

IN BRIEF

Grand trial run of Garuda seva ahead of srivari annual Brahmotsavams

Tirumala, Aug 9 (UNI) : On Saturday night, coinciding with the auspicious Sravana Pournami, the trial-run of Garuda Vahana Seva was held in Tirumala with grandeur. At 7 PM, Sri Malayappa Swamy, adorned with dazzling ornaments and decorations, blessed His devotees while parading majestically atop the mighty Garuda Vahanam around the four mada streets of the temple.

This Pournami Garuda Seva was organized as a trial run ahead of the prestigious Garuda Seva that is being conducted during the annual Brahmotsavams which is scheduled on September 28. On the occasion, TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary issued several instructions to the various department officials directing them to make elaborate arrangements so that the maximum number of devotees can witness the Garuda Seva during Brahmotsavams. Pedda Jeeyar Swamy, Chinna Jeeyar Swamy of Tirumala, other dignitaries, temple officials and a large number of devotees were present.

Tibetans tie rakhis to RSS chief on Raksha Bandhan

Nagpur, Aug 9 (UNI) : Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday celebrated Raksha Bandhan with members of Tibetan outfits at the Sangh's headquarters in Nagpur.

Members of the Regional Tibetan Women's Association and Bharat Tibet Cooperation Forum tied a rakhi to Bhagwat, symbolizing the bond of protection and goodwill. Adding to the celebrations, activists from the Rashtriya Sevika Samiti (the women's wing of the RSS), also tied a rakhi to the Sarsangchhalak. The sisters expressed their warm wishes and prayers for his long life and continued service to the nation. The atmosphere was filled with festive spirit as participants exchanged greetings and shared the cultural significance of the occasion. The event reflected the unity and cultural harmony between communities, with women from diverse backgrounds coming together to uphold the traditions of Raksha Bandhan.

CM vows for uplift of tribals, develop coffee plantations in 1 lakh more acres



(Standard Post Bureau)

Paderu, Aug 9 : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has reiterated commitment to uplift the tribal people and for their welfare and announced expansion of coffee plantation in one lakh more acres in the region.

The Chief Minister participated in the World Tribal Day celebrations held at Vanjangi, Paderu Mandal, ASR District, on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said AP has 28.32 lakh STs, of whom about 8.41 lakh families are tribals. Every month, 3,77,051 tribals receive NTR Bharosa pensions.

"We are spending Rs

1,595 crore annually on pensions for tribals alone. This reflects our sincerity towards tribal welfare. We provide 200 units of free electricity every month to 4.82 lakh tribal households. Soon, we will launch a scheme to provide free solar rooftop installations," the Chief Minister revealed.

"We spend Rs 1,337 crore annually for 1,76,796 tribal students studying in schools and colleges in agency areas. We have set up skill development centres for tribal youth, offering training in tourism, food processing, handicrafts, and e-commerce. Just yesterday, the Education Minister released Rs 45 crore for the

construction of 373 new school buildings," the Chief Minister asserted.

The Chief Minister revealed: "The 'Araku Coffee' must gain global recognition. I promoted 'Araku Coffee' as a brand and even set up a stall in 'Paris'. In 11 mandals of the Paderu agency, coffee is cultivated over 2.58 lakh acres, supporting the livelihoods of 2.46 lakh people. We are working to expand coffee plantations by another one lakh acres. In addition, cherries are cultivated on 1.80 lakh acres, producing 90,000 metric tonnes annually."

"Under the National Highways Authority, we

have laid 269 km of BT roads connecting 203 tribal villages at a cost of Rs 200 crore in just one year. Presently, works worth Rs 8,570 crore are underway for 515 km of national highways passing through tribal districts, including the expansion of Paderu-Gondiguda, Koyyuru-Chapatipalem, Chintapalli, Ramachodavaram-Koyyuru (NH-516E), Raipur-Visakhapatnam section (NH-130CD), Bhadrachalam-Kunta (NH-30), Lambasingi-Paderu, Chinturu-Motu sections, Paderu bypass, and new flyovers," the Chief Minister informed.

"To prepare ST students for competitive exams, we are spending Rs 4.5 crore and setting up study circles in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Tirupati. We are converting residential school buildings into hostels with an investment of ₹150 crore. At a cost of Rs 64 crore, 418 school buildings are being constructed under ITDA Paderu. We have initiated the construction of a government medical college and hospital in Paderu," Chandraabhu Naidu highlighted.

The Minister stated that the Government would lay roads to all 1,483 tribal habitations at a cost of Rs 2,850 crore under the Gramin Sadak Yojana and invest Rs 1,938 crore in ITDAs to increase tribal incomes. The Government is committed to complete the 515 km of roads at a cost of Rs 8,575 crore and lay 472 km of roads to international standards at a cost of Rs 19,411 crore.

The Government would sanction Rs 10 crore for ecotourism," the Chief Minister acknowledged. Mr. Naidu further assured of developing "Araku, Lambasingi, and Maredumilli as as tourism clusters.

3 of a family among 5 killed in two road accidents

(Standard Post Bureau)

Vijayawada, Aug 9 : Three members of a family were among five people killed in two road accidents which took place on Saturday in Prakasam and East Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh, police said.

Sources said 10 members of a family were going to hill the shrine Tirumala in a van from Kota Ganeshunipadu village in Palnadu district. Their van collided with a lorry at Chakicherla village of Machavaram mandal, killing Nambula Venkata Narasamma (55), Nambula Subhishini (30) and Abhiram (3). Five persons were injured in the accident and they were admitted to the Area hospital in Kavali. The condition of two of the injured was said to be critical, sources said.

Minister for Transport M Ramprasad Reddy expressed shock and grief over the death of three members of a family in the road accident. He conveyed his sympathies to the bereaved families. He directed the doctors to provide the best medical treatment to the injured. He also directed them to shift the seriously injured to the GGH in Nellore.

In another road accident, two agriculture workers were killed when a lorry knocked down their motorcycle at Sitampet village of Kovvur mandal in EG district on Saturday. Police said the workers were going to the fields on five motorcycles. A speeding lorry knocked down one of the bikes killing Durga Prasad (26) and Davuluri Subramanyam (42). The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH for postmortem.



EAM speaks with Armenian FM, congratulates him on peace deal with Azerbaijan

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today spoke with his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan and congratulated him on the US-brokered Armenia-Azerbaijan peace deal. In a post on X, the EAM said the peace deal is an important achievement for dialogue and diplomacy that India advocates. "Good to speak to Armenian FM @AraratMirzoyan. "Congratulated him on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Treaty reached in Washington DC.

(See on page 4)

Vance says US has no intention of recognising Palestine, calls ...



Australian researchers have developed a sunlight-activated material that transforms toxic "forever chemicals" (PFAS) in water into harmless fluoride. The innovation offers a low-energy approach to tackling toxic PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination,

(See on page 5)

Ramesh Budihal waves history, first Indian to enter finals in ...



Top Indian surfer Ramesh Budihal scripted history by becoming the first Indian to make it to the finals of the ASF Asian Surfing Championships 2025, being held at Mahabaiapuram, about 50 km from here, today. The Day 6 of the event witnessed high drams,

(See on page 5)

Shah trying to set old narrative, will not succeed : Tejashwi



Senior RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav today said that BJP leader and Union Minister Amit Shah was trying to set old narrative before Bihar assembly elections but he would not succeed. Yadav told media persons here that Shah had nothing new to share with people while addressing a public meeting in Sitamarhi on Friday.

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Downed 6 Pak aircraft and struck 9 terror camps during Op Sindoor, says Air Force chief

Bengaluru, Aug 9 (IANS) : In a major revelation that underscores the scale and precision of India's recent military response to cross-border terrorism, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh confirmed that the Indian Air Force (IAF) shot down six Pakistani aircraft during Operation Sindoor, including five fighter jets and a high-value surveillance platform, likely an AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft.

Speaking at the Air Chief Marshal L.M. Katre Memorial Lecture in Bengaluru, the Air Chief shared satellite imagery and intelligence inputs that detailed the extent of damage inflicted on Pakistan's air fleet and terror infrastructure.

"These are the before and after images of the

damage we caused at Bahawalpur, the JeM (Jaish-e-Mohammed) headquarters.

There's hardly any collateral here -- the adjacent buildings are fairly intact," he said, pointing to high-resolution visuals that corroborated the precision of the strikes.

Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, was India's calibrated response to the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 innocent lives in April.

"We have five confirmed kills and one large aircraft, which could be either an ELINT aircraft or an AEW & C aircraft, which was taken on at a distance of about 300 km. This is, actually, the largest ever recorded surface-to-air kill that we can talk about," the Air Force chief said.

The operation targeted

nine terror camps across Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), eliminating over a hundred militants, according to defence sources.

The offensive was executed with a blend of air-launched cruise missiles, electronic warfare assets, and real-time surveillance, ensuring minimal civilian harm while delivering maximum strategic impact.

He further said, "Our air defence system has done a wonderful job. The S-400 system, which we had recently bought, has been a game-changer.

The range of that system has really kept their aircraft away from their weapons, like those long-range glide bombs that they have.

They have not been able to use any one of those because they have

not been able to penetrate the system," the Indian Air Force chief said.

The Russian-origin S-400 air defence system played a pivotal role in neutralising airborne threats during the operation.

The system was credited with the aerial kills, including the downing of the AWACS aircraft, which posed a significant intelligence and coordination threat to Indian forces.

The Indian Air Force's strikes were not limited to aerial engagements. Ground targets, including key Pakistani airbases such as Bholari and Rahim Yar Khan, were hit with precision munitions. Intelligence inputs from satellite imagery, local media, and electronic intercepts enabled the Indian Air Force to verify

the destruction of terror infrastructure and military assets.

The operation also showcased India's integrated defence architecture, with the Army and Navy providing coordinated support. The use of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, loitering munitions, and advanced drones added depth to the campaign, which unfolded over four days and forced Pakistan to seek a ceasefire.

Operation Sindoor marks a significant evolution in India's deterrence strategy, combining technological superiority with operational restraint. As Air Chief Marshal Singh noted, "This was not just about retaliation -- it was about precision, professionalism, and purpose."

Zero objections filed by political parties on Bihar poll revision: ECI

New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) : After nine days of publication of the draft electoral rolls with regard to Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar, no political party has filed any objection and claim with the Election Commission of India, according to the poll panel's daily bulletin today. However, the commission has received 7,252 objections from individual. Additionally, 43,123 new voters aged 18 and above have submitted forms for inclusion in the electoral rolls.The draft list was released on August 1 following the SIR exercise across Bihar.

Kharge pays tribute to freedom fighters who took part in Quit India Movement

New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) : Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge today paid rich tributes to freedom fighters who participated in the historic Quit India Movement, launched on this day in 1942 under Mahatma Gandhi's call of "Do or Die."On his social media handle X, Kharge said the movement, led by the Indian National Congress, saw countless Indians rise against British rule, marking a pivotal moment in the freedom struggle.

"In 1942, with the invaluable slogan 'Do or Die' by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, the 'Quit India Movement' began against British rule, which infused new energy into the struggle for independence," Kharge said.

He said, "Under the leadership of the Indian National Congress, countless Indians took to the streets during the Quit India Movement, scripting an unforgettable chapter in history".While paying heartfelt tributes to the freedom fighters, Kharge said, "On 'August Kranti Diwas', we pay our heartfelt tributes to all the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the independence of the nation".

