

IN BRIEF

ANC busts international drug racket in Mumbai raid

Mumbai, Aug 12 (UNI) : The Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) of Mumbai Police arrested a Ghana national during a raid in Andheri East's Marol area, seizing cocaine valued at Rs 1.15 crore, an official confirmed today.

Henry Almoh (34) was apprehended late last night at a Vijaynagar residence following a tip-off about drug transactions at the location.

Officers confiscated 278.80 grams of cocaine along with expensive mobile phones and cash. Preliminary investigations reveal Almoh had resided in Mumbai for several months, allegedly supplying the contraband to local and high-profile party networks.

The MIDC police station team is now tracing the primary supplier behind this international smuggling operation. The raid was conducted after ANC received confidential intelligence about drug activities at the Vijaynagar property.

IMD issues yellow alert for Mumbai and Thane

Mumbai, Aug 12 (UNI) : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a yellow alert for Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and Ratnagiri districts between today and tomorrow. The weather bureau has maintained that Mumbai, along with its adjoining districts, will experience light to moderate rainfall along with thunderstorms and gusty winds.

A low-pressure area is expected to form over the Bay of Bengal today, which is likely to increase rainfall intensity across Konkan, Vidarbha, and Central Maharashtra. The monsoon, which has weakened in recent days, is now regaining strength and the IMD forecasts an escalation in rainfall between today and August 14. In Mumbai, low-lying areas such as Sion, Kurla, and Parel are at risk of waterlogging due to heavy downpours. The civic authorities have urged residents to plan travel carefully as local train and road traffic may be disrupted. Commuters have been advised to allow extra travel time and avoid flood-prone stretches where possible. No major disruption in traffic or local train services has been reported as of now.

Cabinet approves recruitment of 15,000 police personnel

Mumbai, Aug 12 (IANS) : The Maharashtra Cabinet, on Tuesday, gave its approval for the recruitment of 15,000 personnel in the state police force, officials said. For this, the Cabinet cleared the police constable recruitment process for the year 2024-25.

In this recruitment, candidates who have crossed the prescribed age limit of the relevant post in the years 2022 and 2023 will also be able to apply as a one-time special matter and participate in the recruitment

process, the government statement said. This recruitment will be done after reviewing the posts vacant in the state police force during the year 2024 and those falling vacant in 2025.

The recruitment process for Police Constable is implemented at the respective district level, for which an optical mark recognition-based written examination will be conducted.

The Cabinet also approved the granting of powers to the Additional

Director General of Police, Training and Special Teams Department to conduct the recruitment process, scrutinise the applications, process them, conduct the physical examination of the candidates and conduct the written examination of the qualified candidates.

The posts of constable cadre in the police force are very important for maintaining law and order in the state.

"If the posts remain vacant, the workload on the police increases. In order to

improve the situation in the police force and prisons, the High Court and the Supreme Court have also given directions from time to time that these posts should be filled in time. The elected representatives in and outside the State Legislature have demanded that these posts be filled up immediately," the government statement added. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis during the Monsoon session had told the State Legislature that a major recruitment drive

for the police department has been undertaken.

This initiative is part of a 150-day programme aimed at restructuring the department, updating rules, ensuring compassionate appointments, and identifying vacancies, the Chief Minister said.

He also added that the state government has already recruited 38,802 police personnel between 2022 and 2025. A proposal for recruiting an additional 13,560 police posts has also been submitted.



Union Minister Kiren Rijiju takes part in 'Har Ghar Tiranga' bike rally, organised ahead of Independence Day celebrations, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

PM exhorts youth to think beyond exploration for humanity's benefit

New Delhi, Aug 12 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today exhorted young scientists to think beyond exploration and focus on practical applications that can benefit everyday life, emphasising the intersection of space science and humanitarian impact. Addressing via video message the 18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics being held in Mumbai, the Prime Minister urged young explorers to consider how space science can further improve lives on Earth.

The conference is being attended by more than 300 high school students from nearly 64 countries. Organised by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), a division of the Tata Institute

of Fundamental Research, the event, which opened today, will continue till August 21.

Modi posed critical questions: "How can farmers be provided even better weather forecasts? Can we predict natural disasters? Can we monitor forest fires and melting glaciers? Can we build better communication for remote areas?"

The Prime Minister emphasised that the future of science lies in the hands of young minds, and in solving real-world problems with imagination and compassion.

Addressing the gathering, he said, "In India, tradition meets innovation, spirituality meets science, and curiosity meets creativity. For centuries, Indians have been

observing the skies and asking big questions".

In this connection, he cited the example of Aryabhata, who in the 5th Century invented zero and was the first to state that the Earth rotates on its axis. "Literally, he started from zero and made history!" the Prime Minister noted.

The Prime Minister stated that India proudly contributes to global mega-science projects like the Square Kilometre Array and LIGO-India. He recalled that two years ago, Chandrayaan-3 made history by becoming the first mission to successfully land near the Moon's South Pole and added that India has also set its sights on the Sun with the Aditya-L1 solar observatory, which monitors solar flares, storms, and the Sun's mood swings.

Govt schemes must be backed by social compassion for differently-abled: Dharmendra Pradhan

(Standard Post Bureau) Pune, Aug 12 : Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today emphasised that government policies for differently-abled individuals must be complemented by genuine social compassion for their true empowerment.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Manobal Centre of the Deepstambh Foundation at New Maharashtra Sadan, Pradhan highlighted the importance of both policies and societal attitudes.

He noted that while the National Education Policy (NEP) includes provisions for inclusion and accessibility, real equality will be achieved only when differently-abled, orphaned, transgender, and underprivileged individuals receive equal resources, respect, and opportunities.

Pradhan described the Manobal project as a "symbol of social commitment and a remarkable example of nation-building."

He stated that an empowered and inclusive India by 2047 is achievable if society works with similar dedication.

The project offers free

residential higher education and training to differently-abled, orphaned, transgender, and economically disadvantaged youth. After successful launches in Jalgaon and Pune, the initiative has now been extended to New Delhi.

Citing education sector data, Pradhan mentioned that of India's approximately 26.1 crore school-going children, 2.1 crore are differently-abled. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for popularising the term 'Divyang' to foster dignity and respect for these individuals.

The event was attended by Union Minister of State for Sports Raksha Khadse, Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Rajesh Aggarwal, newly nominated Rajya Sabha MP Adv. Ujjwal Nikam, BJP National Organisation Secretary V. Satish, former MP and ex-ICCR Director Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, former Foreign Secretary Dr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay, senior journalist Uday Nirgudkar, and Deepstambh Foundation's Founder-Director Yajurvendra Mahajan.



Bihar govt providing 125 units free electricity to consumers ..

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today announced that the state government has implemented its decision to provide up to 125 units of electricity free of cost every month to all domestic consumers. Speaking via a video conference at a statewide Bihar Vidut Upphokta Samvad (Bihar Electricity Consumers Dialogue), Kumar said that the initiative rolled out under the Mukhyamantri Vidut Upphokta Sahayata Yojana has already begun benefitting people. "Every domestic consumer in Bihar was now got up to 125 units of electricity free every month. (See on page 8)

Ten pc of Meghalaya population affected by drugs : Governor



Voicing concern over high prevalence of HIV, drug use and teenage pregnancy in Meghalaya, State Governor CH Vijayashankar today said ten percent of the population or around three lakh have been affected by drugs in the State. (See on page 2)

Naveen questions BJP silence on immolation cases in Odisha



BJD president and former Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik today expressed concern over what he described as a "heartbreaking pattern" of young girls in the state taking their lives by immolation. (See on page 4)

Goalkeeper Neto completes Botafogo move



Botafogo has completed the signing of former Barcelona goalkeeper Neto on a free transfer, the Brazilian Serie A club said. The 36-year-old agreed to a two-year deal after parting ways with Bournemouth by mutual consent. "I'm very happy to be part of this project and this gigantic club," Neto told reporters during his official presentation on Monday. (See on page 7)

Anti-vote rigging stir will be bigger than anti-Emergency movement, says Sanjay Raut

Mumbai, Aug 12 (UNI) : Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut said here today that the movement against "vote rigging" would be bigger than the 1975-77 anti-Emergency movement led by the late freedom fighter Jayaprakash Narayan.

"Modi, Shah, and Fadnavis came to power using deceit and lies. The Election Commission is not neutral but a thief. We have seen for the last 10 years that

the Election Commission has become a branch of the BJP. We are with Rahul Gandhi in the battle against the Election Commission, which has now begun. This movement will be bigger than the 1975-77 Jayaprakash Narayan movement," Raut told the media.

