

IN BRIEF

Rs 1 cr released to 16 rain-hit districts for relief operation

Vijayawada, Aug 19 (UNI) : The Andhra Pradesh Government has released Rs 1 crore for each of the 16 rain and flood-affected districts to carry out relief operations.

AP disaster Management Authority Special Chief Secretary G Jayalakshmi said 16 districts were affected by floods and rains and each of the districts was being extended Rs 1 crore to carry out relief operations immediately.

The SDRF teams have been kept ready at Avanigadda in NTR district, Chintoor in ASR district and Amalapuram in Konaseema district to be deployed. The district collectors were directed to utilise the funds to provide drinking water, milk and food to the people who were shifted to the relief camps.

She cautioned that the river Krishna and the Godavari are receiving heavy inflows and crossing the danger levels. She warned not to sail on motor boats in the river Krishna and Godavari as the flood situation is grim. She also cautioned people not to try to cross streams and rivulets as all are in spate.

The inflow at the Prakasam barrage here is 4.66 lakh cusecs and the flood water would increase further by tomorrow. The inflow to Dowleswaram across the river Godavari is 7.40 lakh cusecs.

TDP MPs meet VP candidate Radhakrishnan, congratulates him

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) : Andhra Pradesh HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, along with senior TDP leaders and MPs, met NDA Vice Presidential candidate CP Radhakrishnan in New Delhi last night and extended warm wishes on behalf of the party.

Minister Lokesh praised Radhakrishnan's vast administrative experience as Governor of several states, expressing confidence that his discipline, perseverance, and service-oriented leadership would inspire the younger generation and benefit the nation in the years ahead.

Govt to enhance welfare hostel facilities on par with corporate hostels

Vijayawada, Aug 19 (UNI) : Minister for BC Welfare S Saritha today said facilities will be provided in the social welfare hostels on par with the corporate hostels and the required security will also be arranged.

The Minister, at a review meeting here said there are 1,110 BC welfare hostels in the state. She said that 660 welfare hostels are in rented buildings while 450 hostels are in their own buildings.

"The Naidu headed government has focused on the maintenance of BC welfare hostels. SR Shankaran resource centres have been set up in 104 BC

welfare hostels. The government has paid the Rs 76.38 crore diet charges, which were not paid by the erstwhile YSRCP regime," Minister Savitha revealed.

Minister Savitha asserted that the Government introduced Facial Recognition System (FRS) attendance system in welfare hostels and brought transparency to the fore.

She noted that Rs 13.10 crores were sanctioned for repairs in social welfare hostel buildings. More than Rs 20 crores was collected through DMF, CSR funds and other sources through District Collectors for repairs in hostels and provision of

necessary facilities to the students, the Minister highlighted.

"The government is serving rice, cooked with fine quality rice (Sanna Biyyam), to the welfare hostel students. The government has also sanctioned Rs 18 crore to purchase cooking utensils for the welfare hostels and purchase material useful for the students," the Minister mentioned. The government had credited Rs 13,000 to the eligible women for the education of their children under the 'Talliki Vandanam' scheme, the Minister acknowledged. The sports kits are being given to the

welfare hostel students in order to encourage them to participate in sports, she added. MPs B Nagaraju and K Appala Naidu have allocated Rs 1 crore each from the MPLAD funds for the renovation of welfare hostels, Minister Savitha informed.

"We aimed to provide quality education as well as health security to the students studying by staying in the BC welfare hostels. CCTV cameras are being installed on the premises of welfare hostels as part of providing security, providing inverters, and RO plants for clean drinking water," Minister Savitha affirmed

Rahul Gandhi accuses BJP and EC of colluding to "Steal Votes" in Bihar

Nawada, Aug 19 (UNI) ; Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, launched a blistering attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Election Commission (EC) and accused them of colluding to "Steal Votes" in Bihar.

Leading the "Voter Adhikar Yatra" Gandhi reached Nawada on the third day of his yatra where he addressed a public meeting at Bhagat Singh Chowk.

Addressing a large crowd, Gandhi alleged a "partnership" between the BJP and the Election Commission, claiming that they were working together to deny millions of citizens their voting rights.

"In Bihar, lakhs of people who had their names on the voter list earlier now find themselves deleted."

He charged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Election Commissioner were conspiring to snatch away the right to vote. Gandhi said the opposition, including RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav and leaders of other allies would ensure that "not a single vote of Bihar is stolen." He accused the BJP of previously "stealing elections" in Maharashtra, Haryana, and Madhya

Pradesh and alleged that a similar attempt was underway in Bihar through manipulations in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.



NSA Ajit Doval meets Chinese FM Wang Yi, says PM Modi to

India and China today stressed the importance of peace along the border and said stronger engagement between the two countries is in the long-term interest of "Asia's two largest neighbours." National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi who held talks here on the border issue, also noted the upward momentum in bilateral relations.

(See on page 2)

Rahul congratulates Justice Reddy as VP candidate of



Echoing the words of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi today called Vice President polls as "ideological battle" and congratulated Justice B Sudershan Reddy on being nominated as joint INDIA Bloc candidate.

(See on page 4)

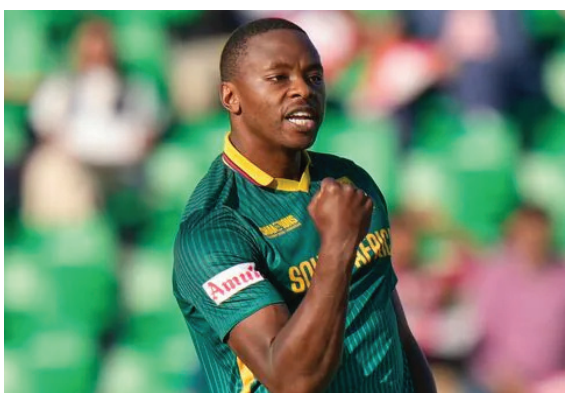
Russian FM Lavrov says Alaska talks reflect US' sincere



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov today praised Friday's Alaska summit and said it highlighted a genuine desire by the US to end the war with Ukraine, as noted by his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Russian President has also praised the meeting and called it 'very constructive.'

(See on page 5)

South Africa pacer Rabada ruled out of Australia ODI series ...



South Africa have suffered a massive blow with news that star pacer Kagiso Rabada will miss his side's three-match ODI series against Australia through injury. Rabada has been diagnosed with inflammation in his right ankle, with scans confirming the injury.

(See on page 7)

INDIA Bloc fields Sudershan Reddy against NDA's Radhakrishnan

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) : In a show of unity, leaders of the INDIA bloc today unanimously agreed to field former Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy as a consensus candidate for the upcoming Vice Presidential election. Addressing a press conference at his official residence here, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge announced the nomination of Justice B Sudershan Reddy, as the joint Opposition candidate.

Describing the Vice Presidential contest as an "ideological battle", Kharge emphasised the importance of standing together to defend the values enshrined in India's Constitution.

"This Vice Presidential



contest is an ideological battle and all the Opposition parties agreed on this and that's why we are contesting unitedly. The Opposition parties have nominated B Sudershan Reddy as their joint candidate since he reflects fully and values that saved our country's freedom movement," Kharge said.

The Rajya Sabha Leader

of Opposition said, "B Sudershan Reddy is one of India's most distinguished and progressive jurists . He has had a long and eminent legal career including as judge of the Andhra Pradesh High court, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, and judge of the Supreme Court. He has been a consistent and courageous champion of social, economic and political justice".

Kharge said that throughout his career, Reddy has been a steadfast advocate for social, economic, and political justice. Adding that since "all these values were under assault" so it was the collective and determined

resolve of the Opposition to fight this election.

Justice B Sudershan Reddy, born on July 8, 1946, began his legal career after enrolling as an advocate with the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh on December 27, 1971. He practiced primarily in civil and writ matters at the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Between 1988 and 1990, he served as Government Pleader in the High Court, and briefly held the position of Additional Standing Counsel for the Central Government for six months in 1990.

He also served as Legal Adviser and Standing Counsel for Osmania University.

Incessant rain, floods wreak havoc in AP districts

Vijayawada, Aug 19 (UNI) : Incessant rain and floods have wreaked havoc in Coastal Andhra districts and crops in about two lakh acres marooned in the flood water. According to official sources, incessant rains and foods affected 106 mandals in 14 districts. Over 900 villages across the state were affected by the floods.

ASR, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli districts were battered by heavy floods and rain throwing normal life out of gear. Road connectivity to over 200 villages was cut off due to overflowing of flood water on the roads.

As a preliminary assessment, crops were damaged in over 1.85 lakh acres in these districts. The paddy crop in over 1.60 lakh acres was marooned in the flood water and cotton crop in over 20,000 acres. The crop loss was expected to be high in combined Guntur, West Godavari and Krishna districts, official sources added.

All the major rivers



including the Krishna, Godavari, Shabari, Vashista, Vainateya and Gowthami are in spate with heavy inflows.

Over 20 island villages in Konaseema district including Burugulanka, Arigelavaripet, Udumudilanka, G Pedapudilanka, Ayodyalanka, Marrilanka and Anagarilanka were surrounded by flood water and the villagers were using

boats to come out the villages.

The vehicular traffic was suspended on Tacheru bridge as flood water overflowed on the bridge resulting in the road connectivity between Vaddadi-Chodavaram was disrupted. A control room was set up in the Collector's office in Srikakulam to receive and provide information to the affected

people. Collector Swipnal Pudkar warned the fishermen not to venture into the sea for fishing.

Special Chief Secretary of Disaster Management G Jayalakshmi directed the district Collectors of the affected districts to be on high alert. She held a video conference with the Collectors of 13 districts on Tuesday. She directed them to take all required steps to

ensure that no untoward incident took place. The Special CS told them to take steps to evacuate people living in the low-lying areas to the relief camps, if needed. She also directed the NDRF and SDRF teams to be ready to swing into action if required. AP Disaster Management MD Prakhar Jail said that the depression crossed over South Odisha coast at Gopalpur.

In Konaseema district, RDO Madhavi visited some of the flood hit areas in Mummdivaram mandal and reviewed the situation.

The Srisailem dam across the river Krishna is receiving heavy inflow of 3.42 lakh cusecs and 4.04 lakh cusecs is being released to the downstream NSP project. The NS project was receiving 3.71 lakh cusecs of water and 3.98 lakh cusecs was being released to the downstream Prakasam barrage. The inflow at Prakasam barrage here was 4.01 lakh cusecs and the same was being discharged into the sea by lifting all the 70 crest gates.

VP candidate CP Radhakrishnan attends NDA parliamentary party meeting

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) : C P Radhakrishnan, the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) candidate for the post of Vice-President, was felicitated at a meeting of the ruling alliance's members of Parliament held here today.

The meeting saw the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union ministers besides senior BJP leaders and representatives from allies. Maharashtra Governor Radhakrishnan (67), who has been fielded by the NDA for the upcoming Vice-Presidential election, interacted with MPs and expressed gratitude for the support extended to him.

Leaders present at the gathering lauded Radhakrishnan's long association with public service and his contribution to the party and the broader ideological framework of the alliance. The NDA leadership expressed confidence in securing a comfortable victory in the vice-presidential poll, citing the alliance's numerical strength in Parliament.

The Opposition India bloc is yet to announce its candidate. The vice-presidential election is scheduled to take place soon, with Radhakrishnan expected to file his nomination papers tomorrow.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitates Maharashtra Governor and NDA's vice presidential candidate C.P. Radhakrishnan as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Union Minister and BJP National President J.P. Nadda applaud during the NDA parliamentary party meeting, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

EC hiding evidence of vote theft: Alka Lamba

Nawada, Aug 19 (UNI) : Congress women wing national president Alka Lamba today accused the Election Commission of deliberately concealing evidence of electoral malpractice, claiming that the poll body was refusing to share the digital voter list and destroying video footage of voting to cover up irregularities.

Addressing media persons on the third day of the Voter Adhikar Yatra in Nawada, Lamba said the repeated demands by the opposition for uploading the digital voter list have been ignored by the Commission. Scared of being exposed, the Election Commission was neither

uploading the digital voter list nor keeping permanent records of polling-day video footage, she alleged.

