

IN BRIEF

Heavy rain likely in North Coastal AP, Yanam on Sept 2-3: Met

Amaravati, Aug 30 (UNI) : Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam on September 2 and 3, Meteorological Centre said on Saturday. In a daily weather report here, it said that the next five days and in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema on September 2 and 3. Strong winds with speeds of 30-40 kmph are likely to occur at isolated places in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next three days. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely to occur at a few places or at many places or at one or two places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema during the next seven days.

South West Monsoon is normal over Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and weak over Rayalaseema.Rainfall occurred at a few places over Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and at one or two places over Rayalaseema during the last 24 hours, the report added.

Ganesh idol adorned with Rs 2.35 Crore worth currency notes

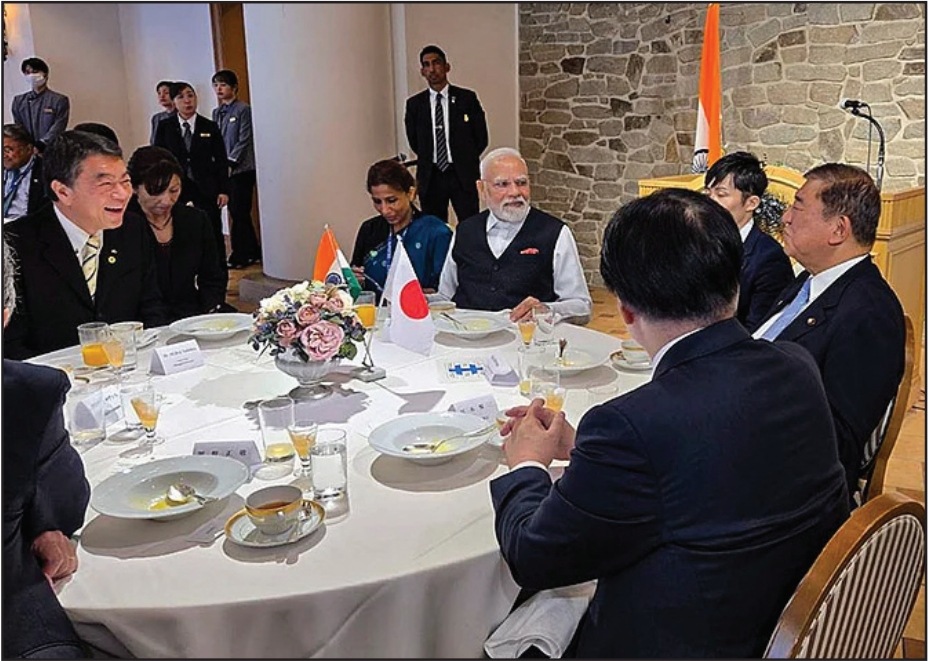
Vijayawada, Aug 30 (UNI) : Ganesh navaratri is being celebrated across the country with devotion. Pandals and mandapams were erected in many places in all cities and towns, even in villages to perform Ganesh pooja.However, the organizers of Ganesh chaturthi in Mangalagiri town, near here, have chosen a peculiar way to be different to others by adorning the Ganesh idol and the mandapam with currency notes.The organizers decorated the Ganesh idol and the mandapam with currency notes worth Rs 2.35 crore. The organizers told the media that they started decorating the idol and the mandapam with currency notes 20 years ago. Initially, they decorated using Rs one lakh worth currency notes 20 years ago, and this year, they have used Rs 2.35 crore worth currency notes.

Govt designates group of ministers to decide on Rushikonda Resort’s Future

Vijayawada, Aug 30 (UNI) : The Andhra Pradesh government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine and recommend the best possible utilization of the idle Rushikonda resort in Visakhapatnam. According to Government Order (GO RT No. 1586) issued on August 29, 2025, the GoM will be headed by Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh, along with Finance, Planning, Commercial Taxes, and Legislative Affairs

Minister Payyavula Keshav, and Social Welfare, Disabled and Senior Citizen Welfare, and Sachivalayam & Village Volunteer Minister Dr. Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy. The Special Chief Secretary, Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture Department, will serve as the convener of the committee, while the Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of the A.P. Tourism Development Corporation will extend necessary support. The GoM has also

been authorized to invite special representatives from other departments, if required.The committee will submit its recommendations to the government, which will then take a final call on the future course of action for the Rushikonda property. This development comes just a day after Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan visited the Rushikonda resort, inspected its infrastructure, and took note of the facilities available at the site.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba and other dignitaries during a lunch hosted by the latter, in Sendai, Japan.

Ahead of bilateral with Putin, Zelenskyy dials PM Modi, asks him to intercede with Russia

Tianjin/New Delhi, Aug 30 (UNI) : Ahead of his expected bilateral with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Tianjin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today received a phone call from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy who called on India to intercede with Russia over the Ukraine conflict.PM Modi, while reaffirming India’s consistent position for peaceful settlement of the conflict, reiterated India’s commitment to extend all possible support in this regard.PM Modi said in a post on X that the two sides exchanged views on the dragging conflict, and that India backs all efforts to

restore peace and stability. “Thank President Zelenskyy for his phone call today. We exchanged views on the ongoing conflict, its humanitarian aspect, and efforts to restore peace and stability. India extends full support to all efforts in this direction,” the PM posted. President Zelenskyy in a long post on X, said that he informed PM Modi about the meeting with US President Trump in Washington and that Ukraine is ready for a meeting with President Putin.He also said that he and PM Modi had coordinated their positions ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Tianjin, where Russia is participating,

though not Ukraine. He said the end of this war must begin with an immediate ceasefire. Zelenskyy added that “India is ready to make the necessary efforts and to deliver the appropriate signal to Russia and other leaders during the meetings on the sidelines of the summit.”He wrote on X: “I spoke with Prime Minister of India @NarendraModi. “I informed about the talks with President Trump in Washington with the participation of European leaders. It was a productive and important conversation, a shared vision among partners on how to achieve real peace. Ukraine reaffirmed its readiness for a meeting with the head of

CM to inaugurate newly constructed PAC-5 complex during upcoming Srivari Brahmotsavams

(Standard Post Bureau) Tirumala, Aug 30 : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate the newly constructed PAC-5 complex and dedicate it to the pilgrims during the upcoming Brahmotsavams, said Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Chairman B.R.Naidu here today. Naidu, along with Additional Executive Officer Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary, who personally inspected the Pilgrim Amenities Complex–5 (PAC–5) here, issued several instructions to the officials concerned.

The newly constructed PAC-5 complex would help ease the accommodation problem to some extent in Tirumala; he directed that all facilities be arranged without causing any inconvenience to the pilgrims. Speaking to the media later, the Chairman appreciated the engineering officials for constructing this complex in an excellent manner. He recalled that the project was approved by the TTD Board in 2018 during

the previous TDP Government.At present, accommodation is available for only around 45,000 pilgrims in Tirumala, and with the addition of this newly constructed PAC–5, 2,500 pilgrims can be accommodated comfortably, he said. The Chairman urged pilgrims to make the best use of this new facility. Venkaiah Chowdary said that several modern facilities have been introduced in the PAC–5 complex, keeping in view the safety and convenience of pilgrims. Though accommodation has been arranged for 2,500 pilgrims, arrangements have been made to adjust for another 1,000 if needed. A special milk-feeding room for mothers with infants has also been set up. The dining hall is designed to enable 1,400 pilgrims to have Annaprasadam at a time. Facilities like a First Aid Centre, Kalyana Katta, Annaprasadam distribution centre, and other amenities have also been provided in the new building, he added.



All parties of the NDA alliance are completely united: Anupriya

Union Minister and Apna Dal (Sonelal) president Anupriya Patel today said that all the allies of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) are strongly together under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Anupriya said that Apna Dal (S) will contest the 2027 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh with the NDA. "It is too early to say how many seats Dal will contest. But efforts will be made to strengthen the organisation. If the organisation is strong, then the election results will also be better," she said.

(See on page 4)

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas barred from attending



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has been barred from attending the UN General Assembly session in New York next month, following the US revoking his visa and that of 80 other Palestinian officials.

(See on page 5)

Sports minister wants to raise India's share in global sports ...



Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya today stressed on the importance of promoting Swadeshi and vowed to take India's share in global sports manufacturing to 25 per cent

(See on page 7)

CM Omar Abdullah directs speedy restoration of Sgr-Jmu



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting to review restoration works on the Jammu–Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) and other major roads damaged by recent incessant rains, directing authorities to ensure speedy road connectivity,

(See on page 8)

Ganesh Festival celebrations



Mumbai GSB Seva mandal is the richest ganpati mandal this year ganpati idol with 66kg if gold and 336kg of silver ornaments plus insurance cover of 474 crore.



Ganpati Festival Celebration at Sagar Dhole's Residence Mumbai



Deepak Kumbhar Sai Sankul Jogeshwari.



Tanish Tushar Surve Sai Sankul Jogeshwari

Naveen urges Nadda to ensure urea supply for farmers

Bhubaneswar, Aug 30 (UNI) Expressing concern over the shortage of fertilisers in Odisha, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik today urged the Centre to immediately supply urea in the larger interest of the state's farmers.