PM pays tribute to freedom fighters of Quit India Movement

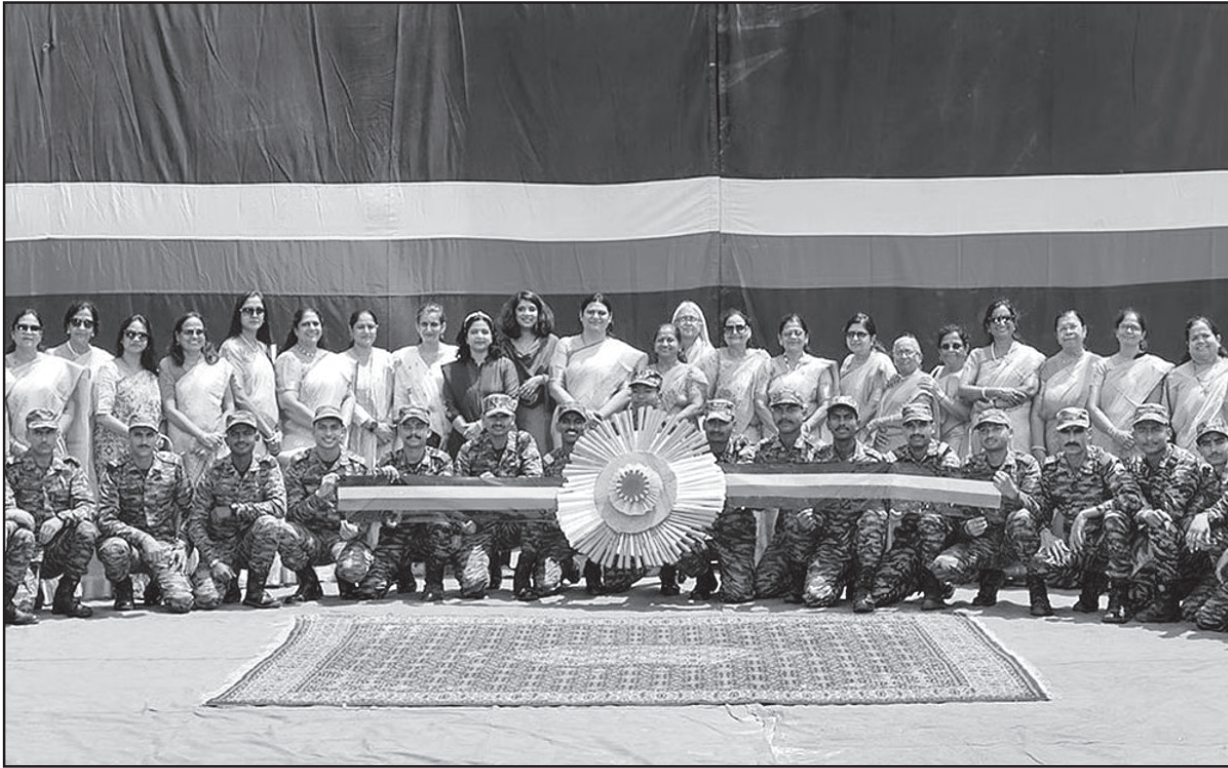
New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid heartfelt tribute to all the brave souls who participated in the Quit India Movement under the inspiring leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

He emphasised that their courage and sacrifice remain a shining example of patriotism and dedication to the nation's freedom.

In a message posted on X, Modi stated:

"We remember with deep gratitude all those brave people who, under the inspiring leadership of Babu, took part in the Quit India Movement.

Their courage lit a spark of patriotism that united countless people in the quest for freedom."



In this image released by @KonarkCorps via X, Women of Mahavir International NGO with soldiers of Bogra Brigade during Raksha Bandhan festival celebrations.

2 soldiers killed as Kulgam operation enters day 9

Srinagar, Aug 9 (UNI) : Two soldiers of Army's elite counter insurgency unit were killed and two others were injured in an ongoing gunbattle in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir as the operation to find terrorists entered ninth day today.

The encounter, which started on August 1 at Akhal forest in Kulgam is turning out as the longest anti militancy operations in the Valley in recent years.

Officials said intense exchange of fire brokeout between militants and security forces last night when the joint teams moved in the dense forest to flush out the hiding terrorist. The small team of Army, they said, came under sudden fire from terrorists, resulting

in injuries to four soldiers, two of whom succumbed.

" The injured jawans were airlifted to Army's Srinagar 92 base hospital and two of them succumbed, " a senior security official said.

The Army Srinagar based Chinara Corps confirmed the killing of two soldiers in line of duty. It identified the two slain soldiers as Lance Naik Pritpal Singh and Sepoy Hariminder Singh.

Chinara Corps honours the supreme sacrifice of the Bravehearts, L/Nk Pritpal Singh and Sep Hariminder Singh, in line of duty for the Nation. Their courage and dedication will forever inspire us. IndianArmy expresses deepest condolences and stand in

solidarity with the bereaved families, " Chinara Corps posted on X.

The Army said the operation is going on.

Since August 1, the anti-militancy operation in the steep and dense forests in Akhal Kulgam has been going on. In the past nine day , two militants, one of them suspected to be local, were killed and several security men have got injured in the operation.

Over the past eight days , security forces have used drones to target suspected militant hideouts in the forested area, while Army helicopters have continued to hover overhead, monitoring the operation.

Officials today said security forces are treading slowly and cautiously in the

dense forest area to avoid further casualties.

Meanwhile, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to the brave army personnel, who made supreme sacrifice in the ongoing operations against terrorists in Kulgam."I salute the indomitable courage of our brave hearts L/Nk Pritpal Singh and Sep Hariminder Singh, who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the motherland Their valour, grit & determination will never be forgotten. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of grief," LG said.J&K Chief Minister OmarAbdullah laid the wreath and paid rich tribute to the brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice at Kulgam.

India's defence production soars to record Rs 1.51 lakh cr in FY 2024-25, Rajnath Singh lauds DPSUs, private industry

New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) India's annual defence production has surged to a record Rs 1,50,590 crore in the Financial Year 2024-25, marking an 18 percent growth over the previous fiscal's Rs 1.27 lakh crore.This significant rise reflects a remarkable 90 percent increase since FY 2019-20, when the figure stood at Rs 79,071 crore.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lauded the collective efforts of the Department of Defence Production and all stakeholders including DPSUs, public sector manufacturers, and the private industry in

achieving this landmark. He termed the upward trajectory as a clear indicator of India's strengthening defence industrial base.

The DPSUs and other PSUs accounted for approximately 77 percent of total production, while the private sector contributed 23 percent. The share of the private sector, which increased from 21 percent in FY 2023-24 to 23 percent in FY 2024-25, reflects the sector's growing role in the defence ecosystem of the country.

Both public and private segments of the industry have demonstrated

consistent year-on-year growth, attributed to far-reaching policy reforms, enhanced ease of doing business, and a strategic focus on indigenisation over the past decade. The overall production of DPSUs and private sector has increased by 16 percent and 28 percent respectively in FY 2024-25.

This record-setting achievement underscores the growing momentum of the Government's push to self-reliance in defence manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The emphasis to reduce the dependency on imports and create a

defence industrial complex that not only caters to India's needs but also strengthens the potential of exports has shown positive results.It may be recalled that the defence exports have surged to a record high of Rs 23,622 crore in FY 2024-25. It was a growth of Rs 2,539 crore or 12.04 percent over the defence exports figures of FY 2023-24, which were Rs 21,083 crore. With sustained policy support, increased private participation, and expanding export capabilities, India's defence production sector is poised for continued acceleration in the years ahead.

Delhi celebrates Rakshabandhan with zeal amid heavy rain and waterlogging

New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) : Despite the city being lashed by continuous heavy rainfall since Friday night, it failed to dampen the spirit of Rakshabandhan as city dwellers celebrated the festival with full fervour.

As the city roads remained waterlogged in most of the areas, the localities opted for the Delhi metro services, as they ran completely packed while ferrying the people from one place to another. In a post on X, Indian Army's Delhi Area posted about the celebrations carried out with the students from various schools in the city. "Saluting the spirit of brotherhood and

reaffirming the sacred bond of protection, trust and national unity, all ranks of #DelhiArea celebrated #RakshaBandhan with school children. Students from various schools including #DAVCentenaryPublicSchool #GreenwayModernSchool and #GreenFieldSchool, tied Rakhis on soldiers - a touching tribute of respect, gratitude and solidarity to the nation's guardians," it read.

The Indian Air Force too tweeted about the celebrations carried out in the NCR. "Young students from schools across Delhi NCR celebrated #RakshaBandhan at Air Force Station New Delhi,

tying rakhis to Air Warriors & expressing heartfelt gratitude to the guardians of the nation. Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, joined the celebrations, interacting warmly with the children. The event strengthened the bond between the Armed Forces & the younger generation," the post on X read.

The DCP Northwest Delhi also posted about the celebration with school children, stating that they celebrated the festival by renewing the pledge for their safety and well-being. Meanwhile, the Delhi police chose a creative way to promote road safety by tying Rakhis to the traffic violators.

Ramji Lal Jangid, 1st director of Hindi course at IIMC, passes away

New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) Renowned journalist and first director of Hindi course at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Dr Ramji Lal Jangid passed away on Saturday after a prolonged illness.

He was 86. He was ill for a long time and breathed his last at his home in Noida. He received his PhD in History from Rajasthan University in 1967.

He was a master of many languages. He worked in the advertising world, radio, television as well as daily newspapers and magazines.

PM pays tribute to Kakori revolutionaries on 100th anniversary

New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid homage to the valour and patriotism of the Indians who took part in the Kakori incident, commemorating its centenary.

Talking about the significance of the event, the Prime Minister said the courage exhibited by the freedom fighters at Kakori a hundred years ago reflected the widespread resentment among Indians against colonial rule. He observed that the revolutionaries were deeply angered by the exploitation of public resources to sustain the British regime.

Modi affirmed that their bravery will forever be etched in the memory of the nation. He reiterated the government's resolve to continue striving to realise their vision of a strong and prosperous India.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister wrote, "On this day, a hundred years ago, the courage shown by patriotic Indians at Kakori highlighted the resentment among people against colonial rule.

They were angry at the manner in which people's money was being used to further colonial exploitation.

Their valour will always be remembered by the people of India. We will keep working to fulfil their dreams for a strong and prosperous India."

BJP attacks Rahul Gandhi over EC remarks, labels him as threat to democracy

New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today launched a scathing attack on Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for his statements against the Election Commission, stating that he is weakening democracy with his immature remarks.

The BJP also dared the Congress leader to file a complaint in the court about his claims of 'vote

theft' by the EC. At a press conference here, BJP National Spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia targeted Gandhi, saying that for over a decade, the Congress leader's image in Indian politics has been that of an individual who is chaotic and attempts to demean constitutional institutions without evidence.

Bhatia added that the public has now accepted

Railways launches 'Round Trip Package' to ease festival rush

New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) : The Union Ministry of Railways has unveiled an experimental scheme — Round Trip Package — designed to ease congestion and incentivise advance bookings for the upcoming Diwali and Chhath festivals.

Bookings for the scheme will open on August 14, said a Ministry official today.

Under the scheme, passengers booking both onward and return journeys within designated windows will be eligible for a 20% concession on the base fare of the return leg. The initiative is aimed at encouraging family travel and extended holiday plans.

Onward journeys must fall between October 13 and October 26, while return trips can be reserved between November 17 and December 1, using the 'connecting journey' feature, said the official about the key feature of the scheme.

The standard Advance Reservation Period (ARP) of 60 days will not be applicable for return tickets booked under this offer.

According to the official, several conditions will govern the scheme. Only confirmed tickets will be considered valid in both directions, and the same class and origin-destination (O-D) pair must be maintained for the round trip. Refunds will not be permitted for tickets booked under the scheme.

"The concession applies to all classes and trains — including special services — except those operating under the Flexi Fare system. No additional charges will be levied during charting for these PNRs. However, the use of other promotional offers, coupons, passes, or loyalty discounts will not be permitted alongside this scheme," said the official.

Both legs of the journey must be booked through the same channel — either online or at physical reservation counters.

Officials expressed hope that the initiative will help disperse peak traffic more evenly across the holiday period, mitigate last-minute rush, and offer a more comfortable travel experience for festival-bound families.

Heavy rain paralyzes Delhi

New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) Heavy monsoon rains brought severe waterlogging across Delhi on Saturday, submerging major areas like ITO, Punjabi Bagh, Saket, and Dhaura Kuan, while tragic incidents claimed multiple lives.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led government, holding it responsible for alleged administrative failures in monsoon preparedness.

