

## IN BRIEF

**Excise dept  
seizes Goa-  
made liquor  
worth Rs 1.77  
cr, two held**

Kolhapur, Aug 26 (UNI) The State Excise Department (SED), Kolhapur division, seized a consignment of Goa-made foreign liquor worth Rs 1.77 crore along with an Eicher truck in a major operation at Padalwadi on the Kolhapur-Ratnagiri National Highway early today.

Acting on a tip-off, the Bharari Squad of SED intercepted a suspicious Eicher truck and, upon inspection, recovered 1,400 boxes of Goa-made liquor. The liquor, along with the vehicle, was seized, bringing the total value of the haul to Rs 1,77,84,000. Two suspects, identified as Shailesh Jadhav and Vasudev Munde, were arrested in connection with the case. Further investigation is underway, officials said.

**Heavy showers  
lash Mumbai;  
IMD extends  
yellow alert**

Mumbai, Aug 26 (UNI) : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) today extended a yellow alert for Mumbai, warning of heavy rainfall at isolated locations.

According to the IMD, heavy rainfall is expected in parts of Mumbai on August 27 as well. Moderate showers may follow on August 28, while isolated areas could again witness heavy downpours on August 29. Officials have urged residents to stay cautious, particularly in flood-prone areas. With the monsoon showing no signs of retreat, citizens have been advised to plan their travel with care.

Thane and Navi Mumbai, too, have been placed under a yellow alert. In Thane, the IMD has warned of heavy showers in the hilly and ghat regions, raising concerns over possible landslides and waterlogging. Navi Mumbai, on the other hand, may face drainage problems, especially in areas close to creeks.

The extended forecast also places Palghar, Raigad and Ratnagiri under yellow alert along with Mumbai and Thane.

The IMD has warned that the entire Konkan belt will likely experience wet conditions for at least the next five days. Officials are monitoring the situation closely to manage flooding and traffic movement across the metropolitan region.

## Govt to form subcommittee on OBC quota on lines of Maratha reservation

Mumbai, Aug 26 (IANS) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday gave his approval for the establishment of a cabinet sub-committee to find a solution to reservation and other issues faced by the other backward classes (OBC) and nomadic tribes in the state.

The cabinet subcommittee is being formed that will be headed by the Water Resources Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil to look into the issues faced by the Maratha community and recommend solutions to address them.

CM Fadnavis' decision comes after NCP Minister and Samata Parishad founder Chhagan Bhujbal has made a request saying that such a committee is necessary to discuss issues of OBCs and nomadic tribes and suggest workable solutions. The Committee's formation will take place soon, and it will comprise ministers from the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP. The Deputy Chief Minister and NCP president Ajit Pawar has recommended the inclusion of Bhujbal, who has been fighting for the cause of OBC reservation, and agriculture minister Dattatray Bharane from his party in the cabinet sub-committee.

A senior minister said that the government had earlier formed the cabinet sub-committee to study the reservation of other backward classes and nomadic tribes and recommend to the cabinet a slew of concessions and benefits to be provided to these committees. However, this committee does not exist at present. CM's green signal comes days after the cabinet sub-committee on Maratha Reservation was restructured by appointing Vikhe Patil as its chairman, replacing the Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant Patil.

This was done at a time when the pro-Maratha activist Manoj Jarange Patil announced to stage an indefinite protest in Mumbai from August 29, demanding the implementation of Maratha reservation.

However, Minister Bhujbal demanded that a cabinet sub-committee be formed for other backward classes and nomadic tribes as these communities can take up their issues with regard to reservation, various benefits under several government schemes, including scholarships to students and youth pursuing their education.

Minister Bhujbal, who has been consistent in opposing providing Maratha community reservation from the OBC quota, in his letter to the Chief Minister, pointed out that the cabinet subcommittee on Maratha reservation was able to sort out various issues about various government undertakings such as Annasaheb Patil Economic Development Corporation and Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Research, Training and Human Development Institute (SARTHII).

These undertakings are providing financial assistance and training to youth from the Maratha community.

Bhujbal argued that this has benefited the Maratha community in a big way.

"Since there is no cabinet sub-committee for Other Backward Classes and their issues, including reservation, several issues are pending with various departments, including Revenue, General Administration, Finance and Planning. Issues faced by Maharashtra State Other Backward Classes Finance and Economic Development Corporation and Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Research & Training Institute (MAHAJYOTI), which are engaged in providing financial aid and training to OBC youth, have been pending for a long time. It is necessary that these issues be reviewed and addressed from time to time. For this, a Cabinet Sub-Committee is necessary," said Bhujbal.

## Made in India EVs exported to 100 countries from today, New journey Make in India, Make for World



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President of Suzuki Motors Toshihiro Suzuki during a visit at Maruti Suzuki's Hansalpur manufacturing facility, in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

New Delhi, Aug 26 (UNI) : A day before US Tariffs against India are to come into force, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Electric Vehicles (EVs) made in India will be exported to 100 countries from today, starting a new journey 'Make in India, Make for the World.'

Coinciding with Ganeshotsav beginning tomorrow, the Prime Minister said "a new chapter is being added to India's 'Make in India' journey. This 'Make in India, Make for the World' is a big leap towards our goal. From today, Electric Vehicles made in Bharat will be exported to 100 countries," the Prime Minister said in an address at the launch of green mobility initiatives at Hansalpur in Gujarat.

"Now, in dozens of countries around the world, the EVs running there will carry the mark—'Made in India,' the Prime Minister said. Along with this, hybrid battery electrode manufacturing is also starting today, he said and asserted that India is not going to stop here. "We have to do even better in sectors in which we have performed well.

For this, we are emphasizing on mission manufacturing. In the coming time, our focus will be on the futuristic industry. India is taking off in the semiconductor sector. Six plants are about to be ready in the country. We have to take semiconductor manufacturing further."

Exhorting the people to advance the campaign of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) for a Viksit Bharat (developed India) by 2047, he said Swadeshi should become the Mantra.

"Let us be Vocal for Local. Swadeshi should become our life mantra... walk proudly towards Swadeshi... By 2047 we will surely build a 'Viksit Bharat'. Bharat will continue to increase its contribution to the welfare of the world," he said.

He said India has the power of democracy and the advantage of demography. India also has a very large pool of skilled workforce creating a win-win situation for India's partners. Suzuki Japan is manufacturing in India and the cars are being exported back to Japan.

"This not only reflects

## Cabinet approves key decisions to expedite benefits for nomadic, denotified communities

Mumbai, Aug 26 (UNI) : The cabinet today approved crucial reforms to expedite certificate issuance and ensure effective delivery of government schemes to nomadic and denotified tribes.

The cabinet also approved the establishment of a Senior Division Civil Judge Court at Ashti in Beed district, sanctioning the creation of judicial officer and staff posts along with necessary funds. In another decision, the cabinet cleared margin money loans from the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for Rajgad Cooperative Sugar Factory at Anantnagar, Pune district. It also approved term loans under government guarantee from Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank for Babanrao Dhakne Kedareshwar Cooperative Sugar Factory Ltd at Sumanagar, Shevgaon, Ahilyanagar district. The cabinet approved the preparation of the Maharashtra Labour Code by amending existing labour laws. The move has sparked curiosity in labour and political circles amid speculation about whether the reforms will be pro-worker.

## Govt sanctions Rs 49.55L grant for Nagpur flying club

Nagpur, Aug 26 (UNI) : In a significant boost to aviation training in Vidarbha, the Maharashtra government has sanctioned a grant of Rs 49.55 lakh for the Nagpur flying club for the financial year 2025-26. According to a Government Resolution (GR) issued on August 25, the allocation will cover aircraft maintenance, fuel, salaries, and infrastructure upkeep—key components for one of the state's oldest aviation training institutes. Of the total, Rs 39.96 lakh has been earmarked as non-salary grants, while Rs 9.59 lakh will go toward salary-related expenses. The Nagpur divisional commissioner has been designated as the controlling officer, while the tahsildar (general administration) in the commissioner's office will serve as the drawing and disbursing officer. Both have been directed to ensure compliance with state financial rules and submit utilisation certificates to the government. Established in the pre-Independence era, the Nagpur Flying Club has trained hundreds of pilots and aviation professionals but has often faced financial challenges, leading to irregular training schedules. Officials believe the latest allocation will help ensure smoother operations this fiscal year.

With Nagpur emerging as an aviation hub, housing MIHAN, cargo facilities, and a centrally located airport, the revival of the Nagpur Flying Club through steady government support is being viewed as a strategic move to strengthen civil aviation training in the Vidarbha region.



## Modi government is misusing ED, says Arvind Kejriwal

A few hours after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided house of AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj in the alleged hospital construction scam case, former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said the ED was being misused by the Centre. Kejriwal posted on X, "ED's raid on Saurabh Bhardwaj's house is another case of agencies being misused by the Modi government. The Modi government has targeted the Aam Aadmi Party. The way AAP is being targeted is unprecedented for any party in history."

(See on page 2)

## Australian PM blames Iran for perpetrating antisemitic ...



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese accused Iran of orchestrating at least two antisemitic attacks on the country and as a punitive measure will expel the Iranian ambassador to the country.

( See on page 5)

## New format will make PKL more unpredictable, exciting .....



Haryana Steelers Coach Manpreet Singh feels that the new format of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) will make it more exciting and lead to its further growth. "A new format was needed for the growth of the league, it will be more exciting because it will be more unpredictable,

(See on page 7)

## Mamata Banerjee hits back at PM Modi's 'thief' remark



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today launched a sharp attack against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks branding Trinamool Congress leaders as "thieves," saying that BJP-ruled states like Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra were "the biggest thieves."

(See on page 8)



## Churchgate Maharaja arrived



(By Rajesh undi)  
Mumbai, Aug 26 : President.. Satish Chorge. Secretary. Abhishek Tambe Information: The Mandal has been celebrating

Ganeshotsav festival at Churchgate for the last 46 years... On behalf of the Mandal, 1) Eye check-up 2) Blood donation 3) Books, bags, clothes etc. to poor

students. 4) Body check-up 5) On Satyanarayan Puja day, Bhandara is organized in which 4/5 thousand people enjoy that Bhandara. Bhajan program is organized for the elderly.. So that they and the residents get interested in the path of devotion.. The work we are doing today. It is due to the guidance of our seniors. Today, this Mandal is visited by local corporator MLAs to high police officers. Ministers to government officials. They visit the Mandal and guide the Mandal from time to time.. Throughout the year, the Ganapati Mandal is celebrating Diwali, Navratri, Holi, etc. The love of the people and the residents is getting to the Mandal from time to time. Because of the blessings of Ganpati Bappa. We are celebrating all the festivals. May God shower such love and blessings upon us, this is our prayer.... President. Satish Chorge

## Modi govt. is misusing ED, says Kejriwal

New Delhi, Aug 26 (UNI) A few hours after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided house of AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj in the alleged hospital construction scam case, former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said the ED was being misused by the Centre.

