

IN BRIEF

Heavy rain likely in Telangana in next three days: Met

Hyderabad, Aug 7 (UNI) : Heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places in Nalgonda, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Nagarkurnool, and Wanaparthy districts of Telangana during the next 24 hours, the meteorological centre said on Thursday.

In a daily weather report here, it said that the same situation is likely to prevail in the N a l g o n d a , M a h a b u b n a g a r , N a g a r k u r n o o l , W a n a p a r t h y , N a r a y a n p e t , J o g u l a m b a Gadwal districts of the state on Friday.

Heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places in the Nalgonda, Suryapet, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, and Jogulamba Gadwal districts of Telangana on Saturday.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely to occur at many places over the state during the next seven days.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds with speeds ranging from 30 to 40 kmph are likely to occur at isolated places in all districts of Telangana during the next five days.

Govt committed to reviving handloom sector: CM

Hyderabad, Aug 7 (UNI) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy extended warm greetings to the weavers' community on the occasion of National Handloom Day on Thursday and reiterated his government's commitment to restoring the former glory of the handloom sector in the state. Highlighting the importance of the sector, the Chief Minister said the government is giving equal priority to the welfare of weavers as it does to farmers. He noted that the state has already cleared pending dues and waived off loans up to Rs 1 lakh for weavers to ease their financial burden. Revanth Reddy also emphasised the government's focus on long-term development and security for weaving families through several innovative schemes. "We are implementing Telangana Handloom Abhaya Hastam, Telangana Netanna Savings, Netanna Insurance, and Telangana Netannaku Bharosa to ensure the holistic development of our weavers," he said.

Rahul alleges 'organised vote theft', accuses ECI of colluding with BJP to manipulate polls

New Delhi, Aug 7 (UNI) : Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, once again slammed the Election Commission today accusing the poll body of "colluding" with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to "manipulate" the election results and shield the party from anti-incumbency.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Gandhi said the "foundational principle of the Indian Constitution—one person one vote—is under threat," raising serious concerns about the integrity of the country's electoral process.

"Are the right people being allowed to vote? Are fake people being added to the voter list? Is the voter list accurate?" Gandhi asked, asserting that systemic tampering with electoral rolls may be influencing results.

The Congress leader highlighted a growing sense of distrust among the public, citing several issues that he claimed are eroding the credibility of the electoral process. He claimed that despite facing prolonged governance fatigue, the BJP continues to win elections with little resistance. He also pointed to repeated instances of unexpectedly large margins in BJP victories as a red



LoP in the Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi during a press conference, at AICC HQ, in New Delhi on Thursday.

flag. Moreover, he questioned why major poll predictions consistently miss the mark, often underestimating BJP's performance. The Congress leader accused sections of the media of creating a choreographed narrative favourable to the ruling party and raised doubts about the sequencing and timing of elections, implying they are strategically designed to benefit the BJP.

"There is a general sense among millions of Indians that something is off," Gandhi said, calling for a thorough investigation into the electoral machinery and greater transparency from the Election Commission.

He accused the Election Commission and the BJP of being complicit in what he described as "organised vote theft" in the Mahadevapura assembly segment, in the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha constituency in the 2024 general elections.

Citing "internal party data and figures" sourced from the Election Commission, Gandhi said "Our internal polls indicated that we were expected to win 16 seats in Karnataka. However, we won only 9. We then focused on the 7 unexpected losses and chose Mahadevapura for a

closer look. All the data we have is from the 2024 elections, sourced directly from the Election Commission." He said "in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP secured 6,58,915 votes, winning with a margin of 32,707. However, in the Mahadevapura assembly segment, the Congress received 1,15,586 votes, whereas the BJP garnered 2,29,632 votes. The Congress won all the Vidhan Sabhas except this one, where the BJP swept and secured a margin of 1,14,046 votes. This seat significantly contributed to their election win, and the Lok Sabha result went in

their favour".

"This discrepancy is a huge imbalance. So, we started examining the details and discovered that approximately 1,00,250 votes were stolen out of 6,50,000 total votes in the Mahadevapura assembly."

