

Rahul Gandhi, INDIA bloc MPs detained during protest march to EC office

New Delhi, Aug 11 (UNI) : Several INDIA bloc leaders, including leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi, were detained by police today while participating in a protest march towards the Election Commission office. After his detention, Rahul Gandhi told media that the alleged "vote chori is now out in the open".

He asserted that the issue transcends politics and strikes at the very heart of India's democratic foundations. "This fight is not political, it's a fight to safeguard the Constitution," Gandhi said, underscoring the need for a clean and transparent voter list to uphold the fundamental principle of one person, one vote. Meanwhile, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge talking to media slammed the Central government and the Election Commission for restricting the Opposition's peaceful march, questioning what the authorities were "afraid of" if the leaders were simply seeking a democratic dialogue.

"If the government doesn't allow us to reach the Election Commission, then we don't understand what they are afraid of," Kharge said. Kharge stressed that all



MPs from the Opposition were participating in the march peacefully. "We wanted the Election Commission to call all MPs. We would hold a meeting

and present our respective sides. But the Election Commission is saying that only 30 members should come. How is this possible?" he questioned. Those

detained included Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, KS Venugopal, Akhilesh Yadav, Dimple Yadav, Sanjay Raut, Tiruchi Siva, Mahua Moitra, Randeep Surjewala, among others.

Dy CM unveils major green power push, promises quality power

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Aug 11 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Monday announced sweeping plans to boost green energy generation in Telangana while reaffirming the government's commitment to delivering uninterrupted, quality electricity without adding any new tax burden on the public.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for three 33/11 KV substations, distributing ration cards, and handing over transformers to farmers in Moinabad in Rangareddy district, the Deputy CM said the state was preparing for the growing power demand up to 2047 with an ambitious renewable energy roadmap.

"We are moving towards generating solar power in all government offices, schools, colleges, universities, residential schools, and Kasturba Gandhi schools. Orders have been issued to all district collectors to furnish the required information within a week," he said.

Plans are also underway to install solar plants on vacant government, endowment, and irrigation lands, as well as floating solar units on major water projects. The government will also explore hydel, pumped storage, and

wind energy projects.

Bhatti Vikramarka said the state was not only focusing on generation but also on strengthening infrastructure to meet demand. This includes upgrading transformers across Telangana and providing accident insurance of ?1 crore for electricity department employees, similar to Singareni workers.

In the Chevella constituency, five substations have been sanctioned, with work already in progress on two. He urged electricity authorities to study the feasibility of a 132 KV substation for the area and submit the report promptly.

On the welfare front, the Deputy CM highlighted that Telangana is the only state providing ration rice to cardholders entirely free, at six kilograms per person, benefiting 95 lakh families. He said the Indiramma Praja government has spent Rs 1 lakh crore on public welfare schemes since coming to power, all without levying additional taxes.

The event was attended by Legislative Council Chief Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy, MLA Kale Yadayya, District Collector Narayana Reddy, SPDCL CMD Musharraf Farooqui, Congress leader Bheem Bharat, and senior officials.

98 lakh children to receive deworming tablets

Hyderabad, Aug 11 (UNI) : On the occasion of National Deworming Day, State Medical and Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha launched a statewide campaign by distributing Albendazole tablets to students at the Telangana Social Welfare Gurukul School in Shaikpet, Hyderabad today. As part of the initiative, deworming tablets are being administered to around 98 lakh children across all government and private schools as well as Anganwadi

centres in the state. Speaking at the event, the Minister said the health and safety of children is the government's responsibility. "Children are the wealth of the nation, and we are working towards building a healthy society," he said and urged all children aged between 1 and 19 years to take Albendazole tablets.

Family Welfare Commissioner Sangeetha Satyanarayana, Hyderabad District Collector Dasari Harichandana, and other officials were present on the occasion.

Telangana's economy in free fall due to Congress incompetence: BRS

Hyderabad, Aug 11 (UNI):: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), the main opposition in Telangana, has accused the ruling Congress government of driving the state's economy into crisis through poor governance and financial mismanagement.

Citing alarming findings in the latest CAG report, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) said Telangana's growth is sharply declining under Congress rule. "A failed Congress government

results in a failed economy," KTR declared, adding that the party promised six guarantees but delivered only "a collapsing economy." Taking to social media platform X, KTR alleged that state income is on a downward trend while debt is soaring. "This isn't rocket science. This is plain math," he said. According to KTR, the Congress government projected a Rs 2,738 crore surplus budget, but by the end of the first quarter, Telangana is already

Campaign against 'vote chori' now massive mass movement: Rahul

New Delhi, Aug 11 (PTI) : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the campaign against "vote chori" has turned into a "massive mass movement" with more than 15 lakh support certificates downloaded and over 10 lakh missed calls received since the launch of the portal for it.

Upping the ante over Rahul Gandhi's poll rigging claims, the Congress had launched a web portal for people to register and demand accountability from the poll panel against what it called "vote chori", and express support for the demand for digital voter rolls.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said the campaign against "vote chori" has now become a massive mass movement.

"In the last 24 hours: 15 lakh+ support certificates downloaded, 10 lakh+ missed calls received," the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

"This is the true picture of India's democracy today — the suppressed voices of truth, which are being raised through our campaign. Go to votechori.in/ecdemand or give a missed call to 9650003420; not a single case of vote theft should be missed," Gandhi said.

Anyone can click on the portal link and download "vote chori proof, demand EC accountability and report vote chori". It also carries Gandhi's video in which he reiterated his explosive claims of a "huge criminal fraud" in the polls through "collusion" between the BJP and the EC.

He had cited an analysis in a constituency in Karnataka to support his claim, and said it was "a crime against the Constitution". The portal also carries a message which states that vote is the

foundation of our democracy, but it's under "systematic attack by the BJP, with the Election Commission complicit".

"In just one assembly segment of Bangalore Central, we found over 1 lakh fake voters that helped the BJP win this Lok Sabha seat. Imagine this happening in 70-100 seats — it would destroy free elections," it claimed. "The Congress and INDIA (bloc) had raised alarms before, including in Maharashtra. Now we have proof. We will fight this vote chori with all our strength. Join us to defend our democracy," the message on the portal reads.

Once a person registers on the portal, a certificate is issued in his name, which states that he stands against "vote chori". "I support Rahul Gandhi's demand for digital voter rolls from the EC," the certificate says.

The portal also gives people the option to call on a phone number and fill in the link in the SMS to register. The certificate bears the signatures of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal and treasurer Ajay Maken.

Several Congress leaders and supporters had registered on the portal and shared the certificates on social media. Gandhi last Thursday cited data from the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to claim over 1 lakh votes were "stolen" through five types of manipulation in an assembly segment in Karnataka. Talking to reporters at a press conference while taking them through an online presentation, Gandhi had said his party analysed voter data of the Mahadevapura Assembly segment in the Lok Sabha constituency of Bangalore Central from the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.



Opposition march against EC: BJP calls it false agenda

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today termed as an "attempt to create chaos in the country" the noisy march taken out by the Opposition parties, including Congress and the INDI alliance, from the Parliament House to the Election Commission office in Delhi against the ongoing Bihar's electoral revision process. At a press conference here, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan hit back at the opposition, accusing Congress and Rahul Gandhi of having an "anti-constitutional attitude". He also dismissed the march as a "false agenda". Targeting Congress, he said their language resembled that of "anti-national elements"

(See on page 2)

Mamata slams 'distortion' of Khudiram Bose's legacy on ...



On the death anniversary of martyr Khudiram Bose, who embraced the gallows at the age of 18 while fighting the British colonial rule, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee voiced strong criticism over what she described as "disrespect at the central level" towards Bengali luminaries.

(See on page 5)

Lopez wants to stay at Barcelona after MVP display



FC Barcelona midfielder Fermin Lopez insisted he has no intention of leaving the club after producing a display that showed why he is important to coach Hansi Flick. Lopez scored the opening two goals of Barca's 5-0 win over Como in the traditional pre-season Joan Gamper friendly and also helped his side

(See on page 7)

Nitish launches Rs 766.73 crore projects for Western Patna



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today laid the foundation stones for six major infrastructure projects worth Rs 766.73 crore for development of the Western region of Patna, primarily focusing on road expansion and connectivity, transformation traffic conditions, reduction of congestion and to support the region's rapid urban growth. (See on page 8)

Govt secures Maratha commander Raghuji Bhosale’s sword



Mumbai, Aug 11 (IANS) : The sword of Raghuji Bhosale, founder of the Nagpur Bhosale dynasty and an important commander in the Maratha army during the reign of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, which the Maharashtra Government won in an auction, was on Monday taken into custody in London by Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar. This sword will be brought to Mumbai on Monday, 18 August.

The ‘Firangi’ sword is remarkable for several reasons. Most medieval Maratha weapons lacked decorative embellishment or inscriptions of their makers or owners. This sword is a rare exception, bearing both intricate ornamentation and the owner’s name. The presence of its European-made blade further points

to the flourishing international arms trade in 18th-century India.

News of this historic sword going up for auction broke unexpectedly on 28 April 2025, creating a wave of interest across Maharashtra.

As soon as Minister Shelar learned of it, he immediately discussed the matter with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and initiated planning to ensure the sword came into the government’s possession.

By contacting the Indian Embassy and working late into the night, Fadnavis and Shelar established a network for the necessary coordination.

Following the CM’s instructions, the minister swiftly engaged an intermediary through whom the state government

participated in the auction and won the bid, said the release issued by the Minister’s office.

On Monday, in London, Shelar met in person with the intermediary who had secured the sword on behalf of the Maharashtra government, completed the legal formalities, and took possession of the sword.

This marks the first time that the State has acquired a historic artefact from abroad through an auction.

Calling it a witness to many glorious feats, Shelar expressed his honour at having the privilege of bringing such a priceless piece into Maharashtra’s custody, describing it as a historic victory for the entire state.

After completing all legal formalities, the sword will arrive at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

International Airport, Mumbai, at 10 am on Monday, 18 August.

In the presence of Minister Shelar, a bike rally will escort the sword with great fanfare to PL Deshpande Kala Academy, Dadar. On the same day, the programme ‘Gad Garjana’ will be held in the presence of dignitaries.

Raghuji Bhosale I (1695-February 14, 1755) was the founder of the Nagpur Bhosale dynasty and a prominent commander in the Maratha army during Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj’s reign.

Recognised as one of the most daring Maratha commanders of the 18th century, Raghuji Bhosale’s Nagpur kingdom was rich in iron and copper deposits, used not only for manufacturing goods but also for crafting weapons.