He highlighted that over 300 MPs had recently protested on the streets of Delhi for the protection of democracy. "The current

Election Commission should study how former Election Commissioner T N Seshan worked during his tenure and how he made people follow the model code of conduct," he said.

Raut claimed that the Election Commission's own website contains details of irregularities, which have been researched by Rahul Gandhi. "You consider Parliament as the highest temple of democracy, but people who came to power

by stealing and beating in the same temple are ruling us. The Election Commission of this country works as the handmaid of these thieves," he alleged.

He criticised the Delhi Police for stopping the MPs from marching to the Election Commission office. "Are we extremists or terrorists? If 300 MPs had stood before the Election Commission's office in Delhi and presented their stand, would the Election

Commission have got a heart attack? Who exactly is the Election Commission afraid of?" he asked. Raut accused the Election Commission of betraying its role as the guardian of democracy. "The present Election Commission is not a guardian, but a thief. The guardian has stepped into the role of a thief and is trying to eliminate the opposition parties with the help of thieves ruling us," he charged.

Solapur Division of Central Railway Organises Spirited Tiranga Yatra under "Har Ghar Tiranga" Campaign



(Standard Post Bureau) Solapur, Aug 12 : The Solapur Division of Central Railway organised a vibrant Tiranga Yatra from the DRM Office to Solapur Railway Station on 12th August 2025 under the Ministry of Railways' "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign. The Yatra aimed to inspire citizens to hoist and proudly display the National Flag at their homes, fostering a deep sense of patriotism and

promoting the ideals of unity and national integration. Participants waved the Tricolour with enthusiasm, filling the path of Yatra with an atmosphere of pride, joy and togetherness. The march was led by the Divisional Railway Manager along with the Additional Divisional Railway Manager of Solapur Division. The event witnessed the wholehearted

participation of divisional officers, railway employees, Railway Protection Force personnel and railway sports persons. The Tiranga Yatra not only celebrated the essence of freedom but also served as a platform to strengthen community solidarity through shared national pride — truly reflecting the message of "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign.

Three women foiled in suicide attempt outside Calcutta high court over voter list fears

Kolkata, Aug 12 (UNI) In a bizarre incident this afternoon, three women allegedly tried to set themselves on fire near one of the main entrances of the Calcutta High Court in central Kolkata, reportedly fearing that their names would be struck off the electoral rolls following the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists in West Bengal. Alert security personnel intervened just in time, detaining the women moments after one of them began pouring kerosene on herself with the help of the others. The trio — identified as Purnima Halder, Sutishna Sapui, and Bandana Nashkar, all residents under Bishnupur Police Station in South 24 Parganas — were immediately taken to the state-run S.S.K.M. Medical College and Hospital for a medical check-up.

According to police, Purnima Halder had doused herself in kerosene before officers stopped the attempt. Investigators are questioning the women to determine the motive behind their public protest. They reportedly claimed they had been informed their names would be deleted from the voters' list once the SIR process began — the claim police are treating with caution, as the revision drive has not yet started in the state. The incident comes amid political tensions over the ECI's planned voter list revision. The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has vowed to oppose the SIR exercise "tooth and nail."

Mukul Saran Mathur, GM, SWR, Conducts Inspection between Hubballi and Madgaon



(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Aug 12 : Mr Mukul Saran Mathur,

General Manager, South Western Railway, conducted a window

trailing inspection between Hubballi and Madgaon today to review

Ten pc of Meghalaya population affected by drugs : Governor

Shillong, Aug 12 (UNI) : Voicing concern over high prevalence of HIV, drug use and teenage pregnancy in Meghalaya, State Governor CH Vijayashankar today said ten percent of the population or around three lakh have been affected by drugs in the State. Speaking at the 8th Riti Academy annual award ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, Vijayashankar said the authorities fighting to tackle the growing drug

first try to stop the flow of drugs into the state. Vijayashankar said that the Raj Bhavan, a week ago, convened a meeting to discuss ways to tackle drug abuse in the state. "All stakeholders must work together to tackle this issue of drug abuse, which is a concern for everyone in the state," the Governor appealed. Vijayashankar also described the high prevalence of teenage pregnancy in the state as a "worrying trend".

According to the Meghalaya Governor, recently a doctor from NEIGRIHMS who came to meet him said that she had to attend to a 14-year-old pregnant girl. "She herself is a child. Teenage marriage should not be allowed at any cost," the Governor said. Coupled with teen pregnancy is the concern over high prevalence of HIV in the state, the Governor said. According to the state government there are over 10,000 individuals in the state who have tested positive. 9,421 such individuals are currently undergoing treatment, while 785 have declined to receive medical care.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Notice No. : eT-Central-WAT-30-2025, Dt. 05.08.2025

Name of the Work : EXECUTION OF P-WAY WORKS: (1) TRRP FOR A LENGTH OF 17.25 KM (IN PATCHES) AND (2) THROUGH TURNOUT RENEWAL (TFR)-117 SETS (1 IN 12) UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (ADEN)/ARAKU (ARK) IN KK-LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approx. cost of the Work : ₹ 2,43,63,015.10, EMD: ₹ 2,71,800.00.

(2) Notice No. : eT-Central-WAT-31-2025, Dt. 05.08.2025

Name of the Work : CRUSHING OF CONTRACTOR'S HARD STONE USING MECHANIZED CRUSHER TO 50MM GAUGE OF 20000 CU (AS PER SPECIFICATIONS), TRANSPORTING THE SAME TO GORAPUR STATION DEPOT, UNLOADING AND STACKING ON LEVEL GROUND INCLUDING DRESSING OF GROUND AND LOADING THE SAME INTO RAILWAY WAGONS AT GORAPUR STATION DEPOT ON KOTHAVALASA-KIRANDUL LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approx. cost of the Work : ₹ 3,24,19,200.00, EMD: ₹ 3,12,100.00.

(3) Notice No. : eT-Central-WAT-32-2025, Dt. 06.08.2025

Name of the Work : CONSTRUCTION OF LIMITED HEIGHT CROSSING NO. KK-20 AT KM.75/1 TO 75/2 IN BETWEEN BORRA - GUALLU (BGHU) & KARAKAVALLASA (KVLV) STATIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (ADEN)/ARAKU (ARK) ON KK-LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approx. cost of the Work : ₹ 8,86,85,014.25, EMD: ₹ 5,93,400.00.

Completion period of the work: 12 (Twelve) Months (for all sl. nos.).

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. on 29.08.2025 (for all sl. nos.).

No manual offers sent by post/courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), PR-465/Q/25-26 Waltair

वसई-विरार शहर महानगरपालिका प्रभाग समिती "सी" चंदनसार जाहीर नोटीस

वसई विरार शहर महानगरपालिका अधिनियम १९४९ चे अधिसूचीतील प्रकरण ८ मधील कलम १ (१) व १ (२) अन्वये व ४६९ च्या नुसार जाहीर नोटीस खालिल मालमत्तेच्या हस्तांतरणा संबंधित वसई विरार शहर महानगरपालिका विभागीय कार्यालय विरार येथे प्राप्त मालमत्ता प्रकरणपरत्वे नोटीसीनुसार सदर हस्तांतरण संदर्भाने हरकत अगर आक्षेप असल्यास ही नोटीस प्रसिध्द झाल्यापासून १५ दिवसांच्या आत हितसंबंधाच्या हरकतीच्या लेखी पुराव्यासह वसई विरार शहर महानगरपालिका विभागीय कार्यालयात लेखी स्वरूपात हरकत नोंदवावी. अन्यथा कर्तव्यसूचीच्या सोयीसाठी हस्तांतरण करून महानगरपालिका याबाबत नोंद घेतली जाईल.

