

IN BRIEF

25 students have miraculous escape as school bus overturns

Eluru, Aug 6 (UNI) As many as 25 students had a miraculous escape as the school bus in which they were going home overturned into an agriculture field at Pedakamanapudi village of Mudinepalli mandal on Wednesday. Police said that 25 students were going home in the school bus. The steering rod of the bus broke resulting in the driver losing control over the bus. The bus veered off the road and overturned into an agriculture field. The farmers working at the fields rushed there and rescued the students from the bus by smashing the windscreen. Five students suffered minor injuries and the rest of the students escaped unhurt.

The police registered a case. The parents of the students alleged that the school management is not giving importance for the maintenance of the school buses.

DTO in ACB net for Rs 22,000 bribe

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (UNI) : The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has caught Jagtial District Transport Officer (DTO) Banoth Bhadru Naik and his private driver while accepting Rs 22,000 bribe

According to the ACB statement, the DTO was trapped by the Karimnagar Unit on Wednesday at his office while accepting a bribe of Rs 22,000 through his private driver, Banoth Aravind, from a complainant. The bribe was allegedly demanded to avoid booking a case, impose no fine on the complainant's proclaimer vehicle, and to release his seized mobile phones.

The tainted amount of Rs 22,000 was recovered from the possession of the driver, whose fingers tested positive in the chemical test. The DTO had initially demanded Rs 40,000, which was reduced to Rs 35,000. He had already received Rs 13,000 as the first installment on August 4 and accepted the balance on Wednesday through his driver.

Cabinet approves to implement free bus travel to women



(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, Aug 6 : The State Cabinet which met here on Wednesday chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu approved the implementation of free bus travel to women. As per the Cabinet decision, the free bus travel to women in the

state will be lunched on Independence Day, August 15. The State has a population of 5.25 crore, of which 2.62 crore are women. Under the free bus travel scheme, women, girls and transgenders will be provided with the opportunity to travel from anywhere to anywhere for free in the APSRTC buses.

Under the scheme, women can travel in Palle Velugu, ultra Palle Velugu, city ordinary, express and metro express buses across the state. To avail the free bus travel facility, the women will have to show Aadhaar, Voter, Ration cards as ID proof. However, the free bus travel scheme is not applicable to non-stop

inter-state bus services or other categories. Also, it is not applicable to contract carriage services, chartered services and package tours. Women will be provided with free travel in 74 per cent of the buses in the state, 6,700 buses. This scheme will cost Rs 162 crore per month and Rs 1,942 crore per

year. The free bus travel scheme will benefit about 26.95 lakh women in the state every day.

The State Council of Ministers has approved the proposal of the AP Land Incentive for Tech Hub (LIFT) Policy (4.0) 2024-2029.

Considering the critical financial situation of APDCL, the State Cabinet has approved the proposal of SBI & UBI Banks to provide Government Guarantee of Rs. 900.00 crores subject to certain conditions to avoid adverse reporting to statutory authorities, CIBIL, CRISIL.

The State Cabinet has approved the proposal made by the Energy Department to increase the free electricity provided to hair cutting salons from 150 units to 200 units, as per the request of the Nayi Brahmins, with the aim of contributing to their social and economic development.

Youth Meet will help to explore talent amount youths: Minister Nara Lokesh

(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, July 6 : Minister for IT, Education and HRD Nara Lokesh has said that the 'Konaseema Youth Meet' will help to explore the innate talent among the youths which can be used for the State's progress.

Minister Nara Lokesh, flanked by Ministers Nimmala Ramanaidu, M Ramprasad Reddy and Vashamsetti Subhash, A Ramanarayana Reddy, released a wall poster of 'Konaseema Youth Meet' here at the CM's camp

office, at Undavalli, near here on Wednesday. The 'Konaseema Youth Meet' will be organized on August 12 as part of International Youth Day in Ramachandrapuram in Konaseema district.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Lokesh said that programmes like the 'Konaseema Youth Meet' will help in harnessing the talent and skills hidden in the youth for the future needs of the state. The Minister observed that the 'Youth

Meet' will provide a suitable platform for the youth to showcase their talent and innovative ideas.

Mr. Lokesh suggested that in addition to discussing future plans as a development agenda, youth should cultivate leadership qualities in youth and ways of thinking that allow them to make decisions quickly according to the circumstances through programs like the Youth Meet.

On the occasion, IT

Minister Lokesh specially congratulated Minister Labour Minister Subhash for organizing such a programme that is very useful for the youth.

State Ministers Nimmala Ramanaidu, Anam Ram Narayana Reddy, Kolusu Parthasarathy, Savitha, Gummadi Sandhyarani, Angani Satya Prasad, Ram Prasad Reddy, Kondapalli Srinivas, and Janardhan Reddy participated in this poster released programme, held before beginning of the cabinet meeting.

Former DD news Director Dr Sudhakar passes away

(Standard Post Bureau) Visakhapatnam, Aug 6 : Dr. P.J. Sudhakar, a senior journalist and Former News Director, DD (Doordarshan) passed away here today.

The 67-year-old Sudhakar obtained 121 degrees and created a Guinness World Record.

Sudhakar is the only living man to hold this record after Maharashtra's Shrikant Jichkar, having 25 degrees, and Karanataka's Yagyane-shwaran having 32 degrees, both not alive anymore.

India terms US' additional tariffs as unfair, unjustified; reiterates it will take necessary action to protect its interests

New Delhi, Aug 6 (UNI) As US President Donald Trump imposed an additional 25 percent tariff on India, taking the total to a high of 50 percent, India termed the move as unfair, unjustified and unreasonable, and reiterated that it will take all actions necessary to protect its national interest.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said: "The United

States has in recent days targeted India's oil imports from Russia.

"We have already made clear our position on these issues, including the fact that our imports are based on market factors and done with the overall objective of ensuring the energy security of 1.4 billion people of India.

"It is therefore extremely unfortunate that the US should choose to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other

countries are also taking in their own national interest.

"We reiterate that these actions are unfair, unjustified and unreasonable.

"India will take all actions necessary to protect its national interests," he stated. The action comes as Trump signed an executive order slapping an extra 25 per cent tariff on India, as "penalty" for the continued import of Russian crude.

"Imposition of Tariffs.

(a) I find that the Government of India is currently directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil. (b) "Accordingly, and as consistent with applicable law, articles of India imported into the customs territory of the United States shall be subject to an additional ad valorem rate of duty of 25 percent," the order reads.

His latest order takes the total tariffs slapped on

import of Indian goods into the United States to 50 per cent. It is 20 per cent more than the tariff on China and 21 per cent more than on Pakistan.

The 50 per cent tariff hit comes hours after his threat to hike tariffs on India. "India has not been a good trading partner... we settled on 25 percent... but I think I'm going to raise that substantially over the next 24 hours because they're buying Russian oil," he told CNBC.

AICC appoints working president, PAC for AP unit

Amaravati, Aug 6 (IANS) : The Congress party has appointed former Union MoS J.D. Seelam and former MLA Mastan Vali as the working presidents of the Andhra Pradesh unit and also announced 25-member Political Affairs Committee.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge appointed J.D. Seelam and Mastan Vali as the working presidents of the Andhra Pradesh Congress

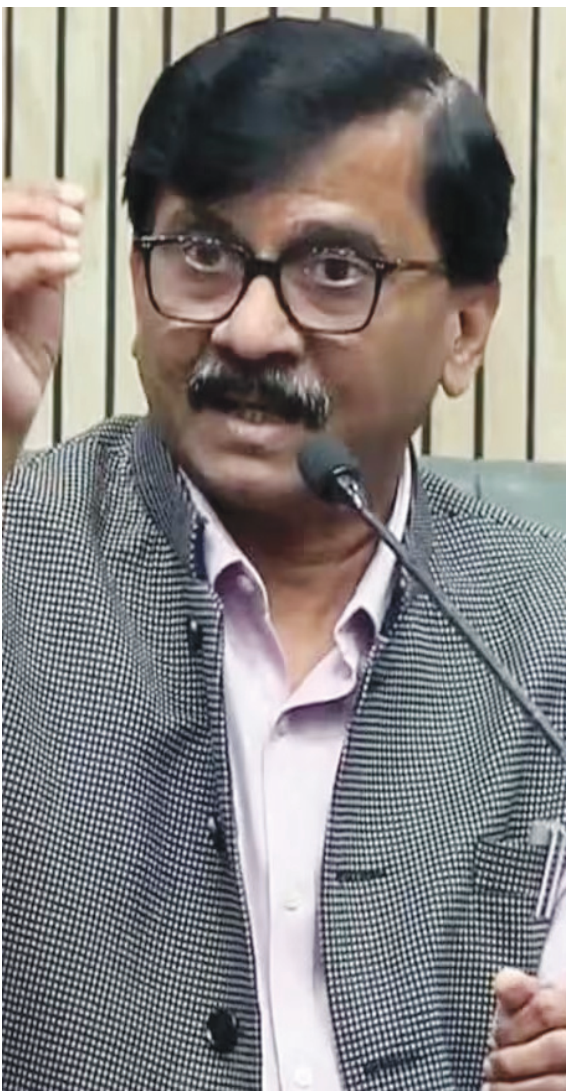
Committee (APCC). AICC general secretary K. C. Venugopal announced this on Wednesday. The AICC president also approved the proposal for the constitution of Political Affairs Committee (PAC) of the APCC. AICC in-charge for party affairs in Andhra Pradesh, B. Manickam Tagore, has been named as the chairman of the PAC. APCC president Y. S. Sharmila Reddy, former

presidents N. Raghuvendra Reddy, Gidugu Rudra Raju, former union ministers M. M. Pallam Raju, J. D. Seelam and Chinta Mohan are among the members of the PAC. The other PAC members are K. Raju, Mastan Vali, K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao, K. Bapi Raju, G.V. Harsha Kumar, N. Tulasi Reddy, Killi Kuruparani, Lingamsetty Eswara Rao, P. M. Kamalamma, K. Sudhakar, Raketa Eliza Vunnamsetti, Kondeti Chittibabu, Amanchi

Krishna Mohan, Surya Naik, Sirivella Prasad, G. Usha Naidu, Ganesh Yadav and Dr Palak Verma. In September last year, the AICC chief had appointed vice presidents, general secretaries, president of the district/city Congress committees and heads of various cells of the APCC. The party had named 13 vice-presidents, 37 general secretaries, 25 DCC presidents, and 10 City Congress committee

presidents. Mallikarjun Kharge on January 16, 2024 had appointed Sharmila as APCC president, a few days after she merged the YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP) with the Congress party.

Sharmila is the sister of former Andhra Pradesh chief minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and daughter of former chief minister late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, who was popular as YSR.



PM Modi and Amit Shah trying to control judiciary and ...

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut today accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of attempting to take control of the country's judiciary and all other constitutional institutions. Raut expressed strong objection to the appointment of former BJP spokesperson Aarti Sathe as a judge of the Bombay High Court. He clarified that he has no personal grudge against anyone, but criticized the appointment, stating, appointing someone who defended Modi and Shah's wrong policies as a BJP spokesperson tarnishes the glorious tradition of the Bombay High Court. (See on page 3)

Dedicated portal for arms license application to



Despite criticism by the opposition, the BJP led government in Assam is going ahead with the plans to give arms license to Indigenous people in 'sensitive areas' and plans are on to unveil a portal through which people in sensitive areas can apply for the arms license. (See on page 2)

UP CM slams previous govts, says appeasement politicians ...