HMPL's subsidiary Quippo Oil & Gas Infrastructure secures Rs 280.1 cr Oil India Limited's order

Mumbai, Aug 11 (UNI) Hazoor Multi Projects Ltd. (HMPL), one of India’s fastest-growing infrastructure and engineering has announced that its recently acquired subsidiary, Quippo Oil & Gas Infrastructure Ltd., has been awarded a contract valued at Rs. 280.1 Crore by Oil India Limited, a Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), according to a statement issued here on Monday. The contract

involves the charter hire of one drilling rig, reinforcing Quippo’s credentials in the upstream oil and gas services domain and marking HMPL’s bold entry into India’s upstream energy services sector-positioning the company to play a long-term role in the country’s energy infrastructure development. This Oil India Order is more than a business win-it signals HMPL’s strategic shift from a pure-play EPC operator to an

integrated platform capable of executing in capital-intensive, high-barrier industries. The acquisition of Quippo was a deliberate, fundamentals-driven step aligned with national energy priorities, aimed at unlocking value in sectors characterised by recurring revenues, limited competition, and policy-driven tailwinds.

India’s upstream Oil and Gas sector is poised for significant expansion, supported by the government’s commitment

to reduce energy import dependence by 10% and attract over \$100 billion in energy infrastructure investment by 2030. Policy enablers such as the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) and the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) are designed to boost domestic exploration and enhance oil recovery, creating sustained demand for high-performance service providers like Quippo..

MP CM lauds Armed Forces

Bhopal, Aug 11(UNI) : Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav said today that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign is being conducted to honour the valour of the Indian Armed Forces, and it is a matter of great pride that under ‘Operation Sindoor’, the Indian Armed Forces courageously eliminated terrorists in Pakistan and destroyed their airfields and weapons.

The CM said this while participating in a grand Tiranga Yatra at Gwalior. He said In Madhya Pradesh, Independence Day is being celebrated in every region through rallies, paying tribute to the Indian Army’s achievements in Operation Sindoor. Before the start of the Tiranga Yatra, Chief Minister Dr Yadav showered flowers on children dressed as great leaders during the programme at Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Square, encouraging them with warm words.

Bikers, army and police personnel, all wings of the NCC, ex-servicemen, students, persons with disabilities, public representatives, and members of various government, social, and voluntary organisations participated, proudly carrying the Tricolour- a symbol of India’s pride and glory. Throughout the procession, stages set up at various points echoed with patriotic songs, while colourful cultural performances stirred the spirit of nationalism among the crowds. Rangolis made of colours and flowers decorated the route, while children and artists dressed as immortal martyrs brought alive the sacrifices made for the nation’s freedom and protection.

Opposition march against EC: BJP calls it false agenda

New Delhi, Aug 11 (UNI) The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today termed as an “attempt to create chaos in the country” the noisy march taken out by the Opposition parties, including Congress and the INDI alliance, from the Parliament House to the Election Commission office in Delhi against the ongoing Bihar’s electoral revision process. At a press conference here, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan hit back at the opposition, accusing Congress and Rahul Gandhi of having an “anti-constitutional attitude”. He also dismissed the march as a “false agenda”. Targeting Congress, he said their language resembled that of “anti-national elements”.

He said SIR (Systematic Voter’s List Revision) is not a new process and has been conducted before. “However, the Opposition is using it as a pretext to spread falsehoods and create chaos in the country,” he said. Pradhan said, “The country is watching those who work against the Constitution, led by Rahul Gandhi. The Opposition repeatedly raises doubts over EVMs, spreads lies, and tries to undermine faith in the election process. This is a deliberate strategy to spread unrest in the country.”

The senior BJP leader also urged the Opposition to raise their concerns in Parliament instead of taking out marches on the streets. He pointed out that even during discussions on Operation Sindoor in Parliament, the Opposition and Congress lacked a solid agenda. He accused them of diverting public attention from real issues.

The Union Minister explained that SIR is not a new process but a regular exercise by the Election Commission across all states to update and organise the voter list. He said, “The Opposition has no clear policy; they are only playing politics.” He also accused Congress of lying on several issues like EVMs, Rafale, and China border disputes. Pradhan said, “Questioning India’s army and sovereignty is wrong. The Opposition should clarify whose side they are on.”

Bombay HC's Kolhapur Circuit Bench to be inaugurated Aug 17 by CJI Gavai

Kolhapur, Aug 11 (UNI) The Kolhapur Circuit Bench of Bombay High Court will be inaugurated by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Bhushan Gavai on August 17, an official said today.

High Court senior justice Makarand Karnik will preside over the function at the Mery Weather Ground. In a press release, V R Patil, president of Kolhapur District Bar Association, said the circuit bench will start functioning from 11 am on August 18.

The CJI will inaugurate the Circuit Bench building, located opposite Chhatrapati Pramila Rajee Hospital in Town Hall area of the city on August 17. The main function will be held at the Meri Weather Ground. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and his two deputies Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar and Bombay High Court’s chief justice Alok Aradhya, will attend the function.

Man carries wife's body on motorcycle after fatal accident in Nagpur

Nagpur, Aug 11 (UNI) A man was forced to tie his deceased wife’s body to his motorcycle after she was killed in a hit-and-run accident on the Nagpur-Jabalpur National Highway today evening, following alleged apathy from

onlookers. According to police, the incident occurred near Morfata when Amit Yadav (35) and his wife, Gyarsi (31), were travelling from Lonara here to their native village in Madhya Pradesh. A speeding truck struck their motorcycle,

killing the woman on the spot. The truck driver fled the scene. Police said Yadav allegedly pleaded with passing motorists for help to transport his wife’s body, but no one stopped. Left with no other option, he tied the body to his motorcycle to take her home.

He was later intercepted by a police patrol van, which then transported the body to Mayo Hospital for a post-mortem examination.

Meanwhile, a video showing Yadav riding with

his wife’s body tied to the motorcycle has surfaced on social media.

Reports suggest the video may have been recorded by police personnel before they intervened.

A case has been registered under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

"An investigation is underway to trace the truck driver and ascertain the full circumstances of the incident," police added.

CM Mann dares Sukhbir Singh Badal to cite Akali's achievements

Chandigarh, Aug 11 (UNI) : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann launched a scathing attack on Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Sukhbir Singh Badal today, daring him to cite a single achievement from the party’s decade-long rule in the state from 2007 to 2017.

Addressing a gathering in Sangrur, Mann described this period as the “darkest chapter” in Punjab’s history, accusing the Badal-led government of fostering a nexus of transport, cable, sand, drug, and other mafias that plagued the state.

Mann alleged that the Akali regime prioritized personal business interests over public welfare, allowing the drug menace to take root and spread across Punjab. He challenged Sukhbir to defend his party’s record, asserting that the current government is holding accountable those

responsible for the state’s woes. "Leaders who committed grave offenses against Punjab are now facing justice, with key figures, including a notorious drug lord, behind bars in Nabha Jail," Mann stated, emphasizing his administration’s resolve to combat crime.

The Chief Minister took aim at opposition leaders, accusing them of colluding to protect their vested interests. He singled out Congress leaders Charanjit Singh Channi, Partap Singh Bajwa, Sukhpal Singh Khaira, BJP’s Captain Amarinder Singh, and Ravneet Singh Bittu for allegedly supporting the jailed former Akali minister, exposing what he called a web of mutual cover-ups among traditional parties. Mann urged these leaders to clarify their stance to the people of Punjab: whether they stand with drug traffickers or against them.

He further criticized the

Akali Dal’s transformation from a party rooted in sacrifice to one "associated with drug smuggling", and labeled Congress as a fragmented group obsessed with power struggles. Mann remarked that Sukhbir lacks understanding of Punjab’s culture, religion, and even the Punjabi language, yet remains desperate to reclaim power- a prediction he made earlier, foreseeing the Akali Dal’s decline since 2019.

Contrasting his approach with that of his predecessors, Mann asserted that while he may lack experience in exploiting public resources, he excels in addressing the common man’s struggles.

He vowed to continue serving Punjab with dedication, undeterred by what he called the "baseless venom" spewed by envious political rivals. Mann accused past leaders of neglecting the state for

personal gain, an attitude he said has harmed Punjab and its people.

Inauguration of Development Projects

On the same day, Mann dedicated several significant projects to the public. He upgraded the Freedom Fighter Jathedar Kartar Singh Darvesh Senior Secondary School in Sangrur to a School of Eminence, investing Rs. 3.40 crores in it. The revamped institution now features a modern auditorium, renovated classrooms, laboratories, a park, a mid-day meal kitchen, and improved water facilities, aimed at transforming the learning environment for students who have gained global recognition.

He also inaugurated the Government Nursing Training School in Sangrur, built at a cost of Rs. 7.81 crore. This state-of-the-art facility offers a three-year General Nursing and

Midwifery (GNM) course, complete with a hostel, advanced labs, a mess, smart classrooms, a library, and bus services. Mann highlighted its importance for rural students, who previously had to travel to distant cities like Bathinda and Patiala for nursing education.

Mann flagged off 12 mobile cancer screening buses in collaboration with World Cancer Care, marking a new phase in the fight against cancer.

These buses will conduct door-to-door screening camps across villages and towns, raising awareness and providing free tests such as mammography, Pap smears, PSA tests, oral cancer screenings, bone density checks, and blood tests. He praised Dr. Kulwant Singh Dhaliwal, Chairman of World Cancer Care, for organizing 350 free camps to honor the 350th martyrdom day of Guru

Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji.

Mann described this initiative as a historic step to combat a disease that has severely affected Punjab, particularly the Malwa region, once dubbed the "Cancer Express" due to a train route linking Bathinda to Bikaner. He reaffirmed the state government’s commitment to the well-being of all citizens, promising continued efforts to address public health challenges.

A Vision for the Future

Undeterred by political criticism, Mann asserted that his humble background resonates with the people, who are no longer swayed by the misleading propaganda of self-proclaimed ruling elites. He pledged to focus on Punjab’s overall development, ensuring that the state’s progress remains a priority over personal or familial agendas.

Centre reviews states' progress on deregulation

Hyderabad, Aug 11 (UNI) : Union Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan today held a video conference with Chief Secretaries of all states and union territories to review the progress of the deregulation and compliance reduction drive across the country. During the meeting, Telangana Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao informed that out of the 23 priority areas identified for implementation, 12 have already been completed, 10 are in progress, and one falls under the “not willing to implement” category.

On the state’s Jan Vishwas Bill, Rao said a preliminary assessment had identified criminal provisions across various secretariat departments, and the findings have been shared with the respective departments. They have been instructed to submit their proposed list for inclusion in the draft Bill. He further directed all concerned departments to complete the priority tasks within the stipulated timelines. Senior officials, including Special Chief Secretary (TR&B) Vikas Raj, Special Chief Secretary (Industries) Sanjay Kumar, Principal Secretary (Labour) Danakishore, Additional DG (Fire Services) Nagreddy, and Principal Secretary (EFS&T) Ahmed Nadeem, attended the video conference, an official statement said.