अ. क्र.	दिनांक	अनुसूचित दोन/तीन मधील नोटीसीचा प्रकार	कर निर्धारण पुस्तकातील क्र.	मालमत्तेचे ठिकाण	मालमत्तेचे स्वरूप	ज्यांचे नावे मालमत्ता आहे त्यांचे म्हणजे मालमत्ता विकणाऱ्याचे नाव किंवा अभिहस्तांकन करत्याचे नाव	खरेदीखताचे किंवा अभिहस्तांकन करत्याचे नाव
१	३०/०७/२५	VR०१/५४२/७९	१	शिवम अपार्ट रूम नं. ४०४	निवासी	विशाल विजय कदम	मंगेश राजाराम राजत
२	१७/०७/२५	VR०३/८७/१९	३	हिलपार्क को ऑ हो सो ३ / सी - २०४	निवासी	एस. व्ही. तोंडवलकर	ज्योत्सना सुधाकर तोंडवलकर
३	१७/०७/२५	VR०३/९७/४	३	जिवदानी मेन रोड हिलपार्क को ऑ हो सो ३/सी-२०४	निवासी	सुधाकर व्ही. तोंडवलकर	ज्योत्सना सुधाकर तोंडवलकर
४	३१/०७/२५	VR०१/१९९/५७	१	साया इ गरीब नवाज अपार्ट बी विंग चौथा मजला राजा	निवासी	अब्दुल मजीद इद्रनिश खान	केवल प्रकाश फुलचंद जैसवार
५	३१/०७/२५	VR०१/७७०/१८४	१	सिध्दीविनायक अपार्टमेंट को. ऑप.हो.सो. गणपती	निवासी	बिल्डर्स	मजहर मोहम्मद शफिक चौधरी व अतहार चौधरी
६	३१/०७/२५	VR०१/७६४/३७	१	परमार्थ अपार्टमेंट ए विंग रामकंपाउंड चंदनसार रोड विरार	निवासी	अश्विनी अशोक लाखन	रीकी महेंद्र चव्हाण
७	३१/०७/२५	VR०१/८५०/४९	१	गोविंद नगर शांप नं बी. ०१गोपचरपाडा नारिंगी रोड	निवासी	शाहिन सलीम शेख	खालीकुनिशा मन्सुरी
८	३१/०७/२५	VR०४/१२/३९	४	अनंत दिप को. ऑ.हो.सो. प्रेमनगर समोर जिवदानी रोड	निवासी	अभय नाईक	अश्विनी अभय नाईक
९	३१/०७/२५	VR०१/३५०/२४	१	रामरस रूम नं -११ विजय नगर नारिंगी रोड	निवासी	अजय बक्तेरिया	धवल राजेश हिराणी
१०	३१/०७/२५	VR०५/७०८	५	डॅमजवळ फुलपाडा रोड	निवासी	मोहम्मद मंजूर घुरण मंजुरी	संतोष अशोक तिवारी
११	३१/०७/२५	VR०५/१०८२/९	५	जय भवानी चाल डॅम जवळ पापडखिंड	निवासी	राजकुमारी विद्याकांत त्रिपाठी	सुबोध विन्दा शर्मा
१२	३१/०७/२५	VR०५/११९८/२९	५	मातोश्री अपार्ट ए/४०२ फुलपाडा रोड	निवासी	सचिन शिवराम चव्हाण	प्रिवेल सहदेव नाईक
१३	३१/०७/२५	VR२२/१३५/३१	२२	मोरेश्वर नगर बि.नं.२ तळमजला बी- ०६	निवासी	सदानंद बाबाजी रासम	दर्शना सतिश सरफळे
१४	३१/०७/२५	VR०५/१५५०/३२	५	मंगलमुर्ती अपार्टमेंट बि.नं.३ रूम नं.२०९ गांधी	निवासी	स्मिता अशोक मंडलीक	प्रवीण सिंह
१५	३१/०७/२५	VR०५/१५२४/१०३	५	ममता अपार्टमेंट रूम नं. बी २२६ जिल्हा परिषद शाळेमागे	निवासी	प्रभात बालकृष्ण पेंडुरकर	सुजाता प्रभात पेंडुरकर
१६	३१/०७/२५	VR०५/१७०५/४५	५	एकता अपार्टमेंट एकता कंपाउंड सहकार नगर	निवासी	ताया रा रिंगे	पंढरीनाथ चंद्रकांत आरेकर
१७	३१/०७/२५	VR०५/१६४३/३०	५	मनिष अपार्टमेंट मामा पॅलेसजवळ फुलपाडा रोड	निवासी	बिना एस. झा	मनोहर विष्णु गोठणकर
१८	३१/०७/२५	VR०५/१६५९/५८	५	गोविंद विकास अपार्टमेंट बि. नं. ७ चौथा	निवासी	विनोद मारुती उमासरे	विनिता विनोद उमासरे
१९	३१/०७/२५	VR०५/१७२६/३०	५	मथुरा अपार्टमेंट जिवदानी क्रॉस रोड सहकार नगर	निवासी	जय श्री कंस्ट्रक्शन	राजेंद्र कुमार दास
२०	३१/०७/२५	VR०५/१७६६/१३	५	वृंदावन कॉम्प्लेक्स बि.नं. ०१ रूम नं. १०५ जिवदानी	निवासी	उगना डेव्हलपर्स	सीता कुमारी अजय साह

जा. क्र. वविशम/प्रससी/जाहि./१३१/२०२५
दि. १२/०८/२०२५

सही / -
(मिलिसन घोन्साल्विस)
सहा. आयुक्त
प्रभाग समिती "सी" चंदनसार
वसई-विरार शहर महानगरपालिका

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI

Advertising of expression or interest

Subject: Regarding filling up of vacant posts of multipurpose workers in category 'D' under the Public Health Department in R/North Ward through a voluntary organization on contractual basis.

For filling up the vacant posts in "D" category in the Public Health Department, Dispensaries, Office and Crematorium under the R/North Ward on contractual basis through voluntary organizations (excluding savings groups), only organizations having 1 year of experience in providing multipurpose workers on contractual basis in Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Dispensaries, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Office and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Crematorium should apply. Interested organizations, charitable organizations, non-governmental organizations and private organizations registered with the Provident Fund State and Employees' Insurance Scheme (the purpose of establishment of these organizations should be to provide employment to their members), etc. We are inviting applications from the organizations to prepare their eligibility list and select them on a lottery basis.

The application form can be obtained from the Public Health Department Office in R/North Ward from 13-08-2025 time 10:30 to 3:00. Interested organizations should contact the Public Health Department Office in R/North Ward for more details, application form and affidavit form. The last date for application of the organization is 28-08-2025 time 05:00.

Applications submitted after the specified office hours will not be considered.

PRO/1265/ADV/2025 - 26 Sd/-
Medical Officer of Health, R/N Ward

Avoid self medication.

STANDARD POST

Affordable housing – collateral damage for US tariffs?

The ongoing trade tensions between India and the United States post imposition of 50 per cent tariffs are only trade disruptions. If not negotiated into moderation, they will massively impact many critical, yet vulnerable sectors that drive India's affordable housing segment, according to a study report.

"The category of homes priced Rs 45 lakh or less was already hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and is still struggling to find any semblance of a firm ground. Trump's mercenary tariffs will snuff out even the dimmest ray of hope for this segment," said Dr Prashant Thakur, executive director, Research & Advisory, ANAROCK Group.

India's affordable housing segment is mainly driven by demand coming from the country's MSMEs and SMEs which, despite their relatively modest scale, are deeply integrated into India's export ecosystem. Their workforces are the primary clientele for affordable housing.

ANAROCK data finds that as of H1 2025, the sales share of affordable housing has dropped to mere 18 per cent or approximately 34,565 units of a total of 1.90 lakh units sold in the top 7 cities. The fact that affordable housing had an overall sales share of more than 38% in 2019 shows just how badly its momentum has faltered. The post-pandemic demand dip in this segment, which caters to approximately 17.76 pc of India's population of about 1.46 billion, clearly reflects the drop in supply of affordable housing. Its share of the total launches has plummeted from 40 pc in 2019 to just 12% in H1 2025.

MSMEs are a critical demographic of India's economic landscape. Among its top employment and export generators, they are India's economic backbone. According to government estimates, MSMEs currently contribute nearly 30% to India's GDP, and over 45 pc to its exports.

In exports, MSMEs have proliferated 228 pc in just the last four years -- from 52,849 in FY 2020-21 to 173,350 in FY 2024-25. Together, MSMEs and SMEs formally and informally employ over 260 million Indians, particularly in labour-intensive industries like textiles, engineering goods, auto components, gems and jewellery, and food processing. When it comes to India's growth story, editing out the SME/MSME chapter causes the entire narrative to collapse.

