

IN BRIEF

Governor congratulates Chess Champion Divya Deshmukh

(Standard Post Bureau)
Vijayawada, July 28 : Governor S Abdul Nazeer congratulated Divya Deshmukh for winning the FIDE Women's Chess World Cup 2025. In a message here on Monday, the Governor said: "I congratulate Ms. Divya Deshmukh, who created history by emerging victorious in the finals at the FIDE Women's Chess World Cup-2025 Championship held in Batumi, Georgia, over her compatriot Ms. Koneru Humpy. I also congratulate Ms. Koneru Humpy, India's highest-rated woman player and a dominant force in women' chess, the runner-up of the FIDE Women's Chess World Cup 2025. The all-Indian FIDE Women's Chess World Cup 2025 finals will be remembered as a landmark moment for Indian chess."

People happy with Alliance government: Minister

Kakinada, July 28 (UNI) Minister for Labour Vasamsetti Subhash said today that people are very happy with the present government headed by Chandrababu Naidu and it was clearly evident to him during the door to door visit and personal interaction with the people. As a part of 'Suparipalanalo tholi adugu' programme, when he visited Nelapartipadu and Bapanaiah cheruvu villages today, Subhash said people of all sections greeted him expressing their satisfaction over the present government. "The government was going ahead giving equal priority for development and the welfare and the people's problems were solved without delay", he added. The Minister said that the previous YSRCP government destroyed the state administrative fabric beyond repair and people are now convinced of the genuineness of the Chandrababu government. He said the government would implement the Annadata sukhibhava, free RTC bus travel to women in August thus fulfilling the promises made during elections, despite facing financial crunch. Leaders of alliance parties, mandal presidents and secretaries, Booth and cluster incharges accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Gottipati calls for consumer awareness on 'Smart meters'



(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, July 28 : Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar underscored the critical need to raise public awareness about smart electricity meters. Gottipati made it clear that no smart meters have been installed for agricultural connections in Andhra Pradesh, affirming that the rollout is restricted solely to industrial and commercial consumers. The Minister directed the DISCOMs to proactively educate people, clarifying the smart meter

policy and dispelling any misinformation or apprehensions around the technology. Gottipati who conducted a comprehensive review meeting participated by APEPDCL CMD I. Prudhvi Tej, to assess power supply within the APEPDCL jurisdiction, emphasised that misconceptions circulating on social media must be addressed through structured outreach efforts. He called on officials to engage directly with consumers, providing accurate information on

where and why smart meters are being deployed ensuring that any doubts are resolved before installations proceed. Addressing infrastructure concerns, the Minister expressed concern about supply disruptions and instructed officers to proactively tackle low voltage issues. He inquired about the status of the RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme) works, and directed that local contractors be engaged to accelerate project execution.

AP, Singapore discuss cooperation in Green Energy, Data Centre Development

Singapore, July 28 (UNI) : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu met Singapore's Minister for Manpower and Minister-in-charge of Energy and Science & Technology in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Dr. Tan See Leng, today to discuss enhanced collaboration in sectors such as green energy, data centres, logistics, and housing. During the meeting, held as part of his second-day visit to Singapore, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu highlighted Andhra Pradesh's major initiatives in green energy. He sought greater cooperation from Singaporean firms in projects related to green hydrogen, transmission corridors, and port development. He emphasised the need for Singapore's participation in establishing data centres and elaborated on the state's rapid expansion of its port infrastructure. Recognising Singapore's global strength in logistics, the Chief Minister called for its support in implementing best practices in the ports and logistics sectors in Andhra Pradesh. He also underscored the importance of Singapore's involvement in human resources, science and technology, and trade collaboration.