STANDARD POST

Mumbai hosts 64-nation Astronomy Olympiad, PM Modi to address opening

Mumbai is set to welcome nearly 300 of the world's brightest high school students from a record 64 countries for the 18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA 2025). The prestigious event, running from August 11 to August 21, marks the largest edition in the competition's 18-year history and signifies India's growing leadership in international science education and scientific networking.The Olympiad will commence with the opening ceremony scheduled for August 12 at the Lotus Ballroom, Jio World Convention Centre. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the gathering with a special message.

Professor Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the government of India, will be the chief guest, while Professor Ajit Kembhavi, former vice president of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), will be the guest of honour.

This diverse participation incudes significant representation and debut appearances from nations in the Global South.

Organised by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), a unit of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), with support from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), IOAA 2025 heralds the return of an international science olympiad to Mumbai after a decade. The city last hosted the International Physics Olympiad in 2015.

The grand finale and closing ceremony will unfold on August 21 at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre in the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC). Dr. V. Narayanan, secretary of the Department of Space and chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will preside as chief guest, accompanied by Dr Anil Kakodkar, Chancellor of the Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNi) and former secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), as guest of honour.The academic heart of the Olympiad features a rigorous programme designed to challenge participants at the highest levels of high-school astronomy and astrophysics.Examinations encompass three core components: demanding theoretical assessments covering fundamental principles of celestial mechanics, stellar physics, galactic astronomy, and cosmology; observational rounds testing practical skills in night sky identification, telescope operations, and data analysis challenges requiring participants to interpret real astronomical datasets, perform error analysis, and employ statistical problem-solving.An innovative team competition will promote cross-cultural scientific teamwork and international collaboration among the young participants.Ensuring convenience and safety, especially during Mumbai's monsoon season, all student participants are accommodated at The Westin Powai Lake. This hotel also serves as the primary venue for all academic events, including the theory examinations, data analysis rounds, observational activities, and the team challenge.

Team leaders, mentors, and academic jury members are staying at the St. Regis Hotel in Worli, which hosts critical jury meetings, moderation sessions, and academic deliberations, maintaining the competition's strict integrity and international standards.

Beyond the intense competition, IOAA 2025 offers an extensive cultural and scientific exchange programme. This includes collaborative events, scientific workshops led by renowned Indian astronomers and astrophysicists, and educational field trips to premier scientific institutions.

Participants will visit the Nehru Science Centre, the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay), and the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) facility near Pune. These activities are meticulously planned to foster scientific diplomacy, forge lasting international friendships among the next generation of astronomers, and expose participants to India's rich scientific heritage and cutting-edge research infrastructure.A significant legacy initiative involves the educational resources and materials specifically developed for IOAA 2025. These will be distributed across India through the newly established International Astronomical Union (IAU) Office of Astronomy Education, located in India.

This effort aims to enrich astronomy curricula in schools nationwide and inspire broader student engagement in the astronomical sciences, addressing the subject's traditional lower profile compared to mathematics and physics olympiads within the country.

This marks India's third time hosting the IOAA, following successful editions held in Mumbai in 2008 and Bhubaneswar in 2016, underscoring the nation's sustained commitment to international scientific cooperation and excellence in astronomy education.

The Olympiad itself demonstrates remarkable resilience, having navigated global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. It organised the first fully online Global e-Competition on Astronomy and Astrophysics in 2020 and successfully implemented hybrid formats combining in-person and remote participation in subsequent years.

Profession and Passion working together

(By Ashok Shinde)

What do you do currently in the medical field, and how have you proven yourself for it?

I am a doctor at Lilavati Hospital, where I actively contribute to patient care and medical advancements. Along with my clinical responsibilities, I also play a role in hosting and organizing hospital events, bridging the gap between healthcare and effective communication. My dedication to patient well-being, my ability to counsel and ease patients' concerns, and my commitment to continuous learning have helped me establish my credibility in the field.

What activities do you do outside your professional circle while keeping yourself busy in the medical profession?

Outside of my medical career, I am a professional anchor, having hosted corporate events, weddings, festivals, and parties for the past six years. Additionally, I create health-related content as an influencer, aiming to educate people about wellness. I also dedicate time to community work and am an active team member of the VBC group, organizing events for the Jain community. Singing, dancing, and exploring new experiences keep me creatively engaged.

What extracurricular activities have you done so far?

I have been deeply involved in anchoring, public speaking, and event hosting, including hosting celebrity events during my college days. I also dedicate time to cooking, fitness, and spirituality, which keep me energized and focused. Cooking is like therapy for me, so I love to cook all types of cuisines and make jain food more palatable. I deeply believe in Jainism and I feel my trust in God help me grow and believe in me every day. My



Dr. Fenny Shah

While working as a doctor in a renowned Lilavati Hospital, Mumbai, Dr. Fenny Shah who pursued her passion in the field of art as a compere which is admirable. An interview and conversation with her about her achievement..

passion for communication, creativity, and community service continues to shape my journey.

How do you balance your time for this? Your time management.

Managing multiple roles requires discipline and planning. I prioritize my hospital duties while setting aside time for anchoring, content creation, and personal interests. Having a structured routine, staying organized, and maintaining a positive mindset help me balance everything efficiently without compromising on any responsibility.

How do you get responses or cooperation from your office, relatives, and friends? Tell us about them and who gives you support.

I am fortunate to receive immense support from my family, colleagues, and friends. My hospital acknowledges my ability to manage my career alongside my passions. My parents, Rajesh Ravilal Shah and Mamta Rajesh

Shah, have been my biggest pillars of strength—my father is a businessman in Bhuj, and my mother is an active social worker and a key office bearer in the Vagad Be Chovisi Yuvti Mandal Committee. My younger brother, Tirth Shah, who is currently pursuing a BSc in Microbiology from Mithibai College, has always encouraged me as well. Their unwavering belief in me has enabled me to pursue my dreams.

Would you like to pursue a career in this field other than the medical field, or would you like to pursue it only as a hobby?

Medicine is my primary profession, and I am deeply committed to it. However, anchoring, content creation, and public speaking have become integral parts of my life, and I enjoy pursuing them alongside my medical career. I believe both fields complement each other, allowing me to contribute to society in multiple ways.

What is the best thing you want to do from this

interest? What is your goal for it?

Through my work in hosting and health content creation, I want to make a significant impact by spreading awareness about wellness, positivity, and lifestyle improvements. My goal is to expand my reach, educate people on healthcare, and create a platform where knowledge and inspiration go hand in hand. I aspire to flourish my skills across India and internationally in both business and career.

What is your goal in the medical field?

My goal is to continue growing in the medical profession while making healthcare more approachable through effective communication. I also aim to pursue further studies to enhance my expertise, ultimately contributing to better patient care and public health awareness.

What is your profile? Give brief information about your education and childhood.

I come from a small town, Bhuj, in Kutch, Gujarat. I completed my schooling at St. Xavier's School in Bhuj and later pursued my graduation from Parul University, Baroda. Parul University played a crucial role in shaping my personality, giving me ample opportunities, and believing in my potential—I even hosted most of the celebrity events there. After completing my graduation, I moved to Mumbai with the strong support and motivation of my parents.

I have always been passionate about personal growth, communication, and creativity.

My journey has been shaped by my hard work, curiosity, and the immense support of my family. In the future, I aspire to balance a successful career with a happy family life because, for me, family comes first.

India slams Pakistan Army Chief's "Nuclear Sabre-Rattling" from US soil

New Delhi, Aug 11 (UNI) India today reacted sharply to reported remarks made by Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, during a visit to the United States, calling them an example of "nuclear sabre-rattling" and warning that such statements highlight serious concerns over Islamabad's nuclear command and control.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it was "regrettable" that the comments were made "from the soil of a friendly third country" and urged the international community to note "the irresponsibility inherent in such remarks" by a military "hand-in-glove with terrorist groups."

The statement said such remarks underscored doubts about the integrity of Pakistan's nuclear command and control, particularly in a state where the military is "hand-in-glove with terrorist groups." The ministry termed it "regrettable" that the comments were made from the soil of a friendly third country.

India's statement comes after Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, sparked outrage by threatening India with "nuclear war" during a speech on American soil, warning that Islamabad would "take half the world down" if faced with an existential threat.

The MEA reiterated India's position that it will not yield to nuclear blackmail and will take "all necessary steps" to safeguard national security.

"Our attention has been drawn to remarks reportedly made by the Pakistani Chief of Army Staff while on a visit to the United States. Nuclear sabre-rattling is Pakistan's stock-in-trade" Munir, speaking at a black-tie dinner in Tampa, Florida, hosted by businessman and honorary consul Adnan Asad, reportedly declared: "We are a nuclear nation. If we think we are going down, we'll take half the world down with us." According to reports, this marks the first time nuclear threats have been issued from US soil against a third country.The Pakistani army chief also threatened to destroy any Indian infrastructure on Indus River channels, warning that such projects could cut Pakistan's water supply. Referring to New Delhi's suspension of the Indus Water Treaty following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, he claimed the move could put 250 million Pakistanis at the risk of starvation.

"We will wait for India to build a dam, and when it does, phir 10 missile sey faarigh kar dengey (we will destroy it with 10 missiles)... The Indus River is not the Indians' family property. Humein missilon ki kami nahin hai, al-hamdulillah (we have no shortage of missiles, praise be to God)," he was quoted as saying.

Munir is in Tampa to attend the US Central Command (CENTCOM) change of command ceremony, his second trip to Washington in less than two months.

His previous visit to US was on on June 18 which included a White House luncheon with President Trump, where he proposed the US leader for a Nobel Peace Prize a suggestion he repeated in Florida.The Tampa event was attended by around 120 members of the Pakistani diaspora under tight restrictions. Following the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, in which 26 civilians were killed, tensions between India and Pakistan swiftly escalated into a serious military crisis.India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, 2025 carrying out missile and air strikes across nine terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir.The four-day conflict between nuclear -armed rivals witnessed military engagements including drone warfare, artillery exchanges, and retaliatory attacks.

Cultivating kindness in kids may promote healthy eating: Study

New Delhi, Aug 11 (UNI) Kids who were kind, helpful, and caring were more likely to eat healthy foods like fruits and vegetables when they became teenagers, says a new study that followed children from ages 5 to 17.

The researchers analysed data from the Millennium Cohort Study, a nationally representative study that followed children born in the United Kingdom for over 20 years, starting at birth. Parents reported how their children behaved at ages 5, 7, and 11. Then, the researchers checked if those children ate healthy foods at ages 14 and 17.

The findings in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine were heartwarming.