Patnaik, in a letter to union Fertilisers and Chemicals Minister J.P. Nadda, alleged widespread

irregularities in fertiliser distribution across Odisha.

He said farmers are in distress due to shortages, adulteration, and the unavailability of urea in the open market.

"Farmers have even taken to the streets as the fertiliser crisis has become acute, particularly in tribal-dominated districts," Patnaik wrote.Highlighting the importance of

agriculture to Odisha's economy, the former Chief Minister said over 70 per cent of the state's population depends on farming for livelihood.

Patnaik noted that Odisha, which once depended on other states for rice, has now become a major contributor to the country's public distribution system.

He attributed this

success to the application of technology, timely availability of quality seeds, and efficient fertiliser distribution in the past two decades.

However, Patnaik alleged that despite government claims of having 7.94 lakh tonnes of fertilisers in stock, farmers are not getting adequate supplies.Urea, he said, is being sold at prices higher

than the government's fixed rate, and he alleged that Odisha's state-run agency Markfed is diverting fertilisers to private dealers at discounted rates instead of supplying them directly to farmers. "It is a matter of serious concern that during the peak Kharif season, farmers are forced to leave their fields and protest on highways for fertilisers," Patnaik said.

Immersion of 19567 Ganesh idols for one and a half days in TMC

More than 15 tons of Nirmalya collected



(Standard Post Bureau)

Thane, Aug 30 : The immersion of Ganesh idols for one and a half days in Thane Municipal Corporation area was completed in a devotional atmosphere on Thursday. This year, 19567 Ganesh idols were immersed for one and a half days in the municipal area. Out of which, 11695 idols were of POP. While 7781 idols were of Shadu clay. The devotees responded well this year to the immersion of Ganesh idols in the artificial lakes created under the alternative Ganesh immersion system of Thane Municipal Corporation, which has implemented the concept of an eco-friendly Ganeshotsav and set an example of an eco-friendly Ganeshotsav in the state.

Last year, 8700 idols were immersed in the artificial lake. This year, this number has increased to 12970. Whereas, 6520 idols were immersed in the creek immersion ghat last year. This number is 3382 this year. Also, devotees immersed 1621 idols in the special tank system last year. This number is 2613 this year. Similarly, a total of 495 Ganesh idols received at the Municipal Corporation's Ganesh idol acceptance center as well as 107 Ganesh idols in the mobile immersion system were duly immersed.

As per the order of the Hon'ble High Court, idols up to six feet in height are being immersed in the artificial lake and idols larger than that are being immersed at the creek ghats. Some devotees insisted on immersing even small idols in the creek. They were repeatedly requested by the Municipal Corporation and the police administration to immerse them in the artificial lake. Against this backdrop, the Municipal Corporation has appealed to citizens to immerse idols up to six feet in artificial lakes on the fifth, seventh and eleventh days as well.

Chief Environment Officer Manisha Pradhan informed that after the proper immersion of all idols at the artificial lake, mobile immersion team, pond, acceptance center, the soil sediment that accumulates at the bottom of the water is being processed as per the action plan set by the Pollution Control Board.

More than 15 tons of Nirmalya donated by devotees

This year, Nirmalya was deposited in the compost project of the Thane Municipal Corporation's Solid Waste Department to be composted using biocomposting method. These projects are operational at Kolshet, Kausa, Ritu Park.

During the one and a half day Ganesh idol immersion, more than 15 tons of Nirmalya have been collected. This Nirmalya will be processed and its organic fertilizer will be prepared. Also, the non-biodegradable components in the Nirmalya will be classified and sent for reprocessing. The production of plastics and thermocol has decreased compared to last year.

Statistics of immersion
(Immersion place (number) - Number of Ganesh idols - (Last year's number)
Artificial pond (24) - 12970 -(8700)
Khadi immersion ghat (09) - 3382 -(6520)
Special tank (tank) system (77) - 2613 -(1621)

Mobile immersion system (15) - 107 (27)
Idol acceptance center (10) - 495 -(245)
Total - 19567 -(17113)

For information
15 Mobile immersion system

This year, the mobile immersion system is available in all nine ward committee areas. This mobile vehicle with immersion system will be available at various places in the ward committee for a fixed period from 12 noon to 10 pm. Ganesh idols can be immersed in the tank on it. This immersion The schedule of the arrangement is available on the Thane Municipal Corporation website under the title 'Environmentally Friendly Ganpati Immersion Arrangement 2025'. Also, the schedule is available on the Hari Visarjan app.

Haud (Tank) Arrangement at 49 Places

For two years, the Municipal Corporation has been arranging small tanks (tanks) for immersion along with artificial lakes. Accordingly, last year, tank facilities were available at 49 places. This number has been increased to 77 this year.

10 Idol Acceptance Centers

Also, there are idol acceptance centers at 10 places namely Jail Lake, Madhavi House-Ramamaruti Road, Mahagiri Koliwada, Tembhi Naka, Regency Heights-Azad Nagar, Lodha Luxury, Kamgar Hospital, Kisan Nagar Bus Stop, Modella Check Naka, Devdagar Nagar-Shivai Nagar.

Arrangement of artificial lakes at 24 places

Ambeghosale, Masunda Dutt Ghat, Kharigaon, Gholai Nagar, Dativli Artificial lakes have been arranged at 24 places including Lake, Khidkali Lake, New Shivaji Nagar Kalwa Lake, Nilkanth Woods-Tikujini Wadi, Rewale, Borivade, Bramhand Ritu Park, Hiranandani Rayaladevi-1, Rayaladevi-2, Upvan Lake area-Vartaknagar, Devdayanagar, Atmaram Patil Chowk etc.

Tampering in TOD meters ‘Two incidents revealed

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kalyan, Aug 30 : Mahavitaran has undertaken a campaign to remove old meters and install new TOD meters (Time of Day) in the state. Two incidents of tampering with these meters have been revealed in Badlapur and Vasai in Kalyan zone.

In Kalyan zone too, a large number of electricity consumers have replaced

their old meters with new smart meters. Electricity bills. Some consumers are tampering with the meters to reduce them.

But in reality, consumers who use electricity between 9 am and 5 pm are getting a discount of 80 paise per unit.

It has become difficult to tamper with the TOD meters installed by Mahavitaran. Since the new TOD meters

have a communication port, the Mahavitaran system gets information about the momentary electricity consumption of the consumer.

If the customer tampers with it, the meter is checked at that place and confirmed. If this TOD meter is tampered with, instead of reducing the electricity bill, it has increased.

The Quality Control

Department of Badlapur and Vasai subdivisions of Mahavitaran had been monitoring the electricity consumption of such suspected customers. When the customer's meter was actually installed, it was found to have been tampered with. Mahavitaran has started the process of filing a police complaint against such customers.

Tampering with electricity meters is a punishable offense. The Electricity Act provides for strict imprisonment or financial penalty for those who steal electricity. "Chief Engineer Chandramani Mishra has appealed that if it is found that the TOD meter of Mahavitaran is being tampered with, the nearest Mahavitaran office should be contacted.

An artificial lake and immersion system constructed for Lord Ganesh immersion Radhabinod A. Sharma inspected

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mira Bhayander, Aug 30 : Mira Bhayander Municipal Corporation Commissioner and Administrator Radhabinod A. Sharma (B.P.S.) in the city on the background of one and a half days of Lord Ganesh immersion. A detailed review of the preparations was carried out after direct inspection of the artificial lakes. Mandli Lake, Subhashchandra at this time, Artificial ponds constructed at Bose Maidan, Murdha Gaon, Rai Gaon, Shivar Garden and Jessal Park, Inspection was



department head and officers, citizens Necessary precautions were ordered to avoid any inconvenience during the immersion. In particular Maintaining cleanliness in the artificial lake area, strict waste management planning, security guards and police personnel He also ordered to provide separate facilities for women and senior citizens.

Citizens are encouraged by the Municipal Corporation to immerse Ganesh idols in an environment-friendly manner is For this, artificial lakes have been

Commissioner Dr. Sambhaji Panpatte, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Sachin Bangar, Assistant Commissioner, Sanitary Inspector as well Municipal employees were present. Shri Ganesh immersion due to this planned activity of the Municipal Corporation, it is hoped that the process will be carried out in a safe, orderly and clean manner.

A Murti Swikriti Kendra has been established along with 35 artificial ponds. Also Shree Ganesh under 6 feet, It is mandatory to immerse the idol in an artificial lake. By depositing the puja materials separately without putting them in water, to cooperate with the Municipal Corporation. Plastic should not be thrown into seas, bays and lakes. Also administration at discharge

Discipline should be followed by following the guidance of the police and Shree Ganeshotsav of social unity and environmental friendliness,

It is a message giving festival. Therefore, citizens prioritize cleanliness, safety and environmental protection in this festival,

An appeal is being made on behalf of the administration of Mira Bhayander Municipal Corporation that it should be celebrated in an environment-friendly manner.



done. By physically inspecting the constructed artificial ponds, size of the ponds, water storage capacity, arrangement of security barricades, lighting, street lights, availability of toilets, of

drinking water,A detailed review of facilities, transport planning and emergency healthcare preparedness was taken. Environmentally friendly Various on behalf of Mira Bhayander Municipal



Corporation Administration to celebrate Shri Ganesh Visarjan ceremony 35 artificial lakes have been constructed at the place.