The Minister also reminded officials that central funding for Phase-II of RDSS will be sanctioned only after successful completion of Phase I. He emphasized that smart meters should be installed after receiving affirmative consumer feedback. Officials reported that the power supply is well aligned with demand, and emphasized that in nine out of eleven agriculture-focused districts, nine hours of continuous electricity is being reliably supplied to farming consumers. Officials also briefed the Energy Minister on the progress of the PM Surya Ghar scheme noting that Eluru leads in implementation, followed by Visakhapatnam, West Godavari, and East Godavari. Acting on directions from Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the Energy Minister instructed officials to ensure that at least 10,000 Surya Ghar solar connections are provided per constituency under the scheme.

Home Minister should take responsibility for Pahalgam attack: Gaurav Gogoi

New Delhi, July 28 (UNI) Congress Deputy Leader Gaurav Gogoi today asserted that Home Minister Amit Shah should be held accountable for the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, and cannot deflect responsibility onto J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Speaking during the discussion on Operation Sindoor in the Lok Sabha, Gogoi said: "The Home Minister comes and says that everything is well arranged. The backbone of terrorism has been broken. Yet, Uri happens, Pulwama happens, and Pahalgam happens. In the end, who takes responsibility? The Lieutenant Governor of J&K? No. If responsibility has to be taken, then Hon'ble Home Minister, it is you who must take the responsibility." He also said that all the blame for the Pahalgam attack was placed on the tour operator, with the claim that the operator took tourists to Pahalgam without permission and without informing the government. He questioned this logic of "evading responsibility", asking how such an argument could be justified. He further pointed out that 100 days have passed

'VIPs should visit Tirumala only once a year for convenience of common devotees'

Tirumala, July 28 (UNI) For the convenience of common devotees, former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu today suggested that VIPs should visit Tirumala only once a year to have darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy. Speaking to the media in front of the temple after darshan of Srivaru along with his family members, Naidu said that the space and time available for darshan of the Hill God is limited, and despite the good arrangements made by TTD made for the devotees. "In this context, if VIPs visit Tirumala along with their family only once in a year, there will be no problem to the temple management," he said. He informed that all public representatives should follow this in the larger interests of the common devotees. Venkaiah also suggested that the donations presented by the devotees should be spent mainly to dharmic programmes and the benefit of the devotees. Governments should not intervene in the temple funds, he added.



EAM Jaishankar speaks with new South Korean FM Choties

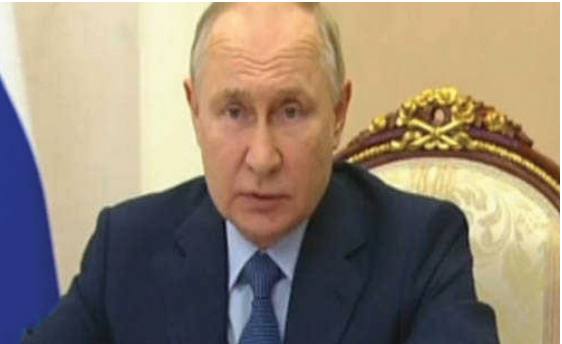
External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today spoke with newly-appointed South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, and discussed ways to strengthen India-South Korean relations. Cho Hyun was appointed as the new Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea on July 18. EAM Jaishankar said in a post on X: "Good 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-Myeong's delegation of special envoys to India, led by former prime minister Kim Boo-kyum. 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.

The engagement came in the wake of the meeting between Prime Minister Modi and South Korean President Lee Jae-Myeong on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in Canada, on June 17. Following the impeachment and removal from office of President Yoon Suk-yeol, Lee Jae-Myeong of the Democratic Party was elected president in a snap election on June 3, 2025. He was sworn in the next day, June 4.

Central team reviews PMKSY projects in Manipur

Imphal, July 28 (UNI) A central team led by Dr Krishan Kumar, Managing Director, NHIDCL, Government of India, visited Bishnupur district today to review the progress of projects under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), with a special focus on the Extension, Renovation, and Modernisation (ERM) of the Loktak Lift Irrigation (LLI) Project.

During the visit, Krishan Kumar held a review meeting with the Deputy

Commissioner of Bishnupur, Pooja Elangbam, along with officials including the State and District Nodal Officers of PMKSY (ERM – Loktak Project).

