

IN BRIEF

Saving tigers is protecting soul of forests : Stalin

Chennai, July 29 (UNI) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin today said by saving tigers the soul of forests are protected.

In his message on International Tiger Day, he said "Tamil Nadu roars with pride."

"With 306 tigers as per NTCA, this success rests on the shoulders of our forest staff and anti-poaching teams who guard critical habitats across tough terrains", he said.

"To boost forest conservation, 1947 field posts have been filled, forces are being upgraded with modern gear, technology, and dedicated veterinarians", Mr Stalin said. "Habitats are being revived by removing invasives and improving forest health. The

Tamil Nadu Forest and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (TNWFCCB), a specialised unit, has been formed to curb organised wildlife crime", the Chief Minister said in X. "In saving our tigers, we are protecting the soul of our forests", he added.

Railway gets new DRM

Chennai, July 29 (UNI) : Mr Shailendra Singh, an officer of the 1995 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers (IRSSE), today assumed charge as the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Southern Railway, Chennai Division.

Mr Shailendra Singh brings with him a wealth of experience spanning key technical and administrative roles across Indian Railways.

He has previously served as Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM) in the Secunderabad Division and as General Manager at RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL), Secunderabad, according to a Railway release. His technical background includes significant contributions in Railway Signalling Systems, Testing and Commissioning of Signalling equipment, and Project Engineering. An alumnus of Government Engineering College (GEC), Jabalpur, Singh holds a Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering. Shailendra Singh succeeds B. Vishwanath Eerya as the DRM of Chennai Division.

PM Modi slams Cong for lack of support to Op Sindoor, asserts India's resolve against terror

New Delhi, July 29 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today strongly defended Operation Sindoor and slammed the Congress for failing to support India's armed forces.

Making a statement in Lok Sabha during the debate on Operation Sindoor the Prime Minister said that while the international community backed India's actions, the Congress did not extend the same support at home.

"India's bravery received global support, but sadly, not from the Congress," Modi said.

The Prime Minister highlighted that out of 193 countries, only three stood by Pakistan during the operation. "No country opposed India's measures to safeguard its national security. In fact, we received widespread support from across the world and no world leader told India to stop the Operation," he said.

Taking a direct aim at the Congress, Modi said, "The courage of our soldiers was questioned by the Congress. Right after the attack, instead of standing with the nation, they began asking, 'Where is Modi's 56-inch chest?'" He accused the opposition of politicizing the



tragic Pahalgam terror attack and undermining the morale of the armed forces by repeatedly questioning the intent and execution of Operation Sindoor.

"You may gain headlines with such comments, but you will never win the hearts of the people," he added.

Modi also recounted his interaction with US Vice President J D Vance during the operation.

"On the night of May 9, the US Vice President tried to contact me for over an hour while I was in an important meeting with our armed forces. When I returned his call, he warned

of a massive Pakistani offensive. I made it clear if Pakistan initiates an attack, they will pay a heavy price. By morning,

India had already dealt a decisive blow to their military capabilities," he said. Reiterating India's uncompromising stance on national security, the Prime Minister outlined three clear principles driving Operation Sindoor--India will respond to terror attacks on its own terms, in its own way, and at a time of its choosing, nuclear threats or blackmail will no longer deter India and there will be no distinction between governments that

support terrorism and the masterminds behind such attacks. He emphasized the coordination and synergy between the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force during the operation, stating that their unified effort "shook Pakistan to its core."

In a sharp rebuke, Modi said the Congress has increasingly aligned its rhetoric with that of Pakistan.

"India is moving forward with self-reliance and strength, but Congress seems to be depending on Pakistan for its talking points," he said, triggering loud protests from

opposition benches. The Prime Minister also recalled Congress's scepticism following previous surgical strikes, saying, "They demanded proof. And when presented with evidence, they claimed they had also conducted surgical strikes."

"There were instances of terrorism in past as well. Then the terror masterminds used to be stress free. Now, they spend sleepless as they know that India will come and kill them. From Sindoor to Sindhu, we acted against Pakistan," said PM Modi.

The Prime Minister said that during Op Sindoor, for the first time the world saw the strength of Made-in-India. "Made-in-India weapons exposed Pak's weapons.

Our forces demolished terror bases. We proved that India won't bow to Pakistan's nuclear blackmailing. Their air bases are still in the ICU," he said, adding that in 22 minutes, Indian forces avenged April 22. "What happened in Pahalgam on April 22 was cruel. The way terrorists killed the people after asking their religion was the heights of cruelty...I am here to show the mirror to the people who can't see the side of India", he added.



Mamata Banerjee's post on social media triggers ...

A day after the Delhi police rejected Mamata Banerjee's claim that a Bengali-speaking woman and her child were assaulted by their personnel, the West Bengal Chief Minister today challenged the Delhi Police claiming that the video was real. "I spoke about that child yesterday (Monday). They were taken from one police station to another, one after another. I had mentioned it in the meeting yesterday itself — check the record. I had said they would be threatened, and that was exactly what had happened. We want those who were 'attacked' to return.

(See on page 2)

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta calls for mass movement



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today called for turning the "Delhi ko Kude se Azaadi" campaign into a mass movement from August 1 to August 31 to make the national capital cleaner and more beautiful. In a post on social media platform 'X' (formerly Twitter), Gupta said that Delhi had created history today.

(See on page 4)

US uses Iranian nuclear program as excuse for confrontation ...



Tehran's nuclear program and uranium enrichment are just an excuse for the United States to target Iran, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday. "All their talk about nuclear issues, [uranium] enrichment, human rights, and such things are nothing but excuses.

(See on page 5)

Mitchell Santner to lead NZ in Latham's absence



Mitchell Santner will lead New Zealand in the opening Test against Zimbabwe starting tomorrow in Bulawayo, stepping in for regular skipper Tom Latham, who has been sidelined with a shoulder injury. Santner, the Black Caps' white-ball captain, takes over red-ball leadership duties after a strong outing in the recent T20I Tri-Series in Harare,

(See on page 7)

SC slams TN govt for 'Fraud on System' in Cash-for-Jobs Scam

New Delhi, July 29 (UNI) The Supreme Court came down heavily on the Tamil Nadu government, accusing it of attempting to derail the trial in the infamous cash-for-jobs scam involving former State Minister V. Senthil Balaji.

The court observed on Monday that the State appeared to be intentionally delaying the trial by naming around 2,000 individuals, many of them poor job seekers, as accused in just two cases.

A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi made scathing remarks while hearing a plea challenging the clubbing of multiple supplementary charge sheets with the main charge sheet in one of the corruption cases related to the scam.

Calling it a "fraud on the system," Justice Surya Kant remarked, "Poor persons who were coerced by your Minister or by his henchmen to pay something between Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 2 lakh, you are more keen to prosecute them so that in the entire lifetime of the Minister, the trial never comes to an end! That is your modus operandi!" The court questioned the rationale behind implicating job seekers as accused rather than focusing on the alleged masterminds behind the scam. It asked the State to clarify who the brokers/middlemen were.

Five TN fishermen arrested by SL Navy, Stalin urges EAM to secure their release

Chennai, July 29 (UNI) : In yet another instance, five Tamil Nadu fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy today for fishing in their territorial waters, even as Chief Minister M K Stalin, expressing deep anguish over the continuance of such incidents, urged External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S Jaishankar to take diplomatic steps to secure their release along with their boats.

Police said the five fishermen, hailing from Rameswaram in Ramanathapuram districts, were fishing near Neduntheevu on the high seas, when they were arrested by the Lankan Navy personnel for crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and fishing in their waters.

The fishermen had ventured into the sea last night when they were arrested this morning and their mechanised boat was seized by the Lankan Navy and taken to Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, expressing serious concern over the continuing arrests of fishermen, Mr Stalin immediately dashed off a letter to Dr Jaishankar urging him to take diplomatic steps to secure their release taking into account the gravity of the situation and the emotion distress caused

to their family members.

In a Demi-Official letter to EAM, copies of which were released to the media here, the Chief Minister said this is the fourth incident this month alone and currently 68 fishermen and 235 fishing boats are in the custody of Sri Lanka.

"I write with a deep sense of anguish over the continuing and unabated apprehension of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan authorities", he said

"Earlier this morning, the Sri Lankan Navy arrested five fishermen from Ramanathapuram District, along with their mechanised fishing boat", he said.

In a separate instance, a motorised country craft carrying nine fishermen, was also taken into custody, Mr Stalin pointed out.

"This comes close on the heels of another incident just a week ago, in which four of our fishermen and their mechanised fishing boat were similarly apprehended", he said.

This marks the fourth such incident this month alone, the Chief Minister said, adding, these repeated apprehensions have caused significant economic and emotional distress and uncertainty for the affected families.

Currently, 235 fishing boats and 68 fishermen are in Sri Lankan custody.

Mamata Banerjee’s post on social media triggers political controversy

Kolkata, July 29 (UNI) : A day after the Delhi police rejected Mamata Banerjee’s claim that a Bengali-speaking woman and her child were assaulted by their personnel, the West Bengal Chief Minister today challenged the Delhi Police claiming that the video was real.

"I spoke about that child yesterday (Monday). They were taken from one police station to another, one after another. I had mentioned it in the meeting yesterday itself — check the record. I had said they would be threatened, and that was exactly what had happened. We want those who were ‘attacked’ to return. And then the truth will come out — who is right and who is lying will be proven," the chief minister said, while addressing a government programme in Illambazar,

Birbhum.The incident that triggered controversy came to the fore when Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee shared a video on social media on Sunday, claiming that even a child was not been spared from what she described as "linguistic terrorism."

In the video, a young man is seen pointing to injury marks on his son's body, alleging that the police had beaten the child and caused a wound on his forehead.

According to reports, the child and his mother — the wife of a migrant worker — had travelled from West Bengal to Delhi in search of work and were allegedly assaulted by the police.

Banerjee used the incident to launch a sharp attack on the BJP-led Central Government and the ruling party in Delhi, expressing outrage over the

treatment of Bengali-speaking individuals in the capital.

Hours after the video went viral, the Delhi Police responded, stating that they had investigated the woman featured in the clip. She had initially alleged that “four policemen came to their house, took them away to a secluded place, and demanded Rs 25,000.”

However, during questioning, the woman reportedly admitted that a relative of hers — a political worker based in Malda district — had instructed her to make the video. According to the police, the footage was then shared with this relative and later circulated with the intention of defaming the Delhi Police.

“Based on technical and local intelligence, as well as CCTV footage, we have gathered various

pieces of evidence. From this, we have concluded that the story narrated by the woman is baseless,” a senior police officer told the media.

The incident has triggered a political controversy as Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari announced that an FIR would be filed against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, citing the Delhi Police’s version of events.“I have asked Soumendu (his brother and BJP MP from Kanthi) to file a police complaint,” Adhikari said in a press conference today. Taking a swipe at the Chief Minister, he added, “She is spreading false information. She could easily win an international award for spreading rumours.”Later in the day, Soumendu Adhikari filed a formal complaint at Delhi’s Mandir Marg police station.



Vehicles stuck in the debris following flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall, in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday.

Odisha to boost traditional weaving enterprises for women empowerment

Bhubaneswar, July 29 (UNI) : In a significant step toward empowering women weavers, the Odisha government, through Mission Shakti, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today with the Weavers’ Service Centre (WSC), Government of India.

The initiative aims to enhance skill development, introduce modern design inputs, and provide access to both national and international markets for women-led weaving enterprises.Speaking on the occasion, Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida said the MoU will support design mentoring, training, and market linkages for weaving-based Self Help Groups (SHGs), helping them adapt to evolving trends in fashion and home décor.“This collaboration will help build a sustainable, women-led textile ecosystem and strengthen the textile value chain across Odisha,” she said.

Parida further highlighted that the state’s traditional weaving sector is witnessing a resurgence, driven by the active participation of women-led SHGs.She reiterated the government’s commitment to making SHG members

economically self-reliant and referenced Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent mention of Odisha’s Santali weaving art from Mayurbhanj and the Sankirtan groups of Keonjhar in his “Mann Ki Baat” radio address. Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Mission Shakti, Shalini Pandit, underscored the initiative’s importance, stating that it will benefit thousands of women already engaged in weaving, tailoring, embroidery, and home-based production.“This partnership will create an enabling ecosystem for design innovation, skill development, and market preparedness among SHG members,” Pandit said.Dr. Monica Priyadarshini, Director of the department, noted that the programme aims to foster sustainable women-led weaving enterprises while expanding access to value-added textile production.Deputy Director of the Weavers’ Service Centre, Bikash Kumar, emphasized that Odisha’s weaving talent has already gained national recognition.He said the collaboration will infuse new dimensions into the state’s creative sector and contribute significantly to India’s handloom landscape.