Inaugurating the Atal Residential School in Moradabad, constructed at a cost of Rs 79 crore, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today launched a scathing attack on the opposition. (See on page 4)

Third satellite launch pad project set for March 2029 ...



The Third Satellite Launch Pad (TLP) Project, a significant expansion of India's space infrastructure, has made steady progress following the receipt of financial sanction in March 2025, the Government informed Parliament today. It will be fully commissioned by March 2029, (See on page 8)

Renovation work of Ram Ganesh Gadkari Rangayatan in final stage

Artists and producers express satisfaction about the renovation“Rangayatan to be open for the audience soon



(Standard Post Bureau)

Thane, Aug 6 : The renovation of the building of Thane Municipal Corporation's Ram Ganesh Gadkari Rangayatan is now in the final stage. The Rangayatan will be open for the audience soon. Before that, senior artists, producers and office bearers inspected the work being completed on Wednesday. They expressed satisfaction about the renovation work and expressed their desire to experiment on this stage as soon as possible.

Thane Municipal Corporation Additional Commissioner Sandeep Malvi, All India Theatre Council President Prashant Damle, senior producer and director Ashok Hande, producer Dilip Jadhav, producer Prasad Kambli, Thane theatre workers, actor and director Mangesh Desai, director Viju Mane, inspected the theatre. At that time, Deputy Commissioner Umesh Birari, Suburban Engineer Sudhir Gaikwad, Shubhangi Keswani, Executive Engineer Bhagwan Shinde etc. were present.

The work of stage, seating arrangement, sound system, screen, back of stage, arrangement for bringing sets, and toilets in Gadkari Theatre was inspected on this occasion. The decision to arrange a

lift for senior citizens and the disabled is commendable. Along with that, it was suggested in today's inspection that seating arrangements should also be made for senior citizens who come for plays on the ground floor of the theatre. Also, the parking system, rehearsal hall, ticket window, and space for displaying play signs were inspected.

The renovation work of Gadkari Rangayatan is in the final stage. Efforts have been made to provide as many facilities as possible while maintaining the limitations of the old structure. The Municipal Corporation has also taken note of the suggestions made by the artists and producers during the inspection today. Additional Commissioner Sandeep Malvi clarified that immediate action will be taken on them and the Rangayatan will be opened for theater lovers as soon as possible.

The work of Gadkari Rangayatan was inspected again today. The work has been done well. The sound and lighting plan is also in order. Some improvements have been suggested to the stage and back stage. Now let's get an opportunity to experiment on this stage as soon as possible.

- Prashant Damle,

President A. Bha. Marathi Natya Parishad

Some suggestions about the lighting plan have been made in today's inspection. The remaining renovation work has been done well. The structure has become attractive. Now the colors of the experiment should be filled in quickly.

- Ashok Hande, Senior Producer and Director

It was good to see that the suggestions made during the first inspection have been implemented properly. The renovation work has been done properly. The Municipal Corporation has promised to complete the few things that were missing after today's inspection.

- Prasad Kambli, Producer

I was happy to visit Gadkari Rangayatan today. Although it took some time for the renovation, the work has been done well. From the stage to the seating arrangement, everything has come together well.

Mangesh Desai, Actor and Producer

A great job has been done to improve this building, which is the identity of Thane city. The suggestions have been implemented. I sincerely appreciate everyone who worked hard to highlight the uniqueness of this building.

- Viju Mane, Director and Producer

Dedicated portal for arms license application to indigenous people almost ready: Assam CM

Guwahati, Aug 6 (UNI) : Despite criticism by the opposition, the BJP led government in Assam is going ahead with the plans to give arms license to Indigenous people in 'sensitive areas' and plans are on to unveil a portal through which people in sensitive areas can apply for the arms license.

Indicating that the portal is almost ready for inauguration, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today said that the dedicated portal is coming up where indigenous people, who perceive a threat to their lives and reside in sensitive areas, can apply for Arms License. "Upon proper scrutiny and after a multi-layered process, Arms License will be granted to the applicants," he said.

Empowering Mothers through Awareness ; CR, Solapur Division Observes World Breastfeeding Week 2025 with Compassion



(Standard Post Bureau)

Solapur, Aug 6 : The Divisional Railway Hospital, Solapur organised an awareness programme on August 5, 2025 on the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) 2025, celebrated worldwide annually in the first week of August. This year's theme, "Prioritise Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems," was brought to life through a well-structured awareness programme held at the Dr.

Kotnis Memorial Railway Hospital. The event aimed to educate and support expectant and new mothers on the critical importance of breastfeeding in ensuring the health and well-being of both infants and mothers.

"The programme was inaugurated by Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS), Solapur Division Dr. G. S. Manjunath, who elaborated on the advantages and importance of breastfeeding. He was joined by Dr. Krishna Chandak, who sensitised

the participants on the significance of early initiation of breastfeeding, advocated exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months and debunked common myths. Dr. Keerthi delivered a comprehensive presentation and live demonstration on correct latching and positioning techniques for effective breastfeeding.

The session was interactive and well-received, with 45 to 50 mothers, expectant mothers and caregivers attending.

Practical demonstrations helped participants grasp the techniques, while the interactive format allowed them to clear doubts and receive personalised guidance from medical experts. This initiative by the Solapur Division underlines its continued commitment to public health and preventive care. The Railway Hospital remains a pillar of support for its employee families, ensuring not just treatment but also proactive wellness education.

Wild Vegetable Festival concluded with enthusiasm in Thane



(Standard Post Bureau)

Thane, Aug 6 : Zilla Parishad, Like every year, the District Mission Management Cell, Thane under the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Enhancement Mission (UMED) organized 'Wild Vegetable Festival 2025-26' this year too. This festival

was held today, on 6 August, 2025 at B. J. High School, Tembhi Naka, Thane. Medicinal and beneficial wild vegetables that grow naturally during the monsoon from various hilly, remote and forested areas of the district were exhibited and sold in this festival. For this, a total of

50 stalls were set up from the district, in which 100 women from Self Help Groups (SHG women) participated enthusiastically.

The festival was inaugurated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad, Rohan Ghuge. While giving guidance on

this occasion, Chief Executive Officer Rohan Ghuge said, "The Wild Vegetable Festival is a symbol of our rural culture, healthy lifestyle and self-reliance of women in self-help groups. This initiative empowers rural women economically and boosts their confidence, which is the real proof of success.

Various types of medicinal and traditional wild vegetables like Aghada, Shevla, Kurkuri Bhaji, Bharang, Mayalu, Kavla Kavli, Phodi, Dinda Bhaji, Kartoli, Takla, Shevga etc. gave the festival a healthy and cultural splendor. The citizens responded to the festival with great enthusiasm as these wild vegetables not only have nutritional value but also have health-enhancing and

disease-fighting properties. This resulted in a total profit of Rs 63,180/-. This profit has gone directly to the women and has been useful for their economic empowerment, informed Project Director Chhayadevi Shisode.

Project Director Chhayadevi Shisode, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (General Administration) Avinash Phadtare, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Gram Panchayat) Pramod Kale, District Agriculture Officer M.M Bachotikar, Education Officer (Secondary) Devidas Mahajan as well as officers of the Agriculture Department, officers and employees of the District and Taluka Mission Management Cell were present in large numbers on the occasion.

Central Government Sanctions Rs 1.9 Million to SHGs Under Khopoli Municipal Council for Food Processing Projects



(By Rajesh Undi)

Khopoli, Aug 6 : In a commendable effort to empower women and support micro-level food enterprises, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the Khopoli Municipal Council have been granted financial assistance of ₹1.9 million by the Central Government under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME). The scheme is implemented jointly with the Department of Agriculture and targets traditionally and modernly processed food producers. These SHGs were formed under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM). The scheme provides funding to groups involved in food processing to support branding, packaging, and marketing efforts at subsidized rates. The initiative ensures that locally produced food items gain better market value through formalization.

As part of this initiative, an amount of ₹1,480,000 (Fourteen Lakh Eighty Thousand Rupees) was distributed to four SHGs from the Jijau Area Level Federation of Bhanwaj village. The cheque distribution was carried out by Dr. Pankaj Patil, Administrator and Chief Officer of Khopoli Municipal Council. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Patil encouraged the SHG members to make the most of

available government schemes to enhance their productivity and become financially self-reliant. He emphasized the importance of quality packaging, branding, and entrepreneurial consistency, urging women to set a benchmark as role models in society. He extended his best wishes to the groups for their continued progress.

Mr. Gautam Bhagle, Department Head, also addressed the attendees, highlighting the importance of financial independence for women and providing detailed information on the Abhay Yojana, aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs. The program was smoothly coordinated and hosted by Mr. Pankaj Khot, City Mission Manager. The vote of thanks was delivered by Mrs. Savita Jadhav, Community Organizer. Dignitaries present at the event included Mrs. Jayshree Minde, President of the City Level Federation, Mrs. Rashmita Tupe, Community Resource Person (CRP), Mrs. Sneha Nikam, President of the Jijau Area Level Federation, along with federation office bearers and SHG members from the Bhanwaj area.

This initiative not only uplifts local women but also contributes to the region's economic development by encouraging small-scale food-based entrepreneurship through structured government support.

PM Modi expected to visit China for SCO Summit, in another thaw in bilateral ties

New Delhi, Aug 6 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit China to attend the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, to be held in Tianjin, from August 31 to September 1.

PM Modi's visit to China to attend the 25th Heads of State Council meeting of the SCO, would mark another step towards the normalization of ties between the two nations since the two sides agreed on disengagement between their troops along the boundary following the Kazan meeting in October 2024.

PM Modi had last visited China in 2019. However, his meeting with President Xi Jinping in Kazan, on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS Summit in October last year, had marked the first major step in the thawing of ties, which had soured majorly

following the 2020 bloody Galwan border clash.

Last month, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of a SCO Foreign Ministers' Meeting. During their talks in Beijing, Wang Yi had noted that China-India relations have sustained a momentum of improvement and development, which has not come easily and should be cherished with great care. PM Modi's visit to China also comes as the two countries mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them.

China is hosting the summit for the fifth time.

The theme for China's 2025 SCO presidency is "Upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move".

PM Modi is also expected to visit Japan for the annual summit talks.

Banks sanction Rs 4,930 crore under 'Tarun Plus' cover of Mudra Yojana

New Delhi, Aug 6 (UNI) Banks have sanctioned more than Rs 4,930 crore to 34,697 borrowers under the 'Tarun Plus' category of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) as of June 2025. This category was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 for loans above Rs 10 lakh and upto Rs 20 lakh targeting the borrowers who have successfully repaid their earlier 'Tarun' category loans.

Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister for Finance, said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha yesterday: "With a view to incentivising successful borrowers under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), a new category of Mudra loans namely 'Tarun Plus' was introduced in 2024-25 for those borrowers who have successfully repaid their Mudra loan under the Tarun Category." "As per PMMY guidelines, 34,697 loan accounts amounting to more than Rs 4,930 crore, as on June 2025, have been sanctioned under this newly introduced category." Finance Minister said in her reply to Congress MP Randeep Surjewala. In her reply to another question, the Finance Minister highlighted the efforts made under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which was launched in August 2014 under the National Mission on Financial Inclusion. "To give impetus to financial inclusion initiatives of the government, PMJDY was extended beyond August 14, 2018, by making the scheme more attractive," Sitharaman added. The Minister also highlighted that Scheduled Commercial Banks, including the Private Sector Banks, have been continuously working to promote the PMJDY scheme at the grassroots levels. She also pointed towards the presence of a review mechanism to continuously monitor the implementation and effectiveness of schemes with banks and relevant stakeholders.



Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge with other leaders during a meeting of the floor leaders of the INDIA bloc, at Parliament House, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

YSRCP leaders urge SP to provide security

Kadapa, Aug 6 (UNI) Amid escalating violence in former Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy’s Pulivendula constituency, ahead of the ZPTC by-election, YSR Congress Party leaders met with district Superintendent of Police on Wednesday, demanding urgent intervention to safeguard democracy. YSRCP district president Ravindranath Reddy and state general secretary Satish Reddy submitted a memorandum urging strict action against those involved in violent attacks on their party workers and sympathisers.

Satish Reddy condemned the brutal CSIR-IICT Scientist Dr Rambabu Chegondi wins CRSI Bronze Medal 2026

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (UNI) Dr Rambabu Chegondi, Principal Scientist at the CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Hyderabad, has been awarded the prestigious Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI) Bronze Medal for 2026 for his significant contributions to Asymmetric Catalysis in Organic Chemistry.

Instituted in 1999, the CRSI Bronze Medal recognizes young researchers who have made outstanding contributions in any branch of chemistry. Awardees are selected through a rigorous nomination process involving eminent scientists. Dr Chegondi will receive the medal at the 36th CRSI National Symposium in Chemistry, scheduled at Dibrugarh University from February 5-7, 2026. As part of the recognition, he will deliver a 10-minute flash talk and present a poster highlighting his research work. His research focuses on developing novel catalytic enantioselective synthetic methodologies for synthesizing biologically active molecules and designing cost-effective synthetic routes for active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) using locally available raw materials, offering both scientific and industrial significance. An alumnus of the University of Hyderabad with a Ph.D. from CSIR-IICT, Dr. Chegondi pursued postdoctoral research at the University of Kansas, USA, before joining CSIR-IICT as a scientist.

assault on YSRCP sympathisers Suresh Kumar Reddy and Amareswara Reddy, who were reportedly attacked by a mob of TDP members while on their way to attend a wedding. He said the attack was politically motivated, with some perpetrators issuing direct death threats.

“The situation in Pulivendula, which has always remained peaceful, is now being disturbed with orchestrated violence aimed at spreading fear,” he added. “Despite the seriousness of the incident, no arrests have been made so far, the YSRCP leaders alleged. On the morning of

August 6, the same group reportedly attempted to attack another YSRCP leader, Rasool, further escalating the tension in the region,” he lashed out.

YSRCP state spokesperson Rachamalla Shiva Prasad Reddy also condemned the attacks and said that TDP was deliberately engineering violence to derail the democratic process. He pointed out that false bind over cases and forced counselling sessions were being used as intimidation tactics against YSRCP cadres. Over 16 people have been injured so far in various incidents linked to the bypoll campaign. He

demanded that the attackers be arrested immediately and remanded without delay, warning that continued inaction by police could embolden further violence. Responding to concerns, the SP assured that adequate security arrangements would be made to ensure a peaceful and democratic election environment. Shiva Prasad Reddy also criticised certain media outlets for spreading misinformation and said that mere photographs with political leaders do not prove association. “People are observing everything and will not fall for this malicious propaganda,” he said.

Telangana CM leads ‘dharna’ in Delhi for 42 pc Backward Class reservation

New Delhi, Aug 6 (IANS) :Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, his entire Cabinet, Congress MPs and state legislators on Wednesday staged a day-long dharna at Jantar Mantar, demanding Presidential assent for two Bills passed by the state legislature for enhancing reservation for backward classes to 42 per cent in education, employment and local bodies.

Top Congress leadership stayed away from the protest but leaders of INDIA partners extended their support.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi did not turn up at the dharna but they took to ‘X’ to demand Presidential assent for the Bills.

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi also did not attend the dharna but backed the demand for Presidential assent.

CM Revanth Reddy led the ‘dharna’ in which Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, state ministers, state Congress president Mahesh Kumar Goud, Congress MPs, MLAs, MLCs and Backward Class leaders participated. AICC in-charge for Telangana Meenkashi Natrajan, Digvijay Singh and Deepa Dasmunshi were among the central leaders of the party who addressed the ‘dharna’.

Leaders and MPs of parties like DMK, Samajwadi Party, NCP, CPI and CPI-M participated in the ‘dharna’ to extend their support to the Telangana government.

The Telangana Assembly has passed two Bills in March to enhance Backward Class reservation in education, employment and local bodies to 42 per cent. The Governor had sent the same to the President for her assent as the overall reservation for all categories would breach the 50 per cent cap.

The Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues highlighted the need to approve the Bills to do justice to the Backward Class. They mentioned that the Bills were drafted and passed based on the data collected during caste survey conducted in the state.

Revanth Reddy alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP leaders were doing injustice to Backward Class by obstructing the Bills.

Stating that the Congress party gave a call for ‘Chalo Delhi’ to mobilise support of various parties, he said the party was determined to achieve the goal of 42 per cent reservation.

The Chief Minister said if PM Modi declines to accept their demand, they would take up the issue at the national level and defeat him in the elections and make Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister.

“In the 2029 elections, we won’t let BJP get even one seat more than 150. We take the responsibility to defeat Narendra Modi and make Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister. I swear this with Jantar Mantar as the witness,” he said.

He slammed BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao for calling the Congress dharna a drama. He remarked that all

dramas are happening in KCR’s house. The Chief Minister said while one member of the KCR family supports Backward Class reservation, another member opposes and the third stays neutral.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka also exuded confidence that Congress will definitely achieve 42 per cent reservations for Backward Classes. He said the Congress was committed to Backward Class reservation and would ensure its implementation in local body polls.

TPCC president Mahesh Kumar said that Revanth Reddy government’s decision has left PM Modi worried.

“To make a politically bold decision, one needs courage. Conducting a caste survey and reporting that Backward Classes constitute 57 per cent of the population in Telangana is no small feat,” he said.

NCP working president Supriya Sule was all praise for Revanth Reddy for taking a bold decision. She extended her party’s support for the Telangana government’s demand.

DMK leader Kanimozhi also joined the dharna in solidarity with Telangana’s demand for 42 per cent reservations.

She said that her party supports the fight for social justice and equity, and demand immediate action on the caste census and reservation bill.

She said removing 50 per cent cap on reservation was the need of the hour to do justice to weaker sections of the society who suffered for centuries in the name of caste.

Heavy rain forecast for Rayalaseema, South Coastal AP IMD

Amaravati, Aug 6 (UNI) The Meteorological Centre has predicted heavy rainfall for parts of Andhra Pradesh in the coming days, with Rayalaseema and South Coastal districts expected to receive significant showers.

According to a weather report issued on Wednesday, the upper air cyclonic circulation over Rayalaseema and its neighbourhood at 1.5 km above mean sea level persists.

Another cyclonic circulation over the southwest Bay of Bengal off the North Tamil Nadu coast continues at 3.1 km above mean sea level. Additionally, the cyclonic circulation previously over north Kerala and neighbourhood now lies over South Interior Karnataka and neighbourhood at 3.1 km above mean sea level.

An east-west trough is also present roughly along latitude 12°N, extending from the southern parts of the east-central Arabian Sea to the central parts of the south Bay of Bengal across north Kerala, South Interior Karnataka, and north interior Tamil Nadu, in association with the cyclonic circulation over the southwest Bay of Bengal. Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in Rayalaseema during the next four days and in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh on August 7 and 8. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely at several places across Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and Rayalaseema over the next week.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph are expected at isolated locations in these regions during the next five days. In the last 24 hours, heavy rainfall was recorded in Kurnool, Chittoor, and Anantapur districts of Rayalaseema, while rainfall also occurred at one or two places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, and at many places in Rayalaseema, the report added.

‘Heavy rain forecast for Telangana over next five days’

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (UNI) : The Meteorological Centre has predicted heavy rainfall at isolated places across Telangana over the next five days. In its daily weather report today, the department said that heavy rain is very likely at isolated locations in Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, and Kamareddy districts during the next 24 hours. On Thursday, heavy rain is expected in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Vikarabad, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet, and Jogulamba Gadwal districts. On Friday, Khammam will also join the list of districts likely to receive heavy rainfall.

Saturday may see heavy rain in Vikarabad, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet, and Jogulamba Gadwal, while on Sunday, heavy rain is likely at isolated places across the state.

Jagan Reddy condemns TDP attacks, speaks to injured leaders

(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, Aug 6 : YSR Congress Party president and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy strongly condemned the violent attacks by TDP goons in Pulivendula. He personally called and spoke with the injured party leaders over phone and expressed concern and solidarity with them.

Former Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy spoke over the phone with MLC Ramesh Yadav and YSRCP leader Velpula Ramalinga Reddy, who are

currently undergoing treatment at a hospital following a brutal assault. He also enquired about the condition of Saidapuram Suresh Reddy (Chanti) and Amareswara Reddy, who were injured in a separate attack led by followers of TDP leader B.Tech Ravi.

During the conversations, the injured leaders explained to Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy how the attacks were carried out. He expressed serious concern over the misuse of power by the ruling coalition and said such

actions clearly indicate that the TDP is trying to win the Pulivendula ZPTC bypolls through threats and violence rather than democracy.

The former Chief Minister asserted that the people are watching these undemocratic developments closely and will teach a fitting lesson to the TDP in the upcoming elections.

He encouraged party leaders to remain courageous and assured them that the entire party stands firmly with them.

Srinivas Garimella elected as vice President of FTCCI

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (UNI) : Srinivas Garimella has been elected as the new Vice President of the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FTCCI). His election was ratified at the Managing Committee meeting of the Chamber held here yesterday.

A seasoned entrepreneur and industry leader, Srinivas currently serves as Chairman of Daifuku Intralogistics India Pvt. Ltd., the Indian arm of Japanese multinational Daifuku. The company had earlier acquired Vega Conveyors & Automation Ltd., a venture he co-founded over two decades ago. His strategic vision has played a pivotal role in transforming India’s intralogistics sector.

Srinivas has been associated with FTCCI for nearly a decade, serving in

various capacities, including as Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee. He has been a strong advocate for MSME empowerment, skill development, and policy reforms to catalyse industrial growth in Telangana and beyond.

In addition to his leadership at Daifuku, he sits on the boards of multiple companies and chairs the IMC of Government ITI, Vikarabad—where he actively works to bridge the industry-academia gap through skill-building initiatives.

