

IN BRIEF

CM Fadnavis reacts to acquittal of Malegaon bomb blast case accused

Mumbai July 31 (UNI) Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis today reacted after all accused in Malegaon bomb blasts were acquitted.

Fadnavis said that some political figures had tried to label the Malegaon bomb blast as an act of "saffron terrorism" and attempted to link the accused with the Hindu religion.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis responded to them in a single sentence. After the acquittal of the accused in the Malegaon blast case, Fadnavis tweeted, sending a clear message to everyone. In a single line, he said, "Saffron terrorism never existed, does not exist now, and will never exist in the future."

This was his first reaction to the verdict.

Malegaon is a city in Nashik district with a large Muslim population. The blasts occurred on September 29, 2008. It was the time of Ramadan and the Navratri festival. At 9:35 p.m., a bomb exploded at Bhikku Chowk in Malegan. Six people died on the spot, and many more were injured.

Massive fraud unearthed at Shani Shingnapur temple

Pune July 31 (UNI) A major financial scam has come to light at the famous Shani Shingnapur temple, involving illegal collection of crores of rupees under the pretext of donations, rituals, and offerings.

Police investigations revealed that two temple employees received illicit funds directly into their bank accounts.

The five mobile apps and websites were allegedly collecting online payments from devotees for donations, poojas, oil offerings, and other rituals without official permission of the temple trust.

The money collected through these unauthorized platforms was systematically deposited in small amounts into the accounts of the two employees," said police.

It is estimated that over Rs 1 crore was funneled into the bank accounts of the accused individuals.

NIA court acquits all seven accused in Malegaon blast case

Mumbai, July 31 (UNI) In a landmark verdict concluding a 17-year legal saga, a Special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Mumbai today acquitted all seven accused in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case.

The acquitted include former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur and retired Indian Army officer Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit.

Presiding Judge A.K. Lahoti delivered the verdict, emphatically stating that punishment cannot be founded on mere suspicion.

The court found the application of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) unjustified and declared all evidence presented by the prosecution unreliable, ultimately honouring the acquittal of all accused.

The judgment cast significant doubt on the performance of the investigating agencies involved over the years.

The case stemmed from a devastating explosion on September 29, 2008. An improvised explosive device (IED) attached to a motorcycle detonated at Bhiku Chowk (also referenced as Bhakko Chowk) in Malegaon, Maharashtra, during evening prayers (Isha) in the



Lt Col Prasad Purohit, who was an accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, interacts with the media, in Mumbai on Thursday

holy month of Ramzan.

The blast, occurring on the eve of Navratri, killed six people and injured 101, causing extensive property damage estimated at Rs. 4,23,500. Malegaon, a powerloom town with a significant Muslim population located about 200 km from Mumbai, was targeted in what investigators alleged was an attempt to inflame communal tensions.

The Azadnagar police registered an FIR the following day, September 30. The investigation was swiftly taken over by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), led by the late Hemant Karkare.

The ATS arrested twelve

individuals, including Sadhvi Pragya, Lt. Col. Purohit, retired Major Ramesh Upadhyay, Sameer Kulkarni, Ajay Rahirkar (spelled Rahekar in initial list), Sudhakar Dhar Dwivedi, Rakesh Dhawade (spelled Dhaode), Sudhakar Chaturvedi (spelled Onkar Chaturvedi in initial list), Jagdish Mhatre (spelled Mahatre), Shiv Narayan Kalsangra, Shyam Sahu (spelled Shahu), and Praveen Takkalki (spelled Takli).

The ATS filed its chargesheet on January 20, 2009, alleging the accused were part of the Hindu extremist group "Abhinav Bharat," founded by Lt. Col. Purohit.

Those who spoke of 'saffron terrorism' must publicly apologise: Dy CM

Mumbai, July 31 (UNI) Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde today said that in the Malegaon bomb blast case, Congress deliberately framed seven Hindus, including Colonel Purohit and Sadhvi Pragya, and harassed them for as long as 17 years.

Congress, which engaged in vote-bank politics by branding it as "saffron terrorism," should now issue a public apology to Hindus, said Shinde.

With the NIA court giving its verdict during the day, the stain on Hindus has been wiped clean. The slogan "Say with pride, we are Hindus" will now echo across the country a hundred times louder, Shinde said.

After the NIA court acquitted all accused in the case, the Deputy Chief Minister accused the Congress of indulging in "anti-Hindu politics".

He said after a 17-year battle, all seven individuals accused in the case were acquitted by the special court. "Justice was delayed, but the truth is never defeated—this has been proven once again, Shinde stated.

The group purportedly aimed to establish a "Hindu Rashtra" and planned attacks on Muslim-majority areas as "revenge." The case was transferred to the NIA in April 2011.

The NIA's investigation diverged markedly, culminating in a supplementary charge sheet in May 2016 that gave a "clean chit" to Sadhvi Pragya Thakur and five others, citing flaws in the ATS probe including questionable use of MCOCA, allegations of torture to extract confessions, lack of direct evidence linking Thakur to the blast motorcycle (claimed to be in possession of absconding accused

Congress asks whether govt will challenge Malegaon verdict in SC

Mumbai, July 31 (UNI) Stating that his party has always stood firmly against terrorism, the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) chief Harshvardhan Sapkal today asked whether the state government would challenge the Malegaon bomb blast verdict in the Supreme Court.

Hours after the Special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court here acquitted all seven accused in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case, Sapkal emphasised that terrorism has no religion or colour and a terrorist must be punished.

Speaking to reporters at state Congress headquarters Tilak Bhavan here, Sapkal pointed out that the state government has decided to approach the apex judiciary over the Mumbai railway blasts verdict/ "The question is whether it will also do the same in the Malegaon bomb blast verdict," he said.

Recalling the sacrifices of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, Sapkal said his

Ramchandra Kalsangra), and alleged evidence planting.

Despite the NIA's stance, the special court refused to discharge Thakur and six others. Charges were formally framed against seven accused on December 27, 2017 (after three were discharged and two cases transferred to Pune and Thane).

While charges under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) were dropped, the court retained charges under UAPA Sections 16 (committing terrorist act) and 18 (conspiring to commit terrorist act), and various IPC sections including 120(b) (criminal conspiracy), 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 324 (voluntarily causing hurt), and 153(a) (promoting enmity between religious groups). Regular hearings commenced on October 30, 2018.

The trial was arduous. The prosecution presented a vast amount of material: 10,842 documents, 405 exhibits, and testimonies from 323 witnesses (25 out of a total listed 495 died before testifying). However, a significant number (estimated between 34-37) turned hostile, primarily concerning meetings and evidence related to Lt. Col. Purohit, retracting earlier statements and alleging coercion by the ATS.



Piyush Goyal trashes Trump's India "dead economy" statement

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal today trashed US President Donald Trump's description of India as a "dead economy" and said that in less than a decade, India came out of 'Fragile Five' becoming the fastest-growing economy of the world. Making a suo motu statement in both Houses of Parliament, Piyush Goyal said "On the basis of the hard work of reforms, farmers, MSMEs and industrialists, we have come in the top five economies of the world from the 11th largest economy". The Minister expressed confidence that in a few years, India would b

(See on page 2)

Trump announces "Massive" oil partnership with Pak



The United States and Pakistan have reached a new agreement aimed at reducing tariffs for Islamabad and launching a joint effort to develop Pakistan's untapped oil reserves, officials from both countries confirmed. US President Donald Trump announced the deal in a post on his Truth Social platform, stating that his administration had finalized a new trade framework with Pakistan.

(See on page 5)

Grand welcome for Divya Deshmukh in Nagpur



Young chess prodigy, Divya Deshmukh, who recently became the FIDE Women's World Chess Cup 2025 Champion in Batumi, Georgia, received a grand welcome in Nagpur. The celebration began at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport, where Divya arrived to an grand reception.

(See on page 7)

PM Modi, UAE President reaffirm commitment to ...



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken to UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, with both leaders reaffirming their commitment to further strengthen the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership, an official statement said today.

(See on page 8)

On the Occasion of upcoming Ganeshotsav; Appeal for environmentally friendly Ganeshotsav and use of artificial lakes



(By Rajesh Undi)
Bhiwandi, Julu 31 : Joint meeting of Administrator and Commissioner with Ganesh Mandal, Police Department and various agencies on the occasion of upcoming Ganeshotsav - Appeal for environmentally friendly Ganeshotsav and use of artificial lakes

Ganeshotsav festival will be celebrated from 27/ 08/2025 to 06/09/2025. For this, a joint meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Administrator and Commissioner Shri. Anmol Sagar (B.P.S.) with the officers of the Police Department, officers of the Torrent Department, Chairman and members of the Public Ganeshotsav Mahamandal, Bhiwandi and the officers of the concerned departments of the Municipal Corporation. In this meeting, the Chairman of the Public Ganeshotsav Mahamandal, Madan Bhoi and the members mentioned various matters in the meeting and requested to complete them before Ganeshotsav. These mainly include repair of the road on the Ganesh arrival and immersion route, repair of

the Ganesh immersion ghat, pond, safety insurance for lifeguards on the immersion ghat, giving proper remuneration and good food to the lifeguards on the immersion ghat, immediately issuing the necessary permits to the mandals, making electricity arrangements on the Ganesh arrival and immersion route, removing encroachments on the Ganesh arrival and immersion route, and providing rafts, cranes, lifters as per the demand of the Ganesh mandal on the immersion ghat.”

On behalf of the police department, Assistant Commissioner of Police Mr. Sachin Sangle informed about the action being taken by the department regarding law and order. He also appealed to the police to cooperate in celebrating Ganeshotsav peacefully and harmoniously.”

After that, Hon. Administrator and Commissioner Mr. Anmol Sagar while guiding the attendees said that the demands made by us will definitely be fulfilled through the Municipal Corporation and the police system. We have also started the road

work on the Ganesh arrival and immersion route and have deployed route officers at every place and the administration will be paying full attention to it. The work of repairing the immersion ghats is also underway, we will spray potassium permanganate in Varhaldevi Lake 10 days before Ganeshotsav to clean the water. It was also informed that the garbage of the immersion ghats will be collected daily and sprayed with disinfectant and deodorant there, arrangements of Nirmalya Kalash at all the immersion ghats and near the artificial lakes, and that care will be taken to ensure that the power supply in the city is not interrupted during the Ganeshotsav period. He also appealed to Ganesh devotees to use as many artificial lakes as possible for Ganapati immersion. The Commissioner stated that artificial lakes will be made available at various places for this.

At the same time, instructions have been given to all the Ganesh Mandals in the city that

they should celebrate Ganeshotsav in an environmentally friendly manner. Thermocol and plastic bags should not be used in the 20 to 30 meter area of the pavilion. Garbage from the pavilion will be collected daily and disinfectant and deodorant will be sprayed there through the Municipal Corporation.

A d d i t i o n a l Commissioner Vitthal Dake, Sixth Police Commissioner Bhiwandi East Sachin Sangle, Chairman of the Public Ganeshotsav Mahamandal Shri. Madan Bhoi and members of the Mahamandal, Deputy Commissioner (Headquarters) Vikram Darade, Deputy Commissioner (Tax) Balkrishna Kshirsagar, City Engineer Jamil Patel, Bhiwandi Transport Department Ananta Wagh, Senior Police Inspector and Municipal Corporation officers were present in the meeting.