Kejriwal posted on X, "ED's raid on Saurabh Bhardwaj's house is another case of agencies being misused by the Modi government.

The Modi government has targeted the Aam Aadmi Party. The way AAP is being targeted is unprecedented for any party in history."

He further wrote on X that AAP was being targeted because it had the most vocal voice against the Modi government's wrong policies and corrupt deeds.

## Lord Ganesha's arrival marred by missing sculptor, incomplete idols and angry customers

Thane, Aug 26 (UNI) Just hours before the arrival of Lord Ganesha, panic gripped devotees and Ganesh Mandals in Dombivli after a sculptor suddenly went missing, leaving several idols incomplete.

The incident occurred at Anandi Kala Kendra, a popular Ganesh idol workshop on Mahatma Phule Road, where sculptor Prafull Tambade reportedly disappeared, locking his house and switching off his phone.

Customers who had booked idols in advance expressed anger and disappointment, while Ganesh Mandals were left in shock to find large idols unfinished, with coloring and detailing work still pending. As the news spread, anxious buyers rushed to the workshop, scrambling to collect whatever idols were available.

The situation turned tense as frustrated devotees raised complaints, prompting police intervention to control the crowd. Authorities, along with local Ganesh Mandal volunteers, have launched efforts to trace the missing sculptor.

## One labourer dies, six others injured after compound wall collapses

Sangli, Aug 26 (UNI) : Seven labourers were buried under the rubble of a five-foot-tall compound wall that collapsed on them in 'Killa' area of Miraj town of this district today.

According to police, while construction was on the compound wall of an apartment in 'Killa' area, the five-foot wall suddenly collapsed on the construction labourers and seven labourers were buried in the rubble.

The seven labourers were taken out and admitted to the Civil hospital where one

labourer died during the medical treatment while another one was in serious condition.

After the incident, apartment owner Kasim Maner fled from the spot.

Police have launched a search operation for Maner.

Police are yet to identify the deceased labourer, while the injured has been identified as Bimmappa Meklagi. All labourers were from the border between Maharashtra-Karnataka areas.

Police are investigating further.

## Renovated Hi-Tech Honda Showroom Inaugurated



(Standard Post Bureau)  
Bidar, Aug 26 : A renovated Hi-Tech Honda

showroom near Fateh Darwaza in the city was inaugurated on Tuesday.

The Honda showroom has grown rapidly with the cooperation of

the customers in the district.

It has maintained the love and trust of the customers.

Now a renovated "Hi-Tech Honda showroom with state-of-the-art facilities has been inaugurated, said the showroom owner, renowned businessman Ramesh Goyal.

Honda Company M. Srivastava Regional Manager, Praveen Sharma, "Deviprasad Mondal, Sheshadri N. Muhammad Ismail Nadaf, Muralidharan, "Vishnu, entrepreneurs Nitin Goyal, Praveen Goyal and others were present.

## Thane Vaibhav Chowk nameplate unveiled by Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik

**Ceremony held in the presence of MLA Sanjay Kelkar, Editor Milind Ballal**



(Standard Post Bureau)

Thane, Aug 26 : The nameplate of Thane Vaibhav Chowk, which was named by Thane Municipal Corporation on the occasion of the 51st anniversary of Thane Vaibhav, a daily newspaper in Thane district, was unveiled by Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik on Monday afternoon. On the occasion, MLA Sanjay Kelkar, Thane Vaibhav Editor Milind Ballal, Nikhil Ballal and other dignitaries were present. The square located in the middle of Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg and Vakil Almeida Marg intersecting it in Thane Municipal Corporation area has been named Thane Vaibhav Chowk. This is the



pride of this daily newspaper, which is celebrating its golden jubilee in Thane

district. Also, Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik asserted that it is a rare

coincidence that the square on the road leading to the Municipal Corporation has been named after the newspaper."

MLA Sanjay Kelkar said that it is a matter of joy that this naming ceremony was completed as the golden jubilee year of Thane Vaibhav's journey is coming to an end. On this occasion, he glorified the journey of Thane Vaibhav."

Deputy Commissioner (Information and Public Relations) Umesh Birari, Executive Engineer Mohan Kalal, Executive Engineer Hrishikesh Jabalkar, Information and Public Relations Officer Ravindra Manjrekar, journalists and employees of Thane

Vaibhav Daily were present at the inauguration of the nameplate of the square.

(By Rajesh undi)

Thane, Aug 26 : Thane Municipal Corporation and Rotary Club of Thane Lake City distribute e-rickshaws to needy women and third caste people\* In order to provide employment opportunities to needy women and third caste people, two e-rickshaws were distributed in a representative manner by Thane Municipal Corporation and Rotary Club of Thane Lake City in the premises of the Municipal Headquarters. Municipal Commissioner Saurabh Rao, Additional Commissioner Prashant Rode, Deputy Commissioner Anagha Kadam, former Governor of Rotary District 3142 Dinesh Mehta, President of Rotary Lake City Deepali Mahindra, Rotarian Aniruddha etc. were present at this program.

This initiative is being implemented under the guidance of Thane Municipal Commissioner Saurabh Rao in collaboration with Thane Municipal Corporation, Rotary Club of Thane Lake City, Atos Company and Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth.



Under the same, the Rotary Club of Thane Lake City distributed e-rickshaws (electric rickshaws) to provide employment

opportunities to needy and self-employed women and transgenders. So far, a total of 15 e-rickshaws have been distributed. Out of which,

four e-rickshaws have been given to transgenders. Municipal Commissioner Saurabh Rao congratulated these rickshaw drivers.

## Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari assured to resolve the business problems of the "Qureshi community"

(Standard Post Bureau)

Bidar, Aug 26 : Mr. Nani Qureshi President Qureshi Conference Karnataka According to "the information A delegation of the Maharashtra Quresh Samaj Sangharsh Samiti, led by "Advocate Sanobar Ali Qureshi, National President of the Quresh "Conference and Supreme Court lawyer, met Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in Delhi and submitted a memorandum calling for reforms in laws "governing the meat trade. The delegation included Dr Asif Qureshi "Mohammad Salim Qureshi (Nagpur), Mohammad Tarique Qureshi, Ashfaq "Patel, and Mujahid Qureshi. Among their key demands, the "representatives sought amendments to several provisions of the Animal "Transport Rules, 1978, including Rules 47, 56(C), 96, 98, and 65 to "75. A major concern highlighted was Rule 125(E) of the Central Motor "Vehicle Rules 2015, which mandates permanent partition in vehicles "used for animal transport. The delegation argued that this



rule not "only causes distress to animals but also reduces carrying capacity, "increases costs for vehicle owners, and violates the natural behavior "of animals. They claimed that the rule had become a tool for "harassment by police and cow vigilante groups, often leading to loss "of life and property for cattle traders Advocate Qureshi pointed out "before Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Transport, Mahmood "Ahmed, that Rule 125(E) was framed under Section 110 of the Motor "Vehicle Act, 1988, whereas Section 38(h) of

the Prevention of Cruelty "to Animals Act, 1960, empowers the Central Government to frame rules "for animal transport. However, under rule 3 of the Government of India " (Transaction of Business) Rules 1961) this authority lies with the "Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development.

Hence, the "delegation asserted that Rule 125(E) was legally invalid and should be "repealed immediately. National Vice President of the Quresh "Conference, Dr. Asif Qureshi, along with Mohammad Salim Qureshi,

also "demanded that the permissible number of animals per vehicle be "increased as per weight not to confine to only 6 animals and that Rule "125(E) be scrapped without delay.

The delegation further objected to "the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Care and Maintenance of Case "Property Animals) Rules 2017, which came into effect on May 23, 2017. "They argued that these rules contradicted the C o n s t i t u t i o n , overlooked "provisions of the 1960 Act, and inflicted severe damage on the meat "industry.



# Khattar reviews Maharashtra, other states’ cleanliness efforts

Mumbai, Aug 26 (UNI) : Union Minister for Housing and Urban Development Manohar Lal Khattar today reviewed urban cleanliness programmes in various states through video conferencing.

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, additional chief secretary of the Urban Development Department Asimkumar Gupta, principal secretary to the Deputy CM Nawin Sona, and senior officials of the department attended the meeting. Through video conferencing, union Minister of State Tokhan Sahu, project director Rupa Mishra, and urban development ministers and principal secretaries of various states also interacted with the union minister.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy CM Shinde said: “Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in October 2014, and because of the overwhelming public

response, the campaign has now turned into a mass movement.” This cleanliness movement is ongoing in Maharashtra, and the ‘Deep Clean Drive’ campaign in Mumbai city and suburbs has given momentum to cleanliness. The state government is implementing several initiatives, such as Zero Waste Cities and beautification of public toilet premises.

On the lines of the Centre, the state is implementing Swachh Maharashtra Abhiyan (Urban) 2.0, under which the construction of individual and community toilets is progressing.

For 358 towns with populations under one lakh, sewage treatment projects with a capacity of 1,656 million liters per day have been proposed, Shinde said, adding that 200 sludge suction vehicles will be procured soon. He also stated that 10 projects for construction and demolition waste

management are being planned. Approval has been granted to 186 projects by urban local bodies for processing legacy waste, of which 108 have completed the work, and the remaining are ongoing, Shinde said.

At the Deonar dumping ground of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, bio-mining of 18.5 million metric tons of waste is expected to be completed by December 2028. He further added that detailed project reports of 337 urban local bodies for solid waste management and 8 local bodies for wastewater management have been approved.

Maharashtra secured the first rank in the country in the Centre’s Swachh Survekshan 2023, and in 2024, 10 cities from the state received awards. Out of these, seven cities were included in the Super Swachh League, for which union Minister Khattar congratulated Maharashtra, said Shinde.

## Youth in Ratnagiri kills mother, attempts suicide amid financial woes

Kolhapur/Ratnagiri, Aug 26 (UNI) : In a shocking incident at Shantinagar in Ratnagiri today, a youth allegedly murdered his mother before attempting to take his own life due to mounting financial stress, police said. Police identified the accused as Aniket Teli, who was reportedly under severe pressure after failing to pay loan installments. In despair, he attacked his mother, Puja Shahikant Teli, with a sharp weapon, inflicting multiple blows that killed her on the spot.

Following the incident, Aniket attempted suicide by slashing his wrists. Neighbours, alerted by the commotion, rushed him to the hospital in a critical condition.

Police have registered the case and further investigation is underway.

