

IN BRIEF

Five killed in Ratnagiri road accident

Kolhapur/Ratnagiri, Aug 19 (UNI) : Five people, including three members of a family, were killed on the spot after a collision between a truck, an autorickshaw and a jeep in Maharashtra's coastal Ratnagiri district, police said today.

The accident occurred last night in Pimpri on the Chiplun-Karad road.

According to sources in Chiplun police, the accident occurred when the drivers of the rickshaw and the jeep were trying to avoid each other, and their vehicles collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction.

The deceased have been identified as Shabana Sayyad (50), Haider Sayyad (3), Niyaz Sayyad (50) and rickshaw driver Ibrahim Lono (60).

The identity of the jeep driver is yet to be ascertained, police said.

Gurdwaras extend shelter, langar to stranded

Mumbai, Aug 19 (UNI) : Torrential rainfall across Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai has severely disrupted normal life, leaving numerous commuters stranded for hours on waterlogged roads while attempting essential travel.

In response, the Sikh community has mobilised immediate relief efforts by opening gurdwara doors to all affected persons, providing organised shelter and langar services.

The community has issued a public appeal urging those stranded by flooding to seek refuge in nearest gurdwaras, where accommodation, meals and essential facilities are being offered without discrimination.

Bal Malik Singh, Convener of the Maharashtra Sikh Association, confirmed the initiative extends beyond Mumbai to multiple state regions, prioritising humanitarian service during the crisis. Simultaneously, extensive waterlogging has paralysed transportation networks with railway disruptions, road traffic jams and flight delays compounding public difficulties.

Low-lying areas in Mumbai, Thane and Palghar remain particularly affected as continuous rainfall overwhelms urban infrastructure.

Amid heavy rains in Maharashtra, CM directs all agencies to be on alert

Mumbai, Aug 19 (IANS) : Amid heavy and incessant rains and floods across Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday instructed all agencies to be on alert mode to control the situation.

"The district collectors have been asked to provide immediate assistance in case of loss of life, livestock and damage to houses. Panchnamas should also be done immediately for the damage to agriculture, and action has been taken to provide compensation as per the norms of NDRF," he told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting to review the situation arising out of heavy rains.

Fadnavis said that there is prima facie information that crops on about 12 to 14 lakh acres in the state have been affected.

"The intensity of the rains has not subsided yet. Therefore, instructions have been given to NDRF, SDRF and various disaster

management agencies to be alert and coordinate. In accordance with the information received from the weather stations, alerts are being given to the citizens of the state about the rain every three hours. A cloudburst-like situation has arisen in the Nanded district. Initial reports indicate that eight people have died. All disaster control rooms in the state have been instructed to remain alert and maintain coordination regarding information sharing," he added."The state is experiencing heavy rainfall. Due to this, the discharge from various irrigation projects is being monitored. For this, coordination is being maintained with projects in neighbouring states regarding the discharge of water. We are also getting a good response from those states. Contact has been made, especially for more discharge from Hippiargi. Coordination is also being made with the

water resources departments of Telangana," said the Chief Minister.

Fadnavis stated that the Mumbai Metropolitan Region has been hit the hardest by the heavy rains. The rains have been continuing since Monday.

"It is a fact that water has accumulated in many low-lying areas. But all the systems of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, along with the state machinery, are working in coordination. The services of suburban local trains were disrupted for a few hours. All agencies concerned are doing their utmost to control this entire situation. As a precaution, offices in the Mumbai city area were also given a holiday," he added.

A red alert had already been issued for Vasai and Palghar due to a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal. This low-pressure area will cause heavy rainfall. But where and how

much rainfall is falling on it? A system has been set up to send alerts in this regard every three hours, said a government release.

"There is heavy rain in the catchment areas of many rivers in the state. Due to this, some rivers have reached the danger mark. However, in Mumbai, the Mithi River crossed the danger level. Due to this, about 400 people had to be shifted to a safe place. But now the situation is under control. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is keeping an eye on the situation in Mumbai city. He has also visited the Mithi River area. It is a fact that there has been a mess in removing silt from the Mithi River. Now, strange and miraculous things are coming out about it. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation will now have to take action to remove the silt again, and orders have also been given in this regard," said the Chief Minister.

Monorail stalls after power failure, 582 passengers rescued in Mumbai

Mumbai, Aug 19 (UNI) : A Mumbai Monorail train carrying 582 passengers came to a halt today due to a power failure caused by overcrowding, prompting a three-hour-long rescue operation, officials said.

The incident occurred after the four-coach monorail, with 582 passengers onboard, stalled near Mysore Colony.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) said the train's weight exceeded its designed capacity of 104 metric tonnes after a sudden influx of commuters due to the closure of the Harbour Line amid heavy rains.

