

IN BRIEF

Govt ready to host the Olympics: CM

Hyderabad, Aug 2 (UNI) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy today claimed that his state is ready to host the Olympics.

Addressing the media after unveiling Telangana's 'Sports Policy' here, Revanth Reddy said that since Hyderabad has a history of organizing National Games, Commonwealth Games, and World Military Games, it is ready to host the Olympics. "But where will we put our faces if we don't win a single medal in the games," he questioned and said that his government has already requested the Center to give an opportunity to organize Khelo India 2026 in Telangana.

"We will work with the goal of winning medals in the Olympics and a new chapter should begin in the state with the new sports policy unveiled today", the CM said "The government is ready to allocate sufficient funds for sports," the CM assured.

2 terrorists killed in Kulgam

Srinagar, Aug 2 (UNI) : Security forces shot dead two unidentified militants in an ongoing gunbattle in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said said.

The encounter broke out last evening in the Akhal Khulsan forest area after joint teams of security forces launched a search operation based on intelligence inputs about the presence of a group of three to five militants. As the joint teams of police, Army and CRPF zeroed in, the holed-up militants, they opened fire triggering a gunbattle.

"So far two terrorists have been shot dead and the operation is on," a senior police officer said.

Earlier the day, Army's Srinagar based Chinara Corps said intermittent and intense fire fight continued through the night.

"Alert troops responded with calibrated fire and tightened the noose while maintaining contact. One terrorist has been neutralised by the security forces so far," Chinara Corps said.

The identity and the affiliation of the two slain could not be established immediately.

This is the second encounter in Kashmir this week.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates, lays stone for 29 NH projects in AP



(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, Aug 2 : Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari today inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 29 National Highway projects covering 272 km, with an investment of over Rs 5,233 crore, along with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Union

Ministers Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma and Union MoS ChandraSekhar Pemmasani here. The Madanapalle to Pileru stretch of NH-71 has been transformed into a modern 4-lane corridor spanning 56 kms, constructed at a cost of Rs1,994 crore. This significant upgrade includes

9 flyovers, a rail overbridge, 19 major bridges, 5 vehicular underpasses, and 10 local underpasses. Similarly, the Kurnool to Mandrem section of NH-340C has been upgraded to a 4-lane road with paved shoulders over 31 kms, featuring one flyover, 4 viaducts, 3 local underpasses, and a minor underpass, at a cost of Rs

858 crore. Alongside these developments, foundation stones are being laid for 27 additional projects aimed at enhancing connectivity across Andhra Pradesh. These will improve access to religious sites like Tirupati, Srisailem, and Kadiri, and tourist destinations such as Horsley Hills and Vodarevu Beach. Seamless links to

economic hubs—Sri City, Krishnapatnam Port, and Tirupati Airport—will be established.

Addressing the gathering, Gadkari stated, "Aligned with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, these projects are designed to eliminate accident-prone black spots and railway crossings, reduce transportation costs, strengthen last-mile connectivity in rural and tribal areas, and decongest key urban centres such as Tirupati, Nellore, and Rayachoty—the by positioning Andhra Pradesh at the forefront of India's growth story."

On the request of Chandrababu Naidu, Nitin Gadkari has sanctioned nine highway projects to AP and the Chief Minister thanked him.

CM vows to make advanced technology accessible to farmers

Ongele, Aug 2 (UNI) : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu reiterated the government's commitment to making advanced agricultural technology accessible to farmers.

He stated that recommendations would be issued based on a study of which crops would yield better profits. The CM officially launched the flagship Super Six program, Annadata Sukhibhava - PM Kisan, from Veerayapalem in Darsi mandal, Prakasam district, amidst verdant fields and in the presence of farmers. He interacted with farmers and inaugurated the scheme by crediting Rs 7,000 each into the accounts of 46,85,838 farmers across the state. Later, the Chief Minister emphasised that people must observe the stark difference between the welfare and development initiatives undertaken by the previous regime and those implemented by the current coalition government. He affirmed the fulfillment of the election promise of Rs

20,000 annual support to farmers. The scheme, he said, will be implemented in three phases. "Through the 'Annadata Sukhibhava' scheme, we have benefited 46,85,838 farmers in the state. In the first phase, the state's share of Rs 5,000 per farmer has already been credited, for which Rs 2,343 crore was allocated. Additionally, the Central Government is contributing Rs 2,000 per farmer, totalling Rs 832 crore. In this first phase alone, each farmer receives Rs 7,000, with an overall disbursement of Rs 3,175 crore," the Chief Minister explained.

"Under this scheme, we are allocating Rs 186 crore to Prakasam district, benefiting 2,65,317 farmers. Within the Darsi constituency, 42,786 farmers will receive Rs 29 crore. In the Darsi mandal, 10,972 farmers will get Rs 7.36 crore. In Veerayapalem alone, 476 farmers will receive Rs 31 lakh," the Chief Minister clarified. "Additionally, Rs 61 crore worth of farm tools were distributed to 26,000 farmers at a 50% subsidy.

Minister reaffirms Government's commitment for farmers welfare

Rajahmundry, Aug 2 (UNI) : Reiterating the Government's commitment for the welfare of farmers, Minister for Water Resources Development Nimmala Ramanaidu has said that over 1.14 lakh beneficiaries were extended the benefit of 'Annadata Sukhibhava-PM Kishan' scheme benefit in East Godavari district. Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu, flanked by district Collector P Prasanthi, participated at a programme held in Kovvur on Saturday for the disbursement of 'Annadata Sukhibhava-PM Kishan scheme' money to the eligible farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu asserted that the welfare of farmers is the priority of the government and that as per the election promise of extending investment assistance of Rs 20,000 to every eligible farmer is being implemented, adding that this amount will be deposited in three installments into the bank accounts of eligible farmers.

"In the first phase, Rs 7,000 each was deposited in the accounts of over

1,14,000 farmers across East Godavari district, totaling Rs 79 crore. Cheques worth Rs 10.41 crore were handed over to 14,884 farmers in Kovvur constituency," the Minister highlighted.

Nimmala Ramanaidu claimed that between 2014-19, during the first term of the TDP regime, many programmes like agricultural subsidies, distribution of equipment and soil health cards were implemented, alleging that the subsequent YSRCP regime neglected farmers' welfare. Moreover, the then YSRCP government reduced the input subsidy from Rs 20,000 to Rs. 16,000, he regretted. The Minister mentioned that the Naidu headed coalition government is showing commitment for the welfare of farmers even in difficult financial positions, stating that this scheme will also be applied to tenant farmers and that the money will be credited into their bank accounts during October and January. The Minister pledged to take steps to carry out repairs to the Dowleswaram project crest gates and assured that constructing a lift irrigation

scheme at Daravaram stream.

MLA M Venkateswara Rao observed that the farmers would be extended Rs 20,000 under the Annadata Sukhibhava-PM Kishan scheme in three installments. The erstwhile YSRCP regime did not pay Rs 1600 crore to the farmers which was cleared by the Naidu headed coalition government after coming to power, he stated.

District Collector P Prashanthi asserted that programmes to increase agricultural productivity such as subsidized seeds, fertilizers and drone distribution are being implemented in the EG district. She clarified the Annadata Sukhibhava-PM Kishan scheme is also applicable to the landless tenant farmers and funds will be deposited in October and January in their bank accounts. "A mobile app will be unveiled in the future that will provide weather information, pest control and soil quality information for farmers. Special measures are being taken for cocoa and oil farm farmers as well," the Collector affirmed.



Tejashwi slams EC over voter list, urges SC to intervene

Patna, Aug 2 (UNI) : Following the release of a revised draft electoral roll that reportedly excludes over 6.5 million voters from the state list, leader of opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, today demanded that the Supreme Court intervene and take suo motu cognisance of the issue. While talking to newsmen here, he accused the Election Commission (EC) of losing its credibility. Yadav alleged that the Election Commission was no longer acting independently. It appears to be functioning under the influence of the country's top political leadership.

(See on page 2)

Iraqi PM inaugurates refinery post refurbishment after



Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani on Saturday inaugurated the grease refinery unit in the country's largest refinery complex of Baiji Refinery in Saladin province, following the full rehabilitation of its production units previously damaged after terrorist sabotage.

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Sarthak Chavan scores fighting ...



Pune teenager Sarthak Chavan (Petrone TVS Racing) pulled off a brilliant win, his second in three starts, in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category at the Rolon Round of the MRF MMSC-FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2025 at the Kari Motor Speedway, here on Saturday.

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Minister Nadda sounds alarm on rising organ failures



Union Health Minister JP Nadda today expressed concern over the increasing cases of organ failures, calling it a serious public health challenge that is putting immense pressure on the healthcare system. "Every year, thousands of patients await life-saving organ transplants.

(See on page 8)



New Delhi, Aug 2 (UNI) : Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has come under sharp criticism from Rohan Jaitley, son of the late BJP

stalwart Arun Jaitley, following a controversial statement made at the Annual Legal Conclave 2025.

Gandhi alleged that the former Union Finance Minister had once been sent to intimidate him over his opposition to the now-repealed farm laws.

Recalling events during the nationwide farmers' agitation, Gandhi said: "I remember when I was fighting the farm laws, Arun Jaitley was sent to threaten me," Gandhi said. "He told me, 'If you

continue opposing the government on this, we will have to act against you.' I looked at him and said, 'I don't think you know who you're talking to.' "The claim triggered swift and pointed rebuttals, especially from Rohan Jaitley, who highlighted a factual inconsistency: Arun Jaitley passed away in August 2019, while the farm laws were introduced in mid-2020. Rohan Jaitley wrote: "Rahul Gandhi now claims my late

father, Arun Jaitley, threatened him over the farm laws. Let me remind him: my father passed away in 2019. The farm laws were introduced in 2020. More importantly, it was not in my father's nature to threaten anyone.

He was a staunch democrat who believed in dialogue and consensus. If at all such a situation was to occur, as it often does in politics, he would invite free and open discussions to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution to all. That was

simply who he was and that remains his legacy today.

Jaitley also urged Gandhi to show greater respect for the deceased. "He did something similar with Manohar Parrikar ji, politicizing his final days. That too was in poor taste. Let the departed rest in peace."

The three farm laws, which aimed to deregulate the government-run wholesale markets, triggered nationwide protests before being repealed in 2021.

BMC for an eco-friendly Ganesh festival Free distribution of colors to sculptors on experimental basis

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Aug 2 : To further strengthen the eco-friendly Shri Ganesh Festival, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation provides free shadu clay to sculptors , ' first come, first served ' On this principle, facilities such as space for pavilions have been provided to create idols. In addition to these facilities, the Municipal Corporation will supply eco-friendly paints to sculptors on an experimental basis for this year's Shree Ganesh festival. A total of six eco-friendly paints are included in this. 7,800 liters of paint and 3,000

liters of eco-primer will be provided. Sculptors should use these paints to paint the idols of Shree Ganesh. So that it will help prevent water pollution. The Municipal Corporation is taking steps to provide services and facilities to celebrate the Ganesh festival. As per the directions of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Commissioner and Administrator Mr. Bhushan Gagrani and under the guidance of Additional Municipal Corporation Commissioner (Eastern Suburbs) Dr. Amit Saini, various civic services and

facilities are being provided by the administration. In order to encourage the creation of idols made of shadu clay in Mumbai Metropolitan City and to promote maximum eco-friendly idols, the Municipal Corporation has provided free shadu clay to sculptors this year as well, as every year. So far, 952 tons of clay have been provided. Along with this, 997 sculptors have also been given space for pavilions to create idols. The colors used to paint idols, especially chemical colors, can be harmful to the

environment. Therefore, during immersion, water sources can be polluted and public health can be adversely affected. Considering this possibility, the Municipal Corporation has appealed to the sculptors to use only eco-friendly colors as much as possible and avoid pollution of water bodies.In line with this, the Municipal Corporation administration will now provide eco-friendly colors to the sculptors on an experimental basis to paint the idols. In this, six eco-friendly colors namely white , orange , yellow , green , blue and red will be provided by the

Municipal Corporation to the sculptors. In this, white color will be provided in large quantities compared to other colors. Along with this, eco-friendly white primer will also be provided. Deputy Commissioner (Zone 2) and Coordinator of Shree Ganesh Festival Shri. Prashant Sapkale has appealed to the sculptors to contact the administrative division office (ward office) in their respective areas . Sculptors are also being appealed to use these eco-friendly colors and contribute to the eco-friendly festival .