RPF of NFR seizes contraband ganja and banned drugs worth over Rs 3.67 crore

Siliguri, July 29 (UNI) : In special operations against drug peddling and other offences, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of North East Frontier Railway has seized around 3,706.937 kg contraband Ganja valued at Rs. 3.67 crores and apprehended 126 drug peddlers in connection with the seizures, an official said today.The special operation is a continual process, which has been taken up from the beginning of this year to ensure safe travel for bonafide commuters as well as a crime-free NFR system, the official said. He said during a special intensive crackdown against the transhipment of contraband items through railways from July 17-24 the RPF’s operations at Agartala, Katihar, Bagdogra, Rangapara North, Lumding and Guwahati railway stations and trains led the jawans to seize 168.67 kgs of Ganja valued over Rs 17 lakh with the arrest of two persons.Additionally, 475 bottles of liquor worth Rs. 1.05 lakhs were confiscated, leading to the arrest of another five persons.In separate actions during the same period, RPF personnel also apprehended seven individuals involved in the theft of passenger belongings and successfully recovered six stolen mobile phones, o-ne laptop and cash worth Rs. 1.19 lakhs from them.

Rain might have washed away 4,000 metric tonnes of coal, says Meghalaya Minister

Shillong, July 29 (UNI) : Meghalaya Cabinet Minister Kyrmen Shylla has sparked controversy with his suggestion that the vanishing of more than 4,000 metric tonnes of illegally mined coal from two designated depots might be due to getting "washed away due to heavy rainfall".

The 4,000 metric tonnes of coal was dumped at Diengngan village and Rajaju village depots in South West Khasi Hills district following the submission of the 31st interim report by the Justice (Retd) Brojendra Prasad Katakey panel to the Meghalaya High Court last week.On July 25, a division

Bihar state fair authority to manage 'Sitakund Fair'

Patna, July 29 (UNI) : Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary today said that the historic and mythological month-long 'Sitakund Fair' in Munger district will now be managed by the management of the Bihar State Fair Authority.

Choudhary said that the fair holds significant mythological, religious, social, cultural and tourism-related importance. Every year, lakhs of devotees from Munger and nearby districts including Bhagalpur, Khagaria, Begusarai, Saharsa, Purnia and Lakhisarai participate in the fair.

He also informed that nearly 5,000 foreign tourists visit the Sitakund temple annually for worship and sightseeing.

The Deputy CM said, “The historic and mythological Sitakund situated on the banks of the Ganga river, is located in Munger Sadar subdivision, about 8 kilometers from the Munger district headquarters. As per the myth this is the site where Goddess Sita underwent her trial by fire (Agni Pariksha).”

He further added, “The Sitakund Fair begins every year from the date of Maghi Purnima and continues till Phalgun Purnima, spanning approximately one month. Such fairs provide employment opportunities to the local people.”

He further informed that the Sitakund site houses kunds (sacred ponds) named after Goddess Sita, Lord Ram, Lakshman, Bharat, and Shatrughna.

Massive eviction drive underway in Assam to clear 3600 hectares of forest land

Guwahati, July 29 (UNI) : The BJP led government in Assam today started an eviction drive at Rengma forest area near Uriamghat in Assam’s Golaghat district, probably the biggest one carried out in recent times, to clear over 3600 acres of forest land which had been under illegal encroachment.

The state government had deployed adequate security personnel including the Assam Police nd the Forest personnel to ensure the eviction process was completed smoothly. About 1000 bulldozers and excavators rolled down the area identified for eviction this morning while thousands of policemen and forest personnel guarded the area.

A senior district administration official said that they have so far cleared only 4.2 hectares of encroached land and added that it will take another few days to clear the entire stretch under illegal encroachment.

“These are all forest land which had been under encroachment. Whatever is done has been done as per the law. The people who had been living in the area illegally had been served with notice and accordingly most of the residents have left the area already,” said a senior police official while adding that there were no opposition from the residents on the first day of eviction on Tuesday.

Sources in the forest department said that they have been able to demolish close to 300 structures which included residential structures as well as commercial establishments. The drive is likely to resume tomorrow, the sources said.

Some of the residents however, objected to the government move to evict them from the land and said that they have been living there since more than the last 40 years. Interestingly, most of the houses had electricity connections and there were government schools established in the area.

Some of the locals alleged that they were settled in the area by the earlier governments during the early 1980s to protect Assam’s land from encroachment by other states. Rengma forest area located close to the Assam–Nagaland inter-state border had the issue of encroachment from neighbouring states.

It may be mentioned here that the Assam government had recently started a series of eviction drives to clear the forest and government lands which had been under illegal encroachment.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited the Uriamghat area last week and held discussion with the district and police administration over the eviction drives.

Mizo body calls for measures to prevent influx from Assam amid eviction drive

Aizawl, July 29 (UNI) : The Central Committee of the Young Mizo Association (CYMA) on Tuesday urged the Mizoram government to take immediate action to prevent a possible influx of people from neighbouring Assam, in light of the ongoing eviction drive in that state.

As the largest and most influential civil society group in Mizoram, with a membership exceeding four lakh both within and outside the state, CYMA expressed concern over the potential consequences of Assam’s efforts to remove illegal encroachers from its land.

At a meeting held on Monday, CYMA’s leadership discussed the situation and agreed on the need for the state government to adopt proactive measures to address the possibility of an influx. "In response to the Assam government's eviction drive, our primary concern is to ensure that Mizoram does not face any unregulated migration or illegal entry," said Malsawmliana, the organisation's General Secretary.

He further added that CYMA has called on the Mizoram government to implement tighter controls, particularly in the issuance of the Inner Line Permit (ILP)—a travel document required for entry into Mizoram and other protected areas. "We urge the government to exercise caution and ensure that only those with legitimate reasons for travel are granted access," Malsawmliana said.

In addition, CYMA has directed its sub-headquarters, groups, and branches across the border districts to remain on high alert. The organisation has asked its members to take necessary steps to prevent any illegal influx from Assam, especially in light of the border’s proximity.

MoU signed to strengthen infrastructure facilities at IMA-Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, July 29 (UNI) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Tuesday between the Institute of Mathematics and Applications (IMA) and Odisha Construction Corporation Limited (OCCL) to strengthen the infrastructure facilities at IMA.The MoU was signed between Director of IMA Josabanta Jena and General Manager of OCCL Pratap Chandra Chaudhury in the presence of Science & Technology Minister Krushna Chandra Patra and Principal Secretary Chithra Arumugam. The state Government has sanctioned Rs.26.05 crore for construction of a new Library Building, staff quarters for faculties, additional floor on hostel and on academic block in the institute. The construction work will be completed within 2 years by OCCL.

NHRC reviews human rights landscape in Telangana during camp sitting; lauds state’s initiatives

Hyderabad, July 29 (UNI) : As part of its two-day Camp Sitting in Telangana, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Tuesday held a high-level meeting with senior officials of the Telangana Government at Dr MCR HRD Institute, Jubilee Hills, to review key human rights issues and assess the State’s institutional and welfare interventions.

The meeting was chaired by NHRC Chairperson Justice V Ramasubramanian and attended by Members Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi and Ms Vijaya Bharati Sayani. Justice Dr. Shameem Akhtar, Chairperson of the Telangana State Human Rights Commission, also took part, along with senior NHRC and state officials.

The Telangana delegation, led by Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, included senior officials from crucial departments such as Home, Women and Child Development, Education, Police, SC Development, Forest, and Agriculture. Discussions focused on systemic challenges related to crimes against women and children, malnutrition, education gaps, SC welfare, LGBTQI+ rights, agrarian distress, and man-animal

conflict.Special Chief Secretary (Home) Ravi Gupta, reaffirmed the State’s commitment to rule of law and administrative transparency. Additional DGP(Women Safety & CID) Ms Charu Sinha, detailed initiatives such as expanded SHE Teams, Bharosa Centres, Maithri Clinics for transgender persons, and inclusive employment measures.

Women and Child Development Principal Secretary Smt. Anita Ramachandran, IAS, highlighted child nutrition schemes like Aarogya Lakshmi and Bala Amrutam, and grassroots support systems involving Anganwadi workers and SHGs. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Ms C. Suvarna, IFS, addressed rising human-wildlife conflict and the State’s efforts under CAMPA and the Forest Rights Act.

Presentations were also made on SC welfare schemes by Ms K Shitija, educational reforms by Commissioner Naveen Nicolas, and farmer welfare initiatives by Agriculture Director B. Gopi.

In his concluding remarks, Justice V Ramasubramanian commended the State’s cooperation and said, “We have excellent laws and well-designed schemes.



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam on the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway following rainfall, near Signature Tower, in Gurugram.

Govt's goal is to see translational research flourish across academic institutions : DST

Chennai, July 29 (UNI) : The Union government's goal is to see translational research flourish across academic institutions, Dr. Pramod Shankar, Scientist-D, Department of Science and Technology (DST), said today,

Inaugurating a seminar on ‘DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Program’ hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT Madras) here, he said DST-GDC I-NCUBATE is a national platform empowering India’s researcher to turn deep-tech ideas into real, scalable businesses.

By combining hands-on mentoring, market discovery, and real-world testing, it helps take science out of the lab and into the lives of people—creating startups that solve

meaningful problems.

DST is proud to support this initiative—not just as a funder, but as a committed partner in building India’s deep-tech ecosystem. "Our goal is to see translational research flourish across academic institutions, and I-NCUBATE is a vital part of this mission," he said.

India does not lack innovation; it needs platforms to nurture it. The DST-GDC I-NCUBATE program is one such platform—a national engine for translating potential into progress, he said.

India’s deep-tech startup ecosystem has grown by 50% over the past five years, and now has more than 3,000 ventures.

Programs like iDEX, NIDHI-PRAYAS, and the upcoming National Deep

Tech Startup Policy are laying a strong foundation, he said, adding a new mindset is emerging, which is focused on inventing India-first solutions in defence, space, genomics, and sustainability.

The program’ brought together leaders from government, academia, industry, and the investment community to discuss how India could accelerate the development of deep-tech startups arising from academia.

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), played a prominent role in the growth and development of deep-tech startups in the country.

The Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (GDC), a Centre of Excellence at IIT

Madras, has collaborated with over 100 academic universities, labs and incubators across India to catalyse the commercialisation of research by training over 160 academics and entrepreneurs working on 500 deep-tech startups.

Last year, DST and GDC collaborated to launch the ‘DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Program’, bringing together complementary organisational strengths to accelerate India’s deep-tech startup sector.

The program comprises 20 cohorts, run in a bootcamp style, each eight weeks long, with 10-12 startups from diverse sectors and institutions coming together to chart their transformation and commercialisation pathways, IIT-M said in a

Govt expands fast-track courts for women's atrocity cases

Mumbai, July 29 (UNI) : The Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, today approved the creation of dedicated special courts in Gondia, Ratnagiri, and Washim districts to accelerate the resolution of cases involving atrocities against women. This expansion aims to replicate the success of the state's existing network of 27 special courts dedicated to women's atrocity cases, which have demonstrated significant utility by disposing of a substantial backlog. The newly sanctioned courts will focus specifically on ensuring swift justice for female victims.Each of the three courts will be staffed through external mechanisms with five regular positions: one District and Additional Sessions Judge, one Stenographer, one Superintendent, one Senior Clerk, and one Junior Clerk. Additionally, each court will receive two human resource personnel: two Constables.The Cabinet sanctioned an expenditure of Rs 2.39 crore to establish and operationalise these judicial facilities in the designated districts.

Countdown for INDO-US satellite NISAR progressing well

Chennai, July 29 (UNI) : The countdown for the July 30 launch of the first INDO-US joint earth observation satellite NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) began at 2.10 pm today, said ISRO officials.

“The 27 hours and 30 minutes countdown for the launch of NISAR Mission started at 2.10 pm today (Tuesday),” an official of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said.

The official said the countdown is progressing smoothly and the final preparations for the launch are on.

According to the official, during the countdown fuel for the rocket will be filled while checking of the rocket systems will also be done.

India’s Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F16(GSLV-F16) carrying the NISAR weighing 2,393 kg will blast off at 5.40 pm from the second launch pad at the rocket port in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Around 19 minutes after its lift off, the 420 ton GSLV-F16, an expendable rocket will eject the NISAR satellite.

The satellite will be injected into a 747 km Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSO) with an inclination of 98.4 degree, ISRO said.

Built at a cost of about \$1.5 billion, NISAR’s mission life will be five years.

The three-staged GSLV rocket standing 51.7 metre

tall and weighing 420 ton is powered by a solid, liquid and cryogenic fuel –liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen.

The GSLV-F16 rocket is a three staged vehicle. The first stage (GS1) is powered by a solid propellant motor having 139-ton propellant and four earth-storable propellant stages strap-on motors with 40 tons of liquid propellant in each.

The second is also an earth-storable liquid propellant stage loaded with 40-ton propellant.