The most tragic incident occurred in Jaitpur, where a wall collapse triggered by waterlogging killed seven people, including two children. In a separate incident, a 2.5-year-old child drowned after falling into an open manhole. AAP leaders linked these deaths to poor civic maintenance, claiming that corruption in desilting work and ignored warnings had worsened the crisis.

AAP Delhi chief Saurabh Bharadwaj questioned why the government had not conducted a court-ordered third-party audit of drain cleaning. "What are they hiding?" he asked, while sharing visuals of flooded streets and accusing ministers of being absent during the emergency.

The rainfall coincided with Raksha Bandhan, leaving many residents stranded. AAP's Atishi posted videos of submerged roads, stating that key areas were impassable due to government inaction. Meanwhile, senior leader Manish Sisodia called the Jaitpur deaths "heartbreaking" and demanded accountability. The BJP government has not yet issued a detailed response. However, AAP legislators continued their criticism, with MLA Sanjeev Jha questioning why pre-monsoon promises of flood prevention had failed. "How many more lives must be lost before this government acts?" he asked.

With more rain forecast, concerns are growing over Delhi's drainage infrastructure and disaster response capabilities. Residents in affected areas struggled with waterlogged homes and disrupted travel, even as political accusations dominated the discourse.

Gandhi as an immature, irresponsible leader who makes statements that weaken India's democracy. He said, "Rahul Gandhi organized a press conference and made baseless allegations against a constitutional institution without any facts. Therefore, it would not be wrong to say that Rahul, once called a chaos agent, has now become an agent of destruction."The

BJP leader also questioned who gave the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha the authority to openly threaten constitutional institutions like the EC, and remarked that his "double standards" is exposed as when Congress wins in states like Himachal Pradesh or Telangana, they have no complaint with the EC and when it loses, he (Gandhi) alleges that the ECI is compromised.

PM hails it as 'great day for commerce and connectivity'

New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today lauded the arrival of the first freight train to the Kashmir Valley, which he termed as great for commerce and connectivity that would boost progress and prosperity in the region."Great day for commerce and connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir! It will enhance both progress and prosperity," the PM posted,

responding to a post on X by Union Rail Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announcing the development. The Railway Minister posted a video on X of the train, and wrote: "Today the first freight train reached the newly-commissioned Anantnag Goods Shed in Kashmir Valley from Punjab, marking a significant milestone in connecting the Kashmir region to the national freight network."

Two college students from Coimbatore drown in Chittur river

Palakkad, Aug 9 (UNI) : Two college students hailing from Rameshwaram near Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu were drowned in Chittur river, a tributary of Bharathapuzha, while swimming near a cosway (tunnel), in Kerala today.

A ten-member group of College students including girls from Coimbatore had come on a holiday trip.

According to police, the body of Sreegowtham (21) of Rameswaram was fished out by local residents and fire force personnel, and rushed to Chittur taluk hospital, but doctors declared him brought dead. While, the body of Arun Kumar (21), a resident of Rameshwaram, was recovered by the fire force and scuba team at around 1730 hrs from the river. The incident took place this afternoon, when the students from Karpagam Management College, Coimbatore reached Palakkad town and later they visited Chittur river, and nine of them went to the side of the Shanmugham cosway (a tunnel) at Chittur river.Under currents were reported near the cosway, but the students did not know of the danger.



BJP members and security personnel clash during a protest organised to mark the completion of one year of the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar hospital, in Kolkata, West Bengal.

21 MoUs held in presence of CM Naidu for tribal development

Paderu (Andhra Pradesh), Aug 9 (UNI) :A Game changing day for Andhra Pradesh tribals as the state government signed 21 key Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) here today focused on tribal development, including livelihood generation, agricultural expansion, marketing of forest produce, and promotion of tourism.

These agreements were formalised in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on the occasion of World Tribal Day held here.

Several public and private sector organisations joined hands with the

government to promote the marketing of tribal and forest-based products most notably, Araku Coffee both within India and internationally.

The Central Rubber Board signed an MoU with ITDA Rampachodavaram to support rubber cultivation through the development of infrastructure and expansion of plantations.

A separate agreement was signed with GCC (Girijan Cooperative Corporation) to boost the sale of tribal products and Araku Coffee, including goods produced by DW CRA women.

To expand its global footprint, GCC has signed

an MoU with Hathi Services LLC for the retail sale of Tribal Cooperative Corporation products in the United States.

This includes plans to set up joint retail showrooms across India, which will showcase tribal products from Andhra Pradesh and feature Araku Coffee kiosks, enhancing both marketing and employment opportunities for tribal communities.

Leading FMCG company, Tata Consumers has signed an MoU with GCC to take the organic Araku Coffee brand to larger domestic and global markets.

MoUs for Promoting Homestays and Tribal

Tourism

ITC signed an MoU with ITDA Paderu to expand its coffee plantations by an additional 1,600 hectares, supplementing its current operations across 4,010 hectares in partnership with a local farmers’ cooperative.

The Coffee Board has also signed a MoU for expanding coffee cultivation in tribal areas, ensuring quality production and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

To strengthen the marketing of products made by tribal women, Frontier Marketing and Easy Mart signed

agreements to facilitate sales in rural markets.

Meanwhile, Equip signed an MoU with ITDA to integrate turmeric cultivation, set up processing units, and develop necessary infrastructure for value addition and marketing.

ISB (Indian School of Business) has also signed a significant MoU to raise awareness about the commercial potential of seasonal forest products manufactured by tribal women’s groups.

In the tourism sector, OYO Homes and Homey Huts have entered into an MoU to establish homestays in tribal

regions. The initiative aims to provide authentic local experiences for visitors while enhancing livelihood opportunities for tribal families.

The Change Society has signed an MoU to introduce value-based education for tribal students.

Additional MoUs have also been signed on natural farming, marketing infrastructure, and sustainable livelihood models.

The AP Tourism Forum has expressed its commitment to developing tribal tourism circuits to boost employment and inclusive growth in the region.

130 legislators from 24 Indian states participate in NCSL summit in Boston

Mumbai, Aug 9 (UNI) : In a momentous stride toward global democratic engagement, 130 Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) and Legislative Councils (MLCs) from 24 Indian states and 21 political parties participated in the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Summit 2025 in Boston, USA.

The summit, which took place from August 4 to 6, was Bharat’s largest ever state legislative delegation attending the globally respected co-learning platform, said release today.

This year’s NCSL was attended by legislators from 102 countries, making it one of the most diverse gatherings in the summit’s history.

Delegates participated in high-impact sessions on global themes including healthcare systems, artificial intelligence in governance, climate change, economic development, women’s empowerment, and transportation policy. They also joined over 100 parallel sessions featuring eminent speakers and legislator-led case studies, fostering cross-border exchanges of policy ideas and legislative strategies.

One of the highlights of the conference was a tour of the historic Massachusetts State

House, which gave Indian state lawmakers insight into the Massachusetts state legislative processes.

The delegation also visited Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where they interacted with leading scholars and institutional leaders, exploring how academic research can support evidence-based policymaking. The team also met Mr. Wayne Harper, outgoing President of NCSL and congratulated newly elected president Marcus C. Evans Jr.

Speaking on the significance of the summit, Dr. Rahul V. Karad, Founder, NLC Bharat, said, “This historic conference marks a turning point in the journey of Indian state legislators toward global engagement.

A total 130 MLAs and MLCs from diverse political ideologies came together, not as opponents across the political aisle but as learners, to understand how Indian state legislative excellence is shaped worldwide.

"Through NLC Bharat, we are building a non-partisan, future-facing platform that prepares our lawmakers to lead with knowledge, humility, and global awareness," said release.

Govt allocates Rs 7,557 Crore for tribal welfare: Minister

Machilipatnam, Aug 9 (UNI) : Minister for Mines and Excise Kollu Ravindra today said that the State Government has allocated Rs 7,557 crore for the welfare of tribal people and assured of extending all the required help to them through the ITDA.

A programme was organized here to mark the International Tribal Day.

Speaking on occasion, the Minister Kollu Ravindra lamented that even today, the tribal people use slings to take patients to hospital from their habitats.

"The Maoist threat has

become a hurdle to construct roads to the tribal habitations," the Minister claimed.

He emphasized the need of laying more focus on the uplift and welfare of tribal people.

He recalled that Alluri Sitarama Raju motivated tribal people to participate in the freedom struggle and fight against the British government in those days.

Minister Kollu Ravindra called upon the tribal people to make use of the government schemes and reach heights in life.

He directed the officials to issue Aadhaar cards to

the tribal people living in Narayanapuram colony near here.

The Minister handed over a Rs 12 lakh cheque to carry out repairs to a community hall located in the tribal colony.

Krishna district in-charge Collector Gitanjali Sharma announced that steps were taken to issue Aadhar cards to tribal people. Since some tribal people did not have Aadhar cards, they were not issued ration cards, she revealed.

The Collector highlighted that though 300 students could be accommodated in the Tribal

Welfare hostel, there are only 90 students and asked the tribal students to stay in the welfare hostels and pursue education.

Postal Superintendent B Srinivasa Rao said that 2,500 tribal girls, below the age of 12 years, were identified in the district and they were permitted to open an SB account in the post offices with only Rs one rupee.

Superintendent of police R Gangadhar Rao and Agriculture Market Committee chairman Kunche Nani were among those who attended the event.

Punjab first Indian state to deploy anti-drone system to check drug and arms smuggling

Chandigarh, Aug 9 (UNI) : In a significant move to curb drug and arms smuggling, the Punjab government, led by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), handed over three advanced anti-drone systems to the Punjab Police on Saturday, making Punjab the first state in the country to deploy such technology.

The systems were formally inaugurated by Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in Tarn Taran.

Addressing the gathering, Kejriwal said, "Drug abuse was once Punjab’s biggest challenge, with previous governments colluding with

smugglers to push drugs into every household, leaving the state in ruins. Since our government took charge, we’ve waged a relentless war against drugs.

Be it ministers, officials, or smugglers -- no one has been spared.

They’ve been arrested and jailed." He said with these anti-drone systems, any drone entering from Pakistan will be shot down instantly, stopping drugs from entering Punjab. "Today, we’re launching three systems, with six more to arrive soon as part of a nine-system order worth Rs 51.41 crore. If needed, we’ll procure

Digital technologies are main driving force for the future: TCS S&S President

Eluru, Aug 9 (UNI) Software and Services President of Tata Consultancy Services V Rajanna, has predicted that the future of the country is determined by young engineers and India will emerge as the fourth largest economy in the world.

The seventh convocation of the 2021-2025 batch of students who studied at the National Institute of Technology Andhra Pradesh (NIT AP) was held on Saturday in Tadepalligudem of West Godavari district.

Speaking as the chief guest, Rajanna said that India is the world leader in digital transactions, adding that 97 crore internet connections and platforms like UPI handle more than 100 billion transactions annually.

He advised the students to improve their skills in their respective fields, no matter which field they choose. If students want to achieve continuous growth and success, they should master advanced technology, only then will their goals and aspirations be fulfilled, he observed.

“Some universities

are planning to introduce a learning to learn course that will help students develop a continuous culture of learning. The illiterate of the 21st century are not those who cannot read or write, but those who cannot relearn.

Speaking at the ceremony, In-charge Director, Professor, Dr. N.V. Ramana Rao advised the students to undertake innovative research and inventions in a way that would make the country proud. He said that the knowledge and modern skills acquired by the students at NIT Andhra Pradesh will be very useful for them to take a step forward in their lives.

Later, 667 students who completed the four-year B.Tech engineering course in the 2021-2025 batch were awarded degrees, and 29 research students who completed PhD were awarded doctorate degrees.

Registrar Dr. P. Dinesh Shankar Reddy, Deans Dr. G Ravikiran Sastry, Dr. V. Sandeep, Dr. N. Jayaram, Dr. Himabindu, Senate members, Heads of Depart-ments and Professors participated in the program.