Trump's Tariff policy adversely affecting US economy, Trump's Disapproval Rating goes up

New Delhi, Aug 2 (UNI) US President Donald Trump's Disapproval Rating has gone up to the year's highest level at 52.1 percent which is the worst net rating of his second term, according to a latest poll.

In the poll conducted by ActiVote between July 1 and 31, voters expressed concern at Trump’s economic and Tariff policies and the Jeffery Epstein scandal that continues to cast a shadow over Trump and his administration. Epstein, a wealthy financier and convicted child sex offender, committed suicide in jail in August 2019. Trump has acknowledged he knew Epstein in 1990s and early 2000s. In another development Trump fired Erika McEntarfer, commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) after BLS released weaker jobs data due to Trump’s Tariff policy.

Reports said US stock markets were affected yesterday and Inflation went up to 2.7 percent in June. Job growth slowed sharply in July, according to the BLS.

According to BLS US employers added just 73,000 jobs in July, far below the expected 109,000.

However, Trump claimed that "The US Economy is booming.” Heather Long, chief economist at the Navy Federal Credit Union, said the US labour market is deteriorating quickly because of uncertainty caused by Trump’s Tariff policies.

Rs 353 cr transferred to accounts of 16.77 lakh farmers in Haryana

Chandigarh, Aug 2 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday released the 20th installment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, transferring Rs 20,500 crore to the bank accounts of 9.7 crore farmers across the country.

Out of this, Rs 353 crore has been credited to the accounts of 16.77 lakh farmers in Haryana.

To mark this occasion, a state-level PM-Kisan Utsav Diwas programme was organized in Panchkula, where Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini participated as the chief guest. Similar celebrations were held in other districts, where Cabinet and Ministers of State were present. Farmers across Haryana also listened to the Prime Minister’s address live.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that the release of the 20th installment is not just financial support but a testimony of the trust that the Prime Minister has placed in the farmers of the country. It reiterates his commitment to the welfare of the ‘Annadata’ and further strengthens the vision of making farmers prosperous and empowered, a key pillar of a developed India.

It may be recalled that the scheme launched by Prime Minister Modi has infused new confidence and energy among farmers. Under this scheme, small and medium farmers receive Rs 6,000 in three installments as direct

income support. The transparency and commitment of this initiative have become a hallmark of New India.

Haryana Government has implemented the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme effectively. Alongside, the state has taken significant steps in increasing farmers’ income, adopting technological innovations, and promoting water conservation. The government is ensuring that every eligible farmer receives the benefits of these schemes without exception, the chief minister said.

Prime Minister Modi has identified four key pillars for realizing the vision of a developed India by 2047, that is, farmers, poor, women, and youth. The prosperity of farmers is fundamental to achieving this goal, he said.

The Haryana government, aligned with the Prime Minister’s vision, is consistently working to enhance farmers’ welfare and make agriculture profitable while efficiently implementing central government schemes, the chief minister said.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, Haryana is advancing rapidly towards the goal of “Viksit Bharat – Viksit Haryana.” By 2047, when India celebrates 100 years of independence, farmers will be self-reliant, environmentally conscious, digitally connected to global markets, and producers of high-quality branded products, he added.

Apna Dal (S) is an integral part of NDA: Anupriya Patel

Azamgarh, Aug 2 (UNI) Apna Dal (Sonelal) national president and Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel today made it clear that her party is a part of NDA and there is no difference of opinion in NDA.

She said that the 2027 assembly election in UP is very important while the organization is being strengthened further to prepare for the Panchayat elections.

She also gave a befitting reply to the question of opposition parties.Patel was addressing the workers as the chief guest at Hariaudh Kala Kendra here to strengthen the organization.Talking to reporters after the program, she targeted the opposition, saying that if the opposition speaks the language of anti-India forces, then it is very unfortunate for the country.She described Operation Sindoor as the clear goal of the government and the army role against terrorism which they have successfully completed.She said that the central government is constantly working towards making the farmers self-reliant by 2047and Kisan Samman Nidhi is a part of that.

" Today, the Prime Minister has released the 20th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, under which 9 crore 70 lakh farmers of the country have benefited. Out of this, 2.5 crore farmers are from Uttar Pradesh only. With this amount, they can buy fertilizers, seeds and other agricultural materials," she said while adding that the government is working in a planned manner to make the farmers prosperous and self-reliant.On the question of Panchayat elections, she said that the party is fully prepared for the Panchayat elections and the district committee has been formed. The hard-working workers of the party will be given full opportunity in the Panchayat elections.On the question of fake voters, the Union minister replied to the journalists that, "Vote is the right of every citizen, but if there is a fake voter, then they should be removed from the voter list. At present the matter is in the court, so everyone should wait for the decision of the court. After the decision comes, everyone will get the answer".

She also answered the question on the relations of NDA, claiming that her party is a part of NDA, there is no rift of any kind in it.Regarding the recent comment on SP MP Dimple Yadav, she said that use of abusive language against anyone, be it a female MP or a common woman, is reprehensible and his party strongly condemns it.

(Standard Post Bureau) Navi Mumbai, Aug 2 : Man is the center of Sahitya Ratna Anna Bhau Sathe's literature, and in the words 'a writer who sings the song of establishing humanity', renowned writer and critic Dr. Randhir Shinde, revealing the humanistic personality of Sahitya Ratna Lokshahir Anna Bhau Sathe through his writings, commented that we should understand Anna Bhau's vision of life and ideology through his diverse and abundant literature.

Under the 'Vicharvedh' lecture series under the guidance of Municipal Commissioner Dr. Kailash Shinde at Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial in Airoli, Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sahitya Ratna Anna Bhau Sathe, Dr. Randhir Shinde, Head of the Marathi Department of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj University, Kolhapur, shed light on the life of Anna Bhau by giving various examples on the topic 'Social Revolution and



Sahitya Ratna Anna Bhau Sathe'. On this occasion, the lecturers were honored by the auspicious hands of Deputy Commissioner Shri. Sangharatna Khillare and Deputy Commissioner Shri. Sanjay Shinde.

While praising the memorial, Dr. Randhir Shinde said that the Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial erected by the Navi

Mumbai Municipal Corporation is very different from other monuments and is a 'memorial monument of wisdom and thought' that inspires the new generation. He also expressed the opinion that the lectures organized by dignitaries here provide a new perspective on the great man.

Since Anna Bhau was

an activist who actively participated in many movements like the United Maharashtra Movement, his writings seem to reflect the true inner life of the society. Therefore, Anna Bhau, who says, “ I do not tell fictional stories ,” gives a new perspective. Since the goal was to establish respect through literature, Dr. Randhir Shinde explained that his thoughts

were universal by giving examples of many literary works such as the novel ‘Fakira’, stories like ‘Mari Aicha Gada’ and ‘Sonyachaya Mani’, and the hugely popular chhakkad ‘Majhi Maina Gavakadam Rahil’. He also explained the difference between Anna Bhau’s and G o v i n d a g r a j ’ s ‘Maharashtra Geet’.

Giving various examples of Anna Bhau's effective use of folk orality for social enlightenment, he said that there is a fighting arrow in Anna Bhau's poetry. Nature in Anna Bhau's literature also participates in human happiness and sorrow, and stating that the language in Anna Bhau's literature has the scent of Marathi soil, Dr. Randhir Shinde opined that there should be a separate study of the authentic language in Anna Bhau's literature.

A large number of literature lovers were present to listen to a highly scholarly lecture by author Dr. Randhir Shinde, who is the author of the book Literature and Reviews on Anna Bhau's Literature.

Youth brutally murdered by three persons, including two minors

Malegaon (Nashik), Aug 2 (UNI) A 25-year-old municipal contract worker was brutally murdered in a late-night attack that has sent shockwaves through the city.

Nitin Arjun Nikam, a resident of Jayabhimnagar in Aishanagar, was ambushed near a showroom on Old Agra Road around midnight Friday by three assailants allegedly seeking revenge for a previous altercation.

According to the police complaint filed by the victim's brother Vishal Nikam, the attackers – identified as Sachin Ahire

and two minors – first bludgeoned Nitin with wooden sticks before stabbing him repeatedly with a sharp knife.

The assailants then allegedly smashed the victim's face with stones in a final act of brutality. The entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras in the area.

Cantonment Police acted swiftly, arresting prime suspect Sachin Ahire within hours of the crime being discovered on Saturday morning. The two juvenile accomplices have also been taken into custody. Assistant Police

BJP Mahila Morcha chief inspects children's home after scandal

Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, Aug 2 (UNI) Chitra Wagh, State President of BJP's Mahila Morcha, conducted a surprise visit to the Bhagwan Baba Children's Home today to personally assess the conditions for relocated girls from the controversial Vidyadeep Children's Home.

The inspection follows the state government's decisive action cancelling Vidyadeep's recognition and filing criminal

cases after nine girls fled the facility, exposing alleged mismanagement and operational irregularities in the cantonment-area shelter.During her visit, Wagh engaged in detailed conversations with both staff and residents, particularly focusing on the girls transferred from the shuttered Vidyadeep facility.The BJP leader's surprise check comes amid heightened scrutiny of child care institutions across Maharashtra.

High-achiever IAS officer Ashima Mittal takes charge as Jalna Collector

Jalna, Aug 2 (UNI) : Ashima Mittal, the accomplished civil servant credited with transformative educational reforms in Nashik, officially assumed charge as Jalna's new District Collector on August 1.

The IIT Mumbai alumnus brings an impressive track record to her new assignment, having most recently served as Nashik Zilla Parishad's Chief Executive Officer where she implemented groundbreaking initiatives for marginalized students.

A 2017 IAS officer who secured All India 12th rank without appearing for the mains examination, Mittal holds a civil engineering degree from IIT Mumbai where she earned the prestigious Shankar Dayal Sharma Gold Medal, along with a postgraduate degree in Anthropology.

Her administrative journey includes significant postings as ITDP Project Officer in Dahanu (Palghar) and as Trainee District Collector in Ahmednagar before her Nashik assignment.

During her Nashik tenure, Mittal's flagship 'Super 50' residential coaching program enabled 200 students from SC, ST, Divyang and other disadvantaged groups to prepare for JEE, CET and NEET exams, resulting in 22 JEE Main and 7 JEE Advanced qualifiers.