During the inspection . Commissioner giving clear instructions to concerned

constructed in various parts of the city.

Plaster of Paris Commissioner said that this is an important step to prevent water pollution due to idol immersion. At this time, Additional

Child rights panel flags irregularities in Mana Trust mid-day meal

Child rights panel flags irregularities in Mana Trust mid-day meal

PPP Airport

Hyderabad, Aug 30 (UNI) Airports managed under the public-private partnership (PPP) model generate 87 per cent of the country's total non-aero revenue while handling 64 per cent of total traffic, according to the latest report.

Longest canal in Asia dig up in AP to provide water to R'seema: Minister, Ramanaidu

Amaravati Property Festival 2025 Brochure Launched

Property Festival 2025 Brochure Launched

ANU Extends Deadline for Integrated M.A. Public Policy Admissions

Festival 2025 Brochure Launched

With traffic set to multiply in the coming years, this diversification will become indispensable for airport operators.

Shishir Bajjal, Chairman

James Krishna

Marketing of mar

At the same time, several organisations signed an MoUs with the AP government in the presence of the Chief Minister to set up their units

waters
tras

The MoU with Kings Wood Decor Pvt Ltd to produce fiber boards at a cost of Rs 1,100 crore will result in providing employment to 2,012 people. The MoU signed with Pioneer CLean Amps Ltd will facilitate setting up a 2-seater training aircraft manufacturing unit in Kuppam. The MoU signed with Reddy Berry Food Logistics will lead to setting up pulping units of mango, tomato and guava fruits. Minister for Water resources Nimmala Ramanaidu and senior officials were present. The CM highlighted that his government has spent Rs 12,441 crore on irrigation projects.

**For further tender conditions /
details and for downloading the
tender documents,
Please visit website at
<https://www.ireps.gov.in> or
www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in**

Beyond the Runway – Scope of Non-Aero Revenue and Aero Cities in India by Krishna Kumar

This reflects the

Non-aero revenue streams, including retail,

Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said,

runways and embrace integrated commercial ecosystems such as aerocities. This will not only strengthen airport

nearly matching leading global benchmarks such as London Heathrow at USD 21.6 and Tokyo Haneda at USD 19.9.

STANDARD POST

US tariffs impact Banarasi saree exports, industry faces challenges

The world-famous Banarasi saree and silk industry is facing a severe impact due to tariffs imposed by the US. Following the imposition of tariffs, large orders from the US are being cancelled, and foreign traders have started returning shipments, say traders.

According to the Varanasi Textile Industry Association, if this situation persists, the city could suffer losses of up to Rs 300 crore annually. This crisis has put the livelihoods of thousands of artisans at risk, and the industry is now staring at large-scale unemployment.

Rajan Bahl, vice president of Banarasi Textile Industry Association, stated: “Exports of Banarasi sarees will decline by 15 to 20 per cent due to these tariffs. Handloom products will be the most affected. Though the current losses may appear small, the future impact will be severe. Every year, exports worth Rs 200 to Rs 300 crore were sent to the US, which is now under threat. Orders are being cancelled, and no new orders are coming in. I firmly believe this is not a minor loss; it is a major blow to Banaras and its industry. Orders are being cancelled, and we cannot expect fresh orders going forward.”

He further added that the number of handlooms is already decreasing, and these tariffs will only accelerate the decline. He appealed to the government for immediate intervention to save the industry.

Local saree trader Sarvesh Kumar Srivastava said: “The tariffs have seriously impacted our business. Recently, goods worth Rs 10 lakh were returned. The weavers’ livelihoods are in jeopardy. Finished products have been put on hold, and payments are stuck. I employ 20 workers, and holding Rs 20 lakh worth of goods has caused significant losses.”

He explained that traders, already facing economic challenges, are now under increased pressure due to the tariffs.Srivastava demanded that the government exempt handloom and handicraft sectors from GST.

“Removing the 5 per cent GST on handloom and handicrafts would provide relief to the industry. It would boost demand in the domestic market and attract the middle class back to Banarasi sarees,” he said.

He added: "I believe GST exemption could bring a revival in the industry, providing support to weavers and traders alike. The tariff-related crisis has not only caused economic losses but also endangered the livelihoods of thousands of artisans and their families. The government must intervene immediately. Without prompt action, this industry could slip into deeper crisis.”

From Isolation to Integration: The Bairabi–Sairang Rail Revolution

(Standard Post Bureau)

Throughout decades, Mizoram is considered one of the most beautiful yet remote states in India—green hills sweeping into the misty air, miles of bamboo forests, and cultural communities that have been geographically isolated. Hitherto, the state of Mizoram, the capital of which is called Aizawl, took five hours to be reached via a road network of narrow highways that destroyed every time there was a monsoon. A 51.38-km-long engineering wonder, the BairabiSairang railway line has cost a little over 8000 crores to transform this fact.

The 45-tunnel 153-bridge line, which features the second tallest pier bridge in the country, 114 meters (taller than the Qutub Minar) now links Mizoram to the national railway grid. This project, which is more of a construction success, is already transforming the economy of Mizoram, its society, and strategic value.

A Lifeline of Connectivity

The railway cuts reduce the road distance of seven hours between Aizawl and Silchar into mere 3 hours of the train thus making movement much faster, safe, and economical. Passenger trains can now serve at speeds of up to 100 kmph and so residents are now able to access healthcare centers, universities and commercial centers with a great deal of reliability.

That is not just convenience. It is estimated that the regional GDP growth could be enhanced by 2-3 percent each year due to better connectivity as more people can travel without travel barriers and more people have access to the economy. To a small



state such as that of Mizoram, where the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is about ' 25,000 crore, a 2 percent increase would translate into an extra 500 crore revenue into the economy every year.

Economic Growth and Prosperity

The most observable change is economic. The railway has made it easier to access the Indian wider markets by transporting the agricultural produce of Mizoram (bamboo, chillies, oranges, ginger, and pineapple) at a drastically reduced cost. Currently, post-harvest losses due to poor transport in the Northeast average around 25–30%. Through rail connectivity, it is projected that the level of spoilage will reduce to half and this will increase the incomes of farmers directly.

There is also local entrepreneurs to benefit. The costs of logistics that used to cost 15-20 per kg by road should come down by 30-40 percent through rail. The savings are spread to other areas: vital commodities like fuel, cement and daily grocers are estimated to fall by 10-20 percent, making life in the state more affordable to more than 1.2 million of

Mizoram people.

Another multiplier is job creation. The project created thousands of construction and engineering employment during the course of construction. In the future, economists estimate 3,000-5,000 of the indirect jobs each year in the logistics, hospitality, retail and tourism associated with the railway. This would bring the unemployment level in Mizoram, which is already higher than that of the country, closer to equilibrium.

Tourism and Trade as Growth Engines

Mizoram has been a long unrecognized tourism gem. Its untouched hills, traditional festivals and eco-tourism potential was limited by inaccessible location. Rail accessibility means that the government estimates that tourist arrivals would increase by 40-50 percent within the next five years, an influx that would drive up sales in hotels, homestays, handicraft markets and transport services.

Trade, too, is poised for a leap. The railway connects Mizoram to the rest of India and places it near Myanmar’s Sittwe Port, thus placing the state

into international supply networks as part of the Act East Policy of India. Planned extensions Mizoram may become a transit hub with a value of between 10-12 billion dollars in trade between India and Southeast Asia in the next ten years.

Social Integration and Inclusion

The railway has strong social overtones to do with more than economics. In the past, the isolation of Mizoram gave rise to a feeling of physical and psychological detachment to the mainstream of India. That gap is now bridged symbolically and practically by rail connectivity, which makes national cohesion stronger.

Improved transport also implies improved governance delivery. There is easy access of teachers to schools located far, faster transportation of doctors and medicines and more access of government officials to the communities previously considered remote.

Relief supplies can now also be transported by train in case of a disaster with the risk of lives being saved in the event of floods and landslides which are common in the area.

Sustainability and Resilience

There was a tremendous technical and human cost to building the line through the steep hills of Mizoram. Landslides, challenging geology, and a tragic bridge collapse that killed 26 workers in 2023, which occurred with the project, were common. Nevertheless, the construction of the line was done with an eco-sensitive approach in mind—long tunnels and elevated viaducts minimize on-site deforestation and destruction of habitats.

The railway establishes a new people-centered infrastructure by engaging the locals and reducing displacement. It shows how development can be done at levels of ecological sustainability despite fragile landscapes.