K. Kiran Singh, Additional Chief Engineer-I, WRD, provided a detailed briefing on the ongoing works, especially the Loktak Lift Irrigation Project, which was approved in 2022 under PMKSY-AIBP by the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of

Jal Shakti.

The central team assessed key components of the project, including headworks, pumping infrastructure, and canal systems, and reviewed the overall progress made over the past five years. Discussions also covered project timelines, bottlenecks, and the measures required for timely completion.

The central team, which also included Dr. S.S. Singh, Scientist-D (HG), Central Ground Water

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 waived 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., along with 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.

Lokesh seeks partnership with SMU’s CARE AI Lab and NUS

Singapore/Hyderabad, July 28 (UNI) : Education, IT, and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh shared a bold vision for the future of education and skill development during a high-level roundtable meeting in Singapore today.

Addressing a session, titled 'Skills to Competencies: Accelerating Workforce Transformation', with top leaders from Singapore’s top universities and institutions in attendance, Minister Nara Lokesh discussed how the youth can be better equipped for a rapidly changing world.

At the outset of the session, Minister Lokesh reiterated that. “In today’s fast-changing world, traditional degrees are no longer enough. We need to build not just technical skills, but also the ability to adapt, innovate, and solve real-world problems.”During the discussion, Minister Lokesh apprised the delegation of the vision of the state government and said that, “AP Govt is trying to transition from educating for jobs to educating for lifelong competency and

adaptability.”

He further said that “With our digital skilling infrastructure and globally benchmarked reforms, Andhra Pradesh stands as a ready-for-partnership platform for Singapore and ASEAN knowledge ecosystems.” “Let us co-create, experiment, and scale workforce solutions that serve not only our regions but set global standards for future skills and mobility,” he added.

The minister further underlined that Andhra Pradesh is revamping its university curricula, introducing future-focused courses in AI, Blockchain, IoT, and building Skill Universities based on successful Singaporean models like NTU and SUSS.

He also stressed the need for industry-academia partnerships, praising Singapore institutions like SMU and SUTD for aligning education with real-world needs. He proposed similar collaborations in Andhra Pradesh to co-design curriculum, internships, and research programs.Concluding the session, the Minister seized the opportunity to

invite SkillsSG Ventures to help tailor skilling programs to Andhra's industry demands. He further expressed interest in partnering with SMU’s CARE AI Lab and NUS to boost AI research, innovation, and global exposure for students through exchange programs and joint research.During the discussion, he praised Singapore’s models of lifelong learning, AI research, and industry-integrated education, noting that Andhra Pradesh is already setting up Skill Universities and AI Innovation Hubs in line with global trends.

The roundtable session was attended by respected academic leaders, including R. Rajaram, Registrar, National University of Singapore; Associate Vice President Sia Siew Kean, Nanyang Technological University; Prof. Pradeep Reddy, Singapore Management University; Chair Prof. Rajesh Elara Mohan, SUTD; Dr Yap Meen Sheng, Singapore University of Social Sciences; Mr Chenh Hong Siang, Directors at Skills SSG Ventures.

Link with industries to improve quality of engineering education: JNTUK VC

Kakinada, July 28(UNI) JNTUK vice chancellor Prof CSRK Prasad has called upon the teachers to make changes in the formulation of the syllabus under the new education policy and develop the linkages with industries to improve the quality of engineering education.

Participating as the chief guest at the week-long faculty development programme(FDP) on the subject 'leveraging OBE for continuous quality improvement in engineering education' here today, Prasad explained the importance of outcome based education.

He said teachers by improving their teaching methodology can promote practicable thinking and research interest.

Faculty development programme (FDP) coordinator and former vice chancellor Prof GVR Prasadaraju explained in detail the importance of outcome based education. He called upon the teachers to concentrate on research and project based teaching.