Four of family die in mishap

Bhopal, Aug 9 (UNI) : Two speeding motorcycles collided head on resulting in the death of four persons, including a father, his two sons, and his relative, while two others were injured in the

Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday evening.

According to the police, the mishap occurred at around 4 pm near the Jarga-Jargi village on the Mandla-Seoni border.

Mandla SP Rajat Saklecha said the accident occurred when a family of five persons, riding on a single motorcycle, from Seoni to Mandla collided with another bike coming from the opposite direction.

The official said that the deceased were identified as Rajendra Kushram (38), his sons Sohil (10)and Ravindra (7), all residents of Seoni district, and his brother-in-law Shivprasad Maravi (27).Rajendra’s wife, Shakun Kushram (32), and Vivek Kumar Kakodia (28) of Seoni district who was on the other bike, sustained injuries and have been admitted to a hospital, the SP added.

Police registered a case and investigations were on.

surveillance network involving local residents, retired soldiers, and police in 596 border villages. Supported by digital mapping, beat book records, and a WhatsApp-based rapid information system, this network enhances monitoring efforts.

In coordination with the Border Security Force (BSF), Punjab Police is leveraging advanced technology, forensic analysis, and communication monitoring to track every drone crossing the border. The government believes these measures will significantly disrupt smuggling networks, providing Punjab with a formidable shield against cross-border trafficking.

more. Punjab is now the only state in India with its own anti-drone system, fighting back against the drug menace and we will win this battle," Kejriwal said.

The high-tech systems, designed to be a “game changer,” can detect the precise location of drones and their control stations, issuing real-time alerts and automated threat warnings on digital maps. Punjab Police personnel are undergoing specialized training to operate these systems effectively in the field.

To strengthen border security, the Punjab government has established a robust

STANDARD POST

India's rejection of economic coercion by US strong message to developing countries:

India's rejection of economic coercion by the US through the imposition of a 50 per cent tariff on key Indian exports sends a strong message to other developing countries facing the challenges of globalisation and weaponisation of trade, a report. The firm stance taken by India underscores its commitment to economic sovereignty, at the cost of short-term gains.

"The way India has adopted a protectionist approach is more than economic prudence — it is a strategy to maintain social stability, food security, employment, and rural welfare, which are essential for India's national development," the India Narrative report highlighted. According to the report, India's resistance is driven by the need to protect its agricultural sector, which supports millions of rural livelihoods. With small-scale and marginal farmers dependent on agriculture, lowering tariffs on agricultural imports such as fisheries, dairy products, and genetically modified crops would significantly impact rural incomes, encourage market monopolization, and disrupt social cohesion. In addition to agriculture, the report mentioned that tariffs will impact other key industries, including textiles, garments, gems, jewellery, and auto parts, which depend on the US market. "Despite being faced with this situation, India has adopted a strategy to not depend on one market, but make a more resilient approach by diversifying its trade partnerships in a multipolar world order. It has expanded ties with the UK, the European Union, ASEAN, and the Global South coalitions, including BRICS and SCO," the report detailed.

It further stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation at the upcoming SCO Summit will mark an important shift in India's foreign policy.

India, the report said, is responding not only through public statements but also by legally challenging the US tariffs at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). At the same time, India is upholding its commitment to the principle of rule-based international trade, and contesting what it views as "unlawful and unilateral punitive measures" by the US. This legal approach reinforces India's alignment with other countries promoting fair practices in global commerce without bowing to coercive tactics. "This situation accelerates diversification, strengthening legal assertiveness in global trade governance and underscores its commitment to control its own economic destiny. This posture shifts the India-US relationship into one of complexity, contestation, and sovereignty-focused engagement rather than unbridled market integration," the report highlighted.

India's resolute stance against the US tariff pressure, the report mentioned, reflects not just reactive anger or reactionary nationalism but a careful judgment grounded in complex economic realities. "By navigating a path that balances legal avenues, diplomatic outreach, and domestic protections, India is building a less Washington-centric and more multipolar global trade environment," the report noted.

Prasar Bharati and AEx SPORT Announce Strategic Partnership to Broadcast GLW



(Standard Post Bureau)

In a landmark development poised to transform India's sports entertainment landscape, Prasar Bharati, the national public broadcaster, has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AEx SPORT, the sports innovation vertical of UK-headquartered AdiGroupe, to broadcast Global League Wrestling (GLW) — the first professional wrestling league of its kind in India and the Asia-Pacific region.

This unique collaboration brings together the expansive national reach of Prasar Bharati — across both television, digital platforms and radio — and the global branding, content, production, IP and marketing expertise of AEx SPORT, to create a world class sports entertainment property designed for Indian, Asia-Pacific and global audiences.

A Cultural Milestone in Indian Sports Entertainment

GLW will officially be

unveiled on 17 September 2025, followed by its broadcast debut on 4 October 2025, coinciding with the Government of India's continued push to promote sports and youth engagement. GLW will be telecast on DD Sports and streamed on Prasar Bharati's digital platform, Waves, and AIR with the inaugural season spanning 40 weeks of immersive, family-friendly programming.

Shri Navneet Kumar Sehgal, Chairman, Prasar Bharati, emphasized:

"This marks a new era for Indian pro-wrestling. The idea is to catapult the Indian sports to the global standards. Building on our existing partnerships with Hockey India, the Handball Association of India, PGTI, and others, this partnership reinforces our commitment to promote a variety of sports and will give India's next generation of youth and athletes a national platform."

Shri Gaurav Dwivedi, CEO, Prasar Bharati, commented:

"This partnership underscores Prasar Bharati's continued commitment to delivering engaging, culturally resonant, and high-quality content to Indian audiences. GLW introduces a new genre of youth-led programming that combines traditional Indian storytelling with international sports entertainment standards."

Sanjay Viswanathan, Chairman, AdiGroupe and AEx SPORT, added:

"GLW is part of AEx SPORT's broader mission to build immersive and inclusive sports-based cultural experiences for sports fans worldwide. We are dedicating GLW to India on the auspicious day of 17 September, to build Indian youth's pride and self-confidence through competitiveness and excellence in sports entertainment, and provide an opportunity for Indian pro-wrestling talent to shine on a global stage."

Championing Indian Talent with Global Appeal

The GLW format has

been meticulously developed to reflect Indian cultural ethos while embracing global benchmarks in narrative structure, production design, and athlete presentation. The league will introduce a fresh storytelling ecosystem, complete with original characters, cinematic storylines, and a production environment tailored for family viewing.

The Great Khali Joins GLW as Brand Ambassador and Talent Commissioner

Bolstering GLW's appeal, The Great Khali, former WWE World Heavyweight Champion and one of the most globally recognized Indian athletes, will serve as Brand Ambassador and Talent Commissioner. In this dual role, he will play a pivotal part in talent identification, mentorship, and content development.

The Great Khali stated: "Wrestling transformed my life and gave me a global platform. GLW presents a serious, structured, and entertaining opportunity for the next generation of Indian athletes to follow that same path. GLW will help them shine on Indian and global stages — on our own terms."

About Prasar Bharati
Prasar Bharati is India's autonomous public service broadcaster and the parent body of Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio. With nationwide reach across terrestrial, satellite, and digital platforms, Prasar Bharati plays a vital role in delivering high-quality, diverse, and inclusive programming to the Indian population.

EAM speaks with Armenian FM, congratulates him on peace deal with Azerbaijan

New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today spoke with his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan and congratulated him on the US-brokered Armenia-Azerbaijan peace deal.

In a post on X, the EAM said the peace deal is an important achievement for dialogue and diplomacy that India advocates.

"Good to speak to Armenian FM @AraratMirzoyan.

"Congratulated him on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Treaty reached in Washington DC.

"This is an important achievement for dialogue and diplomacy that India advocates."

Notably, on August 8, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a US-brokered peace agreement at the White House, aiming to end

decades of conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

At a White House ceremony hosted by US President Donald Trump, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev also signed agreements with the United States to pursue economic opportunities together.

The peace deal is expected to normalize relations, open trade and travel routes, and respect the territorial integrity of both countries. The agreement commits both nations to stop fighting permanently. The proposed deal includes a 43-km transit corridor connecting Azerbaijan to Nakhichevan, an exclave that is separated from Azerbaijan by Armenian territory. The corridor will be named the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity.

India welcomes upcoming Putin-Trump meeting, says it is ready to support Ukraine peace efforts

New Delhi, Aug 9 (UNI) : India today welcomed the announcement of a meeting between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska on August 15, and said the meeting holds the promise of bringing to an end the Ukrainian conflict and for peace.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India endorses the upcoming summit and stands ready to support the peace efforts.

The statement read: "India welcomes the understanding reached between the United States and the Russian Federation for a meeting in Alaska on 15th August 2025.

"This meeting holds the promise of bringing to an end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and opening up the prospects for peace. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said on several occasions, "This is not an era of war".

"India, therefore, endorses the upcoming Summit meeting and stands ready to support these efforts."

The statement comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke on the phone with President Putin, during which they discussed Ukraine, besides the bilateral ties.

During the phone conversation, PM Modi "reiterated India's

consistent position for peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict".

PM Modi said in a post on X: "Had a very good and detailed conversation with my friend President Putin.

"I thanked him for sharing the latest developments on Ukraine. We also reviewed the progress in our bilateral agenda, and reaffirmed our commitment to further deepen the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. "I look forward to hosting President Putin in India later this year."

The Kremlin in a statement said that President Putin briefed PM Modi about the "main results of the conversation with US Special Envoy Steven Witkoff, held on August 6 in Moscow.

"While expressing appreciation for this information, the Prime Minister reiterated the consistent India's position in favor of a political and diplomatic settlement of the situation around Ukraine."

President Putin similarly briefed Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday on his talks with US special envoy Steve Witkoff on the Ukraine conflict.

On Saturday, he spoke with the Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva and briefed him about the talks with the special envoy Witkoff.

With this, President Putin has briefed almost all the BRICS original partners of the results of the Ukraine talks.

Safety in Plastic Surgeries is Crucial

(Standard Post Bureau)

Despite rapid advancements in technology and medical science, many people still hesitate when it comes to hair transplants, laser treatments, and facial cosmetic surgeries. The main reason is fear—fear of what might go wrong. This fear is not baseless; in some cases, such treatments have led to infections and various complications. The mushrooming of fake doctors and the lack of proper skills among some practitioners are major causes, speakers noted.

To address how aesthetic treatments, cosmetic surgeries, and plastic surgeries can be performed with utmost safety, the two-day SafePlast-2025 conference began grandly at T-Hub in Hyderabad on Saturday. Over 120 plastic surgeons and dermatologists from across India participated, with some joining online from abroad. Twenty-five senior plastic surgeons from India and overseas shared insights on various topics to raise awareness.

Speaking at the event, renowned Dubai-based senior plastic surgeon Dr. Sanjay Parashar said:

"Plastic and aesthetic



surgeries are highly complex. Even when we give 100% effort, results may not always be perfect, and unexpected complications can arise. It's important to know how to address issues if they occur, and to identify the root cause. Performing surgeries based only on book knowledge without proper training is wrong. Only after complete training can we treat patients safely. Treatments done by plastic surgeons and dermatologists are different from other fields. Our goal should be to provide full satisfaction to patients seeking to enhance beauty or correct flaws—never to worsen their appearance.

Post-treatment infections are a risk, and preventing them is essential. Liposuction, cosmetic surgeries, facial corrections (like nose, chin, cheeks), and hair transplants are extremely delicate and must be handled with utmost care, prioritising patient safety."

Dr. Gurukarna Vemula, Managing Director of Personix Cosmetics & Plastic Surgery Centre, said:

"Patients should first decide whom to approach for such treatments. They should check doctors' profiles, websites, and registrations with state bodies like the Telangana Medical Council. Verify

degrees like MBBS, MD, MCh—these are credible qualifications. Be cautious about fellowship titles like FISS without proper recognition. Many problems arise when untrained practitioners perform such treatments. Some hair transplant patients develop scalp infections; Botox, fillers, and laser treatments can also have side effects. To avoid these, patients must choose the right doctor.