She criticised the Commission's policy of destroying CCTV footage of polling within 45 days, calling the justification of women's privacy "a childish excuse." "Women vote in a normal manner; there is no privacy issue in recording that," Lamba remarked. Describing Election Commission as a puppet, Lamba also questioned the very process of appointing the Election Commission of India, recalling that earlier the Chief Justice of India was part of the selection panel, but the government

removed this provision to ensure its dominance. She alleged that now, with the ruling party enjoying a majority on the committee, they can appoint anyone as a puppet to head the Commission. In the context of Bihar, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Gupta has practically turned into a BJP spokesperson, she charged. Warning against underestimating the opposition's ongoing campaign, Lamba said that those taking the Voter Adhikar Yatra lightly should wait till September 1. By then, the Chief Election Commissioner may be forced to resign in shame. She added that during the special voter

revision drive, names of large numbers of poor women were deleted from the rolls, triggering widespread resentment.

"In Bihar alone, there are 1.4 lakh Jeevika Didis (women self-help group members). If they turn away, this government will be in deep trouble," she cautioned.

While talking to the news persons, CPI(ML) General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya recalled how large-scale vote theft was exposed in Maharashtra.

"In Bihar, this has surfaced even earlier.

The INDIA bloc is fully alert and will ensure that the vote thieves are stopped at all costs," he said.

Cabinet approves Rs 1,507cr Greenfield Airport project at Kota-Bundi

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) : The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today approved the proposal of Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the development of Green Field Airport at Kota-Bundi in Rajasthan at an estimated cost of Rs1507 crore.

Addressing a press conference here, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Government of Rajasthan has transferred 440.06 hectares of land to AAI for the development of a Greenfield Airport, suitable for operation of A-321 type aircraft.

He said that the project includes construction of a terminal building spanning an area of 20,000 sqm capable of handling 1000 Peak Hour Passengers (PHP) with annual capacity of two Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA), runway 11/29 of dimensions 3200m x 45m, apron with seven parking bays for A-321 type aircraft, two link taxiways, ATC cum technical block, fire station, car park and allied works.

Kota's prominence in educational and industrial sectors makes the Greenfield Airport a critical infrastructure project, aimed at addressing the anticipated traffic growth in the region.

The existing Kota Airport is under the ownership of AAI. It comprises a runway (08/26) of dimensions 1220 m x 38 m, suitable for Code 'B' aircraft (such as DO-228), and an apron capable of accommodating two such aircraft.

The terminal building spans an area of 400 sqm and is capable of handling 50 passengers during peak hours.

The existing airport cannot be developed for commercial operations due to inadequate land availability and urbanisation around the airport.

LS adjourned for the day amid Opposition uproar over Bihar SIR

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) : Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day after Opposition members today created a ruckus over Special Intensive revision (SIR) of electoral roll in Bihar. When the presiding officer Dilip Saikia resumed the House proceedings at 4 PM after three adjournments, the Opposition members again entered the well of the House and shouted slogans.

Amid the ruckus, the House also passed the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025, by voice vote, without discussion.

Earlier, presiding officer Krishna Prasad Tenneti resumed the session at 2 pm following two earlier adjournments, but Opposition members soon were on their feet raising slogans and disrupting the House. They entered the well of the House with placards and shouted slogans. Despite the disruption, the presiding officer tried to carry on with the proceedings.

He called BJP MP Nishikant Dubey to continue the special discussion started the previous day on the first Indian abroad International Space Station.

Amid the uproar, Dubey spoke and criticised the Congress party, accusing it of not respecting scientists and avoiding the discussion.

He said, "Parliament is holding a discussion to honour space scientists, but Congress is evading it because it has harmed the country's space research organization, ISRO." Dubey also mentioned a 2012 report alleging a Rs 2 lakh crore loss to the government and accused Congress of neglecting scientists and research institutions.

The presiding officer requested Dubey to pause the discussion and appealed to the protesting Opposition members to maintain order, but as no one paid heed to his requests, he adjourned the House until 4 pm.

Earlier, The House reassembled at noon, and the presiding officer Krishna Prasad Tenneti called for the papers to be laid on the table of the House.

Meanwhile, commotion by the Opposition members over Bihar SIR continued.

While appealing to the agitating members to let the House function, Tenneti said, "I request all of you to kindly take your seat. We will take the proceedings further. I want to listen to you but not like this. Please go back to your chairs and then present, I will give you an opportunity to speak but not like this". When the sloganeering continued, the Chair adjourned the House till 2 pm. Earlier too, the Lok Sabha witnessed unruly scene following which Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House till 12 noon.

Parliamentary panel will brainstorm with social media giants on cyber safety for women

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) : The 11th sitting of the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women will hold discussions with the representatives from social media giants and officials of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) today on issues related to online safety of women.

Representatives from Google (YouTube), Meta (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp), and X (formerly known as Twitter)

will participate in this discussion.

Amid rising concerns related to online harassment, stalking, trolling, and misuse of online platforms, the parliamentary committee was examining the subject 'Cyber Crimes and Cyber Safety of Women.'

The committee will seek explanations from the representatives on how they handle online abuse and content moderation, and cooperation with law enforcement in cyber crime cases related to women.

NSA Ajit Doval meets Chinese FM Wang Yi, says PM Modi to attend SCO Summit in Beijing

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) : India and China today stressed the importance of peace along the border and said stronger engagement between the two countries is in the long-term interest of "Asia's two largest neighbours."

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi who held talks here on the border issue, also noted the upward momentum in bilateral relations. The NSA noted the "upward momentum" in bilateral ties, highlighting peace and tranquillity along the borders since last year's talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan. He underlined the role of both leaders in driving the engagement forward.

The Chinese Foreign Minister said "China is ready to build more consensus with India. We should properly settle specific issues at the borders and we should increase mutual trust through strategic communication," he added.

The NSA also announced that Prime Minister Modi will travel to Beijing for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit. "Our Prime Minister will be visiting for the SCO Summit shortly. Therefore, I think these

high-level talks assume very special importance," Doval said.

Doval also pointed out that 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of India-China diplomatic relations. "It's time to celebrate. With this new energy and momentum, and with the maturity and responsibility shown by our diplomatic teams, missions, and our armies on the borders, we have been able to achieve this progress," he said.

"I'm very happy that since then, in the last nine months, there has been an upward trend. Borders have been quiet. There has been peace and tranquillity. Our bilateral engagements have been more substantial," Doval added. Referring to

the last round of talks in Beijing, the NSA said that over the past nine months "there has been an upward trend" with quiet borders, peace and tranquillity, and more substantive bilateral engagements.

According to sources, India reiterated during the discussions that its position on Taiwan remains unchanged.

"Like the rest of the world, India has a relationship with Taiwan that focuses on economic, technological, and cultural ties, and we intend to continue it."

In his opening remarks during the delegation-level meeting, the Chinese Foreign Minister said "the setbacks we faced in the last

few years were not in our interest. PM Modi and President Xi Jinping met in Kazan. We are happy to share that stability has now been restored at the borders. We welcome PM Modi's visit to China for the SCO. History and reality prove that a healthy and stable relationship between India and China serves the long-term interests of both countries."

Wang Yi further said "At the 23rd round of border talks in Beijing, we achieved new and important consensus on managing disagreements, stabilizing the borders and moving towards a settlement. India and China identified specific goals and formed a working framework."

Lok Sabha to translate proceedings in all 22 scheduled languages: Birla

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla today announced that the proceedings of the House will now be translated into all 22 languages listed in the eighth schedule of the Constitution. As the Lower House met, Birla said, "I am very pleased to inform the House that we are now providing translation of the proceedings in all the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

"The Speaker said that until now, the Lok Sabha proceedings were translated into Hindi, English, and 18 other languages including Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Kannada, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu. He added, "Now, with the inclusion of Kashmiri, Konkani, and Santali, we are providing translation in all the languages mentioned in the Constitution. Even as some members disrupted the proceedings over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Bihar, the Speaker appealed for cooperation, highlighting the significance of the achievement.

Birla emphasized that India's Parliament is the only one in the world where translation is available simultaneously in 22 languages. "We should be proud of our democracy and Constitution. We are the world's largest democracy, and this inclusivity reflects our strength. I hope you will support the smooth functioning of the House," he said.

TDP MPs meet VP candidate Radhakrishnan, congratulates him

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) : Andhra Pradesh HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, along with senior TDP leaders and MPs, met NDA Vice Presidential candidate CP Radhakrishnan in New Delhi last night and extended warm wishes on behalf of the party.

Minister Lokesh praised Radhakrishnan's vast administrative experience as Governor of several states, expressing confidence that his discipline, perseverance, and service-oriented leadership would inspire the younger generation and benefit the nation in the years ahead.

India's forerunner government schemes transforming country as 'Global Export Hub'

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, today highlighted different initiatives taken by the government for driving exports as well as domestic manufacturing.

Stressing India's commitment to driving exports, Jitin Prasada informed the Lok Sabha in a written reply, "A major thrust has been placed on expanding market access through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Notably, India signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the United Kingdom on 24th July 2025, marking a significant milestone in bilateral trade

relations. Negotiations for the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement are ongoing with an aim to conclude by the end of the year." The Minister also pointed towards the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for 14 key sectors, including Electronics, IT hardware, Pharmaceuticals, Bulk Drugs, High-Efficiency Solar PV Modules, Automobiles & Auto Components, White Goods, Telecom, and Network Products. Minister Prasad also highlighted 'National Logistics Policy' and 'PM Gati Shakti' as forerunner schemes to drive the efficiency of the logistics sector. For successfully implementing these

schemes, a National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) was launched, aimed to transform India as a global manufacturing hub. "The Government has taken measures to promote exports from the Districts as part of the Export Hubs Initiative. It includes identification of the products and services with export potential in all the districts of the country in consultation with all stakeholders, including the states/UTs. An institutional mechanism has been set up in all States/UTs by forming the State Export Promotion Committee (SEPC) and District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC) at the district level," the Minister added.

Depression over Odisha likely to weaken into low-pressure area, heavy rains forecast for AP

Amaravati, Aug 19 (UNI) : The depression over south coastal Odisha moved west-northwestwards at a speed of 11 kmph during the past six hours and lay centred at 0830 hours today over south interior Odisha, near latitude 19.8°N and longitude 84.0°E. It was positioned about 50 km north-northwest of Daringabadi, 90 km east of Bhawanipatna, and 90 km southeast of Titlagarh in Odisha. According to the Meteorological Centre, the system is likely to continue

moving west-northwestwards across south Odisha and south Chhattisgarh and weaken into a well-marked low-pressure area during the next 12 hours. The monsoon trough currently passes through Diu, Surat, Nandurbar, Amravati, the centre of the depression over south interior Odisha, and extends southeastward to the east-central Bay of Bengal, up to 1.5 km above mean sea level. Heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in north coastal Andhra Pradesh during the next 24 hours. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are expected at many places across coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and Rayalaseema over the next seven days. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and winds reaching speeds of 40–50 kmph are likely at isolated places in north coastal Andhra Pradesh over the next five days, and in south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema over the next 48 hours.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
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Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

E-Tender No.ELS-BZA-eTN-06-2025-26 Dt: 18-08-2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tender for the following work up to **15:00 hours on 08-09-2025.**

Sl.No. 1. Tender No. B/E.221/TRS/RC/544 E-Tender No.ELS-BZA-eTN-06-2025-26 Dt:18-08-2025 Details of work Name of the work **R e p a i r / Rehabilitation/Overhauling of Auxiliary motors of Conventional & 3-Phase B.G Electric Locomotives for a period of Two (02) Years.** Period of Completion **24 Months (2 years)** Tender value **1,65,59,132.33/- E.M.D 2,32,800/-** Cost of Tender document **0** Tender closing Date & Time **08-09-2025 15.00 Hrs**