Initial attempts by rescue teams to tow the



stranded train to the nearest station failed as the brakes remained jammed due to the excess weight.

The Fire Brigade, in coordination with Monorail operations and maintenance teams, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), and the police, then began a rescue operation that involved breaking the

train's windows to evacuate passengers. The three-hour-long rescue operation, which began at 6:50 pm, concluded at 9:50 pm, with all 582 passengers safely evacuated. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that a section of the train had tilted due to overcrowding.

A passenger, Dhananjay

Shinde, described the experience as "horror".

"People were trapped inside, the air conditioning was off and everyone was scared. It was the passengers who had to break the glass since the air conditioning was off," he said.

The MMRDA stated that the Monorail is a low-capacity transit system not designed for sudden, high commuter volumes.

The authority assured safety to passengers, requested cooperation with security personnel and confirmed coordination with the BMC and emergency services for safe evacuation and service restoration. A technical review is underway to prevent future incidents.

Collector reviews flood preparedness in Sangli

Sangli, Aug 19 (UNI) : In view of possible floods due to continuous rain in the neighboring districts and in Sangli, District Collector Ashok Kakade today personally visited the Krishna river Ghat near Irwin Bridge, as well as the Hariapur Ghat and reviewed the administration's preparedness to deal with possible emergencies. On this occasion, District Collector Ashok Kakade gave instructions to the agencies regarding the measures and precautions to be taken during a disaster.

While the administration is ready to deal with a possible flood situation, the Municipal Corporation, Revenue Department, Water Resources Department, National Disaster Response Force, Police Department and Health Department will provide assistance to the citizens from time to time. With heavy rainfall in the Chandoli and Koyna dam catchment areas, the water level of the dam is increasing. Accordingly, the discharge from both the dams has been increased to control the water level of the dam. Due to this, the water level of the Krishna and Warna rivers was increasing and the administration has issued a warning to the villages along the river banks.

Municipal Commissioner Satyam Gandhi was present at the Krishna river ghat near Irwin bridge. On this occasion, Sub-Divisional Officer of Miraj Uttam Dighe, Executive Engineer of Water Resources Department Jyoti Deokar, Upper Tehsildar of Sangli Ashwini Varute, Municipal Health Officer Dr. Ravindra Tate, Municipal Executive Engineer Prithviraj Chavan, NDRF Inspector Sushant Shetty etc. were present.

Torrential rain alert issued across Marathwada

Ch. Sambhajinagar, Aug 19 (UNI) : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued heavy to extremely heavy rainfall alerts for all eight districts of Marathwada, effective today through August 23.

This weather system, triggered by a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, has brought crucial relief to drought-affected regions while raising flood concerns in vulnerable zones.

Nanded district faces extreme downpours today with 93% precipitation probability and flash flood warnings amid 23°C-26°C temperatures. Similar severe conditions prevail in Dharashiv, where 112.8 mm rainfall is expected, while Hingoli anticipates 32 mm precipitation with 93% storm

likelihood under 24°C-26°C. Parbhani reports a 100% thunderstorm probability today with 95-97% humidity levels persisting till Thursday.

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar experiences heavy rainfall at 26°C-27°C with over 95% humidity, shifting to moderate showers midweek. Latur remains under flash flood alert with consistent heavy rainfall, while Jalna records 90% rain probability today following drought-easing 15 August downpours. Beed district, already registering 42.4 mm rainfall on Independence Day, escalates to 94% precipitation probability on Tuesday as authorities address its 43% seasonal deficit amid flood warnings.

Panchanganga river water level rising rapidly amid heavy rains in Kolhapur

Kolhapur, Aug 19 (UNI) : The water level of Kolhapur district's main Panchanganga river continued to rise rapidly following four to five consecutive days of heavy rainfall, particularly in the western tehsils of Gaganbavda, Shahuwadi, Radhanagari, Chandgad and Ajara. Rainfall has also intensified in the catchment areas of all 14 irrigation dams in the district.

With the persistent downpour, the Panchanganga overflowed its banks for the fifth time this year. As many as 80 bandharas (weirs), including Rajaram, Survey, Rui, Ichalkaranji, Terwad, Shirol, and Shignapur were overflowing. Water levels of other rivers, including Bhogavati, Kumbhi, Kasari, and Tulshi, also rose sharply, breaching their banks at several rural locations. Overflowing waters from the Rajaram and Shignapur bandharas forced the closure of Kasba Bavda-Vadnge-Nigve and Shignapur-Chikhali roads, with traffic diverted to alternative routes. At 1:00 pm today, the water level of the Panchanganga at Rajaram Bandhara ub Kasba Bavda was recorded at 36.3 feet. The alert level is at 39 feet, while the danger level is at 43 feet.