The Numbers That Tell the Story

The BairabiSairang line of rail might not be much more than 51.38 kilometers, but in those 51.38 kilometers there is a tale of change. Five of these stations, four of them brand new at Hortoki, Kawnpui, Mualkhang, and Sairang, now make Mizoram squarely on the Indian railroad map. Engineers constructed an impressive 153 bridges, including India’s second tallest pier bridge at 114 meters above the valley, higher than the Qutub Minar, and excavated 45 tunnels along with a 12.8 kilometers-long path through some of the most stubborn rock to cut this route.

Even the budget of this grandiose project increased to almost 8,000 crore as compared to its original budget of 5,020 crore, but the fruits of this project would be even bigger. Economists estimate that it

will increase Mizoram Gross State Domestic Product at an annual rate of 500-700 crores which is impressive considering that the state is only 1.2 million. Poor access has long been a limiting factor in tourism and this is projected to increase by 40-50 percent in the coming five years making the hills and festivals of Mizoram accessible to the rest of the world. This will also bring a difference to everyday life, with freight, and necessities (fuels, food, etc) becoming cheaper, the living cost will go down by 10-20 percent. Behind all the bridges, all the tunnels, all the meters of railroad track are not only steel and stone, but also the assurance of a better future and a new identity of Mizoram.

From Isolation to Integration

The BairabiSairang railway is not an ordinary series of steel tracks over the hills of Mizoram; it is a metaphor of change. It is rewriting the socio-economic fate of the state by cutting down time of travelling, cutting down costs, improving agriculture, promoting tourism and linking Mizoram to international markets.

To the 1.2 million people of Mizoram, these trains carry with them a lot more than passengers and freight they carry prosperity, inclusion, and opportunity. To India, the line is a major victory that made a formerly distant frontier into a bridge to Southeast Asia.

There is more in the rhythm of the trains now resounding in the valleys of Mizoram, that development may be inclusive and sustainable and even extensive, and may convert the margins into developmental centers.

All parties of the NDA alliance are completely united: Anupriya Patel

Prayagraj, Aug 30 (UNI) : Union Minister and Apna Dal (Sonelal) president Anupriya Patel today said that all the allies of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) are strongly together under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Anupriya said that Apna Dal (S) will contest the 2027 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh with the NDA. "It is too early to say how many seats Dal will contest. But efforts will be made to strengthen the organisation. If the organisation is strong, then the election results will also be better," she said.

She said that her party's performance in the NDA alliance has been good. "The party wants to build a strong organisation by 2027 so that the NDA performance is better than in 2022," she said. The union Minister also targeted Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav's PDA (a combination of backwards and minorities) and said such an alliance was a misnomer .

RERA reshapes India’s housing market, instils higher investor confidence: Knight Frank India

(Standard Post Bureau)

Knight Frank India, a leading real estate consultancy, together with NAREDCO, has launched its new report RERA’s Reign – Charting Real Estate Growth Post-2016, which examines the Act’s transformative role in India’s housing market. The report highlights how the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) has transformed India’s housing market by instilling transparency, discipline, and long-term confidence. It showcases that RERA has successfully moderated runaway housing prices while restoring consumer trust and attracting institutional capital to the sector.

According to the report, with the implementation of RERA, speculative pricing in the housing market was brought under effective checks and balances. This policy intervention played a central role in aligning price growth with market fundamentals. Over time, with due processes in place and business restructuring on the supply side, the

residential property market in India registered the much awaited growth post the last down cycle.

Source: Knight Frank Research

Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said, “RERA has been one of the most impactful reforms for India’s housing market in recent times, making the sector more transparent and instilling accountability. Transparency and delivery discipline have given consumers the confidence to return to the market, while institutional investors are once again viewing residential real estate as a credible long-term investment story. This renewed balance in India’s housing market will go a long way in achieving sustainable growth.”

The implementation of RERA has helped shift the housing sector away from speculative cycles, forcing developers to adopt compliance, transparency, and delivery-focused practices. For consumers, the result has been fairer pricing and renewed confidence in housing as a

stable asset class.

Investor Confidence Peaks

Alongside improved affordability, investor confidence in Indian real estate has climbed steadily in the post-RERA era. The report highlights that cumulative private equity inflows surged to USD 26 bn between 2017–2020, compared to just USD 17.5 bn during 2011–2016. This influx of institutional capital reflects greater trust in the sector’s regulatory environment, signalling the success of RERA in building a more credible investment landscape.

The performance of the NIFTY Realty Index further demonstrates this trend, showing stability and resilience in the post-RERA years. Large investors, once wary of opacity and delayed delivery, now view Indian real estate as a more predictable and disciplined market. According to the report, this structural shift has positioned India’s housing market as a long-term investment destination for both domestic and global players.

RERA’s National Footprint

Beyond prices and investments, RERA’s scale of implementation underlines its importance as the backbone of India’s housing market. By mid-2025, nearly 1.5 lakh projects and 1 lakh agents had been registered under the Act, while 1.5 lakh consumer complaints were successfully resolved

This regulatory reach demonstrates not only the seriousness of RERA’s enforcement but also its growing acceptance among homebuyers and developers alike. For the first time, Indian homebuyers have had recourse to a structured grievance redressal mechanism, and developers have had to align their practices with strict compliance standards.

The result has been a more transparent housing market, where accountability, timely delivery, and financial discipline are no longer exceptions but expectations.

Saurabh Mehrotra, Executive Director–Valuation and Advisory, Knight Frank India, said, “For investors, this regulatory environment has helped create transparency and credibility in the

ADB announces 3 mln USD aid to support Pakistan's flood relief

Islamabad, Aug. 30 (UNI) : The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced three million U.S. dollars in emergency assistance to support Pakistan's relief operations following devastating floods across the country."Pakistan is experiencing devastating flooding that has displaced families and communities, and ADB stands firmly with Pakistan during this crisis," ADB President Masato Kanda said in a statement Friday.

The grant, to be provided from the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund, reflects ADB's commitment to both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term recovery, he noted.

At least 22 people were killed in floods over the past 24 hours, while more than 1.5 million people have been affected by the disaster, according to the National Disaster Management Authority.

Officials have warned that another spell of heavy rains could further aggravate the situation.

Thailand's cabinet appoints acting PM

Bangkok, Aug. 30 (UNI) : Thailand's cabinet on Saturday appointed Deputy Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai to serve as acting prime minister, following a constitutional court ruling that terminated Paetongtarn Shinawatra's premiership.Minister to the Prime Minister's Office Chusak Sirinil announced the appointment following a special cabinet meeting, which also appointed Prommin Lertsuridej as PM's Secretary General.Chusak said that the cabinet approved a strict framework for its operations during this transitional period to ensure stability without exceeding its mandate.The move was a constitutional requirement following the court's ruling, that the existing cabinet continue to govern in a caretaker capacity until a new administration takes office.The Secretariat of the House of Representatives has issued a notice to members of the parliament to convene from Sept. 3 to 5.

The lower house of the parliament is set to vote for the new prime minister based on the list of candidates submitted before the May 2023 general election.

Rainstorm, flash floods kill 5, injure 8 in eastern Afghanistan's

Kabul, Aug 30 (UNI) : Heavy rains and flash floods have claimed five lives and injured eight others in the eastern Afghanistan Nangarhar province, reported the state-run Bakhtar news agency on Saturday.

Citing Mawalwi Sediqullah Qureshi, the provincial director for Information and Culture, the state-owned news agency added that the rainstorms, which triggered flooding in Rodat, Haska Mina and Chaparhar districts on Friday, have killed five people and injured eight others.Thousands of acres of farmland, as well as parts of roads and several water canals, have also been destroyed due to flooding, the official news agency added, quoting the official.

Previously, flash floods had also inflicted casualties and property damage in the eastern Logar and Parwan provinces a couple of weeks ago.

3 killed, 94 injured in train accident in NW Egypt

Cairo, Aug 30 (UNI) : Three people were killed and 94 others injured after a train derailed in Egypt's northwestern Matrouh governorate, the Health Ministry said today.The injured were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment, the ministry stated.According to the National Railways Authority, seven carriages of the train, which was traveling from Marsa Matrouh to Cairo, derailed, with two overturning.

Technical teams and equipment were dispatched to clear the wreckage and restore service.

A technical committee will investigate the cause of the accident, the authority added.

Egypt's railway network has long faced issues with outdated equipment and poor management, resulting in frequent accidents. The country's deadliest rail disaster occurred in 2002, when a fire on a Cairo-Luxor train in Giza's Ayyat district killed over 380 people.

British PM vows to detain, send back illegal migrants amid mounting pressure

London, Aug 30 (UNI) : British Prime Minister Keir Starmer today pledged to detain and send back illegal migrants as the government faces mounting pressure to tackle Channel crossings and the issue of asylum hotels.

"I am clear: we will not reward illegal entry. If you cross the Channel unlawfully, you will be detained and sent back," Starmer said on social media platform X.His remarks came as several demonstrations were held across England on Saturday, including in London, Skegness and Gloucester, where asylum seekers are being housed in hotels. Five people were arrested in west London.