Andhra Pradesh Cracks Down on Industrial Alcohol Diversion: Tightens ENA/RS/Ethanol Monitoring

(Standard Post Bureau)

Vijayawada, July 28 :In a decisive move to curb the misuse and illegal diversion of Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA), Rectified Spirit (RS), and Ethanol, the Andhra Pradesh Prohibition & Excise Department on Friday held a statewide video conference with all distillery officers.

The meeting was chaired by Excise Commissioner Nishanth Kumar and Enforcement Director Rahul Dev Sharma. Officers were given clear directions to enforce strict monitoring at all distillery units to prevent any form of diversion of alcohol meant for industrial or potable use.

They were instructed to ensure proper safety and surveillance of distillery premises, including the uninterrupted functioning of CCTV cameras.

It was stressed that no blind spots should exist in the premises, and outgoing employees must be properly frisked by security personnel.

Daily stock reconciliation was mandated, with instructions to verify that all containers leaving the



distillery are properly sealed and locked. Officers were also directed to conduct regular sampling of ENA to maintain quality standards and to personally inspect the denaturing of RS/Ethanol meant for industrial purposes. Furthermore, officers were told to regularly visit industrial units receiving alcohol and verify their records to ensure there is no misuse or diversion for spurious liquor manufacturing.

Principal Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena Leads Government’s Regulatory Push.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh, under the close supervision of Principal Secretary for Excise and GAD, Mukesh Kumar Meena, has taken a proactive role in strengthening regulatory oversight and enforcement systems. Meena has

emphasized the importance of accountability, transparency, and technological integration in the monitoring process. His regular reviews and coordination with enforcement teams have added significant momentum to the ongoing crackdown.

He has also directed officials to maintain seamless coordination between departments, streamline surveillance infrastructure, and plug loopholes in the movement and end-use of industrial alcohol.

His strategic guidance is enabling the state to build a robust and compliant system, both at the production and consumption ends.

AP’s Crackdown Draws National Attention

This enforcement push comes in the wake of a major crackdown by the department, particularly the recent Palakollu spurious liquor case, where 36 individuals were arrested and over 2,200 litres of diverted spirit were seized along with counterfeit liquor bottles, labels, and packaging materials. Investigations revealed a well-organised network

involving spirit procured under the guise of industrial use—such as for hand sanitizer manufacturing—but diverted for spurious liquor production. Two repeat offenders confessed to sourcing ethanol through a T e l a n g a n a - b a s e d pharmaceutical firm that had misused its RS-III license and temporary Covid-era permissions. Supporting materials like empty liquor bottles, brand labels, and caps were sourced from vendors in Mumbai, indicating the interstate scale and sophistication of the network.

Andhra Pradesh’s firm action has triggered national attention, leading to discussion regarding effective regulation of Alcohol meant for Industrial use.The state’s enforcement efforts have now become a model for others to emulate.

Supreme Court Judgment Empowers States“

The issue of jurisdiction over industrial alcohol had gained prominence after the rollout of the GST regime, with the Centre asserting control over its taxation and regulation.

Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy : An embodiment of ethical leadership and visionary development : Eulogizes by APPSC Former Chairman Prof. Y. Venkata Rami Reddy

(Standard Post Bureau)

Tirupati, July 28 : Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy’s unwavering commitment to honesty, integrity and public service serves as a beacon for current and future generations in India. As we navigate the complexities of contemporary governance, let us draw inspiration from his legacy, striving to emulate his dedication to ethical leadership and visionary development, observes Prof. Y. Venkata Rami Reddy.

Delivering the 3rd Neelam Sanjiva Reddy Memorial Lecture, organised by the Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India, in collaboration with the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, SV University, Tirupati, Prof. Venkata Rami Reddy explores that understanding the agrarian nature of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, as the first Chief Minister prioritised rural development and agricultural advancement and effectively implemented policies aimed improving irrigation facilities, providing subsidies for farmers and promoting modern agricultural techniques keeping in view of boosting agriculture productivity as the Rice bowl of Annapurna state in India. The construction of pioneering irrigation projects like Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailem dams really the testament to visionary planning and execution of his holistic economic development.