The third stage is a cryogenic stage with a 15-ton propellant loading of liquid oxygen (LOX) and liquid hydrogen (LH2).

Incidentally this will be the first mission for the Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit. The rocket was basically developed for orbiting communication satellites in the Geo Transfer Orbit (GTO).

GSLV-F16 is the 18th flight of India’s GSLV series and the 12th flight with the indigenous cryogenic stage. This is the 9th operational flight of GSLV with indigenous Cryogenic stage.

The Payload Fairing or the heat shield in GSLV-F16/NISAR Mission is 4 m dia Ogive configuration.

A retired chief of ISRO said NISAR is only for earth observation and not for strategic purposes though it has SAR that can look through the clouds.

The Indian space

agency said NISAR is a unique earth observation satellite and the first satellite to observe the earth with a dual frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (NASA’s L-band and ISRO’s S-band).

The satellite will observe earth with a swath of 242 km and high spatial resolution, using SweepSAR technology for the first time.

According to ISRO, the satellite will scan the entire globe and provide all-weather, day and night data at 12-day interval and enable a wide range of applications.

NISAR can detect even small changes in the Earth’s surface such as ground deformation, ice sheet movement and vegetation dynamics. Further applications include sea ice classification, ship detection, shoreline monitoring, storm characterization, changes in soil moisture, mapping and monitoring of surface water resources and disaster response, the Indian space agency added.

The data gathered will assist in tasks as infrastructure monitoring, disaster response, biomass assessment, and agricultural management.

ISRO identified science and applications that were complementary to the primary mission objectives: agricultural monitoring and characterization, landslide studies, Himalayan glacier studies, soil moisture,

coastal processes, coastal winds, and monitoring hazards.

The NISAR launch is the result of strong technical cooperation between ISRO & NASA/JPL (National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Jet Propulsion Laboratory) technical teams for more than a decade.

NISAR will be the first Earth-observing satellite with two kinds of radar — an L-band system with a 10-inch (25-centimeter) wavelength and an S-band system with a 4-inch (10-centimeter) wavelength.

The NISAR carries a 12m wide deployable mesh reflector mounted onto a deployable 9m boom developed by NASA’s JPL which shall be used by both JPL - NASA developed L-Band SAR payload system and ISRO developed S-Band SAR payload.

Whether microwaves reflect or penetrate an object depends on their wavelength. Shorter wavelengths are more sensitive to smaller objects such as leaves and rough surfaces, whereas longer wavelengths are more reactive with larger structures like boulders and tree trunks.

So NISAR’s two radar signals will react differently to some features on Earth’s surface. By taking advantage of what each signal is or isn’t sensitive to, researchers can study a

broader range of features than they could with either radar on its own, observing the same features with different wavelengths.

After the successful in-orbit checkout of the satellite, the science operations phase will start and extend for three years and contain all data collection required to achieve the L1 science objectives.

During this phase, the science orbit will be maintained via regular maneuvers, scheduled to avoid or minimize conflicts with science observations. Extensive calibration and validation activities will take place throughout the first five months, with yearly updates of 1-month duration.

The data acquired through S-band and L-band SAR from a single platform will help the scientists to understand the changes happening to Planet Earth.

The NISAR satellite launch was to have happened much ahead but owing to several reasons it got delayed.

The Indian space agency had earlier said the NISAR satellite will be launched in 2022 or early 2023.

In 2025, the NISAR launch was expected to happen in June, but got delayed again.

It was on September 30,2014, ISRO and NASA signed an equal partnership to collaborate and launch NISAR.

27.5 hr Countdown for Indo-US satellite NISAR mission begins, progressing well

Chennai, July 29 (UNI) The countdown for the July 30 launch of the first INDO-US joint earth observation satellite NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) began at 2.10 pm today, ISRO officials said.

“The 27 hours and 30 minutes countdown for the launch of NISAR Mission started at 2.10 pm today (Tuesday),” an official of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said.

The official said the countdown is progressing smoothly and the final preparations for the launch are on.According to the official, during the countdown fuel for the rocket will be filled while checking of the rocket systems will also be done.

India’s Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F16(GSLV-F16) carrying the NISAR satellite weighing 2,393 kg will blast off at 5.40 pm from the second launch pad at the rocket port in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.Around 19 minutes after its lift off, the 420 ton GSLV-F16, an expendable rocket will eject the NISAR satellite and it will be injected into a 747 km Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSO) with an inclination of 98.4 degree, ISRO said.

Built at a cost of about USD 1.5 billion, NISAR’s

mission life will be five years.

The three staged GSLV rocket standing 51.7 metre tall and weighing 420 ton is powered by a solid, liquid and cryogenic fuel –liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen.

The GSLV-F16 rocket is a three staged vehicle. The first stage (GS1) is powered by a solid propellant motor having 139-ton propellant and four earth-storable propellant stages strap-on motors with 40 tons of liquid propellant in each.

The second is also an earth-storable liquid propellant stage loaded with 40-ton propellant.

The third stage is a cryogenic stage with a 15-ton propellant loading of liquid oxygen (LOX) and liquid hydrogen (LH2).

Incidentally this will be the first mission for the GSLV rocket to the Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit. The rocket was basically developed for orbiting communication satellites in the Geo Transfer Orbit (GTO).

GSLV-F16 is the 18th flight of India’s GSLV series and the 12th flight with the indigenous cryogenic stage. This is the 9th operational flight of GSLV with indigenous Cryogenic stage.The Payload Fairing or the heat shield in GSLV-

Prof. Kamakoti said “We have institutionalized a robust and replicable model for nurturing start-ups.Looking ahead, we envision supporting 1,000 start-ups by 2032 from our Incubation Cell alone. We are confident that achieving one IPO per month is within reach. These are ambitious goals, but with sustained effort and collaboration, we are confident that these are certainly attainable," he added.

The highlights of the program included showcasing of select startups from the first four cohorts of the DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Program, featuring presentations and exhibits; insights from policymakers and venture leaders and a panel with ecosystem enablers.

STANDARD POST

ISRO gearing up for July 30 INDO-US NISAR satellite launch starting launch rehearsal

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for the July 30 evening launch of the Indo-US Earth observation satellite — NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) — and has begun launch rehearsals, an official said.

An ISRO official, who did not wish to be named, said that launch rehearsals are currently underway, although the formal countdown is yet to begin.

During the launch rehearsal, ISRO checks out all the rocket systems, stimulates the launch sequence including the fuel loading, countdown and others that includes aborting the launch.

India’s Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F16 (GSLV-F16) will lift off at 5.40 pm from the rocket port in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Approximately 19 minutes after liftoff, the 420-tonne GSLV-F16 — an expendable launch vehicle — will deploy the NISAR satellite, which weighs around 2,400 kg, into a 747-km Sun-synchronous orbit (SSO) with an inclination of 98.4 degrees, according to ISRO.

Built at a cost of about USD1.5 billion, NISAR’s mission life will be five years and its mission is to observe earth in unprecedented detail.

A retired ISRO chairman clarified that NISAR is intended exclusively for Earth observation and not for strategic or military purposes, despite its sophisticated Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) capability, which allows it to image the Earth through clouds.

A retired chief of ISRO said NISAR is only for earth observation and not for strategic purposes though it has SAR that can look through the clouds.

The Indian Space Agency said, NISAR is a unique earth observation satellite and the first satellite to observe the earth with a dual frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (NASA’s L-band and ISRO’s S-band).

The satellite will observe earth with a swath of 242 km and high spatial resolution, using SweepSAR technology for the first time.

According to ISRO, the satellite will scan the entire globe and provide all weather, day and night data at 12-day intervals and enable a wide range of applications.

NISAR can detect even small changes in the Earth’s surface such as ground deformation, ice sheet movement and vegetation dynamics.

Further applications include sea ice classification, ship detection, shoreline monitoring, storm characterization, changes in soil moisture, mapping and monitoring of surface water resources and disaster response, the Indian space agency added.

The data gathered will assist in tasks as infrastructure monitoring, disaster response, biomass assessment, and agricultural management.

ISRO identified science and applications that were complementary to the primary mission objectives: agricultural monitoring and characterization, landslide studies, Himalayan glacier studies, soil moisture, coastal processes, coastal winds, and monitoring hazards.

The NISAR mission is the result of over a decade of close technical collaboration between ISRO and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

NISAR will be the first Earth-observing satellite with two kinds of radar — an L-band system with a 10-inch (25-centimeter) wavelength and an S-band system with a 4-inch (10-centimeter) wavelength.

The NISAR carries a 12m wide deployable mesh reflector mounted onto a deployable 9m boom developed by NASA’s JPL which shall be used by both-JPL-NASA developed L-Band SAR payload system and ISRO developed S-Band SAR payload.

Whether microwaves reflect or penetrate an object depends on their wavelength. Shorter wavelengths are more sensitive to smaller objects such as leaves and rough surfaces, whereas longer wavelengths are more reactive with larger structures like boulders and tree trunks. So NISAR’s two radar signals will react differently to some features on Earth’s surface. By taking advantage of what each signal is or isn’t sensitive to, researchers can study a broader range of features than they could with either radar on its own, observing the same features with different wavelengths. After the successful in-orbit check out of the satellite, the science operations phase will start and extend for three years and contain all data collection required to achieve the L1 science objectives.

During this phase, the science orbit will be maintained via regular maneuvers, scheduled to avoid or minimize con?icts with science observations. Extensive calibration and validation activities will take place throughout the first five months, with yearly updates of 1-month duration.

The data acquired through S-band and L-band SAR from a single platform will help the scientists to understand the changes happening to Planet Earth.

The launch of the NISAR satellite was initially planned for 2022 or early 2023, but faced multiple delays. In 2025, the launch was expected to occur in June, but was postponed again.

Hypospadias - not a simple childhood issue

(Standard Post Bureau)

What is hypospadias? Hypospadias is a birth defect where the opening of the urethra on a male baby’s penis is located on the underside instead of at the tip. It occurs in approximately 1 of every 150 to 300 male infants. It is often associated with bending of the penis downwards called chordee in children which also needs to be addressed.

What causes this condition?

The exact cause is unknown, but genetics likely play a role, meaning it can sometimes run in families.

Is it a difficult condition to treat?

Hypospadias can vary in severity, with mild cases requiring less intervention and more severe cases needing more complex surgeries.

How is it diagnosed ?

It is usually identified at birth by a healthcare professional during a physical examination.

If my child is diagnosed with hypospadias what are the important points to be kept in mind?

Avoid Circumcision: Circumcision is usually not performed at birth for babies with hypospadias, as it may affect the surgical

repair.

Check for undescended testes : If a child has associated undescended testes especially on both sides then evaluation for checking the sex of the child in the form of karyotyping needs to be done .

Emotional support: Parents should be prepared to address emotional concerns related to their child’s condition and discuss any anxieties with their healthcare team.

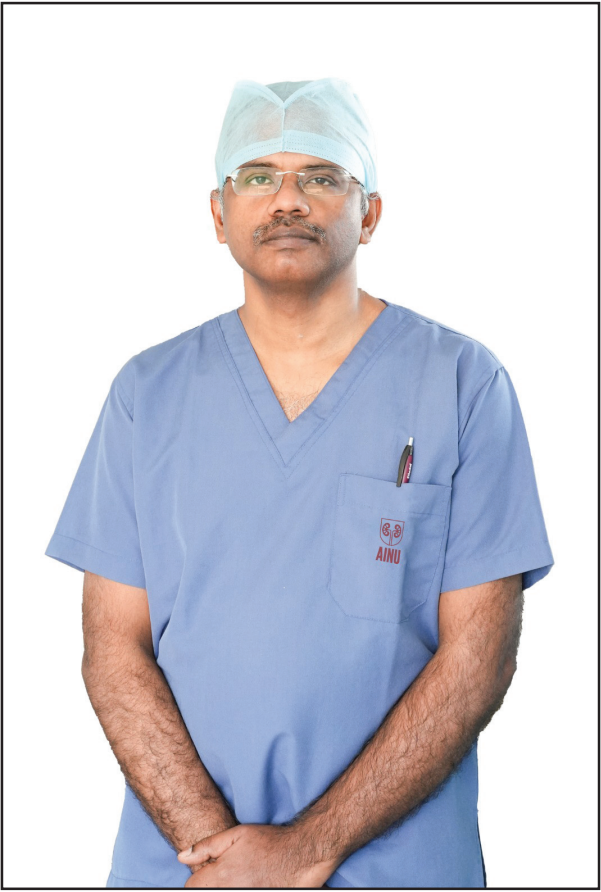
When to see a doctor:

If you suspect your newborn son has hypospadias, contact your pediatrician or a pediatric urologist immediately.

What is the treatment for this problem?