## Successful ascent of Mount Yunam by Giripremi Adventure Foundation.

Pune, Aug 26 (UNI) : Five mountaineers from Pune-based Giripremi Adventure Foundation successfully summited Mount Yunam (6,111 meters) located in the Lahaul region of Himachal Pradesh. The expedition, organized by the Giripremi Adventure Foundation, included a total of eight members. The team was led by Giripremi mountaineer Mihir Jadhav. Along with

Mihir, Shrikant Nistane, Rahul Satav, Dhanraj Mozhe, and Dr. Avnish Anshul hoisted the Indian national flag on the summit on 15th August, commemorating India’s 79th Independence Day. Among the other expedition members, Subodh Somani climbed up to an altitude of 4,800 meters, while Milind Mahajan, Satish Aware, and Iqbal Singh reached up to 4,200 meters, said the release. To climb this peak above 6,000 meters in the Lahaul region, all members underwent extensive physical and mental preparation for several months. Training in the rugged terrain of the Sahyadri Mountains proved to be extremely beneficial during the climb.

# RTMNU to build tribal history museum with Rs 44.70 cr project

Nagpur, Aug 26 (UNI) : Rashtasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU) will soon build a landmark Tribal History Museum, showcasing the rich culture and heritage of Maharashtra’s tribal communities.

The Public Works Department (PWD) has sanctioned the project at a cost of Rs 44.70 crore, of which Rs 37.57 crore is earmarked for construction. The museum is expected to be completed within nine months, including the monsoon period.

Spread across a three-storey RCC building of nearly 40,000 sq. ft., the

facility will feature exhibition halls, digital display galleries, seminar and research rooms, an auditorium, archival storage, landscaped gardens, parking and barrier-free access. The structure will also adhere to earthquake-resistant norms.

Artefacts, manuscripts, dioramas, and digital installations will present these themes, with interactive elements designed to engage younger audiences.

The museum will also document the histories of tribes including Gond, Madia, Kolam, Halba, and



A man carries an idol of Lord Ganesh on the eve of the ‘Ganesh Chaturthi’ festival, in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

# Election Commission issues Show-Cause Notice to Panthers Republican Party

Ch. Sambhajinagar, Aug 26 (UNI) :The Election Commission of India has issued a show-cause notice to the Panthers Republican Party, seeking an explanation for its proposed removal from the list of registered political parties due to prolonged inactivity.

The notice cites Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, under which the party was originally registered.

According to a press release issued by the DIO, official records indicate the party has failed to contest any elections - including

Lok Sabha polls, state legislative assembly elections, or by-elections - over the past six years, constituting a failure to function as per registration requirements. The Election Commission, exercising powers under Article 324 of the Constitution alongside Section 29A of the Act, has consequently proposed deregistration proceedings unless satisfactory justification is provided.

The party has been directed to submit a written explanation accompanied by an affidavit from its president or general secretary, along with all

supporting documents, to the Joint Chief Electoral Officer by September 4, 2025. A hearing is scheduled for September 11, 2025, at the Chief Electoral Officer's office, Mumbai, where mandatory attendance of the party president or general secretary is required. The commission clarified that failure to respond by the stipulated date will be construed as having no representation in the matter, leading to appropriate action without further communication. The notice was formally communicated through the Joint Chief Electoral Officer's office.

## Governor greets people on Ganesh Chaturthi

Mumbai, Aug 26 (UNI) : Governor C P Radhakrishnan today greeted the people on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi and Ganeshotsav.

In his message, the Governor said the festival reminded people of Lokmanya Tilak's sacrifices and dedication to the nation. "I appeal to the Mandals to strive to promote social harmony and unity while celebrating Ganeshotsav. I extend my heartiest greetings to all on the occasion of Ganeshotsav," he said.

# Jarange-Patil declines Fadnavis' request to postpone Maratha quota march

Mumbai, Aug 26 (UNI) : Maratha reservation quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil declined a request by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis today to postpone his move to march into Mumbai with Maratha supporters and sit on an indefinite fast on Friday, August 29, at Azad Maidan, during Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations.

Chief Minister's Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Rajendra Sable Patil met Jarange at Antarvali Sarathi village in Jalna district on Tuesday, requesting Jarange-Patil to postpone the Maratha march and share the route which protesters would take to reach Mumbai, but Jarange-Patil did not yield.

"Earlier I spoke to Manoj Jarange over the phone. I came to meet him

today (Tuesday) and asked him about the route he is taking to reach Mumbai. I requested him to postpone the agitation since there is Ganeshotsav (which begins on Wednesday, August 27)," Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Rajendra Sable Patil told media persons.

However, Jarange-Patil, who has been leading the campaign demanding that all Marathas be recognised as Kunbis, which is an agrarian caste included in the OBC category said, "We waited for two years. BJP MLA Suresh Dhas had visited me during my previous hunger strike and sought three months to decide on the (reservation quota) issue. If the government grants (OBC) reservation to Marathas, we will become friends with

## Mumbai police gives clean chit to Nawab Malik

Mumbai, Aug 26 (UNI) : Mumbai police have given a clean chit to NCP leader Nawab Malik in the defamation and stalking complaint filed by Yasmeen Wankhede, sister of former Narcotics Control Bureau zonal director Sameer Wankhede. Malik, however, declined to comment today, saying that the matter is sub judice. In a report recently submitted before the Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Andheri, the Amboli police, which were investigating the case as per court directions, found no evidence against Malik.

The report was filed in response to the complaint by Yasmeen, a lawyer by profession, after the court issued a show-cause notice over the delay in submission. The court will take the report on record before passing an order. In January this year, the magistrate's court had instructed the police to probe the allegations and file a report. In his statement, Malik maintained that his posts and press conferences were part of his responsibility as a spokesperson of a political party. He further clarified that he bore no personal animosity towards Yasmeen, adding that he has great respect for women and has never acted in any manner that would insult or disrespect them.

## Rohini Khadse to face probe over evidence tampering allegations in rave party case

Pune, Aug 26 (UNI) : Rohini Khadse, wife of accused Pranjali Khewalkar and daughter-in-law of former Maharashtra minister Eknath Khadse, is facing serious allegations of tampering with crucial evidence in the ongoing rave party case. According to reports, the charges pertain to alleged manipulation of key data found on Khewalkar's mobile phone, which is a significant part of the investigation. "Authorities are examining the claims, and a formal police case could also be registered depending on the findings."

# Govt contractors protest over Rs 89,000 cr pending dues

Nagpur, Aug 26 (UNI) Government contractors from across Maharashtra today staged a massive protest in Nagpur against the state government over non-payment of dues amounting to nearly Rs 89,000 crore.

The dues, pending for over a year, are linked to completed works under key departments such as Public Works, Rural Development and Jal Jeevan Mission.

Addressing the protest, Nagpur Contractors' Association president Subodh Sarode said that despite repeated appeals and several delegations meeting Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers, the government has only given empty assurances without releasing payments. The agitation comes in the backdrop of distressing incidents, including the suicide of a contractor in Sangli and multiple cases of threats of self-harm by others struggling under financial burden.

Warning of severe consequences, the contractors declared that if payments were not cleared immediately, both ongoing and upcoming development projects across Maharashtra would come to a grinding halt.

They held the state government squarely responsible for the crisis.



STANDARD POST

India's wind capacity likely to double to 107 GW by 2030

India has emerged as the world's third-largest wind equipment manufacturing hub, positioning it to meet 10 per cent of global demand, according to a report released by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).

The report details how India's installed wind capacity can more than double from 51 GW to 107 GW by 2030, in line with state-level Resource Adequacy Plans (RAP). This is pivotal to help India achieve the least cost pathway for a successful energy transition.India is targeting 100 GW of wind capacity, which is expected to contribute 20 per cent of the renewable mix in the country.The country's manufacturing capacity has grown from 12 GW in 2022 to 20 GW in 2024.A higher share of wind power provides significant cost benefits, enhances grid stability, and improves transmission capacity utilisation, making it the least-cost pathway for meeting state-level power adequacy needs.

Scaling wind installations to 8 GW annually could create around 1,16,000 jobs, reduce costs by 10 per cent, and raise domestic content to 80 per cent. Scaling to 15 GW annually could generate around 1,54,000 jobs, states the GWEC report titled "Wind at the Core: Driving India's Green Ambitions and International Influence". Addressing grid concerns, strengthening RPO compliance, and aligning bidding processes with state offtake needs could push installations toward the full potential, the report states.Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi emphasised: "India is executing one of the world's most ambitious energy transitions — not just to secure our own sustainable future but to shape the global clean energy narrative. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to installing 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030, including 100 GW from wind. With wind expected to contribute nearly a quarter of the renewable mix, India is not only building clean energy infrastructure, but we are also building the future. Reports such as this by GWEC play an important role in guiding stakeholders as we work together to position India as a global clean energy leader."

Global Wind Energy Council India & Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA) Chairman Girish Tanti said: "The global energy landscape is undergoing a profound transformation, with wind power proving instrumental in driving least-cost energy transitions. By 2030, renewables are expected to supply nearly half of global electricity, with wind contributing around 20-25 per cent. India is poised to mirror this trajectory, doubling its wind capacity to 100 GW and scaling up to 452 GW by 2050.

Fever Season Has Arrived.. Stay Safe!

In dengue, diarrhea appears first, followed by fever

(Standard Post Bureau)

Even before winter sets in, seasonal fevers are increasing across Hyderabad. After the rains, the subsequent dry weather is giving rise to various viruses, leading to multiple fever outbreaks. Dengue, influenza, and chikungunya are currently the most common. People must protect themselves and watch out for symptoms, advised Dr. M. Swami, Head of General Medicine and Senior Consultant Physician at Kamineni Hospitals, one of the city's leading hospitals. He, along with Senior Consultant Physician Dr. Harikishan, and Consultant General Physicians Dr. Srikrishna Raghavendra Boddu and Dr. Pradeep Kumar Patel, spoke at a press conference on Tuesday to alert the public about the fever season.

Dr. M. Swami said "With the changing weather, many types of fevers are on the rise — especially influenza, dengue, and chikungunya. This season, the symptoms are somewhat different compared to earlier. In dengue, instead of the usual body pains and platelet drop, patients are first experiencing diarrhea,



followed by fever after a day or two, and then a platelet drop. Influenza cases are also increasing — at least five new cases per week are being reported at Kamineni Hospital alone. Chikungunya too is spreading rapidly.

Stagnant rainwater and weather changes are the main reasons behind the spread of these fevers. Additionally, the sharp rise in air pollution is worsening conditions for people with allergies or chronic lung diseases like COPD. Even a short trip outdoors in city traffic is leaving them with severe cough, breathlessness, and worsening lung problems, along with fever."