Her leadership saw Nashik district achieve top rankings in multiple state initiatives - first position in National Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and a statewide essay competition commemorating Lord Mahavira's 2550th Nirvana Kalyanak, third place in the Chief Minister's 100 Days Office Reforms Campaign, and consecutive Child Friendly Awards in 2023-24 for combating malnutrition.

The Rajasthan-born officer, who previously worked with multinational corporations before transitioning to civil service, also pioneered the electrification of 3,030 self-owned Anganwadi centers in Nashik - a model now being replicated statewide.

Union Minister Gadkari offered prayers at Tirumala Temple

Tirumala, Aug 2 (UNI) : Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara here today.

On his arrival, Union Minister was accorded a grand reception by TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary and temple priests escorted him to the sanctum sanctorum. After darshan, Gadkari was offered Vedasirvachanam by Vedic pundits at Ranganayakula Mandapam inside temple complex.

Later, the Additional EO presented Theertha Prasadam, photo of Srivaru to the dignitary.



India poised to become third largest economy, says PM Modi, after Trump terms India 'dead economy'

Varanasi, Aug 2 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that India is poised to become the third largest economy of the world, and therefore has to be vigilant about its economic interests, in remarks seen as a direct rebuttal of US President Donald Trump terming India as a “dead economy”.

Addressing a massive public meeting in Banauli village, Sevapuri (Varanasi) today, PM Modi said that India has to specifically look after the interests of its farmers, the small industries and the employment of its youth, which are of paramount interest.

His statement comes two days after the US President said that India and Russia could “take their dead economies down together”, and announced that he would levy 25% tariffs on Indian imports from August 1.

PM Modi, in further remarks seen as directed at the US, also urged people to take a “pledge for Swadeshi”.

“Now, whatever we buy, there should be only one scale, we will buy those things which have been made by the people of India, made with the skills of the people of India, the sweat of the people of India. We have to adopt the Vocal for Local mantra,” he urged.

In its trade negotiations with the US, India has said that it will not compromise on the interests of its farmers, in the face of US’ insistence for greater market access for its agricultural products, including poultry, corn,

ethanol, and dairy, particularly genetically modified (GM) crops. India prohibits the import of GM food crops, an issue which has become a major point of contention between the two sides. Touching on Operation Sindoor, the PM said that during the military standoff with Pakistan in May the whole world got to see the power of India’s indigenous weapons. “Our air defence systems, our indigenous missiles, indigenous drones, have proved the strength of a self-reliant India.”

He said India’s BrahMos missiles “filled with terror every enemy of India”. “If the sound of BrahMos is heard anywhere in Pakistan, then sleep is lost,” he said, targeting Pakistan, which has recently inked a trade deal with the Trump administration.

He said that as an MP from UP, he is happy that the manufacturing of BrahMos missiles is beginning in Lucknow.

In a warning to Pakistan, the PM said that if the neighbour commits any misadventure again “then the missiles made in UP will destroy the terrorists”.

“Tell me my friends, when you hear about this self-reliant military power, do you feel proud or not? If Pakistan commits any sin again, then the missiles made in UP will destroy the terrorists,” he exhorted.

Praising UP’s Defence Corridor, the PM said that many big defence companies are setting up their plants there. “In the coming times, weapons

made in UP, weapons made in every part of India, will become the strength of the Indian forces.”

The Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 52 projects worth about Rs 2,200 crore and also released the instalment of Kisan Samman Nidhi to around 9.5 crore farmers in the country.

Recalling the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgalam that claimed 26 innocent lives, Prime Minister Modi said the grief of the victims’ families, especially their daughters and children, deeply moved him. He said he had prayed to Baba Vishwanath for strength for the bereaved families and had vowed before the people of Kashi to avenge their pain—“the sindoor of our daughters”—a vow he now considers fulfilled.

The Prime Minister highlighted Uttar Pradesh’s rapid industrial and social development, crediting the BJP government’s policies for attracting major national and international investments. He launched a sharp attack on the Samajwadi Party, accusing it of vote bank and appeasement politics.

Contrasting Yogi’s government with the previous SP rule, he said criminals then operated fearlessly, deterring investors. In today’s UP, under BJP rule, criminals fear the law and investors see a promising future.

The PM Modi hit out at the Congress and Samajwadi Party for their “baseless statements” on Operation Sindoor,

asserting that such actions only strengthen the resolve of a united and self-reliant India. He credited the success of Operation Sindoor to the unity of 140 crore Indians, calling it the foundation of India’s strength. “This unity sparks a new consciousness each time,” he said, asking the crowd if they weren’t proud of India’s might and the operation’s success. He highlighted the precision strikes by Indian drones and missiles that reduced terror hideouts to rubble, adding that many of Pakistan’s airbases “are still in the ICU.” He launched a sharp attack on the opposition, saying some in the country are having a “stomach ache” over the success of Operation Sindoor. “Congress, its allies and friends can’t digest that India destroyed Pakistan’s terror bases. Pakistan’s sorrow is understandable—but why are Congress and SP sharing their grief?” he taunted. “On one side, the king of terror cries; on the other, Congress and SP weep over the condition of terrorists.”

Accusing the Congress of insulting the armed forces, he said the party is calling Operation Sindoor a ‘tamasha’. “Tell me—can sindoor ever be a tamasha? Calling our army’s valour and our daughters’ honour a spectacle is shameful and will not be tolerated,” he asserted. Attacking the Samajwadi Party, the Prime Minister said that SP leaders had questioned in Parliament why the

PM pays homage to Pingali Venkayya on birth anniversary

New Delhi, Aug 2 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid tribute to Pingali Venkayya on his birth anniversary, recalling his contribution in designing the Indian National Flag — the Tricolour, a symbol of the nation’s pride and unity.

In a message shared on the social media platform X, the Prime Minister urged citizens to bolster the ongoing #HarGharTiranga movement by hoisting the Tricolour at their homes.

He encouraged people to upload selfies or photographs with the national flag on the official portal harghartiranga.com, reinforcing the spirit of patriotism.

CM’s Singapore visit outcome is a naught: YSRCP alleges

Visakhapatnam, Aug 2 (UNI) : The Opposition YSR Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh has lambasted Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and his son Lokesh for their inability to express as to what was the outcome of the Singapore visit but has been resorting to mudslinging on opposition levelling baseless allegations. Speaking to media here on Saturday, former Minister Gudivada Amarnath said the father son duo is at a loss for

words to tell about the achievements of their Singapore visit but have been charging that YSRCP has been trying to stall the progress by sending emails to deter investments.

Chandrababu Naidu who visited Singapore for 58 times was never interested in bringing investments to the state but the trips were meant for stashing his ill-gotten wealth in that country with his longtime friend who was jailed on charges of corruption. The Adani Data

Center also has come up with the efforts of former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and his efforts to develop a blue economy has brought in sea ports to make optimum use of the long coastline, Gudivada Amarnath claimed. Lands in the city are being given at throwaway prices to companies with questionable credentials and more so the Lulu group, URSA group and other such shady groups, he said and demanded for a public debate on the land allotments.

Vizag Port among world’s top 20 ports: Sridhar

Hyderabad, Aug 2 (UNI) : Visakhapatnam Port (VPT) has emerged as one of the top 20 ports globally, thanks to a series of strategic modernisation and infrastructure upgrades that have drastically improved its operational efficiency and global standing, announced Mr. N. Sridhar, Principal Commissioner of Customs, Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA).

Addressing a Trade Meet organized by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) here yesterday evening, Sridhar said, “With improved turnaround times, mechanised operations, and real-time cargo tracking, Visakhapatnam

Port is now the fastest among Indian ports.”

He also announced that the cargo handling target for FY 2025–26 is set at 90 million tonnes (MT), up from 82.62 MT handled in the previous fiscal year, showcasing the port’s steady growth trajectory.

Taking to reporters on the sidelines of the meet, Sridhar revealed that a 10-lane, 15-kilometre access road is being constructed to connect the port directly with major highways, significantly easing traffic congestion and ensuring smoother logistics movement.

Speaking on the occasion, FTCCI President Ravi Kumar, emphasized the critical role of ports in India’s trade landscape,

noting that: 95 per cent of India’s exports by volume and 70 per cent by value are routed via sea ports. Maritime trade remains essential for the country’s global competitiveness. T

The Telugu states stand to benefit greatly from VPT’s rise, with projected cargo traffic growth of 3–6 per cent annually and utilisation stabilising at 55 per cent in the medium term, he added.

Other dignitaries who spoke at the event included Mr. Murali Krishna, Director, Pharmexcil, Mr. R.P. Naidu, Regional Head, APEDA and senior officials from Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA)

Over 200 exporters and importers participated in the meet.

Rahul Gandhi to hold crucial meeting with Himachal Congress leaders

Shimla/New Delhi, August 2 (UNI) : In a significant move to revive the ailing Himachal Pradesh Congress unit ahead of the upcoming Panchayati Raj elections, party leader Rahul Gandhi has called a crucial meeting of senior state leaders in New Delhi.

The central leadership of the party is concerned over the absence of an active organisational structure in Himachal since November 2024, when the All India Congress Committee (AICC) dissolved the state unit.

The meeting will be held on August 4 and is expected to deliberate on key organisational matters, comprising the formation of a new Pradesh Congress Committee team, appointment of the next state Congress president, filling a vacant cabinet

post, and fresh appointments in boards and corporations.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, who arrived in the national capital on July 31, will present his government’s report card and brief the central leadership on the devastation caused by the recent natural disasters in the hill state.

Mukesh Agnihotri, Deputy Chief Minister HPCC working president and Mandi MP Pratibha Singh, cabinet ministers, and former state Congress presidents have been invited to attend the meeting.

According to the party insiders, the leadership is concerned over the absence of an active organisational structure in Himachal since November

2024, when the All India Congress Committee (AICC) dissolved the state unit.

Grassroots party activity has slowed, and there is mounting pressure to revitalise the party ahead of the upcoming Panchayati Raj elections.

Sources within the HPCC said that Pratibha Singh has already reached Delhi and is likely to join other PCC chiefs for the national executive meet convened by Rahul Gandhi.

Insiders also suggest that the prolonged rift between the key leaders may witness a thaw, with both the camps realizing the urgency to work together to strengthen the party unit. The AICC may announce the new state Congress president and a revamped executive committee following the meeting.

Congress High Command calls Himachal leaders to Delhi amid organisational crisis

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Amid India-Pakistan tensions, body of PoK youth repatriated across LoC

Srinagar, Aug 2 (UNI) Amid ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, Indian authorities today handed over the body of an 18-year-old Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) national to Pakistani officials at the Teetwal Crossing Point in Kupwara district, in a rare display of cross-border humanitarianism.

The deceased’s body was recovered on July 20 from the banks of the Kishanganga River near Keran. With no claimants coming forward, the body

was buried by the local Auqaf Committee in Keran following the legal formalities.

Officials said that Pakistan’s Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) formally communicated with the Indian counterpart, requesting the return of the body, claiming Shazad Manzoor, a resident of Sheikh Bela in Neelum district of PoK, had allegedly drowned in the Kishanganga River and the body floated down the river to a village in Keran Kupwara.

The request was formally forwarded to civil authorities in Jammu and Kashmir for identification and repatriation.

Acting on the request, the District Magistrate of Kupwara ordered the exhumation of the body on July 30 under Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to facilitate repatriation.