Meanwhile, 10 of the district's 14 irrigation dams, including the main Radhanagari dam, have already filled to full capacity.

Youth swept away in Gadchiroli, search operation underway

Nagpur, Aug 19 (UNI) : A 19-yr-old boy from Kodpe village in Gadchiroli's Bhamragadh taluka went missing after being swept away in an overflowing stream on Monday following heavy rainfall, officials said. The youth was attempting to cross the stream when the incident occurred. Rescue teams have launched a search operation to trace him, the officials said. Meanwhile, the Regional Meteorological Centre has issued an 'orange alert' for Gadchiroli district and a 'yellow alert' for Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, Amravati, Akola, Yavatmal, Buldhana, and Washim districts in Vidarbha for Tuesday and Wednesday.

According to the forecast, light to moderate rainfall is expected at isolated places across Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Bhandara, Nagpur, Gondia, Amravati, and Akola districts. Yavatmal, Washim, and Buldhana are likely to receive light spells of rain.



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)

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 Rs 1507 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.

Cabinet clears Rs 8,307 cr Bhubaneswar Ring Road project under HAM

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) : The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today approved the construction of a 6-lane access-controlled Capital Region Ring Road (Bhubaneswar Bypass) in Odisha, spanning 110.875 km. Addressing a press conference here, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the project will be executed under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) with a total capital investment of Rs 8,307.74 crore.

He said currently, connectivity between Rameshwar to Tangi on the existing National Highway experiences significant congestion due to high traffic volumes, passing through highly urbanised cities Khordha, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

The Minister said upon completion, the bypass will play a pivotal role in regional economic growth, strengthening connectivity between major religious and economic centres and opening new avenues for trade and industrial development.

The project will also generate approximately 74.43 lakh person-days of direct and 93.04 lakh person-days of indirect employment, and will open new avenues of growth, development and

prosperity in surrounding regions.

To address these challenges, the project is proposed to be developed as a 6-Lane Access-Controlled Greenfield Highway.

The project will provide significant benefit to Odisha and other eastern States by diverting heavy commercial traffic away from Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khordha Cities.

This will enhance the efficiency of freight movement, reducing logistics cost and driving socio-economic growth in the region.

The project alignment integrates with three major National Highways (NH-55, NH-57 and NH-655) and one State Highway (SH-65), providing seamless connectivity to key economic, social, and logistics nodes across Odisha.

Additionally, the upgraded corridor will enhance multi-modal integration by connecting with 10 economic nodes, four social nodes and five logistic nodes, providing enhanced multimodality with one major railway station, one airport, one proposed Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP), and two major ports. It will facilitate faster movement of goods and passengers across the region.

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, Khasi, 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.

Prime Minister Ekta Mall to come up in Ulwe, Navi Mumbai, built by CIDCO

(Standard Post Bureau) Navi Mumbai, Aug 19 : In a bid to provide rightful market access to indigenous products while also promoting national integration, the Central Government has proposed the construction of a Prime Minister Ekta Mall in Maharashtra.

The project will come up in Ulwe, Navi Mumbai, with support from the Central Government and implementation by CIDCO on behalf of the State Government.

Under the concept of “Unity in Diversity”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has suggested the establishment of such malls across all states. These malls will showcase and sell unique products from every district of Maharashtra as well as from other states across India. The Ulwe mall is envisioned as a platform for local artisans, producers, and entrepreneurs, in line with the goals of ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ and ‘Make in India’. Each district of the state, along with other states, will be allotted exclusive outlets

to display and sell their distinctive products.

For the management and maintenance of the mall, a committee will be formed under the chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department.

The committee will also include the Additional Chief Secretary of the Finance Department, Principal Secretaries of the Rural Development and Women & Child Welfare Departments, along with the Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of CIDCO. CIDCO has already earmarked 5,200 sq. ft. of land for the project in Ulwe. Alongside commerce, the Ekta Mall aims to promote tourism and cultural exchange.

A cultural auditorium will also be built within the mall premises, where artistes from Maharashtra and other parts of the country can showcase their performances.

The venue will regularly host diverse cultural events to highlight India’s rich traditions and heritage.

BMC distribute food packets

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai Aug 19 : Heavy rains continued to batter Mumbai for the fourth consecutive day today, causing severe waterlogging across several areas of the city and disrupting both road and rail traffic. Local train services, the city’s lifeline, were heavily impacted, leaving many commuters stranded at railway stations for hours. Responding to the situation created by nature’s fury, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials distributed essential items such as drinking water, tea, biscuits, and snacks to stranded passengers at multiple railway stations, including major junctions. Authorities also assisted commuters stuck on the roads due to the ongoing heavy showers.

