles that explores not just Tan's love for food and cooking, but also her culture and family heritage.



MASTERING THE ART OF SOVIET COOKING BY ANYA VON BREMZEN



Anya grew up in Russia, where food was scarce, before moving to Philadelphia and Queens, New York, where the von Bremzen family were overwhelmed by the sheer variety of ingredients available. Her mother begins to cook enormous Russian family dinners and, while preparing and eating such culinary luxuries, Anya, her grandmother and mother exchange stories about their family's history.

In all Indian final, Divya Deshmukh scripts history, lifts Women World Cup title title

Chennai, July 28 (UNI) :In the game of 64 squares and 32 pieces, Indian women GMs created history by winning the gold and silver, with Divya DeshMukh annexing the World Cup title defeating her compatriot Koneru Humpy in a tense tie-breaker today at Batumi, Georgia.

At the age of 19, Divya is the youngest and the firat Indian to win this title and was not content with this and expressed her more hunger for success in future.

With the 1-2 finish the two Indian stars--Divya and Humpy--qualified for the 2026 Candidates Tournament, alongside the second and third-place finishers — GM Humpy Koneru and former Women’s World Champion Tan Zhongyi. With this title

triumph, Divya, who turned emotional after edging out Humpy in the third tie-break contest, became third Women’s World Cup Winner and in the process became the women Grand M a s t e r . P r e s i d e n t Droupady Murmu, Chess icon Vishy Anand congratuled her title triumph and said it augurs well for more emergence of kroe Women GMs in the future. Her resilience paid off, Anand, five time world title winner, said.

Divya Deshmukh, the 19-year-old International Master from Nagpur, Maharashtra, etched her name into chess history by defeating Grandmaster Humpy Koneru 1.5–0.5 in the tiebreaks to annexe the Women’s World Cup crown in a tense finish.

She now follows in the footsteps of GM Alexandra

Kosteniuk (2021) and GM Aleksandra Goryachkina (2023) as the third-ever winner of this prestigious title. In the two 15+10 rapid tiebreak games, Divya showed both resilience and composure.

After missing a golden opportunity in the first game, which ended in a draw, she brought elite-level precision to the second. There, she equalised comfortably as Black, then seized control as Humpy slipped under time pressure—clinging the crown in emphatic fashion. With this remarkable win, Divya Deshmukh is now not only the 2025 Women’s World Cup Winner, but also one of the most exciting young stars in the world of chess.

After the final game, an emotional Divya embraced her mother before giving a

short interview:

“It’s hard for me to speak now. Of course, this definitely means a lot, but there is a lot more to achieve, so I am hoping that this is just the start,” she said. With this triumph, Divya not only secured the USD 50,000 first prize, but also automatically earns the Grandmaster (GM) title—the highest title in chess.

In doing so, she becomes one of the very few players in history to achieve it by winning a major FIDE event rather than collecting the usual three GM norms and 2500 rating.

Reflecting on this, Divya shared: “I still need time to process it. I think it was fate, me getting the Grandmaster title this way, because before this I didn’t even have one norm, and now I’m a Grandmaster.”

Rwanda, Sierra Leone stay on track for Women's T20 World Cup

Botswana, July 28 (UNI) : Rwanda and Sierra Leone have kept their ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 hopes alive, surviving the eight-team Africa Division 2 Qualifier in Botswana.

The two teams finished in top spot in their respective four team groups, before going on to win their semi-final matches to seal their spots for the next round.

Both sides qualified for the semi-finals after perfect records in the group stage, with Rwanda then defeating the hosts by 35 runs and defending 99 to qualify, and Sierra Leone defeating Malawi, chasing 101 with 28 balls to spare.

Rwanda went on to claim tournament bragging rights, beating Sierra Leone by 51 runs in the final,

led by Gisele Ishimwe's 44 (28) and Belise Murekatete 2/9 (3).

The two progressing teams join Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe in the Division One tournament, held in Namibia in September.

The top two teams of that tournament will then move forward to next year’s Global Qualifier.

Hosts Botswana went on to finish third after defeating Malawi in a playoff match. Mozambique and Cameroon took fifth and sixth places respectively, and Lesotho claiming seventh after defeating Eswatini.

England retain European title with dramatic win over Spain

Basel (Switzerland), July 28 (UNI) : England cemented their place in history with a stunning penalty-shootout victory over Spain to retain their European title at Euro 2025.