Dr. Harikishan said "Citizens must protect

themselves from these illnesses.

Getting vaccinated with flu shots or quadrivalent vaccines (which protect against four strains) before falling sick is strongly recommended. Normally, their effect lasts 6–8 months, but with proper precautions, protection can extend up to a year. Avoid crowded places as much as possible. Installing air filters at homes and offices is advisable. Drink 6–8 glasses of boiled and cooled water daily — water must be boiled until bubbles appear, cooled for an hour, and stored only in glass or steel bottles, never plastic ones. Avoid eating outside food. Always eat freshly cooked, hot meals at home to prevent gastroenteritis. If stepping

outside, wearing a mask is a must. Wash hands thoroughly before eating."

Dr. Srikrishna Raghavendra and Dr. Pradeep Kumar Patel added "Many people self-medicate with tablets like Dolo for the first 2–3 days of fever and only visit the hospital if symptoms don't subside. By then, valuable time for proper tests is already lost. This season, it is important to consult a doctor immediately if fever starts. Based on symptoms, doctors can conduct necessary blood tests and prescribe the right medicines. Since dengue, chikungunya, and influenza require different treatments, timely medical attention is crucial. With these precautions, the health of city residents can be safeguarded.

Tata Motors Re-Enters South Africa Market with Bold, Future-Ready Range of Passenger Vehicles

(Standard Post Bureau)

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV), a subsidiary of Tata Motors—one of India's largest automotive manufacturer has re-entered the South African passenger vehicle market, marking the beginning of a new era for the company. The launch event, held at The Galleria in Sandton, Johannesburg, included the unveiling of four dynamic models: the Harrier, Curvv, Punch, and Tiago—each engineered to meet the diverse mobility needs of South African consumers.

This strategic re-entry is underpinned by a strong alliance with Motus Holdings, South Africa's foremost automotive group. The timing couldn't be more fitting—TMPV has recorded exceptional growth, scaling from 170,000 units in 2020 to over 560,000 units in 2025 in India, reflecting an impressive 350% increase. As the pioneer in

automotive safety in India, TMPV takes pride in offering a portfolio where all models are rated 4 or 5 stars by the globally recognised New Car Assessment Programs, including Global NCAP (GNCAP) and Bharat NCAP (BNCAP)—India's official safety rating system.Speaking at the launch, Mr. Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicle Ltd. and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., said, "Our return to South Africa marks a significant milestone in Tata Motors' global journey. We are excited to bring our new-generation of vehicles—designed with cutting-edge technology, uncompromising safety, and modern design—to a market that values safety, quality and innovation. With Motus as our preferred partner, we are confident in delivering a superior ownership experience that resonates with South African consumers and

contributes meaningfully to the local economy."

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Ockert Janse Van Rensburg, Group CEO, Motus Holdings, said, "We are proud to partner with Tata Motors in reintroducing their acclaimed passenger vehicle range to South Africa. With our deep-rooted expertise in distribution, retail, and aftersales, and Tata's proven track record in engineering and innovation, we are poised to offer customers choice of new age vehicles with a compelling value proposition. This collaboration is not just about building trust, delivering excellence, and shaping the future of mobility in South Africa."By combining Motus Holdings' decades of expertise in vehicle importation, nationwide distribution, and comprehensive aftersales support with TMPV's cutting-edge innovation and engineering excellence,

the partnership delivers a compelling value proposition for South African consumers. This collaboration ensures access to a robust and expanding dealer network, reliable service infrastructure, and a customer-first approach that prioritises seamless ownership experiences. Together, the two companies are committed to setting new benchmarks in quality, convenience, and customer satisfaction across the South African automotive landscape.

At launch, TMPV will operate through a nationwide network of 40 dealerships, with plan to expand to 60 by 2026, ensuring broad accessibility and strong customer support across South Africa. The brand enters the market with bold ambitions and a commitment to establish a meaningful presence and become a leading name in the South African passenger vehicle market.

Voter Rights Yatra a struggle for justice, will bring revolutionary change: Surjewala

Madhubani, Aug 26 (UNI) Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Singh Surjewala today said that the Voter Rights Yatra being carried out in Bihar is not just a campaign against "vote theft" but a larger battle to safeguard democracy and people's rights, which will have "revolutionary consequences."

While talking to the media persons hete , Surjewala alleged massive voter list irregularities in Bihar, accusing the Election Commission of turning a blind eye.

He claimed that in just three districts Patna, Madhubani and East Champaran over 10.63 lakh voters' names have been struck off.

"In Madhubani alone, voters' names have been deleted in eight constituencies, and in seven constituencies of Patna. The number of deletions is far greater than the winning margin of the last elections," Surjewala said.

He further alleged that thousands of fake voters had also been added, citing the example of Valmiki Nagar in West Champaran, where about 1,000 voters are enrolled both in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Referring to Bihar's development record, Surjewala said the state has fallen behind on all fronts.

"Nearly nine crore people live on less than Rs 67 a day. Health services are collapsing, with around 72 per cent of doctors' posts lying vacant. In the education sector too, 59% of posts reserved for women and 66% of general category posts are unfilled," he added.

On being asked about his scheduled visit to the Maa Janaki Temple in Sitamarhi during the yatra, Surjewala said, "Lord Ram was the epitome of truth and sacrifice. He never deprived the poor of their rights. The BJP's practices are contrary to its preachings , he alleged saying that the party is snatching away the rights of the poor.He said the INDIA alliance is on the streets to protect people's rights, and it will take this fight to its logical conclusion.

Commenting on the new amendment bill introduced in Parliament, Surjewala alleged that it was not meant to curb criminal elements but was brought in as a tool to "harass the Opposition and topple elected state governments."

On this occasion, RJD MP Manoj Jha said the Voter Rights Yatra has already sent a strong signal to Delhi.

"The crowds rallying behind Rahul Gandhi and Tejaswi Yadav are not hired crowds. People are coming out voluntarily to safeguard their constitutional rights. A people's caravan is emerging," he said.Jha alleged that for the first time in independent India, such deep doubts are being raised on the credibility of the Election Commission.

World record of Excellence award 2025



SURAJ PRAKASH KHATI MUSIC COMPOSER , DIRECTOR & PRODUCER from SIKKIM..... Now his new Nepali movie coming HONII HAJOOR SINGER RACHNA CHOPRA Play back singer with KUMAR SANU from past 17 years done 6000 stage shows KAMALGHIMIRAY ACTOR SANDALWOOD, BOLLWOOD & NEPALI.... TARAK MEHTA KA OOLTAH CHASHMA FAME

Trump called Modi four times, but Modi refused to take the calls: German newspaper

New Delhi, Aug 26 (UNI) : German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung has reported that US President Donald Trump tried four times in recent weeks to reach Prime Minister Narendra Modi by phone, but PM Modi refused to take the calls.According to the article, titled 'Trump Calls, but Modi Doesn't Answer', PM Modi is said to be "offended" after the US President termed India's economy as "dead" and imposed an additional 25% tariff on Indian imports over New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil.

"There are signs indicating that Modi felt insulted," Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung writes, adding that PM Modi's unwillingness to hold a phone conversation with Trump demonstrates the extent to which the Indian premier was irritated by what the US President had done.

The newspaper also notes that the way Trump is perceived in India has considerably changed, particularly

due to his statements about plans to boost relations with Pakistan.The new US tariff measures, which take effect on August 27, bring the total US tariffs on Indian imports to 50%.New Delhi has termed Washington's actions "unfair and unjustified".A US delegation was expected to travel to India this week to negotiate a trade deal, but the visit is no longer planned, the paper writes. India and the United States launched talks on an ambitious trade agreement in February, following PM Modi's visit to Washington. The two countries seek to increase annual trade to \$500 billion by 2030. The trade deal was expected to be signed in the fall.India's delegation made several trips to Washington to hold talks on the document; a US delegation's visit to India for the sixth round of talks, set for August 25, was canceled.On August 6, the US raised tariffs on Indian goods by 25% to 50%, citing New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil and petroleum products.



Trump signs executive order empowering national guard to suppress riots : White House

Washington, Aug 26 (UNI) US President Donald Trump has instructed Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to ensure that the National Guard of each US state is ready to suppress civil unrest, urging him to create a permanent rapid reaction force that can be sent anywhere in the country upon request, the White House said.

"The Order directs the Secretary of Defense to create a specialized D.C. National Guard unit trained to ensure public safety and order in the Nation's capital, when its activation becomes necessary, and ensure state National Guards are similarly trained and ready to assist in quelling civil disturbances nationwide," the statement, published by the White House on Monday, read.On August 11, Trump ordered the deployment of 800 National Guard troops to Washington, DC amid a "public safety emergency" and said that after the US capital, he would restore order in other cities with high crime rates, such as New York, Chicago, Baltimore, Oakland and Los Angeles.

‘Ukraine ready to hold talks with Russia in any format, location ’

Moscow, Aug 26 (UNI) : Kiev is ready for high-level peace talks with Russia in any format and geographical location, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said on Tuesday.

"We are ready for meetings at the level of leaders in any formats and geographies," Sybiha said on X.

On Monday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio held phone conversations with European top diplomats and Sybiha, during which they agreed to continue efforts on ending the Ukrainian conflict with a long-standing negotiated settlement.

On Sunday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told NBC News that Russian President Vladimir Putin was ready to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy once the summit agenda was ready, but stressed that it was "not ready at all."On August 15, Putin and US President Donald Trump met for talks in Anchorage, Alaska. On the following day, Trump hosted Zelenskyy and European leaders for talks at the White House. Trump then called Putin to discuss the peace process. Putin and Trump agreed that direct negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian delegations should continue and discussed raising the level of representation, Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov said.

Ranil Wickremesinghe’s trial begins after denial of bail

Colombo, Aug 26 (UNI) : Sri Lanka’s former President Ranil Wickremesinghe has been denied bail as court proceedings began today over allegations of misusing state funds for a private trip to the United Kingdom in 2023.

The 76-year-old, arrested on August 22, is the first Sri Lankan head of state to be detained under anti-corruption laws.Prosecutors say Wickremesinghe diverted about SKR17 million (\$55,000) while returning from official visits to Cuba and the United States, making an unsanctioned stop in Britain to attend a ceremony honouring his wife, Professor Maithree Wickremesinghe, at the University of Wolverhampton, according to News Wire.

At Colombo Fort Magistrate’s Court, the Attorney General’s Department objected to bail, arguing the invitation letter used to justify the UK visit had “no legal validity.” Additional Solicitor General Dileepa Peiris told the court Wickremesinghe should remain in custody until the trial concludes.