Early this morning, a team comprising Tehsildar Keran, a medical team, and Kupwara police exhumed the body and transported it to Teetwal under tight

security, officials said.

The handover took place at 6 PM at Teetwal Crossing Point, jointly supervised by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Karnah, Zaffar Ahmad Lone, and Assistant Commissioner from Neelum PoK, Basharat.

“The process was carried out in close coordination with military and civil authorities from both sides, ensuring all legal and humanitarian protocols were strictly followed,” officials said.

STANDARD POST

Building borderless university the Marwadi way

During a recent two-day visit to the vibrant campus of Marwadi University in Rajkot, Gujarat, a team of journalists from Bengaluru found itself immersed not just in a place of learning, but in an institution determined to reshape the future of higher education in India.

With its bold Vision 2027 agenda, Marwadi University is chasing scale, quality, and impact, all while staying deeply rooted in the values of social uplift and academic integrity.

The story of the university is both personal and purposeful. Founded in 2008 as part of an educational trust and elevated to university status in 2016, its origin lies in the founders’ experiences. "Our family’s inclination to access higher education due to financial constraints became the catalyst for creating an institution that would remove such barriers for thousands," Marwadi University Trustee Dhruv Marwadi said.

What began with just 300 students has now grown into a thriving academic ecosystem of 15,000 students, including over 1,700 from 54 countries. The university now aims to raise this number to 25,000 by 2027, while entering the QS global rankings and India’s NIRF Top 100 — but not at the cost of quality, Dhruv said.

What sets Marwadi University apart is its commitment to personalized attention. "Using an integrated, in-house digital ERP system, the university tracks each student's progress, attendance, and even engagement metrics like library usage and skill-specific outcomes in assessments," Pro Vice Chancellor Dr Sanjeet Singh said.

"Exams are designed not just to grade, but to measure whether students have mastered outcomes like critical thinking, public speaking, or problem-solving. Those who underperform in specific skill areas are flagged for remedial sessions with expert mentors," he added.

Each faculty member mentors a group of 15 students, regularly checking on academic, emotional, and financial well-being. The mentorship is tracked digitally, creating a safety net where no student goes unnoticed. The university has also partnered with professional counseling services to provide mental health support when needed.

"Every student's journey is monitored not just for grades, but for growth," Singh said. "It’s not about pushing only the top students; we take pride in lifting the average student to excellence."

Marwadi University employs 758 full-time faculty members and 100 adjunct faculty from 12 countries, covering geographies from Europe and the US to Africa and Southeast Asia. Faculty are recruited from across India — from Jammu & Kashmir to Kerala — and trained rigorously through the in-house Teaching-Learning Center (TLC) in modern pedagogy.

The university insists that all faculty must either hold a PhD or be enrolled in one. "Even the best subject expert needs to know how to teach effectively," said University Executive Registrar Naresh Jadeja. "That’s what we invest in."

Faculty members are also engaged in active research. The university has invested ₹20 crore in research infrastructure, including high-end machines like 3D printers, SEM, XRD, and platforms in partnership with Nvidia, Jadeja said.

The Marwadi University Research Center houses 40 full-time research faculty, who work alongside students across undergraduate to doctoral levels, he said. The university’s publication output has tripled over the past three years, rising from 500 to 1,500 papers annually—many authored jointly by students and faculty in Quartile 1 and 2 journals. The goal, however, extends beyond numbers, Jadeja said.

In a unique collaboration, Marwadi has co-designed a Master’s in Forced Migration in partnership with universities from Vietnam, Italy, Greece, and Australia, with funding from the European Union. "One of the PhD scholars leading the program is from Syria, offering real-world insight into a subject that affects millions," Sanjeet Singh said.

"Education must reflect lived realities," he noted. "Our diverse international student base helps us design globally relevant programs."

The university has signed over 45 international MoUs, including with Webster University (USA), University of West Alabama (USA), IULM and Cattolica Universities (Italy), and Bloomsbury Institute (UK). These partnerships offer semester exchanges, dual degrees, and — most notably — paid internships abroad, often bundled with industry exposure in host countries.

At home, students also benefit from close industry ties. The university is currently in partnership talks with Bajaj to establish a ₹60 crore innovation lab, while collaborations with Nvidia, MG Hector, and Volvo are already active, Dr Sanjeet Singh said.

The Marwadi campus has become a melting pot of cultures and ideas, hosting students from Syria, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, the UAE, and multiple African nations. The founders proudly note that international students are not only learning in Rajkot, they are also contributing to local industries and communities, University Provost Professor Rajendra Singh Jadeja said.

Trump's policy decisions continue to clash with India's core strategic interests: Report

(By IANS)

US President Donald Trump's South Asian policy has been marked with strategic contradictions, straining its relationship with India. Though the US considers India a vital player in the Indo-Pacific and seeks its partnership in the region, several of Trump's policy decisions have clashed with India’s core strategic interests, a report cited on Saturday.

Such contradictions became apparent in several recent decisions, including hosting Pakistan's army chief, General Asim Munir, at the White House, supporting an IMF bailout to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, and recurring gestures of praise towards Pakistani leadership, Imran Khurshid, an Associate Research Fellow at the International Centre for Peace Studies (ICPS) in New Delhi, wrote in the Eurasian Times.

He highlighted that the US support for Pakistan has emboldened Islamabad's strategic confidence, providing it with a leeway to act aggressively against India — politically, militarily, and diplomatically — "especially at sensitive geopolitical moments".

"If the US wants India to be a serious and independent partner in the



Indo-Pacific, it must stop undermining India in South Asia and respect its sensitivities. It must abandon binary, fragmented regional frameworks and instead pursue an integrated strategy that strengthens India's position — not weakens it," Khurshid mentioned.

"If these contradictions continue, America may not just lose India — it may lose the very global leadership it once proudly commanded. Trump claims to want to 'Make America Great Again', but his actions might just ensure America becomes isolated, distrusted, and strategically irrelevant," he added.

The relationship between India and the US was once described as the "defining partnership of the

21st century". Previous US Presidents, including Bill Clinton in his second term, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, made considerable efforts to establish mutual trust and followed the policy of de-hyphenation with India and Pakistan, "treating each country on its own merits".

"They largely respected India's red lines, particularly on sensitive issues like Kashmir and strategic autonomy, and avoided viewing India through a Pakistan-centric lens..."

Trump's transactional approach to foreign policy, he wrote, is driven by personal ego, unpredictable behaviour, fragmented thinking, and an obsession with trade deficits and tariffs which has made India uneasy.

The recent actions by Trump, reckoned the

author, have eroded the trust and warmth that once existed in the India–US relationship.

"This disregard recently escalated with Trump's unilateral decision to impose a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods starting August 1, 2025, coupled with vague but punitive secondary sanctions linked to India's continued purchases of Russian oil and defence equipment," he stated.

Trump, he detailed, has not only damaged day-to-day diplomacy but also jeopardized America's long-term strategic vision. "Foundational documents such as the National Security Strategy and the Indo-Pacific Strategy have been weakened in practice, as his approach consistently diverges from their stated goals," he wrote.

Raj Shamani, Podcaster is now The Brand Ambassador of ASUS ExpertBook



(Standard Post Bureau) ASUS India is proud to announce Raj Shamani, Founder and Host of the popular podcast 'Figuring Out With Raj Shamani', as the official brand ambassador for the ASUS ExpertBook Series: Built for Worry-Free Business.

Raj Shamani, best known for his widely followed podcast “Figuring Out With Raj Shamani” which has a massive following of 18 Million+ subscribers and a reach of over 8 Billion+ views across platforms embodies the values that ASUS ExpertBook stands for: trust, resilience, innovation, self-made success, relentless curiosity, and a desire to enable others.

Speaking on the occasion, Dinesh Sharma, Vice President, Commercial PC and Smartphone, ASUS India, Sri Lanka and Nepal said, “We are proud to welcome Raj Shamani as the embodiment of our ASUS ExpertBook Series. This

partnership stems from a natural alignment driven by ambition and a shared purpose: to help individuals turn potential into performance. Both Raj and our ExpertBook Series are focused on empowering ambition, enabling progress, and supporting the new generation of Indian professionals. Our ExpertBook Series delivers uncompromised performance, unmatched durability, enterprise-grade security, and unparalleled After Sales Service, embodying our common vision to enable a truly worry-free experience for every business and professional.”

Expressing views on the partnership with ASUS Commercial, Raj Shamani, Founder and Host of ‘Figuring Out With Raj Shamani’ said, “This partnership is personal.

I’ve always believed that ambition should never be limited by the

tools you use, and ASUS ExpertBook is built for people who are building something bigger than themselves. Whether you’re a young creator, a founder, or a future business leader, this device is your launchpad.

I’m proud to represent ASUS as their brand ambassador as this brand shares my belief in dreams, ambition, hustle and making bold ideas real through technology that’s worry-free.”

Why This Collaboration Matters This association resulted from a shared vision for India’s future; one where every ambitious individual has access to reliable, powerful technology and support that makes building businesses, scaling ideas, and working smarter not just possible, but worry-free.

Raj Shamani’s work from hosting India’s top

thinkers to inspiring millions through stories of grit and growth reflects a deep understanding of what drives the “Indian Dream” today. The partnership with ASUS ExpertBook extends this philosophy by giving Indian professionals and entrepreneurs the tools to act on that ambition.

The ASUS ExpertBook series of business PCs are available on Flipkart, combining excellent capabilities of the brand and the ecommerce platform.

Redefining Indian Ambition on a Global Stage

The ASUS ExpertBook series aims to be the trusted companion that supports the growing ambition of businesses and professionals in India. This series caters to everyone from a freelancer building their empire from a café, a student launching a startup, a seasoned business leader managing a hybrid team, or an enterprise, ensuring their journey is efficient, reliable and worry-free.

This collaboration also aims to take Indian thought leadership global. As Raj Shamani continues to expand his podcast across international borders, this partnership positions ASUS as a key enabler of India’s voice in global innovation, entrepreneurship, and productivity.

Together, ASUS and Raj Shamani are rewriting the rules of ambition for modern India with the ExpertBook at the heart of every leap forward.

Tejashwi slams EC over voter list, urges SC to intervene

Patna, Aug 2 (UNI) : Following the release of a revised draft electoral roll that reportedly excludes over 6.5 million voters from the state list, leader of opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, today demanded that the Supreme Court intervene and take suo motu cognisance of the issue.

While talking to newsmen here, he accused the Election Commission (EC) of losing its credibility. Yadav alleged that the Election Commission was no longer acting independently. It appears to be functioning under the influence of the country's top political leadership.

Yadav said that an average of 20,000 to 30,000 names have been removed from each constituency, without providing transparent information about which booths or individuals were affected.

“The ECI is disclosing the number of deletions per constituency, but not the voter card numbers, booth details, or the reasons for removal. This lack of transparency is alarming,” he quipped.

Yadav also criticised the behaviour of ECI officials, calling their response to an RJD delegation “non-cooperative” during a recent meeting.

He said the process failed to follow the Commission’s own guidelines, including rules that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) should visit each voter three times and provide receipts after collecting forms. “In reality, these procedures were barely followed, not even in one percent of cases,” he claimed.

The RJD leader raised serious concerns over the justification for the mass deletion of names, which the Commission attributes to deaths, migration, duplication, or missing persons.

Highlighting the scale of the issue, he pointed out that the dropped voters account for approximately 8.5 percent of Bihar’s electorate. He even claimed that his own name was missing from the draft list, despite having submitted the required forms. “If my name is gone, how can anyone trust the system?” he said, jokingly.