"Too often, we focus on what is going wrong in young people's lives, but what we hear from them time and time again is that they are tired of that narrative. They want us adults to pay

more attention to what is going right, including what they bring to their families and communities," said lead investigator Farah Qureshi, Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Another researcher, Senior author Julia K. Boehm, PhD, Department of Psychology, Chapman University, added, "Prosocial behaviours, such as being considerate of others' feelings, sharing, helping if someone is hurt or upset, being kind, and volunteering to help others, can influence health by strengthening children's social ties and improving psychological functioning by promoting better mood, purpose, feelings of competence, and enhanced capacity to cope with stress.

"All of these, in turn, serve as resources that may inform health-related choices, as is evidenced by

our latest findings."

The study followed many children over time and looked at many different factors. Even with some limitations, the findings revealed that being kind and caring is a helpful trait that can lead to healthier habits for life.

Co-author Laura D. Kubzansky, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health who leads a novel research programme on the long-term health impact of prosociality pointed out, "Asset-based interventions can open the door to new and creative health promotion strategies that engage youth in ways that speak to their inherent strengths, including shared values around kindness and cooperation. Supporting prosociality in childhood may be a promising health promotion strategy for future consideration."

LoP Suvendu writes to ECI raising 'arbitrary' replacement of BLOs in West Bengal

Kolkata, Aug 11 (UNI) : Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari has written to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, alleging the arbitrary replacement of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in Uttar Dinajpur district by the state government.

Adhikari claimed that these BLOs had recently undergone specialised training in Delhi, organised by the Election Commission of India (ECI), to enhance their skills in maintaining accurate and transparent electoral rolls. However, he alleged, their appointments were cancelled without reasonable cause or due process.

Adhikari alleged in his letter to the country's top poll panel,"This seems like a deliberate interference with ECI's initiatives for

electoral reforms, potentially leading to irregularities in voter list management and compromising upcoming elections."

West Bengal is expected to hold its Assembly elections for 294 seats in April-May 2026.

"The WB Govt has canceled their appointments without any reasonable cause or due process. This seems like a deliberate interference with ECI's initiatives for electoral reforms, potentially leading to irregularities in voter list management and compromising upcoming elections," Adhikari said to ECI chief Gyanesh Kumar.

Adhikari alleged that the state government action cancelling the BLOs appointments without any reasonable cause or due process.

"This seems like a deliberate interference with

ECI's initiatives for electoral reforms, potentially leading to irregularities in voter list management and compromising upcoming elections," the Nandigram MLA said.Adhikari urged the ECI to take immediate cognisance of the matter, seek detailed explanations from the District Election Officer (also the District Magistrate), Electoral Registration Officers, and Assistant EROs of Uttar Dinajpur as well as any other affected districts and, if the action is found to be arbitrary, initiate strict disciplinary measures against responsible officials.

According to Adikari these alleged arbitrary steps appear to have intensified after provocative speeches of Mamata Banerjee on July 28 last at an administrative meeting and rally in Bolpur, Birbhum district,

Over 50 hectares land cleared from encroachments along Assam-Nagaland border: CM

Guwahati, Aug 11 (UNI) Continuing it's ongoing eviction drives, the Assam Government has claimed to have clear illegal encroachment from over 50 acres of land at Negheribil in Golaghat district in last three days.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today said that the state government has reclaimed 50 acres of land in Negheribil. The eviction drive was launched at Negheribil on August 8.

“The WAR continues, the FIGHT continues, the EFFORT for reclaiming what belongs to us CONTINUES. 50+ Hectares of encroached land in Negheribil, NOW FREED,” said the Assam

Chief minister on his X handle on Monday.

The chief minister said that a large-scale eviction drive was successfully carried out in Negheribil and Merapani areas along the Assam–Nagaland border where approximately 320 illegal structures had been demolished.

These areas were under the Doyang Reserve Forest in Golaghat district, he said.

Although eviction drives have been a regular phenomenon, yet the government has intensified eviction drives in recent times and over 50000 people have been evicted in the last few months.

According to the government they have been able to clear 40 percent of the forest land from encroachment.

DGAQA accords flight clearance to LCA Tejas Mk1A from HAL's Nashik division

New Delhi, Aug 11 (UNI) The Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA) has accorded flight clearance to the indigenously-manufactured Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas from the Nashik division of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), marking a significant milestone in decentralising aircraft production and expanding India's strategic aerospace capabilities.

The Flight Clearance Document was handed over to Executive Director, HAL Nashik Division by ADG, AQA.Nashik, renowned for its legacy in manufacturing and sustaining fighter fleets, has now evolved into a key hub for indigenous aircraft production.

Hosting the third LCA production line outside Bengaluru, this de-centralised set-up enhances operational flexibility and aligns with India's broader defence preparedness and strategic autonomy goals.

OADG Nashik played a pivotal role in the successful absorption of Transfer of Technology for LCA manufacturing



Devotees perform 'Jalabhishek' of a shivling at Shiv Bari temple, in Agartala on Monday.

Mamata slams ‘distortion’ of Khudiram Bose’s legacy on his death anniversary

Kolkata, Aug 11 (UNI) : On the death anniversary of martyr Khudiram Bose, who embraced the gallows at the age of 18 while fighting the British colonial rule, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee voiced strong criticism over what she described as “disrespect at the central level” towards Bengali luminaries.

Referring to a Hindi film Kesari 2, in which Khudiram is portrayed as “Singh” and shown as the son of Punjab, Banerjee questioned whether “language terrorists” would go so far as to distort the identity of one of India's pioneering immortal

revolutionaries.In a social media post, the Chief Minister wrote, “Recently, in a Hindi film, the revolutionary Khudiram has been referred to as ‘Singh.’ Why is there an attempt to insult those who sacrificed their lives for the country's independence? Our indomitable youth from Medinipur has been portrayed as a boy from Punjab. We have always paid our respects to this man, who stands as a symbol of patriotism and the highest self-sacrifice.”

Banerjee detailed the steps taken by her government to honour the teenage freedom fighter, who was hanged on

August 11, 1908, for his role in the Muzaffarpur Conspiracy Case.

“For the further development of Mohaboni and its surrounding areas — closely tied to Khudiram’s birth — we established the Mohaboni Development Authority,” she wrote.She further added, “In Mohaboni, we have installed a statue of the martyr, renovated the library, built a large auditorium, a conference room, and an open-air stage. We have also constructed modern cottages for visitors, revitalised the historic Khudiram Park, and decorated the entire area

with lights."Born on December 3, 1889, Khudiram Bose was a young revolutionary from the Bengal Presidency who took up arms against the British rule. Along with Prafulla Chaki, he attempted to assassinate British magistrate Douglas Kingsford by throwing bombs at a carriage they believed he was travelling in. Kingsford, however, was in a different carriage, and the attack tragically killed two British women instead.Bose was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death for his role in the plot, becoming one of the youngest martyrs of India's freedom movement.

BJP' clean sweep in district panchayat polls

Dehradun, Aug 11(UNI) : As Uttarakhand reels under state's worst natural disaster in last one decade, BJP got a big shot in its arm today as ruling party got its four district panchayat heads elected unopposed.

Party also managed to elect 11 Kshetra (Block) panchayats without any challenge.

As elections for remaining eight district and 75 more block panchayat bodies are scheduled for the coming days, BJP's sweeping win in the first round came as a big shocker for the opposition Congress party as latter failed even to find candidates for contesting in three hill districts Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh and Champawat and Udhamsingh Nagar in plain Terai region of the state. All four BJP candidates were declared winners unopposed by the respective election officers on the absence of opposition Congress nominees.

Similar wins in 11 block panchayats of the state including Uttarkashi's disaster hit and frequent in-news block Bhatwari, Champawat, Kashipur, Sitarganj, Khatima,

Dunda, Jakhnidhar, Chamba, Vikasnagar, Pabau, and Takula.BJP leaders in Uttarakhand applauded Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami for party's victories and said his strategy of keeping command of local political equations with opposition having no inkling of the same helped them win easily.

"BJP's candidate selection maintaining caste and regional balance left the opposition clueless. On the other hand opposition Congress party was plagued by acute factionalism and weak organisational set up.

The Congress leadership failed to even find candidates to file nominations in four districts and 11 block panchayat polls that enabled us win without any opposition" stated the state BJP media incharge and senior spokesperson Manvir Singh Chauhan. Chauhan claimed that panchayat results are also clear indication that BJP's organisational strength at the grassroots is as robust as it's higher rung of leadership. This has also set the ball rolling for 2027 state election, said Chauhan.

AAP MPs Join Opposition protest against alleged voter fraud

New Delhi, Aug 11 (UNI) :Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MPs, led by Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh, participated in a protest march from Parliament to the Election Commission of India (ECI) headquarters today, alongside other opposition lawmakers, to highlight allegations of large-scale voter fraud involving the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the ECI.

Protesters raised slogans and attempted to submit a memorandum to the ECI but were stopped by police. Several MPs were detained and later taken to a police station. Sanjay Singh described the detentions as “completely wrong” and alleged that the ECI avoided meeting the opposition.

Singh claimed that votes had been

manipulated to secure BJP victories in multiple states, calling the current administration “an illegal government” and accusing the ECI of being complicit. He referred to previous allegations made by AAP in Delhi, as well as similar claims from Maharashtra and Haryana, and cited what he called irregularities in Bihar's voter lists, including fake entries.

According to Singh, these alleged irregularities extended to the recent Lok Sabha elections. He accused the ECI of refusing to release certain data and video footage, and of not disclosing details to the Supreme Court.

The ECI has not issued a response to the latest claims. The BJP has previously rejected allegations of voter fraud, calling them baseless

Srinagar, Aug 11 (UNI) Kashmir's major political parties – ruling National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party- today termed the Centre's decision allowing the Lieutenant Governor to nominate five members to the Union Territory's Legislative Assembly without an elected government nod as an attack on democracy.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has submitted an affidavit in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court saying that the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory has the authority to nominate five members to the Legislative Assembly without requiring the “aid and advice” of the elected government.

The affidavit was submitted by the MHA on a petition filed in J&K High Court in October last year

nomination of five members to the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly by the Lieutenant Governor.

Reacting to the affidavit that J&K LG can name 5 members to the assembly without government nod, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti called it a "blatant subversion of democratic principles".

“GOIs decision to nominate 5 MLAs in J&K after holding elections is a blatant subversion of democratic principles. Nowhere else in the country does the Centre handpick legislators to override the public mandate.

In India's only Muslim-majority region, long marred by conflict, this move feels less like governance and more like control,” Mehbooba said in a post on X.

She termed the move “yet another body blow to the idea of democracy in

MD HPSFC Sanjay Sood to hold Additional charge of HOFF

Shimla, Aug 11 (UNI) In a major administrative reshuffle, the Himachal Pradesh Government on Monday transferred and gave new postings to five IAS and 13 IFS officers. Sanjay Sood, Managing Director of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Corporation, has been given the additional charge of Head of Forest Force (HOFF) in the Forest Department. He would replace Sameer Rastogi on this post who retired on July 31. Along with this, the government has issued several key transfer orders. The additional charge of AYUSH Secretary has been assigned to 2007 batch IAS and Secretary Administrative Reform, Training and Foreign Assignment and Redressal of Public Grievances, A. Shenamol. Orders in this regard have been issued by Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena.