Wickremesinghe, who served as president from 2022 to 2024, was not present due to ill health and remains in intensive care at Colombo National Hospital. He was represented by a senior legal team including President’s counsel Tilak Marapana.The case has drawn intense political attention though, and is riddled with controversy, with opposition supporters staging protests outside the court complex, demanding the government step down.Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa joined demonstrators, while police deployed special security to prevent unrest.

China lodges representations after Japan urges countries not to attend V-Day parade

Beijing, Aug 26 (UNI) :China has lodged serious representations with the Japanese side and demanded clarification, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun said today.Guo made the remarks at a regular news briefing after Japan reportedly urged European and Asian countries to refrain from attending the military parade and other events on September 3 in Beijing commemorating the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti Fascist War.The Chinese government will hold this commemoration in its capital with the aims of remembering history, honoring martyrs, cherishing peace and creating the future, Guo said. "Any country, as long as it faces history squarely, draws lessons from history and is committed to peaceful development, will not have doubts or even raise objections to this," Guo said.Having a correct perception and attitude regarding history was an important prerequisite for Japan's return to the international community after World War II, the political foundation of Japan's relations with neighboring countries, and a yardstick measuring Japan's commitment to peaceful development, Guo added.

South Korea, Britain discuss defence, arms industry cooperation



Seoul, Aug 26 (IANS) South Korea's Vice Defence Minister Lee Doo-hee met with Luke Pollard, Britain's Armed Forces Minister, in Seoul on Tuesday to discuss ways to strengthen security and defence industry cooperation between the two countries, the defence ministry said.

Lee expressed gratitude for Britain's contribution to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, citing its deployment of a large contingent of troops during the 1950-53 Korean War, Yonhap News Agency reported.

Pollard reaffirmed Britain's support for South Korea's policy toward North Korea, including efforts to achieve peace on the peninsula and denuclearisation.

He expressed hope to further bolster bilateral ties through high-level

consultations, expanding joint training exercises and enhancing defence exchanges.

The officials also discussed pursuing mutually beneficial initiatives, including joint defence exports, to further advance bilateral cooperation.The two countries are in talks to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on defence cooperation aimed at establishing stronger institutional framework and broadening areas of collaboration.

On August 11, South Korea's Foreign Minister Cho Hyun spoke with his British counterpart, David Lammy, to discuss ways to advance their strategic partnership and other security issues, his office said.Cho noted that the two countries have actively engaged in high-level

exchanges since the launch of the Lee Jae Myung government in June and urged Britain's active support for the new administration's foreign policy.Additionally, Cho expressed hope for closer cooperation in upgrading their bilateral free trade agreement as well as in the economic and artificial intelligence sectors.

In response, Lammy voiced his expectation that the two sides will closely communicate for the continued development of the bilateral relationship in key areas, including trade, defense and climate change. The two ministers also exchanged their views on the security of the Korean Peninsula and the situation in Ukraine, and agreed to meet at an early date for in-depth discussions on further strengthening bilateral ties.

China-Arab expo to feature inaugural Silk Road E-Commerce event

Yinchuan, Aug 26 (UNI) : The seventh China-Arab States Expo will feature its first-ever Silk Road E-Commerce innovation and development conference from Wednesday to Friday in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, according to the organizers.

Aiming to deepen digital economic cooperation and foster a mutually beneficial global e-commerce market, the event will include activities such as live-streaming sessions for "Silk Road products" joined by 15 foreign hosts from nine countries and over 50 Chinese hosts, industrial matchmaking, and visits to local industries.

Organized by Ningxia's department of commerce, Yinchuan municipal government, and China International Electronic Commerce Center, the conference has attracted over 50 foreign guests from 14 countries, including Egypt, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The broader expo will run from Aug. 28 to 31 in Yinchuan.

Iranian, European diplomats to resume nuclear talks in Geneva

Tehran, Aug 26 (UNI) : Senior diplomats from Iran, France, Britain and Germany will meet in Geneva today to discuss Tehran's nuclear issue, the semi official Fars news agency reported.

The talks will be held among deputy foreign ministers, Fars quoted Esmael Baghaei, a spokesman for Iran's foreign ministry, as saying yesterday.Diplomats will also discuss Iran's demand for the removal of sanctions and the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, as well as the path ahead, according to the report.

The report came after Friday's phone call between Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and his counterparts from the three European countries of France, Britain and Germany, collectively known as the E3, as well as the European Union's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas.

Since last September, Iran and the E3 have held several rounds of talks on a range of issues, including Tehran's nuclear program and the removal of sanctions. The latest round took place in Istanbul, Türkiye, in late July.

Over the past months, the Europeans have threatened to reinstate international sanctions on Iran by triggering the snapback mechanism, a clause in the 2015 deal that would allow the other parties to re impose all international sanctions should Iran fail to comply with the agreement.

Hungarian PM Viktor Orban lashes out at attack on Druzhba pipeline, says Ukraine can’t enter EU by extortion

Budapest, Aug 26 (UNI) :After Ukraine’s attack on the Soviet era Druzhba oil pipeline, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban once again lashed out at Kyiv, saying it cannot make its way into the European union through extortion, threats, and by bombing energy routes to coerce neutral countries into supporting it.Accusing the Ukrainian forces of deliberately targeting the pipeline, Orban said it was a targeted attack on Budapest’s energy security “because we don’t support their EU membership,” reports RT.

The bombing occurred on the eve of Ukraine’s 34th Independence Day, during which President Volodymyr Zelensky said Kyiv would like to maintain friendly ties with Budapest, but the ‘friendship’ depends on Hungary.

His remark - a play on words (Druzhba in Russian translates to friendship) – suggested that the attack was a deliberate means to exert pressure on Orban to withdraw his veto stance on Ukraine’s EU membership. Hungary, one of the few EU nations to remain

neutral in the war, albeit with more friendly ties with Russia, has repeatedly rejected Ukraine’s plea to join the bloc, stating that it won’t let Kyiv drag Budapest and the rest of Europe into an all-out war with Moscow.

“This shows that the Hungarians made the right choice,” Orban added. Majority of the public sentiment in the East European nation about Kyiv’s membership has also largely been either opposed or neutral.Orban’s remarks were echoed by his chief of staff, Gergely Gulyas, who condemned Ukraine’s actions as “unacceptable” at a government briefing on Monday.

“Even if Ukraine were already an EU member, it would still have no right to dictate from whom we buy our energy,” Gulyas stressed.He further noted that despite Brussel’s attempts at phasing out Russian energy and raw materials, its energy security and economy still depended on imports from Moscow, stating “we don’t see today where Europe will get price-competitive, guaranteed alternatives.

Australian PM blames Iran for perpetrating antisemitic attacks, expels Iranian ambassador

Canberra, Aug 26 (UNI) : Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese accused Iran of orchestrating at least two antisemitic attacks on the country and as a punitive measure will expel the Iranian ambassador to the country.

According to Axios, while addressing the local media, Albanese that Canberra had obtained “credible intelligence” from its national intelligence service – the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) – of Tehran’s involvement in two antisemitic attacks in the country, one in Melbourne and another in Sydney in 2024.

The Australian embassy in Tehran has suspended its operations and Australian officials told Ahmad Sadeghi, Iran's ambassador to Australia, that he would be expelled — the first time such an expulsion has happened, noted Foreign Minister Penny Wong at the briefing.

She further urged Australians to not go to Iran as the government’s ability to protect them would be “extremely limited.”“These were extraordinary and dangerous acts of aggression orchestrated by a foreign nation on Australian soil. They were attempts to undermine social cohesion and sow discord in our community,” Albanese said."It is totally unacceptable, and the Australian government is taking strong and decisive action in response,” he concluded.

According to Mike Burgess, director-general of the ASIO, said that Iran was behind the arson attacks at Lewis' Continental Kitchen in Sydney and the Adass Israel Synagogue of Melbourne, specifically naming the country’s paramilitary unit- the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

He further said that it was increasingly likely that additional such targeted attacks on the Jewish community have taken place in several other places in the country.

"Our painstaking investigation uncovered and unpicked the links between the alleged crimes and the commanders in Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, the IRGC," Burgess said.

"The IRGC used a complex web of proxies to hide its involvement."

Albanese said that Canberra would now officially be labelling the IRGC as a terrorist organisation.

Iran has not issued a comment on this matter.





# Food&Kids



## Learn about the Awadhi Biryani etiquette...

Of the more than 10 varieties of biriyani (slow-cooked rice and meat in spices) available in India, Kolkata favours and has widely adopted the cousin from Awadh, what is now central Uttar Pradesh. It is also referred to as Lucknawi biriyani. Deposed and exiled to the Metiabruz area of the city (then a suburb) after the British annexed his kingdom in 1856, Shah continued to maintain his love and patronage for the arts and cuisine, says Mirza, a great grandson of the nawab. "He ensured the royal chefs maintained the same

standards of cooking and followed the secret recipes to the core. A lot of experimenting was done in the royal kitchen. While dining, etiquette was kept in mind. Khaane ki tehzeeb hoti hai (There is a proper method to consuming food) and biriyani is a complete meal in itself," Mirza told IANS during the recent Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival. One such golden rule was that nothing should be tasted before or after biriyani, to get the maximum hit of flavours, courtesy a combination of spices, saffron and

potatoes. "Awadhi biriyani that evolved in Kolkata in the 19th century differs from others because it contains boiled potatoes (aloo) along with the rice and gosht (mutton). Zaffraan (saffron) hona zaroori hai (It is necessary to add saffron)," stressed Mirza, president of Kolkata's Oudh Royal Family Association. Biriyani is believed to have entered India from Persia (Iran) via Afghanistan. The earliest evidence of the dish

**The next time you go for the Indian spread at a wedding, stick to the Awadhi food etiquette - nothing before and nothing after biriyani - says Sahebzada Wasif Mirza, a direct descendant of Wajid Ali Shah, the last nawab of Awadh, credited for introducing the cuisine to what is now West Bengal.**

hark back to the Mughal era. The Awadhi counterpart is known to be one of the oldest forms of biriyani and is made in the Dum Pukht style - cooking over slow fire in sealed containers. Mirza said usually the potatoes and meat are partially cooked, layered and then left to sit in with rice. The spice mix for the meat marinade is not revealed to outsiders. Then, there is a long-drawn heated debate on the potato conundrum - to add it or to exclude it. Scores of restaurants and 'biriyani-houses' in the city offer their own versions. Some serve scented rice generously laden with browned potatoes while others exclude the tuber and replace it with paltry chunks of chicken. Some do it the vegetarian way. In addition, at weddings, pots of biriyanis are queued up with other Indian food items. "We (the descendants of Shah) can't imagine Awadhi biriyani without aloo. At our house, it is still cooked in the same way with a good amount of potatoes and meat. At weddings, they serve biriyani but they don't maintain the order. This kills the taste (mazza nahi aata) when you have other dishes before it," Mirza rued. Though the amount of ghee (clarified butter) used in the cooking process should be "ample" to properly cook it through, modern day versions do cut down on the fat, a fact that the septuagenarian Mirza accepted. "What many people don't know is after biriyani, the only thing allowed is burhaani, a curd-based gravy sans spices, to ease digestion. Have biriyani and go for some burhaani, you will be fine. Our forefathers had reasoned and established etiquette for good health," Mirza said with pride.