So far, the global economy presented a major opportunity to Indian MSMEs to seize new export markets, build global supply chains, and diversify revenue streams. The new tariff imposition, if it takes hold, puts a roadblock on what should be a no-limits speedway and a chakka jam on the affordable housing vehicle that drives the homeownership dreams of the largest lower quadrant of the Indian population. "Because of the disruption in this large workforce's future income thanks to the tariffs, affordable housing demand may very possibly derail and further impact sales in this highly income-sensitive segment," said Dr Thakur. "Concurrently, such a drop in demand will curtail launches by developers, who will have to contend with tighter working capital due to lower sales. As it is, they have been grappling with serious input cost inflation since the pandemic," said Dr Thakur.

Revolutionising Brain Tumour Treatment: The Role of Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery

(Standard Post Bureau)

Brain tumours, once considered rare and difficult to treat, are now being managed more effectively thanks to advanced medical technology. One of the most promising developments in recent years is minimally invasive neurosurgery. This cutting-edge approach is transforming the way as to how brain tumours are treated—making surgeries safer, more precise, and easier for patients to recover from.

Understanding Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery

Traditional brain surgery usually requires large incisions in the scalp and skull, which can lead to longer recovery times and a higher risk of complications. In contrast, minimally invasive neurosurgery uses small incisions, endoscopic tools, and advanced imaging both inside and outside the operation theatre, to access and remove the tumour with less disruption to healthy tissue.

This approach relies on the surgeon's expertise, enhanced by high-quality

visuals and instruments that allow for better planning, safer tumour removal, and improved patient outcomes.

Why Is This Approach a Game-Changer?

Enhanced Precision
Minimally invasive techniques allow surgeons to operate with extreme accuracy. This is especially important when removing tumours from delicate or critical areas of the brain where even a tiny micromillimeter error can impact speech, memory, or movement.

Smaller Incisions, Faster Recovery

Because the procedure involves smaller cuts, patients experience less pain, a lower risk of postoperative infection, and a shorter hospital stay. Most patients recover quickly and can return to their normal lives sooner than those who undergo conventional open surgery.

Reduced Complications
By minimising disruption to the surrounding brain or spine tissues and nerves, minimally invasive brain surgery helps reduce the risk of serious side effects like paralysis, speech



Dr. (Prof) Sumit Sinha, Principal Director & Unit Head, Neurosurgery, Spine Surgery, Robotic Surgery, Max Hospital, Dwarka

difficulties, or loss of cognitive function.

Real-Time Imaging and Navigation

During surgery, advanced imaging technologies like 3D navigation systems and

intraoperative MRI or CT scans help guide the neurosurgeon. These tools improve the accuracy of tumour removal and reduce the chances of leaving behind tumour tissue or damaging nearby healthy

brain structures.

Who Can Benefit?

Minimally invasive neurosurgery can be beneficial for a wide range of patients, including those with:

Benign (non-cancerous) brain tumours such as meningioma

Malignant (Cancerous) tumours like gliomas

Deep-seated or hard-to-reach tumours

Tumours located near vital areas controlling vision, movement, or speech

In certain cases, this technique may also be combined with awake brain surgery, where the patient remains conscious during the procedure to ensure brain functions are preserved while the tumour is removed.

Role in Improving Long-Term Outcomes

The primary goal of any brain tumour surgery is to remove as much of the tumour as safely possible while protecting brain function. Minimally invasive surgery plays a crucial role in achieving this goal.

Even when complete removal isn't possible,

surgeons can use these techniques to perform a maximum safe resection, reducing tumour burden and improving the success of follow-up treatments such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy. This leads to a better quality of life and potentially longer survival.

The Future of Brain Tumour Care

Minimally invasive neurosurgery marks a significant shift towards safer, more effective, and more personalised treatment for brain tumour patients. With constant advancements in imaging, surgical instruments, and post-operative care, this approach is expected to become the preferred standard in the years to come.

If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with a brain tumour, consider consulting a neurosurgeon trained in minimally invasive techniques.

Choosing the right surgical method at the right time can make a major difference in recovery and overall outcome.

Because when it comes to the brain, precision matters!!

IRCTC Launches "Uttar Bharat Devbhoomi Yatra" by Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train

(Standard Post Bureau)

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is proud to announce the launch of a special spiritual tourism initiative — "Uttar Bharat Devbhoomi Yatra" — under the Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train scheme. This meticulously curated tour promises an enriching experience covering key religious and historical destinations across North India. IRCTC, a Navratna PSU under Ministry of Railways, Government of India, is committed to promoting cultural, spiritual, and heritage tourism across the country. The "Uttar Bharat Devbhoomi Yatra" is another step towards providing affordable, comfortable, and secure spiritual tourism experiences to Indian citizens.

Tour: 4th October to 14th October

Spanning 10 nights and 11 days, this all-inclusive rail journey covers approximately 5000



kilometers, taking tourists on a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage that aligns with the Government of India's "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" and "Dekho Apna Desh" initiatives to promote domestic tourism.

Tour Itinerary Highlights
The tour will cover the following sacred destinations:

Haridwar & Rishikesh – Ganga Aarti and spiritual retreats
Amritsar – Golden

Temple and Wagah Border ceremony

Katra – Mata Vaishno Devi Darshan

Mathura & Vrindavan – Krishna Janmabhoomi and Bhakti sites

Agra – Visit to the iconic Taj Mahal
Departure and return are from Kolhapur, with convenient boarding and deboarding options at: Kolhapur, Miraj, Sangli, Karad, Satara, Pune, Lonavala, Karjat, Kalyan, Vasai Road, Vapi, Surat, and Vadodara.

The tourist train is equipped with modern LHB coaches, offering:

Accommodation in Sleeper Class (SL), 3AC, and 2AC

Onboard modern kitchen facilities

Enhanced safety with CCTV cameras and Security Guards in each coach

The train can accommodate up to 750 tourists, with the following fare structure:

Economy Class (Sleeper) – Rs 19,890/-

• Standard Class (3AC) – Rs 33,560/-

• Comfort Class (2AC) – Rs 44,460/-

All-Inclusive Tour Package

The package includes:

• AC/Non-AC hotel stays on sharing basis

• All meals (veg only) onboard and offboard

• Transfers and sightseeing in AC/Non-AC vehicles

• Travel insurance

• Services of experienced IRCTC Tour Managers

• Strict hygiene and safety measures throughout the journey

Bookings are open now on the IRCTC Tourism portal:

For more details one can visit IRCTC website:

<https://www.irctctourism.com> and booking is available online, on the web portal. For more information, one can contact on Mobile no. 8287931886 mail id "bgtmumbai@irctc.com"

Naveen questions BJP silence on immolation cases in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Aug 12 (UNI) BJD president and former Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik today expressed concern over what he described as a "heartbreaking pattern" of young girls in the state taking their lives by immolation.

Posting on his social media platform X, Patnaik wrote, "Deeply saddened, shocked, and anguished to learn that another girl from Gaisilat in Bargarh district has died after setting herself on fire. My condolences to the young girl's family, and my prayers are with them in this hour of grief. May God give them the strength to bear this irreparable loss."

He noted that four young girls have died in similar circumstances within just one month, calling the trend "deeply disturbing."

"It is heartbreaking that our daughters are dousing themselves with inflammable substances to end their lives. How long will the BJP Government wait to stop this tragic pattern?" Patnaik asked.

Accusing the government of inaction, he said, "The traumatic silence and inaction from the BJP government leave the daughters of Odisha more vulnerable."

Patnaik stressed that each life lost is not just a personal tragedy, but a reflection of a systemic failure.

"Each passing away of an innocent daughter carries a pain so unbearable that she sees no other way out but to end her life. These four deaths are not isolated incidents, many such girls die in the most tragic way possible after being subjected to crime every day.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Signs Renewal Agreement with Kamarajar Port

(Standard Post Bureau)

Reinforcing its commitment to Make-in-India and aimed at further strengthening India's role as a strategic automotive manufacturing hub, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has renewed its Wharfage Rate Agreement with Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL).

The renewed agreement was formalized by senior leadership from both entities at the Kamarajar Port, in the presence of key stakeholders from the shipping and automotive ecosystem.

The agreement marks a significant step in strengthening TKM's global supply chain and ensuring the continued



smooth export of Completely Built Units (CBUs) through KPL—the company's primary export gateway since 2012. This renewal further reflects TKM's focus on operational efficiency, strategic partnerships, and advancing India's role in global automotive manufacturing and trade.