A firm believer in lifelong learning, Srinivas is also a startup investor, mentor, and thought leader. He regularly speaks at leading universities and industry forums on entrepreneurship, technology adoption, sustainability, and India’s manufacturing potential under the “Make in India” initiative.

CPI(M) calls for statewide protests in Telangana against BJP, seeks BC reservation law

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (UNI) : The CPI(M) Telangana State Secretariat, chaired by S. Veeraiah, met at MB Bhavan on Wednesday to discuss the state’s political situation and finalise upcoming agitation programs.

Party state secretary John Wesley released the decisions taken during the meeting.

The CPI(M) accused the BJP of conspiring to manipulate the upcoming

Bihar elections by removing votes belonging primarily to minorities and opposition parties.

The party alleged that the Election Commission has deleted around 64 lakh votes, including 40 to 60 per cent of votes in SC constituencies, as part of a “conspiracy” to help the BJP gain power. In response, the party has called for statewide protests in all districts and mandal centres in Telangana on August 8.

The CPI(M) also demanded that the Central

Government enact a law in Parliament to provide 42 per cent BC reservations in Telangana and include it in the 9th Schedule to safeguard the quota. It announced plans to hold dharnas across all district centers on August 9 and 10.

The party accused the BJP of adopting “double standards” on BC reservations for minorities, pointing out that such quotas are implemented in BJP-ruled states like Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh but opposed in Telangana.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Notice No. WDS/29/Repair & Rehabilitation/2025/R
Name of the Work REPAIR/REHABILITATION AND REWINDING OF AUXILIARY MOTORS OF 03 PHASE LOCOS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.
Approx. cost of work: ₹ 30,94,704.00, EMD: ₹ 61,900.00, Completion period of the work: 12 Months (01 year).
Date & time of tender closing: At 1500 hrs. on 01.09.2025.
Complete information including e-tender documents are available in website : www.ireps.gov.in
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.
SR: Divisional Mechanical Engineer (D), PR-438/Q/25-26 Visakhapatnam

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
Open e-Tender Notice No. N/E.29/Trd/Tender/12/2025-26 Dt.29.07.2025
Sealed tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works.
Sl. No. 1, Tender No. N/E.29/Trd/Tender/12/2025-26, Description of work: Provision of Monkey anti Climbing Device & High-Density Polyethylene mesh in Traction Installations to avoid bird menace - Improvement of Reliability for OHE infrastructure in the division, **Completion period:** 12 Month, **Approximate Value (₹):** 94,72,929.85, **Bid Security (₹):** 1,89,500.00
Closing date and time: 20.08.2025 at 11:00 hrs
Note: If the date of opening day happens to be holiday, the tender will be opened on next working day. For detailed conditions “Visit our site at www.ireps.gov.in”
Divisional Electrical Engineer/ A1167 TRD/Nanded
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <http://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY						
Follow us on @SCRRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in						
No.GNT/C.79/Catg/WVMs/e-auction/11/2025-2026 Date:05-08-2025						
Combined Monthly Catalogue of Guntur Division for commercial earning contracts awarding through 'e'- auction leasing.						
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, South Central Railway, Guntur Division, Guntur on behalf of the President of India, invites e bids through e auction leasing module of IREPS web portal. The details of the Water Vending Machine (WVMs) and Multi-Purpose stalls (MPS) catalogue published are as under.						
Operation and Maintenance of Water Vending Machines (WVMs) on 19.08.2025						
Sl. No.	Type of the contract	Station	Contract tenure	EMD value	Auction commencement date and time	
1.	WVM	Cluster – 4 (SAP, PGRL, NDKD & MCLA)	5 Years	10% of Bid Value	11.00 hrs of 19.08.2025	
2.	WVM	Cluster – 5 (MRGA & NLDA)	5 Years	10% of Bid Value	11.00 hrs of 19.08.2025	
3.	WVM	Vinukonda (VKN) (Platform No.1)	5 Years	10% of Bid Value	11.00 hrs of 19.08.2025	
4.	WVM	Savalyapuram (SYM) (Platform 1)	5 Years	10% of Bid Value	11.00 hrs of 19.08.2025	
5.	WVM	Donakonda (DKD) (Platform 1)	5 Years	10% of Bid Value	11.00 hrs of 19.08.2025	
6.	WVM	Cumbum (CBM) (Platform No.1)	5 Years	10% of Bid Value	11.00 hrs of 19.08.2025	
7.	WVM	Giddalur (GID) (Platform No.1)	5 Years	10% of Bid Value	11.00 hrs of 19.08.2025	
MPS Stalls e-auction on 19.08.2025.						
Sl. No.	Type of the contract	Station / Location	Reserved for	Contract tenure	EMD value	Auction commencement date and time
1.	MPS stall	MANGALAGIRI (PF No. 1)	OBC - General	5 Years	10% of Bid Value	11.00 hrs of 19.08.2025
2.	MPS stall	NADIKUDI (PF No. 1)	Women - General	5 Years	10% of Bid Value	11.00 hrs of 19.08.2025
3.	MPS stall	DONAKONDA (PF.No.1)	SC - General	5 Years	10% of Bid Value	11.00 hrs of 19.08.2025
It is the responsibility of the tenderer to obtain digital signature certificate and register themselves in ireps 'e' auction leasing in for participating in 'e' tenders. The prerequisites for registration and for participation in 'e' auction leasing through ireps portal are available under manual and guidelines of www.ireps.gov.in portal. The tenderer should submit the requisite documents to the office of the under signed when called for. Railway Administration cannot be held responsible for any hindrance caused in the IREPS portal during the payment or uploading of documents required in connection with the tender. Tenders received without fulfilling all the conditions stipulated in the tender form shall be summarily rejected. Complete details of the above tender is available in e auction leasing module of www.ireps.gov.in portal.						
A1179						Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Guntur

STANDARD POST

US tariffs on seafood to affect Indian fisheries sector

The United States’ reciprocal tariffs on seafood trade are placing Indian fishers in increasingly vulnerable economic positions, according to experts at a two-day national seminar on 'Mitigating Climate Change Impact on Marine Ecosystems.'

The seminar, jointly organised here by the ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, is sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi.

It also highlighted the urgent need for a proper action plan for climate change mitigation and ecosystem restoration.

Marine scientists, citing shifts in species biology, distribution, and environmental conditions, warned that climate change is significantly transforming marine ecosystems and fisheries in India.

Dr. K. R. Sreenath, Director of the Fishery Survey of India, who inaugurated the seminar yesterday, said the effects of climate change are evident in the coral reef bleaching in Lakshadweep, which poses a serious threat to biodiversity and coastal protection.

He stressed the urgent need for accurate prediction models for weather events and fish species distribution and abundance, which are essential for sustainable fisheries planning and disaster risk reduction.

Dr. K. Mohammed Koya, Fisheries Development Commissioner, Government of India, said climate change has drastically altered the Lakshadweep ecosystem, significantly impacting fisheries.

He noted that seagrass beds have been damaged and stressed the importance of effective restoration.

Introducing seaweed farming in the lagoons, he suggested, could attract rare species and benefit local fishing.

The central government’s carbon market system could also incentivise fishermen and fish farmers to adopt such restorative practices.

Prof. Vinod Sharma, Climate Change Advisor to the Government of Sikkim, said coastal shorelines have been changing more rapidly since 2000 due to climate-related events.

“The Arabian Sea has seen a recent increase in the frequency of cyclones. This has led to greater saltwater intrusion in vulnerable coastal areas, seriously impacting the health of local communities,” he added.

Dr. Surajit Mahalanobis, Senior Research Fellow at the ISS, presented an overview of the seminar. Dr. Shoba Joe Kizhakudan and Dr. Pooja Sharma also spoke at the inauguration.

A wide range of topics — including adaptive management strategies, socio-economic resilience, nature-based solutions, innovation, and emerging technologies — are being discussed at the seminar, which will conclude on Wednesday.

CMFRI Director Dr. Grinson George said a key concern is the change in fish phenology — or life cycle patterns — where commercially important species are now maturing at smaller sizes. “Silver pomfret now matures at 280 g, down from 410 g. Similar reductions in size and fecundity are being seen in coastal prawns, sardines, and mackerels, affecting reproductive success and recruitment into fisheries,” he said.

On shifts in fish stock geography, he highlighted the northward migration of species such as the Indian oil sardine, a trend predicted under future climate scenarios driven by changes in food availability, rainfall, oceanic upwelling, and oxygen levels. According to him, fishermen lose a considerable number of fishing days each year due to cyclone warnings and other extreme weather events. He emphasised that a community-oriented approach must be integral to policy-making to ensure local support and the long-term success of conservation and adaptation efforts.

Study Finds Diet Soda May Triple Risk of Stroke and Alzheimer’s

Frequent Diet Soda Intake May Harm Brain and Increase Stroke Risk

(Standard Post Bureau)

In today’s health-conscious world, diet sodas have long been marketed as a guilt-free alternative to their sugary counterparts, offering the same taste without the added calories. However, recent evidence suggests that what many perceive as a “healthier” option may in fact be doing more harm than good—particularly to our brains.

A study published in the American Heart Association’s leading journal Stroke has raised serious concerns about the long-term neurological effects of consuming diet sodas. The research followed over 2,800 adults aged 45 and above for a decade and found that those who consumed one or more artificially sweetened beverages daily had a nearly threefold increased risk of developing both ischemic stroke and Alzheimer’s dementia. The hazard ratio for ischemic stroke was

2.96 and for Alzheimer’s was 2.89—staggeringly high figures that demand attention and caution.

To put these numbers into perspective, a hazard ratio (HR) of 1.0 implies no difference in risk between two groups. An HR of 2.0 means there is a 100% increase in risk, and an HR nearing 3.0, as found in this study, is significant enough to raise alarms across the medical community. In simpler terms, individuals consuming diet sodas daily are nearly three times more likely to suffer a stroke or develop Alzheimer’s than those who do not. Artificial sweeteners—like aspartame, sucralose, and saccharin—are the common ingredients in diet sodas. While these substances are calorie-free, they are not metabolically inert. Multiple studies have suggested that artificial sweeteners may disrupt gut microbiota, alter



Dr Vipul Gupta, Director - Neurointerventional Surgery, Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital, Mumbai

insulin sensitivity, and impact vascular health. But when it comes to brain function, these sweeteners may have more insidious effects. The vascular system plays a crucial role in maintaining brain health. Any compromise in blood vessels—such as those caused by chronic inflammation or endothelial dysfunction—

can lead to reduced cerebral blood flow. This is the key driver of ischemic strokes, where parts of the brain are deprived of oxygen due to blocked arteries. Similarly, chronic vascular insufficiency and inflammation have been strongly linked with neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s. Another

hypothesis is that the artificial sweetness tricks the brain into craving more sugar and processed food, indirectly leading to metabolic syndrome—a known risk factor for stroke and cognitive decline. Moreover, repeated exposure to non-nutritive sweeteners may interfere with learning and memory by altering neurotransmitter pathways, although more research is needed in this area. From a neurologist’s point of view, this study should be a wake-up call. Stroke is already one of the leading causes of disability and death worldwide, and Alzheimer’s disease continues to be an escalating public health crisis with no definitive cure. If a simple lifestyle habit like switching to artificially sweetened beverages can dramatically increase these risks, then it is imperative we reconsider our dietary choices.

