

IN BRIEF

TTD-run Women's Polytechnic College gets NBA accreditation

Tirupati, July 30 (UNI) TTD-run Sri Padmavathi Women's Polytechnic College in Tirupati has been accredited by the NBA (National Board of Accreditation) up to the year 2028.

In a statement on Wednesday, TTD Executive Officer J. Syamala Rao congratulated the Principal Dr. M. Padmavathamma, faculty, and staff for their collective efforts in achieving this recognition.

He appreciated their teamwork and dedication, and urged them to continue striving for national-level recognition for the institution by delivering quality education to students.

AP liquor scam: SIT seizes Rs 11 cr cash during Hyderabad raids

Hyderabad/ Amaravati, July 30 (UNI) In a breakthrough in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) seized Rs 11 crore in cash during early morning raids in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Acting on key information provided by Varun—identified as Accused No 40 (A 40) in the case—the SIT carried out searches at Sulochana Farm House in Kacharam village, Shamshabad mandal of Ranga Reddy district. The cash, reportedly hidden in 12 boxes, was stashed away in June 2024 on the instructions of Kesireddy Rajasekhara Reddy—identified as Accused No 1 (A 1) and Chanakya (A12), according to Varun's confession. Along with the cash, office files were also recovered from the premises. The farmhouse is registered under the name of Sulochana Farms, owned by Professor Tagala Bal Reddy. With this latest seizure, the SIT has intensified its operations across Hyderabad. Further investigation is underway, according to official sources.

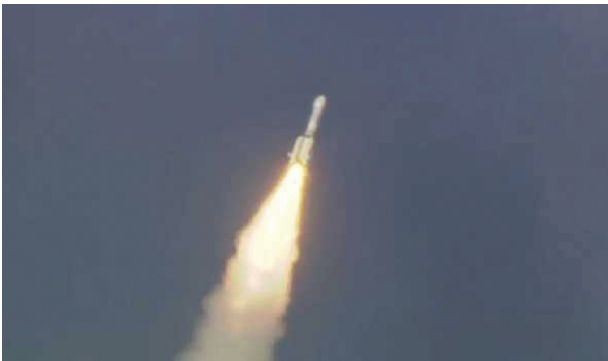
India successfully puts into orbit Indo-US joint earth observation satellite NISAR

Sriharikota, July 30 (UNI) Marking a new milestone in Indo-US space diplomacy, India on Thursday evening successfully put into orbit the first ISRO-NASA jointly developed Earth Observation satellite NISAR in a copy book style from the spaceport here.

The 2,392 kg NISAR satellite was carried by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) rocket codenamed as GSLV-F16.

The rocket lifted off at 5.40 pm from the second launch pad at the rocket port here in Andhra Pradesh and after a flight duration of 19 minutes the rocket slung NISAR into the 743 km Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit with an inclination of 98.405 deg to the equator.

"NISAR Satellite separated. GSLV-F16



NISAR Mission successfully accomplished", ISRO said after the launch.

In a post on X, ISRO wrote "separation confirmed. Each stage, precise. Cryo ignition and Cryo stage performance flawless".

"GSLV-F16 delivered NISAR to orbit. #NISAR #GSLVF16 #ISRO #NASA", it said.

Addressing the Scientists from the Mission Control Centre, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman and Secretary

Department of Space Dr.V.Narayanan said "I am happy to announce that GSLV-F16 has successfully and precisely injected ISRO-NASA NISAR satellite into the intended orbit.

All the flight parameters performed precisely and the satellite was injected without any deviation, he said.

This accomplishment is a culmination of the team efforts of ISRO, NASA and JPL undertaken by the two spacefaring nations.

The GSLV-F1 rocket is a three staged/engine

vehicle. The first stage (GS1) is powered by a solid propellant motor having 138-ton propellant and four earth-storable propellant stages strap-on motors with 42 tons of liquid propellant in each.

The second stage is also an earth-storable propellant stage loaded with 42 ton propellant and the third stage is a cryogenic stage with a 14-ton propellant loading of liquid oxygen (LOX) and liquid hydrogen (LH2).

During the atmospheric regime, the satellite is protected by Ogive payload fairing or the heat shield.

GSLV rocket can be used to launch a variety of spacecraft capable of performing communications, navigation, earth resource surveys, and any other proprietary mission, ISRO said.

SC hears Delhi govt plea on ban of older vehicles

New Delhi, July 30 (UNI) The Supreme Court today heard a plea filed by the Delhi government, seeking enforcement directions on the ban on old petrol and diesel vehicles within the capital. The plea highlights the need for strict implementation of existing court and National Green Tribunal (NGT) directives, which prohibit petrol vehicles older than 15 years and diesel vehicles older than 10 years from operating on Delhi roads due to concerns about pollution.

A bench led by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai considered the matter and sought a status report from the authorities on the implementation and monitoring mechanisms adopted so far.

The court has indicated that the matter will be taken up further after submission of the report, given the urgency of addressing environmental degradation and public health hazards in the national capital.



Fauja Singh statue to be installed at Moga

A statue of late runner Fauja Singh will be installed shortly at Moga's famous Mahan Desh Bhagat Park. Fauja Singh passed away at the age of 114 years on July 14, 2025 at his native Jalandhar village in Beas Pind when a motor vehicle ran into him. Singh, a global running legend had several age group level records to his name. He started his running career at the ripe age of 89.

(See on page 7)

Chandrababu Naidu's Singapore Visit a Resounding Success

CM Returns to Vijayawada After High-Impact Investment Drive

Back-to-Back Meetings, Strategic Visits, and Meaningful Engagements



(RAVIKUMAR BOPPANA)

Singapore, July 30: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's four-day visit to Singapore concluded on a highly successful note, reaffirming his unwavering commitment to transforming Andhra Pradesh into a global investment hub. With a razor-sharp focus on securing long-term partnerships and projecting Andhra Pradesh as a future-ready state, Mr. Naidu led an intense, tightly packed schedule—personally attending 26 back-to-back engagements that included meetings, conferences, and strategic visits.

Working from dawn till late hours, the Chief Minister displayed extraordinary energy and clarity of purpose, using every interaction as an opportunity to position Andhra Pradesh as a destination for next-generation investments. His hands-on leadership, deep understanding of global business dynamics, and proactive engagement impressed many international stakeholders.

Accompanying him throughout the visit was Minister for Skill

Development Nara Lokesh, who played a key role in technology-focused discussions, particularly in areas like Artificial Intelligence, Industry 4.0, and digital skilling. Lokesh's interactions with tech leaders and innovation hubs reflected his strong grip on emerging technologies and their relevance for the youth

extended a formal invitation for Singapore's participation in the upcoming Global Investors Summit in Visakhapatnam on November 14–15, and expressed the state's willingness to deepen bilateral ties.

Importantly, Mr. Naidu succeeded in rebuilding Andhra Pradesh's strategic

senior leadership from companies like Surbana Jurong, Sembcorp, Keppel Corporation, CapitaLand, GIC, TVS Motors, Mandai Wildlife, SMBC, Wilmar, Eversendai Engineering, AI Singapore, and others. The focus of discussions ranged from infrastructure and urban housing to maritime logistics, green energy,

"We are here to study the best, partner with the best, and bring the best back home," the Chief Minister noted during one such visit.

Emotional Connect with the Telugu Diaspora

A highlight of the visit was the Telugu Diaspora Meet hosted by the South-East Asia Telugu Community.

Telugu people from Singapore and five neighboring countries gathered to welcome the Chief Minister and his team with heartfelt warmth. The diaspora expressed admiration for Mr. Naidu's visionary leadership and the state's renewed direction under his governance. At the end of the tour, local Telugu residents gathered at the hotel to bid farewell, raising chants of "Jai CBN" as the CM left for the airport.

Chief Minister Naidu expressed deep gratitude to the community, stating, "You are the global face of Andhra Pradesh. Your ideas, your investments, and your emotional support are invaluable to us."

Upon returning to India, Mr. Naidu resumed official duties without delay—demonstrating once again his tireless spirit and mission-driven leadership.

(The author is a senior freelance journalist and information analyst served as the Chief Public Relations Officer to Hon'ble governor at the AP Raj Bhavan and media liaison officer to Hon'ble speaker at the AP Legislative Assembly.)



of Andhra Pradesh. Together, the CM and Minister Lokesh projected a strong and united front of dynamic leadership, willing to learn, adapt, and implement global best practices.

The Chief Minister held key meetings with Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, former Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Minister for Trade & Industry Tan See Leng, and Minister for Home Affairs and Law K. Shanmugam. He

relationship with Singapore—an equation that had weakened due to policy neglect by previous administrations. India's High Commissioner to Singapore, Mr. Shilpak Ambule, provided full cooperation during the visit, facilitating seamless engagements with government and corporate leaders.

Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Exchange, and Bold Vision"

During the visit, the CM and his team engaged with

fintech, and artificial intelligence.

The delegation also conducted field visits to transformational projects such as Bidadari Housing Estate, Jurong Island (Petrochemical Hub), Tuas Mega Port, and the Singapore Sports School. These visits were not symbolic—detailed discussions and documentation followed, with the goal of adapting these modern urban models to suit the developmental needs of Andhra Pradesh.

All industrial approvals to be available online on MAITRI ...



Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said that all approvals to industries will be provided online and for that, the MAITRI portal will be integrated. "Maharashtra is successfully moving towards a 1 trillion dollar economy due to industrial sector.

(See on page 3)

Slovakian PM Robert Fico derides EU stance on ...



Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico, in a strong attack against his European allies, said the "EU seems to be tired and bored of 80 years of peace", accusing the bloc of trying to trigger an all-out Russia-NATO conflict, reports RT.

(See on page 5)

Tejashwi accuses Bihar Govt. of Rs 80,000 crore scam



Launching scathing attack on the NDA-led Bihar government, leader of opposition in the state assembly Tejashwi Yadav today accused the state government of being involved in Rs 80,000 crore scam, as highlighted in the recent CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) report. While addressing a press conference of Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance),

(See on page 6)

US did not play any role in halting India's military action during Operation Sindoor : Jaishankar

New Delhi, July 30 (UNI) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today reiterated that US President Donald Trump had no role in stopping India's military operation against Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

Speaking in Rajya Sabha while resuming the discussion on Operation Sindoor he said there was no conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump to halt the military action. "There was no telephonic conversation between the two leaders from April 22 to June 16,".

Rejecting opposition allegations of diplomatic failure during Operation Sindoor, the External Affairs Minister said Indian diplomacy was perfectly on track given that the BRICS summit condemned the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

"BRICS countries condemned the conspirators behind the Pahalgam attack and cross-border terrorism, whereas in the BRICS summit statement after the Mumbai attacks, cross-border terrorism was not mentioned," he said. He also highlighted that Germany, France, Russia and the European Union had condemned the Pahalgam attack. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) had also issued a statement on April 25 condemning the Pahalgam terrorist attack when Pakistan was a member of the Council and India was not.

Praising the valour of Indian armed forces during Operation Sindoor, he said the military struck terrorist hideouts in Bahawalpur and Muridke with

precision. "These were strongholds of terrorism in Pakistan. Several Pakistani airports were also targeted. This was a major success of Operation Sindoor."

For those demanding proof of the Operation's success, he suggested watching videos on YouTube showing terrorists' funerals after they were killed, which would reveal the nature of the Indian Army's action.

He acknowledged the closeness between Pakistan and China and said both countries have come closer over time, not overnight. Referring to incidents during Congress governments, he pointed out that Pakistan-China relations have had moments of proximity in the past as well.

He said that by suspending the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) Prime Minister Modi had corrected the wrongs committed by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. "Blood and water will not flow together," he said, providing reasons for India's decision to suspend the IWT. Dr Jaishankar recalled that during the Indus Waters Treaty, Nehru was more concerned about Pakistani farmers than Indian farmers. Nehru had stated in Lok Sabha that the water agreement would benefit farmers in West Punjab which was then part of Pakistan. Jaishankar also appreciated the role of Members of Parliament who were part of the all-party delegations sent to different countries to clarify India's position on Operation Sindoor.