Highlighting the

Strategic Collaboration
Since the commencement of exports in April 2012, TKM has been utilizing Kamarajar Port as its core logistics hub for international dispatches. Starting with the export of 247 units of the Toyota Etios series to South Africa, the company has steadily expanded its global reach with the

support of KPL's robust port infrastructure. Over the years, this collaboration has enabled TKM to deliver high-quality vehicles to a growing number of international markets.

Currently, TKM exports its Urban Cruiser Hyryder to 22 countries, including key markets such as South Africa, UAE, France, Egypt,

Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. Till date, over 180,000 CBUs have been shipped via KPL, underscoring the operational efficiency and trust built over the years.

Speaking on the occasion, Yoshinori Noritake, EVP & Chief Technical Officer Director, Toyota Kirloskar Motor stated, "Renewing the decade-long agreement with Kamarajar Port enables us to continue serving global markets from Indian soil with products of global quality. Over the years, KPL has become an integral part of our export operations and a trusted partner in our pursuit of manufacturing excellence and global supply chain efficiency

Home & Garden



Throw the best pool Parties!

Scorching summers, merciless sun, overactive sweat glands - this is the season where, no matter what the time, you wouldn't mind a quick dip in the pool.

Which is why pool parties are the best thing to do this season! More fun and interesting than normal shindigs, a time by the pool is relaxing, to say the least, which is why these intimate get-togethers are some of our socialites' favourites. "Pool parties are usually thrown for your close group of friends. And water has this amazing, relaxing quality about it. You don't even have to be in it. Just being around it has a calming effect on you. It just puts you in the mood to have a great time," says Asmita Marwa, who hosts such soirees at home. "I've thrown such get-togethers around the pool at home. I have an al-fresco dining by the pool, as well as a garden by the pool, so it is convenient," says the designer.

While for some it is relaxing, for others, it is about flaunting that bod that they worked so hard for! Says businessman Kishan Lohiya, who sports a six-pack, "I'm a fitness freak



and in this time when everyone is so obsessed with defined body, I like flaunting my six-pack. And I love pool parties because I can flaunt it there! It is the best place to be yourself, and of course, you back in the appreciation you get. Who doesn't like compliments?"

So if you plan to throw a pool party, here's what you need to do:

LET THE MUSIC PLAY

Have the right music. More often than not, it isn't given much thought. DJ Sharon says, "We belt out special genre Sunset beats or tech beats that helps people get into the mood to groove. Also, the new Bollywood music has a lot of pool-party worth songs - Lazy Lamhe, Aaj Blue Hai Paani, Do The Paani Wala Dance, etc."

BAR, AMUST

Set up a bar that seamlessly seems to be an extension of the pool. By this, we mean something for which your guests don't have to climb out of the pool and get themselves in good spirits.

Always have sun loungers for those who want to dry off.

Showers - it isn't very nice for guests to get in, or out of the pool, without showering first.

Keeping an eye out for your guests is a good idea - someone who has had one drink too many or who is trying to push in another unwilling guest into the pool needs immediate attention.

PARTY WITH BARBEQUE

Pool parties are usually paired with barbecued food - their smaller portions and no-crumble feature makes them a favourite.

ALL FOR THE KIDS

Make sure you have made arrangements for games - pop-coloured inflatable balls, board games etc. Specify if kids are allowed. If they are, make sure they have a separate kiddie side.

FLOATS IS A GOOD IDEA

Getting floats is a good idea for those who want to enjoy but not get wet, or can't swim.

A plant in your Garden that eats Mosquitoes?

Having a moneyplant or a cactus in your verandah is so predictable. More and more Mumbaikars are waking up to a more exciting — if bizarre — gardening option. Welcome to the world of carnivorous plants, which you've probably read about in school. Now, nurseries in the city are selling them by the dozen to enthusiastic gardeners. They need little care, have to be watered from time to time and can catch their own prey for food. So, how's that for a hassle-free pet? Non-boring plants:

City-based MBA student Riddhi Purohit was never much into plants that her mother keeps. When she travels, Riddhi has to look after them. It's a chore she used to hate till her mother finally got a pitcher plant. "I have kept it in my living room, and my cousins and friends spend hours looking at the plant devouring mosquitoes. It's a lot of fun!" she exclaims.

Shaan Lalwani, who breeds and sells these plants out of his nursery, says he has seen a spurt in the number of people looking for these exotic plants. "I've been keeping these plants for years. But in the past few years, because of social media platforms, a lot of young people are being drawn into gardening. And they want cool plants like the Venus flytrap, pitcher plant and Dutchman's pipe that look cool. And for a beginner, what could be better than a plant that you can see catching its prey?" continued on page

Butterwort

Care: They prefer a humid environment, hence an indoor space with shade and mild sunlight is ideal

Hunting mechanism: They secrete mucus on their leaves and trap small insects
Cost: ₹800 to ₹1,500
Pitcher

Plant

Care:

Hardy plants, they need to be watered regularly and kept out of very harsh sunlight

Hunting mechanism: They have a trapping mechanism with which they lure insects inside the pitcher, which contains digestive enzymes to consume the prey

Cost: ₹800 to ₹1,500

Venus Flytrap

Care: Minimum. Just place it in a tray of water and

water it additionally every day.

Hunting mechanism: Whenever a fly triggers the tiny hairs, the wide fleshy leaves snap shut, trapping the fly.

Cost: ₹800 to ₹1,500

Usability

Another reason for the popularity of these plants is the fact that they tend to attract bugs and mosquitoes and as result, keep your home naturally pest-free. Dr Rushabh Parikh, who owns six of these plants, remembers that he

More and more Mumbaikars are waking up to the option of keeping carnivorous plants in their homes.



I got one out of curiosity — he had read about these plants in his biology class. "I never thought I could get one of these, but when I was buying some plants and inquired at the nursery about interesting plants, they offered me the beautiful Venus flytrap and pitcher plant," he says about the plants that now adorn his window sill.

Care

Caring for carnivorous plants is easy. Eshan Bhardwaj, who runs a nursery and sends plants by mail order, says these are robust plants and even when he sends them via mail to customers in different cities, they last for at least five days. Lalwani feels the same. "While these plants may seem delicate, all they need is adequate water and light, and they will thrive." He cites the example of the Dutchman's pipe. "If you have a bungalow, you can just plant them around the lawns and walls. They will climb like a vine and reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home."

Sarasenia

Care: Needs a humid environment as it is found in coastal regions.

Hunting mechanism: It has a translucent overleaf and the edge of the pitcher produces nectar to lure prey. It also has fine hairs that form the trap for the insect.

Cost: ₹800 to ₹1,500

Dutchman's Pipe

Care: They are a vine and require minimal care.

Hunting mechanism:

Its huge flowers resemble pitcher plants and attract prey that it uses to pollinate and prey on.

Cost: ₹800 to ₹1,500

Customized songs as gifts are a hit among people

Abhijeet Jain, owner of a website that customises songs, said, "Unlike mashups or remixes, what we do is entirely different. The song we create for people is completely customised with their names and messages in it. We work on the lyrics, background score and flow of the song and mail the song to the customers within 24 hours."

Many people opt for special songs during festive celebrations, especially during the Ganpati celebrations. Every mandal wants their own song and some like the Vetil Talim Mandal, Khandoba Talim, Patakadil Talim,

Juna Budhwar, Dayavan, Hindvi, Dilbahar, Balgopal Talim etc have started a trend of playing customized mandal songs every year during the immersion procession.

While many might think that the popularity of the songs is restricted to those who order for them, these songs are getting instant hits in the colleges and are shared on social networking sites as well. DJ Heefaj, who customizes these 'mandal songs', informed, "The demand for customised songs is increasing day by day. Even smaller groups demand for such songs."

Depending on the number of minutes for which

Who won't love to hear a song that is specially customized and gifted to someone by their special one? For Kolhapuris, the trend of gifting a special song that has the name of the person you are gifting it to (in the lyrics) is fast catching up. Be it a birthday, anniversary, wedding or even a festive celebration, these customised songs have taken the city by storm.

the song will be played, the charges of customisation vary. "A three minute song costs around ₹5000 whereas a five minute scripted song costs around ₹12000-15000," said Praveen Aiwale, another person who customizes songs.



Brighten up your home with coloured Bottles

Don't stick to bottles of just one size — instead go for differently sized, shaped and coloured bottles. Preferably, go in for transparent bottles since they tend to give a better effect.

- If you want a bottle in a particular colour and can't seem to find it, worry not. Use watercolours to paint the bottle in the shade you want. This way, you can ensure that they match with the decor. Visit your local florist and pick up small indoor plants that would fit in your bottles.