Most cases require surgical repair to ensure normal urination and sexual function later in life and is typically performed by an experienced pediatric urologist. It is imperative that experience is crucial in managing this condition as an improperly done first surgery can have long-term adverse effects on the quality of life of these children. In fact, we have a term called hypospadias cripples for patients who have multiple failed attempts at repair.

When is the right time to intervene for this



By Dr. P. Ashwin Shekar, Consultant Pediatric & Transitional Urologist, Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology (AINU)

problem ?

Most boys with hypospadias will need surgery between 6 and 12 months old . However it also depends on the size of the penis as sometimes we need to delay surgery for better growth of the penis before surgery. In some older children testosterone supplementation may be needed prior to surgery to

increase the size of the organ .

Having said that in India, unfortunately we still see adolescents and adults who come to us with the problem as they are undiagnosed at birth or the parents had failed to notice it.

Can you briefly elaborate on the surgery for this condition?

The surgery involves

correction of the bend in the penis if present along with the repositioning the urethral opening to the tip of the penis

Depending on the severity, the procedure may be done in a single stage or in multiple stages

Following surgery what are the points that parents need to understand ?

In the immediate post-operative period, careful maintenance of dressing and catheter needs to be done .Any soaking of dressing or blockage of catheter needs to be brought to the attention of the surgeon Follow-up appointments with the urologist are crucial

How long follow-up is needed for children who are operated for hypospadias ?

All children with hypospadias needs to be followed up till puberty or longer as the chance of complications increase with duration of follow up.

What are the signs of urinary problem to watch out for in the long term ?

Some of the signs are straining to void, thinning of stream, ballooning of urethral tube deviation of stream development of recurrent bending of penis which may need to be addressed surgically .

What other issues that may need to be addressed

in children as they grow up into adulthood?

Children with proximal hypospadias can have psychosexual and fertility issues as they grow up due to factors like a small penis especially when they have been operated multiples times and have associated anomalies.

If a child with hypospadias operated in childhood develops problems in adolescence or adulthood whom should you approach ?

Ideally these children need to be managed by transitional urologist who are adult urologists trained in managing paediatric urological anomalies and are well versed with managing this complex condition in both children and adults. This is an upcoming field of urology which has started gaining traction in the west, which bridges the gap between paediatric and adult urology care as many of these children need lifelong care. We at AINU are in the process of developing a center of excellence for transitional care in the country which is a first if its kind in India to make sure our Indian children with complex anomalies get continuity of care all through their life, like their western counterparts.

Vidyamandir Classes Announces VIQ with Scholarships upto 100%

ULTIMATE OFFERS*

Accolades (Medals & Trophies) Awarded to the Top Performers of VIQ

Cash Rewards* up to ₹2.5 Crores

Bright Chance to Study at COE (Citadel of Excellence) / Illuminati – Top Batches at VMC Centres

VIDYAMANDIR INTELLECT QUEST

VIQ

28 SEP, 5 OCT, 11 OCT, 12 OCT, 26 OCT

CASH REWARDS up to ₹2.5 Crores

SCHOLARSHIP – 100%

JEE (Main & Advanced), NEET, Boards & Olympiads for Class 5* to 12*

REGISTER NOW

*T&C Apply

(Standard Post Bureau)

Vidyamandir Classes (VMC), a pioneer in academic coaching for IIT JEE (Main & Advanced), NEET, Boards, and Olympiads, has announced the much-awaited dates for it’s Biggest, most Respected & awaited test - the Vidyamandir Intellect Quest (VIQ) 2025. The test will be conducted across multiple slots on 28th September, 5th, 11th, 12th, and 26th October 2025 and is open for students from Class 5 to Class 12.

Conducted in both online and offline modes, VIQ serves as a national-level aptitude and scholarship test that helps students assess their intrinsic potential for various Competitive & Scholastic exams. This year, registration for VIQ is absolutely free, making it accessible to students

across the country.

Sandeep Mehta (IIT Delhi Alumnus) Co-Founder, Vidyamandir Classes said, “This year’s VIQ goes beyond just being a test—it’s a launchpad for serious aspirants. Students enrolling early through VIQ can avail a host of exclusive benefits designed to boost their academic journey.

These include cash rewards of up to ₹2.5 crores and scholarships up to 100%, making quality education more accessible. Additionally, they can benefit from the lowest academic fee of the year, along with complimentary offline classes and e-study material tailored to their current academic needs. To further enhance their preparation, free practice tests and mock board exams are provided. As a

token of encouragement, all participants will receive e-certificates acknowledging their effort and participation. But that’s not all—this year, VMC has introduced a host of exclusive offers for students, in addition to the existing benefits. Top performers in the VIQ will be honored with Accolades, including medals and trophies, celebrating their exceptional achievements. Moreover, the highest achievers will earn a coveted opportunity to join VMC’s premier batches — the Citadel of Excellence (COE) and Illuminati—renowned for academic excellence and elite mentorship. VMC has always focused on holistic preparation backed by proven pedagogy, rigorous testing, and dedicated mentorship. VIQ embodies this philosophy by identifying bright minds early and giving them a platform to shine. With the chance to win scholarships, gain academic insights, and access premium VMC programs, VIQ is truly a game changer for every student aiming for academic excellence.

Students can register free of cost at www.vidyamandir.com and avail these extraordinary benefits & offers. VIQ is more than a test—it’s the beginning of a journey toward academic brilliance and future success.

CM Rekha Gupta calls for mass movement

New Delhi, July 29 (UNI) Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today called for turning the “Delhi ko Kude se Azaadi” campaign into a mass movement from August 1 to August 31 to make the national capital cleaner and more beautiful.

In a post on social media platform ‘X’ (formerly Twitter), Gupta said that Delhi had created history today. “For the first time, every department and agency of the Delhi government is standing together, on one platform, with one commitment to make the capital clean,” she stated. “This is not just administrative coordination but a symbol of ‘Team Delhi’s active participation in nation-building. We are determined to make Delhi clean and beautiful,” the Chief Minister added.

Gupta further said that this campaign is a step towards taking Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’ to every household by awakening a new ‘jan shakti’.

Tribute to Congress leader Arunesh Sharma at Gandhi Market

(Standard Post Bureau)

New Delhi, July 29 : In memory of Ex Congress Committee President and senior Congress Leader Late Arunesh Sharma @ Pinky bhai ,Birth anniversary observed at Gandhi Market, Under Matia Mahal Constituency, Free Food Distribution “ Kheer Bhandara “ Programme organised at Minto Road, It Was 68 th Birth Anniversary of Pinky Bhai. On This Birth Anniversary Pinky’s Brother Mr Arunesh Sharma @kalay bhai and Anitha Sharma Ex Congress

Corporator , Mr Afaq Hussain, salim Raza, Ayoub Ahmed , Mr Parvez Ahmed, Ansar Ahmed , Maqsood Zia, Satish Saini ,Raju Puri, Nikki Arora, Aitebar Ahmed, Ansar Ahmed, Ramesh Kalra, Anita Sharma Ex Corporator, Saleem Raza, Afaq Hussain, Nikki, Kartikya and other paid Tribute and Remembered his Sacrifices’ for Congress, Pinky Bhai was a Such a leader who Face Unbelievable Difficulties in Emergency In the Year of 1977, Even he was in Jail with Sanjay Gandhi.

SC agrees to open court hearing on JSW Steel’s review plea in Bhushan Power case

New Delhi, July 29 (UNI) In a significant development in the Bhushan Power and Steel Limited (BPSL) insolvency case, the Supreme Court allowed JSW Steel’s request for an open court hearing of its review petition challenging the apex court’s May 2, 2025 verdict, which had rejected its Rs 19,000 crore resolution plan and directed liquidation of BPSL.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma on Monday issued notice on

the review petitions and scheduled the matter for hearing on July 31 at 3:00 PM in open court.

“Applications for listing review petitions in open court and applications for oral hearing are allowed. Issue notice,” the court ordered.

JSW Steel had filed the review petition on June 25, 2025, along with separate review petitions by the Committee of Creditors (CoC) and the Resolution Professional, contesting the May 2 ruling by a bench comprising Justice Bela M. Trivedi and Justice

Satish Chandra Sharma.

That ruling held that the CoC had erred in approving the resolution plan, which was found to be in violation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). The apex court had consequently ordered the liquidation of BPSL.

JSW Steel’s resolution plan, offering over Rs19,000 crore to financial creditors, was approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in September 2019 and later upheld by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

Putin calls Israeli PM Netanyahu, stresses importance of unity, sovereignty of Syria

Moscow/Jerusalem, July 29 (UNI) :Amid the IDF’s bombing of Syria following the violence between Druze and Bedouin communities in the southern region of Suwayda, Russian President Vladimir Putin held phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, during which he emphasised the importance of supporting the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Syria, the Kremlin announced yesterday.

"Notably, Vladimir Putin emphasised the importance of supporting the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and reinforcing its internal political stability by respecting the legitimate rights and interests of all the ethnic and confessional communities," the Kremlin said in a statement.

The Russian side indicated its readiness to help find diplomatic solutions regarding the Iranian nuclear program, the Kremlin said.

"The leaders agreed to continue the dialogue on current issues on the international and bilateral agenda," the statement added.

Shooting in New York office building leaves 5 dead, 6 injured

New York, July 29 (UNI) : A gunman killed four people and injured six others on early Monday evening before shooting himself dead inside an office building in Manhattan, New York City.

The 27-year-old gunman named Shane Tamura opened fire around 6 p.m. (2200 GMT) and died from "an apparently self-inflicted injury," CNN reported. The information was later confirmed by Mayor Eric Adams.Earlier, New York Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said on X, "At this time, the scene has been contained and the lone shooter has been neutralized."

One of the victims was an off-duty New York Police Department officer, while the other three were civilians, local media reported.

The gunman reportedly came from Las Vegas as authorities found a vehicle with Nevada plates registered to Tamura at the scene, with a rifle case inside, according to the New York Post.

The shooter's motive is unclear until now.

China welcomes process of improving relations between Russia, US : Foreign Ministry

Beijing, July 29 (UNI) : China welcomes the improvement of relations between Russia and the United States, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said on Tuesday, commenting on a possible meeting between the Russian and US leaders in Beijing.

"Russia and the United States are permanent members of the UN Security Council and influential powers. China is happy to see the improvement of Russian-US relations, which contributes to stability and peace in the world," Guo told reporters.

Over 2,200 people evacuated amid flooding in Myanmar

Yangon, July 29 (UNI) : A total of 2,267 people from 461 households were evacuated in four townships of eastern Myanmar's Shan state due to flooding, according to the Myanmar Fire Services Department on Tuesday.

The flooding, caused by mountain runoff triggered by heavy rain early Monday morning, affected Yatsauk, Aungban, Kalaw, and Pindaya townships, an official from the department told Xinhua.

In Pindaya township, six people were killed and three injured as of Tuesday morning, he said.

Rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Services Department transferred affected residents to monasteries and playgrounds, he said, adding that rescue operations are ongoing.

Rosocomos CEO Dmitry Bakanov meets with NASA management

Moscow, July 29 (UNI) : Roscosmos CEO Dmitry Bakanov has arrived in the United States to meet with NASA management and the crew of the Crew Dragon spacecraft, which includes Russian Oleg Platonov, the state corporation told journalists.

"Dmitry Bakanov arrived in Houston as the head of the Roscosmos delegation to meet with NASA management. This is the first face-to-face meeting of the heads of Russian and US space agencies in eight years," the statement said.

It is noted that first, he and the leadership of the US space agency will visit the structural divisions of the Johnson Space Center and get acquainted with their work.In addition, the Russian delegation plans to visit the Boeing production unit, where reusable manned transport spacecraft CST-100 Starliner is being developed, and hold talks with the management of the company's space program.

"On the eve of the launch of the Crew-11 mission, which is scheduled for July 31, Dmitry Bakanov will meet with the crew of the Crew Dragon spacecraft, which includes Roscosmos cosmonaut Oleg Platonov as part of the cross-flight program. For the Russian, this will be the first flight into space," the Russian space agency added.At the John F. Kennedy Space Center, the head of the state corporation will take part in events related to checking readiness for the launch of the next mission to the International Space Station.

Syria sends fourth aid convoy to Sweida amid ongoing tensions



Damascus, July 29 (IANS) : The Syrian interim authorities, in coordination with international organisations and local community partners, dispatched a fourth humanitarian aid convoy on Tuesday from Damascus to the southern Sweida province, according to state media.The convoy, comprising 22 trucks, carried 27,000 litres of fuel, 2,000 food baskets, 2,000 hygiene kits, 10,000 bottles of drinking water, 40 tons of flour, and various medical supplies, the official SANA news agency reported.

Declared on July 19, the ceasefire followed a harrowing wave of sectarian clashes, Israeli airstrikes and grave human rights violations, Xinhua news agency reported.

UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen told ambassadors in the Security Council on Monday that the recent escalation had "rocked" the country's already precarious transition, and highlighted the need for "major course corrections" on security and political fronts."Syrians are reeling after appalling violence in Sweida -- violence that should not have happened and which also saw unacceptable foreign intervention," Pedersen said.According to the UN, government of imposing a de facto siege on the region, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group. The observatory said civilians have taken to the streets in some areas, demanding improved access to basic services and humanitarian relief.

The delivery is part of ongoing efforts to support civilian populations in Sweida, which has experienced recent unrest and shortages following clashes and a fragile ceasefire agreement earlier this month. This marks the fourth convoy sent to the province since the agreement was reached.

The aid comes amid reports of protests in parts of Sweida, where demonstrators have accused the interim

government of imposing a de facto siege on the region, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group. The observatory said civilians have taken to the streets in some areas, demanding improved access to basic services and humanitarian relief.

Declared on July 19, the ceasefire followed a harrowing wave of sectarian clashes, Israeli airstrikes and grave human rights violations, Xinhua news agency reported.

UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen told ambassadors in the Security Council on Monday that the recent escalation had "rocked" the country's already precarious transition, and highlighted the need for "major course corrections" on security and political fronts."Syrians are reeling after appalling violence in Sweida -- violence that should not have happened and which also saw unacceptable foreign intervention," Pedersen said.According to the UN, unrest erupted on the evening of July 12 following a series of mutual kidnappings that escalated into armed clashes between Druze factions and Bedouin tribes, eventually drawing in Syrian security forces.

The violence quickly spiralled, with reports of extrajudicial executions and looting. Graphic footage circulated widely on social media, fueling sectarian tensions and the spread of disinformation.

Although active fighting has largely subsided, Pedersen warned that the situation "remains tense and volatile." Civilians have borne the brunt of the violence, with hundreds reportedly killed and widespread accounts of abuses committed by both state and non-state actors. "I condemn the appalling violations committed against civilians and combatants in Sweida. I also condemn Israel's intervention," Pedersen said, referring to recent Israeli airstrikes near Sweida and Damascus that reportedly resulted in civilian and military casualties.

Direct flights between Pyongyang and Moscow resume after years

Pyongyang/Moscow, July 29 (UNI) : After years of hiatus, direct flights between Pyongyang and Moscow have resumed due to demand from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Russia, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Tuesday.The first passenger plane flying from Moscow arrived at Pyongyang International Airport on Monday about eight hours after taking off from Russia's Sheremetyevo International Airport. The flight was greeted by a ceremonial water salute at the DPRK airport, said the KCNA report.

Addressing a welcome ceremony, Yun Jong Ho, the DPRK minister of external economic relations, said resuming direct flights between the two capitals marks a rapid development of bilateral ties, the report said.The first return flight to Moscow after years is scheduled for Tuesday. Russia's Ministry of Transport has said that for the time being, direct flights will be offered once a month.Russia's Natural Resources Minister Alexander Kozlov, who traveled on board the first flight to Pyongyang for talks on Russia-DPRK cooperation.

Regional army commanders of Thailand-Cambodia confirm ceasefire on border areas

Bangkok/Phnom Penh, July 29 (UNI) Regional army commanders of Thailand and Cambodia met today morning in border areas, discussing the implementation of the ceasefire reached a day earlier, both sides confirmed.

Thai army spokesperson Winthai Suvaree confirmed today that regional army commanders of both countries held meetings earlier in the day and agreed to a ceasefire and a freeze on troop movements ahead of the General Border Committee (GBC) meeting scheduled for August 5.

The spokesperson added that a ceasefire had already been in effect along the Thai-Cambodian border before the meetings.

Meanwhile, Cambodian Ministry of National Defence's Spokesperson, Lieutenant General Maly Socheata, in a press briefing today said that the commanders of Cambodian military region 5 and the Thai military region 1 held a meeting for more than 10 minutes."Both sides agreed to respect the ceasefire and stop increasing the number of troops in order to avoid confrontation and tension," she said.

"They also agreed to reconnect communication and provide information to each other."

The exchange of gunfire between Cambodian and Thai soldiers over disputed border areas began on July 24, and a ceasefire was reached on July 28.

Gen. Maly Socheata said. "We strongly reject the claims made by the Thai military spokesperson, who alleged gunfire exchanges and violations of the ceasefire agreement. Cambodian forces have strictly implemented, and will continue to strictly implement, the army command's instructions and the ceasefire agreement, which took effect at midnight," the spokeswoman was quoted

US uses Iranian nuclear program as excuse for confrontation : Supreme Leader

Tehran, July 29 (UNI) : Tehran's nuclear program and uranium enrichment are just an excuse for the United States to target Iran, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday.

"All their talk about nuclear issues, [uranium] enrichment, human rights, and such things are nothing but excuses. What upsets them is the fact that the Islamic Republic is able to produce new ideas in the various fields of science and knowledge – be it in the humanities, technical sciences, or religious sciences" Khamenei said.

Iran and the US have held five rounds of Oman-mediated talks on the nuclear program. The sixth round was scheduled for June 15, but the Israeli attack on Iran and the US bombing of Iranian nuclear sites scrapped those plans.

Iranian officials reject accusations that Iran has been secretly making a nuclear weapon, stressing that Tehran is ready to resume talks with Washington without preconditions. In particular, Iran opposes the US demand to stop uranium enrichment.Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said that Tehran had no plans to hold talks with Washington yet, arguing that conditions for a new round of consultations have not matured.Iran and the EU3 countries — France, Germany, and the United Kingdom — held nuclear talks in Istanbul on July 25 for the first time since the end of "the 12-day war." The talks took place amid EU3's threats to reimpose sanctions on Tehran if a new nuclear deal is not reached by the end of summer. As a deterrent, the Iranian parliament has drafted a bill to withdraw the Islamic Republic from the Non-Proliferation Treaty if the European trio reimposes sanctions envisaged by the 2015 nuclear deal, which remains formally in effect.

15 injured as passenger bus overturns in Philippines

Manila, July 29 (UNI) : A passenger bus rolled off a highway in Bohol province in central Philippines on Tuesday morning, injuring 15 Filipinos, police said.

Police said the crash occurred before 9 a.m. local time while the bus was negotiating a sharp curve along a highway in Bilar town.

Emergency workers rushed to the scene and transported the injured to local hospitals.The cause of the crash remains under investigation. However, an initial report revealed that the driver had lost control of the vehicle.

as saying by the Khmer Times newspaper.

Border tensions between Thailand and Cambodia escalated into an armed conflict on July 24. Civilian casualties were reported on both sides. The incident followed a clash on May 28 between Thai and Cambodian military personnel in a disputed neutral zone, which left a Cambodian soldier dead. Some 140,000 people have been evacuated from the conflict zone on the Thai side since July 24.

On Monday, ceasefire negotiations between Thai Acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet took place in Kuala Lumpur, mediated by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. Following the talks, the Malaysian leader said that the parties had agreed to establish a ceasefire starting at midnight.

IMF says inflation pressures building gradually in US

Washington, July 29 (UNI) : The United States is experiencing a gradual increase in inflation pressures, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Economic Counsellor Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said on Tuesday.

"While global inflation continues to decline, the latest price data suggests that inflation pressures are building gradually in the US," Gourinchas told reporters.He pointed out that US import prices in dollars have remained largely unchanged or even increased in 2025.That means that the cost of tariffs will be borne by US retailers and customers as firms start to pass through higher costs into their prices, Gourinchas added.

Thailand accuses Cambodia of violating hours-old ceasefire

Bangkok, July 29 (UNI) : Cambodia is violating the ceasefire on a large scale, Thailand has reported this to the witnesses of the agreements, Malaysia, the United States and China, Thai Acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai said today.

"Cambodian troops are violating the ceasefire regime on a large scale and systematically. We have reported this to the countries that witnessed yesterday's agreements

with Cambodia — Malaysia, as the ASEAN chair, the United States and China," the official told reporters.

Wechayachai has also asked evacuated Thai citizens not to leave shelters or return to their homes in the border zone until authorities issue a special announcement.

Meanwhile, the Cambodian Defense Ministry denies violating the ceasefire agreement, ministry spokeswoman Lt.

Gen. Maly Socheata said. "We strongly reject the claims made by the Thai military spokesperson, who alleged gunfire exchanges and violations of the ceasefire agreement. Cambodian forces have strictly implemented, and will continue to strictly implement, the army command's instructions and the ceasefire agreement, which took effect at midnight," the spokeswoman was quoted

Transnistrian Prez Krasnoselsky expresses gratitude to Russian peacekeeping forces

Tiraspol/Moscow, July 29 (UNI) Transnistrian President Vadim Krasnoselsky has expressed his gratitude to Russia for its peacekeeping operations in the separatist state and advocated for Moscow’s continued support.

"In today’s context, it is critically important that the ongoing peacekeeping operation continues and its format remains unchanged," Krasnoselsky said in his address, dedicated to the anniversary of the deployment of the Russian peacekeeping forces in Transnistria.

The Transnistrian leader recalled that 33 years ago, the deployment of Russian peacekeepers stopped the bloodshed "unleashed by the Moldovan leadership during their armed attack on the Transnistrian people."

Krasnoselsky added that Tiraspol remains committed to resolving the conflict exclusively through peaceful means and emphasised the need for mutual respect and constructive cooperation with Moldova.

"I am deeply convinced that Russia, as the guarantor of peace on the Dnister, has always upheld and continues to uphold the inviolability of the previously reached agreements underpinning the current peacekeeping format. Transnistrians are grateful to the Russian Federation for its contribution to strengthening security and stability," Krasnoselsky said.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin also congratulated the peacekeepers in Transnistria on the operation's 33rd anniversary, saying they had laid the groundwork for a peaceful settlement.

The official added that the collective peacekeeping operation that launched on July 29, 1992 and included Russia, Moldova, and Transnistria remains "unique and relevant to this day."

Transnistria, where 60% of residents are ethnic Russians and Ukrainians, sought independence from Moldova before the USSR’s collapse, fearing Moldova would join Romania amid nationalist sentiments.

In 1992, after Moldova’s failed attempt to resolve the issue by force, Transnistria became a territory beyond Chisinau’s control.

This year marks the 33rd anniversary of the start of the peacekeeping mission. Russian military personnel, alongside Transnistrian and Moldovan military observers, maintain peace in the conflict zone.

The peacekeepers are stationed at posts and checkpoints positioned across key sections of the security zone.

Lakshmi Bhavani Appointed as National Secretary of Indian Praja Congress



(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, July 29 : Indian Praja Congress National President Mr KB Sridhar has been

appointed , renowned yoga teacher, social service activist and young businesswoman Lakshmi Bhavani as the National

Secretary of the Indian Praja Congress . In a meeting held at the Magnis Diagnosis office, the party's National

president K. B. Sridhar Announced. The party's National spokesperson Sri Singam Srinivasa Rao formally invited Lakshmi Bhavani to the party.

The chief guest, Revolutionary Communist Party District Secretary Agra Sen, who was present, announced his support to the Indian Praja Congress and said that they would fight against public problems together with the IPC.IPC National Media Advisor Sri S. V. Surya Prakash Rao introduced Lakshmi Bhavani and explained the goals of the IPC party. Party president Sridhar said that the entry of a highly educated social activist like Lakshmi Bhavani into the party is a good sign.

Light to moderate rain likely in Telangana in next seven days

Hyderabad, July 29 (UNI) : Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana during the next seven days, the Meteorological Centre said on Tuesday.

In a daily weather report here, it said that strong surface winds with speeds ranging from 40-50 kmph are likely to occur at isolated places in all districts of Telangana during the next five days.The southwest monsoon has been weak over the state.Rain occurred at one or two places over Telangana during the last 24 hours, the report added.

BJP will emerge strong in Khammam, says Ramchandra Rao

Khammam, July 29 (UNI) : BJP Telangana State President N Ramchandra Rao on Tuesday asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party is gaining ground in Khammam district, a region once considered a stronghold of communist ideology. He was speaking at a gathering of party activists at Saptapadi Function Hall during his visit to the district.Ramchandra Rao said Khammam is on its way to becoming a BJP bastion, pointing out that communist activists in the region are increasingly leaning towards the saffron party, similar to the political shift seen in West Bengal.

Calling the BJP the only force capable of protecting the nation, farmers, and society, he said, "Communist ideology is on the decline globally. The BJP is strengthening even in states like West Bengal and Kerala."

Criticising the Congress government in Telangana, he accused it of betraying the Backward Classes (BCs) by failing to fully implement the promised 42 per cent reservation in local body elections.