Tamil film actor arrested in loan fraud case

New Delhi, July 30 (UNI) The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Delhi has apprehended Tamil film actor Dr S Srinivasan, alias Powerstar, in connection with an alleged loan fraud case. The actor, who had been absconding since 2018, was declared a proclaimed offender twice.

According to police sources, Srinivasan allegedly defrauded a company of 75 crore with the promise of arranging a 1000 crore loan. Investigation revealed that he diverted the funds for film productions and personal use. A Delhi Police team tracked Srinivasan's location to Vanagaram, Chennai, using technical surveillance and local intelligence. He has been remanded to judicial custody. The sexagenarian actor had set up a finance firm, Baba Trading Company, in Anna Nagar and advertised through brokers that he would help businessmen acquire large bank loans. He claimed to the complainant company that he could arrange a 1000 crore loan. Under the loan

agreement, the complainant paid an upfront amount of 75 crore, purportedly for purchasing special adhesive stamps (at 0.5% of the loan amount).

Upon investigation, it was revealed that 75 crore was transferred in December 2010 to M/S Baba Trading Company, which later transferred to the personal accounts of the accused and his wife. A fixed deposit of 74 crore was seized later. He failed to produce any proof of purchasing adhesive stamps. Srinivasan was first arrested in 2013 and, after being declared a proclaimed offender (PO) in 2016, he was again arrested in 2017. He was granted bail and again evaded trial, absconding since 2018 after the second PO declaration.

Notably, Srinivasan has played supporting roles in several Tamil films. He is a doctor, politician, comedian, producer, singer, and businessman. Srinivasan, who obtained a degree in acupuncture from a university in China, is also involved in six similar cheating cases in Chennai.



People gather after tyres being set on fire during a protest over a road accident, in Patna.

Opposition steps up demand for Minister's resignation over Assembly gaming scandal

Mumbai, July 30 (UNI): The opposition today intensified its demand for the resignation of Agriculture Minister Maanikrao Kokate, who was allegedly seen playing an online game in the Maharashtra Assembly.

Despite indications that Kokate might be reassigned to the Relief and Rehabilitation Department as a form of "rehabilitation," the Sharad Pawar-led faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has stated unequivocally that they will not cease their protest until his resignation.

The leaders of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) will meet and take a collective

decision said Shashikant Shinde, Maharashtra state president of the NCP- SP today. Shashikant Shinde, Maharashtra state president of the NCP (SP), announced today that leaders of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) will convene to make a collective decision on the matter.

He also took a swipe at the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Ajit Pawar faction of the NCP, accusing their ministers of refusing to step down despite controversies. He noted that despite repeated warnings and reprimands, even from Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Kokate continues to act

irresponsibly and disregard advice.

Calling the state of the cabinet "dire," Shinde warned that careless behavior and irresponsible statements by ministers are sending the wrong message, that they enjoy unchecked support. But we will not tolerate this any longer, he asserted.

NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar claimed that the Agriculture Minister played Rummy in the House for much longer than he had claimed.

"The Agriculture Minister was not playing Rummy for just 42 seconds but for 18 to 22 minutes. This has become clear from

the probe report of the state legislature. This report has been submitted to the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister. Will the government clarify about it?" Rohit asked through a post on social media.

He added, "If this government is not going to take action against a minister who was playing Rummy online for 18-22 minutes, then the Chief Minister has no moral right to claim that he followed the ideology of Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Similarly, Ajit dada has no moral right to claim that he followed the teachings of late Yashwantrao Chavan."

SC verdict jolts Fadnavis government in Somnath Suryawanshi custodial death case

Mumbai, July 30 (UNI) The Supreme Court upheld today an earlier Bombay High Court order to the Devendra Fadnavis government to register a case in the Somnath Suryawanshi police (judicial) custodial death case within a week. The development has come as a blow to the Fadnavis-led Mahayuti government, since there is every possibility of cases being filed against police officials allegedly involved in the case. The Fadnavis government is also likely to face trouble for violating the Bombay High Court order to register a case in the Somnath Suryawanshi case within a week's time.

Initially, the police and the Maharashtra government had claimed that Dalit activist Somnath Suryawanshi had died of natural causes, after allegations that he died in police (judicial) custody due to torture. In fact, a few days after the Mahayuti government was sworn in, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had claimed in the legislative assembly that "Suryavanshi's medical examination has revealed that he had a serious respiratory disease. The medical report also mentions his old injuries. A bone near one of his shoulders was also broken. While he was in judicial custody, he started having chest pain in the morning. At that time, the police took him to the hospital, where he was declared dead". However, a postmortem report revealed that Suryawanshi died due to physical assault.

Meanwhile, Dalit activist Suryawanshi's mother Vijaybai Venkat Suryavanshi expressed satisfaction about the Supreme Court's verdict in the case.

"I am grateful to all the Parbhani Lawyers' Association, Aurangabad Lawyers' Association, Mumbai High Court Lawyers' Association and Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) chief Prakash Ambedkar. Prakash Ambedkar stood behind me like a brother in this case. He stood firm and got me justice. Somnath's blood was shed for the constitution of this country.

He sacrificed his life for the constitution. Prakash Ambedkar did not let his sacrifice go to waste," Somnath Suryawanshi's mother Vijaybai Venkat Suryavanshi told media persons. "The police killed my son.

The police entered our house, broke down the doors and beat us. An in-camera autopsy of Somnath was done. It was clear that he died due to torture. No child should have to go through such a time.

"My son was going to become a lawyer but the police took my son away and killed him. The state government tried to mislead us. They tortured my son for four days in police custody. They beat him until his bones broke. The police killed my son who was going to become a lawyer. Then they lied that he died of a heart attack," Somnath Suryawanshi's mother Vijaybai Venkat Suryavanshi said.

The matter gained public attention after Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's grandson and Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) chief Prakash Ambedkar filed a case in court and also argued the custodial death case in court.

After this, the Bombay High Court had ordered the Maharashtra government to register a case in the Somnath Suryawanshi death case within a week, but instead, the Fadnavis government chose to approach the Supreme Court against the Bombay High Court order.

While giving information about the Suryawanshi case, VBA chief Prakash Ambedkar said "The Supreme Court has given a verdict in our favour in the case of State of Maharashtra and others versus Vijaybai Venkat Suryavanshi (the late Somnath Suryawanshi's mother) and has upheld the order of the Bombay High Court". "The Supreme Court heard our side. The Bombay High Court's decision to register a case within a week was upheld. Since the police did not register a First Information Report (FIR) within a week, it will have to be seen whether action is taken against them for violating the Bombay High Court's order, since the court had ordered the Fadnavis government to register a case within a week," VBA chief Prakash Ambedkar said.

"The Supreme Court also raised the question of why a case was not registered in the Somnath Suryavanshi police

custodial death case within a week. The Maharashtra government is the accused in this case. Somnath Suryavanshi died in police custody while he was in government custody. Like in all such previous cases, the Maharashtra government had made its usual attempt to shrug off its responsibility in this case as well, but we brought this matter to the court's attention. Therefore, in future, those who die in police custody will get justice," VBA chief Prakash Ambedkar said.

"Today's verdict of the Supreme Court is likely to increase the problems of the Maharashtra state government, police and doctors in government hospitals. We are going to demand that the doctors of JJ Hospital in Mumbai be made accused in this case. A second opinion cannot be given without a court order. Not all the facts have been investigated in the Somnath Suryavanshi custodial death case. Therefore, we are going to demand that doctors of JJ Hospital be made the accused in this case," VBA chief Prakash Ambedkar said. "This verdict will set guidelines for investigations into police custodial death cases for the first time. Now courts will decide whether the investigation into the Somnath Suryavanshi death case will be conducted by forming a Special Investigation Team (SIT) or through a commission. The question is who will control whoever appoints a SIT or a commission.

Residents, parties plan protest fast to halt Dharavi shift

Mumbai, July 30 (UNI) A broad coalition led by Congress leader Rakesh Shankar Shetty and comprising the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance partners will stage a one-day hunger strike on August 1 against the Maharashtra government's decision to hand over prime Mulund land to the Adani Group.

The MVA consists of Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP) and Samajwadi Party. The protest has also received support of the Mulund Shopkeepers Association. Their key grievance focuses on the Adani Group's plan to relocate an estimated 300,000 ineligible tenants from Dharavi to the Mulund plot.

Protesters warn this massive influx will greatly strain Mulund's ecosystem and critical infrastructure, including roads, footpaths, bus services, railway stations, hospitals, and schools, risking the transformation of the area into an unorganized slum. The coalition's key demands are: 7,400 Project Affected Persons (PAP) flats constructed near Kelkar College in Mulund East must be allocated to forest-affected residents of Mulund Colony currently facing relocation to Charkop; reserve the dumping ground and octroi naka site exclusively for an open sports complex and public garden; and maintain status quo of the salt pan land stretching from Mulund to Vikhroli, crucial for environmental protection. Shetty accused the BJP-led state government of reneging on a specific election promise made during the assembly poll campaign, which said that no Dharavi residents would be relocated to Mulund. He emphasized that the agitation transcends politics, representing a unified community effort to preserve Mulund. He appealed to all residents to join the movement to safeguard their locality.

PM hails return of sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha

New Delhi, July 30 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi today welcomed the return of the sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha to India after 127 years, describing it as a moment of pride and joy for the nation's cultural heritage.

Sharing his thoughts on the social media platform X, Modi said, "A joyous day for our cultural heritage! It would make every Indian proud that the sacred Piprahwa relics of Bhagwan Buddha have come home after 127 long years. These sacred relics highlight India's close association with Bhagwan Buddha and his noble teachings. It also illustrates our commitment to preserving and protecting different aspects of our glorious culture."

He recalled that the Piprahwa relics were discovered in 1898 but were taken out of India during the colonial period. "When they appeared in an international auction earlier this year, we worked to ensure they returned home.

Mumbai local train disrupted after crack found on track

Mumbai, July 30 (UNI) : Services of the Mumbai's Central Railway were severely affected on Wednesday morning after a crack was detected on the track between Badlapur and Vangani stations in neighbouring Thane district.

The issue brought local train services to a temporary halt, resulting in massive delays for thousands of daily commuters during peak hours.

According to the details, the disruption began early in the morning when railway staff

identified a crack on the rail line, following which the railway workers carried out emergency repairs to restore services in the affected section.

Due to the damage, several local trains headed towards Karjat were reportedly short-terminated at Badlapur and sent back towards Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), causing further crowding and delays on the already burdened suburban network. Long-distance services weren't spared either. So far the partially halted services are not restored.

NCP's Rohit Pawar questions govt morality over Minister's Rummy session during Assembly

Mumbai, July 30 (UNI) : Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate faces renewed criticism following the circulation of a viral video allegedly showing him playing a rummy game on his mobile phone during legislative proceedings. This incident adds to Kokate's history of contentious public statements.

The controversy intensified with the release of a formal legislative inquiry report concerning the incident. Reacting to the findings, NCP leader Rohit Pawar issued a statement via social media challenging the government's response on Wednesday.

"The legislative inquiry report reveals a significantly longer duration than initially perceived," Pawar stated.

"Contrary to the brief 42-second clip, the report confirms the Agriculture Minister was engaged in playing cards on his phone for a full 18 to 22 minutes within the assembly.

This documented report has been formally submitted to both the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister."

Minister Reviews Statewide MSME Initiatives

Focus on RAMP, Upskilling, CFC Implementation, and Digital Access for Entrepreneurs

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mangalagiri, July 30 : I have directed officials to accelerate on-ground execution of MSME programmes and ensure last-mile delivery,” said Minister for MSME, SERP, NRI Relations & Empowerment, Kondapalli Srinivas, who chaired a comprehensive review meeting today at the Andhra Pradesh MSME Development Corporation (APMSMEDC) office in Mangalagiri. The Minister reviewed the progress of MSME schemes being implemented across the state and emphasized the need to align interventions with the current industrial landscape and employment potential. “Our focus must be on tailor-made upskilling programmes that directly match sectoral demands. We cannot afford generic solutions,” he noted.