2008 batch IAS and Secretary AYUSH Rakhil Kahlo has been appointed Secretary, Water Power Department and Digital Technology. 2012 batch IAS and MD, Himachal Pradesh State Handicraft and Handloom Corporation, Richa Verma, has been appointed MD, State Industrial Development Corporation (SIDC) Shimla, relieving Rajeshwar Goyal from the additional charge.

Director Land Records and 2018 batch IAS Ritika has been appointed Additional Controller of Store, Industry Department, relieving Dr. Harish Ganju from the additional charge. Abhishek Verma, 2018 batch IAS and under transfer, has been posted as Director Land Records, Shimla. At the same time, 2014 batch IAS and MD, HRTC, Dr. Nipun Jindal will also look after the additional charge of Director, Digital Technology and Governance, Shimla. He would continue to hold this additional portfolio along with his current responsibilities

Mehbooba, NC slam Centre over LG’s power to nominate MLAs in J&K

J&K”“Following the illegal bifurcation of the state, skewed delimitation and discriminatory seat reservations this nomination is yet another body blow to the idea of democracy in J&K,” she added.

Mehbooba said representation must be earned through the people's vote not granted by central decree.

“This cannot be allowed to become the norm,” PDP chief said while hoping that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah government “rises to the occasion by challenging this undemocratic precedent because silence now would be complicity later.”

National Conference chief spokesman and MLA Tanvir Sadfiq said when J&K has an elected government with an absolute majority, bypassing it to let the LG handpick members is not governance, it's contempt for the people's mandate.

Chhattisgarh likely to pass stricter anti conversion law in winter session

Raipur. Aug 11(UNI) : The Chhattisgarh government is preparing to exclude those individuals from the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category who have converted to another religion.This provision for converts is currently applicable only to the Scheduled Castes (SC). Under the proposed amendment, converted tribals who have been receiving dual benefits— ST reservation and minority welfare schemes, will lose access to both. In a move set to trigger fresh political and social debate, the ruling BJP says the step is essential to stop “dual entitlements,” while the Opposition has denounced it as politically motivated.

Currently applicable only to the Scheduled Castes (SC), the provision will now cover converted tribals, effectively cutting them off from both ST reservation and minority welfare schemes.

Deputy Chief Minister and Law Minister Arun Sao said the existing law would be made “more effective and comprehensive” with inputs from legal experts, and that a proposal would be sent to the Centre for

necessary national-level changes.Over the past two years, over hundred cases of conversion have been recorded in the state, with 44 resulting in FIRs. The government intends to replace the Chhattisgarh Dharma Swatantrata Adhiniyam, 1968, with tougher legislation expanding the definitions of inducement and forced conversion, requiring 60 days’ advance notice to district authorities, and imposing prison terms of up to 10 years for unreported conversions.

The plan revives an unimplemented law from the year 2006, introduced during the BJP government under then Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh, which prescribed a two year jail term and a ?10,000 fine for forced conversions of women, minors, Dalits, and tribals. Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has urged the BJP to enforce the earlier provision instead of “politicising” the issue. In sharp contrast, Arvind Netam, patron of the Sarva Adivasi Samaj, hailed the proposal as “critical for safeguarding tribal culture and traditions.”

Security heightened ahead of Independence day

Chandigarh, Aug 11 (UNI) : With Independence Day 2025 approaching, Punjab's Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav has intensified security preparations across the state. On Monday, he conducted a series of high-level meetings and outreach programs in Amritsar, Jalandhar, and Ludhiana to review counter-terrorism strategies and ensure a peaceful celebration, following directives from Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann.

DGP Yadav embarked on an extensive tour, chairing law and order review sessions and engaging with police personnel from various commissionerates and ranges, including Border areas, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, and Ropar. The focus was on strengthening security protocols, enhancing inter-district coordination, and maintaining round-the-clock vigilance to thwart any potential threats in this border state.

In a bid to maintain law and order, DGP Yadav issued strict instructions to all Commissioners of Police (CPs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) to bolster security arrangements. This includes setting up high-visibility checkpoints, increasing night patrols, and conducting regular domination operations in crowded areas, snatching hotspots, and other sensitive locations. The aim is to prevent any disruptions and ensure public safety during the national festivities.

Crackdown on Drugs and Organized Crime Reiterating the state's zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking, DGP Yadav urged district police chiefs to enforce the NDPS Act with transparency and rigor. He reviewed the progress of the ongoing anti-drug initiative, 'Yudh Nashian Virudh,' and called for its further intensification to eradicate the drug menace.

Additionally, he directed officers to conduct financial probes under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act and target Hawala operators to dismantle the networks supporting drug trade and organized crime.

As part of his outreach, DGP Yadav held interactive sessions with officers of all ranks, including Station House Officers (SHOs). These discussions encouraged open dialogue, allowing field insights to inform strategies for better coordination and the disruption of drug supply chains across districts.

Key Attendees and Regional Focus The meetings saw participation from senior officials, including CP Jalandhar Range Dhanpreet Kaur, CP Amritsar Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, CP Ludhiana Swapan Sharma, DIG Jalandhar Range Naveen Singla, DIG Ropar Range Harcharan Singh Bhullar, DIG Border Range Nanak Singh, and various SSPs from districts like Amritsar Rural, Gurdaspur, Batala, Jalandhar Rural, Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur, Pathankot, SBS Nagar, Khanna, Jagraon, Rupnagar, SAS Nagar, and Fatehgarh Sahib. Their collective input is expected to shape the state's security and anti-crime roadmap.

Travel

World's best whale-watching Experiences

Orcas off Vancouver Island

Orcas (Killer Whales like the famous ocean mammal celebrity, Shamu) are the most popular residents around Vancouver Island, joined in the migrating season by humpbacks and grey whales. Agile orcas have a range of interesting behaviours, which range from the frolic-and-shake to the-spray, the tail-slap, the jump-and-flop and the show-off-Shamu-leap, but they are always entertaining. Their smaller size means orcas are more playful than other whales and brave visitors can kayak amongst them, though be prepared to get



sprayed or splashed! Other harbour residents are the harbour seals, porpoises and sea lions.

Humpback whales in Madagascar

Between June and September Humpback whales grace the waters around Isle Sainte Marie to give birth to and raise their calves in the warm waters, and their booming, melodic calls permeate the oceans quiet. Whales surround the island and even travel through the narrow channel that separates Isle Sainte Marie from mainland Madagascar, so you can get an excellent view of their graceful, 30-ton passage, but you can also get closer by taking a boat trip out amongst the pods. When feeding, whales gather in groups to herd plankton together and trap blooms while animals feed individually. This is an awe inspiring sight to behold, as is the whales frolicking play and the mothers'

Of all the sights nature offers, whale watching never ceases to inspire and thrill us. The best whale watching experiences are worth travelling the world for, and can be enjoyed from land and from sea. The size of the whale, as well as its graceful movements and epic migrations, bewitch us. To watch their lively social interactions, intricate ways of communicating and agile play is to catch a glimpse of the natural world at work. You can view these gentle giants—and there are many species, from blue whales to humpback and minky whales (the Baleen species), to sperm, orca and pilot whales (the toothed whale species)—from locations in 40 countries as they migrate the globe to mate, calve and follow the blooming plankton that they feed on.

gentle direction as the calves continue their first migration. Orchids and lemur-covered mango and palm trees cover Isle Sainte Marie and its outlying reefs make it a fantastic place to dive and snorkel.

Whales of Antarctica

For animal lovers with an adventurous streak, this stark, angular backdrop of glaciers, icebergs, mountain peaks and unpredictable seas provides the perfect wilderness setting for whale and wildlife watching. Fin, sei, humpback, orca, and minke whales live in these chilly waters as well as several seal and dolphin species, penguin colonies and other hardy seabirds.

The humpbacks in Tonga

Jump into the sapphire waters of the South Pacific Ocean and swim with one of the most majestic and impressive creatures of the sea. Patience is the key to interacting with

the humpback; mothers protecting calves might avoid your path while curious juveniles will come out and investigate. Encounters can last a few minutes or a few hours but will prove to be unforgettable no matter the length. Don't forget to admire the coral reefs of these waters, which are equally as remarkable. Tours are available between July and October.

Wildlife of Canada's Arctic region

Polar bears, arctic foxes, caribou, snowshoe hare, beluga whales, wolves, moose and seals are just some of the animals that thrive in the freezing tundra and pack ice of northern Canada and the Arctic Circle. They have adapted to the seasonal environment and take advantage of both the winters, when much of the bay freezes and polar bears hunt on the ice, and the warmer weather when the ice melts revealing salt marshes that support huge water fowl nurseries. Visitors to the region will also be

wowed by the Northern Lights and impressed by the vast, silent, open, untouched spaces. Canada's polar bears are a dangerous lot and have been known to hunt the gentle beluga whale as well as seals and walruses. Much of this region is too far north and too frozen to have been seriously effected by logging or mining, so 90 percent of it remains in its virgin state. It is only in recent years that concerns about the bay being frozen for shorter periods have caused conservationists to worry about the habitat of these southern most polar bears and their animal contemporaries. The best times to see polar bears is between January and April, the best time for whale watching is between June and August, and the best time to see the Northern Lights is between September and October and January through May.

Bay of Fundy's whales

Bay of Fundy is a very natural, unspoilt location for whale watching. The islands and coastline surrounding the bay is a wilderness, and the tides are the world's most variable - in some places up to 14 metres difference (the literature says one hundred billion tonnes of sea water rolls in and out of the bay each day.) This constant churning of water creates excellent conditions for plankton blooms, and baleen whales especially find plenty to feed on. Scientists have seen fifteen different whale species in the Bay of Fundy, the largest (and I think the most unusual) are the Finbacks who are known for tall spouting. Lucky whale watchers will also see Humpbacks, Minkes, Sei Whales and North Atlantic Right Whales, which are one of the world's most endangered species and are known to mate in the bay. Other kinds of whales are known to drop in from time to time including the world's biggest animal, the Blue Whale. You can also see the occasional Basking Shark or Porpoise. The food is best during Summer.