In India, training in aesthetic surgery still needs improvement. We must increase training programs and ensure Botox, fillers, lasers, and hair transplants are performed with the highest safety.

Germany suspends arms trade with Israel due to plans of total occupation of Gaza

Berlin, Aug 9 (UNI) Germany has suspended its arms delivery to Israel, following the Israeli Cabinet’s greenlighting of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s plans of occupying the whole of Gaza Strip, reports RT.The Israeli premier announced his annexation plan as part of a wider aim to demilitarise the war-torn enclave, free the hostages, and disarm or eliminate Hamas terrorists, paving the way for a transitional authority free of oversight from either Jerusalem or the Palestine Authority.

Netanyahu, some time back said that he was aiming to gain full military control of the enclave. The move has been criticised in both the political and military circles, as potentially putting the remaining captives in danger, as well as lead to more IDF casualties.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has stressed that while Berlin supports the Jewish state’s struggle “against Hamas’ terror” and prioritises the return of Israeli hostages, it remains unclear how the new military push will achieve those goals.

“Under these circumstances, the German Government will, until further notice, authorise no military equipment exports that can be used in the Gaza Strip,” he said in a statement on the website of the federal government on Friday.

Merz added Berlin is “profoundly concerned” about the ongoing crisis in Gaza, and that Jerusalem’s military entry will only make it more obliged to provide humanitarian aid to Gazans.

The German decision was criticised by Israel, with the Prime Minister’s Office stating that Netanyahu called the German leader and expressed “disappointment with Merz’s decision to embargo arms to Israel.”

“Instead of supporting Israel’s just war against Hamas,” Berlin is “rewarding Hamas terrorism by embargoing arms to Israel,” the office said in a statement on X on Friday.

11 dead, 46 injured in Brazil bus-truck collision

Sao Paulo, Aug. 9 (UNI): At least 11 people were killed and 46 others injured when a bus collided with a truck late Friday on a highway in Brazil's central-western state of Mato Grosso, Brazil's federal highway police said Saturday.

Among the injured, eight sustained minor injuries, 26 were in moderate condition, and 12, including the truck driver, were in serious condition, according to state news agency Agencia Brasil.

The accident occurred near the city of Lucas do Rio Verde, about 360 km from Cuiaba, the state capital. The bus was traveling from Cuiaba to Sinop, a key hub for Brazil's agribusiness industry. Civil police are investigating the cause of the accident.

Tanzanian incumbent president opens ruling party's presidential race

Dar es Salaam, Aug. 9 (UNI) :Tanzania's incumbent president Samia Suluhu Hassan officially collected her presidential nomination forms from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on Saturday, marking the start of her bid for the presidency in the Oct. 29 general elections.

Arriving at INEC headquarters in the national capital of Dodoma, Hassan, candidate of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party, was accompanied by her running mate, CCM Secretary General Emmanuel Nchimbi, and a jubilant convoy of party leaders and supporters. Speaking later at CCM headquarters during a reception ceremony, Hassan declared the campaign season officially underway.

"If this were a football match, the whistle has been blown and the game is about to begin," she said. "We launch our campaign on Aug. 28, close it on Oct. 28, and then await the people's verdict.

"Expressing gratitude to CCM for its continued trust, Hassan highlighted the government's achievements from 2021 to 2025 and pledged transformative reforms in the next term. She called on Tanzanians to vote for a party committed to building a prosperous, just, and self-reliant nation.

At least 365 arrested at London protest supporting Palestine Action

London, Aug. 9 (UNI) : At least 365 people were arrested on Saturday at a protest in support of Palestine Action, a group proscribed as a terrorist organization in July, London's Metropolitan Police said on social media.

Police estimated that around 500 to 600 people were in Parliament Square when the protest began. It noted that anyone in the square holding a placard expressing support for Palestine Action was "either arrested or is in the process of being arrested."

Seven arrests were made for other offences, including five for assaults on officers, police added.

In a separate statement, the Metropolitan Police warned about a "National March for the Hostages" in central London on Sunday, organized by Stop the Hate and several Jewish organizations.

In July, Members of Parliament voted to proscribe Palestine Action as a terrorist group after its members broke into Royal Air Force Brize Norton in June, spraying two Voyager aircraft with red paint and causing 7 million pounds (9.38 million U.S. dollars) worth of damage. The group claimed responsibility for the incident at the time.

Australian researchers transform toxic PFAS chemicals into fluoride via sunlight

Adelaide, Aug 9 (UNI) Australian researchers have developed a sunlight-activated material that transforms toxic "forever chemicals" (PFAS) in water into harmless fluoride.

The innovation offers a low-energy approach to tackling toxic PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl s u b s t a n c e s) contamination, which has been linked to cancer, infertility, and developmental disorders, according to a statement released Friday by the University of Adelaide in South Australia.

PFAS are synthetic chemicals in cookware, firefighting foams and water-repellent fabrics that resist breakdown and build up in the environment and the human body, with over 85 percent of Australians carrying them in their blood, it said. New drinking water guidelines have cut safe PFAS limits to mere nanograms per litre, researchers said.

"PFAS contamination continues to pose a global health risk, and this research represents a critical step toward safer communities and cleaner ecosystems," said the study's lead researcher Cameron Shearer from the University of Adelaide.

The team redesigned a catalyst to target PFAS fluorine atoms, achieving complete breakdown and enabling recovered fluoride to be reused in products like toothpaste or fertilisers.

Vance says US has no intention of recognising Palestine, calls for destruction of Hamas

Washington, Aug 9 (UNI) : Clearing up the American stance on Palestinian statehood, US Vice President JD Vance said that at the moment, Washington has no intention of recognising Palestine, calling for the destruction of the Hamas terror group, reports Russian state-media TASS.

"We have no plans to recognize a Palestinian state. I don't know what it would mean to really recognise a Palestinian state given the lack of a functional government there," Vance said during a meeting at Lammy's country residence in the south of London.

Speaking about the possible recognition of Palestine by London, Vance noted "It's one of the things that we're to talk about. Obviously, the United Kingdom is going to make its decision. What the President has made very clear is our two goals are very simple right now, vis a vis the situation in Israel and Gaza.

"Number one, it's we want to make it so that Hamas cannot attack innocent Israeli civilians ever again, and we think that has to come through the eradication of Hamas.

"Second, the President has been very moved by these terrible images of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. So, we want to make sure that we solve that

problem."

On July 29, London stated that it would recognise the Palestinian state at the September UN General Assembly session if Jerusalem continued blocking deliveries of humanitarian supplies to the war-torn Gaza Strip, and did not end its military operation in the enclave.

This was met with fierce criticism from Israel, which said that it's cabinet is considering strong retaliatory measures against London, announcing that the country's measures could greatly harm the UK.

On July 24, French President Emmanuel Macron said Paris would recognise the State of Palestine at the same UN General Assembly session in September.

The situation in the Middle East soured after Hamas fighters made their way into the Israeli territory on October 7, 2023 killing and kidnapping residents of the border settlements.

Israel retaliated by a military operation in the enclave trying to destroy Hamas' military and political structures and free all the abductees.

There have been several rounds of negotiations mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the United States, though none of them have led to any kind of success.

Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa vetoes amendments to tighten Foreigner’s Law

Lisbon, Aug 9 (UNI) Portugal’s President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa vetoed the amended Foreigners Law on Friday, returning it to parliament shortly after the Constitutional Court struck down several of its provisions as unconstitutional, the presidential website announced.According to Diario de Noticias, the court ruled that measures restricting access to family reunification and limiting appeals to the Administrative Court

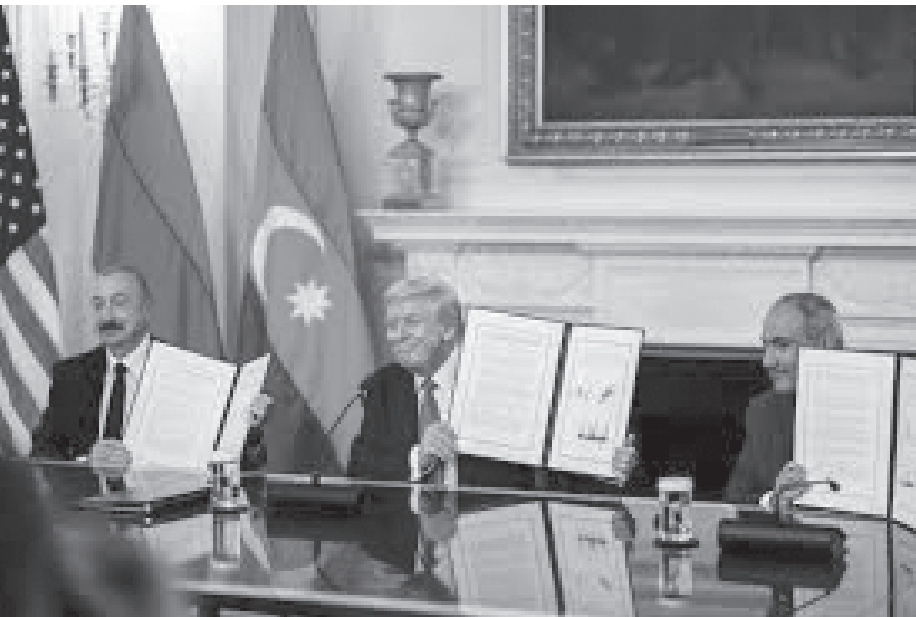
against decisions of the Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum violated constitutional protections.

One provision, by excluding a spouse or equivalent partner, could lead to the separation of the nuclear family of a foreign national holding a valid residence permit, the court found.It also deemed unconstitutional the compulsory two-year waiting period before a resident could request family reunification for all adult family members living

abroad.In addition, the court struck down the proposed extension of the maximum review period for family reunification requests from 90 days to nine months, saying it breached the state's duty to protect the family.

The legislative process and amendments have been highly controversial. President Rebelo de Sousa repeatedly voiced concerns during the drafting stage, criticising the process as rushed, and referred the bill to the Constitutional Court for preventive review.

Azerbaijan, Armenia sign historic peace deal at White House in Washington



Washington, Aug 9 (IANS) : Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a historic joint declaration for peace after decades of bitter conflict and significant loss of life as US President Donald Trump hosted both the leaders of the South Caucasus region in Washington, as confirmed by the White House.

“For more than 35 years, Armenia and Azerbaijan have fought a bitter conflict that resulted in tremendous suffering for both nations...Many tried to find a resolution...and they were unsuccessful. With this Accord, we’ve finally succeeded in making peace,” said Trump on Friday.According to a statement by the White House, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan also signed bilateral economic agreements with the US, unlocking the great potential of the South

Caucasus region in trade, transit, energy, infrastructure, and technology, and creating new opportunities for the American people and businesses.

“It’s a day which will be remembered by the people of Azerbaijan with a feeling of pride and gratitude to President Trump... Within several months, he managed to put an end to conflicts in Asia, in Africa, and now in South Caucasus — what we could not achieve for more than 30 years... We will turn the page of standoff, confrontation, and bloodshed, and provide a bright and safe future for our children,” said President Aliyev.Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan took to his social media stating that the peace deal would pave the way for peace, prosperity and development in the South Caucasus region.

“Today’s declaration

signed by myself, President of Azerbaijan, and President Donald Trump who also witnessed this historic development gives confidence that we are opening a chapter of peace, prosperity, security and economic cooperation in the South Caucasus,” Pashinyan posted on X.

“While initiation of the peace treaty will pave the way to end the decades of conflict, opening of transport communications in the region, including TRIPP - Trump Road for Peace & Prosperity - will unlock strategic economic opportunities that will create long-term benefits,” the post added.

Earlier in July, Aliyev and Pashinyan held talks in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

Both the leaders agreed to advance efforts toward normalising relations between their countries, said the Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan. int/scor/rad

that upheld constitutional principles while pursuing its policy goals.