An appeal was made by the Hon'ble Administrator and Commissioner to celebrate this year's Ganeshotsav in an environmentally friendly manner and cooperate with the Municipal Corporation and the police forces.

Glory ceremony held by Zilla Parishad on the occasion of service of District Collector Ashok Shingare

(By Rajesh Undi)
Thane, Julu 31 : A glory ceremony was organized by Zilla Parishad Thane on the occasion of the service of District Collector and District Magistrate, Thane Ashok Shingare at the Zilla Parishad Office, Thane. Officers, Heads of Departments and employees of Zilla Parishad were present in this program and expressed their warm feelings and gratitude.

At the beginning of the program, Ashok Shingare and his wife Smita Shingare were welcomed by Rohan Ghuge, Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad, and Chhayadevi Shisode, Project Director of District Rural Development System.”

After this, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Avinash Fadtare presented the introduction of the program and expressed his gratitude for the leadership, effective policy implementation and overall administrative efficiency of the District Collector during his tenure in Thane district.

On this occasion, a special video and photo presentation tracking the remarkable work in various areas of administration in Thane district was made, which showcased various important schemes, initiatives and active participation during the tenure of District Collector Shingare.

On this occasion, Chief Executive Officer Rohan Ghuge expressed his gratitude for the



valuable cooperation and guidance provided by the District Collector to all the officers and employees while working in the administration in a very emotional manner and expressed his best wishes for the future.

After this, in the emotional session on behalf of various officers of the Zilla Parishad, Project Director Chhayadevi Shisode, Additional Chief Executive Officer Ajinkya Pawar, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Gram Panchayat) Pramod Kale, as well as various department heads

expressed their feelings and appreciated the cooperative, guiding and inspiring leadership of the District Collector. After this, the Chief Executive Officer felicitated District Collector Ashok Shingare with a memento. “While expressing his feelings, Ashok Shingare highlighted his service experiences. He emotionally mentioned the close relationship he had with Thane district and expressed special gratitude to all the colleagues, officers and employees of the Zilla Parishad.

He mentioned that it

was only because of the cooperation given by everyone in the progress of the district that the government work could be carried out effectively.

At the end of the program, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Gram Panchayat) Pramod Kale thanked the dignitaries and attendees.

This ceremony gave the Zilla Parishad an opportunity to bid a respectful farewell to the service of a dutiful, far-sighted and people-oriented administrative officer. Officers and employees of the Zilla Parishad were present on this occasion.

WESTERN RAILWAY

Notice Inviting Applications

Invitation of applications for authorization of Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK) over Mumbai Division, Western Railway

No. C550/17/YTSK/July-2025

Date: 29.07.2025

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Western Railway, Mumbai Central invites sealed applications in English/ Hindi for and on behalf of the President of India from person who have completed 18 years of age & are authorized ticketing agents so appointed by Railways including JTBS, RTSA, RTA and agents appointed by IRCTC and are having two years of experience, for establishment & operation of Computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) cum Unreserved Ticket System (UTS) terminals (called as “Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK)” over Mumbai Division, Western Railway for issue of reserved/ unreserved rail tickets through Computerised reserved/ Unreserved Ticketing system. Interested applicants fulfilling the laid down conditions as may be prescribed from time to time; for a period of three years enclosing required APPLICATION FEE OF Rs.1,000/- along with application document, without which application will be summarily rejected”. The application forms can be downloaded from the Railways website wr.indianrailways.gov.in The cost of Application document downloaded from Internet should be submitted in the form of Demand Drafts for Rs.1000/- drawn in favour of “Chief Cashier, Western Railway, Churchgate” payable at Mumbai, along with application document, without which application will be summarily rejected”

The non-transferable application document containing detailed Terms & Conditions can also be purchased from the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Mumbai Central on payment of Rs.1,000/- as cost of application form as mentioned , at any Station Manager’s office of Western Railway, Mumbai Division & by producing the original money receipt.

Note: Rs. 500/- per tender form will be charged extra if tender form is required through registered post. Application for same should be made at least 15 days in advance.

Applications invited for authorization for establishment of “**Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK)**” over Mumbai Division to be submitted in an envelope enclosing required documents as per eligibility criteria. The envelope should be super scribed with “**Application form for Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK) near _____ station with Name & Address of the applicant along with Pincode**”. The application should reach the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Ground Floor, Commercial Department, DRM’s Office, Annex Building, Western Railway, Mumbai Central, Mumbai – 400 008 within to the time limit prescribed below.

Date and time of closing of sale of application forms


Upto 12:00 hrs on 02.09.2025

Date and time of receipt of application forms

Upto 15.00 hrs on 02.09.2025



Date and time of opening of application forms

Upto 15.30 hrs on 02.09.2025

WESTERN RAILWAY

wr.indianrailways.gov.in

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Piyush Goyal trashes Trump's India "dead economy" statement

New Delhi, July 31 (UNI) Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal today trashed US President Donald Trump’s description of India as a “dead economy” and said that in less than a decade, India came out of ‘Fragile Five’ becoming the fastest-growing economy of the world.

Making a suo motu statement in both Houses of Parliament, Piyush Goyal said “On the basis of the hard work of reforms, farmers, MSMEs and industrialists, we have come in the top five economies of the world from the 11th largest economy”.The Minister expressed confidence that in a few years, India would become the third largest economy in the world.

“Today, global institutions and economists see India as a bright spot in the global economy,” Goyal added.He said that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is engaged with all stakeholders, including exporters and industry for taking feedback of their assessment of this situation.

“Government attaches utmost importance to protecting and promoting the welfare of our farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, exporters, MSMEs and all sections of industry. We will take all necessary steps to secure and advance our national interest,” he said.

Piyush Goyal’s statement came a day after Trump described India as a “dead economy”.

The US President had said on his social media platform that both India and Russia could take their “dead economies down together” and added that US had concluded a trade deal with Pakistan.

SC directs Telangana Speaker to decide disqualification petitions within three months

New Delhi, July 31 (UNI) The Supreme Court today directed the Telangana Speaker to decide disqualification petitions within three months.

The Bench allowed the appeals filed by Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders challenging the Telangana High Court’s refusal to direct the Assembly Speaker to adjudicate disqualification petitions against 10 MLAs who had defected to the ruling Congress party.


A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih emphasised that political defections pose a grave threat to democratic stability.Delivering the judgment, CJI Gavai stated, “Political defection has been a matter of national discourse. If not curbed, it has the power to disrupt democracy.”


The Court reiterated that when the Speaker acts in disqualification matters under the Tenth Schedule, they function as a tribunal and are subject to judicial review.Citing speeches made in Parliament by leaders like Rajesh Pilot and Devendra Nath Munshi, the Court underlined the historical concern over unchecked defections and the constitutional scheme that entrusts the Speaker with the duty of expeditious adjudication in such cases, thereby reducing the burden on courts.

Referring to the landmark Kihoto Hollohan judgment, the Bench reaffirmed that judicial review under Articles 136, 226, and 227 of the Constitution, though limited, remains available in cases involving the Speaker’s decisions on disqualification.

The Court found fault with the Telangana High Court’s Division Bench for setting aside the order of a Single Judge, observing that the Single Judge had not even directed time-bound disposal of the petitions.“The Speaker, while acting as an adjudicating authority, acts as a tribunal amenable to the jurisdiction of the High Court and the Supreme Court. He does not enjoy constitutional immunity in this capacity,” the Court held.

Setting aside the Division Bench’s order dated November 22, 2024, the Supreme Court directed that the disqualification proceedings be decided “as expeditiously as possible and within three months.”

MYSTIC ELECTRONICS LIMITED				
401/A, Pearl Arcade, Opp. P. K. Jewellers, Dawood Baug Lane, Off. J. P. Road, Andheri (W), Mumbai – 400058, Contact No.: 26790471 CIN: L72300MH2011PLC221448 Email: electronics.mystic@gmail.com Website: www.mystic-electronics.com				
EXTRACT OF UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2025				
(Rupees in Lakhs except EPS)				
Sr No.	PARTICULARS	Quarter ended		Year ended
		30.06.2025 (Unaudited)	30.06.2024 (Unaudited)	31.03.2025 Audited
1	Total Income	-	54.820	131.984
2	Profit/(Loss) before Exceptional items and tax	(8.087)	46.016	109.540
3	Profit/(Loss) before tax after Exceptional items	(8.087)	46.016	109.540
4	Net Profit/(Loss) after tax	(8.074)	46.016	102.912
5	Total Comprehensive Income(after tax)	(8.074)	52.954	105.084
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Shares : Rs.10/-)	1976.625	1976.625	1976.625
7	Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised):		10/-	10/-
	(a)Basic	(0.041)	0.233	0.521
	(b)Diluted	(0.041)	0.233	0.521
Notes:				
1 The above un-audited financial results for the quarter ended 30th June, 2025 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 31st July, 2025.				
2 The above is an extract of detailed format of results for the first quarter ended 30th June, 2025 filed with BSE under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LODR), 2015. The Full format are available on the website of the Company (https://www.mystic-electronics.com/) and BSE ’s Website (www.bseindia.com). The same can also be assessed through the QR Code given below:				
				
		For Mystic Electronics Limited Sd/- Mohit Khadaria Managing Director DIN No: 05142395		
Place : Mumbai Date : 31st July, 2025				

MUKTA AGRICULTURE LIMITED				
401/A, Pearl Arcade, Opp. P. K. Jewellers, Dawood Baug Lane, Off. J. P. Road, Andheri (W), Mumbai – 400058, Tel.: 022-26790471 CIN: L01403MH2011PLC221387 Email: mukta.agriculture@gmail.com Website: www.mukta-agriculture.com				
STATEMENT OF UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2025				
(Rupees in Lakhs except EPS)				
Sr No.	PARTICULARS	Quarter ended		Year ended
		30.06.2025 Unaudited	30.06.2024 Unaudited	31.03.2025 Audited
1	Total Income from Operation	-	17.393	17.284
2	Profit/(Loss) before exceptional items and tax	-	(2.784)	(16.776)
4	Profit/(Loss) before tax and after exceptional items	(10.799)	6.335	(16.776)
6	Net Profit/(Loss) after tax	(10.799)	6.335	(15.747)
7	Total Comprehensive Income (After Tax)	(10.799)	6.335	6.011
8	Paid-up equity share capital	2,168.177	2,168.177	2,168.177
9	Face value of share	10/-	10/-	10/-
	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised) :	-	-	-
	(a)Basic	(0.050)	0.029	(0.073)
	(b)Diluted	(0.050)	0.029	(0.073)
Notes:				
1 The above unaudited results for the quarter ended 30th June have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 31st July, 2025.				
2 The above is an extract of detailed format of results for the first quarter ended 30th June, 2025 filed with BSE under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LODR), 2015. The Full format are available on the website of the Company (https://www.mukta-agriculture.com/) and BSE ’s Website (www.bseindia.com). The same can also be assessed through the QR Code given below:				
				
		By Board of Directors For Mukta Agriculture Limited Sd/- Mohit Khadaria Managing Director DIN:05142395		
Place : Mumbai Date : 31-07-2025				

Changes announced to Ganapati idol immersion ceremony of Pune's Akhil Mandai Mandal and Shrimant Bhausaheb Rangari

Pune, July 31 (UNI) : From this year onwards, the Ganpati idols of Akhil Mandai Mandal and Shrimant Bhausaheb Rangari Ganpati Trust will participate in the Ganpati Visarjan (immersion) procession not in the evening as before, but right after the five honored Ganpatis have passed Tilak Putla Chowk. This significant decision was jointly taken by both trusts today.