## The art of cooking with tea



Tea is extensively being used as an ingredient in cooking and fast becoming the chosen marinade for meats. Tea is extensively being used as an ingredient in cooking and fast becoming the chosen marinade for meats. From green tea for chicken or turkey to Chinese tea variants for marinating fish to soaking lamb or pork in regular Assam tea, chefs are looking at humble chai as more than a mere cuppa. Not only do the leaves impart a distinct flavour but tea works as a great meat tenderizer due to its tannins. Elaborating on the growing preference of tea in cooking, chef Nishant Choubey of Dusit Devarana reveals tea works very well as an infusion and is easy to be used for various

dishes. He too uses tea actively in various preparations. "Organic tea preparations. From being used in smoking the meats, dressing the salads with a tea and ginger vinaigrette to imparting colour to gravies with tea leaves, it is being actively looked at as an ingredient," says Vikram. Usage of tea isn't foreign to our cooking either. Chef Manish Mehrotra of Indian Accent says pindi chhole sold at every dhaba are the best example of extensive use of tea in cooking. He reveals every cook uses tea bags during preparation to give a distinct colour and taste to chhole. The quirky usages of tea that Manish has noticed are desserts masala chai brulee, fondue and tea macaroons.

## How to make a healthy pasta dinner



Pasta has increased our eating choice whether at home or at the restaurant. Everyone wants to eat Indianised pasta and want to know how to prepare it at home. But what happens when you are on a weight loss diet? Should you still eat pasta especially since

preparing a pasta dish involves a generous use of cheese, oil, meat and not to forget, pasta is made from refined flour? This definitely throws your weight loss diet plan out the window. But you can indulge your taste buds by eating if you incorporate certain healthy ingredients. How to make your pasta healthy: - Firstly opt for whole wheat pasta. - The biggest devil in your pasta is the cheese. While preparing do not add cheese to the pasta since you are going to add cheese even before serving. But do not exclude cheese completely from pasta. Simply add cheese on top and before serving. - Non vegetarian pasta is loaded with meat, but it is less sinful if it is lean meat. Make



sure to use lean meat rich in protein to cut down your cholesterol levels. - Balance non vegetarian ingredients with veggies in the pasta or as a side dish. Deep frying the vegetables does not count as healthy. - Sauce: No pasta is complete without sauce. Most of prefer the creamy buttery white sauce, but that will just add kilos to your existing weight. What you need is a good and homemade tomato sauce or marinara/Napoli sauce that is made of tomato, garlic, herbs, onions and seafood. - Add fresh ingredients than processed and canned food. These tips are guaranteed to make your pasta healthy. After all, healthy meal equals to healthy body, bon appetite.

## Restaurant review That Place

**That Place, started in Vadodara, has opened its branch in Ahmedabad. The menu covers cuisine from Europe, the Americas and European colonies, besides a few Asian dishes.**

**Decor** That Place has been judiciously designed to use relatively limited space to seat about 65 patrons though seating at some side tables are a bit cramped. With maroon and cream tapestries, and black lamps, complimented by colourful pictures, the general look and feel of the restaurant is suitable for both casual and formal dining. **Food** That Place has an interesting menu of signature dishes that are mostly variations of popular food items. The nachos for example come with mozzarella cheese instead of melted cheddar, and with options for layers like spicy salsa, beans, jalapenos and sour cream or cheese sauce, salsa, jalapenos, olives and sundried tomato, while non-vegetarians can ask for layers of their excellent roast chicken or minced lamb/mutton, though the freshness of house-made tortilla chips is lacking in this restaurant that mostly uses readymade packaged chips. Similarly, the cheese fondue variations include spicy paprika, jalapeno or oregano-and-cracked pepper, with assorted veggies, bread and fried potatoes for dipping into the melted three cheese in the pot. Non-vegetarians can order a side dish of chicken, ham and chicken sausage for dipping. If you are not looking at sharing plates, other house special appetizers include African style pussion potatoes, baked mushrooms with goat cheese, pesto and onions, jacket baby potato and mini Turkish pide. They also offer caesar salad and BBQ chicken salad, which are quite good. For those who like chicken, the spicy Portuguese chicken (with peri peri chilly sauce), Jamaican jerk chicken and the African chicken (a youngish chicken which comes with an excellent tamarind

sauce and yogurt dip) are must haves, as also the traditional roast or barbecue chicken. The lamb steak, however, is a bit chewy, though the rosemary flavoured gravy and mash potatoes are quite nice. The very British bangers and mash here are made with chicken sausages. For vegetarians, they also have a cottage cheese steak which is garlic butter glazed paneer. If you like Italian food, the pizzas, pasta platters and risottos are fairly good. The mushroom and spinach risotto is one of their best vegetarian dishes while cheese lovers may like the baked risotto. The desserts like mango mousse and blueberry cheese cakes are pretty nice, and the apple-and-cinnamon pie is well-made but can be messy to eat if you plan to share dessert.



**Plus and minus** Since That Place has fairly long opening hours, it is good place to drop in for good burgers with tea, coffee or even a substantial late-afternoon meal if you have missed lunch. For a robust one dish meal, their roast, grill and barbecue dishes are good specially as they offer African or Caribbean items that are not available elsewhere in the city. However, the popular Mexican, Italian and Mediterranean food does not rise above the average that you get in most other restaurants.



## MCA names 25-member shortlist for BCCI U-19 women's cricket season

Shillong, Aug 26 (UNI) The Meghalaya Cricket Association has shortlisted, as per the recommendation of the Junior Women's Selection Committee, 25 players for its U-19 women's cricket team that will represent the state in BCCI domestic tournaments in the 2025-26 season.In a press statement issued here today, the MCA selectors based the list after considering the players' performances at selection trial matches held recently as well as their achievements during the BCCI's 2024-25 and 2023-24 seasons.

A second phase of selection matches will take place on September 15-19 at Nongkhrah in Meghalaya's Ri-Bhoi district, which will be followed by a preparatory camp.

The U-19 women's team will play in the BCCI's U-19 Women's T20 Trophy from October 26 and U-19 Women's One Day Trophy from December 13.

Shortlisted players are Monica Singh, Cheanchi Kambesa Sangma, Chigesanora Marak, Jayshree Singh, Marme M Sangma, Adalyne F Lyngkhloi, Namesha A Marak, Beneros D Shirra, Adelakmen Lawai, Joanna Pyngrope, Banchila Marak, Yoolang Suting, Eliza Lyngdoh, Dawanshisha Warlarpih, Rosabel Lyngkhloi, Isha Ray, Jennifer Fancon, Ronjoli Basumatary, Rafinia Ryntathiang, Steffinie Sohshang, Pennysha Nongrum, Shreya Marak, Julitha Marak, Dejianna M Sangma, Mendy Adrena Mawlong.

## Flamengo equals club's biggest win with 8-0 rout

Rio De Janeiro, Aug 26 (UNI) : Striker Pedro netted a hat-trick as Flamengo romped to an 8-0 home rout of Vitoria in Brazil's Serie A. Samuel Lino scored twice while Georgian de Arrascaeta, Luis Araujo and Bruno Henrique were also on target at the Maracana stadium.

Vitoria controlled just 27 percent of possession and had only one shot on goal for the night on Monday.It was the widest victory margin in Brazil's top flight since 1984, when Vasco da Gama crushed Tuna Lus0 9-0.

The result also equaled Flamengo's 8-0 defeat of Fortaleza in 1981, the club's biggest win in the national league.

"It really was a fantastic game, complete in every sense," Flamengo manager Filipe Luis told a post-match news conference."The players were enjoying themselves on the pitch. What I liked most was that they never stopped trying to control the ball and to fight to get it back when they lost it."

Flamengo leads Brazil's 20-team Serie A with 46 points, four clear of second-placed Palmeiras. Vitoria is 17th with 19 points.

# BWF World Championship: Sindhu, Prannoy start with wins; Rohan-Ruthvika advance



Paris, Aug 26 (IANS) : PV Sindhu began her campaign with a confident Round-of-64 victory in women's singles, while in the men's singles, H.S. Prannoy progressed to the second round to assuage the disappointment of Lakshya Sen's early exit at the BWF World Championship 2025 here on Tuesday.

In the afternoon, the mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde overcame an early setback to outlast a pair from Macau-China to advance to the second round.

Sindhu, the two-time Olympic medallist, gave the

campaign a good start on the second day as she overcame the challenge of Bulgaria's Kaloyana Nalbantova, winning 23-21, 21-6 in just 39 minutes.

The opening game was a tight battle, with scores tied at 21-all before Sindhu closed it out with a two-point edge. The 2019 Women's Singles champion dominated the second with a commanding 15-point margin. She will next face Malaysia's Karupathevan Letshanaa in the Round of 32.Sindhu, who is one of the few players in the history of the sport to have won a full set of medals in the World Championships with one gold, two silver, and

two bronze medals, is India's biggest hope for a title in Paris.The 30-year-old from Hyderabad, who won the silver medal in the Rio Olympics in 2016 and followed that up with a bronze in Tokyo 2020, will next face Malaysia's Karupathevan Letshanaa in the Round of 32.

Prannoy, the 2023 bronze medallist, also made a strong start in men's singles, defeating Finland's Joakim Oldorff 21-18, 21-15 in a 47-minute battle. The experienced Indian will next face Denmark's Anders Antonsen in the Round of 32.Ranked 34th in the world, Prannoy faced a stern test from 22-year-old

Oldorff, who is ranked 47th. The Finn raced to a 7-5 lead in the opening game with sharp movement and precise shot-making. However, Prannoy remained unflustered, levelling the score at 8-8 and gradually asserting control. By the midpoint of the game, he led 14-11, though Oldorff fought back to make it 17-all. Prannoy then struck three consecutive points to seal the first game 21-18 after 24 minutes of high-intensity rallies.