Thousands had attended protests over the summer, which began after an asylum seeker housed at a hotel was arrested and subsequently charged with several offenses, including the alleged sexual assault of a 14-year-old girl.The number of asylum seekers being housed in hotels rose to more than 32,000 in the year to June, according to Home Office data.

The government had promised to close asylum hotels by the time of the next general election. Britain and France are trialing a scheme to send migrants arriving on small boats across the English Channel back to France in exchange for the same number of asylum seekers being brought to Britain on a legal route. But the numbers involved in this scheme are likely to represent only a small fraction of those who arrive.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by officials as he emplanes for China after concluding his visit to Japan.

UN mission voices concern over troop buildup around Libya's capital

Tripoli, Aug 30 (UNI) :The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) expressed deep concern today over continued troop and heavy weapons buildup around the capital Tripoli, warning that the "dangerous development" poses "potential harm" to civilians.

Noting that ongoing talks on security arrangements in Tripoli since June have made progress, UNSMIL in a statement, urged "all parties to continue dialogue to resolve this matter as soon as possible, and exercise maximum restraint to avoid escalating tensions or endangering

civilians."The most recent buildup is "causing widespread fear among Tripoli's population," it said, warning that any use of force could lead to violent clashes in the densely-populated city.

It pledged continued support for mediation efforts to sustain a truce in Libya announced in May.

The statement came amid rising security tensions around Tripoli since the evening on August 27, when limited clashes reportedly erupted in some areas of the capital.

Following the clashes, forces loyal to the UN-recognised Government of National Unity (GNU) were

reportedly advancing from Misurata, 200 km east of Tripoli, and from Gharyan, 100 km south, towards the capital.

However, according to a report by news website 'The Libya Update', Libyan authorities said most of the ongoing buildup is "part of normal military activity."

Libya has remained divided since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi. The country is split between rival administrations: the GNU in Tripoli and an eastern-based government backed by the Libyan National Army (LNA) under commander Khalifa Haftar.

The Libyan Army, part of the country's broader military forces, is referred to in contrast to the LNA, which retains its separate identity.Tripoli has seen recurrent outbreaks of violence recently, including major clashes in mid-May between forces loyal to the GNU and the Stability Support Apparatus, a heavily armed faction with influence in the capital. says after the deadly clashes, UNSMIL announced the establishment of a truce committee jointly with the country's Presidency Council, which serves as the supreme commander of the Libyan Army

Ukraine rejects EU proposal for creating buffer zone between Ukraine-Russia troops, calls it unrealistic

Brussels/Kyiv, Aug 30 (UNI) : In the hopes of a possible resolution, European leaders have been floating around the proposal to establish a 40 km buffer zone between Russian and Ukrainian forces as part of a potential peace deal, though Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has rejected the idea, deeming it unrealistic, not in synch with realities of modern warfare, and tantamount to ceding territory which Kyiv has time and again refused to agree to.

"Only those who do not understand the technological state of today's war propose a

buffer zone," he told reporters on Friday, stressing that drones already create a "dead zone" of some 10km where heavy artillery cannot operate.

He warned that any arrangement forcing Ukraine to withdraw would amount to territorial concessions "If Russia wants greater distance, they can retreat deeper into the temporarily occupied territories," reports BBC.

Five European diplomats told reporters that the plan — one of several under discussion for either a ceasefire or postwar settlement — would require a significant

international peacekeeping force to patrol the strip of land.As per the proposal, estimates of the peace forces would range from 4,000 to 60,000 troops, with French and British units to form the backbone of any deployment, though it was also questioned whether Moscow would agree to the deployment of NATO troops near Russia.

The United States has also maintained that it won't deploy any boots on the ground, and will play a very minimal role in case of a ceasefire, limiting its support only to satellite intelligence and air surveillance.

While Moscow has

staunchly refused to allow any NATO troops on Russian soil, including in the territory it controls in Ukraine, it did signal its support for the buffer arrangements.

The buffer zone proposal comes amid mounting pressure on Western leaders to find a path to end the war, now entering its fourth year.

Hopes for reaching a peace a settlement have been deemed increasingly slim, post the failure of the August 15 Anchorage summit in achieving a resolution.German Chancellor Friedrich Merz also made no efforts to hide his strong hostility to the

Kremlin, stating he would "obviously not" meet with President Vladimir Putin, whom he accused of showing no interest in peace.

French President Emmanuel Macron likewise echoed the sentiment, warning that Moscow was "playing for time" and vowing to increase pressure.

On Thursday, Russia launched one of its heaviest aerial assaults on Kyiv, firing 629 drones and missiles that killed at least 23 people, further antagonising Europe, with two missiles striking near the EU offices which drew sharp condemnation from

Brussels.EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas denounced the attack as a "deliberate escalation" and urged stronger security guarantees for Ukraine.

While Estonia has pledged troops for any buffer arrangement, Poland and Germany have ruled out direct deployments, citing risks to their own security. Warsaw in particular fears that shifting NATO forces into Ukraine could weaken the alliance's eastern flank.

Zelensky's chief of staff Andriy Yermak held talks in New York with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Vice President JD Vance.

Ex-Ukrainian National Security Council head Parubiy wanted in Russia

Moscow, Aug 30 (UNI) : Former Secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, Andriy Parubiy, who was shot dead in Lvov (also known as Lviv) on Saturday, had been listed as a wanted criminal by the Russian Interior Ministry since 2023, police records show.

Earlier in the day, Ukrainian police reported the killing of "a well-known public and political figure born in 1971" in Lvov. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed Parubiy's death. A Ukrainian newspaper, Strana.ua, reported that he was shot dead in the street by a man posing as a courier.

According to Russian police data, Parubiy has been wanted by the Interior Ministry since November 2023. The Russian Investigative Committee charged Parubiy in absentia for atrocities committed in Donbas in 2014, which left 1,200 people dead or injured.

In April, a member of the Ukrainian Stop Grave resistance group told Sputnik that an investigation into a deadly fire at the Trade Unions House in Odesa, which killed 48 people and injured more than 250 others on May 2, 2014, was obstructed by a group of journalists established by then-National Security and Defense Council chief Parubiy.

Beauty

Get rid of whiteheads to prevent Acne

Whiteheads are caused due to build-up of oil, serum and dead skin that plugs up your pores. They clog your skin's pores and result in pimples.



A repeated occurrence of whiteheads can cause a serious problem of acne. But the good news is that whiteheads can be treated effectively at home. With a little effort and a regular skincare routine, you can keep whiteheads at bay. Follow these steps to get flawless skin:

Wash your face regularly. It makes skin oil-free, which would otherwise result in whiteheads. For best results, use a non-oily face wash and not the one that has glycerine as one of its contents.

Make sure that your hair is washed. Often greasy hair contributes to more oil on the surface of your skin. Dandruff is also one of the major causes of whiteheads and acne. Use an anti-dandruff shampoo once a week to keep your scalp clean.

Avoid oily makeup and lotions as they clog the pores the most. They make matters worse and lead to breakouts. Before buying a cosmetic, check out its oil content. Clean your face with a cleanser every day before going to bed.

Dab on a little tree tea oil before going to bed. Tea tree oil prevents whiteheads, blackheads and acne. This oil, surprisingly, does not clog pores. It also prevents breakouts. Scrub your face once a week. Because using a face wash alone won't be enough. To get rid of the sebum that accumulates in pores, gently scrub your face and wash it off with cold water.

Here's how to protect your skin this Summer

Summer is a time to wear all those dresses, shorts and skirts that you had put away during winter. The sun is out and is shining bright, inviting you to soak it up over Sunday brunches and early evening walks. But the increased exposure to sun brings with it skin problems. Here's how to keep your skin healthy and radiant during this season...



Exfoliate: You may think that exfoliating your skin is something that is done only during winter, but it is equally important in summer. Your body sheds skin cells regardless of the weather, so it is vital to scrub them off to avoid making your skin look dull and dry .

Hydrate: Moisturize, even if you have oily skin. As the temperature rises, swap your heavy body lotions for lighter ones.You could also use gels and purees as they absorb better into your skin.

Sunscreen: This is perhaps the most important tool to help fight sun issues during summer. Pick a sunscreen that is SPF 50 and above to protect yourself against the harmful effects of the sun.

De-tan: Even with sunscreen, your skin is likely to get tanned.But don't fret. If you are the type that doesn't fancy a tan, then just mix gram flour with yogurt and a few drops of lemon, and use this as a facemask to get rid of an uneven tan.

Water: Increase your water intake at this time of the year as you tend to get dehydrated quicker during summer. If it is not given enough water, your body tends to sap moisture from your hair and skin, leaving both dry and listless. So, drink up.

Toner: Use a toner to keep your pores closed and your skin cool. If you don't want to use chemicals, you could opt for rose water instead. Rose water's natural cooling properties make it ideal to soothe irritated and over-exposed skin.

Go bananas for Beauty!