1) Tender conditions/ other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above work, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at [www.ireps.gov.in](#) 2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](#) before the date of tender closing to note any changes/ corrigenda for any tender. 3) The Tender Notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Rolling Stock, Electric Loco Shed, Vijayawada which can be seen. 4) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Visit our site at "[www.ireps.gov.in](#)"

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS) Electric Loco Shed, Vijayawada
For and on behalf of the President of India

E-Tender No.ELS-BZA-eTN-07-2025-26 Dt: 18-08-2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tender for the following work up to **15:00 hours on 08-09-2025.**

Sl.No. 1. Tender No. B/E.221/TRS/RC/545 E-Tender No.ELS-BZA-eTN-07-2025-26 Dt:18-08-2025 Details of work Name of the work **Rewinding of Auxiliary motors of Conventional & 3-phase B.G. Electric Locomotives for a period of Two (02) years** Period of Completion **24 Months (2 years)** Tender value **80,62,460.50/- E.M.D 1,61,300/-** Cost of Tender document **0** Tender closing Date & Time **08-09-2025 15.00 Hrs**

1) Tender conditions/ other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above work, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at [www.ireps.gov.in](#) 2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](#) before the date of tender closing to note any changes/ corrigenda for any tender. 3) The Tender Notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Rolling Stock, Electric Loco Shed, Vijayawada which can be seen. 4) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Visit our site at "[www.ireps.gov.in](#)"

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS) Electric Loco Shed, Vijayawada
For and on behalf of the President of India

E-Tender No.ELS-BZA-eTN-08-2025-26 Dt: 18-08-2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tender for the following work up to **15:00 hours on 08-09-2025.**

Sl.No. 1. Tender No. B/E.221/TRS/RC/546 E-Tender No.ELS-BZA-eTN-08-2025-26 Dt:18-08-2025 Details of work Name of the work **Repair/Reconditioning of 6531 KVA Transformers for 3-phase Electric locomotives, Qty:04No's (ELS/ BZA:01No.,ELS/KZJ:01No.,DSL/BZ A:01No & DSL/GY:01No).** Period of Completion **36 Months (3 years)** Tender value **1,96,66,942.24/- E.M.D 2,48,300/-** Cost of Tender document **0** Tender closing Date & Time **08-09-2025 15.00 Hrs**

1) Tender conditions/ other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above work, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at [www.ireps.gov.in](#) 2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](#) before the date of tender closing to note any changes/ corrigenda for any tender. 3) The Tender Notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Rolling Stock, Electric Loco Shed, Vijayawada which can be seen. 4) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

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Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS) Electric Loco Shed, Vijayawada
For and on behalf of the President of India

Vijayawada, Aug 19 (UNI) : The new bar policy announced by the Andhra Pradesh government has come as a boon to bidders as the reforms introduced in the new policy are aimed at making bar operations financially sustainable with drastic reduction in license fee and with a facility to pay the license fee in six installments. Earlier, the bar license bidders were forced to pay the total bid amount at a time. The new move of the AP State government on reduction in bar license fee has reduced the financial burden on bidders. In the new bar policy licenses will be given to 840 bars. In addition, ten percent of additional bar licenses were reserved for Geetha Karmikulu to promote social equity and empowerment. Besides fifty per cent concession in license fee was also provided to the reserved

E-Tender No.ELS-BZA-eTN-09-2025-26 Dt: 18-08-2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tender for the following work up to **15:00 hours on 08-09-2025.**

Sl.No. 1. Tender No. B/E.221/TRS/RC/547 E-Tender No.ELS-BZA-eTN-09-2025-26 Dt:18-08-2025 Details of work Name of the work **ELS/ BZA-Repair/Rehabilitation/ Reconditioning of 7775 KVA Transformer of 3-phase electric locomotives at Electric Loco Shed, Vijayawada.** Period of Completion **36 Months (3 years)** Tender value **1,51,82,956.92/- E.M.D 225900/-** Cost of Tender document **0** Tender closing Date & Time **08-09-2025 15.00 Hrs**

1) Tender conditions/ other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above work, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at [www.ireps.gov.in](#) 2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](#) before the date of tender closing to note any changes/ corrigenda for any tender. 3) The Tender Notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Rolling Stock, Electric Loco Shed, Vijayawada which can be seen. 4) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Visit our site at "[www.ireps.gov.in](#)"

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS) Electric Loco Shed, Vijayawada
For and on behalf of the President of India

A1230
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at [https://www.ireps.gov.in](#) or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

20 red sander logs seized, one smuggler arrested

Kadapa, Aug 19 (UNI) The Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) personnel seized 20 red sander logs, two cars and arrested one smuggler at Anjaneyapuram village on the Karakambadi-Mamanduru road in the wee hours on Tuesday.

DSP Srinivasa Reddy told the media that the red sander logs were found when the task force team led by RI Sai Giridhar and RSU C Vinod Kumar were conducting vehicle checks. They stopped two cars in the wee hours of the day, but while one car was stopped, the other one did not. The task force personnel chased and intercepted the car and on checking found 20 red sander logs, which were being transported illegally. One of the drivers of the two cars managed to escape while the task force personnel arrested one driver.

The arrested red sander smuggler belonged to Karnataka. The seized red sander logs were shifted to the task force police station in Tirupati.

Reduction in bar license fee comes as a boon to bidders

According to the official sources, the drastic reduction in bar license fee in 30 urban local bodies also provided great relief to bidders. The application fee was also reduced to Rs five lakh from Rs 10 lakh earlier to encourage healthy competition for bar license and to discourage single party or speculative applications. The key feature of the new bar policy is rationalization of license fees. The revised bar license fees are structured below the retail shop license slabs to provide a clear, predictable framework for the next three years. The new bar policy aimed to establish a stable, predictable and equitable licensing framework that provides opportunity for both existing operators and new entrants while ensuring bar businesses

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Notice No. eT-West-WAT-29-2025 Dt. 11.08.2025

NAME OF THE WORK : CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD UNDER BRIDGE / LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY AT KM. 242.66 WITH PRECAST RC BOX BY AIR PUSHING METHOD TO AVOID TRESPASSING BETWEEN DHANAPUR AND KHADAPA STATIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / JAGDALPUR ON KK-II LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Advertised Value : ₹ 2,20,18,994.32, EMD : ₹ 2,60,100/-, Completion Period of the Work : 08 (Eight) Months.

(2) Notice No. eT-West-WAT-30-2025 Dt. 11.08.2025

NAME OF THE WORK: IMPROVEMENT OF GOODS SHED FACILITIES BY CONSTRUCTION OF AIR CONDITIONED GOODS OFFICE, MERCHANT ROOM, LABOUR ROOM, APPROACH ROAD, RCC CIRCULATING AREA, RCC DRAINS, CONSTRUCTION OF RCC OVER HEAD TANK WITH DEEP TUBE WELL, WATER SPRINKLERS WITH PIPE LINE CONNECTIONS, PARKING SHEDS, HIGH LEVEL GOODS PLATFORM AND DUST SCREEN WALL ETC. AT SACHNELI STATION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / KIRANDUL ON KK-II LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Advertised Value : ₹ 16,71,50,957.04, EMD : ₹ 9,85,800/-, Completion Period of the Work : 12 (Twelve) Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 04.09.2025 (for both Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : [www.ireps.gov.in](#)

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

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), PR-490/Q/25-26 Waltair

BIS holds Capacity Building Programme for Labour Department Senior Officials

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Aug 19 : The Hyderabad Branch Office of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) organised a one-day Capacity Building Programme on Labour Safety at Workplace for senior officials of the Labour Department at its office in Moula Ali, in the city today.

The programme was conducted in association with the State Labour Department, with the objective of enhancing awareness, capacity, and compliance with safety standards among enforcement officials.

A total of 35 senior officials participated, including Joint Commissioners of Labour - Ms G. Sunitha, Shyam Sunder Reddy, and M. Rajendra Prasad, who represented various districts across Telangana.

Their presence underlined the importance being given by the Government of Telangana to workplace safety and occupational health.

P.V. Srikanth, Director and Head, BIS Hyderabad Branch Office, who inaugurated the



programme, emphasised that workplace safety is not only a statutory requirement but also a moral responsibility towards workers. He

highlighted that BIS standards are not merely technical documents but instruments of transformation which help prevent accidents,

safeguard lives, and ensure a productive and globally competitive workforce.

The sessions were coordinated by Rakesh Tanneeru, Joint Director,

and Shri K. Kavim, Deputy Director, with technical inputs from expert resource persons Prabhath Kumar and Ms. Bhavana Kasturi.

Through case studies, practical examples, and interactive discussions, officials gained valuable insights into adopting BIS standards effectively in their inspection and enforcement work. The expected outcomes of this programme include reduction of workplace accidents, stronger enforcement of safety laws, improved worker health and welfare, and the promotion of a proactive safety culture across Telangana.

The collaboration between BIS and the State Labour Department also aims to empower officials with knowledge and tools to identify risks, ensure compliance, and safeguard workers' lives.

BIS Hyderabad reaffirmed its commitment to working hand-in-hand with government departments, industry stakeholders, and enforcement agencies to promote standards as instruments of safety, quality, and sustainable development.

HCLTech to offer TechBee early career program to high school graduates

Vijayawada, Aug 19 (UNI) : HCLTech, a leading global technology company, plans to offer its TechBee Early Career Program to high school graduates in Vijayawada and give them the opportunity to build careers in the technology industry. TechBee is a transformative initiative designed for high school graduates. It offers a unique 'earn while you learn' model that blends hands-on technology training with access to higher education. The programme equips students with industry-

relevant skills and enables them to pursue academic advancement, laying the foundation for global careers in technology.

The programme is set to introduce specialised tracks in Generative AI and Cybersecurity, developed in collaboration with premier educational institutions. These initiatives are designed to expand access to high-quality technology careers across India.

TechBee graduates are already making impactful contributions in advanced areas like AI and cloud

computing, serving HCLTech's Fortune 500 clients. With stipends provided early in the training journey, participants can begin supporting their families within just a few months of joining. "TechBee is more than a skilling initiative—it's a launchpad for ambitious youth to build meaningful careers in tech," said Subbaraman B, Senior Vice President, HCLTech.

"Strategic partnerships with institutions such as BITS Pilani, IIT Guwahati, Sastra University, Amity University Online, IIIT

Kottayam and IIM Sirmaur allow trainees to pursue higher education locally, reducing relocation costs and fostering financial independence." TechBee continues to serve as a strong catalyst for inclusion, attracting a diverse group of participants, including a significant number of first-generation learners and women, well above industry benchmarks. The programme is closely aligned with state government initiatives and supports the vision of India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Photography captures time and memories, says Minister Ponguleti on World Photography Day

Hyderabad, Aug 19 (UNI) : Information, Public Relations and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Tuesday said that a single photograph can express a thousand emotions and stressed that steps will be taken to enhance professionalism among photojournalists in Telangana.

The Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the World Photography Day celebrations organised by the State Information and Public Relations Department at a private hotel in Panjagutta. He presented prizes and cash awards to the winners of the photography competitions held on the occasion.

Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, Media Academy Chairman Srinivasa Reddy, Special Commissioner of Information and Public Relations C H Priyanka, and CM's Office CPRO Malsur also attended the event.

In his address, Ponguleti said photographers alone have the unique power to capture time and preserve sweet memories. Citing the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, he recalled how the killers were identified with the help of photographs taken at the scene.

He added that World Photography Day is celebrated annually to encourage photographers, with awards presented to competition winners.

Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao said photojournalists play a crucial role in taking the government's development and welfare programmes to the people.

Special Commissioner Priyanka noted that photographs remain timeless and serve as lasting memories, adding that the Information Department has been celebrating World Photography Day for the last 28 years.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

ENGAGEMENT OF PASSENGER HALT AGENT FOR SELLING OF TICKETS AT DANDUGOPALAPURAM PASSENGER HALT

Notification No. WCM/2/DGPM PH Dated : 13.08.2025

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM THE DESIROUS LOCAL CANDIDATES (SHOULD BE PERMANENT RESIDENT OF THE PLACE WHERE THE PASSENGER HALT IS SITUATED) FOR ENGAGEMENT OF COMMISSION AGENT AT DANDUGOPALAPURAM PASSENGER HALT, SERVED BY NAUPADARAILWAY STATION. "THE INITIAL CONTRACT PERIOD WILL BE FOR A PERIOD OF 05 YEARS WITH A FURTHER EXTENSION OF 05 YEARS IN TWO SPILLS OF 2 & ½ YEARS EACH AS COMMISSION AGENT SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY WORKING & RAILWAY'S DUES ARE BEING PAID IN TIME".