"The Congress came to power on the basis of promises made to BCs but is now attempting to shift blame onto the Centre," he said, adding that the BJP has unconditionally supported the reservation bill.He also pointed out that while there is already 10 per cent reservation for Muslims under the EBC quota and another 4 per cent in Telangana (currently under judicial review), the Congress is trying to create confusion over BC reservations by dragging religion into it.On the fertiliser crisis, Rao targeted

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, accusing him of misleading farmers. "The Centre has supplied more than the required 12.02 lakh metric tonnes of urea for Telangana's 9.80 lakh metric tonnes need during the Rabi season," he claimed, adding that any shortage was due to the state's failure in monitoring distribution and curbing black marketing.

He backed his remarks with subsidy figures, stating that the Centre is bearing most of the cost—Rs. 1,423.50 out of Rs. 1,690 for a 45 kg bag of fertilizer—allowing farmers to pay just Rs. 266.50. "If these figures are wrong, I will resign. Otherwise, the agriculture minister must step down," he said.Ramchandra Rao also highlighted Central government initiatives for Khammam, including the sanctioning of four national highways, a green belt, and an allocation of Rs. 450 crore for city development.

Slamming internal rifts in the Congress, he questioned why CM Revanth Reddy himself was not leading a padayatra and suggested that factionalism within the party is hampering governance.

Calling on party workers to gear up for the upcoming local body elections, Rao said, "The BJP will win the posts of Khammam Municipal Chairman and Mayor, and a majority of MPTCs in the Zilla Parishad. Let us present this victory as a gift to Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

He urged every BJP leader and activist in Khammam to strengthen the party at the grassroots and work towards a decisive victory.

Cong Govt Whips slam BRS MLA Kavitha over hunger strike call

Hyderabad, July 29 (UNI) : Telangana Congress Government Whips Adi Srinivas and Birla Illaiah have lashed out at BRS MLC K Kavitha, accusing her of indulging in "diversionary politics" over the issue of BC reservations.

In a strongly worded video statement on Tuesday, Adi Srinivas questioned Kavitha's decision to launch a hunger strike in Telangana, asking, "In what capacity will she go on a hunger strike? If you are sincere about BC welfare, bring your brother (KTR) and fight against the BJP government in Delhi."

He alleged that Kavitha and her brother "don't have the guts to confront the BJP" and are putting up "political dramas" instead. Srinivas also pointed out that the Congress government, under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, has already passed a bill and sent an ordinance to the Governor to secure BC reservations, showing its commitment to the cause.

Echoing similar sentiments, Government Whip Birla Illaiah said Kavitha's sudden announcement of a hunger strike was ironic, given that BCs were "ignored during the 10-year BRS rule."

"Our CM Revanth Reddy is prepared to fast in Delhi to demand BC reservations from the Centre. Kavitha should do the same if she is sincere, not stage street dramas in Telangana," he said.

Both leaders dismissed her actions as a political stunt, claiming that the people of Telangana no longer believe in "Kalvakuntla dramas."

Ponnam vows comprehensive development of Hyd, promises local leadership for Jubilee Hills

Hyderabad, July 29 (UNI) :Transport Minister and Hyderabad in-charge Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday said the Congress government, formed with the blessings of the people, is actively delivering on its promises by implementing people-centric programs across Telangana and focusing on all-round development in Hyderabad city.Addressing a press conference at Bhadrachalam Café in Jubilee Hills along with Congress leaders Mohammed Azharuddin and Naveen Yadav, the minister outlined a slew of initiatives under the Congress government.

"Free RTC bus travel for women has already crossed 200 crore tickets, amounting to Rs 6,800 crore

in travel value," he said, adding that the government is also providing 200 units of free electricity, which is benefiting lakhs of families.

Prabhakar highlighted the government's steps towards improving livelihoods. "We are implementing the Rythu Bharosa scheme, have implemented farmer loan waivers, and given a Rs 500 bonus to Sanna Vadla farmers," he said.

The Indiramma housing scheme for the poor is being revived with a new approach—homes will be constructed closer to where beneficiaries live, unlike earlier projects like Kollur, which are located far from the city and lack connectivity.Touching upon welfare distribution, the minister said that the

government is in the process of distributing around 50,000 newly verified ration cards in 15 Assembly constituencies of Hyderabad.

"After 10 years of delay, we've ensured ration cards are granted based on eligibility, not politics. We've also enabled 2.8 lakh families to receive 6 kg of fine rice and added 1.5 lakh new families to the ration list," he stated.

Emphasising urban development, Prabhakar said the government is building flyovers, underpasses, sewage treatment plants, and parks and upgrading drainage systems across the city.

"No new water source has been added to Hyderabad since the formation of Telangana,

except the Krishna and Godavari water brought during the Congress regime. Now, the second phase of the Godavari project is underway to bring 15 TMC of water," he said.

The minister also underlined efforts to make Hyderabad greener and cleaner. "We've allowed only EV, CNG, and LPG autos within the Ring Road and are transitioning RTC buses to electric. We're promoting water harvesting to increase underground water and combat pollution," he added.

Regarding the upcoming Jubilee Hills by-election, Prabhakar affirmed that the Congress will field a candidate from within the constituency. "We will not import

candidates. Whoever the party nominates, all leaders will work unitedly. A survey will determine the best candidate based on local support," he said. "We have already won Secunderabad Cantonment and we will win Jubilee Hills too."He appealed to the voters to bless the Congress party and support the government's efforts in resolving public issues and ensuring development. "We are here to correct a decade of neglect. Let us hoist the Congress flag once again in Jubilee Hills," he said.

Ministers and six corporation chairmen will oversee coordination for the campaign, ensuring that all government programs are taken to the people effectively, he added.

Over 34k cases pending with NHRC; Chairperson highlights initiatives, urges deeper collaboration with civil society and media

Hyderabad, July 29 (UNI) : National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairperson Justice V Ramasubramanian on Tuesday revealed that over 34,685 cases are currently pending with the Commission.

Addressing a press conference at the Dr. MCR Human Resource Development Institute in Hyderabad during the Commission's two-day camp sitting, Justice Ramasubramanian said the NHRC has been actively taking suo motu cognizance of human rights violations across the country.

"In 2021, we took up 17 such cases. The number rose to 60 in 2022, 107 in 2023, and 105 already in

2024. By mid-2025, it has already crossed 50," he said.During the camp sitting in Hyderabad, the NHRC disposed of 87 cases through two division benches and a full commission session, including 36 and 51 cases respectively by the benches and 19 by the full panel. He highlighted that the Commission had issued orders for compensation in custodial death cases, with most payments already made, and others expected within four weeks.

"In Telangana, only 780 cases are pending with us, including four cases of police custody deaths and 30 judicial custody deaths," Justice Ramasubramanian noted.The Commission

also held extensive interactions with state officials, including the Chief Secretary, DGP, and other department heads, to review issues related to women and child welfare, education infrastructure, SC/ST welfare, and support for disabled persons. The NHRC asked the Telangana government to submit status reports on multiple matters.In a post-lunch session, NHRC members met with NGOs, human rights activists, and civil society members, encouraging them to submit written recommendations on ways to improve the rights and quality of life for marginalized and vulnerable communities.

J u s t i c e

R a m a s u b r a m a n i a n emphasised the crucial role of the media, saying, "We monitor newspapers and social media closely. Whenever we come across incidents like custodial deaths, deaths from falling into open drains, or suicides due to negligence in schools or hostels, we act. Media helps us read society's pulse."

He cited a few recent cases, including one involving a juvenile wrongfully jailed for 40 days, for which compensation was awarded, and mass food poisoning cases in schools, which are under scrutiny.The Chairperson also mentioned a noteworthy intervention,

where the NHRC helped trace and rescue a kidnapped girl from Bihar, who was found in Rajasthan about to be trafficked across the border.

Addressing concerns about India's ranking in global human freedom indices, Justice

R a m a s u b r a m a n i a n acknowledged the disparities in such rankings and said the Commission regularly engages with state governments to improve policy implementation."We are not just here to speak. We're here to listen—to the media, to activists, and to those who face rights violations. This collaboration is key to real change," he added.

Cong Govt ensuring food security for 3.15 cr people in Telangana: Uttam Kumar Reddy

Huzurnagar, July 29 (UNI) : Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday said that the Congress government is delivering unmatched food security, nutrition, and social justice to over 3.15 crore people—more than 80 percent of the state's population.

During a day-long tour of the undivided Nalgonda district, Reddy distributed new ration cards across several constituencies, including Peddavooru, Huzurnagar, Kattangur, Bhudan Pochampally, and Alair. He was accompanied by SC and Minority Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman

Kumar and senior officials.He said the drive marks a continuation of the Congress government's welfare agenda that began with the launch of the Fine Rice Scheme earlier this year. "We are not just giving rice. We are giving dignity, recognition, and respect," he said, calling it

a sharp departure from the neglect seen under the previous BRS government.As of July 28, 2025, the state has nearly 98 lakh active ration cards, covering over 3.15 crore individuals. Since January, more than 7.95 lakh new cards have been issued, and over 11.3 lakh additional beneficiaries

have been added.

Reddy said the Fine Rice Scheme, which provides 6kg of premium rice per person each month, is now the country's most ambitious food welfare programme. "This is Telangana's food revolution—where welfare is a right, not a favour," he said.

RTI Commission launches dist. tour

Medak, July 29 (UNI) : As part of its statewide outreach initiative, the Telangana State Right to Information (RTI) Commission held an extensive awareness conference at the Medak district headquarters on Tuesday.

The program aimed at strengthening transparency and accountability among government departments by enhancing the understanding of RTI provisions among Public Information Officers (PIOs).

The event was led by State Chief Information Commissioner Chandrasekhar Reddy, along with Commissioners Desham Bhupal, PV Srinivas Rao, Boreddy Ayodhya Reddy, Mohisin Parveen, and Merla Vaishnavi.

District Collector Rahul Raj welcomed the commissioners and hosted a series of engagements including a ceremonial police salute and a tree plantation under the V a n a m a h o t s a v a m programme.

Addressing PIOs at the Integrated Collectorate Office, Chandrasekhar Reddy emphasised the need for public officials to

act as a bridge between the government and citizens by providing timely, accurate information under the RTI Act.

He noted that out of 29 departments in the state, 15 currently have no pending RTI cases — a commendable achievement.

He revealed that over 18,000 RTI cases remain pending across the state, largely due to past delays in information dissemination. "Our goal is to resolve all pending cases by August and ensure that 30 key departments are cleared of backlogs within two months," he said.

Reddy stressed that

applications must not be rejected without valid reasons and urged departments to set up citizen information boards in every government office.

He also stated that RTI is implemented in 136 countries and is vital for both transparency and accountability in a democracy. "Only when complete information is provided to citizens can we achieve real public accountability," he added.

The conference also featured sessions from other commissioners who elaborated on key sections of the RTI Act and shared practical guidance with PIOs.

Rahul Gandhi's lawyer Milind Pawar seeks contempt action against Satyaki Savarkar

Pune, July 29 (UNI) Adv Milind Pawar, representing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, filed a petition in a Pune court today seeking contempt of court action against Satyaki Savarkar, grandnephew of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.The petition alleges that Satyaki Savarkar has repeatedly violated court orders in the ongoing defamation case filed against Rahul Gandhi.The defamation case, which is currently being heard by Judge Amol Shinde, was filed by Satyaki Savarkar, who accused Rahul Gandhi of defaming freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar during a speech in London in 2023. As part of the case, Savarkar had submitted a CD and a transcript of Gandhi's speech as evidence.

Mitchell Santner to lead NZ in Latham's absence

Bulawayo, July 29 (UNI) Mitchell Santner will lead New Zealand in the opening Test against Zimbabwe starting tomorrow in Bulawayo, stepping in for regular skipper Tom Latham, who has been sidelined with a shoulder injury.

Santner, the Black Caps' white-ball captain, takes over red-ball leadership duties after a strong outing in the recent T20I Tri-Series in Harare, where he led New Zealand to an unbeaten title win. The all-rounder brings with him the experience of 30 Tests, with 1066 runs and 74 wickets under his belt.

New Zealand's team management confirmed that Latham, who sustained the injury while fielding during a domestic T20 game in England, has not recovered sufficiently to be part of the playing XI. However, he will remain with the squad in Zimbabwe, with the hope of regaining fitness ahead of the second Test.

Head coach Rob Walter expressed disappointment over Latham's absence but said the team was optimistic about his return. "It's never great when you lose your captain, who's a worldclass opening batsman and a great team man," said Walter. "We'll continue to assess and see whether a replacement player is necessary, but at this stage we are hopeful that he'll recover in time."

On Santner's promotion, Walter added, "Mitch did a wonderful job with the T20 squad in the recent series. Whilst the format is different, he certainly has the respect of the players and will be supported by some highly experienced Test cricketers, so I trust that he's going to do a great job."



Indian Men's cricket team members during an event hosted by the High Commission of India in London.