Chairman Thammireddy Siva Sankara Rao and CEO Vishwa M of APMSMEDC, along with senior officials from APMSMEDC, Department of Industries



and consultants, were present at the review. Calling for faster grounding of Common Facility Centres (CFCs) under the MSE-CDP scheme, the Minister instructed officials to maintain close monitoring and resolve implementation bottlenecks without delay. As part of the state’s strategy under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative, the Minister urged for active involvement of District

Collectors to lead outreach and awareness at the local level. “Schemes will only be effective if entrepreneurs are truly aware of them,” he stressed.

The Minister also reviewed the implementation of the PM Viswakarma scheme and assessed the status of the Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), with specific reference to targets for the current financial year.

To further improve accessibility for entrepreneurs, the Minister proposed the development of an AI-powered chatbot as a single-window digital interface. “Entrepreneurs should not have to struggle for basic information. A smart, interactive solution can bridge that gap and simplify the process,” he added. The meeting concluded with clear instructions for accelerated execution, improved accountability, and stronger coordination among departments to deliver meaningful outcomes for the MSME sector.

Tirumala: Srivani offline darshan timings to change on trial basis from Aug 1-15

Tirumala, July 30 (UNI) The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) said today that the new Darshan timings for SRIVANI ((Sri Venkateswara Alaya Nirmanam) trust offline darshan ticket holders will be implemented on an experimental basis from August 1-15.

TTD Additional Executive officer Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary who conducted a review meeting on SRIVANI darshan here, said under the current system, it takes about three days for SRIVANI devotees and for their convenience, will implement a pilot scheme of issuing tickets and providing darshan on the same day from August 1 to 15.

In Tirumala, tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis from 10 am onwards, he said the reporting time for Srivani devotees who have obtained tickets at Vaikuntam Queue Complex-1 in Tirumala is at 4.30 pm on the same day.

Darshan tickets will be issued from 7 am onwards at Renigunta Airport as per quota, he said.

With this new system, devotees will be able to have a quick darshan, that is, on the same day of their arrival itself, said Chowdary. As usual, 800 tickets will be issued offline in Tirumala and 200 tickets will be issued at Renigunta Airport, he said.

Devotees who have already obtained Srivani tickets online through advance booking till October 31 will be allowed to have darshan at 10 am as usual, he informed.

Devotees who have obtained Srivani tickets offline and online from November one onwards will be allowed to have darshan at 4:30 pm through Vaikuntam Queue Complex 1, he said.

NISAR a game changer in precise management of disasters : Jitendra

Sriharikota, July 30 (UNI) : Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh today termed the successful launch of ISRO-NASA NISAR Earth Observation satellite as a game changer in precise management of disasters.

Hailing the scientists, he said the inputs from NISAR would benefit the entire world community in the true spirit of ‘Vishwabandh’.

In a post on X immediately after the 2,393 kg was successfully injected in to the Polar Sun Synchronous Orbit by the heaviest rocket GSLV-F16 after a majestic lift off from the Second Launch Pad at SHAR Range here, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) said “Congratulations India!”.

“Successful launch of #GSLV-F16 carrying the world’s first dual-band radar satellite #NISAR...a game changer in precise management of disasters like cyclones, floods etc. Also, it’s capacity to penetrate through fogs, dense clouds, ice layers etc make it a pathbreaking enabler for aviation and shipping sectors”, Dr Jitendra, said, sharing a

video of the satellite taking off from the Launch Pad.

“The inputs from NISAR will benefit the entire world community...in the true spirit of “Vishwabandhu””, he said.

“Proud to be associated with the Department of Space at a time when Team @isro is registering one global milestone after the other under the supportive patronage of PM @narendramodi.

Prior to the launch, Dr Jitendra said ISRO-NASA Joint collaborative NISAR was India’s scientific handshake with the world.

“NISAR is not just a satellite...it is India’s scientific handshake with the world,” he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated that India’s space programme under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi is steadily transitioning from traditional utility-based missions to those that position the country as a knowledge contributor to the global commons.

As the first joint Earth observation mission between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the United

States’ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the mission marked a defining moment in the journey of Indo-US space cooperation aa also in ISRO’s overall international collaborations, he said.

This mission is not just about a satellite launch—it is a moment that symbolises what two democracies committed to science and global welfare can achieve together.

NISAR will not only serve India and the United States but will also provide critical data for countries around the world, especially in areas like disaster management, agriculture, and climate monitoring,” said Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Dr Jitendra Singh further noted that this mission lives up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of India becoming a ‘Vishwa Bandhu’—a global partner that contributes to the collective good of humanity.

Describing the NISAR mission as a global benchmark for Indo-US

Scientific collaboration, Dr Jitendra Singh said the mission will upscale ISRO’s international collaborations.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, who has been monitoring the mission closely, said the launch reflects the maturing of strategic scientific partnerships and India’s emergence as a credible global player in advanced Earth observation systems.

The Minister has expressed his wish to be physically present in Sriharikota to witness the historic event, but acknowledged that the ongoing Parliament session held him back in Delhi.

“This mission is not just about a satellite launch—it is a moment that symbolises what two democracies committed to science and global welfare can achieve together.

NISAR will not only serve India and the United States but will also provide critical data for countries around the world, especially in areas like disaster management, agriculture, and climate monitoring,” said Dr. Jitendra Singh, a PIB release said.

Space diplomacy between India and the US comes a full circle

Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh) July 30 (UNI) : The NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission is a full circle moment in the space history of India and the US, said Anil Prakash, Director General, SIA -India.

“The successful NASA–ISRO collaboration on the \$1.5 billion NISAR mission marks a defining moment in global space diplomacy. It brings together cutting-edge American L-band SAR systems and India’s expertise in engineering, integration, and cost-effective launch capability via GSLV-F16,” Prakash said.

He was reacting to the successful launch of the NISAR satellite by the Indian rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle - F16 (GSLV-F16).

“NISAR is also symbolic — a full-circle moment in space history. From a time when the US denied India access to cryogenic technology, we now see both nations standing shoulder to shoulder in a mission of global relevance. This isn’t about dependence — it’s about mutual respect, shared leadership, and strategic alignment between two spacefaring democracies,” Prakash said.

ISRO’s contribution — including the S-band radar, satellite bus, launch services, and mission operations — once again demonstrates India’s ability to build and deliver complex systems with remarkable reliability. With a legacy of over 400 international satellite launches, ISRO has emerged not just as a collaborator, but as a co-architect of next-generation Earth science missions.

NASA’s advanced payload and ground systems, combined with ISRO’s proven launch and mission expertise, reflect a maturing partnership grounded in capability, trust, and purpose. As India’s commercial space economy is projected to grow from \$8 billion today to over \$44 billion by 2033, deep-tech cooperation in areas like climate resilience, disaster monitoring, and space-based data services becomes not only essential, but scalable, Prakash remarked.

“This mission isn’t just about science — it’s a blueprint for equitable, future-facing collaboration. This is the future of space: democratised, integrated, and co-led by nations that believe in partnerships built on equal footing,” he said.

“During their February meeting in Washington, President Trump and Prime Minister Modi underscored space cooperation as a priority for the bilateral relationship. NISAR, an unprecedented joint satellite mission between NASA and ISRO, marks a new chapter in the growing collaboration between our two space agencies. As NISAR begins its journey to unlock new insights about the planet, it is a testament to this collaboration,” said the US Mission to India’s Charge D’Affaires Jorgan K Andrews in a statement.

TTD to come out with concrete policy document on Tirumala ghat road vehicle movement

Tirumala, July 30 (UNI) Keeping in view the day by day increase in vehicular traffic at Tirumala, TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch Venkaiah Chowdary today instructed the officials concerned to come out with a concrete policy document on Ghat Road Vehicle movement and Traffic plan in Tirumala. Chowdary, who conducted a review meeting with the TTD Transport, Forest, Vigilance and RTA officials here to discuss various issues related to streamlining traffic on ghat roads and in Tirumala, asked the concerned officials to frame a concrete policy that includes EV Policy, strengthening public transport, sensitizing the private jeep drivers, enforcing the traffic rules in a stern manner to check the increasing environment pollution in Tirumala due to outdated vehicles and many more.

The Additional EO also directed the officials to identify an exclusive parking area for operating a dedicated Prepaid Taxi Facility in Tirumala fixing minimum and maximum rates for the convenience of the pilgrims.

Transport GM Sesha Reddy, TTD Dy CF Phanikumar Naidu, VGOs Ramkumar, Surendra, District Transport Officer K Murali Mohan and his team of officers were also present.

NISAR a major achievement of space science, powerful symbol of Intl Cooperation : NASA Administrator

Sriharikota, (AP), July 30 (UNI) : Casey Swails, Deputy Associate Administrator, NASA today said the successful NISAR mission was a major achievement of space science, powerful symbol of International Cooperation.

Speaking at the Mission Control after GSVL-F16 successfully injected the Earth Observation satellite precisely into the orbit by ISRO’s heaviest rocket GSVL-F216 from the spaceport here, she said she was honored to be here today at the ISRO Mission Control Center, and to speak to you following the successful launch of the NISAR spacecraft.

“On behalf of NASA, I want to congratulate our partners at ISRO, and to the incredible teams, in both India and the United States, who worked tirelessly across continents and time zones to make this mission possible”, she said, in her speech copies of which were shared to the media by the US Consulate General Chennai.

The launch of NISAR is not only a major achievement for space science, but a powerful symbol of international cooperation, Ms Casey said

It represents more than 10 years of close collaboration between NASA and ISRO scientists, engineers, and mission planners. “Together, we

Space diplomacy between India and the US comes a full circle

Sriharikota, July 30 (UNI) : The NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission is a full circle moment in the space history of India and the US, said Anil Prakash, Director General, SIA -India.

“The successful NASA–ISRO collaboration on the \$1.5 billion NISAR mission marks a defining moment in global space diplomacy. It brings together cutting-edge American L-band SAR systems and India’s expertise in engineering, integration, and cost-effective launch capability via GSVL-F16,” Prakash said. He was reacting to the

successful launch of the NISAR satellite by the Indian rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle - F16 (GSLV-F16).

“NISAR is also symbolic — a full-circle moment in space history. From a time when the US denied India access to cryogenic technology, we now see both nations standing shoulder to shoulder in a mission of global relevance.

This isn’t about dependence — it’s about mutual respect, shared leadership, and strategic alignment between two spacefaring democracies,”

Prakash said. ISRO’s contribution — including the S-band radar, satellite bus, launch services, and mission operations — once again demonstrates India’s ability to build and deliver complex systems with remarkable reliability. With a legacy of over 400 international satellite launches, ISRO has emerged not just as a collaborator, but as a co-architect of next-generation Earth science missions.

NASA’s advanced payload and ground systems, combined with ISRO’s proven launch and mission expertise, reflect a maturing partnership

grounded in capability, trust, and purpose. As India’s commercial space economy is projected to grow from \$8 billion today to over \$44 billion by 2033, deep-tech cooperation in areas like climate resilience, disaster monitoring, and space-based data services becomes not only essential, but scalable, Prakash remarked.