Chloe Kelly, who scored the iconic winner at Wembley in the final of Euro 2022, was the hero again as she converted the decisive spot-kick to seal victory after Spain had missed three in a row, with

Lajong, Rangdajied set to clash in Shillong derby

Shillong, July 28 (UNI) : Arch-rivals Shillong Lajong FC and Rangdajied FC will lock horns tomorrow in the Durand Cup 2025 group stage match, at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here in Meghalaya.

It is expected to be an intense affair as both sides will be battling in the Shillong Derby. Shillong Lajong began their Durand Cup 2025 campaign with a 6-0 victory over the Malaysian Armed Forces on Saturday.

Shillong Lajong FC Head Coach Birendra Thapa hopes the team can maintain its "incredible" form against their city rivals Rangdajied FC.

“Every match is important and a must-win game for us. Rangdajied is a strong side with many young and talented players, much like our own team. I believe it will be a good contest. A win will take us one step closer to the knockout stage,” Thapa said.

Shillong Lajong, last year's semi-finalists got the better of Rangdajied FC with a 2-0 victory enroute with the help of goals from current captain Kenstar Kharshong and Ronney Wilson, who has made the move to FC Goa.

This win was important as Shillong Lajong made a run into the semi-finals where they went down to eventual champions NorthEast United FC.

The Red Dragons were ruthless in the first group E match thrashing Malaysian Armed Forces 6-0 with Phrangki Buam and Everbrightson Sana scoring twice and Treimiki Lamurong and Deibormamae Tongper added a goal apiece to the scoreline to earn the young side an emphatic victory.

Gambhir snaps at England draw drama

Manchester, July 27 (UNI) : India head coach Gautam Gambhir weighed in on England’s visible frustration after Indian batsmen chose to continue batting despite a handshake being offered by Ben Stokes late on Day 5 of the drawn Old Trafford Test. Responding to the controversy, Gambhir said,

“If someone is batting on 90 and the other on 85, don’t they deserve a hundred? Would England have walked off if one of their own was on 90? If someone has the opportunity to get their first Test century, you must allow him to take it. It’s unfortunate they felt that way- I have nothing more to say. Both guys deserved their tons and thankfully,

they got them.” This firm stance by the Indian camp underlines the grit and individual milestones that defined India’s late resistance.

When asked about changes in the XI, including Karun Nair missing out and Anshul Kamboj debuting, Gambhir clarified, “We don’t drop anyone. We pick the XI we feel can do the job. We felt a left-hander at No. 3 would help against this attack, and Sai Sudarshan did his job. Anshul was picked because his bowling suits overcast conditions, and he can bowl long spells.”

In a broader comment on the game, Gambhir supported the idea of allowing substitutes in cases of clear, visible

RCB captain Rajat Patidar meets Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, honoured for cricket achievement



Bhopal, July 28 (IANS) : Indian cricketer Rajat Patidar, under whose leadership Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) won its first IPL title this year, called on Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav at his official residence in Bhopal on Monday.

Chief Minister Yadav welcomed Indore-based cricketer Patidar, who became the first cricketer from Madhya Pradesh to lead an Indian Premier League (IPL) team. The duo held a brief discussion.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister also honoured him with an incentive of Rs 5 lakh for his remarkable achievement in cricket and contribution to Madhya Pradesh cricket. It was a courtesy meeting, the Chief Minister’s office said in a statement.

"Today, I met the RCB

captain and our Indore cricketer Rajat Patidar. He was awarded an incentive amount of Rs 5 lakh," the Chief Minister wrote in a post on X, adding, "Your outstanding performance has brought pride to Madhya Pradesh. Wishing you a bright future".

Rajat Patidar (32) entered his name in the history books on June 3 by becoming the first Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) captain to win the Indian Premier League (IPL) title. Under Patidar’s leadership, RCB defeated Punjab Kings by six runs in the IPL 2025 final played at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Patidar is also the first cricketer from Madhya Pradesh to captain a team in an IPL final. His leadership, especially his calmness during IPL, was appreciated by the senior cricketers after RCB won

the title. Due to his phenomenal domestic season and his performances in the 2022 IPL season, Patidar was named in the One-Day International (ODI) squad for the series against South Africa in 2023. He was also included in the team for a series against New Zealand; however, he didn't get the opportunity to play.

Patidar finally made his ODI debut on December 21, 2023, against South Africa, where he scored 22 runs in 16 balls. Later, he made his Test debut on February 2, 2024, in the second match of the series against England, scoring 32 and 9 runs in the first and second innings, respectively. Before it, Patidar led Madhya Pradesh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024-25 and was the second highest run scorer of the tournament with a total of 428 runs.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant are the best team in Indian football: Deepak Tangri

Kolkata, July 28 (UNI) : Mohun Bagan Super Giant midfielder Deepak Tangri highlighted the Kolkata giants’ rich legacy over the years and believed it was a dream come true for him to represent the Mariners.