Kho Kho secures spot in major national sports calendars

New Delhi, July 29 (UNI) : In yet another major milestone for Kho Kho, the sport has now been formally included in the annual sports calendar of All India Electricity Sports Control Board (AIESCB), the premier governing body committed to the regulation and advancement of sports within the electricity sector across India which is a development that underscores the sport's rising stature. The announcement was made during the AIESCB's General Body Meeting held in Mumbai, where the sport was recognised as an official discipline alongside 16 other sports like cricket, football, kabaddi, badminton, hockey, tennis among others. This significant development marks a growing trend among government and semi-government organizations to embrace

Kho Kho as a mainstream sport, thereby expanding its presence across major sporting calendars of various, government, non-government and autonomous bodies. With Kho Kho being included in the AIESCB's sports calendar, players now have increased avenues for stable careers through employment quotas in sports, providing further motivation for aspiring athletes to take up the game professionally. Kho Kho is already part of the sporting calendars of Services Sports Control Board and Railways Sports Promotion Board.

The development not only highlights the sport's evolution from traditional roots to a professional format but also creates new employment opportunities through departmental teams and job reservations in various government sectors. "Kho Kho's

inclusion in major sports calendars is much more than a symbolic recognition, it's a validation of the sport's growing relevance across India," said Sudhanshu Mittal, President of the Kho Kho Federation of India. "We are witnessing a major shift where a traditional Indian game is now commanding space at the highest institutional levels. This will inspire thousands of youth from rural and semi-urban India to pursue Kho Kho as a viable career option."

In a further affirmation of the sport's growing national stature, Kho Kho was also introduced for the first time in the Supreme Court of India's Annual Sports Meet earlier this month. This inclusion by a prestigious institution of national importance indicates the expanding visibility of Kho Kho in elite circles, both in terms of participation and

recognition.

The increasing adoption of Kho Kho by government and autonomous bodies contributes to the broader nationwide movement that aims to democratize sports participation and provide platforms for indigenous games to thrive. As the sport continues its upward trajectory, inclusion of the sport in major sporting calendars are playing a pivotal role in shaping a future where Kho Kho athletes have access to structured employment, sustained growth opportunities, and a pathway to represent India at national and international events. With more government bodies expected to follow suit, the future of Kho Kho as a sport and profession looks increasingly bright, bringing pride to its rich heritage and newfound momentum to its modern resurgence.

India women's team clubbed with best Asian teams

Sydney, July 29 (UNI) The Indian women's football team has been drawn into a formidable Group C alongside continental heavyweights Japan, Vietnam and Chinese Taipei for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026, to be held in Australia from March 1 to 21. The draw ceremony, conducted at the Sydney Town Hall, saw Indian midfielder Sangita Basfore, who netted twice in India's final qualifier against Thailand, serve as one of the three draw assistants, along with Australia's Tameka Yallop and Korea Republic's Jeon Yu-gyeong. Placed in Pot 4 prior to the draw, based on the latest FIFA rankings released on June 12, India (world No. 70) face a daunting group stage. Japan, Asia's highest-ranked team at world No. 7, are joined by Vietnam (No. 37) and Chinese Taipei (No. 42) in Group C.

Twelve teams have been split into three groups of four for the group stage of the 21st edition of Asia's premier women's football tournament, the oldest of its kind on the continent. The top two teams from each group and the two best third-placed sides will qualify for the quarterfinals.

India booked their spot in the tournament by topping Group B in the AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers, registering victories over Thailand, Iraq, Timor-Leste and Mongolia. This will mark India's first full-fledged appearance in the tournament since 2003. The Blue Tigresses did feature in the 2022 edition as hosts but were forced to withdraw following a COVID-19 outbreak in the squad. Historically, India's best performances in the tournament came in the early 1980s, when they finished runners-up in 1980 and 1983, and secured a third-place finish in 1981.

Australia, as hosts, and the top three teams from the 2022 edition -- China, South Korea and Japan -- received automatic qualification. The 2026 tournament will be hosted across three cities -- Sydney, Perth and Gold Coast. Defending champions China, who have won a record nine titles, will look to extend their dominance on the continental stage.

Jamshedpur beat Indian Army 1-0 to top Group C

Jamshedpur, July 29 (UNI) Sanan Mohammed's 52nd-minute strike handed Jamshedpur FC a gritty 1-0 win over Indian Army FT in their Group C clash at the 134th Indian Oil Durand Cup here at the JRD Tata Sports Complex today.

This marked Jamshedpur's second consecutive victory in the group stage, taking them to six points from two matches and putting them firmly at the top of the group, with a place in the knockout stage now within touching distance. The match began with Indian Army dominating early exchanges. The Armymen could have been two goals up within the opening 15 minutes, with Samir Murmu's narrow miss and Samananda Singh's wide header both threatening the Jamshedpur goal. Army midfielders Lethaolen Khongsai and P Christopher Kamei controlled the tempo as the hosts struggled to assert themselves.

Despite Indian Army's control, the Red Miners held firm, with goalkeeper Amrit Gope making key interventions, including a fingertip save to deny Army skipper B. Sunil just before

the break.

Khalid Jamil's tactical reshuffle after halftime paid immediate dividends. Substitutes V.P. Suhair and Nikhil Barla brought attacking verve, and in the 52nd minute, a long throw-in led to the breakthrough — Karthik Choudhary's header fell to Sanan Mohammed, who calmly chested the ball down and slotted it home past Sayad Bin Abdul Kadir.

Although Indian Army continued to enjoy more possession and tested the Jamshedpur defence late in the game, including a powerful strike from Liton Shil that rattled the crossbar, they couldn't find the equaliser.

Tensions flared in stoppage time when Army goalkeeper Sayad Bin Abdul Kadir was sent off for a last-man foul on Jayesh Rane outside the box. With no substitutes left, defender Samananda Singh donned the gloves for the final moments.

Suhair nearly doubled Jamshedpur's lead with a late attempt that also struck the crossbar, but the solitary goal was enough for the hosts to seal the win and move closer to a spot in the quarterfinals.

134th Durand cup to begin today in Manipur

Imphal, July 29 (UNI) : The 134th Durand Cup, 2025, will begin tomorrow at the Khuman Lampak Main Stadium in Imphal, organized by the Indian Army and the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports (YAS), Government of Manipur.

The Manipur Police has announced special traffic arrangements around the stadium starting tomorrow.

Dr. Mayengbam Veto Singh, Director of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of Manipur, stated that the 134th edition of the Durand Cup will be the first major sporting event in the state since the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said six matches will be hosted in Manipur during the tournament, scheduled for July 30, August 1, 4, 7, 10, with the final match on August 12. Four teams will compete in the Imphal leg of the tournament — Real Kashmir FC and the Indian Navy Football Team from outside the state, and local teams NEROCA FC and TRAU FC. On July 10, Imphal warmly welcomed the 134th edition of the Indian Oil Durand Cup with a grand trophy tour, marking the return of Asia's oldest football tournament to the Manipur capital after a two-year hiatus. The three iconic trophies — the Durand Cup, the Shimla Trophy, and the President's Cup — were formally unveiled. According to CC Sopenla, SP Traffic, three gates will be open to the general public, and six parking areas have been designated. Traffic diversions will be in place around the stadium, and security personnel will be deployed to assist visitors.

McKeown outswims Smith to defend 100m backstroke world title

Singapore, July 29 (UNI) : Australia's Kaylee McKeown reaffirmed her dominance in women's backstroke by edging out arch-rival Regan Smith in a high-octane final to win the 100m backstroke title at the 2025 World Aquatics Championships.

Competing under the lights in Singapore, the two-time Olympic champion surged past Smith in the final stretch

to clock a championship-record 57.16 seconds — a stunning comeback after trailing by 0.22 seconds at the halfway mark.

World record-holder Smith of the United States settled for silver with a time of 57.35 seconds, while fellow American Katharine Berkoff touched home in 58.15 to take bronze. The triumph marked a successful title defence for McKeown,

who had won the same event at the 2023 World Championships in Fukuoka. It was also yet another win over Smith, whom she had beaten in the finals of both the Paris 2024 Olympics and the Fukuoka Worlds.

Speaking after the race, McKeown admitted she had been hesitant to contest the event due to mental and physical fatigue following the

Olympics. "It's always really nerve-wracking, especially off the back of the Olympics. Probably a little bit more nervous than I would have liked going into tonight, but it's paid off," she said. Asked whether she had found her joy in swimming again, the five-time Olympic gold medallist responded, "I certainly have and I hope to continue that for the rest of the week."

With her mother cheering from the stands, the 23-year-old Australian underlined her status as one of the sport's modern greats — extending a personal winning streak over Smith that dates back to the Tokyo 2020 Games.

The World Aquatics Championships continue this week with more medal events in swimming, diving, and artistic disciplines.

Gambhir in heated exchange with Oval Groundsman

London, July 29 (UNI) : India's build-up to the final Test at The Oval took an unexpected turn when head coach Gautam Gambhir was seen involved in a heated exchange with Lee Fortis, the head groundsman at Surrey. The incident, which unfolded during today's optional training session, cast an uneasy shadow over what was expected to be a routine practice ahead of the high-stakes series decider.

Eye witnesses described Gambhir wagging his finger at Fortis in what appeared to be an animated disagreement.

Reportedly, the dispute stemmed from his objections to India using parts of the main square for warm-ups and drills. Groundsmen are

traditionally protective of the square, and with The Oval set to host more domestic matches through early September, Fortis was reportedly anxious to limit traffic around the pitches.

India's assistant coach Sitanshu Kotak confirmed tensions on the ground, admitting that the team felt "awkward" after being instructed to maintain a 2.5-metre distance from the pitch, despite not wearing spikes.

"When some of us coaches went to see the wicket, a member of the groundstaff said stay away at least 2.5 metres, which was a little surprising," Kotak said. "Because it is the pitch, the match is starting day after, it will be a five-day Test, and we're standing in our joggers, so

we felt a little awkward."

Kotak did not directly comment on the Gambhir-Fortis confrontation but defended the team's conduct. "(We were) just looking at the wicket, with rubber spikes... There's nothing wrong with that. Curators also need to understand the people they are talking to, they are highly skilled and intelligent," he said. "For example, if you go on the ground now where we practised, you won't even see that any bowler in the outfield would have marked it with his spikes. That all comes from the head coach. We try and see this ground also doesn't get damaged."

The assistant coach suggested that the tone of communication may have triggered the episode.

Chandrakant Pandit steps down as KKR Head Coach

Kolkata, July 29 (UNI) : Chandrakant Pandit has decided to part ways with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and will not continue as the franchise's Head Coach, the team confirmed today.

Pandit, who took over the coaching reins ahead of the 2023 season, guided KKR to a historic title win in the 2024 edition of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL), their third championship and first in a decade.

"We are thankful for his invaluable contributions, including leading KKR to the TATA IPL Championship in 2024 and helping build a strong, resilient squad," the franchise said in a statement.

Sable undergoes successful knee surgery

Mumbai, July 29 (UNI) : Two-time Olympian and national record holder Avinash Sable has undergone successful surgery for an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and meniscus injury in his right knee, the steeplechase ace confirmed today.

Sable suffered the injury during a fall in the Monaco Diamond League on July 11.

The incident occurred when he stumbled over the water jump after a competitor ahead of him lost balance, forcing the 30-year-old Indian to limp off the track in visible distress.

"It's a tough setback, but I'm determined to do the hard work and come back stronger," Sable posted on social media, alongside a photo from his hospital bed.

The surgical procedure was performed at Mumbai's Kokilaben Hospital under the supervision of noted sports injury specialist Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala.

"I've completed my surgery under the expert care of Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala and his team... I'll be back faster and stronger," he added in the statement.

The ACL and meniscus are critical to knee stability and mobility. Injuries of this nature typically require extended rehabilitation, often sidelining athletes for six months or longer.

The Monaco race was Sable's first competition since clinching the Asian 3000m steeplechase crown in May and his third Diamond League appearance of the 2025 season. He had earlier

finished 13th in Xiamen (8:22.59) and eighth in Shanghai (8:23.85), later disclosing that he had been carrying calf and hamstring niggles throughout the season.

Sable holds the Indian national record in the 3000m steeplechase at 8:09.91, clocked at the 2024 Paris Diamond League. He is also the reigning Asian Games

champion and Commonwealth Games silver medallist in the event. In addition, he owns the Indian half marathon record with a time of 1:00:30, set during the 2020 Delhi Half Marathon.

Sable's recovery will be closely monitored, with the hope of his return ahead of the 2026 athletics calendar.

Printed by R. Srinivasan,
Published and Owned by Mohammed Shafi

Printed at Global Graphics,
H.No.60, Thennan Salai Road,
Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Puducherry - 605013 and
Published from # H.No.156, First Floor,
Thiruvalluvar Salai, Pillaitthottam,
Puducherry - 605013.