A press conference was addressed on the issue here today, by Anna Thorat (President of Akhil Mandai Mandal) and Punit Balan (Trustee and Festival Head of Shrimant Bhausaheb Rangari Ganpati Trust), while Sanjeev Jawale (President), Sanjay Mate and Vishwas Bhor (of Akhil Mandai Mandal), among others were present.

The idols of these two

Ganpati Mandals, which join the grand immersion procession via Laxmi Road, are major attractions for devotees around the world. However, beginning this year, both Ganpatis will participate after the five honored Ganpatis, rather than in the evening as before.

Speaking to reporters, Anna Thorat said that Ganeshotsav is a religious festival that holds importance over all ten days, but the immersion day is especially significant. This year, Anant Chaturdashi falls on September 6, and the next day, September 7, there is a total lunar eclipse. As per tradition, all idols must be brought back to the temple before noon due to the eclipse.

He added that for the past three years, even though the police had

permitted them to perform the aarti at 7 p.m. and then join the procession, the administration failed to allow their timely inclusion, creating issues. Therefore, this year we have decided to make the change. "We also call upon all Ganesh Mandals to complete their processions before 12 noon," he said.

Punit Balan said the eclipse will begin at 12:37 PM on Sunday, September 7. All idols must be brought into the temple at least half an hour before that. Hence, the immersion procession must be concluded early. Considering this, we will join the procession after the five honored Ganpatis pass Tilak Putla Chowk.

If all Ganesh Mandals cooperate, the pressure on police and administrative authorities could be significantly reduced, said Balan.



Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel with a delegation of Members of Parliament from Nepal and leaders from 8 different political parties, during a meeting, in Gandhinagar.

Two education officers arrested in Rs 100 cr financial fraud in Nagpur

Nagpur, July 31(UNI): Nagpur Police have arrested two Education Officers named Siddheshwar Kaluse and Rohini Kumbhar for their alleged involvement in a massive financial fraud, a senior police official told UNI.

The scam involved the misuse of the government's online teacher salary system, where fake School IDs were created to withdraw salaries in the names of non-existent teachers. According to the

police official as of now total of 12 individuals have been booked, including one Deputy Director of Education, three Education Officers, one clerk, two school principals, and two school Directors.

The accused allegedly created 154 fake teacher entries and siphoned off government funds by withdrawing salaries in their names.

Investigation revealed that the scam ran between March 2022 and March 2024, during which the

accused benefited financially to the tune of over Rs 100 crores.

Following a complaint by Ravindra Dongre Patil, Chief Accounts Officer, a special investigation team uncovered the conspiracy and launched a crackdown under the guidance of senior officers.

The arrested accused were produced in Nagpur District Court (Court No. 6), which granted 7-day police custody for further investigation, police said.

The scam came to light after routine audits flagged suspicious salary withdrawals in the Education Department's online portal. The fraudulent entries were linked to newly appointed teachers who never actually worked in any school.

The case has been registered under multiple IPC sections, the IT Act and other relevant laws.

Further arrests are likely as the investigation progresses, the police official added.



मौलाना आज़ाद नेशनल उर्दू यूनिवर्सिटी
MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY
A Central University under Ministry of Education
Government of India

**Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE)
(Formerly Directorate of Distance Education-DDE)**

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

Online Applications are invited for Admission to the following Open & Distance Learning (ODL Mode) Programmes for Academic year 2025-2026, academic session beginning from July-Aug 2025:

1. M.A. (Urdu)	12. Diploma in Journalism & Mass Communication
2. M.A. (Hindi)	13. Diploma in Teach English
3. M.A. (English)	14. Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education
4. M.A. (Arabic)	15. Diploma in School Leadership and Management
5. M.A. (History)	16. Diploma in Employability Skills
6. M.A. (Islamic Studies)	17. Diploma in Urdu
7. MBA	18. Certificate in Functional English
8. B.Ed	19. Certificate in Proficiency in Urdu through English
9. Bachelor of Arts (Hons)	
10. Bachelor of Commerce (Hons)	
11. Bachelor of Science (Hons)	

The E-prospectus and Online Application form shall be available at manuu.edu.in/dde (ADMISSION Portal: manuadmission.samarth.edu.in). The form is to be submitted online with registration fee and on successful verification of documents, the programme fee is to be paid as given in the Prospectus 2025-26. For further details, candidates may contact Student Support Unit (SSU) Helplines 040-23008463 or 040-23120600 (Extn. 2207 & 2208) from 9:30am to 5:30 pm. The candidate may also contact any of the MANUU Regional Centres/Sub-Regional Centres located at New Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore, Mumbai, Patna, Darbhanga, Bhopal, Srinagar, Ranchi, Amravati, Hyderabad, Jammu, Nuh, Varanasi and Lucknow for further information or visit website manuu.edu.in/dde.

- Last date for submission of the online application form for Entrance based Programmes-B.Ed and MBA is **20th August, 2025**
- Last date for submission of the online application form for other programmes is **14th September, 2025**.
- Last date for payment of admission fee is **15th September, 2025 on or before 23:59 hours**.

Director, CDOE **Registrar**

65-year-old man kills wife with axe suspecting her character

Ahilyanagar, July 31 (UNI) A 65-year old man hacked his 60-year-old wife to death with an axe, suspecting her of infidelity, in the plateau area of Ghargav in Sanganner taluka of this district in the early hours of today. A case of murder has been registered in the Ghargaon police in this regard. The information received from the police is that, suspecting the character of Chandrakala Dagadu Khandare (60) of Khandare Vasti in Ghargav, the husband Dagadu Laxman Khandare (65) attacked his wife with an axe and killed her.

Jalgaon July 31 (UNI) Former minister Eknath Khadse has levelled serious allegations against Pune Police claiming that two women carrying drugs were deliberately sent to a private party just 15 minutes before the police raid, allegedly to implicate his son-in-law, Pranjal Khewalkar. Khadse stated, "Two women, who arrived at the party shortly before the raid, had only met Pranjal 15 days earlier." The

from their purses moments before the police entered.

“How can such a sequence of events be mere coincidence?” Khadse questioned.

He further pointed out that while the women found with drugs were sent to judicial custody without any objection, the police sought custody for further investigation of those who were not found with any narcotics. “This raises serious doubts,” he added.

Meanwhile, Rohini Khadse also raised concerns and met with Pune Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar.

She questioned how Pranjal’s private photos and personal content from his mobile phone and laptop were leaked, accusing the police of being responsible for the breach. In response, Commissioner Amitesh Kumar denied the allegations.

He stated that police never release any information prematurely and clarified that photography or videography inside police stations cannot be restricted. If someone

captured and released images during the raid, the police cannot be held accountable.

CENTRAL RAILWAY

MUMBAI DIVISION

Construction of Proposed Road Over Bridge (ROB) & LHS

For & on behalf of President of India, Chief Engineer (C) RSP, Central Railway, G. M. Building, 2nd Floor, CSMT Mumbai 400 001 invites e-bids at e-Procurement website, <http://www.ireps.gov.in> for the following work. **Tender Notice No. & date-** CONS-RSP-03-2025 dated 29.07.2025. **Name of work** - Construction of Proposed Road Over Bridge (ROB) & LHS of 3 Nos. ROB's (in lieu of LCs No-40, 96 & 120 on GQ-GD route) in Bhusawal Division on Central Railway. **Approx cost of work** - Rs. 756560821.73/-, **Bid Security** - Rs. 3932800.00/-. **Completion period** - 24 months. **Date & Time of closing:-** 25/08/2025 at 11:00 Hrs. 1. Complete information of above e-tender notice is available on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 2. Bids other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against the above Tender. 3. Tender documents and corrigendum issued from time to time are available on the website at least 15 days in advance of opening tender and may be seen on this website.

SUN [317] Deputy Chief Engineer(C) RSP

अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है


WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg., Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400008, invites **Sr. No: 1. Tender Notice No: BCT/25-26/167, dt. 28.07.2025. Work and location:** Churchgate - Virar Section: Construction of new 30 Units Type-II Quarters in lieu of Existing Quarter. **Approx. Cost of work:** ₹ 8,53,19,585.01. **EMD:** ₹ 5,76,600/-. **Sr. No: 2. Tender Notice No: BCT/25-26/168, dt. 28.07.2025. Work and location:** Mumbai Central - Jagjivan Ram Hospital - Casual attention contract for Jagjivan Ram Hospital and staff Quarters in Jagjivan Ram Hospital campus on day to day basis through outsourcing for two years i.e 730 days. **Approx. Cost of work:** ₹ 1,12,77,044.28. **EMD:** ₹ 2,06,400/-. **Date and Time of Submission of both tenders:** Till 22.08.2025, 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of both tenders:** On 22.08.2025 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in **Manual offers will not be considered.** 0448

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भिवंडी निजामपूर शहर महानगरपालिका, भिवंडी



बांधकाम विभाग, प्रभाग समिती क्र. ०५

ई-निविदा सुचना क्र. ५१ सन २०२५-२६ प्रसिध्द करणे बाबत.

भिवंडी निजामपूर शहर महानगरपालिका हद्दीतील खालील काम वर्तमान पत्रात प्रसिध्द करणे.

अ. क्र.	कामाचे नांव	अंदाजपत्रकिय रक्कम
१.	प्रभाग क्र. ०२ मध्ये संगमपाडा येथील गांव देवी मंदिर परिसर विकसित करणे.	६,९८,८१४/-
२	प्रभाग क्र. ०५ वंगालपुरा येथे बाँम्बे फरसान मार्ट ते इस्लामपुरा मस्जिद पर्यंत रस्ता करणे.	४,९८,१५९/-
३	प्रभाग समिती क्र. ०५ निजामपूरा येथे पटेल मस्जिद समोरील रस्त्यावर व अवरा रटेलरच्या बाजूला पेव्हरब्लॉक बसविणे.	९,९९,४७८/-
४	प्रभाग क्र. ०१ कोंबडपाडा येथील लक्ष्मी नारायण बिल्डींग परिसरात पेव्हर ब्लॉक बसविणे.	४,९८,८२६/-
५	प्रभाग क्र. ०१ सांबरे चाळ येथे गटार व ड्रेनेज लाईन बनविणे.	४,९८,३४३/-
६	प्रभाग क्र. ०५ निजामपूरा येथे मनपाच्या बुबरे हॉल जवळील जीम करिता नवीन रुम बांधणे.	४,९८,६३९/-

सबब कामाची ई निविदा महानगरपालिकेच्या संकेतस्थळावर **mahatenders.gov.in** दि. ०१/०८/२०२५ ते दि. १५/०८/२०२५ रोजी पर्यंत उपलब्ध आहेत. ऑनलाईन निविदा संकेतस्थळावर दि. १५/०८/२०२५ रोजी दु. ४.०० वाजे पर्यंत स्विकारण्यांत येतील.