Mumbai at standstill following 200 mm rain in just six hours

Mumbai, Aug 19 (UNI): Normal life was disrupted in Mumbai and adjoining areas today due to a cloudburst-like heavy downpour that has been lashing many places in Maharashtra for the past two days. While some villages in Vidarbha have been cut off due to flooding in rivers and drains, the Meteorological Department has warned of heavy rains in Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, and Raigad districts. The continuous overnight rain has disrupted the suburban local train service, the city’s lifeline, leaving many people stranded.

After reviewing the situation, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, "Mumbai and its suburbs are flooded. Many low-lying areas are inundated. 200 mm of rain fell in six hours and 300 mm in 24 hours. Due to this, the Mithi River has also flooded. Municipal corporation employees and officials are working. 525 pumps have been started, and there are 10 mini pumping stations. Holding ponds have also overflowed."

"This situation has arisen due to the overall heavy rainfall in a short time. Recognising the risk of flooding in the Mithi River, we have evacuated 300 people. Everyone is

working in the field to prevent loss of life and damage in Mumbai. Six pumping stations are also working. This situation arose due to the heavy rainfall in a short time," he added. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister’s Office informed that nearly 350 people from Mumbai’s Kurla area were shifted to safer locations as the Mithi river swelled after torrential rains today. "In Mumbai, the rain continues unabated, with an average of more than 150 mm of rainfall recorded from 4 am to 11 am today. The suburbs have seen even higher amounts. The water level of the Mithi river has risen to 3.9 metres, and 350 residents from Kurla Krantinagar have been relocated to safer places," the Chief Minister’s Office tweeted on X. "Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is continuously reviewing the situation, and the Municipal Commissioner is keeping a close watch on the circumstances," the tweet by the Chief Minister’s Office stated. Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who visited the disaster management control room to take stock of the situation, said, "Prima facie, some 10 lakh hectares of agricultural land in Maharashtra have been

Gates of Hatnur Dam opened in Jalgaon following incessant rains

Jalgaon, Aug 19 (UNI) : Due to the increase in water inflow into the dam due to heavy rains in Jalgaon district, 24 gates of Hatnur dam have been opened for the first time this monsoon season. A huge discharge of 1 lakh 25 thousand cusecs of water from the dam is being released into the Tapi river basin and the administration has issued a warning to the villages along the Tapi river.

Due to the heavy rains in the catchment area for the past few days, the Tapi, Waghur, Girna and many other rivers in the district are flowing in full flow.

After the increase in inflow, six gates of Hatnur Dam were opened completely on Monday, while 14 gates were opened by one meter. Due to which about 64 thousand 732 cusecs of water was being discharged into the Tapi river basin. Even after that, as the water inflow was increasing, the Irrigation Department decided to open 16 out of 41 gates of Hatnur Dam to full capacity and eight gates by one meter on Tuesday morning.

As a result, the discharge into the Tapi river basin started at about one lakh 20 thousand 742 cusecs. After the increase in water inflow, the discharge can be increased to one lakh 25 thousand to one and a half lakh cusecs in the next few hours, said the executive engineer of the Irrigation Department.

Also, the situation of increased discharge in Hatnur Dam, 18 gates of Shelgaon Barrage have now been opened by one meter. Due to which 41 thousand 692 cusecs are being discharged into the Tapi river basin.

submerged due to widespread showers in the state. The process of assessment of damage will begin after the intensity of the rain reduces. "Mumbai’s civic authorities today appealed to residents in vulnerable stretches near the Mithi river to remain alert and avoid venturing into flooded zones.

According to officials, some water holding ponds created by the civic body also overflowed due to the heavy rains. After the catchment areas of Vihar, Tulsi, and Powai lakes received incessant showers for the last four days and reservoirs filled to the brim, the excess water flowed into the Mithi river, leading to a rise in its level, civic officials said.

However, the Mithi river has not yet crossed its danger mark of 4.2 metres. Earlier today, the water level rose to 3.9 metres, but receded to 3.7 metres around noon, a civic official said. Yet, the Central Railway’s suburban train service between Thane and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) was completely shut down due to waterlogging at Chunabhatti station, while train services on the Harbour Line from CSMT were suspended until further notice.

CM Fadnavis unveils emblem for Ganeshotsav to be celebrated as Rajya Mahotsav

Mumbai, Aug 19 (IANS) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, on Tuesday, after the weekly cabinet meeting, unveiled the emblem for Ganeshotsav, which will be celebrated as ‘Rajya Mahotsav’ from this year onwards.