In a move that exemplified his commitment to high ethical standards in



Prof. Y. Venkata Rami Reddy, Former Chairman, AP Public Service Commission and Member, UPSC delivered the 3rd Neelam Sanjiva Reddy Memorial Lecture and received the Neelam Sanjiva Reddy Visishta Ratna State Award, instituted by AGRASRI, Tirupati.



public life from Sarpanch to Rashtrapathi, Prof. Venkata Rami Reddy explains that Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy announced on the eve of India’s 30th anniversary of Independence that he would move out of the opulent Rashtrapathi Bhavan to a smaller residence and take a 70 per cent pay cut. This gesture was symbolic of Reddy’s commitment to austerity and empathy for India’s

improverised masses.

Chief Guest Prof. Ch. Apparao, Vice-Chancellor of Sri Venkateshwara University said that the Sri Venkateswara University, founded with a vision by Dr. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, has produced many distinguished academicians in its 70 plus years history and is now flourishing as a prestigious university not only in the backward districts of

Royalaseema but also in the country and abroad.

Dr. Justice G. Yethirajulu, former Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Administrative Tribunal and former Judge of AP High Court, who presided over the program, said that there is a great need for the State and Central Governments, the awardees, philanthropists and Sri Venkateswara

University to provide adequate financial and infrastructural support to the AGRASRI organisation, which organises Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy Memorial Lecture and State Awards programmes every year in a befitting manner in memory of his laudable services to the state and the country, as role model policy-maker.

The following state

awards for the year 2025 were presented by the Chief Guest: Dr. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy Vishishta Ratna to former Chairman of Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission Prof. Y. Venkatrami Reddy; Nyaya Shiromani to former Judge of Andhra Pradesh High Court Dr. Justice B Sesha Sayana Reddy; Vidya Shiromani to former Vice Chancellor of GITAM University Prof. S. Dayananda; Vaidya Shiromani to renowned Ayurvedic Physician Dr. G V Purnnachand.

On this occasion, the guests unveiled a Special Souvenir published by AGRASRI in honor of Dr. Neelam Sanjeevareddy State Awardees.

The program began with a welcome address by Prof. B.V. Muralidhar, Head of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, SVU and Dr. D. Sundar Ram, Director of AGRASRI explained the Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy Memorial Lecture and the objectives of the state awards.

Mr A. Malleswara Rao, Retired Director of All India Radio, read out the Messages sent by the Governors and dignitaries of various states and the biodata information of the awardees.Mr D. Sai Kumar, Vice President of AGRASRI, proposed the vote of thanks at the ceremony, attended by Prof. P. Murali, former Vice-Chancellor of SV University, Smt. D. Bharathi Sundar, Co-founder and President of AGRASRI, prominent figures of Tirupati city, academicians, lawyers, faculty and students of various Departments of Sri Venkateswara University and other Colleges.

Drones distributed to farmer groups on 80 pc subsidy: Minister

Vijayawada, July 28 (UNI) In a pioneering initiative to ease the burden on farmers, the Chandrababu Naidu headed government is providing drones to farmer groups on 80 pc subsidy, said Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu.

The Minister today launched an agriculture-purpose drone at the Nimmada camp office, near here on Monday, examined its functionality, and distributed it to farmers from Narendrapuram village, Nandigam Mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Agriculture Minister stated that integrating technology into agriculture helps reduce labor costs and saves time. "It takes just seven minutes for a drone to spray

pesticide over one acre, while manual spraying takes nearly two hours," he explained.

The Minister urged every farmer to adapt to emerging technologies and highlighted that the use of drones reduces not only farming costs and speeds up operations, but also supports crop growth, helps in monitoring pest control, and ultimately increases yield.The Minister mentioned that the Central Government is implementing the ‘Namo Drone Didi’ Scheme to promote drone usage in agriculture. On this occasion, a brochure was also released. Agriculture Department officials Trinatha Swamy, Jaganmohan Rao, and Sreekanth were among those present at the event.