Humpback migration in Hervey Ba

Hervey Bay calls itself the whale watching capital of the world, which may be an overstatement, but it is definitely one of the most popular whale watching spots. It's on the migration route for Humpbacks between the cold waters of the Antarctic and the warmer tropical waters off Queensland where they calve. Part of the spots popularity must be due to the calves and mums on their way home. Humpbacks are the whale world's most playful and most vocal, and this is one of a whale's most frisky times, so the frolicking, breaching and tail and fin slapping that people enjoy seeing happens here frequently. Humpbacks are also huge - the worlds fifth largest animal. I read statistics saying they're the size of twelve elephants. There are a lot of companies operating in this small area and the bay can be busy. The marine park is also home to dolphins, dugongs and sea turtles.

Whale watching in Tromso

This beautiful coastal region fringed with fjords, glaciers and arctic mountain scenery is a pristine whale watching setting. The ocean around Tromso is deep near the continental shelf, and the churning waters there create a breeding ground for whale food and herrings, which draws Humpbacks, Killer Whales, Minke, Orcas and Fin Whales. Regular operators have counted more than 600 Killer Whales in the waters around Lofoten and most pods travel in large groups, so you have a good chance of seeing twenty or more whales at a time. If you want to get close up, go with an operator with a zodiac. They're easy to manoeuvre, but you may get nudged around by a whale, so make sure they also provide waterproof suits. Whale watchers are also likely to come across dolphins, otters and seals. Top off your experience by seeing the truly magical Northern Lights in one of Norway's traditional west coast villages with wooden houses. If you stay in Tromso you can also visit the worlds most northern brewery.

Digby Neck's whale migration

Digby is a long narrow rocky peninsular on the tip of Canada, with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and a protected bay on the other, and is a great spot to watch the annual whale migrations. Many different types of whales pass along this coast and rest here to snack on the marine life teaming from the warmer waters of the bay. Digby Neck is on the route of minke, humpback, right, pilot and blue whales. Sea birds are also attracted to the peninsular by the abundance of food, and bird watchers will be impressed with the variety of bird life. The tides of Digby Neck's bay are some of the world's most dramatic, and when the icebergs on the bay have risen up higher than the level of the docks, it's a truly unique sight. Visitors brave the powerful swell through the mouth of the bay to the best whale watching spots on the tip of the peninsular or else take to the open seas to get up close to the whales. The best time to meet the whales at Digby Neck is between May and October when you will hopefully catch the boys at their most playful while they perform all kinds of leaping and splashing antics while trying to attract a mate.

Whale Sharks of Ningaloo Reef

Swim in clear, warm waters with the majestic, gentle giant, the Whale Shark. The Ningaloo Reef is one of the few places in the world where Whale Sharks regularly visit in large numbers. It is also close to the shore and shallow enough for people to snorkel safely. These spotted leviathans feed on the coral spawn which happens on mass during April and July, and aren't at all what you would anticipate from their name. Though up to 12 metres in length, Whale Sharks don't have the shark's signature sharp teeth and are generally good tempered around people. Other smaller and less friendly sharks are also common in the area, including the dangerous Tiger Shark and the well camouflaged, nocturnal Wobbegong.



Spend this summer at Krabi island

This summers, go explore the unexplored green beaches of Krabi, where serenity and peace welcomes you with arms wide open. Read on...

Perched in Southern Thailand, the Krabi Province is located on the coast of the Andaman Sea. This magical island boasts of its rich with flora fauna that make Krabi one of the most sought after destinations, especially by those who are looking out for romantic getaways. With over 154 small and big islands in its ambit, the sparkling blue and green waters of Krabi are also famous for activities like scuba diving, snorkelling, kayaking, rock climbing, and jungle treks.

The best time to visit Krabi is between the months November to April when the area's climate is less hot than usual. During this period the island gets a lot of dry winds, so giving dry blue skies and starry nights. Then, down on the beaches one can enjoy nice sea breezes. From June to November the area gets a lot of rainfall, more on average than the rest of the country. During this period the island gets a lot of moist winds, so giving a mixture of dry days and wet ones. The sea stays at a warm 29°C all year round. Visitors however, coming in this period will find it cheaper. Natasha Suri who recently visited Krabi with her hubby

Aseem, sharing her experience, says, "For our annual break, we as a couple wanted to go to a place which was both scenic and far from the crowds. And Krabi best fitted the description."

Located at a distance of 7-hour flight, Krabi is well connected with air links from Bangkok and Singapore. So if you are a business or leisure traveller to Singapore or Bangkok, a visit to Krabi will only be a good idea. Telling more about their trip to Krabi, Natasha shares, "We stayed at a luxury resort in Ko Phi Phi Leh and thoroughly enjoyed the sea view and limestone landscapes. And since the island is famous for water sports, scuba diving, kayaking and nature walk on a moonlit night, exhausted most of our time."

Krabi is also famous for its local cuisine. The place is a Mecca for sea food lovers and the cuisine albeit different is delicious. Krabi is also known for the famous Thai massages. "The best part about Krabi is that it a place you can enjoy both with friends and family. And be sure to find only the creme de la creme there.

Another big hit amongst most tourists here is the jungle safari which includes the elephant ride. While the highlight of Krabi can be easily mentioned as the bazaar area where they even sell some Indian food and trust us, it is as good as any dhaba in Punjab.

Hockey India announces HP Lubricants as partner for Men’s Asia Cup Rajgir

New Delhi, Aug 11 (UNI) : Ahead of the much-awaited Men’s Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025, where some of the best teams from the continent will battle it out for top honours; Hockey India today announced that HP Lubricants has joined as the High-Performance Partner.

The 12th edition of the prestigious tournament will commence from August 29 and culminate with a final on September 7 at the newly developed Rajgir Hockey Stadium, a world-class venue that highlights India’s commitment to sports infrastructure and Bihar’s growing status as a sporting destination.

This event comes on the heels of the successful Women’s Asian Champions Trophy 2024, where India claimed victory.

HP Lubricants, who are the High-Performance Partners of the Men’s Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025, are one of the pioneers in the Petroleum products business and have been among the most trusted Lubricant brands in the country. One to always support powerful performance, HP Lubricants vision of excellence strengthens the support systems at the Hero Men’s Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025. The Asia Cup 2025 will feature the top six teams from Asia, including hosts India, and two nations, who have qualified through the AHF Cup. With a direct spot at the 2026 FIH

Men’s Hockey World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands at stake, the tournament promises to produce some top-quality contests.

A spokesperson from HP Lubricants said, “We are thrilled to partner with Hockey India for the Hero Asia Cup. Just as HP Lubricants ensures smooth performance and reliability in engines across the nation, we are committed to fueling the dreams and aspirations of our hockey heroes.”

Speaking on the development, Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey said, “We are delighted to welcome HP Lubricants as the High-Performance Partner for the prestigious Hero Men’s Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025. HP Lubricants’ unwavering support and their vision for excellence will definitely help further spread the game, and we are confident that this partnership will stand the test of time.

Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh added, “We are elated to have HP Lubricants join as the High-Performance Partner for the Hero Men’s Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025. This partnership is a testament to the growing support for Indian hockey. With a world-class venue and strong institutional backing, we are confident that Hero Men’s Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025 will set new benchmarks for performance and organization.”

Bai Yulu survives scare at World Games as carom champion Jaspers bows out

Chengdu, Aug 11 (UNI) Women's Snooker world champion Bai Yulu secured a thrilling victory to advance to the semifinals of the Six-red Snooker event at the Chengdu World Games, while Dutch veteran Dick Jaspers was eliminated in the men's Carom Three Cushion group stage today.

The women's Six-red Snooker event features eight players divided into two groups, with the top two from each group advancing to the knockout stage.

In a morning match, Bai Yulu lost to Thailand's Ploychompoo Laokiatphong, who secured her spot in the knockout round by winning all three of her round-robin matches.

With Bai's previous opponent, Fong Wai Wai from Hong Kong, China already eliminated, the evening match became a direct showdown between Bai Yulu and Mongolia's Naran TUYA Bayarsaikhan for the second qualifying spot.

Bai won the first frame 45-10 after a tactical exchange. She then sealed a 2-0 victory by winning the second frame after Bayarsaikhan missed an aggressive shot, allowing Bai to capitalize with a break of 18 points.

"I was actually prepared to be eliminated before the match," Bai said. "I felt a bit tense in the previous two matches and couldn't find my relaxed state."

Despite the challenge presented by the Six-red and best-of-three-frames format, Bai said she must adjust her mindset for the semifinals.

"I won't forget some of the good shots and great performances I've had, and I won't start doubting myself because of a few mistakes."

In the men's Carom Three Cushion, the decorated Jaspers finished with two group stage losses, falling to American Pedro Piedrabuena and South Korean Heo Jung-han. "It's hard to accept because I have a long history in The World Games, but this is the reality of sport sometimes," said Jaspers, a 60-year-old professional of 35 years.

"Unfortunately, I couldn't make a bigger impact in my event, and my opponents were stronger this time." Despite his result, Jaspers was deeply impressed by his experience in Chengdu.

"The trip to get here was long and the weather is very hot, but the organization and accommodation are the best I have experienced in my seven World Games appearances. China has done an excellent job hosting," he said.



Former cricketers Mithali Raj and Yuvraj Singh during an event organised ahead of the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2025, in Mumbai. The tournament will begin on Sept. 30, 2025.

Yuvraj Singh gives golden advice for India before CWC25

Mumbai, Aug 11 (UNI) : With just 50 days remaining until India hosts the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2025, 2011 Men’s Cricket World Cup Player of the Tournament, Yuvraj Singh expressed confidence in the team’s chances. Reflecting on the special experience of playing a World Cup at home, Yuvraj stressed that while the occasion is significant, the key to success lies in the team staying true to their processes.

“I think the 50-over World Cup is the World Cup. It's happening in India, and I think everybody should be really excited about it. These moments don't come often in your life, I believe,” Yuvraj said at the '50 days to go' event held in Mumbai. “I feel it's a great opportunity to create history. But that doesn't mean that from the start, you think you're winning it. You have to experience the whole enigma of it. You have to feel that you put in

the process, and the results will come,” he said.

“I think the women's team lost a couple of finals. We've been there. And it's really important that you enjoy this moment. Be in the moment rather than thinking ahead,” Yuvraj said. “We were supporting the boys. Now, it's time to support the girls,” he said.

A home World Cup comes with added pressure, something that the former Indian southpaw knows plenty about. He had some golden advice for the players, who will play in front of the home crowd at the upcoming tournament.

“The fans are always wanting fours and sixes, or like wickets. That's the game. They come to watch. They want entertainment. They want to be entertained,” he added.

"But the point is that if you want to win the World Cup, you have to be in the situation where you were at, I think. There will be times where they're going to feel that pressure,” Yuvraj said. “There will be

times when things are not going to go well. And that's the time when the experience, the self-belief, has to take over. The belief that I can be the player in this moment. I think every time you walk in the game, you have to believe that,” he said. Former skipper Mithali Raj was also alongside Yuvraj in the discussion panel and shared her experience on how women's cricket has grown, right from her early years to reaching the final \\\2017 World Cup, where India ended up as the runners-up.