A fund of around Rs 11 crore has been allocated for a series of diverse cultural programmes, including competitions, illuminations, lectures and folk-art performances. This year, through the direct participation of the state government, Ganeshotsav will be showcased on national and international platforms, informed Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar. He added that the emblem will be prominently used as the official identity of the festival across all celebrations.

From this year onwards, the Maharashtra Government will directly participate in the celebrations and take steps



to elevate the festival to national and international prominence. This year, two themes – ‘Operation Sindoor’, a tribute to the valour of the Indian Army and ‘Swadeshi Jagar’, a call for building a self-reliant and Atmanirbhar Bharat-have been woven into the celebrations of Ganeshotsav, which has now been accorded the status of ‘Rajya

Mahotsav’, said a government release.

Minister Shelar said, “Maharashtra is a land rich in art, culture and tradition. It is blessed with the legacy of saints, social reformers, great leaders, warriors, spiritual thinkers and an inclusive heritage. This sacred land of the Deccan has been intellectually vibrant and socially united, laying the foundation for

the state’s economic, social and cultural progress. Ganeshotsav has played a crucial role in fostering this unity. The centuries-old tradition of domestic Ganesh celebrations, and the decades-old public Ganeshotsav culture, are proud symbols of Maharashtra’s cultural and social harmony.”

Minister Shelar further stated, “It is time that the

Incessant rainfall across State claims 10 lives

Mumbai, Aug 19 (UNI) : Heavy rainfall across Maharashtra has claimed over 10 lives in the past 48 hours, with Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) bearing severe brunt after receiving 400-500 mm precipitation since Sunday.

The relentless downpour paralysed normal life in Mumbai and its suburbs, causing extensive waterlogging, road traffic disruptions, and delays in Central, Harbour, and Western Line suburban trains.

Regional fatality reports confirm three deaths in Nanded, two in Beed, one in Hingoli, one in Akola, and two in Mumbai. Two

persons remain missing in Nanded’s flood-hit Mukhed area, while one is unaccounted for in coastal Konkan.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) maintained a Red Alert for North Konkan districts – Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburban, Palghar, Thane, and Raigad – with an Orange Alert in force for Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg.

Agricultural losses amounted to nearly four lakh hectares statewide, including two lakh hectares in Vidarbha alone. The

Marathwada region reported 800 affected villages in the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar division, while Jalgaon in North Maharashtra witnessed exceptionally heavy rainfall. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport advised passengers to confirm flight status and allocate extra travel time.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will assess the crisis at a post-noon Cabinet meeting. He directed authorities to ensure SMS alerts specify exact timings, urged citizen

vigilance, and confirmed sufficient funds for local relief. Instructions included transparent panchamas for damages, interstate coordination, tourist spot vigilance, landslide-prone area preparedness, and relief system readiness.

The IMD also warned fishermen against venturing along the Konkan-Goa coast.

All anganwadis, schools, and colleges in MMR remain shut, with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation appealing to private firms to implement work-from-home protocols.

1 million acres of farmland submerged due to heavy rains: Deputy CM Ajit Pawar

Mumbai, Aug 19 (UNI) Amid the ongoing torrential rains across Maharashtra, nearly 10 lakh (1 million) acres of farmland have gone under water said Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar today.

He said immediate surveys and compensation assessments (panchanamas) will be conducted. Large parts of the state are witnessing relentless downpours, resulting in loss of lives, cattle being swept away, and damage to homes and shops. Agriculture has

suffered extensive destruction. Pawar said that he is monitoring the situation from the war room, adding that modern technology is enabling real-time updates on rainfall and damages.

Most reservoirs in the state are overflowing. The Water Resources Department has been instructed to ensure that an executive engineer-level officer is present to regulate water discharge. Citizens in flood-prone areas are being relocated to the safer places.

The Deputy Chief

Minister Ajit Pawar also pointed out that if neighboring states, such as Karnataka, fail to release water from their reservoirs, it could worsen the situation in Maharashtra. Hence, inter-state coordination is being maintained. Government machinery is on high alert to aid flood and rain-affected citizens. Pawar appealed to people not to panic during the challenging time and extend full cooperation to the local administration, which is working on urgent relief measures.

Mithi River crosses danger mark, hundreds forced to flee homes

Mumbai, Aug 19 (UNI) : Hundreds of families living along the Mithi River were forced to evacuate their homes today after the swollen river crossed the danger mark due to hours of relentless downpour. Around 400 residents from the Kranti Nagar slum in Kurla were evacuated. Officials from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation’s (BMC) L Ward, accompanied by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams and Mumbai Fire Brigade personnel, rushed to the site after the river crossed the critical threshold. Dhanaji Hirlekar, Assistant Commissioner of L Ward, who personally supervised operations, confirmed that the evacuation of 140 vulnerable structures was underway, with residents being shifted to a nearby civic-run school. Authorities estimate 400 slum structures fall within the high-risk zone, prompting

urgent precautionary measures.