Yadav alleged that several high-profile individuals, including an IAS officer and other senior officials, have also found their names missing from the list.

Calling for the Election Commission to act in the interest of citizens rather than of the ruling establishment, Yadav said, “If the outcome of elections is predetermined, why not simply extend the term of the current government instead of going through the motions of democracy?”

Brent crude price may surge to \$80 amid US-Russia tensions: Report

(Standard Post Bureau) Brent crude oil prices are expected to rise to \$80-\$82 per barrel by the end of 2025, as tensions between the United States and Russia threaten to disrupt the global oil supply chain, analysts said on Saturday.

According to analysts, Brent Crude Oil October futures contract has a short-term target of \$76 from \$72.07. By the end of 2025, the Brent crude price could reach \$80-\$82 per barrel. The downside support and cap are at \$69. WTI Crude Oil September futures contract, now at \$69.65, has a short-term target of \$73. By the end of 2025, the WTI crude price could reach \$76-\$79. The downside support and cap are at \$65.

Earlier this week, US President Donald Trump gave Russia 10-12 day deadline to end the war in Ukraine, failing which could result in additional sanctions and secondary tariffs on countries that trade with Russia, pushing oil prices higher.

Trump had earlier announced that the secondary tariffs could be as high as 500 per cent. Countries dependent on crude oil imports from Russia should now make the trade-off between a discounted price and a high tariff on exports to the US.

“This could lead to a dramatic shift in the oil market by reducing spare production capacity and causing a supply shock, which would diminish the

surplus in the market until 2026,” said NS Ramaswamy Head of Commodities and CRM at Ventura Securities.

India's crude oil imports from Russia have significantly increased since the start of the Ukraine war. Before the war, Russian crude accounted for just 0.2 per cent of India's oil purchases, which are now between 35 and 40 per cent, making Russia India's top oil supplier.

Although US President Donald Trump stated that he wants to see lower oil prices, any significant increases in supply from the US will take time to reach the market. Tapping the proved oil reserves involves labour, capital and infrastructure, Ramaswamy said. "Support from Saudi Arabia and select OPEC countries to fill this supply gap would also have a time lag, thus resulting in the near-term price rise. The impact of the oil balance would be significant and result in a deficit even if OPEC+ doesn't go for any additional tranches of supply cuts," he added.

While the US-European Union trade deal last week has aided the oil market, geopolitical tensions will continue to pose asymmetric upside risks to oil prices. Further, markets weighed on the potential build-up of US inventories and the upcoming interest rate decision, which saw strength in the US dollar putting some pressure on oil prices.

Iraqi PM inaugurates refinery post refurbishment after terrorist sabotage

Baghdad, Aug 2 (UNI) : Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani on Saturday inaugurated the grease refinery unit in the country's largest refinery complex of Baiji Refinery in Saladin province, following the full rehabilitation of its production units previously damaged after terrorist sabotage. Al-Sudani emphasised that the refinery is a vital industrial facility that produces essential oils and asphalt in various grades, with an annual output of 250,000 tons of base oils and 600,000 tons of multi-grade asphalt, according to a statement by al-Sudani's media office.

The facility will also supply engine oils, heavy oils, turbine oils, and more products that will benefit various government ministries, it said. "With the rehabilitation of this refinery and other refineries and facilities, Iraq will soon reach the stage of exporting after meeting local market needs," al-Sudani said. The Baiji Refinery complex was destroyed after witnessing heavy fighting when IS terrorists seized large parts of the province in 2014. The Iraqi government forces liberated the refinery and surrounding areas in April 2015.

Russian Defense Minister says 99 paratroopers named heroes of Russia since 2022

Moscow, Aug 2 (UNI) : Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov on Saturday congratulated serving and veteran paratroopers on Russian Airborne Troops Day, praising the 99 paratroopers who had been named Heroes of Russia since the special military operation began in 2022. "The heroism of the winged infantry was tempered in the battles of the Great Patriotic War, in Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, the North Caucasus, Syria and many other hot spots. In the times of the special military operation, the personnel of the Airborne Forces are acting skillfully and decisively in key areas and directions. For their courage and heroism, 99 people have been awarded the high title of the Hero of Russia," Belousov said in a statement.

Paratroopers' professionalism, amplified by the effective use of modern means of combat and their extensive experience, allows them to effectively solve the most difficult tasks and makes them a reliable reserve for Russia's supreme commander-in-chief, President Vladimir Putin, Belousov said.

"In the face of new challenges and threats, efforts to bolster the combat potential of the airborne forces as an effective tool for protecting Russia's interests and ensuring its security remains one of the priorities for the development of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation," Belousov said.

Belousov thanked all generations of paratroopers for their impeccable, selfless service and readiness to defend the country. August 2 marks the 95th anniversary of the first jump by Russian paratroopers during drills in the Moscow Military District in 1930 when their detachment trained landing in the enemy's rear.

Putin to visit Malaysian King Sultan Ibrahim in Moscow on August 6

Moscow/Kuala Lumpur, Aug 2 (UNI) Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to meet with Malaysian King Sultan Ibrahim on August 6 in Moscow, where the two leaders will discuss both bilateral relations and international issues, as per Russian state media TASS. "Talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Sultan Ibrahim are scheduled for August 6 in Moscow. The two leaders will discuss further developing Russian-Malaysian relations and current international and regional issues," the Kremlin press service reported. The Malaysian leader will visit Russia on August 5-10. On May 14, during a meeting in the Kremlin with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Putin requested that he extend an invitation to the king to visit Russia, with Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stating that Putin attaches great importance to Moscow's relations with Kuala Lumpur. Russia's ties with Malaysia have grown over the years, with the two countries enhancing their economic, security, diplomatic relations, despite the Southeast nation having officially condemned Russia's attack on Ukraine.

Iran planning to launch second version of Nahid-2 satellite

Tehran, Aug 2 (UNI) : In a bid to boost its space and missile technology, Iran is now planning to launch the second model of its Nahid-2 telecommunications satellite using its indigenously developed Simorgh rocket after last week's liftoff aboard a Russian Soyuz vehicle, the head of Iran's Space Agency said on Saturday. "The second Nahid-2 will be launched by the Simorgh rocket after final adjustments," Hassan Salarieh, head of the Iranian Space Agency, said. "We have the internal capacity to carry out the launch ourselves." The current version of Nahid-2 was launched into orbit last week from Russia's Vostochny Cosmodrome as part of a multi-payload mission. Iran confirmed it was one of the satellites onboard after Russian media referred only to a "foreign customer."

As per Iran International, the Iranian space chief, commenting on the rocket's abilities said that the Simorgh rocket can carry satellites of up to 300 kilograms into lower orbits, confirming that Tehran is also developing heavier launch vehicles, including the Sarir and Soroush classes, which are designed for larger payloads. The Qaem-100 launcher, also developed by Iran, can carry up to 100 kilograms and was used last year in the launch of the Soraya satellite, which drew immense condemnation from Western governments, who said it "uses technology essential for the development of a long-range ballistic missile system."

Germany ramps up militarisation, Bundeswehr reports 28 pec increase in recruits

Berlin, Aug 2 (UNI) : In an unprecedented move, Germany has considerably ramped up its militarisation, with the Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces) reporting a 28% increase in the number of recruits from January to July, reports RT.

Russia - which has repeatedly slammed Western countries and the NATO countries for using Moscow as their 'monster' for justifying the increased militarisation of Europe - has called the bloc's move a "reckless act." According to the German Defence Ministry, more than 13,700 people joined the Bundeswehr - the army, air force, navy, and other branches - since the start of 2025. Officials described it as the sharpest year-on-year rise in years, aimed at countering possible military "threat" from Russia. Moscow has dismissed the speculation that it plans to attack the rest of Europe or any NATO countries as "total nonsense." At present, the Bundeswehr counts around 182,000 active-duty soldiers and 81,000 civilian staff. However, the government wants to have 260,000 active-duty troops by 2035.

Despite Moscow's repeated assurance of having no intention on attacking Germany or the rest of Europe, Berlin has been mulling reintroduction of military conscription to fill up its desired numbers, with Chancellor Friedrich Merz having pledged to create Europe's "strongest conventional army" and increase defence spending to 3.5% of GDP by 2029.

In June, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov condemned NATO's military buildup, accusing the bloc's European members of "firmly following the path of reckless militarisation."

He also said that "Germany is actively participating in whipping up hysterical Russophobia across the European continent," adding that "It is clearly not in the interest of the peoples of Europe."

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy says regime change in Iran unlikely to replace IRGC

London, Aug 2 (UNI) UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy, speaking on the potential impact of a regime change in Iran, warned that it was unlikely that any administration change could guarantee in a better successor to the country's notorious paramilitary organisation - the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), reports Iran International.

"There are lots of people in Iran who would like regime change," Lammy told The Guardian, in an interview published on Saturday. "But there are no guarantees that what would replace the current Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps would not be as bad or worse." Regarding the US bombardment of Iran's nuclear facilities in June 22, he said that a regime

Indian envoy receives final 16 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft in Spain

Madrid, Aug 2 (IANS) In a major boost to India's defence capabilities, the last of the 16 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft were received on Saturday by Indian Ambassador to Spain, Dinesh K Patnaik along with senior officials from the Indian Air Force in the Spanish city of Seville. The handover took place two months ahead of schedule at the Airbus Defence and Space assembly line in Seville. "Ambassador Dinesh K Patnaik, along with senior officials from the Indian Air Force, received the last of the 16 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft at the Airbus Defence and Space assembly line in Seville. The delivery, two months ahead of schedule, marks an important milestone in strengthening India's defense capabilities," the Embassy of India in Madrid posted on X.

In October 2024, Spanish Prime Minister



India's ambassador to Spain Dinesh K. Patnaik along with senior officials from Indian Air Force poses for a group picture while receiving the last of the 16 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft at the Airbus Defence and Space assembly line in Seville, Spain.

Pedro Sanchez and PM Narendra Modi had jointly inaugurated the TATA Aircraft Complex for the manufacturing of C-295 aircraft at TATA Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) Campus in Vadodara, Gujarat.

Addressing the

gathering, Prime Minister Modi remarked that the inauguration of the complex for manufacturing C-295 aircraft would not only strengthen the relations between India and Spain, but also give momentum to the mission of 'Make in India, Make

for the World'.

The facility, dedicated to manufacturing C-295 military transport aircraft, became the first private sector Final Assembly Line (FAL) for military aircraft in India, underscoring the government's commitment

US economy further rattled by AI and federal job cuts, amid growing economic uncertainty due to Trump tariffs

Washington, Aug 2 (UNI) Amidst the growing pressure on the US economy due to the Trump tariffs, the country's uncertain and rattled job market is further being affected by the increased adoption of AI, leading to a wave of federal cuts and layoffs across major sectors, reports CBS News.

According to a new report by outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, over 10,000 job losses in July alone were directly linked to the growing adoption of generative AI technologies by private employers.

The firm now ranks AI among the top five causes of workforce reductions this year, a strong indicator of generative AI's expanding impact across the economy.

Exacerbating the situation, so far, over 806,000 job cuts have been

recorded between January and July this year - marking the highest in five years since 2020.

The pace of layoffs accelerated in July, when only 73,000 new jobs were added, falling well below the expected figure of 109,000, increasing concerns about the downward spiral in the hiring momentum.