सही/-
शहर अभियंता
भिवंडी नि. श. महानगरपालिका, भिवंडी

women were accompanied by two men and were found in possession of narcotics, which they allegedly handed over

Police crack down on private parties in Pune following arrest of Eknath Khadse's son-in-law

Pune, July 31 (UNI) In the wake of the arrest of former minister Eknath Khadse’s son-in-law Pranjal Khewalkar during a private party, the Pune Police have intensified their vigilance on private gatherings, particularly in the upscale Khadi area. Khewalkar, who is married to NCP Women’s state President Rohini Khadse, was arrested along with six others during a raid at a private party on July 26. Police recovered liquor, hookahs, and narcotic substances at the scene, triggering a political uproar across Maharashtra. In response to the incident, Pune police have issued strict advisories to hotels and service apartment operators citywide. Special attention is being given to venues in Kharadi, where officials have noted an increase in suspicious activities, including hidden identities during bookings, frequent visits by certain couples, drug abuse, trafficking and instances of prostitution. To curb such practices, police have mandated that all hotels and service apartments verify and register guests using valid ID proof. Operators have also been directed to report any suspicious or illegal activities immediately.



BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

**HYDRAULIC ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT/
Dy.Hydraulic Engineer (Bhandup complex)**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Bid Invitation No.	2025_MCGM_1205540_1
Subject	Repairs & AMC of CPM 3D screw type of air Compressor for two years at pretreator section of Bhandup Complex.
Sale of Bid	Date : 01-08-2025 on 11.00 Hours to Date : 18-08-2025 on 16.00 Hours
Web site	https://portal.mcgm.gov.in & https://mahatenders.gov.in
Contact Officer	Assistant Engineer (PM) B.C.
A) Name/Contact No	Shri. M. R. Gulade (022-25658511, 022-25658512) 9702475330
B) E-mail Address	eetcwbc.he@mcgm.gov.in / dyhebc@yahoo.com

PRO/1172/ADV/2025-26

Avoid self medication.

**Sd/-
Executive Engineer (T.C.W.) i/c
Bhandup Complex**

STANDARD POST

Dementia diagnosis delayed by average 3.5 yrs, early detection must

A new study led by researchers at University College London (UCL) has highlighted a worrying trend in dementia care globally: people with dementia are diagnosed, on average, 3.5 years after symptoms first emerge, and the delay is even longer—4.1 years — in cases of early-onset dementia.

The findings come at a time when dementia is poised to become one of the greatest health and social care challenges of the 21st century.

As populations age globally — including in India where approximately 8.8 million individuals aged 60 and above are currently affected by the condition -- the need for early detection, integrated care models, and policy-backed support systems has never been more urgent.

Published in the International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, this is the first global systematic review and meta-analysis examining the average time to diagnosis in dementia, based on data drawn from 13 studies conducted in Europe, the United States, Australia and China. Collectively, these studies covered 30,257 participants.

The review evaluated the time from the first noticeable symptoms — reported either by patients themselves or their caregivers — to a formal medical diagnosis of dementia. According to the findings, early diagnosis remains a significant unmet need in healthcare systems around the world.

“Timely diagnosis of dementia remains a major global challenge, shaped by a complex set of factors,” said Dr. Vasiliki Orgeta, lead author and researcher at UCL’s Division of Psychiatry. “Only 50-65% of dementia cases are diagnosed in high-income countries. In many other countries, the rate is even lower.”

The analysis further found that younger individuals and those with frontotemporal dementia are more likely to face longer delays in diagnosis. One of the reviewed studies also indicated a trend of longer diagnostic delays among Black patients, pointing towards possible racial or systemic disparities, although more robust data is needed.

Several contributing factors to the delay were identified. These included symptoms mistaken for normal ageing, fear and stigma associated with cognitive decline, lack of public awareness, inconsistent referral pathways in health systems, limited access to specialists and under-resourced memory clinics, cultural and linguistic barriers in clinical assessments.

“Symptoms of dementia are often dismissed or misunderstood, and the stigma attached to it prevents many from seeking help,” added Dr. Phuong Leung, co-author from UCL.

The authors have called for multi-pronged strategies to address the diagnostic gap, including public awareness campaigns to educate communities on early signs of dementia and reduce stigma, training for general practitioners and frontline clinicians to better recognise and refer dementia cases early, and improved access to memory clinics and culturally sensitive diagnostic tools

“Timely diagnosis is not merely a clinical milestone—it determines access to treatment, support services, and the possibility of maintaining quality of life for longer,” said Dr. Orgeta. “Delays come at a human cost.”

Dementia is not a single disease, but rather a syndrome — a group of symptoms affecting memory, thinking, behaviour, and the ability to perform everyday activities. It is caused by damage to brain cells, which interferes with their normal communication and function.

In India, the number of people afflicting with dementia is expected to nearly double, reaching an estimated 17 million by 2036, underscoring the urgent need for strengthened healthcare infrastructure and targeted interventions.

Housing market in tier-I cities witnessed strong surge in demand in H1 CY25

(Standard Post Bureau)

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers’ Associations of India (CREDAI), in collaboration with CRE Matrix, has unveiled the CREDAI India Housing Report July 2025, spotlighting a remarkable surge in India’s residential real estate market. The report records a record-breaking ₹3.6 lakh crore in primary housing sales across Tier-1 cities in the first half of Calendar Year 2025 (H1 CY25), marking a 9% increase from Rs 3.3 lakh crore in H1 CY24. Despite a 4% decline in units sold (from 2.7 lakh to 2.54 lakh), a 14% rise in average ticket size from Rs 1.24 crore to Rs 1.42 crore underscores a growing consumer preference for premium and luxury homes.

The report highlights significant regional variations, with the National Capital Region (NCR) leading the market with a 26% revenue share, fueled by a 21% increase in sales value and a 32% surge in average ticket size. Luxury flats priced above Rs 3 crore accounted for 73% of NCR’s sales value, despite a modest volume of 25,000 units sold. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) followed closely with a 23% revenue share, recording a 9% growth in sales value and 75,000 units sold, with a 16% increase in average ticket size. The share of homes priced above ₹3.5 crore in MMR rose from

29% to 34%, reflecting a strong tilt toward ultra-premium housing.

In the south, Chennai emerged as a standout performer, achieving a 23% increase in sales value with 11,000 units sold and a 12% rise in average ticket size. New launches in Chennai grew from 14,000 to 19,000 units, though the market share of homes below ₹70 lakh dropped from 23% to 17%. Bengaluru maintained steady growth with a 4% increase in sales value and 30,000 units sold, supported by a 17% rise in ticket size. However, the share of homes priced between Rs 70 lakh and ₹1.5 crore declined from 38% to 32%. Hyderabad, while recording a modest 2% increase in sales value, saw 11% drop-in units sold (30,000 units) but a doubling of new launches from 23,000 to 42,000 units, indicating developer optimism despite slower absorption.

Ahmedabad matched NCR’s unit sales with approximately 25,000 units sold, posting a 10% increase in sales value and a 7% rise in ticket size. The city saw a sharp decline in new launches, from 31,000 to 11,000 units, yet affordable homes under Rs 70 lakh gained a 2% market share, rising from 27% to 29%. Kolkata reported a 17% growth in sales value with 10,000 units sold and a 19% increase in ticket size. The market share of homes above Rs 3 crore surged

from 14% to 26%, though 53% of the market remained below Rs 1.5 crore, reflecting a balanced buyer base. In contrast, Pune faced challenges, with an 8.5% decline in sales value and 14% drop-in units sold (45,000 units). New launches in Pune fell from 61,000 to 39,000 units, and the mid-market segment (Rs 50 lakh–Rs 1 crore) saw a 5% decline in share, though ticket sizes rose by 7%.

The decline in new launches across most cities, from 98,000 in H2 CY24 to 82,000 in H1 CY25, signals a cautious approach by developers amid rising costs. However, the robust growth in transaction values highlights the sector’s resilience and the increasing premiumisation of the market.

Commenting on the report and the evolving market, Shekhar Patel, President, CREDAI, said, “We are witnessing a decisive shift in homebuyer preferences across India. The demand is clearly moving towards larger, better-located, and more premium homes—reflecting rising aspirations and improved purchasing power. A 21% growth in NCR’s housing value, despite lower volumes, is a clear indicator that quality and location are now more important than quantity. This trend is visible in markets like Kolkata and Chennai as well, where value growth outpaces unit

sales. It marks a defining moment for Indian real estate—one shaped by ambition, confidence, and long-term vision. At CREDAI, we remain committed to working closely with policymakers, developers, and financial institutions to support this evolving market through greater transparency, sustainable practices, and inclusive growth.”

Abhishek Kiran Gupta, CEO & Co-Founder, CRE Matrix, said, “India’s Tier 1 housing markets have entered a new phase of value-driven growth. While unit sales saw a marginal dip in H1 CY’25, the ₹3.6 lakh crore in revenue—an all-time high—signals a clear consumer pivot toward larger, more premium homes. The 14% rise in average ticket size reflects this structural shift in buyer sentiment. NCR leading the charge with 26% revenue share, followed by MMR, further validates that aspiration and affordability are aligning at scale. As data suggests, India’s residential real estate story is no longer just about quantity—it’s about quality, confidence, and lifestyle.” India’s housing market is moving in a strong and positive direction, with growing demand for better and bigger homes. The rise in home values and buyer interest shows a confident and evolving real estate landscape across cities.

Philippines President Marcos to visit India on August 4-8

New Delhi, July 31 (UNI) President of the Republic of the Philippines, Ferdinand R Marcos Jr., will pay a state visit to India from August 4 to 8, 2025, at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This will be President Marcos’s first official visit to India since assuming office. The visit coincides with the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines, an important milestone that reflects the growing strategic and people-centric ties between the two nations. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the President will be accompanied by First Lady Madame Louise Araneta Marcos, along with a high-level delegation that includes Cabinet Ministers, senior government officials, and leading representatives from the Philippine business sector. In addition to high-profile engagements in New Delhi, President Marcos will also visit Bengaluru before returning to the Philippines on August 8.

The visit is an "opportunity for both leaders to set the path for future bilateral cooperation, and to engage on regional and international issues of mutual interest".

President Marcos will hold bilateral talks with PM Modi in New Delhi on August 5 to discuss the full spectrum of India-Philippines relations, with a focus on defense cooperation, trade and investment, maritime security, and regional developments. The Ministry of External Affairs noted, “India’s relations with the Philippines are an integral pillar of our ‘Act East’ Policy, Vision MAHASAGAR, and our broader Indo-Pacific outlook.” Diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines were established in November 1949. Both countries have since developed a strong partnership across a wide spectrum of areas, including trade and investment, defence and security, maritime cooperation, agriculture, healthcare, pharmaceuticals and digital technologies. The two countries also engage closely at regional level, including through India’s Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN. During the visit, President Marcos will also meet President Droupadi Murmu. In addition, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will call on the visiting leader.

DG Home Guard SBK Singh given additional charge as Delhi Police Commissioner

New Delhi, July 31 (UNI) Senior IPS officer SBK Singh has been entrusted with the additional charge of Commissioner of Police, Delhi, according to an official order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs today. Singh will assume the additional responsibility from August 1. A 1988-batch officer from the AGMUT cadre, Singh is currently serving as the Director General of Home Guards, Delhi. With the approval of the competent authority, he will hold the additional charge of Delhi Police Commissioner until further orders.

TRAI Assesses Network Quality Across Visakhapatnam City and Coastal Corridor

(Standard Post Bureau)

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released its Independent Drive Test (IDT) findings for the Andhra Pradesh Licensed Service Area (LSA), covering extensive city routes of Visakhapatnam City and coastal corridor in the month of June 2025. The drive tests, conducted under the supervision of the TRAI Regional Office, Hyderabad, were designed to capture real-world mobile network performance across diverse usage environments- Urban Zones, Institutional Hotspots, Coastal and rural residential areas etc.