Civic staff used loudspeakers to appeal for calm while NDRF personnel braved torrential rains to carry children and elderly residents to safety. With rainfall continuing across the city, emergency teams remain on high alert, closely monitoring water levels and preparing for potential further evacuations. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said Mumbai has received around 300 mm of rain, leading to some disruptions, but the water level in the Mithi River is slowly going down. The city received 300 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours from 8 am on August 18 to 8 am on August 19. The Chief Minister said that SDRF and NDRF teams have been deployed where needed. A red alert remains in place for the Konkan and Ghat regions for the next few hours, and an orange alert has also been issued for some areas.

importance and recognition of this proud heritage gets showcased to the world. By blending tradition with modernity, strengthening the festival’s social and cultural significance, bringing together all stakeholders, boosting tourism, preserving and promoting the rich traditions and rituals, we will establish Maharashtra on the global map.”

He pointed out that the social and cultural significance of Ganeshotsav must be known to the world.

“To keep the traditional essence of the festival intact while embracing modern elements, and to ensure every citizen of the state, directly or indirectly, feels connected to the celebrations, it is essential to declare Ganeshotsav as a state festival. The Government of Maharashtra will play a facilitative and enabling role in this,” he said.

Mumbai Police lend helping hand amid heavy rain, waterlogging

Mumbai, Aug 19 (UNI) : As heavy rain continues to lash Mumbai for the fourth consecutive day, the city’s police force has stepped up to assist citizens affected by widespread waterlogging.

From clearing flooded roads to pushing stranded vehicles, the Mumbai Police officers were seen at various locations in the city and suburbs helping motorists whose vehicles were stuck in deep water.

A video shared on the official X handle of the Mumbai Police shows officers actively pushing auto-rickshaws and guiding cars through flooded streets, working to ensure public safety and keep traffic flowing smoothly.

Kashigaon sub-inspector caught while taking bribe

Mumbai, Aug 19 (UNI) : A sub-inspector from the Kashigaon Police Station, which falls under the Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar Police Commissionerate, was apprehended for accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000 from a complainant, an official said today.

According to the disclosure made by ACB today, the case originated when the complainant’s brother faced charges at Kashigaon Police Station. Sub-Inspector Palve allegedly demanded 25,000 rupees from the complainant on August 15, 2025, promising protection from arrest. After the victim approached the ACB, investigators conducted a preliminary probe between August 15-18, verifying the complaint’s validity.

During subsequent negotiations, Palve reduced his demand to 15,000 rupees.

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.

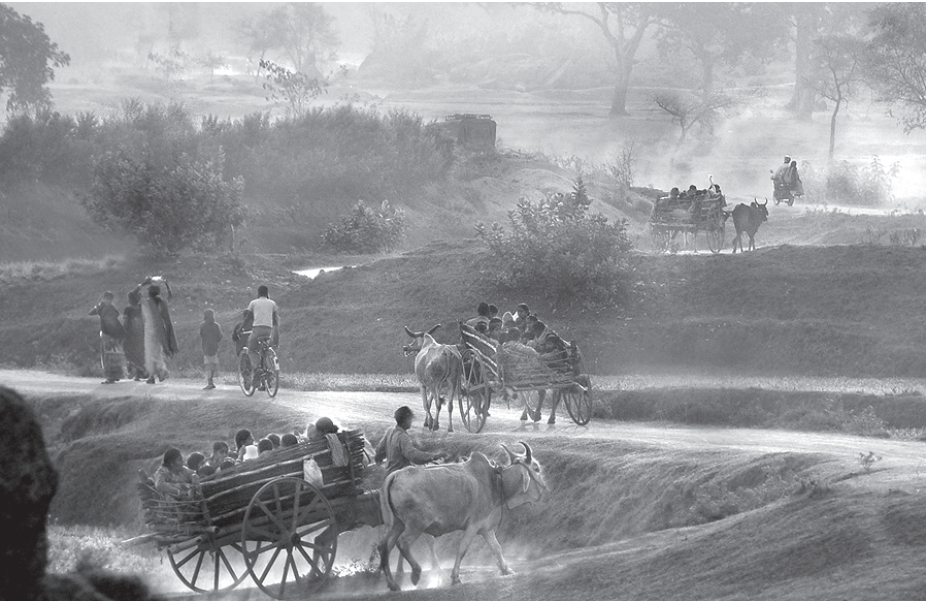
Capturing Time: A Visual Ode to World Photography Day

(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 Musavangi, 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.