Tangri joined MBSG in 2021, and he has been a crucial player for the club. He has featured in 66 Indian Super League (ISL) games and won two League Shields and two ISL Cups during his four-year stint with the club. The 26-year-old, born in Punjab, began his football career at Chandigarh FA and then joined the MBSG youth academy. Tangri shed light on his journey from the youth setup to the senior team. “Earlier, I was at the academy in Durgapur, and then we used to come to the MBSG ground. I’d look at the dressing room, the jerseys, and see the fans at the MBSG ground; it gave me this feeling that

I wanted to play here as well,” Tangri said. “I was at Chennaiyin FC, and when I got an offer from MBSG, my parents and I were happy. It was also my dream to wear that jersey and to represent it, because football has a whole different passion here in Kolkata. MBSG are the best team in Indian football, the fans are the best, and the atmosphere is amazing,” he told MBSG TV. From donning the green and maroon jersey to experiencing consistent success

with Mohun Bagan Super Giant, Tangri has experienced the ultimate high for a boyhood fan-turned professional, the highlight of which came last season when the Mariners did the double.

Jose Molina, took charge of the team ahead of the 2024-25 season and Tangri underscored how the Spaniard’s key tweaks made so much difference. “Our coach has been a top-level player and coach, so he always tells us what’s right and what’s wrong. And when it comes to discipline, he always emphasises it,” he shared. “During the preseason under the coach, we had really good training with the ball. There was a lot of improvement, especially in midfield, with more passing, through balls, and long balls. For that, the coach made all midfielders train on how to look back before receiving the ball and improve their vision and passing. That helped a lot throughout the season,” he added. Tangri highlighted MBSG’s strong bench strength and individual bonding between the players as a key factor in their historic double-winning 2024-25 campaign. Speaking in context, the midfielder remarked, “Even if some people are just sitting on the bench and others are playing, it’s all the same.

Like, the coach knows if one player is out, someone else will step up and do the same job. That’s why we win trophies.”

Printed, Published and Owned by
Mohammed Shafi
Printed at Modi Print & Co.,
Gala No. : MFL-IF, Devidayal Industrial Estate,
Near Brittanina Factory, Darukhana, Reay Road (E),
Mumbai - 400 010. Maharashtra and
Published from # Room No:106, Ground Floor,
Flat No.40, Malvani Gate, Near Collector Compound,
Near Quadri Masjid, Malad (W), Mumbai-400 095

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WR Celebrates Bandra Station Mahotsav with Great Fervour and Enthusiasm

The Station Mahotsav celebrated the rich heritage and cultural identity of the magnificent Bandra station



(Top Row - 1st & 2nd Photos) Shri Pradeep Kumar, Additional General Manager of Western Railway, Shri Pankaj Singh, Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central Division (WR), Smt. Kaiya Arora, Director of Postal Services, Mumbai Region unveiling the Special Commemorative Cover. (2nd Row) The dignitaries alongwith the winners of the "Art & Craft" and "Vlog Making" competitions.

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, July 28 : Western Railway celebrated the "Bandra Station Mahotsav," a vibrant event, honouring Bandra station's rich heritage and cultural identity. The grand celebration event on 26th July, 2025, commenced with the unveiling of a Special Commemorative Cover by Shri Pradeep Kumar, Additional General Manager of Western Railway, Shri Pankaj Singh, Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central Division (WR), Smt. Kaiya Arora, Director of Postal Services, Mumbai Region alongwith other dignitaries. The unveiling of the Special Cover was a poignant moment, a fitting tribute to the iconic station's historic legacy. The Bandra Mahotsav also showcased cultural extravaganza, including Talent Shows with mesmerising dance performances and energetic karaoke acts, etc. which added to the festive atmosphere. The highlight of the day was the eagerly awaited prize distribution ceremony for the "Art & Craft" and "Vlog Making" competitions. The dignitaries felicitated the talented participants for their artistic and innovative skills as well as engaging storytelling expertise. These creative works

beautifully captured the spirit of Bandra station and its vivid enthusiasm. Bandra Station Mahotsav blended heritage celebration with community participation, creating lasting memories of the occasion, filled with nostalgia, creativity and camaraderie. The Mahotsav which began in June 2025, concluded with a breathtaking finale as hundreds of helium balloons soared into the sky, perfectly capturing the joyous spirit of the celebration. Bandra railway station is one of the finest suburban railway stations of Mumbai. Renowned for its distinctive architecture, it serves as a crucial transportation hub for lakhs of daily commuters. It has been notified as a Grade I heritage structure in the Government of Maharashtra's heritage regulations of 1995. More than a century old railway station, it is an excellent architectural blend of Victorian Gothic and the Vernacular style, which stands out as a prominent landmark on its site. Bandra Station was opened on 28th November, 1864. However, the magnificent heritage Bandra Station Building was built 24 years later in 1888.