“This mission isn’t just about science — it’s a blueprint for equitable, future-facing collaboration. This is the future of space: democratised, integrated, and co-led by nations that believe in partnerships built on equal footing,” he said.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice No. & Dt.	Tender Title
ET-SRDCM-CAT-VSKP-GMU-2, Dt.23.07.2025	PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES AT CATERING STALL GENERAL MINOR UNIT (GMU-2) AT VISAKHAPATNAM STATION ON PLATFORM NO.1, Tender Value for 1 Year: ₹ 35,08,888/-, EMD: ₹ 1,75,500/-.
ET-SRDCM-CAT-RGDA-GMU-31-3, Dt.23.07.2025	PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES AT CATERING STALL GENERAL MINOR UNIT (GMU-31) AT RAYAGADA STATION ON PLATFORM NO. 2&3, Tender Value for 1 Year: ₹ 2,50,000/-, EMD: ₹ 12,500/-.
ET-SRDCM-CAT-CHE-GMU-85-3, Dt.23.07.2025	PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES AT CATERING STALL GENERAL MINOR UNIT (GMU-85) AT SRIKAKULAM ROAD STATION ON PLATFORM NO.2, Tender Value for 1 Year: ₹ 1,15,500/-, EMD: ₹ 12,500/-.
ET-SRDCM-CAT-SCM-GMU-40-3, Dt.23.07.2025	PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES AT CATERING STALL GENERAL MINOR UNIT-WOMEN (GMU-40) AT SIMHACHALAM STATION ON PLATFORM NO.1, Tender Value for 1 Year: ₹ 95,000/-, EMD: ₹ 10,000/-.
ET-SRDCM-CAT-VZM-M6-25-2, Dt.23.07.2025	PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES ON MILK STALL UNIT NUMBER (M-6) AT VIZIANAGARAM STATION OF PLATFORM NO. 2&3, Tender Value for 1 Year: ₹ 1,25,000/-, EMD: ₹ 10,000/-.
ET-SRDCM-CAT-CHE-M8-25-3, Dt.23.07.2025	PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES ON MILK STALL UNIT NUMBER (M-8) AT SRIKAKULAM ROAD STATION OF PLATFORM NO. 2, Tender Value for 1 Year: ₹ 1,10,000/-, EMD: ₹ 10,000/-.
ET-SRDCM-CAT-CHE-M9-25, Dt.23.07.2025	PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES ON MILK STALL UNIT NUMBER (M-9) AT SRIKAKULAM ROAD STATION OF PLATFORM NO. 3&4, Tender Value for 1 Year: ₹ 1,15,500/-, EMD: ₹ 10,000/-.
ET-SRDCM-CAT-RGDA-M11-25, Dt.23.07.2025	PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES ON MILK STALL UNIT NUMBER (M-11) AT RAYAGADA STATION OF PLATFORM NO. 4&5, Tender Value for 1 Year: ₹ 3,23,999/-, EMD: ₹ 16,500/-.
ET-SRDCM-CAT-DVD-M13-25-3, Dt.23.07.2025	PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES ON MILK STALL UNIT NUMBER (M-13) AT DUVVADA STATION OF PLATFORM NO. 4, Tender Value for 1 Year: ₹ 80,000/-, EMD: ₹ 10,000/-.
Tender Period: 05 Years (for all tenders), Tender opening date & time: at 1100 hrs. of 14.08.2025 (for all tenders). Note: Complete details along with the E-Tender documents will be available at website www.irops.gov.in	
PR-411/Q/25-26	
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager-II, Waltair	

If walls could talk...

Look around the rooms in your home and you'll probably pick up on a theme (or two). Perhaps you're gazing out at a sea of blues and greens-or a spectrum of sunset shades. If walls could talk, they would speak volumes about your personality.

Yellow

You consider 10 am to be the middle of the day, and haven't needed an alarm clock since kindergarten. You really don't know why anyone wouldn't greet the sunrise daily: You just get so much more done in the wee hours.

White

If a genie gave you three wishes, one of them would be a good night's rest. Your bedroom is an escape, the room you immediately beeline it to after coming home from a never-ending day. You don't consider your walls to be bare. Instead, they create a blank space that helps you clear your mind. The tiniest hint of color might add interest, but not too much.

Navy blue

You have an opinion about everything and are not shy about letting others know it. You have a taste for strong coffee (never with cream or sugar), your politics are partisan, and you do judge people on their book collection. Though



You spend more time in your bedroom than any other room in the house, so the colour of the walls can be an important decision. Read on to find out what your bedroom wall color says about you

this might seem like a bold assessment, you welcome the insight. Who needs to live life in a grey area?

Beige

You're quick to remind others that you're not high-maintenance ... you just know what you like. It took you years to find the precise shade of beige that reminds you of the latte you once had on that perfect morning during that semester abroad in Paris.

Grey

The harmonious monochromatic scheme in your bedroom came from an idea you saw on Pinterest (aka your second home) right down to the pop of color. You are open to new ideas, but want to see them in action first. It's not that you're timid, you just want proof that it works before committing. You've been mulling over that bul-

letproof coffee trend for months.

Brown

You scoff at the idea of getting rid of your huge collection of books in favor of digital versions. Growing up, your babysitter was the branch of the local library, where you developed a love of literature and a mind that rivals Wikipedia. Your bedroom is where you catch up on reading the latest best-selling biography (never in paperback) and has the club-like feel of the study of your dreams.

Green

You never forget to write a thank-you note, you've got a stunning collection of scarves, and you know exactly what wine to order with dinner. You're a grown up

through and through, the trusted friend everyone turns to for advice. But, you're not boring at all. Your bedroom shows a sophisticated use of colour. (And we bet you never use an accent chair as an impromptu wardrobe.)

Blue

When it came time to pick your bedroom color, the choice took all of five seconds. You just went with the color you've always loved: blue. You're refreshingly honest about what you like and don't take yourself or your decor choices too seriously.

ROCKING TRIBUTE

To commemorate the 86th birth anniversary of the singing legend Kishore Kumar, Tapas, the youth-based band will be performing live on some of his songs



ments of Indian classical/semi-classical to those of the Western music.

Tapas, a youth band has decided to pay a tribute to Kishore Kumar on his 86th birth anniversary by performing live on 92.7 Big FM. Keeping Indian classical music as the base, the band has managed to make a few soul rendering songs which they call sandesh. Excerpts...

Tell us something about the band?

The word Tapas originates from Sanskrit. It means burning zeal and desire to achieve self-realization and purification. A group of four young, aspiring and amazingly talented boys started this project in April 2015. I, Akshay on the guitars, have a huge influence of the blues rock. Whereas my band mates Ninad (vocals) is a guy who is purely in love with Hindi music. The best word to describe Omkar's (keys) playing is child prodigy. He's just turned 18 and has worked with renowned people in the industry. Nikhil (bass) is in love with the low frequencies of the sound to be a little technical. The way the bass rumbles makes him fall in love with his music all over again. The band specializes in blending the ele-

What kind of music will you be playing?

We have chummed out few memorable songs and will be playing them live. Songs like mere 'Mere Sapno Ki Rani,' 'Ladki Bhigi Bhagi Si,' 'Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas,' 'Pyar Deewana Hota Hai,' 'Ek Ajnabee Haseena Se,' 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani,' and few more.

How will you be presenting the songs?

We will be playing the songs and using most of the musical instruments and singing it live. We will be using guitar, keys and bass. We have been practicing it from quite some time.

Have you heard old songs and incorporated in your band earlier?

We have heard a few songs and it's always nice to listen to them. We are youngsters and we love to listen to as many songs as possible.

What is your forte?

We are into Western and Indian songs, usually a mixture which generally will be loved by most of the people and all the generations.

Sun, sand and stress

Study states one in four tourists say they return from a break feeling worse than before heading out for a vacation

Holidays are meant to be a time of relaxation, when all your cares wash away. But for many of us, the opposite appears to be true.

In fact, one in four holidaymakers - 23 percent return from a break more stressed than when they set off, according to a survey.

Some 26 percent even need two to three days to unwind when they get back.

Nationwide Building Society, which commissioned the poll of 2,000 people, said Britons spend an average of £1,900 on their holiday, and overspending while away was one of holidaymakers' top worries.

Others included having enough money to get by, forgetting something, being delayed, missing a flight and having enough insurance cover if something goes wrong.

The research also found a significant difference between men and women, with one in five men claiming that nothing worried them before a holiday, compared with more than one in ten

women.

Neuropsychologist Dr David Lewis, of the research consultancy Mindlab International, said, "Holiday stresses often stem from unrealistic expectations of a completely care-free vacation.

Worries don't disappear just because you are in the sun. In fact, when the mind doesn't have the usual day-to-day challenges and demands to cope with, it typically finds other things to occupy it, such as money worries.

Taking up activities, learning a few phrases in the local language and exploring the culture are just a few ways to keep your mind busy, helping you unwind more quickly."

Phil Smith, Nationwide's head of current accounts, said, "It is perhaps unsurprising that holidays can be a source of stress, with people fretting over missing their flights, the prospect of delays, having sufficient money and being fully covered if things don't go to plan."

(With inputs from DailyMail)

Cuppa mania!

A new infographic reveals that lattes are most popular brews on Instagram beating cappuccinos to the top spot with almost three million uploads

In our digital age, every trip to a cafe provides ample opportunity for food-related social media posts with tweet before you eat becoming a popular hashtag.

But now a new infographic has revealed just how popular each cup of Joe really is when it comes to sharing snaps of them on Instagram with lattes outperforming every other coffee in the world, with almost three million picture uploads.

Of the 11 brews detailed in the graphic by Express Vending, cappuccinos come second in the line-up while the Continental cafe au lait is officially the least popular style on the photo-sharing app.

Each coffee is illustrated with a diagram displaying the ingredients in each cup along with their hashtag and the number of times a photo of the particular kind

of coffee has been shared.

It appears that simplicity proves the most popular as coffee fans tend to share images of traditional cups over flavoured specials.

The combination of steamed milk, foam and espresso comes out on top having received over two million uploads for the hashtag latte, followed by the popular cappuccino (1,593,757 tags) and straightforward espresso (1,516,381 uploads).

The chocolate flavoured mocha comes in fourth with 1,370,134 tags followed by the refreshing iced coffee tagged as ice-coffee and icedcoffee uploaded 838,601 times and frappuccino which came in with only 724,043 uploads.

At the bottom of the pile is the cafe au lait or coffee with milk, which is tagged with the hashtag cafeau lait more than 46,000 times

far below the other Continental styles.

The Americano, which is only a little stronger was uploaded to Instagram 521,379 times in comparison.

The flat white is growing in popularity in the UK but doesn't seem to be as visually interesting as other brews with only 241,172 uploads under the hashtag flatwhite.

And caramel macchiatos also fail the Instagram popularity test with almost 185,000 tags.

The infographic also reveals that the Robusta bean is more popular on social media over the Arabica bean.

When it comes to coffee versus tea, coffee trumped its weaker counterpart by almost 24 million uploads.



PEAR CURE

Research suggests that the fruit's juice can help reduce the effects of a hangover by eating or drinking its juice before a night out

Eating a juicy pear before a night of heavy drinking could help alleviate the effects of a hangover, scientists claim.

Researchers say those who are suffering from the consequences of the evening before could feel up to 21 percent better thanks to the fruit's juice.

It helps increase concentration, reduces memory loss and even decreases the amount of alcohol in your bloodstream, according to Australian government scientists.

Pears also reduce a person's sensitivity to light and sound.

The only type of pear tested in the study was the Asian, or nashi pear, which is available in British supermarkets, but researchers are now planning to widen their scope to see whether varieties of Western pear produce the same results.

According to scientists employed by CISRO, the Australian government's scientific research organisation, to reduce the effects of a hangover you need to either drink 220ml of pear juice or eat a whole pear

before consuming alcohol.

Lead researcher Manny Noakes said the theory behind the finding was that Asian pears acted upon the key enzymes involved in alcohol metabolism.

She said, "Overall hangover severity, as measured by a 14 item hangover severity scale, was significantly reduced in the Korean (Asian) pear group compared with those having a placebo drink, with the most pronounced effect seen on the specific symptom of trouble concentrating.

"The effect was only demonstrat-

ed if pears were consumed before alcohol consumption. There is no evidence that you can consume pears after drinking and avoid a hangover. And remember, the very best way to not get a hangover is to not drink in the first place."

Ms Noakes said researchers were now planning to carry out more studies to see whether other varieties of pears had similar hangover effects.