In an ironic twist, the tech sector has borne the greatest brunt of these cuts, with over 89,000 layoffs being recorded so - a 36% increase over the same period in 2024.

Since early 2023, more than 27,000 positions have been eliminated specifically due to AI integration, the report states.

"The industry is being reshaped by the advancement of artificial intelligence and ongoing uncertainty surrounding work visas," the firm noted,

adding that these trends have pushed companies to restructure operations and trim workforce size.

Younger workers are being hit especially hard. Entry-level corporate job postings, once a mainstay for recent college graduates, have dropped 15% over the past year, according to Handshake, a career platform aimed at Gen Z.

Simultaneously, job listings that mention "AI" have surged by 400% in two years, underscoring how automation is increasingly central to hiring practices.

Yet AI is not the only factor weighing on the labour market. More than 292,000 job cuts this year have stemmed from the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), an initiative led by billionaire Elon Musk to curb federal spending. The ripple effects of DOGE have

reached beyond government employment, affecting healthcare and nonprofit sectors as well.

"We are seeing the federal budget cuts implemented by DOGE impact non-profits and health care in addition to the government," said Andrew Challenger, senior vice president at the firm.

Retail, another cornerstone of the U.S. economy, is also showing signs of strain. As tariffs drive up operating costs and consumer spending slows, the sector has slashed over 80,000 jobs this year - a staggering 250% increase compared to the same period in 2024.

With AI gaining ground, government austerity measures expanding, and economic headwinds intensifying, the American labour market appears headed for a period of prolonged volatility.

Hamas refutes Steve Witkoff's statement on disarmament

Gaza, Aug 2 (UNI) : Refuting a reported statement by the US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff, that Hamas had decided to lay down its arms in Gaza, the organisation said it would not disarm "as long as the occupation exists." The terror group vowed to continue its violent struggle, claiming its fight to deliver Palestine its "national rights" were realised and supported by international law, adding "foremost among them... the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with full sovereignty and Jerusalem as its capital."

Hamas went on to slam Witkoff's visit to the controversial Gaza Humanitarian Foundation run by Israel and the US, amid reports of starvation in the region, and that hundreds of Palestinian aid seekers had been killed near the agency's four distribution sites in the south and center of the enclave since they started operating in mid-May, reports Times of Israel. "The American administration is a full partner in the crime of starvation and genocide," said Hamas. It added that Witkoff's visit was "nothing more than a pre-arranged theatrical performance" to provide Israel with "political cover for managing starvation and continuing the systematic killing of children and unarmed civilians from our people." Condemning Washington, the terror group called on the White House "to bear its historical responsibility by lifting the cover from the crime of the century in Gaza and moving toward a ceasefire agreement that leads to ending the aggression."

to enhancing indigenous production capabilities.

Under the programme, 56 C-295 aircraft will be delivered, with the initial 16 arriving from Airbus in Spain and the remaining 40 produced domestically.

This initiative exemplified India's shift toward self-reliance in defence manufacturing, aimed at strengthening operational readiness and reducing dependency on imports. India's commitment to 'Atmanirbharata' in defence is further evidenced by its transformation from a major arms importer to an emerging centre for indigenous production.

Once reliant on foreign suppliers, India now places a high priority on self-reliant manufacturing to meet its security needs, reinforcing its vision to strengthen national resilience and reduce dependency on external sources.

Bangladesh interim government to announced 'July Declaration' on Aug 5, marking one year of July Uprising

Dhaka, Aug 2 (UNI) : The interim government of Bangladesh is moving towards the finalisation of its so-called 'July Declaration' on August 5, marking one year of its July Uprising which saw the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League led government.

The draft will be presented before the nation in the presence of all stakeholders involved in the mass uprising at 5:00pm local time, according to a statement issued by the CA Press Wing today, reports Daily Star.

The 'July Declaration' - made amid demands by the Students Against Discrimination Movement (SAD) members back in December - is currently being drafted by the government in consultation with all interested political parties, which include the BNP, NCP, BJI, among others; AL will be absent owing to it being barred. The July Declaration has been referred to as a critical document for Bangladesh, marking its transition to a new government, and a new political framework - shifting away from the ideology of Mujibism (core principles of Bangladesh's constitution formed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman). The document has been met with a mixed reception, finding both supporters and detractors.

While its supporters argue that it is aimed at unifying the nation around the movement's core values of anti-fascism, democratic resurgence, and state reform, its detractors have expressed doubt over its political philosophy, and have argued against its constitutional recognition.

Relationships



Being a leader is a lot more than just having the position where you can give orders and be at the top of the team build up. Being a good leader also means that people are willing to take orders and they see you as their leader. A good leader is simply who people like to follow. And these are simple tips you can practice to be a good leader.



make confident choices and have the power to decide quickly and properly, and if you are confident of your ability of decision making, then you will surely hit the bull's eye.

Take responsibility

Always take responsibility of things that go by in the team. If you have the position of a leader in the team, and if a team member commits a mistake, you should step up and take responsibility of their actions. This is what good leaders are made of.

Talk less, listen more

Leading a team doesn't always mean giving orders and only saying what you think. It is also about listening to what others have to say. And if you are a good listeners, you can be a good leader. Also take care that you do what you preach.

Follow these tips to be an Inspiring Leader



Take part

Be a part of the team you are leading. Being a leader or the boss doesn't mean that you distance yourself from your group. In fact,

if you mingle well with the people they will be more supportive of you and help you lead better.

Be confident

Being confident in decision making is one of the most important part of being a good leader. People look up to people who can

6 ways to deal with sibling rivalry

Are you irritated every time your kids fight over who will eat the last bite of ice-cream or quibble over who will play with the new video-game you bought for them?

Sibling rivalry is an inevitable parenting evil. Moreover, its degree can determine positive or negative effects on your kids in the long run. Here are ways you can foster a healthy bond between your kids.

- 1. Start early:** Introduce your older child to the younger one when the latter is in the womb itself. This will prepare him/her for the new addition in the family as well as build a friendly bond between the two. Let your kid pat your bulge and talk to the child.
- 2. Set boundaries:** Make sure that your kids know what behaviour is acceptable and what is not, especially when they are quarrelling. Sit them down and lay down the limits where calling each other names, physical violence as well as stealing each other's belongings is definitely not acceptable.
- 3. Avoid comparisons:** Picture this — Your five-year-old son is having a meal and drops some food on his shirt. You scold him, 'Even your baby sister doesn't do something like this.'

especially if the older kid feels ignored when he/she sees you pampering the younger one. Make the older kid feel important and ensure that you pay equal attention to both of them and love them equally.

- 5. Separate them:** Are there times when your kids want to watch the television at the same time or are quarrelling for a bicycle ride? If you can't find a way to solve the situation, ask them to go their respective rooms. Allot particular time periods for each during which they can use common things. From an early age, encourage your kids to share their things with each other.

6 fun ideas to strengthen bond with

Your kids



But, joining them in their endeavours will get you more `us` time and make your relationship strong. Here are some fun things you can do with your tots...

Get adventurous

Rock climbing, bungee jumping, trekking, biking, rafting these are some of the options you can pursue with your kid if the two of you are adventure junkies. Parthiv Painter, who has been attending freehand climbing sessions with his 14 year-old son and 12-year-old daughter, says, "I have been spending three hours with my kids every weekend, attending these classes. My son is quite gung-ho about adventure sports, and my daughter is also loving it. Now that we've had our training, we are planning to go for a rock climbing and water rafting trip. These trips, in a way, help prepare kids to face challenges. Also, it's fun screaming and shouting together when you are hanging 15ft above the ground, secured only with a rope."

Get creative with them

If your kid likes to paint or make things at home, then join him/her. You two can spend the evenings painting or making those DIY bracelets. You two can even start making cute

birthday or anniversary cards by writing your own verses and decorating them according to your tastes. Nikita Nijam, mother of two, says, "Every day , my two daughters and I sit together and make interesting card games. We come up with our own puzzles as well. The topic depends on their choice -we cut pieces of cardboard into different shapes and paint one side with their favourite toon characters. This keeps our afternoons occupied." You can also arrange a small party at home and invite your kid's friends over for a role play , and get them to work on costumes and props as well.

Spring cleaning in summer

Want to bond with your tot inside the comfort of your home? Then, spring cleaning is a good option. This will not only be a fun activity for the two of you, but also declutters your home. Start with one room and pull out all the junk that's occupying precious space in your place. General physician Raghuraman adds, "Of course, make sure you don't expose your kid to

Enrolling your kids in summer classes and keeping them occupied with storybooks during the vacation will help them spend their time wisely.

too much dust. You can also realign your books or give your kid's room a makeover."

Make health a family affair

Working out alone can get quite boring. But, getting your kids to join you can make the whole exercise quite fun. Rohit Dhinkar, a marketing professional, says, "Every morning, my wife and my 13-year-old son got to the park near our home and jog for half an hour. We then do some stretching and my wife teaches us basic yoga. This is the only time I get to spend with my son because I'm mostly out at office throughout the day ." Child counsellor Ramola Vishwas says, "Kids must be taught from a young age how important a healthy lifestyle is. They need not go to the gym when they are that young; playing and running are some of the activities that will help them warm up to the idea of workouts. So, when your kids have time this vacation, play with them. It can be something as simple as hide and seek and a game of catch or some outdoor sports like basketball!"

Explore places

If your kids love history , then exploring nearby museums and heritage structures are an option. You can even plan a weekend trip with the family to places of historic importance. Anusha Sidhwani, a preschool teacher, says, "This vacation, my 6year-old son and I've been checking out all the parks in our city .The idea is to spend as much time together as we can and find out little known facts and places about our city."

Get pet-friendly

Looking for a novel way to spend the vacation usefully? Try building shelters for stray birds and animals. Animal activist Rithangshu Bhatt says, "My daughter, who is in Class 5, has been wanting to do her bit for animals. So, my wife and I decided to make use of this vacation to help her realise her dream. She's got together her friends as well and we've been working on building shelters for animals and baths for birds. We've also been feeding the strays together. It has been a fun and a humane exercise in kindness."



Comparisons like these do more harm than good. Your older child may develop negative feelings towards his/her sibling.

4. Give equal attention:

Rivalry often stems from jealousy,

However, if you feel that things are going out of hand or you just can't ignore their misbehaviour, you could meddle in their affairs. However, at that time, be a neutral parent and avoid passing any judgments on either of the kids.

6 Reconsi der when to intervene:

When your children are fighting, it isn't necessary that you interfere on every account.

Caleta-Car becomes Real Sociedad's first signing of summer

Madrid, Aug 2 (UNI) Real Sociedad has made its first signing ahead of the new La Liga season with the arrival of Croatian defender Duje Caleta-Car.

The 28-year-old arrives in San Sebastian on a season's loan from Olympique Lyon, with Real Sociedad having the option to make the move permanent at the end of the season.Caleta-Car will help cover for the loss of Moroccan international Nayef Aguerd, who returned to West Ham after his loan deal expired at the end of last season.

Apart from returning loanees, such as Umar Sadiq and Jon Karrikaburu, Caleta-Car is the first player to arrive at Real Sociedad after a summer which also saw coach Imanol Alguacil leave the club after six and a half seasons in charge, while Spain international midfielder Martin Zubimendi joined Arsenal in a big-money transfer.