THE COMMISSION PAYABLE TO HALT CONTRACTOR WILL BE AS UNDER:

Sales Turn Over in Rs. & Commission Payable:
* ₹ 1/- to 15,000/- : 15% * ₹ 15,001/- to 50,000/- : 12%
* ₹ 50,001/- to 1,00,000/- : 9% * ₹ 1,00,001/- to 2,00,000/- : 6%
* ₹ 2,00,001/- and above : 3%.

The commission will be paid to the Halt contractor at the end of the month on the basis of commission earned for each day during the month.

The applications for Passenger Halt Agent should contain the name of the applicant, Father's name, Permanent address, Age, Education qualification and experience, whether a retired Railway employee and other relevant details. The halt contractor be at least 10th standard pass and should have working knowledge of simple English. The applicant should furnish character antecedents from the Police Station and conduct certificates from School / Govt. Officer and certificates from Local Panchayat about solvency and proof of experience. The candidate selected for Passenger Halt should deposit a **Security Deposit of Rs. 2,000/- (Rupees Two thousand only)** and also execute an agreement with Railways. The selected candidate should produce a medical certificate showing that he/she is fit for the active service and free from any communicable diseases from Govt. Hospital. The last date of receipt of the applications to be dropped in the Box kept in the **Office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Dondaparty, Visakhapatnam** is on **08.09.2025 at 1100 Hrs.**

The Notification will be available in Website [www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in](#) About us 2 Division 2 Tenders Notifications and Announcements. The Railway reserves the right to reject any application without assigning any reason.

PR-494/Q/25-26 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Waltair

STANDARD POST

US trade deals with countries seem to be symbolic and may not happen

Many of the deals that several countries have entered into with the US to avoid higher import tariff are symbolic and may not actualise, said Moody’s Analytics.

In its commentary titled `A Summer of Trade Deals’, Moody’s Analytics has said instead of retaliating against US hiking up its import duties many countries have promised to increase their purchase of American goods or make investments in that country.

“The feasibility of these plans is in doubt, and several deal components look largely symbolic,” Moody’s Analytics said.

Citing the European Union (EU) that has promised to buy \$750 billion in energy products by 2028, and significant amounts of defence goods, Moody’s Analytics said: “It is simply not possible for the EU to purchase this amount of energy from the US.”

“Assuming imported volumes and values stay approximately the same as in 2024, not only would the EU have to more than triple its yearly purchases of the US’s energy goods—ultimately sourcing more than 85% of its total energy imports from the US—but it would probably have to buy the U.S’ entire energy export capacity. And, at current market prices, it would still fall horribly short, with total US energy exports totalling only around \$170 billion in 2024,” Moody’s Analytics said.Countries like Japan and Indonesia have committed to purchase Boeing aircrafts worth \$150 billion and \$50 billion respectively.

“The average value of a Boeing Dreamliner is about £300 million, which means that Japan would have to buy 500 such planes and Indonesia 166.

According to its website, Garuda Indonesia currently operates a total of 210 aircraft of different sizes,” the report notes.The investment pledges stretch the imagination even further.

“The EU has committed to invest an additional \$600 billion in the US over the next three years, while Japan will invest \$550 billion and South Korea \$350 billion. The enabling mechanism for these investments is not clear, especially if these investments are to come from the private sector,” Moody’s Analytics said.

According to the report, the hike in US import duties will lead to lower growth rate in Asia and in Europe but a recession is not on the cards.

Most deals are non-binding, and chances remain that there will be higher tariffs further down the line. Investment pledges from partner countries appear largely unrealistic and lack clear implementation mechanisms. Despite the deals, tariff rates have risen since mid-2025 and are expected to remain elevated throughout President Donald Trump’s term, the report said.

Capturing Time: A Visual Ode to World Photography Day

(Staff Reporter)
Vadodara, Aug 19 : In celebration of World Photography Day 2025, Art de Photo, a prominent gallery based in Vadodara, Gujarat, has unveiled a remarkable and thought-provoking photography exhibition. Held both at its in-house gallery and simultaneously online, the exhibition provides a unique platform for photographers from across the globe to showcase their creativity and vision.

This exclusive event has been curated by senior applied artist and illustrator Atul Padia, whose efforts have brought together an impressive array of visual talent. The exhibition is supported by the National Artists’ Association (NAA) and Art Insight Medium (AIM), organizations known for promoting contemporary fine art practices across different disciplines.

World Photography Day, celebrated annually on August 19th, commemorates the invention of the daguerreotype—the first publicly announced photographic process—developed by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce and Louis Daguerre. It was on this day in 1839 that the French government acquired and released the patent to the public, marking a monumental moment in photographic history. The occasion continues to serve as a tribute to the enduring impact of photography on art, communication, science, and society.

This year’s exhibition has attracted close to 50 photographers from around the world, with over 70 photographs on display. The collection reflects the dynamic evolution of



contemporary photography and its role as a vital extension of visual fine art. Artists from various countries have contributed to the event, including Anita Raa from Norway, Derya Yazar from Turkey, Fassih Keiso from Australia, Goran Boricic from Montenegro, Natalya Yushchuk from Ukraine, Peter Ströman from Denmark, Stephen Schneiderman from the USA, Vinh Lê Xuân from Vietnam, and Writwik Chakraborty from India. Alongside them, a host of Indian photographers have presented high-caliber works that celebrate diverse cultural narratives and photographic techniques. Many international participants have

embraced minimalist visual styles, using simplicity to evoke deep emotional responses. Derya Yazar’s dreamlike digital compositions create an ethereal, fairy-tale-like atmosphere, while Natalya Yushchuk’s near-surrealist work is rooted in traditional motifs, shaped through a post-contemporary lens. Her pieces leave a lasting impression on viewers, combining imagination with technical finesse. Montenegro-based Goran Boricic explores the full spectrum of grayscale in his black-and-white photography, using light as his primary tool. Stephen Schneiderman of the United States presents imagery that highlights

geometric patterns in landscapes, capturing order within nature’s chaos. From Vietnam, Vinh Lê Xuân’s vibrant landscapes offer a colorful dance of lights and vibrant energy. India’s Writwik Chakraborty turns his lens toward village life, crafting images so painterly in tone and texture that many mistake them for wash paintings. This “confusion” only enhances the appreciation for his photographic eye and emotional depth. Curator Atul Padia believes exhibitions like this are essential for fostering creativity and elevating the standards of photographic art. He emphasizes that such



platforms help bring forward the best in contemporary photo-artists, encouraging them to engage in healthy competition within the ever-evolving artistic landscape. Supporting organizer Prabuddha Ghosh, trustee of both NAA and AIM, echoed this sentiment. He noted that the work on display reflects a strong movement toward visionary storytelling in photography, bridging perspectives between Indian and international creators.

Among the notable Indian contributions is the wildlife photography of Kalyan Nath, a retired tax official whose arresting image of two vultures in a moment of rare intimacy brings an emotional layer to a genre often characterized by stark realism. His work redefines the perception of wildlife photography, drawing viewers into the warmth and complexity of the animal world. Other Indian artists, including Dr. Anita Kothiala, Dharmesh Rajput, Viky Arya, Subho Sarkar (India/ Baharin), Basawaraj Musavalgi, Manish Joshi and Rajiv Kapoor are also exhibiting works that resonate with

high energy and audience enthusiasm. Young photographer Shilbhadra Maiti has been praised for his skillful compositions, while Mahesh Padia has earned applause from art lovers for his expressive visual storytelling. Ajit Sah (Nepal / USA) has contributed from overseas, bringing with him a vision rooted in cross-cultural perspectives.

The exhibition’s digital extension allows global audiences to view and appreciate the works online, significantly broadening its impact. This accessible platform is expected to inspire and encourage emerging photographers, providing them with the motivation and direction to hone their presentation skills and contribute meaningfully to the field of visual arts.

Art de Photo’s World Photography Day exhibition stands as a vibrant tribute to the power of photography—an art form that continues to evolve while remaining deeply rooted in its ability to connect, inform, and inspire.

This marks the 63rd event by Art de Photo, which began its journey in support of art and artists exactly five years ago on this very day.

Regional Engines of Maritime Growth held at Mumbai

(Standard Post Bureau))
Mumbai, Aug 19 : Mumbai Port Authority under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, today organized the session “**Regional Engines of Maritime Growth**” under the theme “**Unlocking Potential of States for National Maritime Progress**”at Mumbai, as a prelude to the forthcoming India Maritime Week 2025 scheduled from 27th to 31st October 2025 in Mumbai.

The event brought together over 200 delegates, including senior government officials, industry leaders, and prominent stakeholders across India. It proved successful in uniting key drivers of India’s maritime progress, hosting thought-provoking panel discussion, delivering inspiring and insightful addresses, and reinforcing a collective vision for the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and the role States can play in boosting India’s Maritime Sector. The programme was supported by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry as the Industry Partner and Grant Thornton Bharat LLP as the Knowledge Partner.

Delivering the keynote address, Shri

SushilMansingKhopde, Director General of Shipping and Chief Guest, highlighted the importance of centre–state coordination and said roadshows are being planned in major maritime states for seafarer training and welfare, including issues of shore leave and sign-on/sign-off at non-major ports. He drew attention to a new shipbuilding scheme for clusters on coastal land, with some states already identifying locations and the initiative expected to create significant employment opportunities. He noted that most ship recycling is currently happening at Alang in Gujarat and urged states to use the Ferrous Scrap Development Fund to establish additional facilities.

He also stressed state cooperation in crisis management such as salvage and oil spills, and said India Maritime Week 2025 will be an important opportunity for international cooperation with IMO and ILO and for state-specific image building.

Chief Port Officer of the Maharashtra Maritime Board, Capt. Praveen S. Khara, spoke on the state’s growing role in India’s maritime sector,

emphasising the transformation of regional ports into smart, digitalised trade gateways through PPP models and strategic investment. He underlined the importance of empowering coastal communities by fostering MSMEs, enhancing maritime skills, and creating local employment opportunities. He also highlighted efforts to boost shipbuilding and ship repair capacity, improve connectivity to hinterlands, and promote coastal tourism and maritime heritage, positioning Maharashtra as a frontrunner in the nation’s maritime growth story.

Deputy Secretary General of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Jatinder Singh, in his opening address, emphasised the importance of aligning state-level maritime initiatives with national programmes to unlock India’s full maritime potential.

He noted that states such as Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra have already shown how port-led industrialisation, strengthened by PPP models and multimodal connectivity, can drive regional and global growth. Highlighting opportunities in green shipping, coastal

economic zones, smart port technologies, and maritime skill development, he underlined the need to build a future-ready workforce and promote inclusive partnerships. Dr. Singh invited all stakeholders to actively engage and collaborate, positioning India Maritime Week 2025 as a premier global platform to showcase the nation’s maritime capabilities, investments, and partnerships.

The event also featured a highly interactive panel discussion session that became a focal point for translating the day’s strategic themes into actionable ideas. Moderated by Mr. Shantanu Bhadkamkar, Managing Director of ATC Global Logistics Pvt. Ltd., the discussion enabled participants to explore in depth the roadmap for developing regional ports as smart, digitalized global trade gateways through PPP models and state investment.