- Placing three or more bottles of different sizes (and colours) with assorted plants on your centre table will give your room just the right dash of colour.

- Have a lot of alcohol bottles lying empty at

home? Instead of using them to store water, get a little creative and use them as decor items. Select ones with unique shapes and colours and place them at different spots in your house. You could either use them as vases for flowers or even keep your plants in them.

- Put tiny fairy lights inside a coloured bottle and see how well it works as a decorative lamp. You could even hang this on your balcony. Alternatively, you could place a candle either inside or behind the bottle to make it glow.

- Ever noticed huge glass jars in restaurants filled with pulses, fruits and vegetables being used as decorative items? Why not try something similar at home too? Take a glass bottle with a wide neck,



Who says you can use bottles only to store liquids? Get creative and use them as unique decor elements in your home.

add any vegetable that you like and fill the bottle with vinegar. Shut the cap tight and you're done! Your kitchen is an ideal place where this would fit.- Don't want to use coloured bottles as plant holders? Simply add coloured water, sand or even shells and pebbles to give it a different and vibrant look.

Odisha Hosts the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze

(Standard Post Bureau)

Bhubaneswar, Aug 12 : Odisha, the rising powerhouse of Indian athletics, is set to script history by hosting India's first-ever World Athletics Global Meet, a defining moment that marks the state's emergence on the global sports map. The prestigious event World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze, is scheduled to be held at the iconic Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, on 10th August 2025, in collaboration with World Athletics and the Athletics Federation of India. The event will bring together more than 200 elite athletes from 19 countries, turning Odisha into the epicenter of international athletics.

This milestone reaffirms Odisha's reputation as India's premier destination for athletics and international sporting events. Over the years, the state has invested heavily in world-class sports infrastructure, athlete development, and international collaborations earning praise from athletes, federations, and global observers.

Athletes and officials from India, Great Britain, Portugal, Australia, South Africa, Iraq, Iran, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Algeria, Turkmenistan, and others, will converge in Bhubaneswar for the tour. The meet will feature thrilling competitions across track and field disciplines, showcasing elite performances and international camaraderie.

The event will not only give Indian athletes an opportunity to compete against world-class talent



at home but will also serve as a qualifying platform for upcoming international championships, further enhancing its strategic importance.

Odisha's journey to this landmark began in 2017, when it hosted the Asian Athletics Championships, welcoming athletes from 45 nations. That pivotal event marked the beginning of a bold and sustained effort to position Odisha as India's athletics powerhouse. Since then, the state has successfully hosted marquee competitions such as the Federation Cup,

Indian Grand Prix, National Inter-State Championships, and several junior national meets building both credibility and momentum.

At the heart of this transformation lies the Kalinga Stadium, continually upgraded to international standards. With an IAAF-certified synthetic track, international-grade facilities, and athlete-centric amenities, it has become the nerve center of India's athletics revolution. Beyond Bhubaneswar, the state has also invested in district- and block-level

athletic stadiums, ensuring that grassroots talent can train close to home.

Odisha's success extends far beyond infrastructure. Its athlete-first model ensures a holistic approach from High Performance Centres for elite training to grassroots scouting that discovers raw talent in tribal and rural regions. For many youngsters, stepping onto a synthetic track was once a distant dream; today, they are national medalists and international contenders. The state supports its athletes with

world-class coaching, financial assistance, nutritional programs, and secure government jobs for medal winners, making sports a sustainable career path.

Under the visionary leadership of the Government of Odisha, sports have become a key driver of youth engagement and global outreach. The Department of Sports and Youth Services (DSYS) has been instrumental in building grassroots sports ecosystems and nurturing athletic talent across

districts. Hosting a global meet under the banner of World Athletics is not only a reward for these efforts but also a recognition of Odisha's credibility and commitment.

"Hosting the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze in Odisha for the first time is a matter of immense pride. We are fully prepared to organise it successfully," said Shri Suryabanshi Suraj, Hon'ble Sports Minister of Odisha.

The World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze is more than just a competition; it is a defining moment in Odisha's sporting journey. For young athletes, it offers a once-in-a-lifetime chance to witness world-class talent up close, igniting dreams and aspirations. For India, it signals a growing presence in the global athletics arena.

As the world turns its eyes to Bhubaneswar this August, the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze Meet will stand as a celebration of sportsmanship, state pride, and international unity setting a gold standard for future sporting events in India.

YSRCP urges SEC to curb lawlessness in ZPTC by-polls

Vijayawada, Aug 12 (UNI) A delegation of YSRCP leaders met the State Election Commission (SEC) here on Monday and demanded immediate intervention to halt what they described as "unprecedented subversion of democracy" in the ongoing ZPTC by-elections in Pulivendula and Vontimitta.

The delegation comprised MLCs Lella Appi Reddy, Mondithoka Arun Kumar, Kalpalatha Reddy, former Ministers Pemi Venkataramaiah (Nani), Velampalli Srinivas, Jogi Ramesh, former MLAs Malladi Vishnu and Hafeez Khan, Vijayawada Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi, Deputy Mayors Avuthu Shailaja and Narayanamurthy, along with other party leaders.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, the leaders stated that the ruling TDP-led alliance, aided by compromised official machinery, was resorting to intimidation, mass distribution of cash, and targeted attacks on YSRCP workers to forcibly secure victory in former Chief Minister Y.S. adding that Pulivendula is the home constituency of the Ex-CM. They accused the police and revenue departments of acting as silent spectators, enabling large-scale electoral malpractice.

Former Minister Pemi Venkataramaiah (Nani) detailed how TDP leaders were coercing voters by confiscating voter slips distributed by election authorities and offering Rs. 10,000 per vote. Villagers who resisted were threatened, assaulted, and falsely implicated in criminal cases.

"In some villages, police presence is heavy, but those intimidating voters are left untouched. While officials claim to have deployed shadow teams and flying squads, the cash-for-votes network operates openly," he said. Pemi Nani further stated that half of the cash sent by Chandrababu Naidu was being pocketed by local TDP leaders. The YSRCP delegation demanded that the SEC ensure immediate redistribution of voter lists and slips, initiate public microphone announcements, set up helplines, and act on complaints against intimidation and bribery. They also sought the withdrawal of bind-over cases against YSRCP polling agents and condemned the unprecedented shifting of a polling booth from one village to another, calling it a "mockery of democracy."

The leaders demanded that the SEC deploy CCTV cameras inside and outside every polling station and strictly enforce its orders on the ground. They warned that despite the ruling alliance's misuse of power, the people's mandate would decisively favour YSRCP wherever free and fair elections were held.

KVB opens new branch in Kurnool in AP

Kurnool, Aug 12 (UNI) : Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) expanded its branch network with the inauguration of a new branch today in Kurnool, Nandyal Check Post.

The branch was inaugurated by P Viswanath, Municipal Commissioner, Kurnool along with Dr. S Savitri, Professor & HOD, Kurnool Medical College.

On this occasion, an ATM was also inaugurated on branch premises by Dr. KV Subba Reddy, Chairman & Professor of English, Dr. KV Subba Reddy Institute of Technology.

The new branch will offer a comprehensive range of banking services like accounts, deposits and loans including savings and current accounts and it will cater to all basic banking transactions and specific needs of customers, offering the entire spectrum of banking products and financial services covering Retail, Institutional and Consumer lending.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh Babu, Managing Director & CEO, Karur Vysya Bank, said: "Our branch expansion is part of a strategic initiative to strengthen our presence in potential markets and bring our services closer to customers. At KVB, we are continuously working to enhance our service delivery through a combination of physical branches and digital platforms.

SIT files additional charge sheet

Vijayawada, Aug 12 (IANS) : Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the liquor scam that allegedly occurred during the YSRCP regime, filed additional charge sheet on Monday. The 200-page charge sheet was filed in ACB court here. In this charge sheet, the SIT is learnt to have focused on the role of three accused - K. Dhanunjay Reddy, Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office; Krishna Mohan Reddy, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to then Chief Minister; director of Bharati Cements Balaji Govindappa. They are listed as accused number 31, 32 and 33 respectively.

Investigations with regard to cash transfers by the accused including Rs. 11 crore seized recently near Hyderabad also reportedly figure in the additional charge sheet. The SIT also highlighted the links of the three accused with the prime accused Kasireddy Rajashekar Reddy, former IT Adviser to former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

The latest charge sheet also reportedly highlights the modus operandi to send cash to the ultimate beneficiary.