Former B-team coach Sergio Francisco was named as Imanol's successor before the end of last season, while the club is still looking to sign a midfielder and a forward before starting the new La Liga season away to Valencia on August 16.

Sarthak Chavan scores fighting win

Coimbatore, Aug 2 (UNI) : Pune teenager Sarthak Chavan (Petronas TVS Racing) pulled off a brilliant win, his second in three starts, in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category at the Rolon Round of the MRF MMSC-FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2025 at theKari Motor Speedway, here on Saturday.Starting from P3, 18-year-old Sarthak survived some close calls and contacts with pole-sitter, Hyderabad’s Rahil Pillarisetty (RACR Castrol Power1) who eventually finished third behind Chennai teenager Johann Reeves Emmanuel (Motul KTM Gusto Racing India) to win an incident-filled 10-lap race.

Later, One Racing’s Jagathishree Kumaresan, the 21-year-old from Chennai, wrote her own script by winning all the three races she took part in.The defending champion won both her outings in the Girls (Stock 165cc) category of the National Championship and in between, topped the Women’s race in the Petronas TVS India One-Make Championship for a grand triple.

In Race-1 in the Girls category, Jagathishree started from P3, but fought her way to P1 while in the next outing, she “messed up” her pole-position start to drop to fifth but recovered to win ahead of two former champions Ryhana Bee (KYTHelmet ISBK Racing), who had started from P12, and Ann Jennifer (Motul Sparks Racing).Mad Rabbit



India's batter Akash Deep celebrates his half century during the third day of the fifth Test match between India and England, at The Oval cricket ground, in London, England.

Jaiswal, Sundar, Akash Deep power India on Day 3

Bengaluru/London, (UNI) : India surged ahead on Day 3 of the fifth and final Test at The Oval, riding on Yashasvi Jaiswal’s century, a sparkling 53 from Washington Sundar, and a gritty fifty from nightwatchman Akash Deep to set England a daunting 374-run target.

At stumps, England were 50 for 1, losing Zak Crawley to a beauty from Mohammed Siraj of the final ball of the day.

Resuming at 75/2, India built their innings around a resilient 103-run stand between Jaiswal and Akash Deep. The left-hander, overnight on 51, brought up his century in 127 balls (11x4, 2x6), showcasing maturity and flair. Akash Deep, primarily known for his bowling, turned heads

with a stylish 66 off 94 balls, including 12 boundaries. Their partnership frustrated England through the first session, guiding India to 189/3 at lunch.

Shubman Gill fell early in the post-lunch session, given LBW on review (India’s last), while departed quickly.

Jaiswal kept the scoreboard ticking, but his eventual dismissal at 118 saw India wobble briefly. Ravindra Jadeja then steadied the innings with a fluent 53, his fifth fifty of the series, before edging to second slip.

Dhruv Jurel’s 34 and a T20-style blitz from Washington Sundar revived India's innings. Sundar smashed four sixes and four boundaries in his 53 off just 46 balls, reaching

his fifty with a thunderous strike over mid-wicket and celebrating with a punch to the air. He helped push India past 300 (reached in 70.4 overs), and ultimately to a formidable total.

The final wicket fell in the 88th over when Sundar miscued a flick off Josh Tongue, who completed his maiden five-wicket haul (5/103). Crawley and Pope collided under the skier, but Crawley held on at mid-wicket despite the scare.

England were left needing 374 for victory, but their reply was immediately pegged back. Crawley (14) was cleaned up by a superb yorker from Siraj off the final ball of the day – a double bluff after a barrage of short balls. Siraj roared in celebration as stumps were drawn with the hosts at 50/1 in 14 overs.

Newcastle boss Howe in the dark over Isak future

Seoul, Aug 2 (UNI) : Newcastle United coach Eddie Howe admits that he still doesn't know what the future holds for striker Alexander Isak.

Howe was speaking from Seoul, South Korea where his side plays Tottenham Hotspur in a pre-season friendly game on Sunday. Isak isn't with the squad after being left out due to a slight thigh injury and is currently working to get fit at the training ground of former club Real Sociedad in Spain.

Howe admitted he only learned Isak was in San Sebastian after seeing the story published online.

"I know where he is through the media, so I think from that perspective it's difficult for me to go into any detail," he commented.

Friday also saw the media report that Newcastle had rejected a bid of 110 million pounds (146 million U.S. dollars) for Isak from Liverpool, with Liverpool then reportedly ending interest in the striker, but Howe again insisted he is in the dark over events.

"I am very much removed from everything that is happening back home. I was made aware there was a bid yesterday. That bid was turned down before I heard about it. There are people back in England dealing with the situation," said the coach in a news conference.

Earlier in the week Howe had said that Isak's situation "wasn't fully" in the club's hands, although he wished to see the striker remain at St James' Park.

"I really don't know what is going to happen next but, from our perspective, we still support Alex in every way and my wish is still that we see him in a Newcastle shirt again."

"The situation is far from ideal. It is quite complex. I think that is all I have got to say," concluded the coach.

Dhoni confirms playing 2026 IPL, says Ruturaj will be back at helm

Chennai, Aug 2 (UNI) : Having taken over the reins of five time IPL winner Chennai Super Kings (CSK) from injured Ruturaj Gaikwad this year, taismanic leader MS Dhoni confirmed his participation for next year's edition and that Ruturaj will be back as skipper and lead the team.

Speaking after attending a private event, he said he recalled his long standing association with Chennai, the love, affection and support he received from the Chennai fans.

His love for Chennai stood pronounced when he said it was this city which gave him the first test in 2005 and the first match in IPL in 2008.

Dhoni admitted to the team's issues and the balance in this year's edition but vowed that the CSK's batting would be strengthened next year.

38th National Under-11 Chess Championship starts in Jalgaon

Jalgaon, Aug 2 (UNI) : The 38th National Under-11 Chess Championship was inaugurated with grandeur today at the picturesque Anubhooti Mandap in Jain Hills, Jalgaon. This prestigious tournament, crucial for identifying and nurturing nascent talent was declared open by the Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Raksha Nikhil Khadse.

The tournament has attracted over 550 chess prodigies from across the nation, among whom nearly 400 participants boast official FIDE (International Chess Federation) ratings — a testimony to the championship’s calibre. Representing states and territories including Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Punjab, and

Rajasthan, these young talents have converged in Jalgaon for national recognition and international rating.

The championship is being conducted in accordance with the Swiss League format across 11 competitive rounds, offering participants a significant opportunity to earn and improve their FIDE international ratings. Among the noteworthy contestants are Advik Agrawal from Pune (FIDE Rating: 2251) and Devi Bijesh from Kerala (FIDE Rating: 1869), whose participation adds to the distinction of the event.

The championship is the result of joint efforts by the Jain Sports Academy, Jalgaon District Chess Association, Maharashtra Chess Association, and the All India Chess Federation, under the primary sponsorship of Jain Irrigation.

A total prize purse of Rs

8 Lakhs has been announced, with cash awards extending beyond the champions and runners-up to commendable draws and performances across the board celebrating skill, sportsmanship, and strategic prowess.

In her keynote address, Smt. Raksha Khadse emphasized the lasting significance of opportunities available during formative years, aligning with the Ministry's vision to foster a vibrant sports culture at the grassroots level. She highlighted the government's commitment to empowering young athletes through flagship initiatives like the 'Khelo Bharat Niti 2025' and the 'Khelo India' program. These initiatives aim to nurture sporting talent, promote fitness, and provide the necessary infrastructure to develop future sporting champions.

AIFF & Govt of Telangana sign landmark MoU at 1st Telangana Sports Conclave

Hyderabad, Aug 2 (UNI) : India’s first FIFA Talent Academy for girls was launched here after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Government of Telangana signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today, during the first Telangana Sports Conclave at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre.

Chief Minister, Telangana, A Revanth Reddy, was present to grace the occasion, along with AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey, Principal Secretary, I&C and IT, Government of Telangana, Jayesh Ranjan, in the presence of eminent dignitaries, sports leaders, and policymakers.

The initiative is a key component of FIFA's Talent Development Scheme (TDS), and will help provide elite training to talented footballers who have been scouted from various parts of the country, reinforcing India’s commitment to inclusive and structured grassroots development.

The academy will be located at the Gachibowli Stadium Complex in Hyderabad and will offer year-round high-performance training, with residential facilities, education, medical care, nutrition, and mental wellness to 60 elite players – 30 boys (U14) and 30 girls (U16), including 10 players from Telangana in each category.

AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey said, "The launch of India’s first FIFA Talent Academy for girls and second academy for boys marks a defining moment in our journey towards equitable football development. This collaboration with the

Government of Telangana, under FIFA's global Talent Development Scheme, reflects our collective resolve to identify, nurture, and empower young talent — especially girls — from across the nation."

"This academy will not only groom elite athletes but also inspire a generation of footballers who can dream of representing India at the highest levels. It is a proud day for Indian football and a strong step forward towards our goal of qualifying for the U17 men’s and women’s FIFA World Cups,” he said.

Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister, Telangana, said, “This academy is a game-changer for girls in football. It is not only the first of its kind in India but also one of the very few globally under FIFA’s Talent Development Scheme. Young talents — especially girls—from Telangana and beyond will now have access to elite infrastructure, education, and a clear pathway to the national and international stage.”Strategic Collaboration and National Vision:

AIFF will lead the operations, technical framework, talent scouting, and training curriculum in coordination with FIFA.

The Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) will oversee infrastructure, logistics, education, financial and welfare support.

This initiative aligns with: FIFA's global TDS mandate: Give every talent a chance

AIFF's Vision 2047: Build India into a leading footballing nation.Telangana's Sports Policy 2025: Develop Hyderabad as a national sports hub.

now. Rutu (Gaikwad) will be coming back. He got injured. But he will be coming back. So, we are quite sorted now", he added.Dhoni said the team will try to further strengthen the unit at the mini-auction later this year. "I won't say we [CSK] slacked off [in IPL 2025]," he said. "But there were certain holes that we needed to plug in. A small auction is coming in

December. Some loopholes are there, and we will try to plug those in."Gaikwad's last competitive outing remains CSK's match against Punjab Kings at Mullanpur on April 8. He had a county deal with Yorkshire but withdrew citing personal reasons. He has been named in the West Zone squad for the Duleep Trophy 2025-26, beginning later this month.

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Successful Organization of the First All India Railway Public Relations Seminar in Kota

The issues and challenges faced by the Railway Public Relations Cadre will be taken up with the Railway Minister : Speaker, Lok Sabha, Om Birla

(Standard Post Burau)

Solapur, Aug 2 : For the first time in the history of Indian Railways, a grand All India Railway Public Relations Seminar was organized by the officials and staff of the Public Relations Department on Saturday at the Menal Railway Officers Club, Kota. Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr Om Birla, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and acknowledged the crucial role played by the Indian Railway Public Relations Cadre.

The event commenced



experiences, and practical suggestions regarding cadre-related concerns. This interactive session proved to be a milestone in defining the department's future path, enhancing its efficiency, and laying a strong foundation for cadre restructuring. The event saw the participation of DRM Kota Mr Anil Kalra, ADRM Mr Lalit Kumar Dhurandhar, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Mr Saurabh Jain, Divisional Commercial Manager Mr Kishore Patel, Leader of Opposition Mr Love Sharma, and several



with the traditional welcome of Shri Birla with a bouquet, followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp in the presence of the Divisional Railway Manager of Kota, Mr Anil Kalra, along with other distinguished guests. In his welcome address, DRM Mr Kalra appreciated the significant contributions being made by the Public Relations Department of Indian Railways. A short

introductory video showcasing the multifaceted role of PR personnel was presented to familiarize the audience with the department's responsibilities.