Panelists explored ways to empower coastal communities and the blue economy, boost shipbuilding, ship repair and inland water transport, improve multimodal connectivity with integrated security, and advance climate resilience and sustainability in

coastal strategies. The panel included Shri Sushil Mansing Khopde, I.P.S., Additional Director General of Shipping; Shri Shantanoo Deshpande, Director & COO, Pace Marine Solutions Pvt Ltd; and Capt. Padmini Kant Mishra, COO – Terminals, JSW Infrastructure. State perspectives were represented by ShriKalpeshVithlani, GM Projects at Gujarat Maritime Board and Capt. M. Anbarasan, State Port Officer, Tamil Nadu Maritime Boardwho enriched the discussion with region-specific approaches and best practices.

A special presentation on India Maritime Week 2025 was delivered by Shri Rajesh Asati, DS MOPSW, showcasing the event’s strategic vision, key themes, and opportunities for collaboration, investment, and innovation across the maritime ecosystem.

The session concluded with insightful closing remarks and a formal vote of thanks delivered by Smt. Madhuri Ajay Varade, FA&CAO, Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA), acknowledging the contributions of all speakers, delegates, participantsand the Indian Ports Association (IPA).

Rahul congratulates Justice Reddy as VP candidate of INDIA Bloc

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) : Echoing the words of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi today called Vice President polls as "ideological battle" and congratulated Justice B Sudershan Reddy on being nominated as joint INDIA Bloc candidate.

The Congress leader described Justice Reddy as the person who reflects the spirit of Constitution and Democracy.In a post on X, Rahul Gandhi said, "I warmly congratulate Shri B.Sudershan Reddy Garu on being nominated as the joint Opposition candidate for the Vice President of India".Calling him as a distinguished jurist and champion of justice, Gandhi said, "He represents the spirit of our Constitution -safeguarding people’s rights, equality and our Democracy". "We stand united in this ideological battle and wish him all the very best," the Raebareli MP said. Notably, leaders of the INDIA bloc today unanimously agreed to field former Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy as a consensus candidate for the upcoming Vice Presidential election.

‘Putin, Trump back continuation of direct Russia-Ukraine talks’

Moscow, Aug. 19 (UNI) Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump voiced support for continuing direct negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian delegations in a phone call, Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov said on Tuesday.

The call was initiated by Trump following his meetings at the White House with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and several European leaders, Ushakov said.

He said that Trump and Putin also discussed the idea of raising the level of representatives participating in the talks. "Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump agreed to maintain close contact with each other on the Ukrainian issue and other pressing topics on the international and bilateral agenda," Ushakov said, describing the phone call as "frank and constructive."

No American boots on ground for resolving Ukraine war: US President Donald Trump

Washington, Aug 19 (UNI) In line with his foreign policy, US President Donald Trump has refused to put American boots on the ground as a measure to enforce a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine.

Speaking to Fox News, when asked whether there was any ‘assurance’ going forward that US troops could be deployed to protect the Ukrainian border, he said “Well, you have my assurance, and I’m president.”

The statement goes in line with the US foreign policy under the Trump administration, where the US President promised to keep American troops out of foreign conflicts, reports CNN.

The US role in security guarantees for Ukraine was at the center of yesterday’s talks between Trump, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders from the ‘Coalition of the Willing’.

The European officials asked what resources Trump will commit to ensure that, once a potential peace deal is reached, Russia doesn’t launch a potential military invasion of Europe. The POTUS had dismissed the fears of a Russian “threat,” calling them “overrated.”

While Trump maintained that Washington will continue to be involved in European security, Ukraine becoming a part of NATO was not going to happen.

‘Tough’ sanctions prepared to force Russia to start peace talks: Austria

Vienna, Aug 19 (UNI) : "Very tough sanctions" have been prepared to force Moscow to sit down at the negotiating table to resolve the Ukraine conflict, Austrian Foreign Minister Beate Meinl-Reisinger said.

"We will see what results today's summit will lead to, but very tough sanctions have already been prepared to finally force [Russian President Vladimir] Putin to sit down at the negotiating table," Meinl-Reisinger told Austrian broadcaster ORF2.

She added that the main task is to restore peace order in Europe.

"We need guarantees that our people in Austria are protected. We cannot allow someone to simply act in their own political interests, ignoring the security of others. If ensuring security means European pressure, we will take this into account," Meinl-Reisinger added.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the US hopes that an agreement on settling the Ukraine conflict can be reached at a trilateral meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin, US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Jordan's king warns against Israeli "unilateral measures" in Gaza, West Bank

Amman, Aug. 19 (UNI) Jordan's King Abdullah II on Monday called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid during a meeting with a visiting U.S. congressional delegation, the Royal Hashemite Court said in a statement.

During the meeting, the king reiterated Jordan's rejection of Israeli plans to consolidate its "occupation" of Gaza and expand military control there, warning that such "unilateral measures" pose risks to regional stability.

He also dismissed Israeli statements on the so-called "Greater Israel" vision and condemned settlement expansion in the West Bank, which he said violates international law and undermines Palestinians' right to establish an independent state. The talks also touched on regional developments, with the king stressing the need to support Syria's security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Mongolia discuss energy, transport projects at bilateral summit

Moscow, Aug 19 (UNI) : Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin discussed with his Mongolian counterpart, Gombojavyn Zandanshatar, joint projects of the two countries in energy, transport and other areas, the Russian government said.

"Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin spoke by telephone with his Mongolian counterpart, Gombojavyn Zandanshatar ... The parties highlighted joint projects in energy, transport infrastructure, and other areas," the government said in a statement on Monday.The ministers also discussed developments in trade, economic, and investment cooperation, the statement added.

India hosts artificial limbs camp in Guayana to support people with disabilities



Georgetown, Aug 19 (IANS) : Reaffirming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to supporting persons with disabilities in the Caribbean, the Indian government has delivered on the pledge to provide artificial limbs in the region.

The Indian Company Kalpataru Projects International Limited, in collaboration with Guyana's Ministry of Health and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, on Monday (local time) launched an Artificial Limb Donation and Fitment Camp at the Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre in the Guyanese capital, Georgetown.

The initiative, backed by the Indian High Commission in Georgetown, stands as a testament to India-Guyana friendship and people-centric diplomacy in the

Caribbean region.

"A promise kept, a commitment fulfilled. During the 2nd India-CARICOM Summit, PM Narendra Modi had announced that India will collaborate with CARICOM in providing artificial limbs to persons with disabilities in the Caribbean region as a mark of our friendship and people-centric diplomacy," the Indian High Commission in Georgetown posted on X."It was a new dawn, a new beginning and a new chapter in India-CARICOM partnership," the post added.According to Guyana's Health Ministry, the project, organised in partnership with India-based Jaipur Foot and the Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Seva Samiti, marks a significant step in providing life-changing prosthetic limbs

to Guyanese citizens in need.

Addressing the event, Guyanese Minister of Health Frank Anthony expressed gratitude to the Indian Government and Jaipur Foot for their swift collaboration in making this initiative possible.

"This partnership is transformational. Prosthetic limbs do not only restore mobility, they restore independence, dignity, and opportunity," he said.

"For many Guyanese who have lost limbs due to accidents or illnesses such as diabetes, access to affordable prostheses has been out of reach. Through this programme, we are eliminating barriers and giving people a second chance at life," the Minister added.Among the officials present were Amit Talang, High Commissioner of India to Guyana; Gail Miller-Garnett, High Commissioner of Belize to Guyana; Serena Bender-Peltzwick, Deputy Programme Manager for Health Sector Development at CARICOM, and other dignitaries.In November 2024, during the 2nd India-CARICOM Summit in Georgetown, PM Modi offered assistance to CARICOM countries in seven key areas, including capacity building, agriculture and food security, renewable energy and climate change, innovation, technology and trade, cricket and culture, ocean economy and maritime security, medicine and healthcare.

Making arrangements for Putin-Zelensky meet to end war: Trump

Washington/New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) : President Donald Trump said today he is working to arrange a direct meeting between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Russian President Vladimir Putin to explore a possible pathway to end the war, following a day of talks at the White House with Zelensky and a group of European leaders.

Trump said he spoke with Putin by phone during the discussions, days after meeting the Russian leader at a summit in Alaska.

The White House meetings focused on potential long-term security guarantees for

Ukraine, a step Trump and European leaders said was essential to ending the conflict. Trump described the talks as “very good” and suggested they had created momentum toward a possible Zelensky-Putin summit, which would be the first meeting between the two leaders since Russia launched its full-scale invasion more than three years ago.

“I think there’s a reasonable chance of ending the war if we get to that meeting,” Trump said. He added that any deal must be designed to last, not just pause the fighting.

On his Truth Social platform, Trump wrote that “everyone is very

happy about the possibility of PEACE for Russia/Ukraine,” underscoring his pledge to quickly broker an end to the war.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the administration is working to arrange an “unprecedented” meeting between Zelensky and Putin, calling it a significant step toward ending the war. Speaking on Fox News, Rubio said the effort could eventually lead to a trilateral meeting with Trump.

“We’re not there yet, but that’s what we’re aiming toward, and that’s one of the things discussed today — how to get to that point,” he

‘Palestinian death toll from Israeli attacks surpasses 62,000 in Gaza’

Gaza, Aug 19 (UNI) : Gaza-based health authorities announced that the death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks on the coastal enclave since Oct. 7, 2023, has risen to more than 62,000, amid worsening humanitarian and health conditions.In a press statement, the health authorities reported that 60 people were killed and 344 others injured over the past 24 hours. It added that many victims remain trapped under the rubble, as ambulance and civil defense crews face difficulties reaching them due to continued bombardment and limited resources.The health authorities on Monday noted that among the casualties, 27 people were killed and 281 others injured while trying to obtain humanitarian aid.

According to the statement, the total number of deaths since the onset of the conflict has reached 62,004, with 156,230 individuals injured.

Meanwhile, five people, including two children, died in past 24 hours as a result of starvation and malnutrition, raising the total number of such deaths to 263, including 112 children, since October 2023.The health authorities stressed that hospitals in Gaza are operating under extremely difficult conditions due to shortages of fuel, medicines, and medical supplies, warning that the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation could lead to further civilian deaths.

‘Thai troops who stepped on mines violated border’

Bangkok, Aug 19 (UNI) : Cambodian Senior Minister and First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority Ly Thuch said the PMN-2 mines that injured Thai troops had been on Cambodian territory since previous wars, the Khmer Times newspaper reported.Between July 16 and August 12, 2025, 13 Thai soldiers stepped on mines while patrolling the border, with four of them losing their legs below the knee or ankle. According to the Thai authorities, the incidents occurred before and after the armed border conflict between the two countries, which lasted from July 24 to 28.Ly Thuch has called on Thailand to immediately stop Thai military from entering Cambodian territory littered with mines from past wars, warning that the mines still pose a deadly danger, the report said on Monday.

He also reportedly rejected what he called Thailand's "baseless accusations" that Cambodia was laying new mines along the border. He stressed that Cambodia, as a state party to the Ottawa Treaty banning anti-personnel mines, fully complies with its obligations and does not lay new mines, the report added. The decades-long border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia turned into an armed conflict on July 24, with the neighbors exchanging artillery fire and airstrikes. Both sides reported casualties, including among civilians. On August 4, they announced an immediate ceasefire, which was followed by a formal agreement on its implementation days later.

Russia to launch 2 Iranian satellites into space in autumn 2025: Iranian space agency

Moscow, Aug 19 (UNI) : Iranian satellites Zafar and Paya will be launched into space this autumn by the Russian Soyuz launch vehicle, the head of the Iranian Space Agency, Hassan Salarieh, said."The launch of these two satellites will be carried out in 2025. The Soyuz launch vehicle has been selected for this purpose," Salarieh was quoted as saying by the Tasnim news agency on Monday.

Salarieh noted that both satellites are designed for remote sensing of the earth, as well as color and black-and-white photography. He said that the satellites were presented two years ago, and their launch was supposed to be carried out last year, but was postponed. In late July, the Soyuz-2.1b rocket with the Fregat upper stage launched 18 small satellites into orbit. One of the satellites was Iranian telecommunications satellite NAHID-2.