The SIT had preliminary charge sheet on July 19. It had charges against nine companies and seven individuals.

A total of 19 companies and 29 individuals have so far

been named as accused.

The SIT has so far arrested 12 accused including YSRCP MP Peddireddy Midhun Reddy. The arrested accused are Kasireddy (A1), Buneti Chanakya (A8), Pyla Dileep (A30), Sajjala Sridhar Reddy (A6), K. Dhanunjay Reddy (A31), P. Krishnamohan Reddy (A32), Govindappa Balaji (A33), Venkatesh Naidu (A34), Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy (A38), Peddireddy Midhun Reddy (A4), Balaji Kumar Yadav (A35) and E. Naveen Krishna.

The SIT is continuing the investigation in the case. A third charge sheet is likely to be filed later.

The SIT had stated in the first charge sheet that the accused formed a syndicate to collect commissions or kickbacks from the distillery companies. They allegedly collected about Rs 3,500 crore from 2019 to 2024. The charge sheet also stated that YSRCP president former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, was one of the recipients of the kickbacks. Though Jagan Mohan Reddy's name figures in the 305-page charge sheet, he was not named as accused in the case. According to SIT, the syndicate members gave purchase orders to the companies which agreed to their demand to pay commissions, suppressed the regular and popular brands,

promoted new liquor brands, coerced the company managements to pay commissions, opened government retail outlets, and maintained a manual system as per their convenience to collect huge amounts.

SIT alleged that an average of Rs 50 to 60 crore was collected every month from distilleries and routed through a network of aides and shell companies. According to the charge sheet, the liquor policy was designed by the YSRCP government to exert full control over alcohol distribution, allowing accused officials to extract hefty commissions. Majority portion of such kickbacks was received in cash, gold or bullion.

Orissa High Court upholds lower court's life imprisonment sentence to six convicts

Bhubaneswar, Aug 12 (UNI) The Orissa High Court has upheld life imprisonment awarded to six convicts by a lower court in Kendrapara district around 27 years ago for committing broad daylight murder of two neighbours for failure on their part to repay a paltry Rs 1,000 loan.

While nine persons from Indupur village had tied two fellow villagers with ropes and assaulted them with crowbar, spear and sharp weapons during morning hours on June 19, 1996. While one of them

Low-pressure area likely over Bay of Bengal around Aug 13: Met Centre

Amaravati, Aug 12 (UNI) : A low-pressure area is likely to form over the northwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal around August 13, the Meteorological Centre said today.

In its daily weather report, the Met Centre said the upper air cyclonic circulation over north Coastal Andhra Pradesh and adjoining Telangana, between 3.1 km and 5.8 km above mean sea level and tilting southwards with height, persisted. The cyclonic circulation over north interior Karnataka and neighbouring areas, between 4.5 km and 5.8 km above mean sea level, has become less marked. Heavy to very heavy rain is likely at isolated places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and Rayalaseema on August 13, 14, and 15. Heavy rain is also expected at isolated places in north Coastal Andhra Pradesh over the next seven days, and in south Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema over the next five days.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and strong winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph are likely at isolated places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and Rayalaseema during the next five days. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are expected at many to most places in these regions over the next week. During the last 24 hours, heavy to very heavy rainfall was recorded in Nandyal district, while heavy rainfall occurred in Chittoor, Kurnool, and Sri Sathya Sai districts. Rainfall was reported at a few places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, and at most places in Rayalaseema, the report added.

NABARD-APGVB signs MoU on extending loans for shrimp cultivation

Vijayawada, Aug 11 (UNI) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the Andhra Pradesh Gravel Bank (APGB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Aqua Exchange Agritech private limited to extend loans to the aquaculture sector here today.

Under this agreement, a special loan model involving the use of IoT devices for shrimp farmers will be implemented as a pilot project.

NABARD Deputy Managing Director Dr. AK Sood was the chief guest at the event. NABARD Andhra Pradesh Regional Office Chief General Manager (CGM) MR Gopal, Head Office CGMs Manikumar, Dr. AV Bhavani Shankar, APGB Chairman Pramod Kumar Reddy, Renu Nair, General Manager, Union Bank of India and Aqua Exchange CEO Pawan Krishna Kosaraju were also present.

This partnership will bring shrimp farmers into the formal credit system at low interest rates, reducing their reliance on informal loans. With the use of IoT devices, aspects such as

water quality, feed consumption, and disease control can be monitored instantly. This will also help to increase productivity, reduce risks, and contribute to technology-based sustainable aquaculture.

Speaking on the occasion, the officials explained that there is a need to coordinate the use of technology and institutional support to further expand the potential of Andhra Pradesh's aquaculture sector, which holds a key position in Indian shrimp exports.

The officials revealed that if the pilot project is successful, it has the potential to be scaled up as a sustainable aquaculture financing model across the state. During the event, loan sanction documents worth Rs 1.25 crore were handed over to five shrimp farmers and IoT devices were also distributed.

Reflecting its unwavering commitment to rural development, NABARD has sanctioned a grant of Rs 346.27 lakh for a tribal development project in 10 villages of Buttaygudem and Polavaram mandals of Eluru district.

died on the way to hospital, the other victim later died during hospitalization. The fault of the deceased person was that they failed to repay Rs 1,000 borrowed from the accused persons.

The case in hand depicts a painful and distressing event of double murder committed in front of the relatives on the village street just in connection with non-payment of paltry loan amount of Rs.1,000.

The Division Bench of the High Court quoting Shakespeare's play Hamlet

emphasized the potential negative consequences of both lending and borrowing money, particularly in the context of relationships in the 64-page judgment. The Additional Sessions Judge, Kendrapara had found them guilty of committing the horrifying crime and sentenced them to under life imprisonment on September 22.

After leading a prisoner's life of 12 years in jail, the convicts were released on bail on March 18, 2010.

'Swachhata Abhiyan' being observed over Western Railway with Great Enthusiasm

WR promotes cleanliness and environmental conservation through Shramdaan and Tree Plantation drive



Glimpses of various activities being carried out under "Swachhata Abhiyan", campaign across Mumbai Central Division of Western Railway.

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 12 : Indian Railways is observing "Swachhata Abhiyan", as part of the ongoing Independence Day celebrations of our nation, and also to reaffirm its commitment to the national cause of cleanliness and public hygiene. This campaign is being observed in two phases, i.e. from 1st to 15th August, 2025 followed by 16th Aug to 31st Oct, 2025. The campaign covers our endeavor towards cleanliness in all spheres of Railway functioning i.e. stations, trains, colonies, offices, depots, and workshops etc, while also promoting awareness among staff and passengers. Western

Railway is also actively partaking in this "Swachhata Abhiyan" and is being observed across all its divisions and units with great enthusiasm.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, Mumbai Central Division of Western Railway is also celebrating the Swachhata Abhiyan with participation of railway employees, their family members as well as local communities. Nukkad Natak and Swachhata rallies, etc. are being organized at several locations with active participation from employees and public volunteers. Workshops on

sanitation and station upkeep are being conducted at railway stations, railway colonies and offices. Similarly, special workshops and training programmes are also being conducted for staff who have direct interaction with the public. These programmes help staff learn best cleanliness practices and improve customer service. A Street Play was performed by railway Scouts & Guides team at the Divisional Railway Manager's office motivating the railway employees highlighting the importance of cleanliness, as well as to adopt better hygiene practices in their routine lifestyle.

Shri Vineet further

informed that Shramdaan and intensive cleanliness drives, are being conducted across various stations, railway colonies, and office premises of Mumbai Central Division. During the campaign period, approx. 2000 meters of drains near the railway tracks were cleaned, ensuring better hygiene. Awareness campaigns focusing on the importance of environmental protection are being held at various locations.

These campaigns helped spread knowledge on sustainable waste management and protection of natural resources. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Division conducted anti-littering drives at key stations,

urging passengers to dispose of waste responsibly and keep public spaces clean. In line with its commitment to environmental sustainability, the Coach Care Centre at Mumbai Central conducted an awareness campaign on the use of Bio-Toilets. A team of railway staff engaged with passengers at Mumbai Central Station, educating them on the benefits of using Bio-Toilets and how they contribute to better sanitation and waste management. Further, in order to encourage people to pledge their commitment to cleanliness, Swachhata Hastakshar (signature campaigns) are being organized. Awareness drives for catering staff and inspections are also being carried out at food establishments, pantry cars and base kitchens. Passengers are motivated to use Plastic Bottle Crusher Machines to reduce plastic waste as well as proper disposal of waste in dustbins only. As part of green initiatives, Tree Plantation drives are also being organized at different locations.