While it is known that this humble fruit may have a host of health benefits, bananas also offer several beauty benefits. Available throughout the year, bananas are a powerhouse of nutrients and are great for your skin and hair as well. Here are some benefits...

- The fruit contains generous amounts of vitamin C and B6, which ensure that your skin remains supple and elastic. Apart from that, bananas also have antioxidants that protect your skin from premature ageing.
- The water content present in bananas keeps your skin well hydrated so that it doesn't get flaky and dry. It works as a great moisturiser as well. This is because it comprises vitamin A, which helps your skin recover the moisture it has lost.
- One of the best ways to moisturise your skin is to use a mashed banana and liberally rub it all over your face and neck. After leaving the pulp on your face for about half an hour, wash it off.
- You also treat pigmented skin with bananas. Simply add a tablespoon of honey to banana pulp and apply it on your skin.
- Have to go to an important function and don't have time to visit the parlour? Simply take a banana and add yogurt, honey and almonds to it. Make a paste and apply it all over your face. Not only will this moisturise your face but also remove excess oil and add a glow to your skin.
- For those who want to get rid of marks and scars left on the skin due to acne and pimples, bananas are a helpful aid. The vitamin C they contain lightens blemishes caused by skin aggravation.
- Bananas also work as great exfoliators. Simply mix jaggery and mashed bananas together and use the paste as a scrub on your face and neck.
- Is the skin on your hands and heels dry, flaky or cracked? Let a banana come to your rescue. Simply mix mashed banana with some rose water and apply on the affected areas.

Of course wallet is a must-carry in your handbag, but apart from the regular stuff, one must have a mini summer kit in their handbag this summer. Check if you have these following things in your handbag before you step out in this scorching heat.

Summer kit for your Handbag



Small umbrella
Try to carry a mini-umbrella in your kit. This will help you to protect your skin from sun tan and dehydration.

Compact
One cannot maintain the freshness of

the face all day this summer. But, a compact will help to an extent. Compact powder not only removes excess oil on your face, but also hydrates the skin and makes you look clean and fresh.

Wet wipes

If you feel tired or look a bit dull, just wipe your face with wet wipes and refresh yourself.

Hairpins and hair bands
In this hot sun, leaving the hair loose is not a comfortable option. Even if you do so, you may need a hairpin or a hair band to tie it up some time during your travel. So, always put a few hair pins and hair bands in your bags for an instant hair-do. Also, hair tends to be frizzy this season, so hairstyles do not hold for long and hence you will definitely need these.

Sanitizer
It is better to be safe and avoid picking up infections.So, pin up a small sanitizer in your handbag and clean your hands as often as you need to.

Water bottle
Always carry a small water bottle in your bag. You will not know when you may need one during the day .Since parched throat might cause dehydration, this is a must-carry .

Deo
Summer means frequent sweating and deos are a must-carry to keep you fresh. Sweat also can make you stink and staying odourfree is important. Always carry a fragrant deo to smell good this summer.

Small towel
Keep a small towel in your handbag. You may wash your face and hands quite often at your work place this season, and having a small towel could come in handy in drying yourself.

Sunglasses
Don't forget to take your sunglasses. They might be worn as a style statement during other seasons, but during summer, they help you escape the heat. Also choose glasses, preferably wraparound ones, that offer complete UV protection.

Stole
Just keep a stole, preferably made of cotton, in your handbag as this might help you cover your head when you have to walk in the sun. It also helps to protect your hair.

Safe ways to colour your hair during Pregnancy

Don't stop yourself from colouring your hair during pregnancy. Here's what to keep in mind.



Pregnancy makes a woman glow with health and beauty and it shouldn't stop her from enhancing her hair with additional colour. Most bleaches and hair dyes contain harmful chemicals, which when absorbed through the scalp, can enter the bloodstream. So the general tendency is to take a break from hair colour when you are expecting if you want to play it completely safe. Since you are going through crazy hormonal changes, your mane also gets affected and may not take to hair colour. However, don't stop yourself from a colour job or from dyeing your roots. Covering greys is a must, whether you are pregnant or not, and infusing colour will give a fresh change to your usual look.

Keep these tips in mind:

- Pick ammonia-free hair colour. If you are colouring at home, buy hair colour that doesn't contain any ammonia. For salon-based colouring, ask your stylist to do the same. It might not give you the intense colour that others would, but it's safe.
- Go ombre instead of global colouring. The ombre (or dip-dye) technique refers to colouring only the hair tip so the product doesn't touch your scalp.
- Dilute the colour to make it more tolerable to your scalp. Effective and non-toxic options to dilute the hair dye are water or almond, sunflower or jojoba oil.
- Always do a patch test before colouring.
- If you feel an irritation, develop a rash or get nauseous from the fumes, wash off the dye immediately.

Gauff storms into US Open Round 16

New York, Aug 30 (UNI) : American star Coco Gauff delivered a statement performance today as she eased into the round of 16 at the US Open 2025, beating Poland’s Magdalena Frech 6-3, 6-1 in just over an hour at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Seeded third, Gauff showed the form and composure that has made her one of the top contenders for the title. The 20-year-old dropped just four games in a match that showcased her consistency, variety, and tactical intelligence.

Her serve, which had wavered earlier in the week, clicked smoothly as she landed 76 percent of first serves and won 25 of 35 points behind them. Gauff also demonstrated her ability to reset under pressure. At 4-1 in the opening set, she faced a shaky service game with two double faults but managed to hold, forcing Frech into errors at crucial moments. She sealed the first set 6-3 before racing through the second with relentless shot-making and clever use of her forehand slice to disrupt her opponent’s rhythm.

"I played well. It was tough playing two night matches and then coming back with shade on the court today, it was hard to see the ball," Gauff said in her post-match interview. "It’s been an emotional week. I was putting too much pressure on myself, but I’m learning to enjoy it and focus on the process instead of just the result."

This victory marks the fourth consecutive year that Gauff has reached the round of 16 in New York, further underlining her consistency at Grand Slams.

The home favorite has quickly become a fan magnet at Flushing Meadows, drawing strong support inside Arthur Ashe Stadium as she looks to emulate her US Open triumph in 2023.

The world No. 3 will next face either Daria Kasatkina or two-time US Open champion Naomi Osaka in what promises to be one of the most anticipated clashes of the second week.

Meanwhile, the women’s draw remains loaded with star power, with defending champion Iga Swiatek scheduled for action later in the evening. But for the moment, it was Gauff’s dominant showing that set the tone for Day 7.



Bangladesh's players celebrate after scoring a goal during the Men's Hockey Asia Cup 2025 match between Chinese Taipei and Bangladesh, in Rajgir, Bihar on Saturday.

Arshdeep toiling hard to stay fit for Asia Cup

Bengaluru, Aug 30 (UNI) : India’s fast bowler Arshdeep Singh is entering the 2025 Asia Cup in peak form after an intensive preparation phase in the Duleep Trophy, ensuring he is fully ready to contribute to India’s pace attack in Abu Dhabi.

With India’s first match against the UAE on September 10, followed by games against Pakistan and Oman, Arshdeep’s fitness, adaptability, and mental toughness are expected to be vital assets for the team.

After a nearly three-month break from competitive cricket following IPL 2025, where he finished as Punjab Kings’ highest wicket-taker with 21 wickets, Arshdeep used his Duleep Trophy stint with North Zone

against East Zone in Bengaluru to fine-tune both his physical and mental game.

Bowling 17 overs on the second day — the most by any North Zone bowler — he highlighted the importance of long spells in preparing for high-pressure international tournaments. “I felt really good with the number of overs I got. My body feels well after 15-17 overs, and the ball is coming out nicely. Not many wickets today, but they will come in the future,” he said.

Arshdeep emphasized that his current focus is on mindset, particularly learning to enjoy the “boring times” in red-ball cricket.

“In the session after

lunch, mostly the ball doesn’t do anything. How you enjoy that phase tells you how successful you can be in red-ball cricket,” he said, crediting advice from fellow fast bowler Mohammed Siraj. This mental approach will help him maintain patience and consistency, qualities crucial in both red-ball and white-ball formats.

During the hiatus from matches, Arshdeep worked extensively on strength, conditioning, and fitness to handle the workload of long spells.

“When you are not playing, you push your limits in training — more overs, more strength, more practice. The aim is to stay ready whenever you get a chance,” he said, underscoring his

disciplined preparation for the upcoming Asia Cup.

Switching formats will be key, and Arshdeep has already been practising with the white ball to ensure a smooth transition. “Red ball, white ball, or pink ball — you have to play cricket and enjoy it. The mindset is about how quickly you can adapt according to the situation, wicket, and weather. Knowing when to put in effort and when to conserve energy is key,” he added.

With India arriving in Dubai for Asia Cup preparations on September 4, Arshdeep Singh’s blend of fitness, adaptability, and mental resilience positions him as a key component in India’s plans to strengthen their bowling resources across formats.

Newcastle sign Woltemade in club record £69m deal

London, Aug 30 (UNI) : Newcastle United have completed the club record signing of striker Nick Woltemade from Stuttgart on a six-year contract.