“Coming under BCCI was a huge thing in 2006. The infrastructure and domestic setup were all taken care of, by the financial angle. Because before that there was hardly any international cricket. Now the girls play regularly, which helps a lot to keep the momentum,” Mithali said.

"Coming under ICC was a big moment as well. I remember in the 2009 T20 World Cup, my father saw

me on TV for the first time. Because there wasn't much in the women's game before that. I wanted to say goodbye to the sport because I was struggling with an injury since 2005," she said. "But when it was televised live by the ICC. My father watched it, those who wanted to be involved saw it. And that helped me continue in the game," Mithali said. "I remember I was watching a Champions Trophy game between India and Pakistan in 2017, and I was packing, and suddenly the commentators said that this [2017 Women's] World Cup is the next big ICC event. And there was a promo, and the captain's faces were there with the logo. And that really struck me," she said. "So it wasn't one moment, it's been a journey, and it was good to have been a part of it," Mithali added. The Women's World Cup will kick off on September 30, with India featuring in the tournament opener against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru.

Belgium, Israel ju-jitsukas defend World Games Ne-Waza titles

Chengdu, Aug 11 (UNI) : Belgium's Florian Bayili and Israel's Nimrod Ryeder both successfully defended their World Games Ne-Waza titles, while France's Estelle Gaspard dominated the women's 52kg Fighting division in ju-jitsu today.

Bayili retained his 69kg Ne-Waza crown with a win over the UAE's Mohamed Ali Alsuwaidi, the 2024 world silver medalist, in a rematch of the 2022 Birmingham World Games final. "The feeling is amazing. Mohamed keeps pushing me like I'm pushing him, so I'm very happy to have this final against him again," said Bayili. Israel's Ryeder also secured back-

to-back golds in the men's 77kg Ne-Waza, defeating the UAE's Mahdi Alawlaqi. The victory extended Ryeder's unbeaten World Games record to eight matches since 2022. After two consecutive final defeats, the UAE claimed its first gold in Chengdu through Saeed Alkubaisi in the men's 85kg Ne-Waza.

The 2024 world bronze medalist overcame Portugal's Ramalho Pedro. In the newly established women's 52kg Fighting category, France's reigning world champion Estelle Gaspard defeated Italy's Antonella Farne. The two hugged tightly and cried after the match. "She's the

best. We are like sisters, Antonella and I, but we have to be opponents on the match," said Gaspard. "It's always special to fight against her." Germany's Sophie Buscher caused an upset in the women's 57kg Fighting, defeating two-time World Games medalist Rebekka Dahl of Denmark in the final after overcoming Dutch world champion Genevieve Bogers in the semifinal. Buscher paid tribute to the Danish legend afterwards.

"It's just amazing because Rebekka Dahl has always been my model when I was young.

I have never expected to defeat her in the final."

Canada, Mexico, China to host 2026-2027 Diving World Cup

Budapest, Aug 11 (UNI) : World Aquatics announced the host cities for the 2026 and 2027 editions of the World Aquatics Diving World Cup, which will kick off in Canada, Mexico and China.

The 2026 and 2027 World Aquatics Diving World Cup will feature three-stop events each year, including the Super Final, where athletes will compete at the highest level en route to the World Aquatics Championships scheduled for summer 2027

in Budapest, Hungary.

The three host cities and countries have a long history of staging major aquatics events and producing top divers.

Chen Yiwen, Olympic and world champion in the women's 3m springboard, expressed anticipation

to compete on home soil in front of the home crowds at China's National Aquatic Center.

Crystal Palace loses appeal over Europa League exclusion

London, Aug 11 (UNI) Crystal Palace has lost its appeal over the decision by UEFA to denote last season's FA Cup winners from this season's Europa League to the Conference League for a breach of UEFA's multi-club ownership rules. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled that Nottingham Forest takes the spot Palace earned after beating Manchester City in last season's FA Cup final, and it is a blow to the club that beat Liverpool on Sunday in the Community Shield. The problem stems from the fact that American businessman John Textor held 43 percent of Palace's shares until June of this year, while he is also a majority shareholder in Olympique Lyon, which

has also qualified for the Europa League. Palace claimed Textor no longer influenced the club, but missed a March deadline to show UEFA the club no longer had issues with multi-club ownership.

"Regulations are clear and do not provide flexibility to clubs that are non-compliant on the assessment date, as Palace claimed."

"Textor still had decisive influence over both clubs at the time of UEFA's assessment date," ruled CAS. The decision means Palace will now play either Norwegian side Fredrikstad or Midtjylland of Denmark in the Conference League play-off round later this month, while Nottingham Forest goes directly to the Europa League group stage.

Manush flows, Anusha glows with gold medals

Vadodara, Aug 11 (UNI) The city proved a lucky venue for Manush Shah of RBI and Anusha Kutumbale of the Railways. Manush bagged his second men's singles crown at this venue of the first UTT National Ranking

Table Tennis Championships, and Anusha travelled far to earn her maiden women's singles title at the SAMA Indoor Stadium here tonight

Top seed and national champion Manush, the elegant left-hander, picked up from where he left off in the semifinals, brushing aside 11th seed Ronit Bhanja of the Railways in straight games. Ronit, undone by Manush's sharp placements and effortless rhythm, could only watch as the RBI paddler dictated every rally.

In the women's singles final, few would have predicted No. 12 seed Anusha Kutumbale's commanding triumph over Swastika Ghosh, especially given the speed with which she sealed the gold. The Railways paddler had been in imperious form all day, having dismantled reigning national champion and top seed Diya Chitale in the semifinals with the same authority.

Against Swastika, Anusha wobbled early, conceding the opening game, but quickly switched gears. Her sharp game awareness, clean winners, and relentless pace gradually broke down Diya's resistance, just as they had undone Diya's usually reliable counters and topspin game.

With composure and precision, Anusha closed out the contest to lift her maiden National Rankingsingles title—a breakthrough moment in her career.

Manush Shah and Ronit Bhanja booked their places in the men's singles final with hard-fought and identical semi final wins (4-1) over Payas Jain and SFR Snehit, respectively. In the women's singles, Anusha and Swastika overcame Diya Chitale and Yashaswini Ghorpade to set up the title clash. Though it was comparatively easy for Anusha, Swastika was forced to drop two games by her rival.

In the Youth Boys' singles final, Assam's Priyanuj Bhattacharyya delivered a performance that reflected both maturity and hunger. Up against Maharashtra's Kushala Chopda, Priyanuj dictated terms from the outset, blending power with consistency to keep his opponent under constant pressure.

It was a far cry from his earlier, less assured outings in major finals, and the one-sided result was proof of his growth. By the end, there was little doubt that the title had gone to the player who had worked harder, thought smarter, and executed better under the spotlight.

In the U-19 girls final, Syndrela Das denied Divyanshi Bhowmick a dream finish, winning 4-2 in a gripping contest. After losing the opening game, the West Bengal paddler led 2-1, saw her opponent hit back, and then edged the sixth 13-11 to close out her second national title.

The U-19 boys' singles summit will feature Kushal Raut and Priyanuj Bhattacharyya after their straightforward victories. At the same time, Divyanshi Bhowmick and Syndrela Das advanced to the U-19 girls' singles final after battling through tense five-game encounters.

Ananya Muralidharan, despite leading 2-0, allowed Syndrela to claw her way back and wrap up the match, as did Divyanshi after trailing 0-2 against Ditsa Roy.

Printed, Published and Owned by
Mohammed Shafi

**Printed at KR Graphics,
2-3-703/8, Tirumala Nagar Colony, Amberpet,
Hyderabad - 500 013 and
Published from # 2-3-645/8/1,
Back Side of CPL Church, Prem Nagar,
Amberpet, Hyderabad-500 013**

Editor: Mohammed Shafi
R.N.I.No. : TELENG/2011/39668

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

Railways to run 2 special train services between Mumbai-Madgaon : CR

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Aug 11 : Railways will run 2 special train services between Mumbai-Madgaon to cater to long weekend rush of passengers as follows: 01501 Special will depart LTT Mumbai at 08.30 hrs on 18.08.2025(Monday) and will arrive Madgaon at 22.40 hrs same day. (1 trip) 01502 Special will depart Madgaon at 16.30 hrs on 17.08.2025(Sunday) and will arrive LTT Mumbai at 06.00 hrs next day. (1 trip) Halts: Thane, Panvel, Pen, Roha, Mangaon, Veer, Khed, Chiplun, Sangameshwar Road, Ratnagiri, Adavali, Vilavade, Rajapur Road,

Vaibhavwadi Road, Kankavali, Sindhudurg, Kudal, Sawantwadi Road, Thivim and Karmali. Composition: One AC-2 Tier, Three AC-3 Tier, Two AC-3 Tier Economy, 8 Sleeper Class, 4 General Second Class, 1 Generator Car and 1 Second Seating cum Guard's brake van.. Reservations: Bookings for Special Train no 01501 will open on 13.08.2025 at all computerised reservation centres and on website www.irctc.co.in as per details below: For detailed timings at halts of these special trains please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App

Recruitment for 1773 posts in Group C and D will be held in Thane Municipal Corporation

(Standard Post Bureau) Thane, Aug 11 : The process of filling up the vacant posts in Group-'C' and Group-'D' on Thane Municipal Corporation establishment through direct service entry has been started. A total of 1773 posts in administrative services, accounting services, technical services, fire services, education services, public health services, medical services, para-medical services etc. will be filled. Applications for these posts can be made online only from 12th August, 2025 to 02nd September, 2025. Its link has been made available on the Thane Municipal Corporation website www.thanecity.gov.in. This recruitment process has been organized as per the directions of Municipal Commissioner Saurabh Rao. It is necessary to have sufficient candidates for competitive competition in the recruitment process. Therefore, the advertisement regarding this recruitment has also been published in the media.

Online Application The period for applying for a total of 1773 posts in Group-'C' and Group-'D' is from 12th August, 2025 to 02nd September, 2025. Eligible and interested candidates who fulfill the educational qualifications and other requirements have to apply online on the official website of Thane Municipal Corporation www.thanecity.gov.in by 02nd September, 2025.