Between 10th June 2025 to 13th June 2025, TRAI teams conducted detailed tests across 342.9 Kms of city drive test, 3.6 Kms of walk test, 19 Kms of coastal corridor drive test and 8 Hotspot locations. Technologies evaluated included 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G, reflecting the service

experience of users across multiple handset capabilities. The findings of the IDT have been intimated to all the TSPs concerned.

Key Parameters Assessed:

a) **Voice Services:** Call Setup Success Rate (CSSR), Drop Call Rate (DCR), Call Setup Time, Call Silence Rate, Speech Quality (MOS), and Coverage.

b) **Data Services:** Download / Upload Throughput, Latency, Jitter, Packet Drop Rate, and Video Streaming Delay.

The overall mobile network performance in Visakhapatnam city is summarized below:

Call Setup Success Rate - Airtel, BSNL, RJIL and VIL have 99.15%, 95.55%, 99.83% and 96.83% call setup success rate respectively in Auto-selection mode (5G/4G/3G/2G).

Drop Call Rate - Airtel, BSNL, RJIL and VIL have drop call rate 0.00%, 4.66%,

0.00% and 0.34% respectively in Auto-selection mode (5G/4G/3G/2G).

5G data services: Maximum average download throughput of 204.91 Mbps and upload throughput of 20.49 Mbps.

Performance against key QoS parameters:

CSSR: Call Setup Success Rate (in %), **CST:** Call Setup Time (in seconds), **DCR:** Drop Call Rate (in %) & **MOS:** Mean Opinion Score

Summary - Data services

Data Download performance (Overall): Average download speed of Airtel (5G/4G/2G) is 118.93 Mbps, BSNL (4G/3G/2G) is 1.84 Mbps, RJIL (5G/4G) is 204.91 Mbps and VIL (5G/4G/2G) is 33.01 Mbps.

Data Upload performance (Overall): Average upload speed of Airtel (5G/4G/2G) is 20.49 Mbps, BSNL (4G/3G/2G) is 2.92 Mbps, RJIL (5G/4G) is 18.02 Mbps and VIL (5G/4G/

2G) is 6.41 Mbps.

Data performance - Hotspots (in Mbps): Airtel- 4G D/L: 27.14 4G U/L: 9.01

5G D/L: 142.83 5G U/L: 18.76

BSNL-4G D/L: 4.95 4G U/L: 6.99

RJIL- 4G D/L: 57.95 4G U/L: 10.39

5G D/L: 169.05 5G U/L: 18.33

VIL- 4G D/L: 25.90 4G U/L: 8.86

5G D/L: 192.37 5G U/L: 24.04

Note-“D/L” Download speed, “U/L” Upload speed

Summary - Voice services

Call Setup Success Rate: Airtel, BSNL, RJIL and VIL have 99.15%, 95.55%, 99.83% and 96.83% call setup success rate respectively in Auto-selection mode (5G/4G/3G/2G).

Call Setup Time: Airtel, BSNL, RJIL & VIL have call setup time of 1.02, 2.22, 0.88 and 0.73 seconds respectively in Auto-selection mode (5G/4G/3G/

2G).

Drop Call Rate: Airtel, BSNL, RJIL and VIL have drop call rate 0.00%, 4.66%, 0.00% and 0.34% respectively in Auto-selection mode (5G/4G/3G/2G).

Call Silence/Mute Rate: Airtel, BSNL, RJIL and VIL have silence call rate 1.19%, 6.19%, 0.72% and 2.18% respectively in packet switched network (4G/5G).

Mean Opinion Score (MOS): Airtel, BSNL, RJIL and VIL have average MOS of 3.99, 2.53, 3.89 and 3.87 respectively.

In Visakhapatnam City, the assessment included the areas of Purana Market, Port main Road, Jail Road, Siripuram Junction, MVP Colony, Pedawaltair, Chinawaltair, Maddilapalem, Kailashgiri, Vizag Viewpoint, Sagar Nagar Beach, Rushikonda Beach, IT Park Beach, Beach Road, Bheemunipatnam, Gollalapalem, Bangalmetta, Gurrapalem, Rampuram,

Sureddivanipalem, Paravada, Yendada, Madura Wada, Pendurthi, Simhachalam, Gajuwaka, Steel Plant, NTPC, NAD junction, Airport, Naval dockyard road etc. TRAI also evaluated real-world conditions at (i) Gazuwaka Bus Depot, (ii) Vizag RTC Bus Complex (iii) Rushikonda Beach, (iv) Shree Ram Temple, (v) ACA Vizag Cricket Stadium, (vi) Vizag Railway Station, (vii) Vizag Steel Plant, (viii) VMRDA Kailash Giri to reflect stationary user experience.

The tests were conducted using TRAI-suggested equipment and standardised protocols in real-time environments. The detailed report is available at TRAI website www.trai.gov.in.

For any clarification/information, Shri B. Praveen Kumar, Advisor (Regional Office, Hyderabad) TRAI may be contacted on email: adv.hyderabad@trai.gov.in or at Tel. No. +91-40-23000761.

ITBP, Dept of Biotechnology join hands to boost health & research

New Delhi, July 31 (UNI) In a major step towards improving the health and wellbeing of jawns posted in difficult high-altitude terrains, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) today signed an agreement with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed here in presence of Rajesh S Gokhale, Secretary, DBT, Rahul Rasgotra, Director General, ITBP and other senior officials, an official statement said. This

collaboration aims to use modern biotechnology to solve the unique health and environmental challenges faced by ITBP personnel serving in some of the world’s toughest and coldest border areas. Key areas of focus include better healthcare for jawns that include tackling problems like high-altitude sickness, low oxygen (hypoxia) and extreme cold conditions. The other areas include advanced medical support such as bringing diagnostic tools and telemedicine to remote border posts; research into improved diets,

stress relief methods and genetic studies for better adaptation to harsh climates. Through this partnership, both organisations will work together on studies to understand how high altitudes affect the body and mind, development of special nutrition packs and emergency medical kits and cold-weather health gear. This partnership marks a big leap towards ensuring that our brave jawns get the best possible support while guarding the nation's borders under the most challenging conditions.

Japan records highest temperature in Hyogo prefecture, crossing 41.2 Celsius

Kobe, July 31 (UNI) Japan recorded its highest ever temperature yesterday, in the western prefecture of Hyogo, according to the findings of the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) reported today.

The mercury hit the above-human temperature of 41.2 degrees Celsius in the city of Tamba in Hyogo Prefecture at 14:39 local time on Wednesday, beating the previous high of 41.1 degrees Celsius marked in Kumagaya City, Saitama Prefecture, in 2018 and in Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka Prefecture, in 2020, the JMA said.Meanwhile, Fukuchiyama City in Kyoto Prefecture and Maniwa City in Okayama Prefecture also logged extremely high temperatures of 40.6 degrees Celsius and 40.2 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, respectively.

As such, Wednesday marked the first day this year that temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius were recorded in the country.Last year, Mino City in Gifu Prefecture hit that mark on Aug. 16.

The weather agency said the ongoing heat wave was likely to continue in much of Japan from Saturday through Monday, urging people to use air conditioners and cooling fans properly and take fluids frequently.

At least 6 killed, 52 injured in Russian raids on Ukrainian capital

Kiev, July 31 (UNI) : At least six people were killed and 52 injured in Russian missile and drone strikes on the Ukrainian capital early Thursday, said local authorities.

Tymur Tkachenko, head of the Kiev City Military Administration, wrote on Telegram that a six-year-old boy was among the victims.

The attack hit 27 locations in the city and destroyed part of a 9-story apartment building, he said.

Kiev Mayor Vitali Klitschko said that another apartment building was severely damaged in the western Solomianskyi district.Rescue operations at the sites of the strikes are going on and the number of victims may rise, according to Tkachenko.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on Telegram that Russia launched more than 300 drones and eight missiles at Ukraine on Thursday, with most of them targeting Kiev.

Taiwan says reached consensus with US on tariffs : Reports

Beijing, July 31 (UNI) : The United States and Taiwan have completed technical consultations and reached consensus on tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers, Taiwan's Central News Agency (CNA) reported on Thursday, citing Taiwanese government spokeswoman Michelle Lee.

Lee said that both sides "have reached a certain level of consensus," among other things, on issues such as tariffs, non-tariff trade barriers, investment and procurement, supply chain resilience, and economic security, the news agency reported.

The government's position during the talks was to "protect national and industrial interests, and ensure food security and public health," the official said.

"We will firmly uphold our position," Lee said.

Negotiations between the parties on a joint statement are ongoing, and a public report will be submitted after the US government completes the decision-making process, CNA reported.

On April 2, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order imposing 10% reciprocal tariffs on imports, with higher rates for 57 countries starting April 9, based on US trade deficits. Taiwanese goods were set to be subject to a 32% tariff. After over 75 countries sought negotiations instead of retaliation, the 10% base rate was applied for 90 days until July 9. Two days before the deadline, Trump extended the suspension of higher tariffs to August 1, but notified several countries that increased rates would apply from that date.

Indonesia, Japan, Peru lift Tsunami warning after Kamchatka earthquake

Jakarta, July 31 (UNI) : Indonesian, Japanese and Peruvian meteorological agencies have lifted their tsunami warnings issued following the massive earthquake in Russia's Kamchatka, media reported on Thursday.

Indonesia's Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics lifted the tsunami warning at 11 p.m. local time (16:00 GMT) on Wednesday. The magnitude 8.8 earthquake struck Russia's Kamchatka peninsula earlier that day, sending waves across the Indo-Pacific. Indonesian authorities responded by issuing a tsunami warning and giving evacuation orders to residents of coastal areas in five provinces.

The Japan Meteorological Agency lifted all effective tsunami warnings on the Pacific coast on Thursday, Japanese media reported. Its map now shows only a tsunami forecast, which means small changes in the sea level, the NHK broadcaster said.

Peru's navy said that after the analysis and assessment conducted by the National Tsunami Warning Center, the tsunami warning on the Peruvian coast had been canceled, adding that the agency would continue to monitor the situation.Meanwhile, Chile's National Service for Disaster Prevention and Response (SENAPRED) said that the height of the tsunami waves that had affected the country's coast near the town of Boyeruca reached 2.5 meters (8.2 feet) in one area. The service said earlier that Chile had began evacuation in the coastal zone of the continental part of the country due to the threat of a tsunami.

Indian Consul General in Shanghai participates in FUDAN University graduation ceremony for BRICS students



Beijing, July 31 (IANS) : Consul General of India in Shanghai, Pratik Mathur, participated in the FUDAN University graduation ceremony for students from BRICS nations on Thursday. He interacted with students from Kashmir and Delhi, who represented India with distinction.

In a post shared on X, Consulate General of India in Shanghai stated, "Ignited Minds for a brighter future CG Pratik Mathur participated in the FUDAN University graduation ceremony for students from BRICS countries and was pleased to interact with Shri Rahil Ayoub Thakur from Kashmir and Shri Harshit Bhardwaj from Delhi who represented India with distinction. The Voice of our Youth continues to drive change in the Global South. Jai Hind Jai Bharat."

The BRICS is a group formed by 11 countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Iran. The BRICS partner countries are: Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.