Minister of the Presidency Antonio Leitao Amaro stressed the government would not abandon the amendments and would rework the plan for future implementation.

Portugal has moved in recent years to tighten immigration controls after experiencing a rapid rise in migrant arrivals.

In 2024, it abolished the "expression of interest" residency regime, which had allowed non-EU

migrants to enter on a tourist or other non-work visa and later apply for a residence permit.

Officials say the increase has strained public services such as housing, education, and healthcare.

Soaring housing costs and shortages in major cities like Lisbon and Porto have intensified calls for population controls. Authorities also cite cases of migrants arriving on short-term visas and remaining without formal work contracts, feeding informal labour markets.

New Zealand-Australian leaders announce partnership to strengthen economic ties

Auckland/Canberra, Aug 9 (UNI) New Zealand and Australian leaders announced Saturday a partnership between their national standards agencies, designed to further ease trade and strengthen economic ties.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon hosted Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in New Zealand's Queenstown for their annual leaders' meeting.

According to the New Zealand government statement, the agreement aims to harmonise product and service standards, streamlining trade across the Tasman, reducing costs for businesses, and supporting economic growth in both countries.

"We discussed the shared challenges facing the New Zealand and Australian economies and the opportunities we have to work together," Luxon said, noting the synergy between New Zealand's "Going for Growth" agenda and Australia's productivity priorities.

The Queenstown meeting marks the beginning of a series of high-level trans-Tasman economic meetings, including the Australia-New Zealand Leadership Forum in Canberra, Australia's capital, in September.

FASHION AFFAIRS...

B-town divas were recently seen flaunting their designer outfits and beautiful jewellery for the cameras at an award function. Here are few of the best dressed fashionista's straight from the green carpet

Bollywood glitterati's were in attendance for the fashion parade at the IIFA Awards green carpet recently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Here's a look at some of your favourite celebs fresh from Asia's green capital.



PRIYANKA CHOPRA

Priyanka looked enchanting in a pink Jenny Packham gown. She styled her attire with berry lips, curly bob and pointed beige pumps.



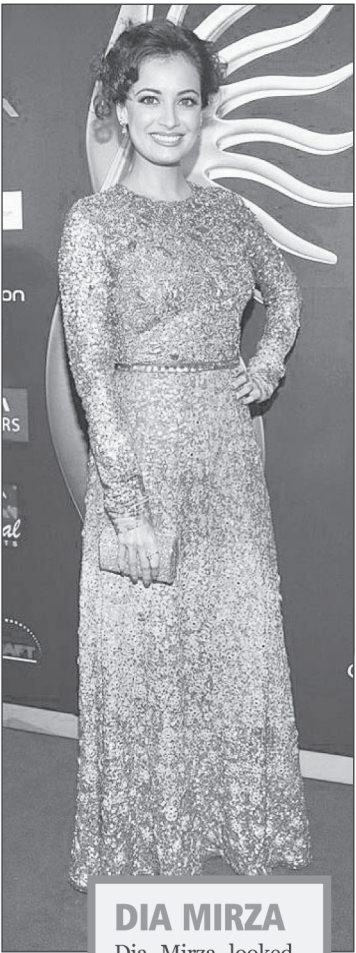
ADITI RAO HYDARI

Aditi Rao Hydari attended the function in a Urvashi Joneja gown with a sleek top knot. Aditi kept her look simple with minimal jewellery. She rounded up her look with red lips and perfect make-up.



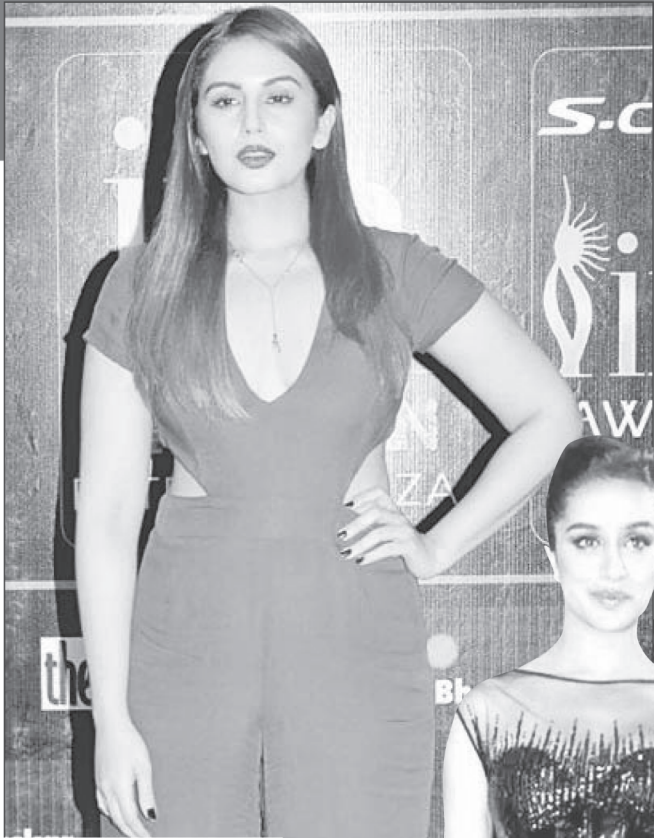
MALAIKA ARORA KHAN

Malaika Arora Khan sizzled in a light lilac pastel coloured Michael Cinco gown. She added more panache to her look with Farah Khan Ali jewelry and Louboutins.



DIA MIRZA

Dia Mirza looked pretty in a fully-embellished ombre pink and gold gown Sabyasachi. She styled her outfit with a matching clutch, messy hair-do and peach lipstick.



HUMA QURESHI

Huma was spotted wearing a Sonia Mehra jumpsuit. Letting the olive jumpsuit featuring a cutout back be the focus, she gave a finish to her look a dark lip, delicate necklace and snake-skin pumps.



SONAKSHI SINHA

Sonakshi caught everyone's attention in Anamika separates and Amrapali necklace. She matched the outfit with a pair of anklr strape black sandals. The starlet kept her eyes dramatic with nude lipstick.



SHRADDHA KAPOOR

Shraddha Kapoor walked the green carpet sparkling in a black corset bodice Georges Chakra knee length dress. Hair worn up, she added to her look with peach lipstick. She matched her outfit with a pair of classic black pumps.

FIRANGITADKA

PRESENTING TRENDS THAT ARE A HIT IN THE WEST



Rihanna looked ravishing sporting her Pebbles Flintstone hairstyle from her baby cousin Majesty's birthday party over the weekend, Rihanna showed off her long legs in a graphic T-shirt dress emblazoned with the face of Catwoman. She wore a trio of necklaces and a pair of golden hoop earrings. Not everyone wants to be a girly girl and if that's you then make Rihanna your style icon. T-shirt dresses are great way to keep things casual. They show off toned legs but are loose fitting to create that laid back vibe of an urban cool kid. Easy to throw on, they're a summer wardrobe essential.

Say goodbye to arm fat for good with our easy at-home workout. Sculpt strong and toned arms fast with these essential exercises

Strapless dresses expose your upper back, shoulders, upper chest, and arms. This workout will shape all those places. Do these six moves one after another with no rest in between. Repeat the circuit, resting a minute between circuits. Do this workout atleast



four to six times a week.

HOW TO GET STARTED

What to lift: For dumbbell exercises, use five- to 10-pound (two- to five-kilogram) weights. Once you can easily do 12 repetitions, try heavier weights.

The repetitions:

Complete one to two sets of eight to 12 repetitions for each of the exercises you do.

Side raise with dumbbells

Works: Anterior and mid-

dle deltoids.

A. Stand with feet hip-width apart and knees slightly bent. Holding a dumbbell in each hand, let your arms hang by your sides, palms facing in.

B. Keep a slight bend in your elbows as you raise your arms out to the sides until the dumbbells are level with shoulders and palms face the floor.

C. Lower your arms; repeat.

Triceps push-up

Works: Triceps

A. Get into a push-up position with arms straight but with knees on the floor and feet in the air. Hands should be under your shoulders but closer together than in a regular push-up.

B. Tighten abs and bend arms, bringing chest toward the floor. Keep upper arms close to your sides and back straight. Elbows should point behind, not out.

FASHIONPOLICE



Deepshikha Nagpal

BORING BLACK

Deepshikha was recently spotted wearing a black and white dress at the screening of a movie. As if the dress was not enough of a disaster because of its unflattering sleeve length, she also tried to match it with neck piece and golden hand accessory, which didn't work out either. To add more to it, she paired the outfit with dull black ankle strap sandal.

Good skin in a teacup!



Miranda Kerr

Miranda Kerr's secret to glowing skin and her beauty routine revealed

Miranda Kerr is known for unique beauty tricks, and the latest insider tip to be revealed involves using green tea.

While drinking green tea has a multitude of health benefits, the supermodel isn't consuming it in the traditional way. In her latest newsletter for her skincare range Kora Organics by Miranda Kerr, she revealed one of her secrets to maintaining healthy, glowing skin is to steam her face with the tea.

Explaining her weekly 'DIY deep double cleanse facial' regime, the gorgeous revealed that the routine involves cleansing once using a regular cleanser and once with an exfoliating cleanser to remove matter from pores. 'It's a pampering ritual I look forward to at

the end of each working week,' she said.

'Not only can I relax and unwind. I'm doing something beneficial for my skin that has immediate results so I can go makeup free for the weekend.' After the double cleanse, Kerr adds a green tea bag to boiling water and steams her face in a DIY steam bath.

'Fill your basin with a jug of freshly boiled water, add an organic green tea bag to the water, place your head over the basin and cover with a large towel, let the steam envelope your face for a few minutes to open your pores,' Kerr said. The benefits of green tea have been well documented, and the use of it in skin care has increased rapidly over the last few years due to its high antioxidant levels and apparent anti-aging bene-

fits. Alexandra Matkevich, skin care expert, says the benefits of green tea are due to a specific antioxidant compound called EGCG. 'Some research and anecdotal evidence shows that EGCG is useful in improving signs of ageing and inflammation,' Matkevich told a source.

'It is included in skincare products to soothe the skin, manage acne and fight premature ageing,' she said.

The antioxidant has also been tested in sunscreens to reduce photo-damage on a cellular level.

By using the tea in boiling water, the antioxidants are shot straight into pores by the steam, detoxifying and hydrating the skin. The process also plumps the skin, boosts blood flow and removes any leftover dirt from the pores.

Hong Kong sports chief hopes for deeper exchanges with Chengdu

Chengdu, Aug 9 (UNI) : Timothy Fok Tsun-ting, president of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, expressed hope for strengthened exchanges between Hong

Kong and Chengdu, particularly in sports.

Fok made the remarks while experiencing local tea culture at the Tiexiang Temple Riverfront, located in Gazelle Valley Industrial Community, High-tech Zone, here on Friday, during a visit with a Hong Kong sports delegation observing The World Games 2025.

"Tea drinking is a hallmark of Chengdu. I heard about this teahouse long ago and am delighted to experience this culture," Fok said. His visit coincides with the World Games 2025, where Hong Kong athlete Lau Mo Sheung Grace made

headlines by winning the women's kata gold medal in karate on Friday - the delegation's first gold at the Games. "I've been closely following the competitions and congratulate Hong Kong athletes on their excellent results," added Fok, who had also attended the opening ceremony.

"The open-air opening ceremony was distinctive and truly reflected local characteristics," Fok commented.

He emphasized that major sporting events serve as platforms to showcase host cities' culture and drive urban development, especially in creating sports legacies that promote public fitness and enhance urban infrastructure.

Noting the increasing frequency of sports exchanges through international multi-sport events hosted by China, Fok said such interactions

help the world better understand China and foster cooperation between different regions and countries. "Especially for young people, these events offer opportunities to enhance mutual understanding and friendship," Fok added.

Looking ahead to the 15th National Games co-hosted by Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao in November this year, he acknowledged the challenges of multi-city collaboration but stressed its potential: "This can promote exchanges. I hope sports events like the World Games will further strengthen cooperation between Hong Kong and Chengdu across various fields." The Hong Kong delegation at the Chengdu World Games is made of 40 athletes competing in eight sports, including sport climbing, karate, squash, and wushu.