According to Gandhi, the breakdown of the alleged "vote chori" were duplicate voters: 11,965 entries; fake and invalid addresses: 40,009 voters; bulk registrations at single addresses: 10,452 cases; invalid photographs on voter IDs: 4,132 entries and misuse of Form 6: 33,692 cases.

He also raised fresh concerns over the integrity of the electoral process in Maharashtra and Haryana, alleging serious anomalies in voter registration and turnout patterns during the recent state assembly elections.

Gandhi pointed to what he described as "clear and visible" irregularities that he believes undermined the democratic process.

"Before Maharashtra, we weren't able to articulate the reason and logic behind our suspicion. But in Haryana and Maharashtra, we saw it right in front of us."

Gandhi claimed that more voters were added to the electoral rolls in

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Heavy rains bring Hyderabad to standstill, alert sounded



Hyderabad, Aug 7 (IANS) : Heavy rains lashed Hyderabad on Thursday, inundating roads and low-lying areas and virtually bringing the city to a standstill, while authorities have sounded an alert.

Massive downpour triggered a flood-like situation in parts of the city, while the information technology corridor was witnessing a traffic gridlock.

Several areas in central Hyderabad, Secunderabad, IT corridors and outskirts were flooded as about 10 cm of rainfall was recorded in just one hour.

At a few places, two-wheelers were washed away, while water entered houses in a few colonies.

Techies returning home from offices in Madhapur and Gachibowli were caught

in a gridlock. Many complained of being caught in a jam for four to five hours.

Given waterlogging at Malkam Cheruvu, police advised commuters to avoid the Bio Diversity to Shaikpet route and take the alternative route from IKEA, Cable Bridge.

HYDRAA Commissioner A. V. Ranganath and other officials were inspecting the waterlogging point. Cyberabad and Hyderabad police officials were on the roads late on Thursday night to manage the situation.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who was in Delhi, alerted officials in view of the heavy rains and the forecast for more rain. He spoke to Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, Director General of Police Jitender and other officials over the

particularly in IT corridors.

He emphasised that GHMC should act swiftly to avoid public inconvenience and urged citizens not to step out unless necessary. He also appealed to the public not to open manhole covers under any circumstances and to avoid standing near electric poles during rainfall.

Meanwhile, a gate of the Himayat Sagar reservoir was opened on Thursday night as the huge inflows led to a rise in the water level.

According to Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) officials, due to continuous rainfall in the upstream areas over the past few days, the water level rose in Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar reservoirs across the Musi River.

As a precautionary measure, they lifted a gate of Himayat Sagar by one foot to release water downstream. Authorities sounded an alert in areas along the Musi River.

HMWSSB Managing Director Ashok Reddy directed the officials along with the administrative departments of Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts, HYDRAA, GHMC and police to coordinate effectively and remain on high alert as water is released downstream. According to HMWSSB, the water level in Himayat Sagar was 1762.70 feet against the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 1763.50 feet

CM directs officials to stay alert amid heavy rain forecast

Hyderabad, Aug 7 (UNI) : With heavy rains lashing Hyderabad and more rainfall predicted over the next two days, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday directed officials to remain on high alert and ensure public safety across the state.

The Chief Minister has instructed district Collectors to continuously monitor the situation in coordination with all departments. In Hyderabad, where intense rainfall is expected until midnight, Revanth Reddy emphasised the need for seamless coordination among GHMC, police, traffic, and disaster response teams.

Special focus has been placed on low-lying areas, with the CM advising officials to take immediate precautionary measures to prevent waterlogging and related emergencies.

Residents in Hyderabad have been advised to avoid non-essential travel, as a preventive step to avoid inconvenience and ensure safety. Revanth Reddy also directed departments to work proactively to prevent traffic disruptions and power outages. He asked officials to stay available round-the-clock to tackle any rain-related issues and extend timely assistance to those affected, an official statement said.