Recruitment for these posts (Total posts 1773) Assistant License Inspector, Clerk and Typist, Clerk Accounts, Junior Engineer - 1 (Civil), Junior Engineer - 1 (Mechanical / Auto), Junior Engineer - 1 (Electrical), Junior Engineer - 2, Pollution Inspector, Assistant Fire Station Officer, Driver-Engineer, Fireman, Speech Therapist (Jidd School), Psychiatrist (Jidd School), Nurse (Jidd School), Special Teacher (Osteopath), Sanitation Inspector, Dietician, Biomedical Engineer, Physiotherapist, Psychiatric Counselor, Public Health Nurse (PHN), Medical Social Worker, X-ray Technician, Nurse Midwife / Nurse / Staff Nurse, Mammography Technician, Endoscopy Technician, Audiometry Technician, Clinical Psychologist, C.T. Scan Technician, M. N. Technician, Ultra Sonography / C.T.Scan Technician, E.C.G Technician, Blood Bank Technical Supervisor, Blood Bank Technician, Speech Therapist, Child Psychologist, Prosthetic and Orthotic Technician, E.E.G. Technician, Medical Record Officer, Physicist, Curator of Museum, Pharmaceutical Officer, Occupational Therapist, Pulmonary Lab Technician, Ophthalmic Assistant, Deputy Librarian, Library Assistant, Artist, Assistant Librarian, Assistant X-Ray Technician, Multipurpose Worker, Statistician. Recruitment will be done for the posts of Audiovisual Technician, Assistant Laboratory Technician, Medical Record Keeper, Midwife, Junior Technician, Leprosy Assistant, Surgical Assistant, Ward Boy, Hospital Aya, Laboratory Attendant, Postmortem Attendant, Mortuary Attendant, Attendant, Barber etc.

Details available on the Municipal Corporation website Method of applying online / details Also, visit the official website of Thane Municipal Corporation to apply online. Also, details regarding the posts to be filled by category, details of the posts, pay scale, age limit / age relaxation, selection method, general instructions, terms and conditions, educational qualifications, social and parallel reservation as well as provisions regarding reservation, post-wise online examination fee, guidelines for filling applications etc. can be seen on the official website of Thane Municipal Corporation www.thanecity.gov.in. **Helpline Number** For inquiries regarding the advertisement, the helpline number 022-25415499 will be open on office working days from Monday to Friday from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm. Similarly, an email can also be sent to tmcrecruitment2025@gmail.com.

Regular Mock Drills Should be Conducted on Fire Safety Measures to Ensure Safety in Train Operations : Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, GM, SCR

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Aug 11 : Mr Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway conducted a detailed review meeting on Safety of train operations across the Zone today i.e., 11th August, 2025 at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad along with Shri Satya Prakash, Additional General Manager, SCR and Principal Heads of Departments. Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of all the six divisions viz., Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur, Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Nanded Divisions participated through video conference. While addressing the meeting, the General Manager instructed the officials to conduct regular



mock drills on fire safety measures to ensure safety in train operations. He instructed officials to adhere all the safety precautions while stabling the empty coaches in the stabling yards. He also instructed to ensure proper

closure of doors, removal of batteries and secure all the electrical accessories in the condemned coaches while stabling in the yards and strengthen the surveillance. He instructed the officials to prepare appropriate action plan to identify the

gaps and rectify them on priority basis to prevent fire incidents. Further he instructed DRMs to make an action plan for quick disposal of condemned coaches. Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava emphasized on

the safety of track, he instructed officials to conduct drives to cut the tree branches near the Over Head Equipment (OHE) in view of monsoons. He also instructed to intensify the drives to identify the water logging points near the

bridges, at ballast retaining walls and in-between tracks. Drainage system at vulnerable locations to be strengthened and it should be monitored regularly for proper flow of rain water, he added.

The General Manager also examined the safety action plans pertaining to different departments including Mechanical, Engineering, Electrical and Signal & Telecommunication and reviewed the availability of safety equipment such as fire extinguishers etc. While discussing on the crew working hours, he instructed officials to make thorough action plan focusing to provide proper rest to the on-duty crew at proper time and interval.

Joint teams for RPF and GRP crack high value theft cases, reassure public safety

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Aug 11 : In a major success, joint teams of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) have solved two high-value theft cases involving passenger belongings, reinforcing public confidence in railway security. The cases relate to the theft of approximately 11

tolas of gold ornaments worth around ₹3,93,000/- from passengers travelling on Train No. 11087 (Veraval-Pune) and Train No. 11049 (Ahmedabad-Kolhapur). Upon receiving the complaints, a dedicated joint task force was formed. Preliminary investigation identified members of the notorious Sansi gang as prime

suspects. The team conducted a detailed analysis of CCTV footage from Pune, Shivajinagar, Lonavala, and Miraj railway stations, which confirmed the gang's involvement. Through coordinated and persistent efforts, the joint team successfully recovered the entire stolen property and apprehended all accused persons. This operation was

executed with precision under the able guidance of IG/RPF, SrDSC/Pune, and SP Railways Pune.“ The RPF has appealed to passengers to remain vigilant and keep valuables, particularly gold ornaments, under close watch during their journey. Passenger alertness plays a crucial role in preventing such incidents and ensuring safe travel.

Repercussions on Trains Running through Solapur Division of Central Railway due to Doubling Work in Vijayapura-Bagalkot Section on Hubballi Division of SWR

(Standard Post Bureau) Solapur, Aug 11 : Railways is operating special traffic & power blocks for doubling work in Vijayapura-Bagalkot Section on Hubballi Division of South Western Railway. Due to which the trains running through Solapur Division of Central Railway will have repercussions as following: ELIMINATION of STOPPAGE at ALMATTI The following trains will not stop at Almati as per details below: - Train No 16535/16536

Mysuru -Pandharpur Golgumbaz Exp JCO 18/ 19.08.2025 to 22/23.08.2025 - Train No 11139/11140 CSMT Mumbai-Hosapete Exp JCO 18/19.08.2025 to 22/23.08.2025 - Train No 16218 Sainagar Shirdi-Mysuru Weekly Exp JCO 20.08.2025“- Train No 17324 Banaras-Hubballi Weekly Exp JCO 17.08.2025 S H O R T TERMINATIONS at VIJAYAPURA The following trains will short terminate at Vijayapura as per details below:

- Train No 17307/17308 Mysuru-Bagalkot Basava Exp JCO 13/14.08.2025 to 22/23.08.2025 - Train No 11139/11140 CSMT Mumbai-Hosapete Exp JCO 13/14.08.2025 to 22/23.08.2025 DIVERSIONS Train No 17319/17320 Hubballi-Hyderabad Exp JCO 15/16.08.2025 to 22.08.2025 will be diverted via Gadag-Hosapete-Ballari-Guntakal-Raichur-Yermaras-Chik sugar-Yadlapur-Krishna-Nalwar North-Wadi skipping stoppages between Hole Alur to Sahabad

CANCELLATIONS The following trains will remain cancelled as per details below: - Train No 11415/11416 Solapur-Hosapete JCO 14/ 15.08.2025 to 23/ 24.08.2025“- Train No 56906/56905 Hubballi-Solapur JCO 16/17.08.2025 to 23/24.08.2025“- Train No 56904/56903 Dharwad-Solapur JCO 16/17.08.2025 to 23/24.08.2025“ JCO - Journey Commencing On Passengers are requested to kindly note the repercussions and plan their travel accordingly.

Over 5 lakh youth volunteer for ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign

New Delhi, Aug 11 (UNI) More than five lakh youths have registered as volunteers for the Tiranga Campaign, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, announced today while unveiling the fourth edition of the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign. Addressing a press conference here, the Minister said the campaign seeks to inspire citizens nationwide to bring the Indian National Flag — the Tiranga — into their homes and hearts. “Har Ghar Tiranga is not merely a campaign; it is an emotional movement that unites 1.4 billion Indians under the timeless colours of our National Flag,” he stated. The initiative aims to instil patriotism, foster civic pride, and

raise awareness about the Tiranga’s significance as a living emblem of India’s democracy and hard-earned independence. The Ministry of Culture, serving as the nodal agency for the campaign, is working closely with various central ministries, State Governments, Union Territories, educational institutions, community organisations, and citizens to ensure widespread participation across the country, he added. Shekhawat urged citizens to hoist the Tiranga at their homes, offices, and public spaces, and to share their celebrations through photographs and stories on social media platforms using the hashtag #HarGharTiranga.

Nitish launches Rs 766.73 crore projects for Western Patna

Patna, Aug 11 (UNI) Bihar Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today laid the foundation stones for six major infrastructure projects worth Rs 766.73 crore for development of the Western region of Patna, primarily focusing on road expansion and connectivity, transformation traffic conditions, reduction of

congestion and to support the region’s rapid urban growth. While laying the foundation stones for the projects at various ceremonies held at AIIMS Golambar and near the Kothwan-Rupaspur Canal, Kumar said here that the development would directly benefit commuters and residents in one of Patna’s

fastest-growing corridors. “These projects will make travel across western Patna faster and easier, reduce traffic jams, and provide smoother links from Nehru Path through Patlipath to JP Setu and AIIMS,” the Chief Minister stated. The six projects foundation for which were laid include AIIMS

Golambar-Janipur-Panapur New Road (Two-lane widening and strengthening) at Rs 138.50 crore, flyover at Naubatpur Lakh on Naubatpur-Masaudhi Road at RS 73.06 crore, khagaul-Nehru Path four-lane upgrade via Ashok Raj Path-Rupaspur Canal Path at Rs 71.48 crore, connectivity link from Digha-AIIMS-

Patlipath to Nehru Path towards Danapur at Rs 143.86 crore, Nehru Path widening from Rupaspur Canal to Saguna turning with underground drainage at Rs 318.51 crore and widening and strengthening of Nehru Path to Gola Road at Rs 21.35 crore. During the function, Kumar emphasised that the

works will integrate with the Bihta-Sarmera Highway (NH-139), improving access for areas such as Phulwarisharif, AIIMS, Danapur, and Naubatpur. The Naubatpur flyover, he added, will eliminate chronic bottlenecks, easing travel for both residents and freight transporters heading towards Masaurhi, Bikram, and beyond.



Smt. Suchita Bhikane
Additional Collector and Executive
Director (HR) Mahatransco
date : 12/8/2025
Happy Birthday Madam

Mahavitaran's customers affected by failure in Mahatransco's power line“Kalyan

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Aug 11 : Mahavitaran's Padgha-Mohane 100 KV power line broke down between 10.30 am on Monday, 11.00 am and 10.30 am, causing about one lakh electricity customers of Mahavitaran to have to endure load management for eight hours. The wire in the tower of Mahatransco's Padgha-Mohane power line suddenly broke in the Galegaon area. As a result, one lakh electricity customers of Mahavitaran in Badlapur, Ambernath, Ulhasnagar were affected. The sudden power supply disruption put

pressure on the Mahavitaran system. The officials of Mahavitaran were overwhelmed to maintain smooth power supply. As a result, Mahavitaran had to carry out load management in the Badlapur, Ambernath, Ulhasnagar areas from 11.00 am. Finally, after the power supply of Mahatransco was restored around 6.15 pm, Mahavitaran gradually supplied power to electricity consumers in Ambernath, Ulhasnagar, Badlapur.“ Deputy Chief Public Relations Officer, “Konkan Regional Office, “Kalyan