Oval Invincibles crush Manchester Originals in The Hundred

London, Aug 9 (UNI) : Will Jacks and Tawanda Muyeye shared a blistering 114-run stand as defending champions Oval Invincibles inflicted a nine-wicket thrashing on Manchester Originals in The Hundred on Saturday.

Having skittled the visitors for 128 at The Kia Oval, Invincibles bludgeoned their way to victory from 57 balls - the joint second-fastest win in the men's competition in terms of deliveries remaining - to maintain their perfect start to the tournament.

Muyeye finished unbeaten on 59 from 28 balls, while Jacks fell for 61 from 26 with just 15 required for victory.

Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan was the pick of the Invincibles bowlers, taking 3-19, while fast bowler Saqib Mahmood also impressed with 2-26.

After being put in to bat, Originals were in trouble early, with opener Matty Hurst and England star Jos Buttler both dismissed without scoring.

Captain Phil Salt smashed three sixes in his 41 from 32 balls and put on 50 with New Zealand's Mark Chapman to give the away side hope before both fell to the irresistible Rashid.

The wickets kept tumbling and matters only got worse for the Originals with the ball as Jacks and Muyeye went to work. Jacks was responsible for 21 of the 25 runs taken from Jimmy Anderson's first 10 balls but the England legend was not alone in going the distance.

Every bowler was under threat as Jacks made the early running, hitting 10 fours and two sixes in total, before Muyeye joined the party and briefly overtook his opening partner. It was 24-year-old Muyeye who reached his half-century first, from 22 balls - a delivery quicker than Jacks - and he was there at the end as a Jordan Cox boundary put the winless Originals out of their misery, according to a BBC news.

NCC Inter-Directorate Sports Shooting Competition commences at Kolhapur

(By PIB, Mumbai/ Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 9 : The NCC Inter Directorate Sports Shooting Competition commenced today under the aegis of Kolhapur NCC Group Headquarters at the prestigious Sambhaji Maharaj Krida Sankul, Kolhapur. The championship is being conducted under the professional & technical support of National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) officials.

The week-long event has brought together the best NCC cadet marksmen from various directorates across the country, competing in multiple categories of rifle and pistol shooting. The competition aims to promote sportsmanship, precision, and discipline while identifying and nurturing talent for participation at national and international levels. The opening ceremony was graced by Brig R K Paithankar, Group Commander NCC Gp HQ Kolhapur, senior NCC officers, dignitaries from the civil administration, and sports officials. In his address, the Group Commander of Kolhapur NCC Group highlighted the importance of shooting as a sport that enhances concentration, patience,



and mental resilience. He expressed confidence that the event would inspire young cadets to excel in marksmanship and uphold the NCC's motto of "Unity and Discipline." The

Sambhaji Maharaj Krida Sankul, with its modern shooting ranges and facilities, has been prepared to host the competition under strict safety protocols and national

shooting standards.

The event also serves as a platform for cultural and inter-directorate camaraderie, strengthening bonds between cadets from different regions of India.

India U20 women ready for Myanmar in final Asian Cup qualifier

Yangon (Myanmar), Aug 9 (UNI) : The India U20 women's team are on the cusp of ending a 20-year wait to qualify for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup, standing just one win away from booking their tickets to the 2026 tournament in Thailand.

The Young Tigresses will meet hosts Myanmar in their third and final qualifying match in Group D on Sunday, at 15:00 IST.

India currently sit at the top of the four-team Group D table with four points after a goalless draw with Indonesia and a 7-0 win over Turkmenistan. Myanmar too have four points. The hosts defeated Turkmenistan 6-1 and were held 2-2 by Indonesia. A win will guarantee top spot and qualification for India.

If it's a draw with Myanmar, the Young Tigresses will have to wait for the result of the second match between Indonesia and Turkmenistan at 18:00 IST. Should Indonesia fail to win, India will qualify. But if Indonesia win, India will be out of contention to qualify. In that case, the top three teams will be level on five points, bringing the head-to-head criteria into play, where India cannot be ranked at the top, having scored fewer goals in the matches among the three teams.

It is important to note that despite the provision of the three best second-placed teams across all eight groups to qualify, the results in the other groups after the second matchday mean that there is now no possibility for the second-placed team in Group D to qualify since they are guaranteed to be ranked outside the top three in that table.

However, none of these permutations is playing in the minds of Joakim Alexandersson and his Young Tigresses.

They only have one simple target in their heads — to win and qualify. "Everything is in our own hands, which is perfect," said Alexandersson. "We'll go for a second win. We cannot be playing for a draw, so the aim is definitely three points."

Left disappointed after a scoreless show versus Indonesia, the Swede was a much happier man after Friday's goal fest against the Central Asians. "The opponent today was easier to handle, of course, but still, we had quicker decision-making with the ball and were better at playing those final third passes into the box. So there was much better quality in that area today. We were also more aggressive on set pieces, which was very helpful."

Captain Shubhangi Singh and forward Sulanjana Raul led the scoresheet with two goals each. The latter is no stranger to scoring on the continental stage, having netted a hat-trick against IR Iran in the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers in Thailand two years ago. Now 18 years of age, she is looking forward to earning a first qualification to an AFC tournament with the national team.

"This was a morale-boosting win after the disappointment of the first game. We are very positive heading into the last game. We know it's a must-win. Myanmar, being the hosts, get a lot of support from the crowd, but we're under no pressure. We're absolutely ready," said Sulanjana.

The senior women's team did it. Now it's the turn of the Young Tigresses to do the same. Shubhangi, who trained with the senior squad in the Bengaluru camp, shared how much the Blue Tigresses' historic qualification inspires the younger bunch to repeat it.

Ramesh BudihaI waves history, first Indian to enter finals in Asian Surfing event

Chennai, Aug 9 (UNI) : Top Indian surfer Ramesh BudihaI scripted history by becoming the first Indian to make it to the finals of the ASF Asian Surfing Championships 2025, being held at Mahabaipuram, about 50 km from here, today. The Day 6 of the event witnessed high drama, exceptional performances, and a moment that will be etched in India's sporting history.

Following the unprecedented qualification of four Indian surfers to the Quarterfinals yesterday, all eyes were on Mahabalipuram's famed right-hand point break today as the competitions entered the decisive knockout stages.

With key heats in the Open Men's Quarterfinals

and Semifinals, Open Women's Semifinals, U18 Boys' Quarterfinals, and U18 Girls' Quarterfinals, the day was packed with knockout battles, high-pressure performances, and moments of history in the making. Team India entered the day with three surfers in the Open Men's Quarterfinals and it became a day that will go down in Indian surfing history.

India's top Surfer, Ramesh BudihaI 14.84 displayed masterful wave selection and composure under pressure in Quarterfinal Heat 1, holding off Neil Sanchez (PHL) – 12.80 to claim the first place.

Advancing to the Semi Finals, Ramesh maintained his momentum with a well-timed, high scoring performance that earned

him second place in a tense heat, securing a spot in the

Final--the first-ever Indian surfer to achieve this milestone at a continental championship.

India's Kishore Kumar 10.50 fought hard in Quarterfinal Heat 4, linking committed turns and critical maneuvers. Despite his solid score, he narrowly missed Semifinal qualification behind Eduardo Alciso (PHL) – 12.03.

Srikanth D of India – 10.90 brought consistency and flow in Quarterfinal Heat 3, battling closely with Kanoa Heejae (KOR) – 10.94 but missing advancement by a razor-thin margin.

The collective performance reinforced India's growing stature in

the Asian surfing circuit, while Ramesh's final berth stood as a landmark achievement. The women's division saw technical excellence and wave mastery as Asia's best battled for the final slots.

Shuhan Jin (CHN) – 14.50 delivered a precise and aggressive display in Semifinal Heat 1, combining vertical hits and controlled floaters to edge out Japan's Sumomo Sato – 12.00. Anri Matsuno (JPN) – 16.33 dominated Semifinal Heat 2 with one of the championship's standout performances, blending speed, power, and style to leave Thailand's Isabel Higgs – 10.73 trailing.

These results set up a thrilling Women's final between China and Japan, with Thailand also on the

podium hunt.

The Under-18 Boys division saw intense competition with slim margins deciding advancement. In Heat 1, Chia-Chi Yu (TPE) – 13.40 narrowly edged past Shidong Wu (CHN) – 13.27 in a back-and-forth battle.; Heat 2 saw Jun Seohyun (KOR) – 11.20 outpace Shulou Jiang (CHN) – 10.50 in a heat where wave choice proved decisive and in Heat 3, Kanoa Heejae (KOR) – 14.33 impressed with aggressive rail work, defeating Laihao Zhang (CHN) – 10.07. India's Harish P continued to impress with his skillful and confident surfing in the quarterfinals, demonstrating great promise as a rising star in Asian junior surfing.

NZ sign off Zimbabwe tour with record Test win

Bulawayo, Aug 9 (UNI) : A day after Devon Conway, Rachin Ravindra, and Henry Nicholls smashed tons to secure a massive 476-run lead in Bulawayo, the bowlers finished off the task by running through the Zimbabwe batting on the third day of the game.

This was New Zealand's biggest win by the margin of an innings and the third-best overall. New Zealand bowlers were led by debutant Zakary Foulkes who finished with 5/37 in the second innings. His overall Test figure (9/75) were also the best by a New Zealand bowler on Test debut.

Matt Henry, who had a five-for in the first innings, finished with 16 wickets in the series at an average of merely 9.12. Henry took the Player of the Series award for his efforts with the ball, whereas Conway got the Player of the Match for his 153 in New Zealand's batting innings. With this emphatic victory, the Kiwis under stand-in captain Mitchell Santner, secured a 2-0 series win. They had already won the first game by nine wickets, an ICC report said.

IOC welcomes U.S. govt task force for LA28

Beijing, Aug 9 (UNI) : The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has applauded the establishment of a U.S. government task force dedicated to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, calling it "essential" for ensuring universal participation and seamless operations at the Games. U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Tuesday creating the White House task force on LA28, which he will chair alongside Vice President J.D. Vance and key cabinet members. The group will coordinate federal resources across three critical domains - enhanced security protocols for Olympic venues, streamlined transportation systems, and expedited

Dragon boat makes debut as Indonesia claims gold at World Games

Chengdu, Aug 9 (UNI) : Dragon boat made its debut as an official sport at the World Games today, with Indonesia claiming the first gold medal in the open 8-seater 2,000m pursuit race.

Launching first on the Xinglong Lake Hubin Arena, the Indonesian crew powered to victory in a time of nine minutes 8.12 second.

Host China followed closely to place second in 9:19.22, while Spain earned the bronze medal with a time of 9:23.75.

Saturday also featured semifinals for four additional events: open 8-seater 200m, open 8-seater 500m, 10-seater 200m, and 10-seater 500m.

Finals for these events, along with the 10-seater 2,000m pursuit race, are scheduled for Sunday.

"The competition in dragon boat is very fierce," said Zhao Xiaoli, an international referee for the event.

"You cannot underestimate any team, especially in the short-distance races where the gaps between teams are very small." Zhao also highlighted the sport's global appeal, suggesting its popularity overseas might rival or exceed that in China. "Worldwide, many people participate in this sport during their holidays." The venue also hosted canoe marathon finals on Saturday.

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, Kalinga Nagar,
Madhavadhara, Visakhapatnam - 530 007.**

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

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Western Railway to Run Rakshabandhan special train between Valsad and Ajmer

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 9 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season of Rakshabandhan, Western Railway will run one more Special Train on Special fare between Valsad & Ajmer.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of the train is as under:

1. Train No. 09612/

09611 Valsad – Ajmer Special [2 Trips]

Train No. 09612 Valsad – Ajmer Special will depart from Valsad on Tuesday, 12th August, 2025 at 13:00 hrs, and will reach Ajmer at 09:55 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09611 Ajmer – Valsad Special will depart from Ajmer on Monday, 11th August, 2025 at 13:00 hrs, and will arrive Valsad at 08:30 hrs, the next day.