Putin to visit India, dates 'almost finalised' : Ajit Doval

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit India and the dates have been "almost finalised," National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said today. "We are excited and delighted to learn about the visit of His Excellency President Putin to India. I think the dates have almost been finalised now," Mr Doval said in Moscow. He, however, did not give a date for the meeting. President Putin is expected to travel to New Delhi later this year for the annual India–Russia summit.

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No decision on resuming talks With US: Abbas Araghchi



Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said that no final decision has been made regarding the resumption of indirect nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington, though communication between the two sides continues.

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Election Commission going beyond its jurisdiction to



In a blistering attack on the Election Commission of India (ECI), All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee today accused the poll body of acting as an "extended arm of the BJP" and grossly overstepping its constitutional jurisdiction by interfering in the affairs of the West Bengal government well ahead of the assembly election announcement.

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Striker Marc Guiu arrives at Sunderland on loan from



Sunderland continues to strengthen its squad on the club's return to the Premier League with the signing of former FC Barcelona striker Marc Guiu on loan from Chelsea for the 2025-2026 season. The 19-year-old made 16 appearances for Chelsea last season, netting six goals,

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MP Pramod Tiwari slams Modi govt over US tariff hike

Lucknow, August 7 (UNI) : Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Pramod Tiwari, strongly condemned the recent imposition of a 50 per cent tariff on Indian products by US President Donald Trump, calling it "unjust and unacceptable."

He criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his silence on the matter, claiming that the lack of response from the Indian leadership has emboldened the US to take aggressive

trade actions that undermine India's national interests.

Tiwari said, "This sudden hike in tariffs is a direct result of PM Modi's continuous silence in front of the US administration, which is now costing the country dearly." He added that such inaction is damaging India's pride on the global stage.

Drawing a comparison to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Tiwari urged PM Modi to visit her

memorial at Shakti Sthal and draw inspiration from her fearless foreign policy stance. "Indira Gandhi had firmly conveyed to then US President Nixon and Secretary of State Kissinger that India would not compromise its national interests under any pressure," he said.

He also mocked Modi's previous outreach to Trump, including the much-publicized "Namaste Trump" event, saying that such unnecessary gestures

have led to a weakening of India's independent foreign and economic policy.

Tiwari further criticized the Modi government for failing to protect India's interests in both international diplomacy and domestic electoral reforms. He highlighted the issue of voter list revision, citing a Supreme Court inquiry into 6.5 million deleted names and questioning the Election Commission's lack of transparency about the

migration of 3.2 million voters. "Parliament must be allowed to debate election reforms. It is the constitutional right of the country," Tiwari stated, adding that the Election Commission has no authority to tamper with citizens' voting rights as guaranteed by the Constitution. On the international front, he pointed out that the US has violated ceasefire terms 33 times and has been increasing tariffs repeatedly.

EML to manufacture trains in MP

Bhopal, Aug 07 (UNI) : Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav today announced that in a first for MP, the Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) will manufacture the country's premium trains Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat and Metro coaches in Umaria village, near historic Bhojpur in Raisen district of the state. The CM informed that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh would lay the foundation stone of the BEML Unit on August 10.

Dr Yadav said that the cost of this project will be Rs 1800 crores, and it has been named BRAHMA (BEML Rail Hub for Manufacturing). The CM noted that nearly 5000 people would get direct and indirect employment through this project. He said that 148 acres of land has been allotted for this project in Goharganj tehsil of Umaria village. Initially, the company will manufacture 125-200 coaches annually. Within 5 years, their number will be 1100 coaches. This project would create large-scale and small-scale ancillaries in Bhopal and Raisen area.

The chief minister said that his government is continuously taking the state on the path of development in order to realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' mantra, and as part of it moving towards 'Make in Madhya Pradesh'.

Chhattisgarh's PMAY home project brings hope to Maoist affected families

Raipur, Aug 7 (UNI) : The Chhattisgarh Government's commitment to rebuilding lives in Maoist affected regions has taken a significant step through a special housing project under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Nearly 3,000 permanent homes are currently under construction for families displaced or devastated by Left-Wing Extremism and for those who have surrendered arms in pursuit of peace. Following the state government's appeal, the Centre approved 15,000 PMAY homes under a special project targeting those previously ineligible under existing housing norms. Of these, 3,000 homes have already been sanctioned, with over 2,100 families receiving the first installment and 128 progressing to the second stage of funding.