Since January this year, Brazil officially assumed the BRICS chairmanship for 2025. In its capacity as pro tempore BRICS Chair, the Government of Brazil announced the formal admission of Vietnam as a partner country of the group. Vietnam becomes the tenth BRICS partner country.

Earlier on July 26, the Consulate General of India in Shanghai launched its "India Impressions" film festival (with fully subtitled National Award winning

movies) with a vibrant screening of the acclaimed Indian film 'Hellaro' at the Consulate premises. A large audience, including many Chinese viewers, distinguished Consul Generals from various countries, and members of the Indian diaspora, showcasing the growing interest in Indian cinema among Chinese audiences, attended the event.

In the statement, Consulate General of India in Shanghai stated, "Hellaro, a celebrated Gujarati-language film which won the National Award for Best Feature Film, captivated attendees with its powerful narrative of courageous women seeking freedom and self-expression in a traditional society. The film's stunning visuals, coupled with its evocative music and dance, highlighted the strength

and unity of its characters, resonating deeply with the diverse audience.""The "India Impressions" film festival aims to bring the rich diversity of Indian cinema to Chinese audiences, fostering cultural exchange and deepening mutual understanding between India and China. This inaugural event marks the beginning of a series of screenings that will showcase the vibrancy and storytelling of Indian films," it added.

In his opening remarks at the event, Pratik Mathur welcomed the audience and emphasised the role of cinema in strengthening cultural ties between India and China. The significant turnout of Chinese viewers underscored the universal appeal of Hellaro and the growing curiosity about Indian culture in Shanghai, according to the statement.

Trump not considering clemency for Ghislaine Maxwell : Reports

Canberra, July 31 (UNI) For Australia, the recognition of Palestine as a sovereign state is not a question of 'if' but rather of 'when', said Treasurer Jim Chalmers following Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's statement on Palestine's recognition being but a matter of time, reports Times of Israel.

"It's a matter of when, not if, Australia recognises a Palestinian state... but I don't want to put a time frame on it," Chalmers told public broadcaster ABC, adding that the treatment of hostages and any involvement of Hamas terrorists in a future Palestinian state remained major obstacles for Canberra.

Albanese, making his stance clear said he had also held a call with his English counterpart Keir Starmer, strongly advocating a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine.

Following France's recognition and under much public duress, Starmer said that London will recognise a sovereign Palestine in September at the United Nations General Assembly — unless Israel ended the Gaza war and committed to peace — in response to growing public anger over the reports of starving children in Gaza. Israel denies that there is famine in the enclave and blames UN agencies for not

distributing aid supplies that are waiting at the border.

Australia has not yet made a formal decision to recognise Palestinian statehood, though Albanese supports Israel's right to exist within secure borders as well as demands for Palestinian sovereignty.

Currently, Canberra's stance includes calling for an immediate ceasefire, release of hostages by Hamas, and immediate distribution of aid to the devastated Gaza Strip.

"What we will continue to do is to put forward a principled position consistent with our unwavering commitment to the vision of the two-state solution," Albanese said at a press briefing. "In an immediate sense, we continue to call for a ceasefire. We continue to call for hostages to be released. We continue to say that Hamas can have no role in a future Palestinian state, and we continue to call for aid to be allowed to the people of Gaza."

Israel has heavily criticised the decision of France, Canada, and the UK to recognise Palestinian sovereignty, stating that their recognition serves only to reward Hamas' actions in 2023, which has led to the death of more a huge number of people so far, and put the whole region into turmoil.

Trump announces "Massive" oil partnership with Pak

Washington, July 31 (UNI) The United States and Pakistan have reached a new agreement aimed at reducing tariffs for Islamabad and launching a joint effort to develop Pakistan's untapped oil reserves, officials from both countries confirmed.

US President Donald Trump announced the deal in a post on his Truth Social platform, stating that his administration had finalized a new trade framework with Pakistan.

Although he offered few specifics, Trump announced that the agreement would involve the development of Pakistan's "massive oil reserves" in partnership with a yet-to-be-selected American oil company.

"We have just concluded a deal with the country of Pakistan, whereby Pakistan and the United States will work together on developing their massive oil reserves," Trump wrote. "We are in the process of choosing the oil company that will lead this partnership. Who knows, maybe they'll be selling oil to India some day!" Finance Minister Mohammad Aurangzeb, who is currently in Washington for a final-stage negotiations on a tariff deal, also began meetings with senior US officials yesterday.

The Pakistani delegation is keeping the details of the talks under wraps, but one official said, "We hope to sign a deal before the (Aug 1) deadline expires," The Dawn reported.

"We hope to conclude a mutually beneficial trade agreement... hopefully in days, not in weeks," said Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar during a recent event at the Atlantic Council in Washington as reported by the Pakistani newspaper.

Dar, who was recently in New York to address the United Nations, said a committee had been formed to finalise the terms of the proposed deal. "As long as we are better than or equal to our peers, we should be fine," Dar said. President Trump made the remarks on US-Pakistan deal after he announced a 25 percent tariff, along with additional penalties on Indian imports, set to take effect from August 1. He cited the US trade deficit with New Delhi and India's continued purchase of Russian oil as key reasons behind the move.

In his post, Trump also mentioned that he had held discussions on trade agreements with several world leaders, "all of whom," he said, "want to make the United States extremely happy."

Over 200 cultural figures urge German Chancellor to halt arms exports to Israel : Reports

Berlin, July 31 (UNI) Over 200 German cultural figures in an open letter called on the country's chancellor, Friedrich Merz, to halt arms exports to Israel amid the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, the Spiegel newspaper reported on Thursday. The signatories stated that the chancellor had criticized the Israeli government in recent days, but "words alone do not save lives" and they have to be supported by action. The letter, which is titled "Don't let Gaza die, Mr. Merz," urges the chancellor to stop arms exports to Israel, suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement and demand an immediate ceasefire and unhindered access to humanitarian aid.

Cultural figures "condemn in the strongest terms the heinous crimes of Hamas" but, at the same time, underscore that no crime justifies the collective punishment of millions of innocent people.

The open letter was signed by prominent actors and actresses such as Christiane Paul, Daniel Bruehl, Benno Furrmann, TV presenter Joko Winterscheidt, comedian Teddy Teklebranh, musicians Shirin David, Ski Aggu, Ebow and many others. On Monday, after the German security cabinet's meeting, Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced plans to establish a joint airlift with Jordan to deliver aid to Gaza. On October 7, 2023, Israel was subjected to an unprecedented rocket attack from the Gaza Strip. Hamas fighters also infiltrated border areas and took 200 hostages. Israeli authorities say that about 1,200 people were killed during the raid. Israel retaliated by launching

Operation Iron Swords in the Gaza Strip and announced a complete blockade of the enclave. The hostilities, which were interrupted by brief ceasefires, have also spread to Lebanon and Yemen and provoked an exchange of missile strikes between Israel and Iran.

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated on July 23 that the WHO is observing a rapid increase in malnutrition-related deaths in Gaza. He added that acute malnutrition affects over 10% of Gaza's population, with more than 20% of screened pregnant and breastfeeding women suffering from malnutrition, often severely. He emphasized that the hunger crisis is worsening due to halted humanitarian aid deliveries and access restrictions.

Vietnam authorities to add 443 electric buses to public transport in Ho Chi Minh

Ho Chi Minh City, July 31 (UNI) : Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City will add 443 electric buses to its public transportation system starting in August as part of efforts to reduce environmental pollution, local media VNExpress reported today.

With the new addition, the city will have 613 electric buses. Combined with around 500 compressed natural gas buses, nearly 48% of the city's fleet will be environmentally friendly, the report said. The city is also implementing a vehicle emission control plan, aiming to transition all buses to clean energy by 2030, while providing incentives for individuals and businesses to switch

from gasoline to electric vehicles.

The initiative adds to Vietnam's increased focus on development of green energy, which also includes installation of EV charging stations in the capital city of Hanoi, increased focus on solar, hydro, and thermal energy, while moving away from traditional sources of power.



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152 entries for 2W National Racing championship this weekend

Coimbatore, July 31 (UNI) : With a card of 20 races across 11 categories and to be contested by

152 entrants, the three-day Rolon Round of the MRF MMSC-FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2025, commencing at the Kari Motor Speedway here tomorrow, offers a

highly competitive fare that will showcase the cream of country's talent.

Headlining the card is the double-header in the premium Pro-Stock 301-400cc class that, in the previous round in June at the Madras International Circuit, dished out thrilling races.

Pune's 18-year-old Sarthak Chavan (Petronas TVS Racing), currently third in the Idemitsu FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (TVS Asia) and Hyderabad's Rahil Pillarisetty (RACR Castrol Power1), who at 27 has

found fresh wind in his sails on his favoured Yamaha R3 after a few up-and-down seasons astride a KTM, won a race apiece.

The pair will have to reckon with fierce competition from Petronas TVS Racing duo, Bengaluru's Chiranth Vishwanath and Alwin Sundar from Chennai. Also in the fray is another Chennai rider,

45-year-old multiple National champion Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1), a perennial podium contender.

The Pro-Stock 165-300cc class, which made its Championship debut with a grid of 12 Petronas

TVS Racing's factory-supported GP 200R machines based on Apache RTR 200 4V bikes, also created a buzz. Bengaluru teenager Savion Sabu (Mad Rabbit Racing) won the lone race (the scheduled second race was cancelled

due to rains) holding off a bunch of experienced riders.

Joining the championship for the second round is the Super Stock 165cc Intermediate class introduced this season. The rest of the grids remain unchanged with the two Novice classes.Stock 301-400cc and Stock 165cc, both with large grids – besides the Girls (Stock 165cc) which has Chennai's Ann Jennifer (Motul Sparks Racing) bidding to reclaim national title that she last won in 2020.

Ann Jennifer won both races in Round-1 ahead of defending champion Jagathishree Kumaresan (One Racing). Also on the grid are two other former National champions, Puducherry's Lani Zena Fernandez (RACR Castrol Power1) and Chennai's Ryhana Bee (KYT Helmet ISBK Racing) who missed

the first round.

The two One-Make Championships, Petronas TVS India (Expert, Rookie, Women, Electric RTE) and Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (CB 300F), complete the card. Both these categories for which the grids were finalised after a selection process, have proven to be nurseries of talent while providing a well-curated programme to race at the National level and gain recognition.

Chairman of the Event and Race Director Manoj Dalal said: "The first round of the championship in June was a huge success in terms of the quality of racing and young riders with big dreams. We can expect more of the same this weekend with a total of 152 entries. Over the years, the National championship has unearthed many gems, some of whom have graduated to international level and performed well."

Purani Dilli 6 appoint Vansh Bedi as captain ahead of DPL Season 2

New Delhi, July 31(UNI) : As the excitement builds for the Delhi Premier League (DPL), Purani Dilli 6 have announced wicket-keeper batter Vansh Bedi as their captain for the upcoming Season 2. The second edition of DPL is set to begin on Saturday at the iconic Arun Jaitley Stadium in the national capital.

After a strong showing in the 2024 edition, where the team reached the semi-finals, Purani Dilli 6 are gearing up for another title push this season. Vansh had impressed everyone during the domestic season last year.

Speaking on the announcement, Akash Nangia, Owner of Purani Dilli 6 said, "Vansh is young, energetic, and has a sharp cricketing mind. We're confident that under his captaincy, Purani Dilli 6 will not only play bold cricket but also carry forward the spirit of Purani Delhi on the field."