Trump hails 3 pc GDP growth in second quarter, calls for rate cut

Washington, July 30 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump praised the latest GDP growth figures on Wednesday, which indicated a 3% annualized increase in the second quarter of 2025, while also reiterating his request for Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell to lower interest rates to boost the US housing market.

"2Q GDP JUST OUT: 3%, WAY BETTER THAN EXPECTED! 'Too Late' [Powell] MUST NOW LOWER THE RATE. No Inflation! Let people buy, and refinance, their homes!" Trump wrote in a Truth Social post. The Fed is set to announce its rate policy decision on Wednesday.

Earlier on Wednesday, the US Bureau of Economic Analysis released new data indicating that the US GDP grew by 3% at an annual rate in the second quarter of 2025, following a decline of 0.5% in the first quarter.

The bureau noted that the GDP growth in the second quarter was driven primarily by a reduction in imports and a rise in consumer spending.

1.8 mn Afghans have returned from Iran in past three months

Kabul, July 30 (UNI) : The Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation in a statement today said that nearly 1.8 million Afghan refugees have returned home from Iran over the past three months.

Mawlawi Abdul Rahman Rashid, deputy minister of the ministry, said that in addition, 184,459 refugees have returned from Pakistan and 5,134 from Türkiye in the past four months.

"We currently have around six million Afghan refugees living abroad and 2.5 million internally displaced persons within the country," Rashid added.

According to the official, there were 38 designated townships for refugees across 29 provinces.

To support returnees and displaced families, the ministry has signed 125 memoranda of understanding with both domestic and international organisations in the past year, with a total value exceeding USD 78 million. The Afghan interim government has called on Afghan refugees to return home to contribute to the rebuilding of the country.

Chinese scientists uncover vital new data on glacier meltdowns

Urumqi, July 30 (UNI) : Chinese scientists have accurately reconstructed a complete record of glacier melt from 2000 to 2023 in the Muz Taw Glacier of the Sawur Mountains in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, providing crucial scientific evidence for understanding glacier response mechanisms under climate change.

The study, led by Wang Puyu's team from the Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, has been published in the international journal Advances in Climate Change Research.

The research team employed a fully distributed energy balance model to simulate and reconstruct the annual series of mass balance from 2000 to 2023.

Through error assessment and uncertainty analysis, the reliability of the research findings was confirmed. The study reveals that over the past 24 years, the cumulative mass loss of the Muz Taw Glacier reached 18.55 meters water equivalent.

Energy balance analysis indicates that net radiation is the primary driver of glacier melting, contributing 71% during the ablation period and 63% annually.

The study has not only revealed the melting mechanisms of the Sawur Mountain glaciers but also established reliable predictive models, providing a scientific basis for assessing regional water resource changes, Wang said.

NZ launches draft strategy to double geothermal energy production by 2040

Auckland, July 30 (UNI) : New Zealand has launched a draft strategy to double geothermal energy production by 2040 and position itself as a global leader in sustainable geothermal innovation.

Launched by Resources Minister Shane Jones in Taupo in the North Island, the plan aimed to boost electricity generation and direct heat applications, and support economic growth, including benefits for the Maori economy.

The minister emphasised New Zealand's unique position on a tectonic boundary with a thin crust, ideal for geothermal energy, building on a long history of use by Maori and settlers for heating, therapy, and power generation.

The proposal included improving geothermal data access, updating regulations, advancing technology adoption, researching mineral extraction from fluids, promoting industrial and agricultural uses, and investing in supercritical geothermal technology.

Consultation on the draft strategy remains open until September 12, with Jones encouraging all stakeholders to help position New Zealand as a leader in geothermal research, trade, and sustainable energy.

However, Professor Barry Barton from the University of Waikato underlining the many challenges ahead said, "As for the desire to test supercritical geothermal resources, there are sure to be big resources deep down, and they are enticing, but how to drill for them and recover heat is a complete unknown; the extraordinary temperature and pressure will require major advances in drilling and production technology."

Vietnamese authorities to install EV charging stations in Hanoi to promote green energy

Hanoi, July 30 (UNI) : In its bid to tackle environmental pollution and promote green energy, Vietnam has planned to install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at parking lots in Hanoi, as the Southeast Asian nation prepares to ban gasoline-powered motorbikes inside Ring Road 1 starting July 2026, Vietnam News Agency reported today.

Nguyen Duc Vinh, deputy director of the Hanoi Parking Company, said that about 40 out of more than 150 parking lots managed by the company have been identified as suitable for EV charging station installation.

Construction could begin as early as August, pending approval from local authorities, he said. The city aims to equip at least 10 percent of its existing parking lots with EV charging facilities by 2026, he said.

The Vietnamese government earlier announced that gasoline-powered motorbikes and mopeds will be banned from inner-city Hanoi from mid-2026 as part of efforts to reduce air pollution.



US President Donald Trump arrives, followed by a bagpiper band, at the opening ceremony for the Trump International Golf Links golf course, near Aberdeen, Scotland.

Kremlin says Russia has developed ‘immunity’ to Western sanctions

Moscow, July 30 (UNI) : Russia has been living under Western sanctions for a long time and forced to operate under extensive restrictions, but has still been more than able to make its economy work, said Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, adding that Moscow has developed degree of resilience to Western sanctions.

“We have been living under a huge number of sanctions for quite a long time. Our economy operates under a huge number of restrictions. Therefore, of course, we have already developed a

certain immunity to this,” Peskov told reporters, reports TASS.

He further remarked Russia is paying close attention to the recent remarks by US President Donald Trump regarding Russia’s war in Ukraine and his repeated threats of reimposing sanctions.

On other matters, Peskov dismissed allegations of Russian interference in Moldova’s upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections, reiterating the state stance that Russia does not meddle in the internal affairs of other nations. He

claimed that it was, in fact, Moldovans whose electoral rights were being undermined, regardless of Chisinau’s official position.

Addressing the recent visit of the head of Russia’s space agency Roscosmos to the United States, Peskov said that space cooperation between the two countries "stands apart" from broader geopolitical tensions, describing it as a rare area of continued engagement.

“Maintaining dialogue in space is extremely important,” he noted, though he cautioned against overestimating its

influence on the wider bilateral relationship.

Speaking on domestic matters, Peskov noted that all emergency systems responded appropriately to the earthquake that struck Russia’s Far Eastern Kamchatka Peninsula, and that the region’s buildings, designed to withstand seismic activity, functioned as intended. He added that preparations are under way for upcoming talks between President Vladimir Putin and Malaysia’s King Sultan Ibrahim, claiming that a broad range of topics will be put to table in the upcoming state visit.

European Union transport network completely inadequate for any potential military conflict

Brussels, July 30 (UNI) : The European Union’s transport network is critically unprepared for a potential military conflict, EU Commissioner for Transport Apostolos Tzitzikostas warned, raising concerns about the bloc’s ability to rapidly move troops and heavy equipment across the continent in the event of a war, reports RT News.

In an interview with the Financial Times, Tzitzikostas said much of Europe’s key infrastructure — including railways, tunnels, and bridges — is either outdated or otherwise woefully

inadequate for modern-day military logistics.

“If we want to move military equipment and troops from the western side of Europe to the eastern side, it takes weeks — and in some cases, months,” he said. “We have old bridges that need to be upgraded, narrow bridges that must be widened, and in some places, no bridges at all.”

Most of Europe’s infrastructure was designed for civilian uses post-World War II, making it virtually ineffective for military uses.

As per Tzitzikostas , commercial trucks typically

weigh up to 40 tonnes while military tanks can exceed 70 tonnes, putting excessive strain on roads and structures never designed to carry such weight.

Tzitzikostas warned that without urgent upgrades, NATO units could face delays, bottlenecks, or even structural failures if they needed to respond quickly to a security crisis.

The security concerns come amid the EU’s increasing worry over the possible worry of a military venture by Russia, despite Moscow maintaining that it has no such intention.

To address its militarisation, Brussels is

now finalising a strategic overhaul to address its various military gaps, with plans to upgrade 500 transport hubs along four major military corridors.

The initiative — developed in coordination with NATO — is expected to be unveiled later this year. While project details remain classified, the estimated cost is •17 billion (\$19.5 billion). The plan also aims to reduce bureaucratic delays at national borders to allow for seamless military mobility.

Recent moves by the EU to counter the alleged ‘Russian threat’ also include the •800 billion

(\$920 billion) ‘ReArm Europe’ initiative and pledges from NATO members to raise defence spending to 5% of GDP.

For its part, Moscow has completely dismissed these claims calling them ludicrous.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov further levied accusations against Western governments of deliberately portraying Russia as a “monster” to justify their military expansion, while Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has warned that the West is pushing Europe towards direct military confrontation.

Slovakian PM Robert Fico derides EU stance on Russia-Ukraine war

Bratislava, July 30 (UNI) : Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico, in a strong attack against his European allies, said the “EU seems to be tired and bored of 80 years of peace”, accusing the bloc of trying to trigger an all-out Russia-NATO conflict, reports RT.

Fico, who recently survived an assassination attempt by a pro-Ukraine supporter who disagreed with the Slovak premier’s position on arming Kyiv, blasted the West over its handling of the ongoing war, stating that the way it is approaching the current situation could prove disastrous in the near future.

Drawing parallels to the situation in Gaza, he added that while dozens of countries are pushing for a ceasefire call, no such

united call has been made on the Russia-Ukraine front. According to Fico, his attempt to initiate a comparable declaration at the European Council has failed. “It seems that the leaders of some countries in Europe are already tired and bored of 80 years of peace.” “Artificially provoking a conflict between one of the NATO member states and Russia is easy. History gives us thousands of examples of how to do it. And what happens then?” he questioned, warning that those thinking they could control such a clash are gravely mistaken.

While Bratislava has condemned Moscow for its war in Kyiv, it has largely been pro-Russia, and much like Hungary has been openly hostile to the EU and

US Treasury Chief says not expecting fed to cut rate

Washington, July 30 (UNI) : US Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent said on Wednesday that he is not expecting the Federal Reserve to cut the basic rate during a meeting later in the day. "I'm not expecting a rate cut today. The market is pricing in rate cuts, and what I'm hoping that we can see out of the leadership at the Federal Reserve is a little bit of imagination," Bessent said during a discussion hosted by Breitbart News.

The Fed is set to announce its rate policy decision on Wednesday.

China allocates \$12.5bln in subsidies to boost birth rate : Official

Beijing, July 30 (UNI) ; China has allocated 90 billion yuan (\$12.5 billion) for childcare benefit payments in 2025 to combat the country's declining birth rate, an official of the Chinese Finance Ministry's Department of Social Security said on Wednesday.

"The central financial authorities will set up a transfer payment program, the nationwide childcare subsidy program... with a preliminary budget of about 90 billion yuan this year," Guo Yang was quoted by China Central Television as saying.

The central government will subsidize about 90% of the total payments, while the rest will be covered by local authorities, she said.

In August 2023, China introduced a special tax deduction of 2,000 yuan per child per month for parents of children under three. A new nationwide childcare subsidy program, published by the State Council of China on Monday, adds a childcare payment of 3,600 yuan (\$500) per child per year for parents of children under three, born before January 1, 2025. In a November 2024 article in Qiushi Journal, Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized the need of a comprehensive system of birth support policies amid falling birth rate and rapidly aging population.

RPP seeks to know status of Naga pacts from interlocutor Mishra

Dimapur, July 30 (UNI) : The Rising People’s Party (RPP) today sought to know from the Centre’s interlocutor for Naga talks AK Mishra the present status of the Framework Agreement signed with the NSCN-IM and the Agreed Position signed with the working committee of the Naga National Political Groups.

In a release, the RPP asked whether these agreements are still relevant and whether Mishra has managed to bring all the warring factions on board for a final settlement of the Naga issue.

“If yes, what is the time frame for this settlement,” it asked, saying these are some of the queries that he needs to answer sincerely.

“Mishra’s latest adventurism is akin to putting the cart before the horse,” the party said.