The findings also highlight the need for better public education and food labeling. Most people believe they are making a healthier choice when they pick up a can of diet soda instead of regular cola. This perception is reinforced by aggressive marketing campaigns that focus solely on weight loss and calorie count, often ignoring the broader metabolic and neurological consequences. As a medical professional, I advise my patients to adopt a cautious and informed approach to their diet. Water, fresh fruit juices, herbal teas, or even sparkling water with a dash of lemon are safer and healthier alternatives to diet sodas. Moderation is key—occasional indulgence may not be harmful, but habitual consumption, as this study shows, could be a recipe for long-term neurological damage.

Satish Singh’s seventh music album, “Tum Bin Zindagi Adhoori Lage,” was released on OTT platforms and Bollywood Music



(Standard Post Bureau)

The album “Tum Bin Zindagi Adhoori Lage” is captivating audiences with its spellbinding lyrics that speak to the heart of love. This enchanting song beautifully captures the essence of what it means to be in love, portraying the stark reality that life feels incomplete and desolate without a cherished partner. When love blossoms, the ordinary world morphs into a

paradise, full of colour and vibrancy. The lyrics invite listeners on a heartfelt journey, stirring deep emotions and emphasising that, without love, life can feel devoid of meaning and joy.

Krishna Goswami’s soulful voice brings the song to life, striking a chord deep within the hearts of listeners, while the beautifully crafted melodies create a dreamlike atmosphere imbued with

love.

You can immerse yourself in this musical experience on popular platforms like Spotify, Amazon Music, Jio Saavn, and YouTube Music.

Shri Singh, a talented native of Patna, Bihar, launched his musical journey with the debut album “Piya Re O Re Piya,” released on December 25, 2021. Since then, he has been on a creative roll, releasing a series of albums

that span a wide range of emotions.

His second album, “Hasraton Ka Koi Kinara Nahi Hota,” graced audiences on January 21, 2025, followed closely by “Mehbooba Ko Khat Likhe Hain” on February 8, 2025. He didn’t stop there—his subsequent works include “Himmat Hai to Chhoo Kar Dekh Zara” on March 22, 2025, “Ishq” on May 27, and “Mila Julia Karo” on June 28.

Beyond his musical endeavours, Shri Singh is a distinguished columnist, author, and storyteller. His contributions have earned him over a dozen awards, including a prestigious honour at the Parliament in London on May 25, 2023, for his tireless promotion of financial literacy and advocacy for the Hindi language. With a passion for storytelling and a commitment to his roots, Singh continues to inspire and uplift through his art.

Goa Sets Gold Standard in Waste Management with Tech, Community and Green Ambition

(Standard Post Bureau)

When one thinks of Goa, it's usually the golden beaches, easy going life, and vibrant culture that come to mind. But over the past few years, Goa is transforming into one of India’s cleanest and most efficient states when it comes to managing waste.

In just under a decade, the state has built an impressive portfolio of infrastructure dedicated to waste management. The Saligao Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility, which began with a modest 100 TPD (tonnes

per day) capacity, now operates at 250 TPD and that too sustainably. Meanwhile, the newly inaugurated Cacora facility in South Goa, flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February 2024, is capable of treating 100 TPD and generates 8,000 cubic meters of biogas daily, converted into clean electricity.

Panaji Leads with People

Waste management isn’t just about machines and megawatts, it’s about mindset. And in Goa’s capital, Panaji, the “Bin Free

Campaign” is a shining example. With over 120 housing colonies now composting wet waste and sending 2,464 tonnes of non-recyclables to cement kilns, the city is redefining urban civic responsibility. Even more ambitious is the 16-way dry waste segregation system, being scaled up to 28 categories, making Panaji one of India’s most advanced municipal models in waste classification.

Why This Matters

At a time when many states are still struggling with basic collection and

segregation, Goa is pioneering circular economy principles, integrating community engagement with tech-led waste infrastructure. It’s a model that’s not just scalable but inspirational and especially for coastal states facing mounting environmental pressures.

And the journey isn’t stopping here. To further boost citizen participation and drive responsible disposal, the Goa government is preparing to launch a Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS), a first state level DRS in India.

Moradabad, Aug 6 (UNI): Inaugurating the Atal Residential School in Moradabad, constructed at a cost of Rs 79 crore, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today launched a scathing attack on the opposition. He remarked that those who once came to power through appeasement politics now find themselves politically irrelevant — neither connected to society nor concerned about future generations.

Lashing out at the Samajwadi Party, Yogi Adityanath questioned its leaders’ recent talk of “PDA”, citing their poor track record in the education sector.

He recalled that during the Kalyan Singh’s government, when students were taught G for Ganesh, SP leaders objected and demanded it be changed to G for Goofball.

“This reflects their mindset,” said CM Yogi, adding that while the BJP seeks to instil Indian culture and values in children, SP leaders had no qualms about insulting revered deities like Lord Ganesh.

Highlighting the poor state of education under previous regimes, Yogi said, "There were neither timely recruitments of teachers nor any serious efforts to improve educational standards. The entire administrative and academic ecosystem was crippled by nepotism and caste-based politics."

Criminal elements operated with impunity in almost every district, dragging the state into an era of anarchy and communal unrest. “For them, mass cheating was a right, not a crime. They gambled with the future of our youth through systematic exam fraud,” he added.

CM Yogi emphasised that the BJP’s welfare schemes are rooted not in appeasement but in genuine public satisfaction, ensuring benefits reach every citizen without bias or discrimination. Criticising past governments, he said, "Power was once treated as a platform for appeasement, turning education into a hub of cheating, chaos, and caste politics." "Today, those same people are suddenly concerned about public satisfaction," he said. "Our government doesn’t indulge in appeasement — it works for the holistic welfare of all. That’s why the public continues to trust the BJP."

Extending festive greetings for Raksha Bandhan, Shri Krishna Janmashtami, and Independence Day, the Chief Minister also announced free travel for all women in state-run buses on August 8, 9, and 10.

Dedicating the new school to the children of labourer families in the Moradabad division, Yogi described it as an ideal "temple of education" established in the memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, during his birth centenary year.

He said the school is not only an educational institution but also a centre to instil cultural values, discipline and self-reliance in the younger generation.

Highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s directive for the effective use of the BOC fund, the CM said that, unlike previous governments where this fund was misused for corruption and distribution, it is now being directed towards the education of workers’ children.

He said today’s Uttar Pradesh is not only scaling new heights of development but also taking pride in its cultural heritage and educational progress.

Thankar Poddar, better known by his stage name 2Blue entered the Mumbai Indi rock circuit back in 2000. And ever since then, he has had always made his way of mesmerising the audience with his awe-inspiring performances. In a candid conversation, the light-hearted conversationalist, 2Blue talks about his journey from MBA to Zedde, his idea of success and his upcoming performance at Hard Rock Cafe.

2Blue sounds to be a very unusual name. What's the story behind it?

Unusual name? You could get into trouble for saying that in Kolkata (laughs). You know, the legendary RD Burman, his nickname was Tublu too. Just that he was more conventional with the spelling.

Vayu to Zedde must have been quite a journey. Please comment.

When you are the lead singer of a band, it becomes a huge part of your life. With Vayu, I stood 10 feet tall at practically every significant music festival in the country between 2003 and 2008. With Zedde, we won awards, made it to all popular TV and radio shows and also made some great friends along the way. Hindsight is very important for me. It reminds me of where I come from and helps me not lose my gratitude.

One of Zedde's hit numbers 'Mumbai' is believed to be the story of your life. Please elaborate.

True! The song is quite auto-biographical. It speaks of a small-town boy who comes to the city on a train carrying just a bag full of dreams. The city takes him under her wings, nurses his wounds, washes him clean and he falls in love with her instantly. The song won the Asian Anthem of the Year title at AVIMA 2010 and also propelled us to the top at the ArtistAloud Awards the very same year. You see, these miracles wouldn't have happened if I wasn't filled with love and gratitude for the place I now call home.

How has life changed for you since you took up music over MBA?

Knowledge is never a waste. Business school honed my business sense, some-

thing I use in dealing with event organisers now. As Steve Jobs said, the dots eventually align.

What attracted you to rock music?

The same thing that attracts a fish to the water and a bird to the sky.

Any bands or musicians you seek inspiration from?

I seek inspiration from bands and musicians who break the mould to make the mould, artists who are not scared to be weird and eccentric. The names are countless but, mostly, from the halcyon days of classic rock and some even from our very own indie circle.

It wouldn't be wrong to say that the music scenario in India is still developing. Do you believe that budding musicians lack the right kind of marketing and promotion?

Yes and no. Yes, because the big labels are yet focusing only on either iconic acts or fresh talent with blatant disregard for the artistic middleclass and no, because it is now the artiste's market. You don't need a big label to promote your music if you are smart and if your music is good. DIY (Do It Yourself) is the way to go. In more ways than one, the independent music circle is now the fertile breeding ground for self-respecting artistes.

Any upcoming projects in line?

I'm taking my Bollywood band very seriously. Also, we play a monthly show at Hard Rock Café Andheri, the next show being on Friday, September 18.

How would you rate the Mumbai crowd?

In general, the Mumbai audiences are now a lot more aware and informed. It's always a thrill to play in Mumbai. They appreciate good music for what it is; whether it is something that you created or not.

What should the audience be expecting at Hard Rock Cafe on September 18?

Madness... served with a thick sticky coating of love. A lot of west-meets-east kind of moments.

A piece of advice for budding musicians and singers.

Your heart will never let you down. Do what your heart says.

In 2 the Blue

From a daytime job to a rock and roller by night, 2Blue spill the beans on his journey so far, his band Zedde, upcoming projects and the forthcoming performance at the city's popular cafe



Wash this way...

Here is the list of the things that you should not put into dishwasher, remember to just hand wash them



Dishwashers were a blessing when they started popping up in homes in the 1950s. Finally! A quick way to tackle a big batch of dirty dishes. But as much as we love them, they're not a cure-all and some items need a good ol' fashioned hand-washing. Here's what the cleaning pros for that will help you to keep far away from the rinse cycle:

A cast-iron skillet

You know how you have to season your skillet before using it? Well, when you put it in the dishwasher, you're basically undoing all of that hard work. Instead, rinse it in warm water or rub it clean with salt.

Any wooden utensils

The hot water and heat for drying is too harsh for your mixing spoons, spatulas, or any other tool with wood on it. The material may warp and lose its shape making them no good for stirring.

Your wooden cutting boards

Like the wooden spoons, hot water will cause the finish of your favorite wooden board to dull and possibly warp. Instead, use a mixture of 3/4 cup chlorine bleach and 1 gallon of water to scrub it clean.

Your Grandma's Vintage Plates

If you were gifted the family china when you got married, be wary of exposing it to the hot water and detergents that can eat away at any gold trim or hand-painted details.

Your garlic press

They speed up supper, but you'll need to slow down to clean them. Since garlic is sticky in paste form, bits of it get stuck in the crevices. Wash yours by hand to ensure it's totally spotless for your next meal prep session.