Vigilant Approach Must Be Adopted to Ensure Safety : Sanjay Kumar Srivastava

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, July 28 : South Central Railway (SCR) has reiterated the need for a vigilant approach to uphold safety in train operations. A comprehensive review meeting was held today, 28th July 2025, at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad, chaired by Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR. The meeting focused on critical safety aspects across the zone and was attended by all Principal Heads of Departments. Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) from Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur, and Nanded joined the proceedings through video conference.

The General Manager directed officials to prevent water accumulation at Road Under Bridges (RUBs) during the monsoon season. He emphasized the installation of adequate pumping systems and water gauges. Safety measures at Level Crossing (LC) gates were also reviewed, with special attention to vulnerable locations. Officials were instructed to conduct regular inspections, counsel staff, and strictly enforce safety protocols.

To ensure safe and uninterrupted train operations during the monsoon, intensified patrolling was mandated across vulnerable tracks, bridges, and zones with heavy rainfall. The General Manager emphasized that all officers and staff must remain on high alert to prevent unsafe conditions. The availability of fire safety items such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers was reviewed in detail. Officials were advised to maintain adequate inventory to meet any emergency.

Trains affected due to doubling of Neemuch-Ratlam section

(Standard Post Bureau)
Ratlam, July 28 : Four trains of Ratlam division will be affected with immediate effect due to the major block proposed for doubling of Dhodhar-Kachnara-Daloda rail section under the doubling work of Neemuch-Ratlam section of Western Railway Ratlam Division. Till July 30, 2025, train number 69231 Ujjain Chittorgarh MEMU running from Ujjain will be short terminated at Ratlam

station and will remain cancelled between Ratlam and Chittorgarh. Train No. 69232 Chittorgarh Ujjain MEMU running from Chittorgarh till 30th July, 2025 will be short originated from Ratlam and will remain cancelled between Chittorgarh to Ratlam. Train No. 19818 Yamuna Bridge Ratlam Express running from Yamuna Bridge till 29th July, 2025 will be short terminated at Neemuch Railway Station

and will remain cancelled between Neecham to Ratlam. Train No. 19327 Ratlam Udaipur City Express running from Ratlam till 30th July, 2025 will run from Neecham and will remain cancelled between Ratlam to Neecham. For updated information on train stoppages, arrival/departure times and other updates, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Union Heavy Industries Minister Kumaraswamy releases Nathabhau Shewale's book



(By Rajesh undi)
Mumbai, July 28 : The book 'Svatantrya Amritmahotsav' written by Janata Dal Secular, Maharashtra State President Nathabhau Shewale was released in Delhi by Union Heavy Industries Minister and former Chief Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy.

On the occasion of the Amrit Jubilee Year of Indian Independence, I have tried

to highlight the very important fundamental events and decisions that have contributed to the all-round development of India in the last 75 years in this book. I am sure that this book will be useful in creating a guiding and guiding perspective for all sectors of the country, including social, economic, agricultural, educational, industrial and national security. Nathabhau

Shewale expressed this opinion about this book. On the occasion of this book, Respected H. D. Kumaraswamy Sahab congratulated Nathabhau Shewale and expressed his best wishes. Former Karnataka Minister Bandappa Kashepuram, senior leaders Lalit Runwal and Adv. Sangramsinh Shewale and many other dignitaries were present on this occasion.

Mahavitaran honored with ‘Business Titans’ Award for excellent performance in Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Yojana

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, July 28 : Mahavitaran was honored with the 'Radio City Business Titans Award' on Saturday (July 26) in Phuket (Thailand) for the effective implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Free Electricity Scheme, which has provided free electricity to household electricity consumers for about 25 years. Chairman and Managing Director Mr. Lokesh Chandra congratulated the officers and employees of Mahavitaran for this honor.