HMC, Alisha's Learning Institute unite to spread awareness about Hepatitis

Eluru, July 28 (UNI) On the occasion of World Hepatitis Day, ASR Homeopathic Medical College, in collaboration with Alisha's Learning Institute for Scholarly and Homeopathic Advancement, Pithapuram, spearheaded a series of awareness activities under the global theme, "Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down" in Tadepalligudem today.

These initiatives aimed to educate students and the wider community about the critical importance of liver health and the prevention of hepatitis.

To foster awareness among students, a dynamic poster presentation completion was organized, where participants showcased their creative and informative posters centered on this year's compelling theme.

This was complemented by a highly successful national webinar.

The highlight of the national webinar was the address by Dr. K.S. Somasekhara Rao, a distinguished Senior Gastroenterologist at Yashoda Hospital. Dr. Rao delivered a comprehensive awareness session on liver diseases, emphasizing key messages from his 'Save the Liver' presentation.

He highlighted that the liver, which performs over 600 vital functions is crucial for health, yet hepatitis remains the world's 7th leading cause of death.

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

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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.



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)

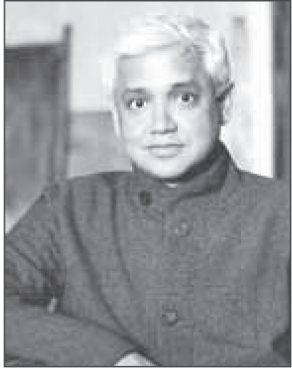
India has always had a rich literary heritage and over the years, the number of Indian and Indian origin authors making their mark in the international field of English writing has increased exponentially. If you enjoy reading and want to expand your repertoire, here are seven Indian authors you must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