Purani Dilli 6 will kick off their Delhi Premier League (DPL) 2025 campaign on August 5 with a clash

against Outer Delhi Warriors at 2:00 pm. This will be followed by a high-stakes encounter against West Delhi Lions on August 7, also scheduled for 2:00 pm.

On August 8, the team will take on New Delhi Tigers under the lights in a 7:00 pm showdown. Their final group stage fixture is slated for August 27, where they will face South Delhi Superstarz in another prime-time match at 7:00 pm.

The second season will feature eight men's teams and four women's teams and men's finals will take place on August 31. The men's tournament will witness a total of 40 matches.

The eight teams divided into two groups of four. Each team will play a total of 10 league matches. They will face the other three teams in their own group twice (home and away) in a double round-robin format, and play once against each of the four teams from the opposite group in a single round-robin format.At the end of

the league stage, the top four teams will qualify for the playoffs. The first and second-placed teams will clash in Qualifier 1, with the winner securing a direct spot in the final. The third and fourth-placed teams will compete in the Eliminator, where the loser will be knocked out of the tournament.

The winner of the Eliminator will then face the loser of Qualifier 1 in Qualifier 2. The winner of that match will earn the remaining place in the final. A reserve day for the men's final is scheduled for 1st September.

Full squad: Vansh Bedi (captain), Rishabh Pant (marquee player), Lalit Yadav, Dev Lakra, Aayush Singh, Samarth Seth, Aarush Malhotra, Sarthak Pal, Agrim Sharma, Vivek Yadav, Yug Gupta, Udhav Mohan, Pranav Pant, Prince Mishra, Rushal Saini, Aaryan Kapoor, Pardeep Parashar, Ekansh Dobal, Aditya Malhotra, Rajneesh Dadar, Ashish Chaurasiya, Kush Nagpal, Dhruv Chauhan, Gaurav Saroha.

Asia's best Surfers to converge at Mahabs for Asian Surfing meet

Chennai, July 31 (UNI) : More than 150 surfers from 20 countries will display their skills on maneuvering the tidal waves as the stage is set for the ASF Asian Surfing Championship to be held at the tourist resort of Mahabalipuram, about 55 km from here, from August 3-12.In a release here today, the Organisers said this year's championship will bring together athletes from 20 Asian countries and competitors will battle it out in Shortboard divisions-- Open Men, Open Women, U18 Boys, and U18 Girls.

Beyond the medals-- Gold, Silver, Bronze and Copper--surfers will be vying for qualification spots for the 2026 Asian Games, making this a landmark event on the Asian surfing calendar. Mahabalipuram, the jewel of Tamil Nadu's

coastline, is set to make waves on the international stage as it is all set to host the ASF Asian Surfing meet starting on Sunday.

Tamil Nadu continues to lead India's surfing movement, with 8 out of 12 Indian team athletes coming from the state. This is a testament to the region's strong grassroots programs and focus on elite athlete development.

The participating countries included Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan,Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, UAE and Uzbekistan

This Championship will be the Final Qualifier for the 2026 Asian Games. "Apart from the top performing national teams

at this championship earning qualification slots for the 2026 Asian

Games, additionally, the top individual male and female surfers in the Open Shortboard category will each secure a direct berth to the 2025 World Surfing Championship", the Organisers said.

Arun Vasu, President, Surfing Federation of India, said "Hosting the Asian Surfing Championships in Mahabalipuram marks a historic moment for Indian surfing. With Tamil Nadu at the forefront, we are not only showcasing our incredible athletes but also building a stronger global community through partnerships like the ASF-PASA initiative. This event will inspire countless young surfers to dream bigger and ride higher."

Host for ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Qualifier revealed

Kathmandu, July 31 (UN) Nepal have been named the host for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Qualifier from January 12 to February 2 next year.

Ten teams will battle it out for four coveted spots at the main event, set to take place in England and Wales in 2026.

Bangladesh and Scotland have earned automatic spots in the Qualifier by virtue of their participation in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024.

Thailand and Nepal qualified through the Asia regional pathway, while the USA secured their place from the Americas region.

The remaining five spots will be filled by two teams each from Africa and Europe and one from the East Asia-Pacific region, following the completion of their respective regional Qualifiers.

The Qualifier in Nepal will see the 10 teams divided into two groups of five, followed by a Super Six stage and a Final. The full fixture for the tournament will be announced in due course.

Meanwhile, the schedule for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in England and Wales has already been confirmed, an ICC report said.

The marquee tournament will run from June 12 to July 5 2026, with 33 matches played across 24 days at seven venues, including Old Trafford, Headingley, Hampshire Bowl and Bristol County Ground.The grand finale will be held at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground.

Hindustan Zinc and AIFF launch Indian Women Football Academy

Udaipur, July 31 (UNI) : Expanding its horizon to usher into a new era of fostering equality, empowerment and driving a football revolution in India, Hindustan Zinc Limited, India's only and the world's largest integrated zinc producer, today, announced their plans to embark on a massive grassroots programme for girls with Zinc Football as part of their social investment programmes and initiatives.

The All India Football Federation will lend technical and strategic support to Zinc Football Girls Academy in Zawar, near Udaipur, in Rajasthan, to develop women's football.Zinc Football is a one-of-its-kind grassroots football development initiative, at the core of which is a full-fledged residential girls' football academy in Zawar, Udaipur, with world-class facilities and the country's first ever 'technology-hinged football training' – the unique F-Cube technology.

The initiative aims to contribute to the development of Indian football while leveraging on the power of the world's most loved sport to impact lives and ensure social upliftment of women, children, and people. Zinc Football Academy also announced that it has entered into a collaboration with the All India Football Federation (AIFF), wherein the AIFF will be the strategic and technical partner for the girls' residential academy. Under the alliance, AIFF shall provide operational guidelines and technical support, share best practices, assist in capacity building for coaches and scouts, and engage in knowledge sharing. Speaking on the initiative, Priya Agarwal Hebbar, Chairperson, Hindustan Zinc Ltd. said, "Hindustan Zinc's commitment to empowering women and driving inclusive growth is reflected in every step we take – including the launch of our premier residential football academy for girls. We believe that building world-class athletes begins at the grassroots, with access to opportunity, mentorship, and the right environment.

Robinson strikes winner as Bodoland FC edge Karbi Anglong in Group D clash



Kokrajhar, July 31 (IANS) : Local side Bodoland FC (BDFC) registered their first win of the 134th Durand Cup with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over debutants Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC (KAMSFC) in a tightly-contested Group D clash at the SAI Stadium here on Thursday.

Karbi Anglong struck first through Nigerian forward Joseph Mayowa Olaleye, but Bodoland responded swiftly with an equaliser from Gwngwsar Gayary in the 37th minute. Colombian striker Robinson calmly slotted home at the hour mark to secure all three points for the local side.

BDFC head coach Vikash Panthi fielded a strong 4-2-3-1 lineup led by Colombian striker Robinson Blandon Rendon, while KAMSFC's head coach C A Laldinsang Pudaite made four changes from their last game, with Nigerian forward Joseph Mayowa Olaleye spearheading the attack.

The early exchanges

were cagey, with BDFC having the first clear chance when Robinson found himself one-on-one with Karbi Anglong keeper Wellyster Mendes, only for the play to be flagged offside. Pedro Astray's free-kick in the 11th minute for BDFC also struck the wall, as both sides struggled to create meaningful openings.

Momentum shifted in the 22nd minute when Karbi Anglong launched a swift counter. Nigerian forward Olaleye was brought down just outside the box, earning a free kick. Joseph Bempah's effort was well-saved by BDFC keeper Birkhang Diamary.

But the pressure told three minutes later when Wellyster's long ball from the Karbi Anglong half caught the BDFC defence off guard. Olaleye latched onto it, beat the last defender, and drilled a powerful low strike into the near post to put KAMSFC ahead in the 25th minute.

Bodoland FC found the equaliser in the 37th minute through winger Gwngwsar

Gayary. A long diagonal ball from midfield found Gayary on the left, who headed into the danger area. A failed clearance by KAMSFC captain Harbamon Timung gave Gayary a second chance, and he made no mistake in firing it past Wellyster Mendes to make it 1-1.

BDFC nearly took the lead in first-half stoppage time when Robinson left a defender on the turf with a clever run but missed the target. Another teasing free-kick from Pedro found Robinson again, but he failed to convert from close range as the half ended 1-1.

The second half resumed with both teams trying to take control. Haokip (KAMSFC) and Pedro (BDFC) traded tame free kicks in the opening five minutes, both collected comfortably by the respective goalkeepers.

The best opportunity of the second half for Karbi Anglong came in the 56th minute when Sujit Singh broke free, but his shot lacked placement and went straight to Diamary.

BCA president congratulates Suryavanshi for India U19 call-up

Patna, July 31(UNI) : Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) president Rakesh Tiwari today congratulated young batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi for earning a call-up in the India under-19 squad for upcoming Australia tour.After making waves in the IPL 2025, batter Vaibhav Suryavanshi hogged the limelight during the England tour last month. In the fourth ODI against England under-19, Vaibhav (14 year old) smashed 52-ball ton and etched his name into the record books as he set a new world record for slamming fastest-known hundred in Youth ODIs.

BCA president Rakesh Tiwari praised Vaibhav and said, "We have high hopes from Vaibhav. He has made Bihar and India immensely proud with his performances, and now he has a great opportunity to showcase his talent on the Australian tour. I wish him all the very best for this new chapter."

BCA chief Rakesh Tiwari also reaffirmed Bihar Cricket Association commitment to nurturing and supporting emerging talents like Vaibhav Suryavanshi in the state.

"The Bihar Cricket Association remains committed to providing opportunities and support for budding talents like Vaibhav. His achievement will serve as an inspiration for other young players in the state. We are confident that Vaibhav will continue to reach new heights in the world of cricket," said Rakesh Tiwari.India U19 will play three one-day matches and two multi-day games against the Australia U19 side — all scheduled at Norths ground in Australia between September 21 and October 10.

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Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways to flag-off new express train between Rewa and Pune on 3rd August

This is the 1st train providing direct connectivity between Rewa and Pune

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, July 31 : Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways will flag off the new Rewa-Pune Express on 3rd August 2025 for the benefit of passengers.

Indian Railways is introducing the New Pune-Rewa-Pune Express which will be the 1st train providing direct connectivity between Pune and Rewa. Presently indirect connectivity is available but this train will increase convenience of travel between these two places.

Pune is a historical and educational centre and connecting point for several pilgrimage centres in Maharashtra like Alandi, Pandharpur, Akalkot etc. "Rewa apart from a historical and educational centre is also a Tourist Centre with attractions like Keoti and Bahuti waterfalls, White Tiger Safari etc.

The train will provide fast, secure and comfortable journey between the important stations of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh connecting cities of Pune, Daund, Ahmednagar,



Kopargaoon, Manmad, Bhusaval, Wardha, Nagpur & Gondia in Maharashtra and Balaghat, Nainpur, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna & Rewa in Madhya Pradesh. This train will cater to the needs of both reserved and unreserved segments of the people and will largely benefit the people residing / working in and around the above cities to travel to their home towns / place of work. It will also be beneficial for businessmen, students, employees proceeding on regular travel and special tours in vacation and will further promote tourism and

pilgrimage apart from increasing the avenues of trade and commerce.