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 Kaboud-rahangi, 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.

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 Strayen.

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.

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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Cancellation, Rescheduling, Short Termination, Short Origination and Diversion of mail and Express trains due to heavy rains and water logging : Central Railway

(Standard Post Burea)

Mumbai, Aug 19 : Train services on Central Railway have been cancelled, rescheduled, short terminated, short originatedand diverted due to heavy rains and the resultant water logging and low visibility at several places.

The details are as under:

Cancellation of trains Journey Commencing(JCO) on 19.08.2025

- Train no 11011 CSMT – Dhule Exp
- Train no 20706 CSMT – Jalna Vande Bharat Exp
- Train no 12125 CSMT – Pune Pragati Exp
- Train no 12123 CSMT – Pune Deccan Queen Exp
- Train no 11008 Pune – CSMT Deccan Exp
- Train no 12128 Pune – CSMT Intercity Exp
- Train no 22106 Pune – CSMT Indrayani Exp
- Train no 12071 CSMT – Jalna Exp
- Train no 12139 CSMT – Nagpur Exp
- Train no 22225 CSMT – Solapur Vande Bharat Exp
- Train no 11001 CSMT – Ballarshah Exp
- Train no 11009 CSMT – Pune Deccan Exp
- Train no 12133 CSMT – Mangalore Jn Exp

Cancellation of trains Journey Commencing(JCO) on 20.08.2025

- Train no 11012Dhule – CSMT Exp
- Train no 20705 Jalna – CSMT Vande Bharat Exp
- Train no 12126 Pune – CSMT Pragati Exp Exp
- Train no 12124 Pune – CSMT Deccan Queen Exp
- Train no 11007 CSMT – Pune DeccanExp
- Train no 12127 CSMT – Pune IntercityExp
- Train no 22105 CSMT – Pune Indrayani Exp
- Train no 12072 Jalna - CSMT Exp
- Train no 12140 Nagpur - CSMT Exp
- Train no 22226 Solapur – CSMT Vande Bharat Exp
- Train no 11010 Pune - CSMT Deccan Exp
- Train no 12134 Mangalore Jn– CSMT Exp

Cancellation of trains Journey Commencing(JCO) on 21.08.2025

- Train no 11002 Ballarshah – CSMT Exp

Short Termination of Trainsat Pune

- Train no 16340 Nagarcoil-CSMT Exp JCO 18.08.2025
- Train no 11302 Bengaluru - CSMT Udyan Exp JCO 18.08.2025
- Train no 11030 Kolhapur-CSMT Koyna Exp JCO 19.08.2025
- Train no 11014 Coimbatore – LTT Exp JCO 18.08.2025

Short termination at Panvel

- Train no 10104 Madgaon-CSMT MandoviExp JCO 19.08.2025

Short termination at Nashik Road

- Train no 12112 Amravati-CSMT Exp JCO 19.08.2025

Short termination at Igatpuri

- Train no 15018 Gorakhpur - LTT Exp JCO 18.08.2025

Short originating of Trains

- Train no 16339 CSMT - Nagarcoil Exp JCO 19.08.2025 will depart Ex Pune at 00.20 hrs of 20.08.2025
- Train no 11139 CSMT - Hosapete Exp JCO 19.08.2025 will depart Ex Pune at 01.10 hrs of 20.08.2025
- Train no 12115 CSMT - Solapur Siddheshwar Exp JCO 19.08.2025 will depart Ex Pune at 02.20 hrs of 20.08.2025
- Train no 12109 CSMT - ManmadPanchavati Exp JCO 19.08.2025 will depart Ex Igatpuri at 20.47 hrs of 20.08.2025
- Train no 20111 CSMT -Madgaon Exp JCO 19.08.2025 will depart Ex Panvel at 00.25 hrs of 20.08.2025
- Train no 12111 CSMT -Amravati Exp JCO 19.08.2025 will depart Ex Nashik Road at 00.02 hrs of 20.08.2025
- Train no 11014 Coimbatore – LTT Exp JCO 18.08.2025 will depart Ex Pune
- Train no 22538LTT - Gorakhpur Exp JCO 20.08.2025 will depart Ex Igatpuri

Diversion of Trains

Train no 22943 Daund – Indore Exp JCO 19.08.2025 and Train no 16508 Bengaluru – Jodhpur Exp JCO 18.08.2025 will be diverted via Daund-Manmad-Jalgaon-Paldhi-Surat

Train no 19577 Tirunelveli – Jamnagar Exp JCO 18.08.2025 will be diverted via Kalyan-Igatpuri-Jalgaon-Surat