Jhumpa Lahiri

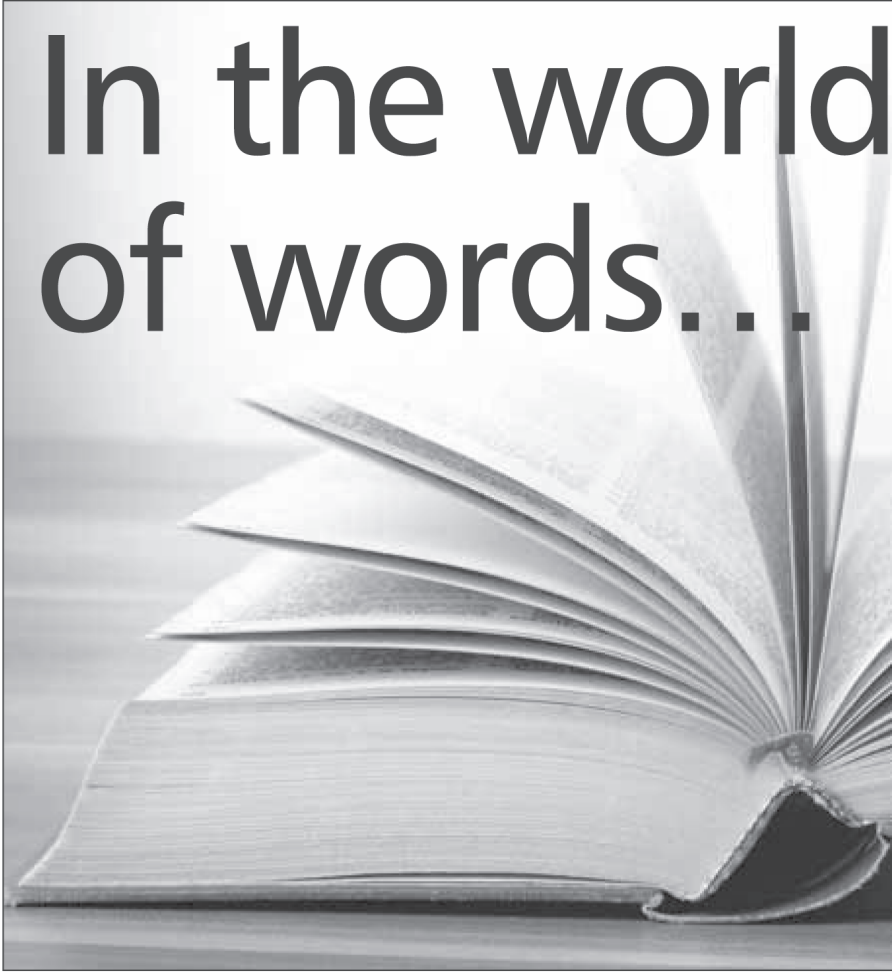


An Indian American author, Lahiri won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2000 for her debut collection of short stories, The Interpreter of Maladies. Her 2013 The Lowland was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize and the National Book Award for Fiction. Drawing from her own life, Lahiri's writing often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

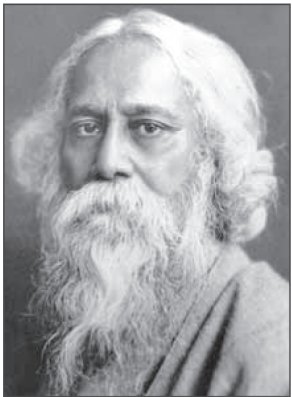
Vikram Seth



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



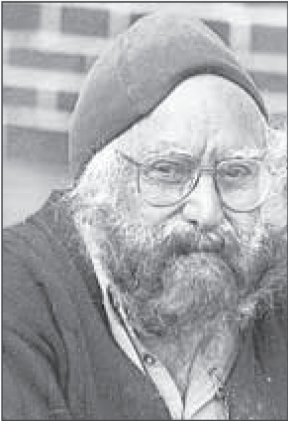
A physician turned writer, Pattanaik is a mythologist, author and illustrator. Author of the hugely popular Jaya, Sita, The Pregnant King etc, Devdutt Pattanaik has a huge fanbase in India. His simple yet gripping retelling of Hindu epics, coupled with some absolutely charming illustrations make his 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

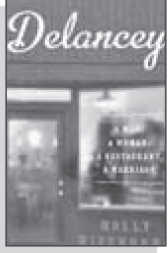
Julia Child may be better known as the person who introduced average



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

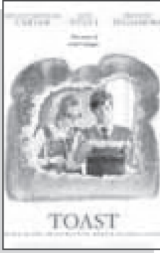
EHRLICH

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 first 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 Master. President Droupady Murmu, Chess icon Vishy Anand congratulated 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 injuries. “Absolutely. If the umpires and match referee agree it's serious, there should be a rule for it. Especially in a tightly fought series like this — imagine playing with just 10. That would be unfair,” he said.

On the decision to promote Washington Sundar to No. 5, Gambhir said, “He was in good form. With Rishabh unavailable, it was an opportunity to slot him in at five. We always knew what form he was in. There's not even an inch of surprise about what he did today — and I believe this is just the start for him.”

When asked about the No. 3 conundrum after Karun and Sai's rotation, Gambhir stressed that it's not about individual scores. “We look at partnerships. If No. 3 contributes to a stand, he's done his job. Sai is a phenomenal talent. You can't judge players game by game. He's 23, on his first tour of England, and still managed a brilliant 50 and 60. We have to be patient — these boys are the future of Indian cricket,” he said.

Gambhir reaffirmed his belief in results over narratives. “You're asking someone who only believes in results. We're still 2-1 down in the series, but I believe we can level it 2-2. That would be a great achievement,” he stated.

Speaking about captain Shubman Gill's rise, Gambhir said the dressing room never doubted his talent. “Those who doubted him only talk about cricket, they don't understand it. Even if he hadn't performed, we knew the kind of quality he has,” he said. “He's living up to his talent and expectation. And this narrative around captaincy pressure? You can't see any of that when he bats. He walks in as a batter, not a captain.”

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.”