French President Emmanuel Macron said the most important outcome of the talks was Washington’s readiness to develop concrete security guarantees for Ukraine, marking what he called a decisive shift. “Today, it was agreed that we will work with the United States of America on the content of these security guarantees and the cooperation that each party is prepared to provide,” Macron said, adding that the European leaders’ “Coalition of the Willing” has now expanded to 30 countries. He stressed that any talks between Zelensky and Putin must begin bilaterally and only take

place under a ceasefire. While he welcomed Trump’s belief in his ability to strike an agreement with Putin, Macron warned that Europe must be prepared to strengthen sanctions if negotiations stall. Zelensky told reporters the discussions included plans for Ukraine to acquire \$90 billion in American weapons with European financing as part of its security framework, as well as a proposal for Ukraine to manufacture drones that the U.S. may help purchase. He cautioned that the agreement is still under negotiation but said details could be finalized within 10 days.

China activates emergency response for flood control in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei

Beijing, Aug 19 (UNI) China's State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters on Tuesday initiated a Level-IV emergency response for flood control in Beijing and neighboring Tianjin Municipality and Hebei Province, in anticipation of heavy rainfall.

Two working groups have been dispatched to Beijing and Hebei to assist with flood prevention and disaster relief efforts, the Ministry of Emergency Management said.

According to meteorological forecasts, parts of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region will experience heavy to torrential rain starting Tuesday, with some areas in Beijing and Tianjin as well as central and northeastern Hebei expecting extremely heavy downpours.

Russian FM Lavrov says Alaska talks reflect US’ sincere desire to end war

: Moscow, Aug 19 (UNI) : Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov today praised Friday's Alaska summit and said it highlighted a genuine desire by the US to end the war with Ukraine, as noted by his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Russian President has also praised the meeting and called it ‘very constructive.’

"President Trump and his team, especially after the meeting in Alaska, began to take a

much deeper approach to resolving this crisis, realising that it is necessary to eliminate the root causes, which we, (Russia) President Putin, have constantly talked about."

Lavrov remarked that the atmosphere for the talks in Anchorage was "very good," which was further reflected in the statements of both Putin and Trump.

He contrasted his praise for the Trump administration by admonishing Europe, which he accused of wanting to continue

with the hostilities, amid their constant demands for a ceasefire - even though it was President Trump who ruled it out as an unsustainable measure post his meeting with Putin – and their calls for militarisation.

"It was clear that the head of the US and his team, firstly, sincerely wanted to achieve a result that would be long-term, sustainable, reliable, unlike the Europeans, who at that time were saying on every corner that only a ceasefire, and

after that they would continue to supply weapons to Ukraine," Lavrov told the country’s state media Rossiya 24 broadcaster.

The Russian FM claimed that the Kremlin has no desire for territorial conquest, but merely seeks to protect the interests of Russians, referring to Moscow’s capture of the Ukrainian territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, and Mykolaiv – with Crimea taken in 2014.

Relationships



4 ways to bring order to your Work life

Keep your digital life organized:

In the highly technological world we are living in, it's essential to bring order to your digital life. If you have a pile of e-mails, then dedicating some of your time to sort these bad boys out on a daily basis, just like your emails, won't hurt. Keeping your digital life organized means you don't unnecessarily browse the web for endless hours. Don't spend too much of time on social networking sites. In the end, all these virtual activities are unproductive and don't add anything to your working life.

Clutter free work desk:

A clutter free work desk goes a long way in making your work life organized. So, make sure that your work desk doesn't look like an earthquake ravaged zone. Clear papers/ files off your desk. Throw away things which are not needed. Keep a to-do list on your desk to give you a sense of purpose on a daily basis.

Prioritize:

Get it clear in your mind. What's more important? Prioritizing will help you focus on the most important thing and postpone things which don't garner immediate attention.

Focus:

You can't have an organized work life if you don't focus. Don't leave any task half way. When you start a task, take it to the logical end. Leaving unfinished business is the hallmark of a disorganized person.



To achieve professional success, you need to be organized. Now, don't lose heart. Being organized is not that difficult if you bring mindfulness to your working life. Here are four simple ways to bring order to your work life

Work-life balance - Enjoy the small Moments

Like flowers, I enjoy the first warmth of spring, a cup of steaming tea and a great book. I manage my work and life even though I'm in four continents in a year - Asia, America, Europe and Africa.

Being a fit woman:

I manage my fitness regimen by doing yoga, walking, swimming and ayurvedic de-toxing. Sometimes, just laughing in the company of old friends is the best de-stressor.

Energy high and happiness:

Looking deeply and daily at the angelic faces of my three boys - Jad, Kais and Jai.

Risk take or a micro-planner:

I take risks and micro-plan my business. I am also a decision taker - for good or bad. I can handle it.

Handling failure and success:

Hopefully with equal aplomb and resilience. I am not a victim, I'm a survivor.

Crisis management:

My life has been a series of crisis management moments from ever since I was in my 20s, when my father was assassinated by ULFA militants. It's really how you get up and face life that sets you apart.

Icon for work-life balance: Gloria Steinham, Patti Smith.

Managing work-life balance: There is NO balance. It's extremes all the way. Either, I am working so single-mindedly that I cannot focus on the 'life balance' aspect or I am relishing a particular moment of my life. At this moment, I am enjoying seeing my spectacular rose blooms -I planted 3,000 roses in the garden in February. It's important to enjoy the little things in life.



Let your kids connect with Nature

Make some effort to make your child connect with nature and see what a difference it makes

Growing up in cities means staying away from nature. No wonder then children today are becoming disconnected from nature. It's so very essential to stay connected to nature for a holistic life. Never mind, even if you are living in an apartment. Make some effort to make your child connect with nature. Here are some ways to get it going.

Give planned activity a miss. When you go outdoors with your kids, let their imagination soar. And let them go for some unplanned activities. Let them discover the neighbourhood. Take them to the nearest garden, park or lake. Let them discover the names of the plants and flowers in the park.

Don't put pressure on them. Let them discover the landscape on their own. Children have a natural way to explore life around them. They have the ability to turn ordinary into extra-ordinary.

Create some landscape art. Make them write a story that has nature as a theme. Let them make a collage of nature photos.

Let them dance in the rain and play with mud. Let them have a feel of earth.

When they go outdoors (mountains, sea or even a park), let them collect pebbles, shells, leaves, twigs and the like.

Create a nature table and display all that they have collected. That will give them a sense of achievement and belonging.



The researchers found that when garden grown vegetables were slipped into school salads, kids were over four times as likely to take a salad.

"This is a small study, but it suggests gardens can help children's diets," said lead author Brian Wansink from Cornell University.

This pilot study, conducted in the US, measured the change in vegetable selection



and plate waste when school grown salad greens were incorporated in the cafeteria school lunch. The researchers measured the selections and plate waste of a total of 370 enrolled high school students over three

Make kids grow veggies to encourage Healthy eating

separate days.

When the salad bar contained produce grown by students, the percentage of those who selected salads with their meals increased from two percent to 10 percent and on average, students ate two-thirds of their salads. Overall, salad consumption for the entire student body increased from approximately five to 12

servings per day. This study implies the larger potential benefits of the school garden programmes.

"We see great promise with this research. The first hurdle in increasing

One simple way to make children eat more healthy is to help them grow vegetables in the gardens, says a new research.

vegetable consumption is simply getting kids to put them on their plate," co-author Drew Hanks from Ohio State University noted.

J and K athletes target national glory at Dal Lake

Srinagar, Aug 19 (UNI) : The inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 is being seen as a life-changer for many. While locals who win their daily bread through tourism are looking forward to the event because it will bring a lot of visitors from all across the country, Jammu and Kashmir athletes see this as a massive opportunity to challenge some of India's best and win national accolades.

The Khelo India Water Sports Festival from Aug. 21-23 will be a top-tier, Open age competition in three medal sports – rowing, canoeing and kayaking. More than 400 athletes from the 36 states and Union territories are here to compete at the iconic Dal Lake, an established world famous tourist spot. Muhammad Abbas Kand of Rainawari in Srinagar downtown, has been preparing hard for the upcoming Water Games. He will take part in rowing doubles in the light weight category. Abbas participated in a 21-day camp for water sports athletes organised at the Water Sports Centre in

Nehru Park, located inside the Dal Lake and is now raring to go.

“I am hopeful of fetching a gold medal for Jammu and Kashmir. I am also elated that the Games are being held inside Dal Lake. It will give a boost to water sports in the region and also bring the much-needed limelight to water sports athletes like me,” said Abbas. Abbas, who has won nine state and district level medals and participated in seven national events, including the 37th National Games in Goa, is among the 17 water sports athletes from J&K participating in the competitive sport events at the Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025.

Abbas and other water sports athletes from J&K have been training under the guidance of water sports coaches Parvez Ahmad Shagu of the J&K Police team and Waseem Raja of the J&K Sports Association. Like Abbas, his fellow water sports athletes from J&K, Irtiza Ali and Muntazir Ali, are also enthusiastic about their participation in the Khelo

India Water Sports Festival 2025 in the rowing Pairs event.

Irtiza, who hails from the Saida Kadal area of Srinagar and won a bronze medal in the 43rd junior national rowing championships at Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh, wants to improve his performance and fetch gold this time around. He is also counting a lot of home support.

Zahid Hussain is another J&K water sports athlete who is keen to make a splash in KIWSF. Zahid, a national bronze medal winner, has also won 25 district and state medals. He will be taking part in the canoe slalom event. “Team India water sports athletes will come here. We will learn techniques from them. We will race with them really hard,” Zahid promised.

Marya Jan, a kayaking and canoeing coach, said the Dal Lake Games will lift the profile of water sports in J&K exactly how the Khelo India Winter Games brought world attention on Gulmarg.

“The locals have been training hard and should win a lot of medals,” said Marya.

South Africa pacer Rabada ruled out of Australia ODI series with ankle injury

Cairns (Queensland), Aug 19 (UNI) : South Africa have suffered a massive blow with news that star pacer Kagiso Rabada will miss his side's three-match ODI series against Australia through injury.

Rabada has been diagnosed with inflammation in his right ankle, with scans confirming the injury.

The injury will keep Rabada sidelined for the three-match ODI series against the Aussies that commences in Cairns on Tuesday, with the Proteas confirming the star quick will remain in Australia for rehabilitation, an ICC report said. "Proteas Men's fast bowler Kagiso Rabada has been ruled out of the three-match One-Day International (ODI) series against Australia due to inflammation of his right ankle," South Africa said via a statement.

"The 30-year-old underwent a scan on Monday, which confirmed the extent of the injury.

"He will remain in Australia and undergo rehabilitation under the supervision of the Proteas medical staff." The series gets underway with the first ODI on Tuesday, at Cazalys Stadium. "South Africa squad: Temba Bavuma (c), Corbin Bosch, Matthew Breetzke, Dewald Brevis, Nandre Burger, Tony de Zorzi, Aiden Markram, Kwen Maphaka, Senuran Muthusamy, Keshav Maharaj, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs, Prenelan Subrayen.

Harmanpreet aims for maiden World Cup triumph on home soil

Mumbai, Aug 19 (UNI) : Harmanpreet Kaur gears up for her fifth ICC Women's Cricket World Cup as looks forward to what is a very important next few months for her and her side.

"Personally, this tournament is very important for me. This is a home World Cup. Home World Cups are special for every player. I have a lot of experience batting at No.4, I am just looking to contribute to the team," said Kaur, who will captain India for the first time in the marquee tournament.

"We are really excited for the World Cup. We are having training camps. We are preparing ourselves mentally and physically," she said.

A notable omission for India is Shafali Verma who also missed out on a spot in the recent ODI series against England. The opener had returned to the T20I side in the same series and was a part of the India 'A' side against Australia 'A'. However, the selectors have opted for stability as the team heads into this all-important tournament.

"She is playing for India 'A' in Australia. She is a part of the system. We are keeping an eye out for her. The more she plays, the more experience she will gain for the future," Kaur said.

Poster Launch ceremony for Championship



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Aug 19 : The Telangana Handball Association is proud to host the 17th Mini Handball National Championship for Boys and Girls, scheduled to take place from 26th to 30th September 2025.