The inaugural run of the Rewa-Pune Express will be flagged off by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways in the august presence of other dignitaries on 3rd August 2025.

The details of the regular service of the train is as follows:

Train No. 20151 Pune-Rewa Express will depart from Pune station every Thursday at 15.15 hrs and will reach Rewa station at 17.30 hrs next day.

Train No. 20152 Rewa-Pune Express will depart

from Rewa station every Wednesday at 06.45 hrs and will reach Pune station at 09.45 hrs next day.

Major halts – Daund Chord Line, Ahmednagar, Kopargaoon, Manmad, Bhusaval, Wardha, Nagpur, Gondia, Balaghat, Nainpur, Jabalpur, Katni and Satna
Coach Composition: Two 2nd AC, Three 3rd AC, Three 3rd AC Economy, 6 Sleeper Class, 4 General 2nd Class, 1 Second seating cum Guard's Brake Van and 1 Generator Van.

For detailed time table and halts of these trains please visit (<http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in>) or download NTES App.

Railways to run Mumbai-Nanded Rajyarani Express with revised composition : Central Railway

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, July 31 : Railways will henceforth run Train no 17612 / 17611 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus-Hazur Sahib Nanded Rajyarani Express with revised composition. "The new composition includes 1 AC Chair Car & 2 Non-AC Chair Car.

Details are as under:
Revised composition of Train no 17612 / 17611 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus-Hazur Sahib Nanded Rajyarani Express

One First AC cum AC-2Tier, One AC-2Tier, Three AC-3Tier, One AC Chair Car, 5 Sleeper Class, Two Non-AC Chair Car(reserved), Two General Second Class(unreserved) and 2 Second Seating & Luggage cum Guard's brake van.

Train no 17612 CSMT- Hazur Sahib Nanded Rajyarani Express will run with the revised composition ex CSMT with effect from 05.08.2025

Train no 17611 Hazur Sahib Nanded – CSMT Rajyarani Express will run with the revised composition ex Hazur Sahib Nanded with effect from 04.08.202

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

Passengers to please note the above changes

Ganpati Special Trains- 6 additional special trains between LTT and Madgaon

Ganpati Special Trains announced by CR is now 302

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, July 31 : Railways will run 6 additional Ganpati Special Trains between Lokmanya Tilak Terminus and Madgaon for the benefit of Ganpati devotees during the ensuing Ganpati Festival.

This is in addition to already announced 296 Ganpati Special Trains taking the figure to a total of 302 Ganpati Special Trains so far.

Details of additional 6 Ganpati Special Trains is as given below:

LTT- Madgaon –LTT Weekly Special (6 Services)

01003 Weekly special will leave Lokmanya Tilak

Terminus every Monday at 08.20 hrs on 25.08.2025, 01.09.2025 and 08.09.2025 and will arrive Madgaon at 22.40 hrs same day. (3 trips)
01004 Weekly special will leave Madgaon every Sunday at 16.30 hrs on 24.08.2025, 31.08.2025 and 07.09.2025 and will arrive Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 06.00 hrs next day. (3 trips)

Halts: Thane, Panvel, Pen, Roha, Mangaon, Khed, Chiplun, Sangameshwar Road, Ratnagiri, Adavali, Vilavade, Rajapur Road, Vaibhavwadi Road, Kankavali, Sindhudurg, Kudal, Sawantwadi Road, Thivim and Karmali.

Composition: One AC-2Tier, Three AC-3Tier, Two

AC-3Tier Economy, 8 Sleeper Class, 4 General Second class, 1 Second Seating cum Guard's brake van and 1 Generator Van.

Reservation: Bookings for Ganpati Special train no 01003 will open on 05.08.2025 at all computerised reservation centres and on website www.irctc.co.in Bookings for Unreserved Coaches can be done through UTS system with normal charges for unreserved accommodation as applicable for superfast Mail/Express trains.

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

Union Cabinet gives approval for 4th Rail line project between Nagpur and Itarsi

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 31 : The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved the 4th Rail line project between Nagpur and Itarsi on 31.07.2025. "The Nagpur-Itarsi 4th Rail line project is part of the Delhi-Chennai High Density Network with a project cost of Rs.5,451 crore.The Nagpur-Itarsi 4th Rail line with 297 km route & 339 km track length has 37 stations enroute with 36 major bridges, 415 minor bridges, 2 Road Over Bridges, 74 Road Under Bridges, 4 Tunnels and 2 Rail Over Bridges.

Connecting the 2 states of Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh the Nagpur-Itarsi 4th Rail line will benefit the district of Nagpur in Maharashtra and districts of Narmadapuram, Betul and Pandhurna in Madhya

Pradesh.Intersecting the Mumbai-Howrah High Density Network at Nagpur, it will also enable faster and efficient movement of passenger and goods traffic, facilitating transport of 10 million tons of additional cargo and saving Rs.1206 crore in logistics cost.

Providing connectivity to 4 Jyotirlinga temples viz. Mahakaleshwar and Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh, Srisailem in Andhra Pradesh and Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu, it will not only benefit a great number of devotees but will also give a boost to the tourism industry in these places. In addition it will also greatly benefit regular passengers, students, businessmen etc.

The Nagpur-Itarsi 4th Rail line is part of the approval given by the Cabinet for 4 projects of

Ministry of Railways viz Nagpur-Itarsi 4th line, Aurangabad-Parbhani Doubling, AluabariRoad-New Jalpaiguri 3rd & 4th line and Dangoaposi-Jaroli 3rd & 4th line with a total cost of Rs. 11,169 crore (approx.).

The projects are planned on PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity & logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for movement of passengers, goods, and services."

The Railways being environment friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimizing logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import and lower CO2 emissions.

Western Railway to run Two Pairs of Special trains

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 31 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season of Rakshabandhan, Independence Day & Jannmashtami, Western Railway will run Special Trains on Special fare between Bandra Terminus - Okha and Bandra Terminus - Sanganer stations.

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

1. Train No. 09077/09078 Bandra Terminus – Okha Special [4 Trips]

Train No. 09077 Bandra Terminus - Okha Special will depart from Bandra Terminus on Thursday & Sunday at 21:20 hrs and will reach Okha at 16:45 hrs, the next day. This train will run on 14th & 17th August, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09078 Okha – Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Okha on Saturday & Tuesday at 08:20 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 04:00 hrs, the next day. This train will run on 16th & 19th August, 2025.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Nadiad, Ahmedabad, Viramgam, Surendranagar, Wankaner, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Dwarka stations in both directions.

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

2. Train No. 09023/09024 Bandra Terminus – Sanganer Superfast Special [4 Trips]

Train No. 09023 Bandra Terminus – Sanganer Superfast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus on Thursday at 16:45 hrs and will reach Sanganer at 12.30 hrs, the next day.

This train will run on 07th & 14th August, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09024 Sanganer – Bandra Terminus Superfast Special will depart from Sanganer on Friday at 16:50 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 11:15 hrs, the next day. This train will run on 08th & 15th August, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Nagda, Chaumahla, Shargarh, Bhawani Mandi, Ramganj Mandi, Kota and Sawai Madhopur stations in both directions.

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

The booking for Train Nos. 09077, 09078 & 09023 will open from 3rd August, 2025 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

WR to run special trains for Velankanni festival from Bandra Terminus

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 31 : For the convenience of passengers & to clear the extra rush on the eve of Velankanni festival 2025, a special train will run between Bandra Terminus and Velankanni.

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

Train No. 09093/09094 Bandra Terminus – Velankanni

Special [4 TRIPS]

Train No. 09093 Bandra Terminus – Velankanni Special will depart from Bandra Terminus on Wednesday, 27th August, 2025 and Saturday, 06th September, 2025 at 20:40 hrs. & will reach Velankanni at 07:40 hrs, on Friday and Monday respectively.

Similarly, Train No. 09094 Velankanni - Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Velankanni on Saturday, 30th August, 2025 and Tuesday, 09th

September, 2025 at 00:30 hrs. & will arrive Bandra Terminus at 10:30 hrs, the next day.

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Vasai Road, Panvel, Lonavla, Pune, Daund, Solapur, Kalaburagi, Wadi, Yadgir, Krishna, Raichur, Manthralayam Road, Adoni, Guntakal, Gooty, Tadipatri, Yerraguntla, Cuddapah, Razampeta, Renigunta, Katpadi, Vellore Cantt., Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Mayiladuturai and Nagappattinam station

in both directions.

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

The booking for Train No. 09093 will open from 3rd August, 2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. The above train will run as special train on special fare. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

PM Modi, UAE President reaffirm commitment to strengthen strategic partnership

New Delhi, July 31 (UNI)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken to UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, with both leaders reaffirming their commitment to further

strengthen the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership, an official statement said today. During the conversation held yesterday, the two leaders reviewed the significant progress made across various

sectors of bilateral cooperation and emphasized the importance of deepening collaboration for the shared benefit of the people of both countries.

President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed also

extended his congratulations to Prime Minister Modi on becoming the second longest-serving Prime Minister in India's history, and wished him continued success in his service to the nation.

SWR, GM, Mukul Saran Mathur Undertakes Extensive Inspection in Bengaluru Division



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, July 31 : Mukul Saran Mathur, General Manager of South Western Railway, conducted a detailed window-trailing inspection of the Dharmavaram–Whitefield section, focusing on various operational and safety parameters. The inspection aimed to assess the condition of tracks, signaling systems, and infrastructure across the section to ensure smooth and safe train operations.

During the course of the inspection, the General Manager visited several key locations. At Nagasamudram Railway Station, he reviewed the ongoing infrastructure and yard development works.

He examined the pace of execution and instructed officials to maintain quality and safety standards throughout the construction activities. He then carried out a detailed assessment of the proposed Goodshed yard at Penukonda, which is expected to enhance freight-handling capacity in the region. At Hindupur Railway Station, which is being redeveloped at a cost of ₹23.97 crore under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS), Shri Mukul Saran Mathur inspected the ongoing works in detail. He reviewed the progress of platform upgradation, enhancement of passenger amenities, and the overall redevelopment of station buildings. He issued clear instructions to officials to ensure timely completion of the project with a strong emphasis on improving passenger experience, station aesthetics, and accessibility features."

The General Manager also visited Doddaballapur, which is being redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) at a cost of ₹25.42 crore.

He inspected the Loading Yard, a key hub for freight operations, especially for the dispatch of automobiles such as tractors and other vehicles. Mr Mathur closely reviewed the yard's layout and operational setup, and directed officials to take all necessary steps to strengthen the infrastructure and enhance turnaround time, ensuring greater efficiency in freight movement.

The inspection concluded at Whitefield Railway Station, where Shri Mukul Saran Mathur reviewed the ongoing redevelopment works being carried out under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) at a cost of ₹23.37 crore.

He assessed the progress of various upgrades, including enhancements to platforms, waiting areas, and other passenger facilities, and emphasized the need to maintain high standards in execution to ensure improved commuter experience.

At the end of the day's programme, Shri Mukul Saran Mathur also inaugurated the newly developed Sports Arena of the Bengaluru Division Sports Association, which includes facilities for Football, Volleyball, and Cricket practice nets.

The inspection, was accompanied by Shri Ashutosh Kumar Singh, DRM, Bengaluru Division; Shri Parikshit Mohanpuria, ADRM; Shri Gul Ashfaque Mohammed, Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti Unit (CPM/GSU); and other senior officers of the division.