The second game saw Oldorff briefly regain momentum, levelling the score at 8-8 after trailing 4-7. Prannoy regained composure, moved ahead 11-8, and extended his lead to four points, eventually closing out the match 21-15.In the mixed doubles, Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde cruised through their opening Round of 64 match at the BWF World Championships 2025. The duo fought back after dropping the first game to defeat Macau China's Leong Iok Chong and Weng ChiNg 18-21,21-16,21-18 in a 47-minute battle, closing Day 2 on a positive note for India. They will next face Malaysia's Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei in their Round of 32 clash on Wednesday.

## Indian Bank, KSEB enters final of PSG All India Basketball tourney

Coimbatore, Aug 26 (UNI) : Fancied Indian Bank and Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) will clash for the title in the final of the 59th PSG Trophy All India Basketball tournament for Men here tomorrow.

In the semifinals, held this evening, Indian Bank came up with a stellar performance and stormed into the finals, while KSEB fought hard before prevailing over IAF in a tense contest, in which lead switched sides frequently.

In a tense clash, which later fizzled out into a one-sided contest, Indian Bank swamped its arch rival Indian Overseas Bank-- both powerhouses in the sport from Chennai--by a handy margin of 30 points, a proof of its dominator.

Indian Bank won 88-58 in the first semifinals, while KSEB edged past IAF 78-71.

It was a game clearly dominated by the Indian Bank right from the word go hitting the baskets at will, though IOB hoopsters showed sings of fight back, but ended up on the losing side.Muin Bek top scored for Indian Bank with 19 points, while Vijayakumar starred for IOB with 10 pts.

In the other semis, Aaron Varghese Bleson starred with 21 points, while Joginder scord 20 points for IAF.The final will be held tomorrow evening and the winners will be awarded the PSG Trophy along with a cash prize of Rs one lakh. The runner-up will receive Rs 75,000.00 and a Trophy, while the losing semi-finalists will get Rs 50,000.00 (Third place) and Rs 25,000.00 (Fourth Place) respectively.An award of Rs 10,000.00 will also be presented to the best player of the tournament.

Results :  
Semifinal :  
Indian Bank 88 (Muin Bek 19, Bala Dhaneshwar 17) bt Indian Overseas Bank 58 ( Vijayakumar 10, S Prasanna Venkatesh 9, Vaissakh K Manoj 9). KSEB 78 (Aaron Varghese Bleson 21, Sejin Mathew 13) bt Indian Air Force 71 ( Joginder 20, Himanshu 16).

# Swiatek sweeps Arango in one-hour opener

New York, Aug 26 (UNI) : World No. 2 and second seed Iga Swiatek of Poland cruised into the second round of the US Open with a commanding 6-1, 6-2 victory over Colombia's Emiliana Arango today, needing just over an hour in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The 2022 champion wasted no time stamping her authority, racing through the first set in under half an hour with 10 winners, while Arango struggled to find her rhythm and failed to record a single winner.

Swiatek maintained relentless pressure in the second set, breaking early when Arango sliced a backhand into the net. Although the Colombian notched her first ace of the match, Swiatek quickly regained control, brushing aside any danger when down 0-30 on serve at 4-1. The Pole's consistency and depth proved decisive, as she closed out the contest with minimal fuss.

"I felt really comfortable out there from the first game. It's always special to play on Ashe, and I'm glad I could start the tournament with such a performance," Swiatek told reporters after the match.

The six-time Grand Slam champion has enjoyed a dominant 2025 season, adding the Wimbledon crown and the Cincinnati Open title to her tally, alongside semifinal appearances at the Australian Open and Roland Garros.

Arango, appearing in her maiden US Open main draw, fought bravely but was outclassed by Swiatek's pace and precision. Swiatek will next face Dutch world No. 66 Suzan Lamens in the second round as she bids to add a second US Open trophy to her collection.

# Top seeds Shi & An power into 2025 BWF Worlds round two

Paris, Aug 26 (UNI) : The 2025 BWF World Championships opened in Paris, bringing the planet's best shuttlers back to the 9,000-seat Adidas Arena, the only venue in the city built specifically for the 2024 Olympic Games.

China's top seed Shi Yuqi advanced in the men's singles opening round on Monday, joined by compatriots Weng Hongyang and Lu Guangzu. Shi, who lost in the Olympic quarterfinals at the same venue last summer, overcame India's Lakshya Sen 21-17, 21-19 in a hard-fought 54-minute match."Every match against Lakshya is intense," Shi said. "I had a few hiccups on the key points of the second game and was actually ready for a decider."

Arriving with high expectations after winning three of four BWF World Tour Super 1000 events this year, Shi is aiming to translate his recent dominance into a maiden title at the sport's most prestigious tournament

outside the Olympics.

Speaking about his form and the pressure surrounding him, Shi said: "I'm not thinking too much and looking too far ahead - just focusing on winning the next point."

Weng swept past Australia's Yabe Yu 21-7, 21-12, while Lu outlasted Singapore's Jason Teh Jia Heng 16-21, 22-20, 21-14.

The lone setback for China came as 25-year-old Li Shifeng fell to Japan's Tanaka Yushi. World No. 4 Li let a one-game lead slip and was beaten 21-19, 11-21, 15-21 by the world No. 27, leaving him still searching for a first world championship quarterfinal.

In women's singles, top seed An Se-young of South Korea cruised past Belgium's Clara Lassaux 21-5, 21-8 in just 29 minutes.

China's Chen Yufei, the women's fourth seed, defeated France's Anna Tatranova 21-10, 21-12.

Chen, who also exited in last year's Olympic quarterfinals, said returning to the same hall carried extra motivation.

# Star players shine at the Hyderabad Pickleball League Auction, setting stage for Season 1

Hyderabad, Aug 26 (UNI) : Sameer Varma - ranked 8th in Asia, tennis ace Vishnu Vardhan and Kidambi Nandagopal will be seen in action at the launch edition of Hyderabad Pickleball League (HPL), marking a landmark moment for the sport in India.The top players' presence and participation underscored the scale of this first-of-its-kind franchise competition, which blends regional participation with IPL-style entertainment. Conceptualised by Centre Court Sports and Entertainment, the league is set to kick off on October 10th, 2025.

Leading the charge at the auction, star players Sameer Varma (All Stars), Sreekar Mothukuri (Credicon Mavericks),

Vivek Reddy Priyadarshini (Dasos Dynamos), Zena Chatwal (Keerthi Warriors), Sahithi Ponnala (Nandi Chargers), Harsh Ranasaria (Starry Smashers), Nikhil Thummalapalli (Teramor Titans) and Rishabh Rama (The Raptors) emerged as the marquee signings. Each was directly drafted by their respective franchises for ?2 lakhs in Category A before the official bidding began, instantly setting the tone for a high-stake competitive evening.

The high-spirited player auction at Zero40 Brewing in Hyderabad on August 20th, saw a total of eight franchises: All Stars, Credicon Mavericks, Dasos Dynamos, Keerthi Warriors, Nandi Chargers,

Starry Smashers, Teramor Titans and The Raptors, vied for the finest players across categories A, B, C, and D. In line with league rules, all teams were required to select 10 players with at least one player over 35 years of age and a minimum of two female players, ensuring a mix of talent and experience across squads.

On a night of fierce bidding, All Stars shone bright by signing former tennis player, Veda Raju Prapurna for ?78K and Akshath for ?70K.

Credicon Mavericks picked Sama Sathwika for ?85K and Punna Vishal for ?70K while also snapping up Indian Tennis player Vishnu Vardhan and Indian Badminton player Shrikanth Kidambi's brother, Nandagopal.

# New format will make PKL more unpredictable, exciting: Haryana Steelers Coach Manpreet Singh

New Delhi, Aug 26 (UNI) : Haryana Steelers Coach Manpreet Singh feels that the new format of the Pro Kabaddi League(PKL) will make it more exciting and lead to its further growth.

"A new format was needed for the growth of the league, it will be more exciting because it will be more unpredictable, and teams will have a chance of making a comeback even at a later stage of the league stage," he said while addressing the Press at the PKL Coaches roundtable.

As per the new format of the PKL, Season 12 will see each team playing 18 matches during the league stage, and in case of a tied match, there will be five-raid tie breaker and a golden raid if needed.Manpreet, who guided the Steelers to a title win in Season 11, felt very happy about his team's composition. "We have a

very balanced side. I am happy that we have been able to retain more or less last year's winning side, and there are no fitness issues."

A former Pro Kabaddi champion as a player with Patna Pirates, Manpreet explained that players of the current generation are very proactive and aware regarding fitness issues

"Awareness and discipline regarding fitness have gone up among the players compared to yesteryears. They manage it themselves for the most part," he said.

When asked whether the absence of Mohammad Reza Shadloui, who won Season 11's 'Most Valuable Player' award, will hamper the Steelers' chances, he said, "It is never easy to replace a player of that calibre. We have three very good raiders who also win points defending- Shivam Anil Patare, Naveen and

Vinay. So we will be formidable while defending as well."Mohammad Reza Shadloui was acquired by the Gujarat Giants for ?2.23 crore in the PKL Season 12 auction.Manpreet, who began his coaching journey on a brilliant note after he led Gujarat Giants to back-to-back PKL finals in Seasons 5 and 6, said that Haryana Steelers have been a very consistent side in the league because they built a big pool of talent by

developing youngsters

"We prepare and train players very well, we nurture young talent meticulousl. A new player cannot be expected to perform straight away. He will take at least 2-3 matches to settle down and perform at his best. We try to give chances to young players, slowly initiating them, and fielding them for short durations in a match. That way they ease into the side with confidence."

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“Nanded-Mumbai 'Vande Bharat Express' Opens the Door to Marathwada’s Prosperity”

# “Nanded-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express flagged off by CM, Fadnavis



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 26 : The government is focusing on enhancing rapid transportation to uplift the Marathwada region. With the introduction of the Vande Bharat Express, Nanded has now come closer to the state capital, Mumbai, and this certainly opens the door to Marathwada’s prosperity”, expressed Chief Minister Mr Devendra Fadnavis.

The Nanded-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express was flagged off from Nanded railway station. The Chief Minister flagged off the train virtually (through video conferencing) from the Mantralaya. The programme held at Mantralaya was attended by Smt. Meghna Bordikar Sakore, Minister of State for Public Health, Mr Dharam Veer Meena, General Manager, Central Railway and other Senior Officers of Central Railway.

The Chief Minister stated: “Under the leadership of Hon’ble



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Indian Railways is transforming. The Made in India Vande Bharat train, which offers world-class, comfortable facilities similar to developed countries, is a symbol of that transformation. The 610 km journey from Mumbai to Nanded will now be completed in just 9 hrs 30 mins. Earlier, the train used to run only up to Jalna, but now it has been extended to Hazur Sahib Nanded. The train’s passenger capacity has

increased from 500 to 1,440 and the number of coaches has risen from 8 to 20.