The poster launch

ceremony for the Championship was held with the gracious presence of: Shri Vakiti Shrihari Garu, Hon'ble Sports Minister Mr C. Thirumal Reddy, Joint Secretary, Telangana Handball Association & General Secretary, Ranga Reddy Handball

Association, K. Sudhakar, Vice President, Hyderabad District Handball Association, B. Manohar Babu, Senior Congress Leader, Nampally Constituency, S. Narsimha, Social Worker, Dr. B. Laxmaiah, President, Telangana Junior College

Physical Directors Association.

The Telangana Handball Association extends heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries and stakeholders for their support in promoting handball and nurturing young talent in India.

UP Yoddhas unveil striking new warrior-themed jersey

Mumbai, Aug 19 (UNI) : GMR Sports-owned UP Yoddhas launched their official jersey for the upcoming Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 12 at an event in partnership with their Principal Sponsor Hero FinCorp here.

The new kit signifies the UP Yoddhas' indomitable spirit, drawing from GMR Sports' signature colours of blue and red, infused with an arrow-inspired design — a symbol of precision, focus, and unstoppable forward momentum. Every detail reflects the team's resilient ideology, with vibrant hues capturing the energy and determination that define them on the mat.

Hero FinCorp's association as Principal Sponsor marks a positive step in the Yoddhas' journey to strengthen their

brand presence and fan connect.

The organisation's dynamic ethos aligns seamlessly with the Yoddhas' drive for excellence, which makes the partnership a natural fit.

Satyam Trivedi, CEO GMR Sports, said, "We are delighted to welcome Hero FinCorp as our Principal Sponsor. We share a mutual vision and energy which align with our aspirations for this PKL season. Together, we aim to give our fans many moments to cheer for both on and off the mat."

"We are excited to unveil the UP Yoddhas' jersey for PKL Season 12, a design that encapsulates our team's precision, focus, resilience and drive to win, which also inspires this year's theme of the jersey," he added. UP Yoddhas

players will don the new kit when they begin their Season 12 campaign on August 30 against Telugu Titans at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Vizag. With a refreshed unit, a renewed identity, and robust partnerships, UP Yoddhas are ready to make their mark in PKL Season 12, both stylistically and through performances as well. UP Yoddhas squad for PKL 12:

Raiders: Surender Gill, Bhavani Rajput, Guman Singh, Gagan Gowda, Shivam Chaudhary, Dong Geon Lee, Pranay Rane, Jatin Singh, Keshav Kumar.

Defenders: Sumit Sangwan (c), Ashu Singh (vc), Sahul Kumar, Mahender Singh, Mohammadreza Kaboudrahangi, Hitesh Kadian, Gangaram, Jayesh Mahajan, Sachin Manipal, Ronak Nain.

Surya to lead, Shubman Gill deputy

Mumbai, Aug 19 (UNI) : India's cricket selectors today unveiled a 15-member squad for the upcoming Asia Cup, blending experience, all-round balance, and promising young talent. Surya Kumar Yadav has been appointed captain, bringing aggressive middle-order firepower and calm leadership, while Shubman Gill will serve as vice-captain, providing stability at the top of the order and tactical acumen.

The squad features a deep and flexible batting unit. Shubman Gill and Tilak Varma are expected to anchor the innings at the top, while Abhishek Sharma adds power-hitting capability. Surya Kumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, and Shivam Dube will form the middle-order core, combining experience, finishing ability, and aggression. Rinku Singh and Harshit Rana provide additional depth and explosive options toward the lower middle order.

Jitesh Sharma and Sanju Samson will share wicketkeeping responsibilities. Jitesh is likely to provide a stable presence and finishing skills, while Sanju Samson brings attacking prowess, giving India flexibility in adjusting the batting order based on match situations.

India's bowling attack is well-rounded and versatile. Jasprit Bumrah leads the pace department, supported by Arshdeep Singh, offering pace, swing, and death-over expertise. Spin options are comprehensive, featuring Axar Patel's left-

arm orthodox, Varun Chakaravathy's mystery spin, and Kuldeep Yadav's wrist-spin variations. This combination allows India to adapt to a wide range of pitch conditions, from slow subcontinental surfaces to slightly faster tracks. Harshit Rana adds backup pace options, strengthening the overall bowling balance.

Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube provide genuine all-round capabilities, enabling India to tweak both batting and bowling lineups according to the opposition and match conditions. The inclusion of younger players such as Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, and Abhishek Sharma reflects India's long-term planning, giving them exposure in high-pressure continental tournaments.

The team's strengths lie in its deep, adaptable batting order capable of handling high-pressure scenarios, a varied bowling attack with pace, swing, spin, and mystery deliveries, and a balanced combination of experienced leaders and young talent fostering continuity. Multiple all-rounders offer flexibility in team composition. Potential challenges include the pressure on younger players in crucial matches, managing two wicketkeepers without disrupting the batting order, and reliance on a spin-heavy attack on pitches favoring pace. This squad positions India strongly for the Asia Cup, offering a blend of aggressive firepower, tactical depth, and bowling versatility.

Telangana to celebrate National Sports Day with 9-day festivities from Aug 23

Hyderabad, Aug 19 (UNI) : Telangana will celebrate National Sports Day in a grand manner with nine days of festivities from August 23 to 31, making it one of the most elaborate celebrations in the country.

State Sports and Youth Services Minister Dr. Vakkiti Srihari unveiled the official poster of the celebrations at his residence in the Ministers' Quarters on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said the state government has designed unique programs for each of the nine days to be held not only at the Sports Authority grounds in Hyderabad but also across all district headquarters. Highlighting the inclusive nature of the events, the Minister said activities have been planned for participants ranging from toddlers to senior citizens above

70 years. "The aim is to spread awareness, inspire thought, and encourage sports practice among people of all age groups," he said, calling upon the sports community to actively support the initiative.

He added that the programs are part of the new Sports Policy 2025, which seeks to widen participation and strengthen the sporting culture in the state.

Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy recalled that Telangana had earlier celebrated National Sports Day for three days last year, and said this year's nine-day format will involve an even larger number of sportspersons and enthusiasts. Sports Authority MD Dr. Sonibala Devi, Khelo India official Dr. Raviteja, and several others were present at the event.

Jaiswal, Iyer snubbed as Agarkar unveils Asia Cup squad

Mumbai, Aug 19 (UNI) : As the Asia Cup approaches, India's cricket selectors have unveiled a 15-member squad that promises a blend of aggression, strategy, and youth, offering fans a glimpse of a team both ready for the present and invested in the future.

At the helm is Surya Kumar Yadav, appointed captain, whose calm yet dynamic approach in the middle order is expected to guide India through high-pressure encounters. Shubman Gill, vice-captain and a figure of composure at the top, complements Surya's aggression with stability and tactical clarity.

The batting lineup reads like a well-balanced puzzle. Gill and Tilak Varma are likely to provide solidity at the top, anchoring the innings while the middle

order - Surya Kumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, and Shivam Dube - brings a mix of experience, finishing prowess, and explosive hitting. The presence of Rinku Singh and Harshit Rana ensures that India will not run out of options even in crunch situations, giving the team depth and flexibility rarely seen in such tournaments. Dual wicketkeeping duties by Jitesh Sharma and Sanju Samson add an intriguing tactical dimension. Jitesh offers reliability and finishing ability, while Samson brings attacking flair, giving the team room to tweak batting positions according to match situations. The bowling department mirrors the batting unit's versatility. Jasprit Bumrah anchors the pace attack, supported by Arshdeep Singh's swing

and death-over acumen. Spin options feature the crafty left-arm of Axar Patel, Varun Chakaravathy's mystery deliveries, and Kuldeep Yadav's wrist-spin, providing the captain a rich palette to exploit different pitch conditions.

Harshit Rana adds a further pace option, strengthening an already balanced attack. Chief selector Ajit Agarkar framed the Asia Cup as more than a tournament, it is a testing ground ahead of the T20 World Cup. "This is the first big tournament after the T20 World Cup. Our aim is to give players the best possible opportunity to be in top shape for the World Cup," he said, emphasising the dual purpose of immediate performance and long-term grooming.

On exclusions like Yashasvi Jaiswal and

Shreyas Iyer, Agarkar noted, "Selection is about balance and form. One of these talented players was always going to miss out this time." What stands out is the squad's design for adaptability. Experienced campaigners guide emerging talents like Varma, Rinku, and Abhishek Sharma, giving them exposure to high-pressure continental cricket. All-rounders Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube provide strategic flexibility, allowing India to adjust both batting and bowling according to opposition and conditions. The team's strengths lie in its depth, variety, and adaptability, while challenges include managing young players under pressure and ensuring the dual-wicketkeeper setup does not disrupt balance.

Junior World No 1s Tanvi, Bhargav Ram-Viswa Tej to lead Strong Indian Line-up

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) : Junior World No 1 girls' singles player Tanvi Sharma, boys' doubles combination of Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu, along with Asian Junior Championships bronze medallist Vennala Kalagotla and the experienced Unnati Hooda, will lead a 25-member strong Indian team at the BWF World Junior Championships 2025, to be held at the National Centre of Excellence, Guwahati from October 6–19.

The mixed team championships for the Suhandinata Cup will be played from October 6–11,

while the individual events will take place from October 13–19.

"We are very excited that India will be fielding one of its strongest contingents for the World Junior Championships on home turf. Our squad boasts two World Junior No. 1s and a few players who have already made their mark on the senior circuit, and I am confident that we will see Indian players on the podium this time," said Badminton Association of India Secretary Sanjay Mishra.

The last time India hosted the BWF World Junior Championships was

in 2008, when Saina Nehwal became the first Indian shuttler to win gold, while RMV Guru Sai Dutt secured bronze in the boys' singles. India has so far won 11

medals in the competition, including four silver and six bronze, and the squad selected for the 2025 edition has enough depth to add to that tally.

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Women Empowerment Gets A Big Boost In SCR

(Standard Post Burea)
Hyderabad, Aug 19 : Five Important departments on South Central Railway i.e., Commercial, Operations, Finance, Security & Medical departments are currently being led by Women Officers in the South Central Railway zone. Ms. K.Padmaja (IRTS) Principal Chief Operations Manager is currently handling the Operating department, Ms. Aroma Singh Thakur (IRPFS) is leading the Security department as the Inspector General – cum – Principal Chief Security Commissioner (IG-cum-PCSC), Ms. T. Hema Sunitha (IRAS) is leading the Finance wing of SCR as Principal Financial Advisor, Ms. Ity Pandey (IRTS) is leading the commercial department as Principal Chief Commercial Manager, SCR, while Dr. Nirmala Narasimhan (IRHS) is leading the Medical department as Principal Chief Medical Director, SCR. For the first time in the history of South Central Railway, these five crucial departments of the zone are being led by all women officers. These departments, known for their complexity and demanding nature, require exceptional leadership, decision-making and coordination to ensure the smooth operation of services, the safety & security of passengers, and the well-being of employees. Despite the challenges inherent in these high-pressure roles, these women officers are handling every aspect with utmost efficiency, setting a powerful example of excellence.

Ms. K. Padmaja (IRTS – 1991 batch) assumed charge as Principal Chief Operations Manager, SCR in January, 2025. Before assuming charge, she was looking after both Commercial and Operations wing of the Zone. As the PCOM, she plays a crucial role in planning train operations and ensuring safe, efficient and punctual movement of passenger and freight trains across the zone. The department manages scheduling and timetabling of trains, traffic management, co-ordination with other departments to



addressing infra and rolling stock requirements, monitoring train operations and punctuality performance etc. During the current financial year (2025-26) until July, the zone has achieved a whopping 49 Million Tonnes in Freight loading generating freight revenue of Rs. 4,601 crores. The zone has also operated 1,117 special train services to facilitate the passengers during holiday season during the current year.