Western Railway's active participation in the Swachhata Drive during the Independence Day Celebration Week underlines its continued commitment to cleanliness, sustainability, and public engagement.

9 lakh 80 thousand customers availed 93 crores benefit in the last one year by making prompt payment

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 12 : Mahavitaran always tries to provide better and convenient services to its customers through various schemes. As a part of this, prompt payment facility has been provided. Many customers are taking advantage of this scheme but there are still some customers who are not aware of this scheme. Chief Engineer, Bhandup Circle, Mr. Sanjay Patil has appealed to the customers to pay their bills early to avail this scheme. In this, if the customers pay the bill within seven days from the due date, they will get 1% discount on the electricity bill. A total of 9 lakh 80 thousand electricity customers in Bhandup

Circle have collectively saved a whopping Rs 93 crore 19 lakh in the last one year by taking advantage of the 1% discount given for prompt payment. The deadline for prompt payment is clearly indicated on the bills and customers can make payments using multiple options including Mahavitaran's official mobile app, website, credit and debit cards, UPI, BHIM, internet banking and mobile wallets. Customers who do not pay their bills on time are charged a late fee of 1.25%. In the Bhandup Circle, 2 lakh 73 thousand customers have had to pay a late fee of Rs 20 crore 48 lakh in the last one year due to non-payment of bills by the due date. In addition,

customers using this digital payment method can get an additional discount of 0.25% (limit Rs. 500). Moreover, to reduce the use of paper, customers who accept bills electronically under Mahavitaran's "Go-Green" initiative are given a discount of Rs. 10. "Consumers have an opportunity to save money by paying their bills on time. Mahavitaran is also offering additional discounts for online payments and through the Go-Green initiative. However, all customers should take advantage of this scheme and promote eco-friendly practices," appealed to the electricity consumers, Chief Engineer of Bhandup Circle, Mr. Sanjay Patil.

IRCTC will organize "Dakshin Darshan Yatra with 02 Jyotirlinga" through Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 12 : Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train is being operated for the pilgrims of Madhya Pradesh through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC). Which will leave from Rewa city on 21.08.2025 for "Dakshin Darshan Yatra with 02 Jyotirlinga". This train will go via Rewa, Satna, Maihar, Katni, Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Itarsi, Betul, Nagpur and Sevagram stations of Madhya Pradesh, from where passengers will be able to board this train. In this 10 nights / 11 days journey, sightseeing places of Tirupati, Rameswaram, Madurai, Kanyakumari and Mallikarjuna will be shown. For this, passengers will have to pay just Rs. 20,800/- per person (SL - Economy Class), Rs. 35,000/- per person (3AC - Standard Class) and Rs. 46,500/- per person (2AC - Comfort



Class).

Dr. A.K. Singh, PRO, IRCTC, while giving information said that this is an all-inclusive tour package, which includes comfortable rail travel in special LHB rake of Bharat Gaurav train, on-board and off-board meals, road transport and sightseeing in quality buses, accommodation as per itinerary, tour escorts in the journey, travel insurance, on-board security and housekeeping service.

Shri Rajendra Vorawan, Joint General Manager Tourism IRCTC Bhopal said that interested tourists can

also book it online on IRCTC website www.irctctourism.com and from authorized agents. For more information and booking in this regard, you can contact IRCTC Bhopal, Jabalpur and Indore Railway Station Office on the following phone numbers:- Bhopal - 9321901862, 9321901861, 9321901866, 7021090644, 8287931723 Jabalpur - 9910617464, 7021091459, 9321901832, 8287931723 Indore - 0731 - 2522200, 9321901865, 8287931624, 8287931711, 8287931729 Nagpur - 7021092912, 8287931723

Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, GM, SCR Inspects Train Set Maintenance Depot, Moula-Ali

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 12 : Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway conducted a detailed inspection of Train Set Maintenance Depot, Moula-Ali today. He was accompanied by Shri Lokesh Vishnoi, Divisional Railway Manager, Hyderabad Division and other senior officials throughout the inspection.

Mr Sanjay Kumar Srivastava reviewed the inspection and maintenance schedules of Vande Bharat trains, MMTS and EMUs being undertaken at the depot. He conducted a detailed inspection of the Vande Bharat train and closely reviewed the on-going maintenance activity. The



Mr Sanjay Kumar Srivastava reviewed the inspection and maintenance schedules of Vande Bharat trains, MMTS and EMUs being undertaken at the depot.

General Manager also inspected other facilities at the depot, including the PIT Wheel Lathe and the Flash Butt Welding Plant, assessing the operational efficiency. Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava interacted with the staff members and advised them to maintain high standards of safety and efficiency. The General Manager planted sapling towards promotion of green environment and discussed on further developmental plans with the officials.

IRCTC Launches Japan's Alpine Wonders and Heritage

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 12 : IRCTC Launches Japan's Alpine Wonders & Heritage" Tour Package Ex-Mumbai - 10-Days Curated Journey into the Heart of Japan's Culture and Alpine Beauty "The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), a 'Navratna' PSU under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India, is delighted to announce the launch of its latest international tour package — "Japan's Alpine Wonders & Heritage" Ex-Mumbai. This exclusive 10-day itinerary offers travelers an immersive experience into Japan's



majestic alpine landscapes and its rich cultural legacy.

Tour Details:

Duration: 9 Nights / 10 Days

Departure: 5th October 2025 | Return: 14th October 2025 "Route: Mumbai - Tokyo - Mt. Fuji - Hakone - Alpine Route - Toyama - Hiroshima - Osaka - Kyoto - Tokyo - Mumbai.

Tariff Per Person is ₹3,29,700/- (on Double/Triple occupancy basis) "Shri Gaurav Jha, Group General Manager IRCTC West Zone Mumbai said that

This thoughtfully designed tour connects modern cities, ancient temples, scenic mountains, and spiritual landmarks — from the vibrant streets of Tokyo and Osaka to the serene beauty of Mt. Fuji, Kyoto's timeless shrines,



and the iconic Hiroshima Peace Memorial.

Package Inclusions: Round-trip international flight (Mumbai-Tokyo-Mumbai) Quality hotel accommodation, Local sightseeing via AC coaches, Daily breakfasts and Indian dinners, All entrance fees and travel insurance and Services of experienced IRCTC tour escorts.

This journey promises an unforgettable experience across Japan's stunning alpine terrain and cultural heartlands, including the legendary Alpine Route, Osaka Castle, Kyoto temples, and more.

IRCTC remains committed to promoting international tourism by offering Indian travelers unique, high-quality, and enriching travel experiences.

Bihar govt providing 125 units free electricity to consumers: CM, Nish Kumar

Patna, Aug 12 (UNI) :

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today announced that the state government has implemented its decision to provide up to 125 units of electricity free of cost every month to all domestic consumers.

Speaking via a video conference at a statewide Bihar Vidyut Upphokta Samvad (Bihar Electricity Consumers Dialogue), Kumar said that the initiative rolled out under the Mukhyamantri Vidyut Upphokta Sahayata Yojana has already begun benefiting people. "Every domestic consumer in Bihar was now got up to 125 units of electricity free every month. This step has brought great happiness among people," he remarked.

The interactive session brought together consumers from all

districts, and women participants from Supaul, Nalanda, Muzaffarpur, and Gaya districts who directly presented their feedback to the Chief Minister.

Kumar remembered the dark power scenario when he became the chief minister in November 2005, stating that "even in Patna, electricity was available for barely seven or eight hours a day." His government, he said, made large-scale reforms, raising the energy budget substantially, raising supply, and electrifying every village and hamlet.

Under the seven-related programmes, the Har Ghar Bijli (Electricity for Every Home) mission was completed in October 2018, two months ahead of schedule. Since then, even newly developed localities have been connected to the grid.

Highlighting the financial challenge, Kumar said, "the government spends heavily on buying power but has always provided it to people at rates far below cost." With the July billing cycle, the free electricity scheme has started benefitting 1.89 crore domestic consumers across Bihar.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the government's commitment to the renewable energy. Solar plants have been installed on the rooftops of all government buildings, and soon, willing households will also be supported in adopting solar power.

Kumar said that he was confident that this new initiative will significantly ease the burden on consumers, and assured he would continue working for public welfare.