Editor: Mohammed Shafi

RNI No.: PONENG/2017/77178

Cell : 9849881368

Email : standardpostpuducherry@gmail.com

ECoR, Waltair Division Introduces prepaid auto rickshaw services at Duvvada Railway Station

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, July 29 : The Waltair Division of East Coast Railway, in association with the Visakhapatnam City Police, has launched prepaid auto-rickshaw services at Duvvada Railway Station, further enhancing passenger convenience and safety.

This initiative, already operational at Visakhapatnam station, aims to streamline last-mile connectivity for rail commuters.

Dedicated prepaid service counters have been provided at these railway stations to assist the traveling public. Passengers can easily avail themselves of this facility by depositing the fare for their respective



destinations in advance at the dedicated office. This transparent process ensures clarity on the exact amount payable and eliminates the hassle of fare discussions.

The prepaid service at Duvvada Railway Station was formally inaugurated by Shri Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair and Shri Sankabratha Bagchi, Commissioner of Police,

Visakhapatnam in presence of members of the City Auto - Rickshaw Association and officers from both the Waltair Division and the City Police.

Over 70 auto-rickshaws have been enlisted to provide this service at present.

Highlighting the benefits of the initiative, Shri Lalit Bohra, DRM, Waltair, said “This system



offers passengers a clear and convenient fare structure, assuring transparency and a secure journey within city limits.”

Commissioner of Police Shri Sankabratha Bagchi said, “All vehicles engaged in the prepaid service have been equipped with GPS tracking systems, enhancing passenger safety under the surveillance of Andhra Pradesh Police.”

Local representatives and association members also extended their congratulations, expressing satisfaction that this facility will be especially beneficial to commuters during nighttime hours.

Further expanding this facility, similar prepaid auto-rickshaw services are scheduled to be introduced at Simhachalam Railway Station soon.

On the Rails to Safety: RPF’s Relentless Fight Against Human Trafficking

(Standard Post Bureau)

It was an ordinary afternoon at New Jalpaiguri Railway Station on July 21, 2025. The bustle of trains, announcements, and rushing passengers belied a dark undercurrent that too often hides in plain sight — human trafficking. Acting on a tip-off, Miss Sarika Kumari, Lady Sub Inspector of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), along with RPF and Government Railway Police (GRP) officials, swung into action. A quiet, coordinated search across several coaches of Train No. 13245 DN went underway and what they found was staggering.

Fifty-six young adult girls, confused and unsure of their journey’s purpose, were being transported by two individuals — Jitendra Kumar Paswan and Chandrima Kar — who claimed they were escorting the girls to work in motor parts and mobile phone companies in Bengaluru. To avoid detection, the girls had been spread across various coaches. Upon inquiry, the girls could not provide details about their travel or employment, and even their parents were unaware of the specifics. Their coach and berth numbers had been scrawled in ink on their hands — a chilling reminder of how systemized such crimes have become. The traffickers failed to produce any valid documentation or give credible explanations. Following due process, both accused were arrested under relevant provisions of law relating to trafficking of children, and the rescued girls were released after verification.

Behind this success was not just a team of officers, but a vigilant security ecosystem determined to ensure that the vast Indian Railway network — the lifeline of the country — is not allowed to become a conduit for human exploitation.

The RPF’s Expanding Role in Safeguarding Lives

For the RPF, this was just another day of silent, determined service. Among its many responsibilities — ensuring passenger safety, protecting railway property, and maintaining order — one role has gained



Manoj Yadava IPS
Director General
Railway Protection Force

increasing prominence over the last decade: preventing human trafficking.

Indian Railways, with its 13,000 trains, 7,500 stations, and an estimated 23 million passengers daily, is an artery of movement that connects remote corners of India to urban hubs. But what makes it a boon for mobility also attracts malefactors — unscrupulous elements who exploit the affordability, reach, and anonymity of the railway system to smuggle their victims. Women and children, particularly from marginalized regions, are targeted with false promises of jobs, education, or marriage, and pushed into child labour, prostitution and begging.

The RPF has grown into a pivotal force in ensuring that traffickers do not misuse this public infrastructure. Through sustained intelligence-based operations and coordination with Civil Police, NGOs, and other agencies, RPF has positioned itself as a key stakeholder in the national fight against human trafficking.

From Policing to Protection: Building a Trafficking-Free Network

The RPF’s proactive role in combating trafficking did not emerge overnight. Its evolution has been strategic, structured, and committed.

This transformation began with **Operation Nanhe Farishtey**, launched in 2020, with a mission to

rescue children who were lost, abandoned, runaway, or trapped in exploitative conditions. While initially focused on minors, the operation opened a window into the broader machinery of trafficking — leading to a deeper institutional focus on dismantling networks that target not only children, but women and other vulnerable adults as well.

Nanhe Farishtey became a defining intervention, saving more than **64,000 children — 43,493 boys and 20411 girls** — many from the grips of child labour, organized begging rings, and forced servitude during last four and a half years. After rescue, the children are produced before **Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)** for reintegration or safe institutional care, with crucial support from **Child Help Desks (CHDs)** and **District Child Protection Units (DCPU)s**. These interventions have been operationalized at **135 major railway stations**, with plans to scale it up further.

Building on its success, the RPF formally launched **Operation AAHT (Action Against Human Trafficking)** in 2022, creating **750 Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs)** across the Indian Railways network.

These units conduct intelligence-based drives, surveillance operations, and coordinated rescues with NGOs and local police. Strategic **MoUs were**

signed with the National Commission for Women and Aarambh India (an NGO), enabling capacity-building, real-time information exchange, and structured rehabilitation support.

Strategic Intelligence and Technological Edge: Detection Dynamics

The battle against trafficking is no longer just about vigilance; it is about precision, prediction, and integration. RPF’s **detection dynamics** now involve a multi-pronged, tech-enabled strategy that combines **human intelligence with digital surveillance**.

Frontline railway workers — ticket examiners, porters, onboard housekeeping staff — are sensitized and trained to spot red flags. Simultaneously, data analytics backed **CCTV surveillance and AI-powered facial recognition systems (FRS)** help identify traffickers and potential victims based on movement patterns and known databases. The use of **social and digital media platforms** has further added a modern edge to detection. Cases reported through platforms like Twitter, WhatsApp helplines, and even crowd-sourced alerts have led to rescues. This evolving surveillance ecosystem ensures that traffickers no longer operate with impunity, even in the busiest and most chaotic transit points.

Rescues, Arrests, and Reforms: Measurable Progress, Real Lives

In 54 months between 2021 and mid-2025, **2,912 human trafficking victims** were rescued by RPF, including over **2,600 minors** and **264 adults**. In this same period, **701 traffickers** were arrested. The force has also played a crucial role in identifying **illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar**, many of whom were victims of trafficking rings that promised work or refuge. Over **580 such cases** were detected between 2022 and 2024. These numbers are not merely statistical milestones; they represent dismantled networks, broken chains of exploitation, and lives restored to safety.

But rescue is only part of the equation. RPF ensures that victims are **counselled, supported, and rehabilitated** through coordinated action with NGOs, CWCs, and shelter homes. From **Muzaffarpur to Secunderabad, Katihar to Ajmer**, known trafficking routes have been disrupted. Trains such as the **Gorakhpur-Secunderabad Express, Rajendranagar-Ajmer Express,** and **New Jalpaiguri-Amritsar Express** have become focal points for surveillance.

Prevention as the First Line of Defence

While rescue and prosecution are vital, **prevention** remains the cornerstone of an effective anti-trafficking strategy. The RPF, in alignment with broader government initiatives, has deployed a **public outreach and awareness campaign** across the railway ecosystem.

From **short street plays at railway stations, to posters, banners, and standees, to broadcast messages via public address systems and rail display networks**, the aim is to make every passenger a stakeholder in vigilance. Slogans such as “*Stop Trafficking: Because Every Child Deserves to Be Free*” are more than words — they are part of a cultural shift to recognize and report exploitation.

Moreover, **community engagement** — through social media campaigns, school outreach, and partnerships with civil society — is being mainstreamed into the preventive framework. The integration of **helplines like 1098 and 112** ensures that reports can be swiftly acted upon.

Together, these efforts are reshaping stations into zones of safety — spaces where traffickers are no longer invisible, and victims are never alone.

Holding the Line, Together

On this *World Day Against Trafficking in Persons*, the story of the 56 girls rescued at New Jalpaiguri is not an exception — it is a reflection of a nationwide, relentless effort to combat one of humanity’s gravest crimes.

Eleven integrated aquaparks approved under PMMSY: Govt

New Delhi, July 29 (UNI) Aiming to bolster the aquaculture infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has sanctioned the development of 11 Integrated aquaparks across 11 states, the Government informed Lok Sabha today.

The aquapark project has a total outlay of Rs 682.60 crore and comes under the central flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The aquaparks have been envisioned as holistic hubs that will provide end-to-end support across the aquaculture value chain, said Union Minister of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, George Kurian, in a written reply today.

According to official data, Andhra Pradesh will set up one aquapark at a cost of Rs 88.08 crore while Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have received approvals for projects costing Rs 43.59 crore and Rs 42.35 crore respectively.

Other states that will host integrated aquaparks include Assam (Rs 32.97 crore), Chhattisgarh (Rs 37.11 crore), Haryana (Rs 98.90 crore), Madhya Pradesh (Rs 25.00 crore), Odisha (Rs 100.00 crore), Tamil Nadu (Rs 127.71 crore), Tripura (Rs 42.40 crore), and Uttarakhand (Rs 44.50 crore).

Railways to run Devlali-Danapur-Manmad Special train with revised train numbers : CR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 29 : Railways have decided to run the Devlali-Danapur-Manmad special trains with revised train numbers as per details below:

Special Train no 01153 Devlali-Danapur Express will now run as Special Train no 01053 Devlali-Danapur Express and Special Train no 01154 Danapur-Manmad Express will now run as Special Train no 01054 Danapur-Manmad Express.

The above trains will run with revised Train numbers with effect from 23.08.2025

For detailed halts and timings please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App.

Railways to run the following trains with revised composition : CR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 29 : Railways will henceforth run the following trains with revised composition as per details below:

Train no 12701/12702 CSMT-Hyderabad-CSMT Hussain Sagar Express and “Train no 22732/22731 CSMT-Hyderabad-CSMT Express will run with revised composition as under:

Revised composition: One AC-2Tier, Five AC-3Tier, 4 Sleeper Class, 4 General Second Class, 1 Generator Car and 1 Second Seating + Luggage cum Guard’s brake van.

• Train no 12701 CSMT-Hyderabad Hussain Sagar Express will run with the revised composition ex

CSMT with effect from 24.09.2025

• Train no 12702 Hyderabad-CSMT Hussain Sagar Express will run with the revised composition ex Hyderabad with effect from 25.09.2025

• Train no 22732 CSMT-Hyderabad Express will run with the revised composition ex CSMT with effect from 26.09.2025

• Train no 22731 Hyderabad-CSMT Express will run with the revised composition ex Hyderabad with effect from 23.09.2025

For detailed timings and halts of these trains, please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App.

Passengers to please note the above changes

Survey Committee Visits Karjat ST Depot



(Standard Post Bureau)

Karjat, July 29 : Under the Hindu Hruday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray Clean, Beautiful Bus Station Campaign, the Survey Committee visited Karjat ST Depot suddenly yesterday evening and inspected the entire premises and also inspected the office documents.

The Committee expressed satisfaction with the management of Karjat Depot and made important suggestions for making the depot better.

Around 3 pm, the Survey Committee headed by the Divisional Controller of Ratnagiri District Prajnesh Borse arrived at Karjat ST Depot.

The committee included Divisional Personnel Officer Rajeshwar Jadhav,

Journalist Vijay Mande, and Passenger Representative Vinod Chaudhary. Depot Manager Devanand More welcomed the attendees. Along with Transport Controller Deepak Deshmukh and Vilas Bagul, they inspected the entire depot premises

. On this occasion, they gave good feedback about the cleanliness of the toilet and also expressed satisfaction about the passenger shelter, CNG pump arrangement, and different type of arrangement in the office work. However, suggestions were given about cleanliness.”

Suggestions were made regarding the accommodation of the depot managers and the repair of the buildings. Despite the low manpower, the depot is

running well. The committee members praised this. Committee Chairman Prajnesh Borse made suggestions like, 'Efforts should be made to increase the number of passengers.

A park should be developed in the area. Health camps should be organized for passengers and employees.' More said, 'New ST trains have arrived for the depot. Therefore, efforts are being made to provide better facilities to the passengers.' Member Mande said, 'This depot was started in the 1980s. There is plenty of space for the depot. However, most of the buildings are in poor condition. MLA Mahendra Thorve will provide funds for renovation. Therefore, the appearance of the depot will be changed.'