Train no 20476Miraj – Bikaner Exp JCO 19.08.2025 will be diverted via Pune-Daund-Manmad-Jalgaon- Surat

Rescheduling of Trains

- Train no 11019 CSMT – Bhubaneshwar Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is

rescheduled to depart at 23.30 hrs on 19.08.2025

- Train no 22732 CSMT – Hyderabad Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 23.00 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 22221 CSMT – Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 23.45 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 17612 CSMT – Nanded Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 22.30 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 01027 Dadar - Gorakhpur Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 22.00 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 22113 LTT – Thiruvananthapuram North Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 22.00 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 12261 CSMT – HowrahExp JCO 19.08.2025 departure at 17.15 hrs is rescheduled to depart at 04.00 hrs of 20.08.2025
- Train no 22159 CSMT – Chennai Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 00.15 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 12188 CSMT – Jabalpur Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 00.30 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 22360 CSMT –Patna Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 00.05 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 12105 CSMT – GondiaExp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 22.45 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 12137 CSMT –Firozpur Punjab Mail JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 23.15 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 12289 CSMT – Nagpur Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 23.30 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 12111 CSMT – Amravati Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 23.45 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 17411 CSMT – Kolhapur Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 00.45 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 22107 CSMT - Latur Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 01.00 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 12809 CSMT - Howrah Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 01.30 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 17057 CSMT –LingampalliExp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 01.45 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 12701 CSMT – Hyderabad Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 01.15 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 12322 CSMT – Howrah Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 06.05 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 22157 CSMT – Chennai Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 02.00 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 11057 CSMT – Amritsar Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 06.30 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 17318 Dadar - Hubballi Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 21.45 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 22511 LTT - Kamakhya Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 20.00 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 11071 LTT – BalliaExp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 20.30 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 12619 LTT - MangaloreExp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 21.00 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 12173 LTT - PratapgarhExp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 21.30 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 12163 LTT -ChennaiExp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 22.30 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 12223 LTT - Ernakulam Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 23.00 hrs on 19.08.2025
- Train no 12101 LTT - ShalimarExp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 04.15 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 22109 LTT - BallarshahExp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 07.00 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 12167 LTT -BanarasExp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 08.00 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 12141 LTT – PatliputraExp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 08.30 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 12879 LTT – BhubaneshwarExp JCO 20.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 04.00 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 22177 CSMT - Banaras Exp JCO 20.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 11.30 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 20496Hadapsar - Jodhpur Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 06.00 hrs on 20.08.2025
- Train no 11021Dadar – Tirunelveli Exp JCO 19.08.2025 is rescheduled to depart at 03.00 hrs on 20.08.2025

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 TrainNos. 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.

Suburban services between CSMT and Thane resumes : CR

(Standard Post Burea)

Mumbai, Aug 19 : Train services on Central Railway was suspended due to heavy rains and the resultant water logging and low visibility at several places.

Suburban train services between CSMT and Thane resumes at 7.28 pm. The first train for Thane leaves CSMT at 7.28 pm.

Today, Suburban train services between CSMT and Thane on UP & Down fast & slow lines on Main line were suspended from

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-I 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.

11. 25 & 11.40 am respectively. “Suburban train services between CSMT and Mankhurd on the Harbour line have been suspended from 11.20 am.

However suburban services between Thane to Kasara/ Karjat on the Main line, Panvel to Mankhurd on the Harbour line and Thane to Vashi on the Trans-harbour line were running. The suburban train services on Nerul/ Belapur and Uran were also running.

Suburban train services between CSMT and Bandra/ Goregaon which was suspended from 11.20 am was resumed at 1.30 pm.

Help Desks have been put up at CSMT, Dadar, Kurla, Thane, Kalyan, Vadala Road, Vashi and Panel stations.

Shri Dharam Veer Meena, General Manager along with Principal Head of departments and Senior Officers were present at the control room and closely monitoring the situation.

China's Foreign Minister calls on PM Modi

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here this evening.

The Prime Minister told the Foreign Minister that stable, predictable, constructive ties between India and China would contribute significantly to regional as well as global peace and prosperity.

He said he was “glad to meet Foreign Minister Wang Yi” and since his

meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan last year, India-China relations had made steady progress guided by respect for each other’s interests and sensitivities.

The Prime Minister said he looked forward to his next meeting with President Xi in Tianjin on the sidelines of the SCO Summit.

“Stable, predictable, constructive ties between India and China will

contribute significantly to regional as well as global peace and prosperity,” the Prime Minister added.

The Chinese Foreign Minister who arrived here yesterday on a three-day official visit, had discussions with National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval today on border issues.

He had held talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday immediately after his arrival from Beijing.

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–Belegkata)

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–Belegkata) will connect areas like Science City and major hospitals near Belegkata.

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 Belegkata 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.