The RPP also requested Mishra to take a break, “given the constant shifting of goalpost”.

The party stated it believed the ongoing Nagalend effort at unity should take precedence.

It said before this elusive factional unity is realised, Mishra should avoid fishing in troubled waters.Further, it said, the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) constituted by the ruling coalition in Nagaland should be disbanded, saying it serves no purpose other than to peddle the propaganda that the NDPP-BJP coalition government is doing something.According to the RPP, self-serving leaders obsessed with their own individual legacy and fiefdom have failed to understand the pulse of PM Modi’s government.Stating that the recurring pattern of PM Modi’s term is that he respects strength, the RPP said the Nagas too can portray strength through a united front.

“But the same PM who respects strength can also show the same disdain, and it’s important that stakeholders understand this reality,” the party said.

Odisha Crime Branch cracks OTET-2025 question paper leak case; Six arrested

Bhubaneswar, July 30 (UNI) : The Odisha Crime Branch has busted a question paper leak related to the Odisha Teachers Eligibility Test (OTET-2025) and arrested six individuals in connection with the case.

Director General of Police (Crime Branch) Binaytosh Mishra told reporters that several electronic gadgets, including mobile phones and copies of the leaked question paper, were seized from the accused. Preliminary investigations revealed that financial transactions linked to the leak were conducted via digital payment platforms. The bank accounts of all the accused are currently under scrutiny.The OTET-2025 exam is conducted by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha.



People gather after a bus with 31 army personnel overturned on the Badrinath Highway, in Chamoli. Seven army personnel were injured in the incident.

No incidence of child labour or trafficking found in Bishnupur district, says Manipur official

Imphal, July 30 (UNI) : Deputy Commissioner Bishnupur, Pooja Elangbam, said that no children were found involved in child labour or trafficking in Bishnupur district of Manipur during a recently concluded 15-day district-wide campaign against child trafficking and labour.

Speaking at a district-level press briefing held at L. Mani Memorial Hall, Thamnepokpi, under the theme ‘Stop Child Trafficking for Labour and Other Forms of Exploitation’, the DC today commended the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Bishnupur, New Life Foundation, Manipur, and all concerned stakeholders for their coordinated efforts and commitment to child protection.

Highlighting the extensive awareness

campaign held in public areas, the DC informed that the campaign against child labour or trafficking was carried out across multiple locations including 23 hotels, six brick kilns, 17 vehicle workshops and car washes, one plastic industry, and four cement and stone crushers.

She added that more than 170 public transport drivers have earlier pledged to report any cases of child trafficking or suspected labour exploitation. She commended the participation of various stakeholders—police, local communities, and the public—in making the campaign impactful.

“This has been an intensive and collaborative effort,” the DC noted, adding that this was the third such drive in the district. In contrast to the previous two campaigns, which resulted in the rescue

and safe repatriation of children.

She emphasized that the initiative reflects the district’s commitment to upholding the Constitution of India, which prohibits child trafficking and exploitation in all forms, in accordance with the Supreme Court directives and the mandates of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the State Government.“We are committed to ensuring the safety, dignity, and protection of childhood, and to preventing all forms of exploitation in the district,” DC said.The event was also attended by District Child Protection Officer Indrani Chongtham, Secretary of New Life Foundation L. Pishak, members of the District Child Welfare Committee, police officials, and members of concerned stakeholders.

Tejashwi accuses Bihar Govt. of Rs 80,000 crore scam

Patna, July 30 (UNI) : Launching scathing attack on the NDA-led Bihar government, leader of opposition in the state assembly Tejaswi Yadav today accused the state government of being involved in Rs 80,000 crore scam, as highlighted in the recent CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) report.While addressing a press conference of Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance), Yadav alleged that none of the ministers in the government have come forward with any clarification on the matter.

Yadav said that central agencies like ED, CBI, and others were being misused to harass the opposition, while they remain silent and inactive on actual corruption involving the ruling government.He claimed that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is in a state of "political unconsciousness" and often forgets his own promises.

He further alleged that many ministers in the current government were directly involved in corruption. Yadav referred to

a list of 55 scams, released by him, and emphasised the case of Jivesh Mishra, a state minister allegedly linked to a fake medicine scam.

He announced that when Union Home Minister Amit Shah visits Sitamarhi next month, the GA will demand a reply regarding these scams.

The RJD leader further said that the GA will launch a statewide campaign in August to inform people about irregularities in the voter list revision process and the various scams under the current regime. The campaign will include rallies in all nine divisions and across districts.He said that Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi was also expected to participate in the campaign.

Tejashwi stated that the campaign will focus on issues such as rising crime, corruption, administrative failure, declining education standards, lack of access to medicines and irrigation, unemployment, and migration.

World Bank delegation meets Hemant Soren

Ranchi, July 30 (UNI) : A delegation of the World Bank led by India Country Director Auguste Tano Kouamé met Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren at Jharkhand Bhawan in New Delhi today.

The meeting focused on ongoing development programmes in the state and the possibility of future collaboration.

Kouamé took note of

the Mukhyamantri Mahiyaan Samman Yojana and acknowledged its role in the state’s efforts toward poverty reduction.

He also shared observations on World Bank-supported initiatives in other parts of India and expressed interest in working with Jharkhand on similar lines.

The Chief Minister informed the delegation

about work being done in the areas of rural development, renewable energy, tourism, agriculture, education, natural resource management, and production.

He outlined the state’s priorities and areas where external cooperation could support implementation.

The delegation expressed readiness to

Nitish hikes health workers pay, Tejashwi cries "Copycat Politics"

Patna, July 30 (UNI) : After Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced a hike in the incentive amount for ASHA and Mamta workers, Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly Tejashwi Yadav accused the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government of neglecting the welfare of Bihar’s populace for the past two decades and imitating initiatives he had proposed during his tenure as Health Minister.

The Opposition, however, has criticized Nitish Kumar’s move and labeled it as a political maneuver in anticipation of the Assembly elections slated for later this year. In a strongly worded post on the social media platform X, Tejashwi alleged that the move was a delayed and

partial implementation of his efforts.

Yadav asserted, “When we announced these welfare schemes for the deserving people promising a better future, the government, its leaders, ministers, and officials used to mock us. Now, they have been copying our schemes. They are scared of losing power.”

He claimed that during his 17-month tenure as Health Minister, he had initiated the process to increase incentives for ASHA and Mamta workers, a process that was nearing completion when Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unexpectedly changed political alliances.

He continued, “This incompetent NDA government has been sitting on it for two years.

Finally, they had to bow down to our demand to increase the incentive amount for ASHA and Mamta workers. Now, this government will also accept our demand to increase the honorarium for Anganwadi workers, assistants and cooks as well.”

Nitish Kumar today announced a significant increase in the incentive payments for rural healthcare workers, specifically ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) and Mamta workers, acknowledging their crucial role in improving healthcare services in rural areas.

ASHA workers will now receive an incentive of Rs 3,000, a threefold increase from their previous Rs 1,000. Similarly, Mamta workers will see their per-delivery

incentive doubled from Rs 300 to Rs 600.

Making the announcement via the social media platform ‘X’, Nitish Kumar stated, “Since the formation of the government in November 2005, we have worked extensively to improve health services. ASHA and Mamta workers have played a significant role in enhancing healthcare services in rural areas. Keeping this in mind and honoring the important contribution of ASHA and Mamta workers in strengthening health services in rural areas, a decision has been made to increase their honorarium.” He further added that this increase aims to boost their morale and further strengthen rural health services.

Army Chief meets Manipur Governor, discusses security

Imphal, July 30 (UNI) : General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), today called on the Governor of Manipur, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal.

He was accompanied by the Army Commander of Eastern Command, the General Officer Commanding 3 Corps, and other senior Army officials.

During the meeting, Governor Bhalla extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Army leadership for the successful execution of Operation Sindoor, lauding the Indian Army’s professionalism, unwavering commitment, and sustained efforts in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

The discussions also touched upon the commencement of the 134th edition of the Durand Cup, one of Asia’s oldest and most prestigious football tournaments, which begins today. General Dwivedi expressed his appreciation to the Governor and the Government of Manipur for their consistent support and facilitation in organising the high-profile sporting event.

President Murmu urges doctors to lead by example at AIIMS Kalyani convocation

Kolkata July 30 (UNI) : President Droupadi Murmu, addressing the first convocation ceremony of AIIMS Kalyani in West Bengal today, called upon doctors to adopt a healthy lifestyle that can inspire and influence the general public.She emphasised that while genetic factors may play a role in health, most ailments can be significantly prevented or managed through proper diet and lifestyle choices.

Highlighting the importance of doctors in shaping public health, President Murmu said, “When a doctor gives advice, it carries weight. But when that advice is backed by the doctor’s own example, it has an even deeper impact.”

She encouraged physicians to not only

prescribe medicines but also offer guidance on lifestyle modifications to patients.Speaking at the event, the President praised the medical community for its significant contribution to the nation’s development.She said that India’s average life expectancy has increased from just 32 years at the time of independence to approximately 70 years today, attributing this achievement to advances in vaccination and public health initiatives.She cited the eradication of diseases like trachoma as key milestones and underscored the need for continued effort, especially from young doctors, in combating lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, heart ailments, and obesity.Addressing the graduating students of

AIIMS Kalyani — the institute’s first MBBS batch admitted in 2019 — President Murmu reminded them of their special role as pioneers and senior-most alumni of the institution.

“You are not just graduates; you are the future makers of AIIMS Kalyani’s legacy,” she said.

She also urged them to be lifelong learners in a field that evolves rapidly with new research and technological advancements.Paying tribute to Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, who laid the foundation of the planned city of Kalyani, the President recalled his unwavering dedication to public service.“Despite holding the office of Chief Minister, Dr Roy continued to treat patients free of charge,” she said.

India to play CAFA Nations Cup 2025

New Delhi, July 30 (UNI) : The India senior men's national team, as part of their preparation for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers Final Round, will participate in the Central Asian Football

Association (CAFA) Nations Cup 2025, scheduled to be held from August 31 to September 8.

India have been drafted into the biennial Central Asian tournament, jointly hosted by Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, and have been placed in Group B, which will be played in Dushanbe. The Blue Tigers will play hosts Tajikistan (August 29), Islamic Republic of Iran

(September 1), and Afghanistan (September 4).

The top two teams from each group will progress to the play-off stage, which will see two matches being played on September 8. The third-place match will be played between the two group runners-up in Dushanbe, while the two group winners will play the final in Tashkent.

Group A will be hosted by Uzbekistan, who are drawn alongside Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, and Oman in Tashkent.

CAFA has six members — Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan,

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Oman and India are the two invited sides for the second edition of the CAFA Nations Cup. IR Iran are the defending champions, having beaten Uzbekistan 1-0 in the 2023 final.

CAFA Nations Cup 2025 Draw:

Group A: Uzbekistan (H), Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Oman.

Group B: Tajikistan (H), IR Iran, Afghanistan, India. India's match schedule: August 29: Tajikistan vs India

September 1: India vs IR Iran September 4: Afghanistan vs India.

AUS student wins gold at Indo-Nepal Yuva Series 2025

Itanagar, July 30 (UNI) : Chow Rajing Mungyak, a student of Arunachal University of Studies (AUS), Namsai, made the state proud by winning a Gold Medal in the Single Deadlift event at the Indo-Nepal Yuva Series 2025 held in Nepal.

Competing in the 53 kg Junior Weight Category, Rajing lifted 180 kilograms to clinch the top spot.

Dr Ashwani Lochan, Chairman of AUS, commended Rajing's success as a reflection of the university's balanced focus on academics, fitness, and personal growth. "We are proud of Rajing. His achievement not only showcases the rising potential of youth from Arunachal Pradesh and Northeast India in competitive sports but also reflects AUS's commitment to holistic education where academic excellence is complemented by a strong focus on physical fitness and personal growth," he said. AUS Pro-Chancellor and Managing Director Vishva Lochan echoed this sentiment, calling the achievement a testament to dedication and institutional support to nurturing talent across all domains.