Despite the region's rugged terrain and logistical challenges, construction has made remarkable progress. Two poignant examples are Sodi

Hungi of Sukma district and Dashari Bai of Kanker district, whose homes were completed within just three months. Both women lost their husbands to Maoist violence, one in 2005 and the other during Assembly elections. For years, they lived in fragile, leaking huts until the special project brought them a safe, dignified shelter.

"This initiative is more than just bricks and mortar, it's about restoring trust, dignity, and stability," said Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, adding that the government is committed to ensuring every eligible family receives a permanent home. "It demonstrates that with government resolve and community participation, even the impossible can be achieved in the most remote corners of Chhattisgarh."

Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Vijay Sharma described the housing effort as "a historic step toward justice and dignity for those impacted by violence." Home Minister Vijay Sharma

added, "Projects like these are essential for sustainable peace and inclusive development in conflict-affected zones."

Sukma tops the list with 984 sanctioned homes, followed by Bijapur (761), Narayanpur (376), Dantewada (251), Bastar (214), Kondagaon (166), Kanker (146), Gariaband (27), Balrampur-Ramanujganj (25), and Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki (23). Officials reiterated that such initiatives are not merely rehabilitation efforts but part of a larger commitment to bring stability, dignity, and long term peace to conflict affected communities. The state's intensified efforts to dismantle left wing extremism reflect its broader strategy of development led security. By focusing on intelligence led operations, community participation, and coordination with central forces, Chhattisgarh continues to make measurable progress in restoring normalcy in affected districts.

Free sand distribution to Gharkul beneficiaries under Revenue Week

(Standard Post Bureau)

Thane, Aug 7 : On the occasion of Revenue Week, under the guidance of District Collector Dr. Shrikrishna Panchal and Additional District Collector Harishchandra Patil, District Mining Officer Vivek Ghule and the initiative of the Tehsildars of Shahapur, Kalyan, Murbad, Ambernath, Bhiwandi talukas, passes for providing a total of 5 brass sand free of cost to 5 beneficiaries out of the Gharkul beneficiaries in these talukas were distributed directly at the Tehsil office today.

Also, an online seminar was organized for all the revenue officers, employees, crusher owners, mining lease holders and common citizens of the district to implement the M-Sand artificial sand policy in the state and complete the policy as per the new standard operating procedure. In this



seminar, detailed Sand policy was given, the implementation of information about the M- which will help in facilitating this policy.

Various activities are being enthusiastically organized in all schools in Navi Mumbai under the Gharo Ghari Tricolor campaign

(Standard Post Bureau)

Navi Mumbai, Aug 7 : In order to instill a sense of patriotism in the minds of the citizens and to increase awareness about the Indian national flag, the government is implementing the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. This year too, the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is being implemented on the occasion of Independence Day on 15 August 2025, and in line with this, various activities are being organized by the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation under the guidance of Municipal Commissioner Dr. Kailash Shinde. As a part of this, under the control of Additional Commissioner Mr. Sunil Pawar, on behalf of the NMC Education Department, through Deputy Commissioner of Education Mr. Sangharatna Khillare and cooperative officers and employees, various date-wise activities have been planned in all schools and junior colleges in the municipal area under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. Accordingly, various programs have



been undertaken to instill patriotism in the minds of the students, who are the future citizens of the country.

Today, on August 7, students of schools and junior colleges celebrated Raksha Bandhan by making tricolor rakhis and tying tricolor rakhis to their fellow

students in the school, as well as to the sanitation workers in some schools and the policemen at the nearby police station. Similarly, a letter writing activity was organized for the students on the topic of letters to soldiers. In this, the students expressed their feelings about the

soldiers who protect the country through letter writing. Apart from this, on 5th August, a selfie stand of the tricolor was set up in the school-junior college and selfies/photos were taken on it and published on various social media. Similarly, it was also uploaded on the central

government's portal www.harghartiranga.com using the tags #HarGharTiranga, #HarGharTiranga2025. Similarly, the tricolor song and patriotic songs were sung in groups during the routine in the school and junior college.