Nanded is an important pilgrimage site for the Sikh community. Hence, devotees and passengers visiting Nanded will now experience a faster and more comfortable journey via the Vande Bharat Express. The Chief Minister also congratulated the people of Marathwada for this safe, faster and pleasant travel experience.

The program held at Nanded was attended by Members of Parliament Mr Ashok Chavan and Dr. Ajit Gopchhade, MLA Mr Vikram Kale, Additional General Manager, South Central Railway, Mr Satya Prakash, Divisional Railway Manager, Nanded Division, Mr Pradeep Kamle, District Collector Mr Rahul Kardile, Nanded Range Deputy Commissioner of Police Mr Shahaji Umap, Superintendent of Police Mr Abhinash Kumar and other dignitaries and

Senior Officers of South Central Railway.

About Nanded – Mumbai Vande Bharat Express:

First Vande Bharat Express connecting Nanded in Marathwada to the state capital, Mumbai. 610 km journey completed in just 9 hours 30 minutes – significantly reducing travel time compared to other trains.

Fast, safe, and comfortable daytime air-conditioned travel between major tourist and religious destinations on the Mumbai-Nanded route in Maharashtra. Operates six days a week:

From Hazur Sahib Nanded: Every day except Wednesday

From CSMT Mumbai: Every day except Thursday

Highly beneficial for daily commuters, devotees, government officials, and business travelers.

Travel to key tourist and pilgrimage sites made easier and more efficient.

## WR extends trips of 15 pairs of weekly special trains

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 26 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand, Western Railway has extended the trips of 15 pairs of Weekly Special trains on existing composition, path and timings.

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

1. Train No. 09075 Mumbai Central – Kathgodam special has been extended upto 31st December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09076 Kathgodam – Mumbai Central Special has been extended upto 1st January, 2026.

2. Train No. 09185 Mumbai Central – Kanpur Anwarganj special has been extended upto 28th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09186 Kanpur Anwarganj – Mumbai Central Special has been extended upto 29th December, 2025.

3. Train No. 09043 Bandra Terminus – Barhni special has been extended upto 28th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09044 Barhni – Bandra Terminus Special has been extended upto 29th December, 2025.

4. Train No. 02200 Bandra Terminus – Virangana Lakshmibai Jhansi superfast special has been extended upto 27th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 02199 Virangana Lakshmibai Jhansi – Bandra Terminus

superfast Special has been extended upto 25th December, 2025.

5. Train No. 04126 Bandra Terminus – Subedarganj superfast special has been extended upto 30th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 04125 Subedarganj – Bandra Terminus superfast Special has been extended upto 29th December, 2025.

6. Train No. 04156 Udhna – Subedarganj special has been extended upto 30th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 04155 Subedarganj – Udhna Special has been extended upto 29th December, 2025.

7. Train No. 09025 Valsad – Danapur special has been extended upto 29th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09026 Danapur – Valsad Special has been extended upto 30th December, 2025.

8. Train No. 09007 Valsad – Khatipura special has been extended upto 30th October, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09008 Khatipura – Valsad Special has been extended upto 31st October, 2025.

9. Train No. 09059 Udhna – Khurda Road special has been extended upto 31st December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09060 Khurda Road – Udhna Special has been extended upto 2nd January, 2026.

10. Train No. 09117 Udhna – Subedarganj special has been extended upto 26th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09118 Subedarganj – Udhna Special has been extended upto 27th December, 2025

11. Train No. 09039 Udhna – Dhanbad special has been extended upto 26th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09040 Dhanbad – Udhna Special has been extended upto 28th December, 2025

12. Train No. 09031 Udhna – Jaynagar special has been extended upto 28th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09032 Jaynagar – Udhna Special has been extended upto 29th December, 2025.

13. Train No. 09045 Udhna – Patna special has been extended upto 26th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09046 Patna – Udhna Special has been extended upto 27th December, 2025.

14. Train No. 09195 Vadodara – Mau special has been extended upto 29th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09196 Mau – Vadodara Special has been extended upto 30th December, 2025.

15. Train No. 09343 Dr Ambedkar Nagar – Patna special has been extended upto 25th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09344 Patna – Dr Ambedkar Nagar Special has been extended upto 26th December, 2025.

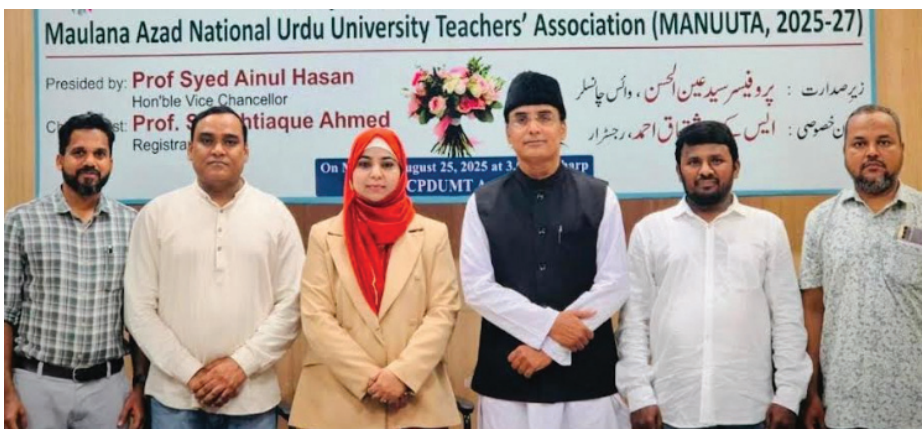
The booking for extended trips of Train Nos. 09075, 09185, 09043, 02200, 04126, 04156, 09025, 09007, 09059, 09117, 09039, 09031, 09045, 09195 & 09343 opens from 28th August, 2025 at PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

## MANUUTA Swearing-in Ceremony: A New Chapter for the University

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Aug 26 : The swearing-in ceremony was held for newly elected officers of Maulana Azad National Urdu University’s Teachers’ Association (MANUUTA) for the term 2025-27. Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Vice Chancellor and Prof. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Registrar were the esteemed guests of the ceremony.

Prof. Mushtaq I Patel, Chairman of the MANUUTA Election Committee, administered the oath of office to Dr. Shabana Kesar as the President of MANUUTA along with other office bearers. Dr. Salahuddin Syed, Vice President; Dr.



Ashwani, General Secretary; Mr. Chavala Mutyala Rao, Treasurer, Dr. Samad Thazhe Vadakkayil, Joint Secretary (Organizing) and Mr. Mujahid Pasha Syed, Joint Secretary (Publicity), also took charge.

In his address, Prof.

Syed Ainul Hasan congratulated the newly elected officers and emphasized the importance of fulfilling duties responsibly. He advised teachers to take this responsibility seriously and work towards the university's growth.

Dr. Shabana Kesar expressed her determination to promote a research environment in the university, aiming to make MANUU one of the leading universities in the country. She also emphasized on strengthening the off campus colleges of

MANUU across the nation.

The special guests - Dr. Srinivas Lankala, EFLUTA President and Prof. Shirin, General Secretary also attended the ceremony.

They congratulated the new team and praised the university administration's participation in the ceremony, describing it as a healthy environment for the university.

Mr. Chavala Mutyala Rao proposed vote of thanks. With teachers from MANUU campuses and centers across the country in attendance, the event marked a new chapter in the university's journey.

## GM, SWR, Mukul Saran Mathur conducts window trailing inspection between KSR Bengaluru – Tumakuru section



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 26 : Mukul Saran Mathur, General Manager, South Western Railway, conducts window-trailing inspection between KSR Bengaluru and Tumakuru today. During the course of the inspection, he reviewed various infrastructural works and took stock of passenger amenities being developed across important stations in the section.

At Yesvantpur station, which is undergoing a major redevelopment at a cost of Rs.367 crore, the General Manager inspected the progress of works and reviewed the upgraded passenger facilities being provided under the project. He emphasized the importance of timely execution and ensuring world-class amenities for passengers.

At Nidavanda station, Shri Mathur inspected the ongoing upgradation works

and the development of the goods shed, which is emerging as a key freight loading hub of Bengaluru Division, particularly for automobile traffic. He also interacted with the public, listened to their grievances, and assured that issues raised would be addressed promptly.

At Tumakuru station, the General Manager reviewed the proposed redevelopment plan under ABSS at a cost of Rs.88 crore. He suggested several measures for enhancing passenger convenience and directed officials to prioritize improved facilities for commuters.

General Manager was accompanied by Shri Ajay Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer (Construction); Shri Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Divisional Railway Manager, Bengaluru Division; and Shri Parixit Mohanpuria, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Bengaluru.

## Mamata hits back at PM Modi’s ‘thief’ remark

Kolkata, Aug 26 (UNI) : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today launched a sharp attack against Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent remarks branding Trinamool Congress leaders as “thieves,” saying that BJP-ruled states like Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra were “the biggest thieves.”

Speaking at a public rally in Burdwan, Banerjee said, “I respect your chair, but I must ask: why did the Prime Minister call Bengal a thief? Your double-engine government in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra

are the biggest thieves. You hold meetings with gang leaders of thieves.”

She accused Modi of coming to Bengal “like a migratory bird before elections” to rake up issues like NRC and to malign the state. Her comments came days after the Prime Minister, while addressing a public meeting in Dum Dum on August 22, accused the TMC government of corruption, lawlessness, and driving investors away. “Crime and corruption have become the identity of the TMC government. This government is against investment and

employment. TMC people threaten businessmen, extort money, impose ‘goonda tax’. Thousands of companies have left Bengal because of this corrupt system,” Modi had said. Mamata also urged people to remember Bengal’s cultural heritage and rejected attempts to “stigmatised” the state. “Why should the Prime Minister say Bengal is full of thieves? We answered all 186 enquiry teams sent here. Respect the people of Bengal if you want respect for your own chair.”

Turning to the Election Commission, she remarked,

“I have respect for the Election Commission, but please don’t become a lollipop of the BJP.”

The Chief Minister also alleged that migrant workers from Bengal, invited to other states for their skills, are now “tortured and humiliated.”

“In Bengal, over 1.5 crore people from other states live peacefully — we don’t touch them. But our workers are harassed outside,” she said, adding that even Donald Trump sent people back to Gujarat, not a single Bengali because they also know that the intelligence of the

Bengalis is their treasure.

Banerjee urged the migrant labourers to come back to the state and take the benefit of Sramashree project, a project specially designed for the migrant labourers. “They are taken to other states because of their skills and now they are harassed and humiliated. Come back home and we will make provisions for you,” the CM said. Under the newly launched scheme, returning workers will receive Rs 5,000 as a one-time travel allowance and an additional Rs 5,000 per month until they are able to secure employment.