A conference was organized in Phuket for the directors and representatives of about 150 private companies and public sector undertakings that promote the goal of 'Developed India' and a strong economy in the future. In this conference, the award was presented to Mahavitaran by veteran actor Mr. Boman Irani. Mahavitaran's Director (Human Resources) Mr. Rajendra Pawar and Special Duty Officer Mr. Mangesh Kohat accepted the award. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, has announced the Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Free Electricity Scheme to provide free electricity to 1 crore household consumers in the country. Residential families are being empowered to generate their own electricity with an investment of about



Mahavitaran was honored with the 'Radio City Business Titans Award'. Director Mr. Rajendra Pawar and Special Duty Officer Mr. Mangesh Kohat accepted the award on behalf of veteran actor Mr. Boman Irani.

Rs 75,000 crore. Under the guidance of Chief Minister and Energy Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis and Minister of State for Energy Mrs. Meghna Sakore Bordikar, and under the leadership of Additional Chief Secretary Mrs. Abha Shukla and Chairman and Managing Director of Maharashtra Distribution Company Mr. Lokesh Chandra, the scheme is being effectively implemented. So far, solar energy projects have been implemented on the roofs

of 2,42,714 household consumers in Maharashtra, with a capacity of 919 MW. So far, a subsidy of Rs 1,685.42 crore has been given to the consumers participating in this scheme. Taking note of this second notable national achievement in the country, Mahavitaran was felicitated. Under the Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Scheme, household consumers have the opportunity to get about 120 to 360 units of

electricity free of cost every month through rooftop solar energy projects of 1 to 3 kW capacity. A subsidy of Rs 30,000 for one kilowatt, Rs 60,000 for two kilowatts and a maximum of Rs 78,000 for three kilowatts and above is being provided directly. Loan facilities are available from various banks at concessional interest rates. A subsidy of Rs 18,000 per kilowatt for housing societies, housing complexes and up to 500 kilowatts for common use is being provided up to a maximum of Rs 90 lakh.

Mamata alleges BJP-EC coordinated effort to introduce NRC in Bengal

Kolkata, July 28 (UNI) : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today lashed out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Union government, accusing them of orchestrating a "conspiracy" to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in West Bengal with the Election Commission of India (ECI) as a "partner." She made the remarks during a protest rally in Birbhum district, marking the launch of the Trinamool Congress' (TMC) weekly agitation program against what it calls a targeted harassment of Bengali-speaking people in BJP-ruled states. The Chief Minister's accusations come amid the ECI's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, a routine but rigorous process to verify voter data. Banerjee, however, suggested the exercise was a veiled attempt to implement NRC in the state — a contentious and politically charged issue in West Bengal. "As long as I am alive, I will never allow the NRC

to be implemented in Bengal. There will be no detention camps built on our soil — not now, not ever. If anyone dares to tamper with the names of our people or attempts to erase their identities, they must be prepared to face the consequences," she said. "Are you ready to hear the voices of our mothers, our sisters, and our cultural communities when they rise in peaceful, united resistance? Their strength is not to be underestimated," she added. During her speech, the Chief Minister alleged that Bengali-speaking workers, particularly those whose accents resemble that of Bangladeshi nationals, are being harassed in several BJP-ruled states. She specifically named Haryana, Assam, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Odisha as states where such discrimination is rampant. "Many Bengalis migrated from East Pakistan and became Indian citizens. Their accent is no reason to question their identity," she said. "I am not against any language. But I will

not tolerate attacks on the Bengali language or its speakers." Banerjee also urged migrant workers from Bengal — many of whom travel to other states for employment in sectors like construction, textiles, and hospitality — to return home, promising livelihood assistance and job opportunities within the state. The NRC and CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) have remained flashpoints in the ongoing political standoff between the BJP and the TMC, with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee emerging as a staunch critic because she has consistently denounced both initiatives as instruments of exclusion and communal polarisation. The NRC issue first gained national attention with its implementation in Assam, a BJP-ruled state, where over 1.9 million people were excluded from the final list published in 2019. Critics, including Banerjee, have long argued that NRC, coupled with the controversial Citizenship Amendment

Act (CAA) passed in 2019, discriminates against Muslims and can be misused to target linguistic and religious minorities. West Bengal, with its large population of Bengali-speaking Muslims and Hindus — including many who migrated from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) during Partition and afterwards — is particularly sensitive to such efforts. Responding to Banerjee's charges, Suvendu Adhikari, the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly and a key BJP leader, criticised the Chief Minister for what he called baseless allegations. "Instead of creating panic and division, the Chief Minister should focus on creating jobs in Bengal. If there were enough opportunities here, lakhs of people wouldn't have to migrate elsewhere for work," he said. Adhikari also dismissed the claims of targeted harassment as "political theatre" aimed at diverting attention from governance failures in the state.