An insulated mug

Some newer travel mugs are dishwasher safe, but for others, your dishwasher will destroy the insulating materials after water gets trapped between the layers.

Bottles with labels still on

them
If you want to keep your jam jar, just make sure you remove the paper label and any adhesive remnants first - those materials usually come off in the dishwasher and can get stuck in the filter, which might lead to more serious problems later.

Any aluminum cookware

According to Franke, any cookware that is made of aluminum will discolor your dishwasher. This goes for the disposable stuff, too.

Your cheese grater

The cheesy goodness you just sprinkled on top of your tacos might still be stuck in the holes even after a cycle in dishwasher. Instead, use soap and a sponge to wash it by hand and ensure today's cheddar doesn't mix with tomorrow's mozzarella.

Your fancy chef knives

Since the hard plastic in your dishwasher shouldn't be nicked, you should keep your knives far away from it, Forte says. But if your dishwasher has a rack for knives, you're the exception to the rule.

Copper pots, pans and mugs

If you enjoy a tasty Moscow Mule in a copper mug as much as we do, you know half of the appeal is your cup's beautiful color. But according to Franke, the harshness of the dishwasher can cause any copper surfaces to dull.

Cookware with burnt-on stains

So you let the potatoes sit in the oven for a little too long and now you have dark, stubborn crust on your glass baking dish. Since it'll take some serious elbow grease to tackle it, the dishwasher won't cut it.

Your Crystal

Keep your punch bowl and glasses far, far away: The high water temperature may leave your crystal chipped, cracked, or dull.

Watch your language!



In the battle of LOL and haha, usage of emojis and text messaging vocabulary defines your age

Maybe you send a seemingly innocent text, and throw a hehe, haha, or LOL in for good measure. Or perhaps, instead of sending a :), you're tossing in five emoji. Better yet, you're sending bitmojis.

All of these things just might give away how old you are - or at least what decade you grew up in. Check out the most popular things to add on to your texts with friends, and see if what you choose is revealing your age.

Your show of laughter

If you use ... LOL
You grew up in the 80s. Or at least, Facebook says you did. According to Quartz, the social media giant analyzed comments on posts that incited laughter, and found that less than 5 percent of people are using the seemingly outdated LOL. Those in their 30s, as opposed to 20s. Sure, Facebook isn't exactly the same as texts, but since you're likely still sending those LOLs on your phone, we're going to say close enough.

If you use ... Haha
Oh hey, 90s child. Sure, you were around when LOL hit it big, but that fire quickly burnt out. You'd rather show people you're laughing by actually typing out the sound you would make. So we won't be surprised if you toss in a hehe every now and then.

If you use ... :)
Again, we're gonna guess you were born in the '80s. That's because you were around before the beloved emoji keyboard, so you had to work with what little entertainment your tiny little keyboard remember the enV3? could provide. Sure, you're not afraid to toss in a few emoji here and there especially those raise the roof hands but as far as you're concerned, there's nothing wrong with a classic colon and right-side parentheses.

If you use ... Bitmojis
Emoji just don't express enough for you. You need a full-on avatar with a wide array of phrases to choose from, because you're a complex individual. Which makes sense if you grew up in the 90s because sometimes the thought of never using another Bonne Bell Lip Smacker is just too much to bear, and a simple ?? will never be able to communicate that accurately.

If you use ... heyyyy or niiiiie
It's not quite the same as a text, but researchers analyzed stylistic ties between younger and older tweeters to see how their language use differed. The younger peeps were more likely to use ALL CAPS and alphabetical lengthening that's fancy speak for adding more letters to the word. And since you seem to be more open-minded, I'm going to assume you're more likely to make up words. Making you the reason for butthurt and awesomesauce being officially entered into Oxford Dictionaries. Take that as you will.

If you use ... hey or nice
Basically, if you're older, you like to write words the proper way. Not only did those same researchers find that you don't use alphabetical lengthening all that much, but you also use more prepositions like for, to, and under. Don't ask me how people are getting away with not using them to complete comprehensible sentences, but apparently it's a thing. Just roll with it.

*While some of these results have been backed up by research, others are the creation of the inner workings of my super-fun brain and conversations with my co-workers. So don't forget to LOL ... or haha ... or hehe.



FRY TALE

Your breakfast is counting on the perfect fried eggs. Here is how

Perfection is overrated, except in the case of fried eggs. On their own, they make a tasty breakfast in less than five minutes. Beyond mornings, they have the ability to elevate those sad leftovers into a meal of greatness. Got leftover rice, veggies, or pasta? Put an egg on it. Here's how to make them perfect every time.

► Prepare your pan
First, heat one tablespoon of neutral oil like canola into a non-stick skillet on medium until its shimmering, but not smoking. You'll know it's shimmering when the oil starts to glisten and easily

coats the surface of the pan.

► Then, prepare your eggs
Meanwhile, carefully crack each egg into a small bowl, making sure to keep the yolk in tact.

► Start cooking
When the oil is ready, gently pour two eggs into the skillet and cook uncovered for one minute. If you like some browning on the bottom and edges of the white, use a higher heat, being careful not burn it before the top has cooked through.

► Cover the pan for

one minute

Put a lid on the pan and cook the egg until the white is set and the yolk is done to your liking. For a runnier egg, stop cooking when the white has just set and the yolk is still bright yellow.

► Quickly remove from the pan

Every second matters with eggs, so have a plate ready and remove the eggs from the heat as soon as they are done. Season them with salt and pepper and serve them immediately.

Constant checking of phone while talking to partner causes the other one to ignore

Do you constantly keep checking your phone while talking to your partner, even while out on a romantic date? If yes, you are guilty of p-phubbing.

Phubbing is the act of snubbing someone in a social setting by looking at your phone and p-phubbing relates specifically to when you ignore a partner while doing so.

Researchers have now found that p-phubbing can cause the person being ignored to become depressed and anxious in their relationship, and it can even impact other aspects of their life.

The term phubbing was coined in 2013 and is a portmanteau of the words phone and snubbing, the additional p stands for partner and was added by researchers from Baylor University.

Led by business professor James Roberts, a team from

Baylor University in Texas surveyed 145 men and women in relationships.

Each participant was presented with a series of statements and was asked to rate them on a scale of how often they experienced them.

The statements included, "My partner glances at his/her phone when talking to me", "My partner uses his or her phone when we are out together", and "during a typical mealtime that my partner and I spend together, my partner pulls out and checks his/her phone".

They were also asked to explain how this made them feel.

The results found that p-phubbing had a direct impact on relationship satisfaction across the board.

This was intensified if the person being ignored had what's known as an anxious attachment style.



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Neeraj, Ishan Kataria, Yatri Patel, Priya to fight for gold after convincing wins in semis



Bangkok, Aug 6 (IANS) : Neeraj (men’s 75kg) and Ishan Kataria (men’s 90+kg), Yatri Patel (women’s 57kg), Priya (women’s 60kg) registered convincing victories to reach the finals of their respective weight categories in the U22 Asian Boxing Championships 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand on Wednesday.

Bangkok, Aug 6 (IANS) Neeraj (men’s 75kg) and Ishan Kataria (men’s 90+kg), Yatri Patel (women’s 57kg), Priya (women’s 60kg) registered convincing victories to reach the finals of their respective weight categories in the U22 Asian Boxing Championships

2025 in Bangkok, Thailand on Wednesday. Neeraj banked on his speed and counter attacks to defeat Kyeongho Bang of South Korea 5:0 to become the first Indian boxer to make it to the summit clash on Wednesday. Ishan Kataria then joined him in the final when he used his big frame and strong punches to dominate Chen Chen of China as the referee had to stop the contest in the third round as the Chinese was getting battered.

Yatri Patel then became the first Indian women boxer to reach the final as she used the left-right combination punches to great effect to dominate Vietnam’s Thi Nhung

Quand to bag a 5:0 unanimous verdict in the women’s 57kg semifinals. A few minutes later, Priya also came up with a dominating performance to overpower Uzbekistan’s Odinakhon Ismoilova to reach the women’s 60kg final.

The U19 and U22 Asian Boxing Championships, which are being held simultaneously, provides India’s rising stars a platform to showcase their skills and determination against some Asia’s toughest opponents. India has fielded a strong contingent of 40 boxers — 20 in each age group — with a perfect mix of proven champions and potential talents who have

impressed in the domestic circuit.

Among the four other semi-finalists in the morning session, Rocky Chaudhary was unlucky as the referee did not allow him to continue in the second round as he suffered cuts over both his eyebrows against Iran’s Sam Estaki.

Harsh (60kg) and Mayur (90kg) took the fight to their respective opponents but could not finish on the right side of the split verdict from the judges. Harsh went down 1:4 against Uzbekistan’s Shohruh Abdulmikov while Mayur lost to Shakhzod Polvonov of the same country. Ankush, the other boxer in fray, went down 0:5 against Sanzhar-Ali Begaliyev of Kazakhstan. All the four boxers will bring home a bronze medal.

In the evening session, Bhawna Sharma could not rekindle her quarterfinal form and went down 1:4 against Robiyakhon Bakhtiyorova of Uzbekistan in the women’s 48kg weight category. Also finishing with the bronze medals were Parthavi Grewal (women’s 60kg), Parnjal Yadav (women’s 65kg) and Shruti (women’s 75kg) after they lost their respective semi-final bouts.

Mohammedan SC aim for strong finish after early exit

Kolkata, Aug 6 (UNI) Indian Super League (ISL) side Mohammedan Sporting Club will look to bow out of the Durand Cup with pride as they take on the Border Security Force Football Team in their final Group B fixture at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan here tomorrow. The Kolkata side are already out of contention for the knockout stages, having suffered defeats to Mohun Bagan Super Giant and Diamond Harbour FC. Both those sides have won their opening two matches having secured six points each. Their opponents BSF Football Team find themselves in a similar position, also having lost both games to MBSG and Diamond Harbour FC. Thursday’s clash then becomes a battle to end the campaign on a high note.

It’s been a tough outing for Mohammedan SC, a youthful side that has shown promise in patches but lacked the experience to see out results. In their opening match against Diamond Harbour FC, they went ahead but eventually fell to a 2-1 defeat after conceding twice in the second half. In the much-anticipated Kolkata Derby, Mohammedan SC held their own against a strong MBSG side and managed to equalise but were eventually overpowered in a 3-1 loss. Despite the setbacks, there have been encouraging signs for the Kolkata-based outfit.

Indonesia hold India at bay in AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup Qualifiers opener

Yangon (Myanmar), Aug 6 (UNI) : The India U20 Women’s Team were held to a goalless draw by Indonesia at the Thuwunna Stadium today, in their opening Group D encounter of the AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers. The Young Tigresses have one point in the group, which is currently topped by hosts Myanmar, who defeated Turkmenistan 6-1 at the same venue, earlier in the day. An intense midfield battle began right from the kick-off, as both sides looked to assert their dominance. India managed to settle into the game early on, as they were able to pass it around in the opposition half, often creating chances down the wings. Neha’s sixth-minute cross from the left wing deceived the Indonesian defence, leaving Pooja and Sulanjana Raul on the chase at the far post. A simple touch could have posed serious questions to Indonesia goalkeeper Alleana Ayu Arumy, but the ball eluded everyone.