BIS Hyderabad Organizes ManakManthan on Indian Standards for Public Bus Transport Services and Guidelines



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, July 28 :The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Hyderabad Branch Office, in association with Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC), conducted a ManakManthan on the Indian Standard IS 19225:2025 – Public Bus Transport Services – Guidelines on 28th July 2025 at Bus Bhavan, Hyderabad.

The session was attended by Shri Muni Shekar, Executive Director of TGSRTC, along with senior officials and Heads

of Departments from TGSRTC. The standard was presented and explained in detail by Shri RakeshTanneeru, Joint Director, BIS Hyderabad, and Shri ShivamSoni, Member Secretary of the concerned Standards Formulation Committee.

The discussion focused on various aspects of the standard including the provision of feeder services, parking infrastructure at terminals, adoption of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), multimodal integration, and

promotion of sustainable urban mobility. Senior officials from TGSRTC provided valuable suggestions based on practical field experience.

The objective of the ManakManthan was to gather stakeholder feedback to enhance the practicality and applicability of the standard. This initiative reflects BIS's commitment to developing inclusive and implementable standards that contribute to better public transport services and urban infrastructure.

Temporary augmentation of ECoR trains

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, July 28 : In order to clear extra rush of passengers, East Coast Railway has decided to augment the following trains with additional coaches as detailed below: -

The train No. 20837 Bhubaneswar- Junagarh Express will be augmented with one Sleeper Class coach from 01.08.2025 to 10.08.2025 and in return direction the train No. 20838 Junagarh-Bhubaneswar Express will be attached with one Sleeper Class coach from 02.08.2025 to 11.08.2025.

The train No.20809 Sambalpur-Nanded Super-Fast Express will be augmented with One 3rd AC and One Sleeper Class coaches from 01.08.2025 to 31.08.2025 (on Nominated Days) and in return direction the train No.20810 Nanded- Sambalpur Super-Fast Express will be augmented with One 3rd AC and One Sleeper Class coaches from 02.08.2025 to 01.09.2025 (on Nominated Days).The train No. 58506 Visakhapatnam-Gunupur Passenger will be augmented with one (01) Sleeper Class Coach from 01.08.2025 to 31.08.2025 and in return direction the train No. 58505 Gunupur-Visakhapatnam Passenger will be augmented with one (01) Sleeper class Coach from 01.08.2025 to 31.08.2025.The train No. 58501 Visakhapatnam-Kirandul Passenger will be augmented with one (01) Sleeper class Coach from 01.08.2025 to 31.08.2025 and in return direction the train No. 58502 Kirandul-Visakhapatnam Passenger will be augmented with one (01) Sleeper class Coach from 02.08.2025 to 01.09.2025.

Alok Tripathi appointed as DRM Khurda Road Division, ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Bhubaneswar, July 28 : Alok Tripathi, a 1988-bath Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, has taken over the charge as the new Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Khurda Road Division under the East Coast Railway.Tripathi has taken the charge from H. S. Bajwa, who served the Khurda Road Division with dedication and commitment.Prior to current appointment, Tripathi served as Executive Director (Freight Marketing) at the Railway Board, New Delhi.With a career spanning over two decades, he brings with him vast administrative and operational experience in various key positions across Indian Railways.Tripathi has held several notable assignments, including General Manager at the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), and served on deputation with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).His earlier roles include Assistant Operations Manager (AOM) at Ahmedabad, Divisional Operations Manager (DOM) at Vadodara and Area Railway Manager (ARM) with Western Railway.He also served as Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Sr. DCM) at Rajkot and Senior Divisional Operations Manager (Sr. DOM) at Rajkot, Vadodara and Ratlam Divisions.

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



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, 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

smooth and safe operation of trains under their watch.

Their timely actions and proactive approach averted possible operational hindrances and upheld the safety standards of the railway network.While presenting the awards, Funkwal commended their commitment and the critical role played by railway personnel working in the field.“Our frontline staff — including Track, signal & OHE Maintainers, Loco Pilots, Technicians, and Station Managers — are the backbone of our daily operations. Their vigilance and dedication are what keep our network running efficiently and safely,” he stated.

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.

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.