The 6ft 6in (1.98m) Germany international, 23, has joined Newcastle in a deal worth up to £69m. This eclipses the £63m Newcastle paid to make Alexander Isak the most expensive player in the club’s history three years ago.

Woltemade, who will wear the number 27, has not been registered in time to make his debut against Leeds United on Saturday. But Woltemade will have a huge role to play moving forward, given the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the future of Isak - who remains determined to join Liverpool, according to a BBC news.

"I'm really happy to be at this amazing club," he said. "From the first contact, I felt like the club really wanted me and had big plans for me.

"It's a big step in my life to leave Germany but everybody has welcomed me so well and it already feels like family.

I have a really good feeling from speaking to the head coach that this is the right place for me to find my best level.

"I know the stadium from watching games on television - it looks amazing and I know the atmosphere is crazy. I'm really excited to play and start scoring goals here."

Rajasthan Royals part ways with Dravid

Jaipur, Aug 30 (UNI) : Rajasthan Royals announced today that head coach Rahul Dravid will not continue with the franchise in any capacity ahead of IPL 2026, ending his second stint with the team.

A franchise statement highlighted Dravid’s pivotal role over the years, saying, "his leadership has influenced a generation of players, built strong values within the squad, and left an indelible mark on the culture of the franchise." Following a structural review, Dravid was offered a broader position within the RR, but he chose not to take it. The 52-year-old legend, who returned to Rajasthan Royals in September 2024 after guiding India to a T20 World Cup title, saw his second tenure cut short after a disappointing 2025 season. The Rajasthan Royals finished ninth, winning only four of 14 games, with several close matches slipping away. Dravid also spent much of the season confined to a wheelchair after a foot injury sustained while playing club cricket in Bengaluru.

The franchise is now considering options for a new head coach, with former coach Kumar Sangakkara, currently Director of Cricket, being a potential candidate to return. The Rajasthan Royals, its players, and fans worldwide extended heartfelt thanks to Dravid for his “remarkable service” to the team.

Sports minister wants to raise India's share in global sports manufacturing to 25 pc by 2036

New Delhi, Aug 30 (UNI) : Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya today stressed on the importance of promoting Swadeshi and vowed to take India's share in global sports manufacturing to 25 per cent

Speaking at the first-ever sports goods manufacturing conclave held in the national capital he said “Everyone has to make sure that we implement everything keeping in mind ‘Nation first’. Aatmanirbharta and the use of Swadeshi goods is the need of the hour. We must move forward with the spirit of Garv se Swadeshi. From 1 pc global share now, we have to take it to 25 pc by 2036. Economic growth happens when there is demand, and it increases with manufacturing, which also results in employment generation.”He categorised the Sports goods manufacturing as a priority sector “In India, the sports ecosystem is growing with speed. We have the potential to go big and we are not dependent on anyone. Sports goods manufacturing is a priority sector for us, and we have to implement this steadily. I am very pleased on it being included in the Allocation

of Business Rules. Hence, we did this important conclave,”

The conclave saw extensive deliberations and presentations from industry leaders on the sports goods manufacturing industry, India’s strengths, and strategy for making it a global hub as well as challenges and solutions in the sector. Dr. Mandaviya also noted that the conclave was not just about manufacturing sports goods, but about creating a complete ecosystem that combines industry, innovation, and employment. The overall aim was strengthening India’s march towards becoming a global sporting and economic powerhouse.

The Indian sports goods sector is valued at USD 4.88 billion (?42,877 crore) in 2024 and is projected to grow to USD 6.6 billion (?57,800 crore) by 2027 and ?87,300 crore by 2034. The sector provides employment to over five lakh people, primarily in MSME clusters at Meerut, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Delhi-NCR. India is the third largest sports goods manufacturer in Asia and the 21st largest exporter globally, with exports worth USD 523 million in 2023–24 to more than 90 countries.

CM interacts with Delhi's athletes, says will make the city sports capital

New Delhi, Aug 30 (UNI) : Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday shared her vision for Delhi's athletes, saying that players from the national capital must participate in national and international sporting events, and take the Indian tri-color to new heights across the globe and return home with medals.

She said that to realize this goal, the Delhi government has substantially increased prize money for athletes who win medals, and is taking decisive steps to provide them with world-class sporting facilities.

Speaking at an interactive session held on Saturday at Thyagaraj Stadium with emerging talents and renowned sports icons, the CM shared her government’s sports vision and outlined new policies.

Welcoming Delhi’s young talent, Gupta said that the city, as well as the nation’s future rests in the hands of these youth who will bring honour to the country in the years to come.

Gupta made special mention of international champions such as Ravi Dahiya, Sharad Kumar, Tejaswin Shankar, Narayan Thakur, Narendra Grewal and Pritam Rani, as she commended their achievements.

“The triumph of an athlete on the global stage is not just an individual

honour. It belongs to 1.4 billion Indians,” she remarked.

The event was also attended by Cabinet Minister Mr Ashish Sood, MLA Mr Rajkumar Bhatia, and other dignitaries.

Acknowledging the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gupta said that sports had, for the first time, received the recognition and constitutional backing long required. She highlighted the recently enacted National Sports Governance Act 2025, which she described as the “Constitution of Sports”, noting that it would ensure improved facilities, professional coaching, balanced nutrition and essential resources for the athletes.

The CM also contrasted her government’s approach with that of the previous administration, which, she said, had neglected sports and failed to enhance rewards or infrastructure. “Our government has not only raised prize

money and expanded facilities but has also ensured that athletes receive the respect and opportunities they deserve. Delhi’s athletes are now excelling on both national and international platforms,” Gupta said.

She added that outstanding performers at the Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and National Games will receive multi-crore prizes along with honourable government appointments.

Delhi’s Minister for Education Ashish Sood, who was also present on the occasion, assured athletes that their concerns would always be addressed with priority.

“The government will provide every facility and support needed.

Athletes have one responsibility to win medals and make Delhi proud. Both the Chief Minister’s Office and my office stand fully committed to resolving your issues without delay,” he said.

From pandemic struggles to India call-up: Uvais' rise

New Delhi, Aug 30 (UNI) : From struggling to find a club during the COVID-19 pandemic to making a memorable debut for India, Kerala defender Muhammed Uvais Moyikkal’s journey has been one of perseverance and determination.

The 27-year-old from Malappuram, who was once without a team during the pandemic, found himself in the Indian senior men’s national squad earlier this month and made his first appearance in the CAFA Nations Cup 2025 against Tajikistan.

Just five minutes into

his debut, Uvais’s long throw-in set up India’s opening goal, giving the team an early lead. India went on to register a 2-1 victory, their first competitive win since November 2023, marking a positive start to the Khalid Jamil era.

“Of course, I had always dreamed of playing for India, but when coach Khalid Jamil took charge, I thought maybe my chance would come,” Uvais said.

“Even then, my inclusion in the probables surprised me. The last two weeks have been a blur, filled with phone calls and

congratulations.”

Uvais admitted he was overwhelmed when told he would be starting against Tajikistan. “When the national anthem played, it hit me.

I’m not usually emotional, but I felt it deeply,” he said.

Coming from a football-loving family, with his father working as a local coach and his brother playing for Roots FC in Bengaluru, Uvais had to overcome significant hurdles. During the pandemic, he found it difficult to secure opportunities as tournaments were scarce. His fortunes turned

when Gokulam Kerala signed him, and he went on to win the I-League in 2021-22. That success opened doors to the Indian Super League with Jamshedpur FC, where he played under Khalid Jamil.

“Coach Jamil has been instrumental in my growth. He simplifies the game and asks us to keep things simple. His trust in me has been crucial,” Uvais said.

India will next face IR Iran in their second Group B fixture of the CAFA Nations Cup tomorrow. The match will be streamed live on FanCode.

Director General, Indian Railway Health Services Inspects Central Hospital, Lallaguda, SCR

DG (IRHS) inaugurated 2D Echo and Oxygen Manifold Room facility



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Aug 30 : Dr.Jagdish Chandra, Director General, Indian Railway Health Services (IRHS), Railway Board, New Delhi inspected and inaugurated new facilities at Central Railway Hospital, Lallaguda, Secunderabad today i.e., on 30th August, 2025. Dr. Nirmala Rajaram, Principal Chief Medical Director, SCR; Dr. I. Siva Naga Prasad, Medical Director, Central Hospital, Lallaguda and senior Doctors were also present on the occasion.

Dr.Jagdish Chandra inaugurated the 2D Echo Machinery with advanced machine facility, Oxygen Manifold Room, renovated physiotherapy room and a dedicated corporate billing



section office, that will immensely benefit the serving and retired employees and their family members. The inauguration of the renovated physiotherapy center in the ground floor of the new OPD block will cater to railway beneficiaries in experiencing modern and

better physiotherapy sessions related to different ailments. Addressing the Doctors, Dr.Jagdish Chandra appreciated the medical department for upgrading the facilities which will immensely benefit the serving / retired employees and their

dependents. He stated that these advanced diagnostic facilities and services will be highly useful and convenient. He also complimented the medical team for the noble initiative of developing an oxygen plant at the hospital premises which caters as a lifesaving medical need.