Enroute, this train will halt at Navsari, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Godhra, Dahod, Ratlam, Nagda, Bhawani

Mandi, Ramganj Mandi, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Durgapura, Jaipur and Kishangarh stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 2-Tier, AC -3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

The booking for Train No. 09612 will open from 10th 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.

Railway Safety enhanced with Centralized Signal Control at 6,600 Stations

Mumbai AC Local Trains’ Automatic Doors open only at stations, enhancing passenger safety

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 9 : There is decrease in the number of incidents reported of unnatural deaths in Mumbai Suburban Railway network during the year 2024 as compared to 2023.

As per information received from GRP, 1764, 1880 & 1692 incidents of unnatural deaths in block sections and 662, 656 & 781 incidents of unnatural deaths at stations have been registered in the year 2022, 2023 & 2024 respectively. These figure include the deaths due to falling from trains, trespassing (crossing track unauthorisedly), and various other reasons such as Pole hitting etc.

‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration, and investigation of crime and maintenance of law and order on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/ District Police. The cases of unnatural death are registered by GRP/District Police and investigated. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/ District Police to provide better protection and security to railway property, passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

The introduction of AC local trains equipped with automatic doors in Mumbai has been a welcome initiative to enhance commuters’ safety and reduce incidents related to overcrowding. The automatic doors prevent passengers from hanging on footboards or boarding moving trains which is a major cause of fatal accidents.

These doors remain closed while the train is in motion and open only at stations when the train is stationary, thereby significantly reducing the risk of

falls. Ministry of Railways has launched Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. It envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach. It involves preparation of master plans and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, platform surfacing and cover over platform, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like ‘One Station One Product’, better passenger information systems, executive lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping, etc. keeping in view the necessity at each station.

The scheme also envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multimodal integration, amenities for Divyangjans, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballastless tracks, etc. as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centre at the station in the long term.

So far, 1337 stations including 132 stations in the state of Maharashtra have been identified for development under this scheme.

Safety is accorded the highest priority on Indian Railways. As a consequence of various safety measures taken over the years, there has been a steep decline in the number of accidents. Consequential Train Accidents have reduced from 135 in 2014-15 to 31 in 2024-25 as shown in the graph below.

It may be noted that the Consequential Train Accidents during the period 2004-14 was 1711 (average 171 per annum), which has declined to 31 in 2024-25 and further to 3 in 2025-26 (upto June).

Another important index showing improved safety in train operations is Accidents Per Million Train Kilometer (APMTKM) which has reduced from 0.11 in 2014-15 to 0.03 in 2024-25, indicating an improvement of approx. 73% during the said period.

Jailed MP Er Rashid's party stages protest in Srinagar, demand his release

Srinagar, Aug 9 (UNI) : Workers and leaders of the Awami Itihaad Party (AIP) staged a protest in Srinagar today to mark six years of the imprisonment of their president and Baramulla Member of Parliament, Abdul Rashid Sheikh, popularly known as Engineer Rashid. The protesters demand release of the jailed MP. The party said the protest began near Sangarmal Complex and it was not allowed by police to proceed towards Lal Chowk. The protesters were shouting slogans like “justice for Er Rashid” and “release all political prisoners.” AIP chief spokesperson Inam un

Nabi, said that despite being caged for six long years, Er Rashid continues to rule the hearts of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, a testament to his honesty, courage and unwavering stand for truth. “Inam strongly attacked the National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leadership, accusing them of “shameless silence” over the plight of hundreds of Kashmiris in jails. “Here in Kashmir, they shed crocodile tears and fight for petty political survival, but in Delhi, Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti are busy enjoying lavish dinners with the Congress leadership without uttering

a single word on the plight of Kashmiris languishing in jails including their fellow colleague MP Er Rashid, the same Congress that has betrayed and deceived the people of Kashmir time and again,” he said. AIP MLA Sheikh Khursheed termed the protest an appeal to the authorities “to release Er Rashid and others incarcerated in and outside Jammu & Kashmir.

“When the killers of the Pahalgam attack have been neutralised, why are those arrested in its aftermath still behind bars. If the government claims the situation has improved since 2019, then why not release them?” he asked.

Historic Milestone: First-Ever Freight Train carrying Cement arrives at Anantnag Goods Shed in Kashmir Valley

Arrival of Freight train in Kashmir Valley heralds a new era of logistical and economic growth

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 9 : In a historic development for regional connectivity, a freight train has successfully reached Anantnag Goods Shed in the Kashmir Valley for the first time from Rupnagar, Punjab, marking a significant milestone in connecting the Kashmir region to the national freight network. The arrival of freight train, carrying

cement, is set to accelerate infrastructure projects and improve living standards for the people of Kashmir.

The inaugural freight train was loaded with 21 BCN wagons of cement. The journey, spanning approximately 600 kilometers, culminated at the newly commissioned Anantnag Goods Shed today in less than 18 hours. This event marks the first-ever cement loading

specifically for this facility, underscoring its readiness to support a new era of logistical and economic growth in the Kashmir region.

The cement transported on this train will be used for crucial projects, including the construction of roads, bridges, public infrastructure, and residential housing in the Kashmir Valley. “

The logistics for this

groundbreaking journey were executed with precision. An indent was placed with Northern Railway at 23:14 hrs on August 7, 2025, with the rake placement occurring at 09:40 hrs the following day i.e 08th August, Loading was completed by 18:10 hrs on August 8, 2025, with the train departing from the Gujarat Ambuja Cement Limited (GACL) facility in Rupnagar, Punjab at 18:55

hrs. The freight was hauled by an Electric WAG-9 locomotive (Loco No. 32177, TKD, Trip 08/09), highlighting the modern capabilities of the national railway network. “

The arrival of this first freight train is not just a logistical achievement but a powerful symbol of progress and integration, paving the way for a more connected and prosperous Kashmir Valley. “

Mahavitaran's Electricity Safety Campaign is a model in the country

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 9 : On the occasion of the anniversary of Mahavitaran, an electricity safety campaign was implemented across the state. The Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy, Hon. Shri. Shripad Naik, has appreciated this initiative. He sent a letter to the Chairman and Managing Director of Mahavitaran, Mr. Lokesh Chandra, and praised it saying, "This campaign is a model for the country to create public awareness for the goal of zero electrical accidents."

To create public

Praise from Union Minister of State Mr Shripad Naik

awareness about electricity safety across the state, on the instructions of Chairman and Managing Director Mr. Lokesh Chandra, an electricity safety campaign called 'Prakashman Maharashtra, Surakshit Maharashtra' was started on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Mahavitaran. Various activities were organized from 1 to 6 June under the planning of Director of Human Resources Department Mr. Rajendra Pawar, Executive Director Mr. Paresch Bhagwat. Over

2 lakh 11 thousand citizens, school students, engineers, officers and employees participated in this initiative. Along with this, messages about electricity safety were sent to 1 crore 93 lakh electricity consumers through mobile 'SMS' and 35 lakh 73 thousand electricity consumers through 'e-mail' by Mahavitaran.

Taking special note of the electricity safety campaign with the highest public participation so far, the Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy, Shri .

Shripad Naik, has appreciated it in a letter. ‘On behalf of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Central Government, I appreciate the public awareness campaign launched by Mahavitaran for the purpose of zero electrical accidents.

Mahavitaran has implemented this campaign under the leadership of Chairman and Managing Director Shri. Lokesh Chandra. Through this, effective enlightenment and awareness about electricity safety was

created through direct public participation and digital platforms. The contribution made by all directors, field engineers, officers and employees of Mahavitaran as well as citizens is very important to achieve the goal of zero electrical accidents. Their commitment to electricity safety is evident through this campaign. "More awareness is being created among the citizens regarding electricity safety. This electricity safety campaign of Mahavitaran is a model for other states in the country," said Union Minister of State Shri. Shripad Naik in these words.

Shishir Bajaj of Bajaj Group receives the prestigious "Sarvottam Nagrik Sanman" for the year 2025

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 9 : Shishir Bajaj, Chairman of Bajaj Foundation and patriarch of Bajaj Group was honoured with the prestigious "Sarvottam Nagrik Sanman-2025" in a grand ceremony held at the prestigious Sahara Star Hotel in Mumbai.

In the presence of Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra C.P. Radhakrishnan, the honour statues were felicitated by Chairman of Maharashtra Legislative Council Shriram Shinde and Minister of Cultural Affairs Ashish Shelar along with other dignitaries. The "Sarvottam Nagrik Sanman" is given by Megha Shrey Foundation and Mrs. Seema Singh to those individuals who have made significant contributions to the society through their selfless dedication and service and have set an example towards positive change.

is year's ceremony was attended by many eminent personalities like Padma Vibhushan Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Padma Bhushan Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, Padma Shri Dr. Shankar Mahadevan, film director Imtiaz Ali, Padma Bhushan Anupam Kher and Padma Shri Vijender Singh. After receiving the honour, Shri Shishir Bajaj said that our fundamental social efforts began in 1926, when my grandfather Shri Jamnalal



Bajaj founded the Bajaj Group to support India's freedom struggle. He informed that our first sugar factory was established in Uttar Pradesh in 1932 with the aim of making India self-reliant in the field of sugar production. Since then the Group has done excellent work in both business and CSR areas with the aim of national building and making Indian villages self-reliant.

He said that today we are doing social welfare work in 1000 villages of my birthplace Sikar district in

Rajasthan and more than 1000 villages of my grandfather's karmabhoomi Wardha district in Maharashtra. Our goal is to develop the natural and human resources of rural India in a multifaceted way, as this goal plays a key role in building a 'developed and self-reliant India', which our Prime Minister has envisioned by 2047.

It is worth mentioning that Bajaj Foundation, under the leadership of Shri Shishir Bajaj and his sons Kushagra Bajaj and Apoorv

Bajaj, is continuously working for the empowerment of rural communities.

The Foundation has empowered more than 6 lakh families in the villages of Wardha, Sikar and Lalitpur districts through rainwater harvesting, river rejuvenation, micro irrigation, natural farming, horticulture, Kisan Pathshalas, women self-help groups, renewable energy solutions like solar pumps and biogas plants, farmer producer

organizations, and transformational education programs, improving the lives of about 22 lakh people. Under the ideology of "Nation Building through Business and Service", the Bajaj Group has established itself as one of India's most respected and diversified industrial groups.

The flagship companies of the group led by Kushagra Bajaj include Bajaj Hindustan Sugar Limited, India's largest integrated sugar company and operates 14 sugar mills and 6 ethanol plants in Uttar Pradesh. Another company, Bajaj Energy Private Limited, operates 6 power plants in Uttar Pradesh, including the 1,980 MW super-critical thermal power station of Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited adding upto a total capacity of 2,430MW supplying about 10% of the state's electricity.

Similarly, Bajaj Consumer Care Limited is a leader in the premium hair oil category with its flagship product Bajaj Almond Drops Hair Oil. The prestigious "Sarvottam Nagrik Sanman 2025" conferred on Shri Shishir Bajaj is a true recognition of his outstanding contribution as a unique amalgamation of social service and industrial excellence.

his speech in Sitamarhi.

Negative politics of Shah would not bring any benefit for people of Bihar, he cautioned.

RJD leader, to a query of media persons regarding third notice issued to him for keeping two voter

persons here that Shah had nothing new to share with people while addressing a public meeting in Sitamarhi on Friday. Shah continued to repeat old things what he had been saying since long, he pointed out.

"People of Bihar will not

get anything if Shah continues to abuse me and my father Lalu Prasad,"

RJD leader said adding that instead of abusing him and his father, Shah should tell people of Bihar, what he had to do for them.

BJP leaders never talked

about education and health, main issues for people of Bihar, he noted.

Yadav said that poverty, unemployment and migration of youths from Bihar were major issues but Shah did not utter even a single word about it during