As the clock ticked past

the half-hour mark, Sulanjana and Pooja tried their luck from long range. While the former’s effort missed the target by inches, the latter saw her shot fly straight into Alleana’s hands.

Neha looked lively down the left flank after the change of ends, but the Indonesia defenders worked in unison to isolate the former and gain possession of the ball.

With a little over 20 minutes left, India began to press high in order to induce some panic among the Indonesia defence. Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam intercepted a pass in the attacking third and cut it back for substitute Babita Kumari, who had replaced Neha. The latter, however, was unable to get a touch on the ball. Minutes later, Sibani looked to find Babita again with a cross from the left, but Alleana collected it calmly. Indonesia’s only notable chance of the match came in the 87th minute, when substitute Ajeng Sri Handayani bounded past the India defence and attempted to place the ball

at the far post. India goalkeeper Monalisha Devi Moirangthem, however, got down low to make a save before Thoibisana Chanu Toijam cleared.

India had two good chances in injury time, both off free-kicks by Anju Chanu Kayenpaibam, one from each flank. While both the free-kicks were on target, the Indonesia goalkeeper managed to palm them away.

The Young Tigresses will square off against Turkmenistan in their second match at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on August 8, at 18:00 IST, in Group D of the Qualifiers.

India U20 Women: Monalisha Devi Moirangthem (GK), Remi Thokchom, Thoibisana Chanu Toijam, Arina Devi Nameirakpam (Bhumika Devi Khumukcham 67’), Neha (Babita Kumari 67’), Pooja (Deepika Pal 90+3’), Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam, Shubhangi Singh (C), Anju Chanu Kayenpaibam, Cindy Remruatpuii Colney, Sulanjana Raul (Monisha Singha 84’).

West Indies eye World Cup push from Pakistan ODI series

Trinidad, Aug 6 (UNI): West Indies have unveiled a 15-member squad for the ODI series against Pakistan for the three-match tournament set to be played here on August 8.

Led by Shai Hope, the squad featuring multiple young faces that the Windies have relied on in recent times, has been bolstered by the return of dynamic all-rounder Romario Shepherd. Shepherd makes his comeback to the West Indies ODI side since the series against Bangladesh last year.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old wicket-keeper-batter Jewel Andrew, who made his ODI debut against Sri Lanka last year, has kept his place from the team that featured in the ODI series in England earlier this summer.

Left-arm pacer Jediah Blades, who earned his first cap against Bangladesh in 2024, earns a recall.

Amir Jangoo, who scored a memorable ton on his ODI debut against the Tigers last year, also retains his spot, having featured against Ireland back in May. West Indies are coming into the series on the back of a 2-1 T20I series loss at home.

Head coach Daren Sammy believes the series presents an opportunity to strengthen their case for a spot at the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup in 2027, an ICC report said.

“Pakistan presents a different test and challenge as we continue our push for automatic qualification for the 2027 World Cup,” Sammy said.

“While qualifying is our immediate goal, maintaining a winning mentality and team cohesion is essential for long-term success.

IGPL will be launchpad for future generations: Gaganjeet Singh Bhullar

New Delh, Aug 6 (UNI) : Gaganjeet Singh Bhullar, the veteran Indian golfer, has signed on with the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) as an Icon player, and will be leading one of the six franchises in the highly-anticipated tournament. The Arjuna Awardee, during a media briefing, expressed his excitement, describing IGPL as one of the most exciting golf ventures in many years, and explained the reasons behind his participation.

“Golf is an individual sport. But whenever I have had the opportunity to represent my country, I have really enjoyed playing as a team,” Bhullar, who was part of India’s silver medal-winning team at the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, said.

“When I heard the news regarding a golf league, I knew it was exactly what I was looking forward for. Because we do not often get to play as a team. I think that was one part which was missing and I was really looking forward to do that,” the 37-year-old said.

IGPL will be hosting India’s first-ever professional league tour to feature both men and women playing on the same platform, competing across

franchise teams and regional circuits. The integrated format not only redefines how golf is played in India but also reflects their commitment to promote inclusive excellence and athlete empowerment.

From having the Indian cricket legend and golf enthusiast Yuvraj Singh as a co-owner and the brand ambassador, to signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Golf Union (IGU) — the official governing body for men’s amateur golf in India - the IGPL has already made major moves to establish themselves as a premier league competition for men’s, women’s and amateur golf talent.

Bhullar views the tournament as an opportunity to nurture, groom and spot fresh talent – and is eager to help in this endeavour.

“When I got the opportunity to be a captain of one of the teams, I thought I could mentor the next generation of Indian golfers. I am personally going to really enjoy this aspect. There are other icon stars with the likes of Shiv Kapur, Gaurav Ghei, SSP Chawrasia – who all have

been veterans of the sport. This will be really beneficial for the young players to quicken their growth,” he further added.

Further, to create an overall impact on the ecosystem and to funnel rising talent into the league, IGPL tour will be played across different cities in the build-up to the first edition of the league between September and December.

“One of the things that people don’t realise is that golf is a very expensive sport. And for some of the youngsters to get a launchpad like the IGPL at early stages of their careers is immensely helpful. It’s not just a ceremonial league. It’s going to be very competitive and there’s going to be serious prize money to win here,” Bhullar said.

“Hence, for some youngsters to come out and get that opportunity to make money and invest it in themselves, and then to go and play across different tournaments is a big thing. Because golf being an expensive sport, it’s sometimes very difficult to have the resources to invest in your own game at the starting point of your career. I think that’s something that the league will also do,” Bhullar added.

Xi'an International Football Center to host China's AFC U23 Asian Cup qualifiers

XI’AN (China), Aug 6 (UNI) The Xi’an International Football Center in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province is set to host its first international matches, beginning with China’s group-stage fixtures in the 2026 AFC U23 Asian Cup qualifiers from September 3 to 9.

China will face Australia, Timor-Leste and the Northern Mariana Islands in Group D. The winners of the 11 groups and the four best runner-ups will qualify for the finals in January 2026 in Saudi Arabia.

“Today, we can say with relief that Xi’an International Football Center is all set!” read an open letter released Monday by the stadium’s operator, Shaanxi Tourism Group.

Construction on the 60,000-seat venue began in 2020. According to the Chinese Football Association, China will open its qualifying campaign against Timor-Leste on September 3 at the new stadium.

Although the venue has hosted several trial events, local second-tier side Shaanxi Union has yet to announce when it will begin playing its China League One home matches there. Beyond professional football, the stadium is expected to host fitness activities, amateur competitions and concerts.

‘Shooting League of India will be a landmark moment for the sport’

New Delhi, Aug 4 (UNI) : Former world number one and Olympian Ronjan Sodhi is enthusiastically looking forward to the Shooting league of India (SLI) and has described it as a landmark moment for the sport. Sodhi, one of India’s most decorated trap shooters said "The league format is something we have been discussing for a long time. With the kind of depth we now have in Indian shooting, this is the right step forward," Sodhi said. “It’s going to be exciting for the fans, great for the young shooters, and much-needed for the sport.”

"This league has the potential to transform Indian shooting. It’s not just about medals anymore. It’s about building a culture,” Sodhi added.

Sodhi feels that apart from being a great platform for young domestic as well as International shooting talent the league will enhance visibility of the sport.

"You can’t love a sport you don’t see. Kids have to see the sport to be inspired. Neeraj Chopra winning gold caused javelins to sell out across the country overnight. That’s the power of visibility,” he said. "When international stars and Indian Olympians shoot together in a televised, high-energy league, it becomes a spectacle people will want to follow and join” he added. The Shooting League of India, scheduled to be held between November 20 and December 2, 2025, will feature eight franchise teams in a fast-paced mixed-team format. Events will include 10M and 25M Pistol, 10M and 50M Rifle (3P), and Shotgun (Trap & Skeet). Teams will compete in a two-pool league stage, with player selection strategically tiered into Elite Champions, World Elite, National Champions, and Junior & Youth Champions to create competitive balance.

While praising government support through schemes like Khelo India and the National Centres of Excellence, Sodhi made a strong pitch for corporate involvement. “You can’t expect only the government to fund sport. Shooting has delivered medals consistently—at the Olympics, World Cups, and Asian Games. It is time to give back. Sponsors should see it as a national contribution, not just an investment.”

Sodhi believes the franchise model can create financial sustainability for athletes. “Shooting is a long-term sport- athletes can stay competitive for 20+ years. If we support them early with the right structure, they can build stable careers, just like in cricket or kabaddi.” Shedding light on the psychological side of the sport, Sodhi highlighted the mental resilience shooting demands. “In shooting, you hold a gun-- you cannot show emotions. You cannot kick the turf or break your bat. You have to internalise everything. That’s what makes it the most mentally demanding sport.”

He also advocated for innovative broadcast elements, like cameras capturing facial expressions. “At the 2012 Olympics, they zoomed in on our faces. Viewers could see me talking to myself between shots. That kind of intimacy builds emotional connection with the audience.” While not every registered shooter may get a team spot this season, Sodhi sees the league as a movement that will evolve. “In the beginning, pick your favourite franchise, wear the jersey, cheer for your shooters. That is how fan bases grow. Give it time- it will happen.”

As the Shooting League of India prepares to host top-tier international and Indian athletes, Ronjan Sodhi’s words serve as both a reality check and a rallying cry- for fans, brands, and institutions alike.

Shi, Guo to be China's flagbearers

Chengdu, Aug 6 (UNI) China’s flagbearers at The World Games 2025 opening ceremony on Thursday will be Shi Jingwei, a male acrobatic gymnast, and Guo Dan, a female roller sports athlete, the Chinese delegation announced.

Shi, 23, won four gold medals with his teammates at the 29th Acrobatic World Championships in Portugal last year. Guo, 35, has won various titles in roller sports across World Championships, World Cup and World Games. She also participated in speed skating at the 2018 and 2022 Olympic Winter Games. The

12th World Games runs from August 7 to 17 in Chengdu, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, which also

hosted the FISU World University Games in 2023. 321 Chinese athletes will take part in these Games.

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Indonesia eyeing rowing gold at Chengdu World Games

Jakarta, Aug 6 (UNI) : Indonesia is aiming to secure at least one gold medal in rowing at The World Games 2025 in Chengdu, said Budiman Setiawan, Deputy Chairman of the Indonesian Rowing Sports Association, today.

Indonesia will send a team of 12 rowers, six men and six women, to compete in the August 7-17 Games. "We hope to win

medals, and at least one of them will be gold," he was quoted as saying by local media. Indonesia will compete in six events, covering both open and mixed categories, across distances of 200 meters, 500 meters and 2,000 meters.

Setiawan also noted that these categories are being developed with an eye toward future Olympic inclusion.