Central Railway to run Special Mid Night Suburban Trains for Ganpati Festival

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 30 : Central Railway will run special mid night suburban trains from CSMT to Kalyan/Thane and back for devotees travelling during the GANPATI FESTIVAL. On 04/05.09.2025 (Thursday/Friday Night), 05/06.09.2025 (Friday/Saturday Night) & 06/07.09.2025 (Saturday/Sunday Night) on MAIN LINE between CSMT Mumbai and Kalyan.

On HARBOUR LINE Special Suburban trains will run from CSMT to Panvel and back on the day of GANPATI IMMERSION only on 06/07.09.2025

(Saturday/Sunday Night).

The special trains will halt at all stations between CSMT Mumbai and Kalyan/Thane/Panvel as per the timings given below.

On DOWN MAIN LINE (On 04/05.09.2025; 05/06.09.2025 & 06/07.09.2025)

CSMT-Kalyan Special will depart CSMT Mumbai at 01.40 hrs and arrive Kalyan at 03.10 hrs.

CSMT-Thane Special will depart CSMT Mumbai at 02.30 hrs and arrive Thane at 03.30 hrs.

CSMT-Kalyan Special will depart CSMT Mumbai at 03.25 hrs and arrive

Kalyan at 04.55 hrs.

On UP MAIN LINE (On 04/05.09.2025; 05/06.09.2025 & 06/07.09.2025)

Kalyan-CSMT Special will depart Kalyan at 00:05 hrs and arrive CSMT Mumbai at 01.30 hrs.

Thane-CSMT Special will depart Thane at 01.00 hrs and arrive CSMT Mumbai at 02.00 hrs.

Thane-CSMT Special will depart Thane at 02.00 hrs and arrive CSMT Mumbai at 03.00 hrs.

On DOWN HARBOUR LINE (On 06/07.09.2025 only) CSMT-Panvel Special will depart CSMT Mumbai

at 01.30 hrs and arrive Panvel at 02.50 hrs.

CSMT-Panvel Special will depart CSMT Mumbai at 02.45 hrs and arrive Panvel at 04.05 hrs.

On UP HARBOUR LINE (On 06/07.09.2025 only)

Panvel-CSMT Special will depart Panvel at 01.00 hrs and arrive CSMT Mumbai at 02.20 hrs.

Panvel-CSMT Special will depart Panvel at 01.45 hrs and arrive CSMT Mumbai at 03.05 hrs.

Passengers are requested to please note and avail these Ganpati Festival Special Suburban Train services.

Western Railway extends the trips of special trains between Mumbai Central - Indore

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 30 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand especially during the festive season, Western Railway has extended the trips of Special Train on Special Fare between Mumbai Central & Indore on existing timings, halts & composition. According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of the train is as under:

Train No. 09085/09086 Mumbai Central - Indore (Tri-Weekly) Special [12 Trips]

Train No. 09085 Mumbai Central - Indore Special departs from Mumbai Central every Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 23.20 hrs and will reach Indore at 13.00 hrs, the next day. The trips of this train have been extended

further from 1st to 12th September, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09086 Indore - Mumbai Central Special will depart from Indore every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday at 17.00 hrs and will arrive Mumbai Central at 07.10 hrs, the next day. The trips of this train have been extended further from 2nd to 13th September, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Dahod, Ratlam and Ujjain station in both directions.

This train comprises of First AC, AC 2-Tier and AC 3-Tier Coaches. The booking for the extended trips of Train No. 09085 & 09086 opens from 31.08.2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Cancellation, Regulation and Rescheduling of Train Services : South Western Railway

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mysuru, Aug 30 : Due to line and power blocks between Birur-Sivapur station, Birur-Talguppa and Birur-Nagavangala station for the launching of the Bowstring girder for the NHA Road Over Bridge on NH-206, replacing LC No. 128 & 2, the following trains will be cancelled, regulated, and rescheduled as detailed below:

I. Cancellation of Trains

1. Train No. 16567 Tumakuru - Shivamogga Town Express will be

cancelled on 31st August, 1st, 8th, 14th & 15th September 2025.

2. Train No. 16568 Shivamogga Town - Tumakuru Express will be cancelled on 1st, 2nd, 9th, 15th & 16th September 2025.

3. Train No. 16214 SSS Hubballi - Arsikere Express will be cancelled on 8th September 2025.

4. Train No. 16213 Arsikere - SSS Hubballi Express will be cancelled on 9th September 2025.

5. Train No. 12089 KSR

Bengaluru - Shivamogga Town Express will be cancelled on 8th September 2025.

6. Train No. 12090 Shivamogga Town - KSR Bengaluru Express will be cancelled on 9th September 2025.

II. Rescheduling of Trains

1. Train No. 12090 Shivamogga Town - KSR Bengaluru Express will be rescheduled by 75 minutes from Shivamogga Town on 1st, 2nd, 15th & 16th September 2025.

2. Train No. 16213

Arsikere - SSS Hubballi Express will be rescheduled by 45 minutes from Arsikere on 1st, 2nd, 15th & 16th September 2025.

III. Regulation of Trains

1. Train No. 20652 Talguppa - KSR Bengaluru Express will be regulated en route by 75 minutes on 9th September 2025.

2. Train No. 56272 Chikkamagaluru - Shivamogga Town Passenger will be regulated en route by 30 minutes on 9th September 2025.

Emphasizing teamwork and technology for operational excellence : GM, ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Aug 30 : General Manager of East Coast Railway, Mr Parmeshwar Funkwal, conducted a thorough inspection of the Vizianagaram station yard, accompanied by Divisional Railway Manager Waltair, Shri Lalit Bohra, and senior officials from Headquarters and Waltair Division. During the visit, he carefully reviewed critical safety elements including track conditions, signaling, and operational procedures.

After the inspection, Shri Funkwal held an interactive meeting with senior supervisors from various departments at Vizianagaram station. He highlighted the significance of teamwork in meeting the Railway's operational demands and upholding infrastructure standards. Emphasizing that safety is the highest priority and customer satisfaction the key goal, he urged supervisors to rigorously check all safety and service parameters, aiming for excellence and the elimination of any shortcomings. Furthermore, the General Manager stressed the importance of



staying current with new technologies and digital advancements within the

Railways. He advised supervisors to regularly update their teams to avoid

negligence and operational lapses, thereby enhancing overall efficiency and safety.

CM Omar Abdullah directs speedy restoration of Sgr-Jmu National Highway and other roads

Srinagar, Aug 30 (UNI) Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting to review restoration works on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) and other major roads damaged by recent incessant rains, directing authorities to ensure speedy road connectivity, smooth traffic flow, and uninterrupted supply of essentials to the Valley and remote areas of Jammu division.

He emphasized the need for close inter-departmental coordination and timely updates to respond promptly to public needs.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (remained closed for the fifth straight day due to heavy rains and mudslides at several locations. While stranded vehicles were partially cleared today, a stretch along the began sinking, forcing authorities to halt traffic from both sides.

During the meeting, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo briefed about the condition of NH-44, describing its restoration as the top priority since it is the lifeline connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country.

An official spokesman said that CS stressed the importance of facilitating movement of perishable commodities like fruit from the Valley and highlighted the grim situation in areas such as Kishtwar and Udhampur, which are facing outages of power, drinking water, road connectivity and mobile networks.

V.Somanna laid Foundation Stone for Light Road Over Bridge at Gubbi Railway Station, SWR



(Standard Post Bureau)

Bengaluru, Aug 30 : Mr V. Somanna, Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Light Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Gubbi Railway Station, Tumakuru district today. The project has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs 20 crore.

Addressing the gathering, Mr V. Somanna said that both the Central and State Governments should work together for development works. He informed that the Government of India has allocated Rs 2.65 lakh crore for Indian Railways in the current year, of which Rs 49,000 crore has been earmarked for projects in

the State of Karnataka.

He further stated that Gubbi Railway Station is being developed under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, which will enhance passenger amenities and infrastructure. He said that earlier, ROB and RUBs were executed under a cost-sharing arrangement between the Centre and the State, which often caused delays. Now, with the Central Government funding such projects fully, works are progressing at a much faster pace. New line laying, doubling of single lines, quadrupling of lines, and station development works are also being taken up, he said.

Mr S.R. Srinivas, Hon'ble MLA of Gubbi and

Chairman of KSRTC, said that the construction of this ROB fulfils the long-standing demand of the people of Gubbi. He thanked Shri V. Somanna for sanctioning major developmental works in Tumakuru District.

The event was attended by Shri G.S. Basavaraj, Hon'ble Former MP; Shri Ajay Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer (Construction); Shri Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Divisional Railway Manager, Bengaluru; Shri Parikshit Mohanpuria, Additional Divisional Railway Manager; Shri Pradeep Puri, Chief Engineer; officials from NHA; and other dignitaries.