India lands in Group C for Women's Asian cup 2026

New Delhi, July 30 (UNI) : India have been into Group C alongside Japan, Vietnam and Chinese Taipei for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 to be held in Australia from March 1 to 26, 2026.

India will play all their group stage matches in Perth Rectangular Stadium. They will compete against Chinese Taipei on 7 March, followed by matches against Japan and Vietnam.

Indian Midfielder Sangita Basfore was one of the three draw assistants at the ceremony held at Sydney Town Hall, along with Tameka Yallop from Australia and Jeon Yu-gyeong from the Republic of Korea. A total of 12 teams have been divided into three groups of four. The top two teams from each group, along with the two best third placed sides, will qualify for the quarter finals. India had been placed in the Pot 4 prior to the draw, alongside Iran and Bangladesh, based on the latest FIFA rankings.

Blue Tigresses, who topped Group B in the AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers after wins over Thailand, Iraq, Timor-Leste and Mongolia, will begin their campaign against Vietnam on March 4, 2026.

Sports Village, under the banner of DDSC, Announces South India's Biggest Para Sports Movement



(By Snaps India)

Hyderabad, July 29 : In a major step towards inclusive sports and Olympic ambition, Sports Village, the multi-sport platform dedicated to talent development and sports for all, proudly announces a landmark event from December 3rd to 7th, 2025, commemorating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Sports Village multisport promoter Mohammad Shamsuddin received a powerful endorsement and goodwill message from Ms. A. Sonibala Devi, IFS, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of the Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG), during an official meeting held earlier today. Ms. Sonibala Devi's

encouraging support lends significant momentum to the mission of empowering para athletes across the region. Her endorsement not only reinforces the commitment to inclusive sports development but also aligns with India's long-term vision of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2036.

This event supports India's aspiration to host the Olympic and Paralympics' Games Identifying grassroots para sports talent, Building inclusive sports culture across schools and colleges, Promoting participation in officially recognized Para sports categories

The event will host competitions, exhibitions, and training workshops in the following IPC-recognized sports, Para

Athletics (Track & Field), Para Powerlifting, Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Rugby, Wheelchair Tennis, Wheelchair Fencing, Table Tennis, Para Badminton, Para Archery, Blind Football (5-a-side), Para Taekwondo, Goal ball (Visually Impaired), Para Judo we will add more sports and games, Invitation to Schools & Institutions, Sports Village invites schools, special education institutions, NGOs, and sports academies across Telangana and South India to participate in this historic multi-sport para event. The event will serve as a platform for identifying talent, fostering confidence, and promoting inclusivity in competitive sports.

Fauja Singh statue to be installed at Moga

Moga (Punjab) July 30 (UNI) : A statue of late runner Fauja Singh will be installed shortly at Moga's famous Mahan Desh Bhagat Park.

Fauja Singh passed away at the age of 114 years on July 14, 2025 at his native Jalandhar village in Beas Pind when a motor vehicle ran into him.

Singh, a global running legend had several age group level records to his name. He started his running career at the ripe age of 89.

At 100, he became the first centenarian to complete a marathon, when he finished the 2011 Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

Well known statue artists Manjeet Singh Gill and his brother Surjit Singh Gill are constructing the statue.

"We will be making two statues of Fauja saab, one will be installed at the Mahan Desh Bhagat park in Moga, while the other will be given to Fauja Singh's family in Jalandhar" said well known sculpture MS Gill in an exclusive chat with UNI. The popular 'Mahan Desh Bhagat park' is situated at Ghall Kalan village in this district. Gill informed that

the statue will be made of mixed metal and fibre glass and would be six and a half feet in height. Gill explained that he and his brother decided to create Fauja Singh's statue because the athlete brought glory to the nation and was an inspiration to the people. "We artists can only pay the tribute through our art, we create sculptures of those people who contribute something to society, what Singh did was unparalleled. He brought a great deal of pride to the country, he gave a message to youngsters to stay away from drugs, and he showed the elderly that health was a matter of lifestyle," Gill said. The Mahan Desh Bhagat Park started and maintained by the Gill brothers has several statues of freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev, Chandrashekhar Azad, Madan Lal Dhingra, Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Apart from patriotic personalities statues of poets like Bulleh Shah, Ustad Najmi scientists like Albert Einstein and Narendra Singh Kapany are also there.

Statues of religious figures like the Sikh Gurus and Indian Army's martyrs further raise the sanctity of the park.

J&K DYSS to hold trials to select best probable for SGFI Camp

Jammu, July 30 (UNI) : Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of Youth Services and Sports shall be holding selection trials to select the best probable in the J&K contingent for the coaching camp to be conducted by the School Games Federation of India (SGFI). The coaching camp to be conducted by the SGFI to finalise the national team for participating in the World School Volleyball Championship (Under-15) for Boys and Girls scheduled to be held in China from December 4 to 13, 2025. As per the notification issued by the Director, Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Anuradha Gupta, read, "it has been informed that the School Games Federation of India is going to conduct selection trials for Coaching Camp for selecting the best probable to participate in the World School Volleyball Championship (Under-15) for Boys and Girls, scheduled to be held in China from December 4 to 13, 2025."

"The Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, Jammu and Kashmir shall be conducting selection trials to shortlist the best players for the Jammu and Kashmir UT Contingent," the Director said.

Italy wins, China third in mixed 3m synchro at Singapore Worlds

Singapore, July 30 (UNI) : Italy's Chiara Pellacani and Matteo Santoro claimed the gold medal in the mixed 3-meter synchronized springboard at the World Aquatics Championships today, as China missed out on the title in this non-Olympic event.

On the fifth day of diving at the championships, China's Li Yajie and Cheng Zilong settled for the bronze medal with a score of 305.70 points, following a costly mistake in their fourth-round dive.

Italy's Pellacani and Santoro, silver medalists at last year's Doha Worlds, delivered a consistent series of dives to take top

spot with 308.13 points.

Cassiel Rousseau and Maddison Keeney of Australia finished just behind with 307.26 points to claim silver.

This marks the second time China has missed out on gold in diving at the Singapore Worlds, following the women's one-meter springboard earlier in the tournament. Neither event features in the Olympic program.

Earlier in the day, Chen Yuxi and Xie Peiling advanced to the women's 10-meter platform final after placing first and second respectively in the preliminary round. The final will be held on Thursday.

Athletic Bilbao right-back Rincon joins Girona on loan

Madrid, July 30 (UNI) : Girona has signed right-back Hugo Rincon on loan from Athletic Bilbao for the upcoming season.

The 22-year-old joins Girona, which can make the deal permanent at the end of the season, after spending a successful campaign with second division side Mirandes,

where he played 43 times as the club just missed out on promotion to La Liga.

The 12-million-euro (14-million-U.S. dollar) signing of Jesus Areso from Osasuna last week has blocked Rincon's chances of playing for Athletic Bilbao this season, but after extending his contract to 2028 a year ago, he is still

highly rated at the club, which wants to see him progress and gain experience in the top flight.

Girona fought off interest from Alaves, Rayo Vallecano and Mallorca to complete the loan deal, which also includes a penalty clause if he doesn't play a certain percentage of games.

Stokes ruled out as England name Ollie Pope new captain for final India Test

London, July 30 (UNI) : England captain Ben Stokes has been ruled out of the fifth and final Test against India due to a right shoulder injury, with Ollie Pope named as stand-in captain for the deciding Test at The Oval.

Stokes injured his shoulder during the fourth Test, where he picked up five wickets in the first innings and scored a marathon 141 when batting.

While the star all-rounder had hinted in the post-match press conference that he would likely be available for the final Test, the shoulder issue has now ruled him out of the series finale.

The hosts have opted to freshen up their bowling attack after spending more than 250 overs in the field

during the previous Test, with only Chris Woakes retaining his place from the hard-fought drawn game in Manchester. With a quick turnaround between matches, Jofra Archer, Brydon Carse and Liam Dawson have been left out of the Playing XI, making way for Gus Atkinson, Josh Tongue and Jacob Bethell.

Atkinson returns after recovering from a right hamstring injury sustained during the one-off Test against Zimbabwe in May, while Tongue is back, having featured in the first two matches of the series. Bethell, replacing Dawson, is expected to lead the spin department with support from Joe Root. Jamie Overton too makes the cut, having been added to the squad after the fourth Test,

an ICC report said. Speaking on the injury, Stokes said, "I'm obviously disappointed. I've got a decent tear in the right shoulder. Weighing up the risk and reward, the risk was way too high for the damage caused."

"I'll start rehabbing now and start to focus on what we have coming up in the winter," he added.

England head into the final Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy with a 2-1 lead in a series where the decider could ultimately prove pivotal for both teams' World Test Championship aspirations.

England XI: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope (C), Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jacob Bethell, Jamie Smith, Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Jamie Overton, Josh Tongue.

Contingent for Asian Boxing Championships announced

New Delhi, July 30 (UNI) : India's boxing contingent of 40 promising youngsters is ready to make its mark at the Asian U19 and U22 Boxing Championships, which kicks off today in Bangkok, Thailand.

Concluding on August 12, the tournament will bring together 396 boxers from 26 nations, making it one of the premier stages for emerging talent across the continent.

Held at the iconic Indoor Stadium Huamark, the event is being organised by the Asian Boxing in association with World Boxing and the Thailand Boxing Association. It features two age groups U19 (born between 2007 and 2008) and U22 (born between 2004 and 2006) with both men and women competing under Olympic-style boxing rules. The Indian team features a strong mix of talent across both divisions. Leading the charge is three-time Asian Champion and two-time National Champion Vishvanath Suresh, who will be one to watch. Joining him are Sagar a National Championship gold medalist, Preet Malik a National Games silver medalist, Suman Kumari a Khelo India gold medalist and senior nationals performer, Yakshika a Asian Youth Championship 2024 bronze medalist, Nisha multi-time national medalist with international exposure, Muskan Sub-Junior Nationals 2024 silver medalist, and Vini School Nationals gold medalist. Alongside them are several exciting first-timers who've made their mark at the domestic level.

Boxers will compete across ten weight categories in each division. For U19 men, the categories range from 47KG-50KG upto +90KG while U19 women will fight in classes from 45-48KG to +80KG. The U22 men and women will compete in the same weight ranges, offering a full spread of match-ups across all divisions.

Printed, Published and Owned by Mohammed Shafi

**Printed at Haritha Printers
Plot No : 70, Opposite Petrol Pump, VUDA Colony, Gopalapatnam, Visakhapatnam-530 027.
Published from # 39-22-82/1/4,
Near Vuda Quarters, Kalinda Nagar,
Madhavadhara, Visakhapatnam - 530 007.**

**Editor: Mohammed Shafi
R.N.I.No. : APENG/2013/52180**

**Cell : 9849881368, Tel : 040 - 23232705
Email : standardpostvizag@gmail.com**

was looking forward to debuting at the club's new Everton Stadium.
"The stadium is really

nice. It gives you a good feeling and it's good for our fans to support us. It's perfect for us," he said.

Bournemouth in the United States. Last season saw Aznou make four first-team appearances for Bayern before spending the second half of the season on loan at La Liga strugglers Valladolid, where he played 13 times.

"I'm so happy to be here. I'm so proud to be part of this team," commented Aznou on the Everton website.

"The project they gave me is really good. The Premier League is the best league in the world so I'm really excited to start," he added, commenting that he

RPF and National Commission for Women Strengthen Resolve Against Human Trafficking



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 30: On the occasion of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the National Commission for Women (NCW) in the august presence of Union Minister for Railways, Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw. Sharing the development on social media, the Union Minister stated that the MoU aims to strengthen the capacity of RPF personnel to effectively prevent the trafficking of women and children as well as other crimes against women.