Special Trains to Clear Extra Rush of Passengers During Independence Day and Ganesh Chaturthi

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 6 : For the convenience of passengers and to manage the extra rush expected during Independence Day and Ganesh Chaturthi, South Western Railway will operate one round trip each between Yesvantpur–Madgaon and SMVT Bengaluru–Belagavi. The details are as follows:

1. Train Nos. 06541/06542 Yesvantpur–Madgaon–Yesvantpur Express Special (1 trip):

Train No. 06541 Yesvantpur–Madgaon Express Special will depart from Yesvantpur at 11:55 p.m. on 14.08.2025 (Thursday) and arrive at Madgaon at 6:05 p.m. on 15.08.2025 (Friday). In the return direction, Train No. 06542 Madgaon–Yesvantpur Express Special

will depart from Madgaon at 10:15 p.m. on 17.08.2025 (Sunday) and arrive at Yesvantpur at 4:30 p.m. on 18.08.2025 (Monday).

Stop pages : Chikbanavar, Kunigal, Channarayapatna, Hassan, Sakleshpur, Subrahmanya Road, Kabakaputtur, Bantawala, Surathkal, Udupi, Kundapura, Byndoor, Bhatkal, Murdeshwar, Honnavar, Kumta, Gokarna Road, Ankola and Karwar in both directions.

Composition: 18 coaches – 12 Sleeper Class, 4 General Second Class, and 2 SLR/D coaches.

2. Train Nos. 06571/06572 SMVT Bengaluru–Belagavi–SMVT Bengaluru Express Special (1 trip):

Train No. 06571 SMVT Bengaluru – Belagavi

Express Special will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 7:00 p.m. on 22.08.2025 (Friday) and reach Belagavi at 07:30 a.m. the next day. Its pairing train, No. 06572, will depart from Belagavi at 5:30 p.m. on 23.08.2025 (Saturday) and reach SMVT Bengaluru at 05:00 a.m. the following morning.

3. Train Nos. 06573/06574 SMVT Bengaluru–Belagavi–SMVT Bengaluru Express Special (1 trip):

Train No. 06573 SMVT Bengaluru–Belagavi Express Special will depart from SMVT Bengaluru at 7:00 p.m. on 26.08.2025 (Tuesday) and arrive at Belagavi at 8:25 a.m. the next day.

Similarly, Train No. 06574 Belagavi–SMVT Bengaluru Express Special will depart from Belagavi at

5:30 p.m. on 27.08.2025 (Wednesday) and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 5:00 a.m. the following morning.

Both sets of trains will have the same stoppages enroute. The trains will stop at Chikbanavar, Tumakuru, Arsikere, Birur, Davangere, Harihar, SMM Haveri, SSS Hubballi, Dharwad, Alnavar, Londa and Khanapur before reaching Belagavi. On the return journey, the trains will stop at the same stations in reverse order.

These trains will have 19 coaches including 1-AC Two Tier, 3-AC Three Tier, 10- Sleeper Class, 3-General Second Class and 2-SLR/D.

For detailed timings, and bookings, passengers may visit the official website of Indian Railways or call the Railway helpline number 139.

GM, SCoR leads Swachhbharat Abhiyan Drive



(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Aug 6 : In line with directives from the Ministry of Railways, Government of India, Mr Sandeep Mathur, General Manager of South Coast Railway (SCoR), actively participated in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign East Point Colony, reaffirming the commitment to maintain railway premises free from plastic waste, garbage, and filth.

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is being observed across Indian Railways from August 1 to August 31, 2025, with the



objective of fostering a culture of cleanliness

among its entire workforce. Mr.Sandeep

Mathur led a cleanliness drive at the East Point Colony, joined by officers, staff, Railway Protection Force personnel, and Swachh Sewaks, all demonstrating enthusiastic participation.

During the event, Shri Sandeep Mathur administered the Swachhta Pledge to railway officers, staff, and Swachh Sewaks, encouraging them to uphold cleanliness standards and take active roles in the Swachh Bharat Mission initiatives. The event was also attended by Shri B Chandra Sekhar, OSD/SCoR, and other senior officials.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Sandeep Mathur underlined the importance of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in eliminating single-use plastic, promoting scientific waste disposal, and enhancing public awareness and participation in creating a cleaner, healthier environment.

Release of Souvenir of Sanskriti Samvardhan Pratishthan by Cultural Minister Ashish Shelar



Govt's Cultural Affairs Minister Advocate Ashish Shelar addressing the release ceremony of the souvenir published by the "Sanskriti Samvardhan Pratishthan" and in the 2nd pic, releasing the souvenir with various guests on the stage.

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 6 : The newly published souvenir of the country's leading cultural and social institution "Sanskriti Samvardhan Pratishthan", which teaches moral life and character building to school students, was released by Cultural Affairs and Information Minister Advocate Ashish Shelar along with other guests in a dignified ceremony organized on the evening of Sunday, 3 August, 2025.

This grand ceremony was organized in the presence of a large number of teachers and citizens at Yashwant Bhavan Auditorium in Prabhadevi, Mumbai. Various dignitaries including well-known industrialist Dr. Ajit Gunjikar, Vishwa Hindu Parishad's Central Secretary Govind Shende, Mumbai region's Dharma Punj Department Head Sanjay Mundrale, Pratishthan's Founder Trustee Mohan Salekar were present in this ceremony. Speaking as the Chief Guest on the

occasion, Shri Ashish Shelar said that today minors are showing criminal tendencies, drug addiction, disrespect for elders, fickleness of mind, and lack of patience and tolerance. On the other hand, our family system is falling apart and today's schools are becoming factories producing only examinees.

In such times, who will inculcate good values in the minds of children? He said that I wholeheartedly welcome the successful efforts of "Sanskriti Sanvardhan Pratishthan" to solve this problem by providing moral lessons of life to school students with the help of stories from our ancient scriptures.

He said that all school operators and sensitive people of the society should support the important work of nation building being done by this Pratishthan. He said that this institution has continued its work with full dedication and honesty. Now it is the responsibility of the Maharashtra Government to strengthen

this work and I will definitely fulfill that responsibility in the coming days.

He also gave a firm assurance that he will ensure that this initiative reaches all schools at the government level. Giving information about various initiatives, Pratishthan's coordinator Gaurav Kulkarni said that for the last 22 years, Pratishthan has been imparting education on Indian culture and life values to school students. Under this, continuous efforts are being made to impart moral values to students of classes 4 to 8 on the basis of

Ramayana, Mahabharata, stories of saints and biographies of revolutionaries.

At present, Pratishthan's Jeevan Shikshan Project is working in 23 states of the country. This year, one lakh fifty thousand students from the fourteen hundred schools of Maharashtra have joined this initiative and recently the Goa government has also approved to start this initiative in all its schools.

On this occasion, senior sevadars of Pratishthan, Datta Ram Naik, Alka Godbole, Harbala Shaha, Avinash Joshi, Shashikant Desai etc. were honored with merit certificates. Also, Bina Rege, Rajshree Mane, Kalpana Gaikwad, Shivani Sardesai, Prachi Upasani etc., who were leading in fund collection, were honored by special guest Dr. Ajit Gunjikar by giving various gifts.

On this occasion, Dr. Ajit Gunjikar and Govindrao Shende addressed timely issues. At the beginning of the function, the captivating dance performance by the artists of Ninad Kala Pathak left the audience spellbound. The function was efficiently hosted by Sheetal Nikam, while the responsibility of welcoming and introducing the guests was well ensured by Mrs. Namrata Punde. At the beginning, the founder trustee of the institute, Mohan Salekar, welcomed all the guests by presenting them with a flower bouquet, Tulsi plant and a shawl.

Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, GM, SCR, Inspects Tuni – Rajahmundry – Rayanapadu Section

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Aug 6 : Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway undertook inspection of Tuni – Rajahmundry – Rayanapadu section of Vijayawada Division today. He was accompanied by Mr Mohit Sonakiya, Divisional Railway Manager, Vijayawada Division and other senior officials from Headquarters and Division throughout the inspection.

Mr Sanjay Kumar Srivastava carried out a rear window inspection in Tuni – Rajahmundry – Godavari – Kovvur – Nidadavolu – Eluru – Rayanapadu section of Vijayawada division, during which he reviewed the maintenance of Railway tracks and safety aspects of bridges and signalling systems in the section. The General Manager inspected Rajahmundry and Godavari Railway stations, wherein he reviewed the on-going preparations for Godavari Pushkaralu scheduled to be held in 2027. He advised the officials to ensure meticulous planning and seamless execution considering the scale and significance of the event.

Further, Mr Sanjay Kumar Srivastava conducted a detailed inspection of on-going



station redevelopment works at Tuni, Nidadavolu, Eluru and Rayanapadu Railway stations undertaken as part of Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

The General Manager reviewed the progress of works at each of the stations and inspected the safety precautions being implemented at the construction sites. The

General Manager appreciated the progress of works and advised the divisional officials to further speed up the works so as to complete the projects by the targeted dates.

The General Manager also conducted a detailed inspection of Kovvur Railway station, wherein he reviewed the passenger amenities, facilities and

circulating area of the station. During the course of inspection, the General Manager interacted with media personnel and briefed them on the progress of various projects. Several representatives also met the General Manager and submitted representations regarding Rail developmental plans pertaining to the region.

Third satellite launch pad project set for March 2029 completion

New Delhi, Aug 6 (UNI) :The Third Satellite Launch Pad (TLP) Project, a significant expansion of India's space infrastructure, has made steady progress following the receipt of financial sanction in March 2025, the Government informed Parliament today. It will be fully commissioned by March 2029, it said. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Department of Space in a written reply to Lok Sabha said, "The preliminary geo-technical investigation and topographical survey of the designated site were completed by May 2025, laying the groundwork for further development. Presently, bids for road construction and

electrical works are being evaluated." The project is structured around four critical milestones: completion of civil engineering works by May 2028, establishment of fluid handling systems and propellant storage facilities by July 2028, installation of launch pad facilities by September 2028, and full commissioning by March 2029, he said. Dr Jitendra Singh shared that the Department of Space has announced plans to engage Indian private sector firms and MSMEs through a transparent tendering process aligned with the government's Make-in-India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Waltair Division introduces prepaid auto - rickshaw services at Simhachalam Railway Station : SCoR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Aug 6 :Waltair Division of East Coast Railway, in collaboration with the Visakhapatnam City Police, has launched prepaid auto-rickshaw services at Simhachalam Railway Station today (06.08.2025) to enhance passenger convenience and safety. This facility, already operational at Visakhapatnam and Duvvada stations, aims to streamline last-mile connectivity for rail

commuters.

Dedicated prepaid counters have been set up at these stations, enabling passengers, pilgrims and tourists to pay fares in advance for their destinations. This transparent process eliminates fare negotiations and ensures passengers know the exact amount payable before starting their journey.

The service at Simhachalam Railway Station was inaugurated today by Shri Lalit Bohra,

Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair, and Shri Sankabratha Bagchi, Commissioner of Police, Visakhapatnam, in the presence of members from the Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swami Auto Drivers Welfare Association and officials from the railway and police departments. Over 20 auto-rickshaws are currently associated with this service.

Shri Lalit Bohra highlighted, "This system offers passengers a clear

fare structure, assuring transparency and a secure journey within city limits." Commissioner Bagchi added, "All vehicles in the prepaid service are equipped with GPS tracking systems to enhance passenger safety under the surveillance of Andhra Pradesh Police."

Local representatives and association members welcomed the initiative, noting that it will be especially beneficial for the pilgrims, tourists and commuters.