Mrs. Ity Pandey (IRTS - 1998 batch) has assumed charge as the PCCM (Principal Chief Commercial Manager), South Central Railway earlier in this month i.e., 2nd August 2025. As the head of the Commercial department, she supervises the effective management of passenger and freight services ensuring customer satisfaction and revenue generation. The Commercial department manages passenger services such as ticketing, reservations, customer assistance, freight services, station management, advertising, non-fare revenue, marketing & business development, revenue generation etc. Before taking charge as Principal Chief Commercial Manager, SCR, Mrs. Ity Pandey served as Divisional Railway Manager, Bhusawal Division, Chief Commercial Manager (Passenger Services) at the Central Railway Headquarters apart from various significant posts in Central and Western Railways. She has been honoured with

General Managers Award (twice), Ministry of Railways Award for excellence and Meritorious Services 2007 and Women Achievers Award 2016. She has been honoured with Rail Mantri Rajbhasha Rajat Padak in June 2025. As Chief Commercial Manager (Freight), she wrote a Book named ‘Riding the Freight Train’, a comprehensive overview of Freight Operations over Western Railway. She has been recognized amongst the 24 Bureaucrat Change-makers of 2024 in the Bureaucrats Annual List 2024. She is a Marathon Runner and the only lady Civil Servant to complete the Comrades Marathon in South Africa in 2023 and completed a grueling 88-kilometer distance in 11 hours and 47 minutes.

Ms. Aroma Singh Thakur (IRPFS – 1993 batch) assumed charge as Inspector General – cum – Principal Chief Security Commissioner (IG-cum-PCSC), SCR in July, 2023. She heads the Railway Protection Force of the zone which is primarily responsible for the safety and security of Rail passengers and Railway property.

The role of RPF also includes Prevention of crime and investigation, disaster response, crowd management, surveillance & monitoring, assistance to passengers, co-ordination with local authorities especially during emergencies. Under the leadership of PCSC, Security wing is leveraging advanced technologies and data analytics to enhance

monitoring capabilities and improve response time. She played a key role in undertaking various initiatives on a large scale across the zone such as Operation Yatri Suraksha, Operation Amanat, Operation Nanhe Farishte, Operation Satark etc., to safeguard the lives of passengers and Railway property. Specialized units like Women Shakti Teams, Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), Disaster management, Meri Saheli teams were also introduced for enhancing the women security.

Dr. Nirmala Narasimhan (IRHS – 1989 batch) has assumed charge as Principal Chief Medical Director in December, 2024. As the in-charge of medical department she plays a vital role in ensuring the best healthcare services to employees, their families, and, in emergencies to passengers. SCR zone has a total of 8 major hospitals including, one 380 bedded Central Railway Hospital at Lallaguda; Divisional Hospitals at Vijayawada, Guntakal, Nanded & Guntur; Sub-Divisional hospitals at Tirupati, Rayanapadu & Purna. The zone has a total of 40 Health Units at workplaces, Railway colonies across the six divisions (i.e., Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntur, Guntakal & Nanded) to provide immediate health-care services to employees. The key responsibilities of the department include employee healthcare, emergency medical assistance to passengers, hygiene & sanitation etc.

During the current year, medical infrastructure of the zone has been further improved by installing 64 slices CT scan machine and in-house cardiac Cath Lab in Lallaguda Central Hospital.

Smt. T. Hema Suneetha (IRAS - 1993 batch) took charge as the Principal Financial Advisor, South Central Railway in April, 2025. As the in charge of Accounts department, she plays a vital role in ensuring the good financial position of the Zone. She was trained in International Financial Management at European Business School, London and Paris where she gained expertise in Public Private Partnership, Accrual Accounting, International Tax Laws etc. As part of Advanced Management Programme, she underwent training at ICLIF/INSEAD in Malaysia and Singapore. Before assuming charge as Principal Financial Advisor, she was working as Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer/Traffic & Capex Management, South Central Railway from May 2023. The Apportioned revenue of the Zone has shown a significant jump during April to July, in the current financial year. Gross Traffic receipts of apportioned revenue which comprises of passenger freight, sundry earnings etc., is registered at Rs 8,081 Crore as against Rs 7,813 Crore during the last year in the same period, which shows increase of 3% .

Mr Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR expressed his happiness that for the first time, five departments are being headed by dynamic women officers of the zone. He stated that this is a testament to the proficiency of these officers and the growing strength of women in different fields.

He said that South Central Railway has been at the forefront in promoting women empowerment by undertaking various initiatives to improve the participation of women. The role of these women officers as Principal Heads of various Departments will inspire more women to reach to new heights of success, he added.

DRM conducts safety and amenities inspection : ECoR



(Standard Post Burea)
Visakhapatnam, Aug 19 : Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Waltair, Mr Lalit Bohra, accompanied by Mr KVV Narasimha Rao, GM RVNL and senior officers of the Division, conducted a comprehensive inspection of Simhachalam, Donkinavalasa, Bobbili, and Parvatipuram railway stations and their adjoining sections on today 19.08.2025.

The primary objective was to evaluate station facilities, amenities, and infrastructure upgrades to ensure safety and enhance

passenger comfort. The inspection commenced at Simhachalam station, followed by Parvatipuram and Bobbili stations. Special attention was given to amenities and infrastructure developments, particularly under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Notable projects in progress include the construction of a 12-meter-wide Foot Over Bridge, expansion and redesign of circulating areas and parking lots, upgrades to station buildings, and planning for a secondary entry at the stations.

Vijayapura–Mangaluru Central–Vijayapura Express Special to Run as Regular Express from Sept : SWR

(Standard Post Burea)
Mumbai, Aug 19 : The Railway Board has approved the regularisation of the Vijayapura–Mangaluru Central–Vijayapura Express Special (Train Nos. 07377/07378), upgrading it to a regular express service. The trains will now operate as Train Nos. 17377/17378 Vijayapura–Mangaluru Central–Vijayapura Express.

Train No. 17377 Vijayapura–Mangaluru Central Express will commence regular service from September 1, 2025, while Train No. 17378 Mangaluru Central–Vijayapura Express will commence from September 2, 2025.

Heavy rains hit Mahavitaran system

Working on war footing to restore power supply

(Standard Post Burea)
Kalyan, Aug 19 : The heavy rains that have been going on for the past two days have severely affected the Mahavitaran system in Kalyan, Vasai, Virar areas. As a result, the power supply of about 2.5 lakh electricity consumers in this area has been shut down as a precautionary measure. Mahavitaran has started efforts on war footing to restore the shut down power supply.

According to the information provided by Mahavitaran, the power supply in Nandivali, Adivali, Titwala, Badlapur areas under Kalyan Board Office-1 has been affected. The power system in Vasai-Virar has been hit the hardest by the heavy rains.

1300 Rohitras in Vasai-Virar have been shut down due to flood water. As a result, the power supply of more than two lakh electricity consumers here has been shut down as a precautionary measure. Power supply has been temporarily suspended due to water reaching the power system at Bhinar Pada, which supplies water to the Badlapur area.

Mahavitaran engineers-Janamitra are working on a war footing to restore power supply. After the flood water recedes, the system will be inspected and power supply to electricity consumers will be restored, informed Mr.Chandramani Mishra, Chief Engineer of Mahavitaran Kalyan Circle.

Joy to the City of Joy: PM Modi’s Metro Gift, Connecting Kolkata from Heart to Heart

(Standard Post Burea)
Mumbai, Aug 19 : **A Decade of Unmatched Progress**

Kolkata was India’s first Metro city. Yet from 1984 to 2014, only 27.99 km of Metro was built in three decades. In the last 10 years under Prime Minister Modi, 45 km has been added 161% more than the previous 30 years combined. From being the first Metro city to now becoming the fastest expanding network, Kolkata’s Metro will once again be a matter of pride. For Kolkatans, this will not just be progress, it will be personal. It will make journeys smoother, celebrations easier, and hearts closer. As Maa Durga arrives, Pujo will finally be celebrated without the shadow of traffic. The Metro will carry people to pandal-hopping in North and South Kolkata, to

prayers at Kalighat and Dakshineswar, and to their loved ones with ease and with joy.

A Bond That Began in 1984

Kolkata and the Metro share a bond that began decades ago. In 1984, when India’s first Metro ran in this very city, it was not just a transport system, it was a moment of pride. Generations grew up with that pride, watching the Metro become part of their everyday stories. But as the city expanded, the dream of a wider, faster network often felt incomplete. Roads got busier, traffic grew worse, and especially during Durga Puja, one phrase was on everyone’s lips: “uff... jam!”

A Festive Gift for Kolkata

This Pujo, that story will change before Maa

Durga arrives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give Kolkata a festive gift of 13.62 km of new Metro connectivity, including three important stretches:

Green Line (Esplanade–Sealdah)

Yellow Line (Noapara–Jai Hind Bimanbandar)

Orange Line (Hemanta Mukhopadhyay–Belegghata)

Making Lives Easy

The Green Line (Esplanade–Sealdah) will bring Bengal’s two lifelines closer than ever. What once took up to an hour by road will now take just 11 minutes. For over six lakh daily passengers, this will set a new rhythm to life.

The Yellow Line (Noapara–Jai Hind Bimanbandar) will fulfill a long-cherished dream of Kolkatans—a direct Metro to the airport. The journey from

Esplanade to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, which earlier took an hour by road, will now take only 30 minutes. Families will welcome loved ones on time, travellers will find Kolkata warmer and closer and thousands of airport workers will travel with ease and dignity.

The Orange Line (Hemanta Mukhopadhyay–Belegghata) will connect areas like Science City and major hospitals near Belegghata.

Patients will find relief, families will find comfort, and students will find new opportunities. Soon, the IT hub at Salt Lake Sector V will also be linked, giving young professionals faster and more reliable journeys.

Enhanced Connectivity

The expanded network

of Kolkata Metro is knitting the city together like never before. By linking peripheral areas like Noapara in the north and Belegghata in the east to central hubs like Esplanade, Park Street and Sealdah, the Metro has allowed lakhs of residents to access different regions more conveniently. It is turning long commutes into easy rides, creating new possibilities for work, study, and leisure.

Reduced Traffic Congestion

Kolkata has long battled serious road congestion due to limited urban infrastructure, heavy rainfall, and a rising number of vehicles.

With the Metro providing a fast and reliable alternative, the city’s dependence on road travel is reducing.

This is not just easing traffic jams in areas like Sealdah Flyover, EM Bypass, and Airport Road,

but also cutting pollution and stress for everyday commuters.

Boosting Economic Growth

The Metro has become a driver of Kolkata’s economy. It has created jobs, encouraged local businesses around stations like Dum Dum, Gariahat, Park Street, and Esplanade, and attracted industries to well-connected areas. With more passengers, more shops, and more opportunities, the Metro is stimulating the local economy and fueling the city’s growth story.

Time Efficiency

In today’s fast-paced life, time is everything. The Metro is helping Kolkatans save precious hours every day. For instance, the journey between Esplanade and Howrah Maidan, which takes around 20 minutes by road, will now be covered in just 5 minutes

by Metro.

Faster travel means more time for families, studies, work, and celebrations.

Seamless Integration with Other Modes

The Kolkata Metro is not just a standalone system, it is a lifeline that connects with others. At key interchange stations like Dum Dum, Sealdah, and Howrah, it links seamlessly with Kolkata Suburban Railways and other transport systems. This multi-layered connectivity is ensuring smooth travel across the city and beyond.

A Decade of Unmatched Progress

Kolkata was India’s first Metro city. Yet from 1984 to 2014, only 27.99 km of Metro was built in three decades. In the last 10 years under Prime Minister Modi, 45 km has been added—more than the previous 30 years combined.

From being the first Metro city to now becoming the fastest expanding network, Kolkata’s Metro will once again be a matter of pride. For Kolkatans, this will not just be progress, it will be personal. It will make journeys smoother, celebrations easier, and hearts closer. As Maa Durga arrives, Pujo will finally be celebrated without the shadow of traffic. The Metro will carry people to pandal-hopping in North and South Kolkata, to prayers at Kalighat and Dakshineswar, and to their loved ones with ease and with joy.

Kolkata’s Moment

This is Kolkata’s moment. A city that gave India its first Metro will now celebrate the fastest progress in its history. A journey of pride, a journey of progress, and above all, a journey of connecting hearts.