The MoU was signed by Smt. Shivani Dey, Deputy Secretary, NCW, and Shri S. Sudhakar, DIG/Projects, RPF. On this occasion, a special booklet on anti-human trafficking, prepared by the NCW, was also released. Mr Vijaya

Rahatkar, Chairperson of NCW, underscored the seriousness of the issue by stating that human trafficking continues to be one of the gravest human rights violations, with women and girls being the most frequent targets. She emphasized the pivotal role of the RPF in early detection and intervention. She also appreciated the painstaking nationwide efforts of the RPF in rescuing trafficked and lost/runaway children from across the country, which has led to the rescue of more than 65,000 such children over the past four and a half years.

Director General of RPF, Mr Manoj Yadava, reiterated the force's commitment to the cause. He said that Indian Railways, with its extensive reach, has both the opportunity and responsibility to serve as a frontline deterrent against trafficking. The partnership with NCW will further

sharpen the force's operational response and community outreach.

The MoU facilitates the organization of structured training programs and sensitization initiatives for RPF personnel. Public awareness efforts, including the dissemination of informational materials at railway stations and on trains, will also be undertaken. Additionally, Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), already operational at over 750 locations, will be leveraged to strengthen surveillance and ensure immediate response to suspected cases. This collaborative effort reflects a shared national commitment to safeguarding vulnerable communities and advancing a zero-tolerance approach toward human trafficking through one of India's most vital public service systems—the Indian Railways.

18 Special trains to be run between Sainagar Shirdi and Tirupati : CR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 30 : Railways are offering a bonanza for devotees with 18 Special Trains between Sainagar Shirdi and Tirupati.

These trains will connect 2 important places of religious importance offering a unique opportunity to have a darshan of Shri Sai Baba and Lord Venkateshwara.

The details are as under:-

Sainagar Shirdi - Tirupati Weekly Special (18 trips)

07638 Weekly Special will depart Sainagar Shirdi every Monday at 19.35 hrs from 04.08.2025 to 29.09.2025 and arrive Tirupati at 01.30 hrs third day (9 trips)

07637 Weekly Special will depart Tirupati every Sunday at 04.00 hrs from 03.08.2025 to 28.09.2025 and arrive Sainagar Shirdi at 10.45 hrs next day (9 trips)

Halts: Kopargaon, Manmad, Nagarsol,

Aurangabad, Jalna, Selu, Parbhani, Gangakher, Parli Vajinath, Latur Road, Udgir, Bhalki, Bidar, Zahirabad, Vikarabad, Lingampalli, Secunderabad, Nalgonda, Miryalaguda, Nadikude, Piduguralla, Sattenapalle, Tenali, Chirala, Ongole, Gudur and Renigunta.

Composition: Two AC-2 Tier, 4 AC-3 Tier, 6 Sleeper Class, 4 General Second Class, 1 Second sitting cum Guard's brake van and 1 Generator Van.

Reservation: Bookings for special train no.07638 will open on 01.08.2025 at all computerised reservation centres and on website www.irctc.co.in

Bookings for Unreserved Coaches can be done through UTS system with normal charges for unreserved accommodation as applicable for superfast Mail/Express trains.

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

Member has asked a question about the Nilambur Kotayam Express about augmentation of general class coaches in this train



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 30 : I have already given a reply to this.

I would like to also point out honorable speaker sir, that honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji government is committed to the welfare of middle classes and low income families. Over last few years, so many steps have

been taken which are basically for the welfare of the low income families.

I will give some examples here.

The number of general class coaches which are basically availed by the low income families has substantially increased in the last few years

. Today, out of the total 82,000 coaches, about 70% coaches are general class and non-AC coaches. Out of these 69 lakh seats, almost 78% seats are basically non-AC and general class seats.

We have taken up a program of manufacturing 17,000 general coaches and non-AC coaches.

We have also started Amrit Bharat express.

Kavach 4.0 commissioned on Mathura-Kota section of the Delhi-Mumbai route



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 30 : Indian Railways has commissioned indigenous railway safety system Kavach 4.0 on the Mathura-Kota section of high-density Delhi-Mumbai route. It is a significant step towards modernization of railway safety systems in the country.

Railway Minister Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw said: "Railways has indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured the Kavach Automatic Train Protection System, taking inspiration from PM Mr Narendra Modi Ji's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision. Kavach 4.0 is a technology-intensive system. It was approved by the Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) in July 2024. Many developed nations took 20-30 years to develop and install train protection systems.

The commissioning of Kavach 4.0 on the Kota-Mathura section has been achieved in a very short timeframe. This is a very big achievement."

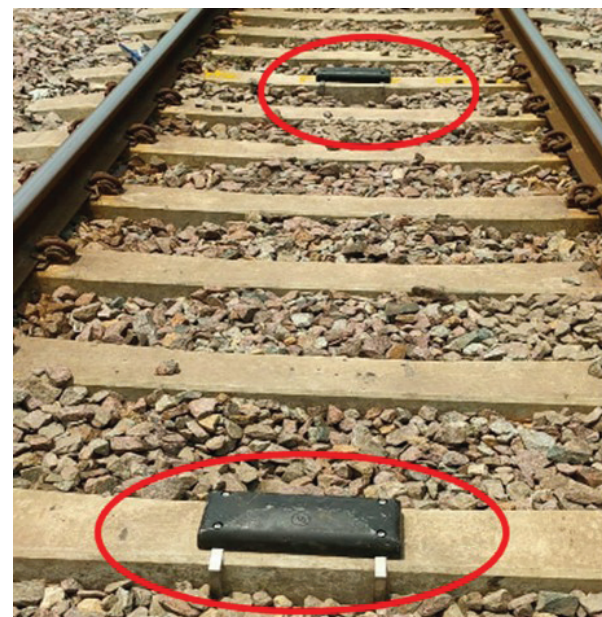
Advanced Train protection systems of international standard, were not installed in the country in the last 60 years after independence. To ensure train and passenger safety, Kavach system has recently been operationalized.

Indian Railways is gearing up to commission Kavach 4.0 on various routes throughout the country within a short span of 6 years. Over 30,000 people have already been trained on Kavach systems. IRISSET (Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications) has signed MOU with 17 AICTE approved Engineering colleges, institutions, universities for incorporating Kavach as part of their BTech course curriculum.

Kavach will help the loco pilots in maintaining train speed by effective brake application. Even in low visibility conditions like fog, the loco pilots will not have to look outside from the cabin for a signal. Pilots can see the information on the dashboard installed inside the cab.

What is Kavach?

Kavach is an



indigenously developed train safety system. It is designed to prevent accidents by monitoring and controlling train speeds.

It is designed at Safety Integrity Level 4 (SIL 4). This is the highest level of safety design.

Development of Kavach started in 2015. The system was extensively tested for over 3 years.

After technical improvements, the system was installed in South Central Railway (SCR). The first operational certificate was granted in 2018.

Based on the experiences gained in SCR, an advanced version 'Kavach 4.0' was developed. It was approved in May 2025 for speeds up to 160 kmph.

Kavach components are being manufactured indigenously.

Complexity of Kavach

Kavach is an extremely complex system. Commissioning of Kavach is equivalent to setting up a telecom company. It includes the following sub-systems:

RFID tags: Installed at every 1 km along the entire length of the track. Tags are also installed at every signal. These RFID tags provide precise location of the trains.

Telecom Towers: Full-fledged telecom towers including optical fiber connectivity and power supply are installed across the track length every few kilometers. Kavach systems installed on locos and Kavach controllers at the stations are constantly communicating using these towers. It is equivalent to installing a complete network like that of a telecom operator.

Loco Kavach: It interacts with the RFID tags installed on the tracks and relays the information to telecom towers and receives radio information from Station Kavach. Loco Kavach is also integrated with the braking system of the locomotives. This system ensures that brakes are applied in case of an emergency situation.

Station Kavach: Installed at every station and block section. It receives information from the Loco Kavach and signaling system and guides the Loco Kavach for safe speeds. Optical Fibre Cable (OFC): Optical fiber is laid along the tracks which connects all these systems for high-speed data communication.

Signalling system: Signalling system is integrated with the Loco Kavach, Station Kavach, telecom towers, etc.

These systems need to be installed, checked, and certified without disrupting the railway operations including heavy movement of passenger and goods trains.

Kavach progress:

1. Optical fibre laid - 5,856 km
2. Telecom towers installed - 619
3. Kavach installed at stations - 708
4. Kavach installed on Locos - 1,107
5. Trackside equipment installed - 4,001 Rkm

Indian Railways invests more than INR 1 lakh crore per year on safety related activities. Kavach is one of the many initiatives taken to enhance safety of passengers and trains. The progress made and the pace of deployment of Kavach reflect the commitment of Indian Railways towards ensuring railway safety. Kavach systems and installation photographs enclosed.

WR to extend trips of weekly special trains between Udhna and Raxaul

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 30 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand, Western Railway has

extended the trips of 05560/05559 Udhna - Raxaul Weekly Special.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of

Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, details of the train is as under:

Train No. 05560/05559 Udhna-Raxaul Weekly Special: Train No.05560 Udhna-Raxaul. Special has been extended upto 28th September, 2025 Similarly, Train No.05559 Raxaul-Udhna Special has been extended upto 27th

September, 2025.

The booking of extended trips of Train No. 05560 will open from 1st August, 2025 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Central Railway to run 44 additional Special Trains for Ganpati devotees- Diva –Chiplun -Diva MEMU Daily Unreserved Specials extended by additional 2 services

Total Ganpati Special Trains run by CR is now 296

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 30 : Central Railway will run 44 Ganpati Special Trains and will extend the running of Diva –Chiplun -Diva MEMU Daily Unreserved Specials by 2 more services, in addition to already announced 250 Ganpati Special Trains taking the figure to a total of 296 Ganpati Special Trains so far for the benefit of Ganpati devotees during the ensuing Ganpati Festival.

Details of additional 44 Ganpati Special Trains is as given below:

- 1) LTT- Sawantwadi Road –LTT Bi-weekly Special (8 Services)
- 01131 Bi-weekly special will leave

Lokmanya Tilak Terminus every Thursday & Sunday at 08.45 hrs on 28.08.2025, 31.08.2025, 04.09.2025 and 07.09.2025 and will arrive Sawantwadi Road at 22.20 hrs same day. (4 trips)

01132 Bi-weekly special will leave Sawantwadi Road every Thursday & Sunday at 23.20 hrs on 28.08.2025, 31.08.2025, 04.09.2025 and 07.09.2025 and will arrive Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 12.30 hrs next day. (4 trips)

Halts: Thane, Panvel, Pen, Roha. Mangaon, Khed, Chiplun, Sawarda, Aravali Road, Sangameswar Road, Ratnagiri, Adavali, Vilavade, Rajapur Road, Vaibhavwadi Road,

Nandgaon Road, Kankavali, Sindhudurg, Kudal and Zarap.

Composition: Two AC-3Tier, 12 Sleeper Class, 6 General Second class and 2 Second Seating cum Guard's brake van.

2) Diva –Khed -Diva MEMU Daily Unreserved Specials (36 services)

01133 MEMU special will leave Diva at 13.40 hrs daily from 22.08.2025 to 08.09.2025 and will arrive Khed at 20.00 hrs same day. (18 trips)

01134 MEMU special will leave Khed at 08.00 hrs daily from 23.08.2025 to 09.09.2025 and will arrive Diva at 13.00 hrs same day. (18 trips)

Halts: Nilje, Taloja

Panchanad, Kalamboli, Panvel, Somatane, Rasayani, Apta, Jite, Hamarapur, Pen, Kasu, Kolad, Indapur, Mangaon, Goregaon Road, Veer, SapeWamne, Karanjadi, Vinhere, Diwankhavati and Kalambani Budruk.

Composition: 8 Car MEMU Rakes

Extension of Diva –Chiplun -Diva MEMU Daily Unreserved Specials "Train no 01155/01156 Diva –Chiplun -Diva MEMU Daily Unreserved Specials have been extended by additional 2 services i.e 1 service of 01155 Diva-Chiplun Special and 1 service of 01156 Chiplun-Diva Special making it a total of 40 Unreserved Specials