Senior Public Relations Officer Mr Kamal Joshi delivered a detailed presentation about the PR Cadre, highlighting the department's current operational practices,

responsibilities, and structural challenges. In his address, Mr Om Birla stated, "The PR Department of Railways is a bridge of trust between the government and the people. Its strength enhances the image and transparency of the Railways." He further assured full support in addressing the cadre's issues and ensuring that

their concerns reach the appropriate authorities.

A memento was presented to the Chief Guest, followed by a formal vote of thanks. Post the inaugural session, a seminar session was conducted where Senior Public Relations Officers, Public Relations Officers, and Publicity Inspectors from across the country shared their insights,

senior officials from various railway departments, representatives of employees' unions, and notable personalities from print, electronic, and social media. This event not only reflected the unity and collective spirit of the department but also served as a powerful platform to bring the concerns of the Public Relations Cadre to the attention of policymakers.

Introduction of Three New Express trains between Bhavnagar Terminus - Ayodhya Cantt, Rewa - Pune (Hadapsar) and Jabalpur - Raipur

(Standard Post Burau)

Mumbai, Aug 2 : F in a major move to boost rail connectivity across multiple states and fulfilling the demands of the people, Indian Railways is all set to introduce three new train services, viz. Train No. 19201/19202 Bhavnagar Terminus – Ayodhya Cantt (Weekly) Express, Train No. 20151/20152 Pune (Hadapsar) – Rewa (Weekly) Superfast Express and Train No. 11701/11702 Raipur – Jabalpur (Daily) Express. The inaugural services of these trains will be flagged off by Shri Bhupendra Patel, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat; Dr. Mohan Yadav, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh; Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, Hon'ble Chief Minister

of Chhattisgarh; Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology; Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Labour and Employment & Youth Affairs and Sports and Smt. Nimuben Bambhaniya, Hon'ble Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on Sunday, 3rd August 2025. The inaugural service of Bhavnagar Terminus – Ayodhya Cantt Express will be flagged off from Bhavnagar Terminus station, while the inaugural services of Rewa – Pune (Hadapsar) Express and Jabalpur – Raipur Express

will be flagged off through video conferencing from Bhavnagar Terminus.

The details of the trains being introduced are as under: Train No. 19201/19202 Bhavnagar Terminus – Ayodhya Cantt (Weekly) Express Train No. 19201 Bhavnagar Terminus – Ayodhya Cantt Express will depart from Bhavnagar Terminus every Monday at 13:50 hrs, w.e.f. 11th August, 2025 and will reach Ayodhya Cantt at 18:30 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 19202 Ayodhya Cantt – Bhavnagar Terminus Express will depart from Ayodhya Cantt every Tuesday at 22:30 hrs, w.e.f. 12th August, 2025 and will reach Bhavnagar Terminus at 04:45 hrs, on the third day

(Thursday).

Enroute this train will halt at Bhavnagar Para, Sihor (Gujarat), Dhola, Botad, Limbdi, Surendranagar Gate, Viramgam, Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Falna, Marwar, Beawar, Ajmer, Kishangarh, Jaipur, Gandhinagar Jaipur, Bandikui, Bharatpur, Idgah Agra, Tundla, Kanpur Central, Lucknow Jn. and Barabanki stations in both directions.

The train will comprise of AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, AC 3 Tier (Economy), Sleeper Class and General Second Class coaches.

The booking for Train No. 19201 opens from 03.08.2025 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website.

The new train 19201/19202 Bhavnagar Terminus – Ayodhya Cantt Express marks a significant step towards strengthening fast and seamless connectivity between Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. Fulfilling the demands of the people of Bhavnagar and nearby areas, this new train service will be of great convenience to pilgrims, tourists as well as for the benefit of passengers travelling for business and employment. It will not only save valuable travel time for passengers, but will also give a strong boost to trade and tourism along the route. Moreover, this connectivity will contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the Bhavnagar region.

Nadda sounds alarm on rising organ failures

New Delhi, Aug 2 (UNI) Union Health Minister JP Nadda today expressed concern over the increasing cases of organ failures, calling it a serious public health challenge that is putting immense pressure on the healthcare system.

"Every year, thousands of patients await life-saving organ transplants. Despite this urgent need, a

significant gap persists between those waiting for transplants and the number of available donors," he said here at an event held to mark the 15th Indian Organ Donation Day. The event was organized by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) under the aegis of Directorate General of Health Services, Union

Health Ministry. The Minister emphasized that this gap is not due to unwillingness but largely stems from lack of awareness and deep-rooted myths and misconceptions surrounding organ donation. "Today is a crucial day that offers us a platform to raise awareness, promote open

conversations, and honor the noble contributions of donors and their families," he added. Nadda also urged society to overcome hesitation and misconceptions to strengthen organ donation efforts and save countless lives. Highlighting the strides made by India in the direction of organ donation, Nadda stated

that India has achieved a remarkable milestone of performing over 18,900 organ transplants in 2024, the highest ever recorded in a single year. This is a significant leap from fewer than 5,000 transplants in 2013. India ranks third globally in the total number of organ transplants, behind only the United States of America and China.

WR extends trips of weekly special train between Udhna and Khurda Road

(Standard Post Burau)

Mumbai, Aug 2 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand, Western Railway has extended the trips of Train No.09059/09060 Udhna – Khurda Road Weekly Special on the existing composition, timings, halts and path.

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

1. Train No. 09059 Udhna – Khurda Road Weekly Special has been extended up to 24th September, 2025

2. Train No. 09060 Khurda Road – Udhna Weekly Special has been extended up to 26th September, 2025

Enroute this train will halt at Vyara, Nandurbar, Dharangaon, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Malkapur, Akola, Badnera, Wardha, Nagpur, Durg, Raipur, Mahasamund, Khariar Road, Kantabanji, Titlagarh, Kesinga, Muniguda, Rayagada, Parvatipuram, Bobbili, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Road, Palasa, Brahmapur and Balugaon stations in both directions.

The booking for extended trips of Train No. 09059 opens on 03.08.2025 at PRS counters and IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Mrs. Ity Pandey, IRTS Takes Charge as PCCM, South Central Railway



(Standard Post Burau)

Hyderabad, Aug 2 : Mrs. Ity Pandey, an officer of the 1995 batch of the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS), has assumed charge as the PCCM (Principal Chief Commercial Manager), South Central Railway. She was a gold medalist in psychology from the University of Allahabad.

Before taking charge as Principal Chief Commercial Manager, SCR, Mrs. Ity Pandey served as Divisional Railway Manager, Bhusawal Division. She has also served as Chief Commercial Manager (Passenger Services) at the Central Railway Headquarters. She has previously held various significant posts in Central and Western Railways, including Chief Commercial Manager (Freight), Deputy Chief Commercial Manager, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Commercial Manager, and Assistant Commercial Manager. In addition to her expertise in the Commercial Department, Mrs. Pandey also has experience working in the Safety and Vigilance departments.

Mrs. Ity Pandey has introduced Rudra, a 'hospital on wheels' initiative, to provide accessible healthcare to railway workers and their families in remote areas when she was Divisional Railway Manager, Bhusawal. This mobile clinic is changing healthcare delivery and offering timely medical services directly to those who need them the most.

She has been honoured with General Managers Award (twice), Ministry of Railways Award for excellence and Meritorious Services 2007 and Women Achievers Award 2016. She has been honoured with Rail Mantri Rajbhasha Rajat Padak on 17/6/'25. She was instrumental in setting up of the first Unreserved Ticketing System in Mumbai. As Claims Officer she was instrumental in setting claims for all victims of Elphinstone Road stampede, an episode which was not covered under the Railway Act for compensation, without involvement of any Lawyer. As Chief Commercial Manager (Freight) wrote a Book named 'Riding the Freight Train', a comprehensive overview of Freight Operations over Western Railway. She has been recognized amongst the 24 Bureaucrat Change-makers of 2024 in the Bureaucrats Annual List 2024. This honour reflects her visionary leadership and the relentless efforts in enhancing Passenger Services and Freight efficiency.

Central Railway's Mumbai Division registers record freight loading figures of 7.43 million tonnes

(Standard Post Burau)

Mumbai, Aug 2 : Central Railway's Mumbai Division registered remarkable freight loading figures of 7.43 million tonnes for the FY 2025-26 (April to July-2025) as against 7.32 million tonnes during the corresponding period in FY-2024-25, which indicates a growth of 1.5%.

This is the highest ever loading during the period in the last 15 years.

During the month of July-2025, freight loading figures of 2.04 million tonnes was done as against loading of 1.88 million tonnes during the corresponding month last year indicating a significant growth of 8.5 %.

This figure is the highest ever loading for the month of July in the last 15 years. It is also the first time that loading has crossed 2.00 million tonnes in a month during the current financial year for the period.

*Multiple Milestones in Container Loading

- Container loading from JNPT has been the highest ever recorded with 647 rakes in July-2025 as compared to the previous best loading of 641 rakes in January-2025

- *769 Container rakes have been loaded in Mumbai division including 647 - Port & 122 domestic containers, which is the best ever * as compared to

the previous best figures of 754 rakes including 637-Port & 117 domestic containers loaded in January-2025.

- 1048 Container Wagons loaded per day in July-2025 is the highest ever loading average compared to the previous best of 1029 Container Wagons loaded in January-2025.

- 1285 Container Wagons were loaded in a single day on 28.07.2025 with 30 Container Rakes as compared to the previous best of 1259 Container Wagons loaded on 23.11.2024.

Mumbai Division recorded exceptional loading figures including the Second Highest Ever Loading of Wagons in July-2025 as follows: Wagon Loading

1614 Wagons were loaded per day in July-2025 which is the second highest ever loading in terms of Wagons per day in Mumbai Division. This is 15% more than 1406 Wagons loaded per day in July 2024.

Coal Loading: Coal loading figures have been very encouraging with 68 Coal rakes loaded in July 2025 as compared to 48 rakes in July 2024 indicating a growth of more than 41%.

Fertilizer Loading: 32 Fertilizer rakes loaded from Kalamboli Goods Shed in July-2025 is the highest

ever fertilizer rake loading from Kalamboli Goods Shed in a month. A total of 288 fertilizer rakes have been loaded from Kalamboli Goods Shed till July 2025.

Rakes Loading & Unloading

1145 Rakes were loaded in July-2025 as against 1018 Rakes in July-2024 indicating a growth of more than 12%.

1104 Rakes were unloaded in July-2025 as against 905 Rakes in July-2024 indicating a growth of more than 21%.

4100 Rakes were loaded during the period April to July-2025 as against 3951 Rakes during April to July-2024 indicating a growth of more than 3%.

4200 Rakes were unloaded during the period April to July-2025 as against 3796 Rakes during April to July-2024 indicating a growth of more than 10%.

Freight Trains Interchange

On Mumbai division, there has been an average interchange of 110.6 freight trains per day in the month of July-2025 as compared to 101.6 freight trains per day in July-2024.

The best freight interchange with Vasai Road (Western Railway) in July 2025 has been 57.2 freight trains as compared to previous best of 56.8 freight trains in June-2025."