A quiz competition was organized on the theme of the tricolor on August 6. In this, a quiz competition was organized at the school level on the history of the tricolor, the freedom struggle, and freedom fighters. Students were also encouraged to participate in the quiz on the website mygov.in organized by the Union Ministry of Culture. In some schools, an initiative was implemented to decorate the walls and boards of the school with tricolor artwork.

In the future, on August 11, 2025, a marathon will be organized in the area with the tricolor in hand in a spirit of patriotism dedicated to the national flag at the school level, and a collective tricolor pledge will be taken to express pride in the national flag.

Cross-border arms smuggling network busted in Amritsar, 4 arrested with 7 pistols

Chandigarh, Aug 7 (UNI) : The Amritsar Commissionerate Police busted a cross-border arms smuggling network and arrested four individuals while also recovering seven sophisticated pistols were recovered from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab, Gaurav Yadav today. The arrested individuals have been identified as Akashdeep Singh alias Akash (20), resident of village Daoke, Amritsar; Ramanpreet Singh (23), resident of village Bagha Kalan, Amritsar; Pratap Singh (25), resident of village Sur Singh, Ferozepur; and Sarbjit Singh alias Babbal (25), resident of Debi Wala Bazar, Amritsar.

The recovered firearms include two 9mm PX5 pistols, two 9mm Glock pistols, and three .30 bore

pistols. DGP Gaurav Yadav revealed that the accused were in direct contact with Pakistan-based smugglers and were receiving illegal weapon consignments near the Indo-Pak border. Operating from border villages, they were supplying these arms to criminal gangs across Punjab. He added that further investigation is on to uncover the forward and backward linkages in the case and dismantle the entire network.

Commissioner of Police (CP) Amritsar, Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, while sharing further details, said that in view of heightened security measures ahead of Independence Day, police teams acting on specific intelligence inputs apprehended Akash and Raman from the jurisdiction of Police Station Chheharta, recovering four pistols —

two PX5 9mm and two .30 bore. Based on their disclosures, their accomplices Pratap Singh and Sarbjit Singh alias Babbal were also arrested from the same area, and three additional pistols were recovered.

CP Bhullar noted that Akash, who resides close to the International Border, along with Raman, used to receive arms consignments from across the border. Sarbjit and Pratap coordinated and managed the downstream distribution of the weapons. He emphasised that the arrests have helped avert a major criminal incident in the region. Investigation is on and more arrests and recoveries are expected in the coming days. A case has been registered under Section 25 of the Arms Act at Police Station Chheharta, Amritsar.

SC questions ED's low conviction rate; CJI Gavai says accused are "sentenced without trial"

New Delhi, Aug 7 (UNI) The Supreme Court today expressed serious concern over the low conviction rate in cases investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), observing that the agency often manages to keep accused persons behind bars for extended periods, even without trial or conviction.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai, and Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and Vinod Chandran, made the critical remarks during the hearing of a review petition filed in relation to the Court's earlier order rejecting JSW Steel's resolution plan for Bhushan Power and Steel Limited (BPSL). "Even if they are not convicted, you (ED) have been successful in sentencing them almost without a trial for years together," CJI Gavai observed, questioning the prolonged incarceration of accused persons despite the absence of convictions. The observation came after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing on behalf of the Committee of Creditors

(CoC), defended the ED's work by stating that the agency has recovered over ₹20,000 crore and returned it to victims in various cases. "The matters which come to court are only high-profile matters, there are other matters also," Mehta added, attempting to contextualise the agency's performance. In response, CJI Gavai sharply asked, "How much is the conviction rate?" Mehta, while refraining from giving a specific figure, replied, "Conviction is different. Sometimes we wonder how a person was acquitted. Sometimes we have recovered so much money that our machines stop working. We can't give press interviews and YouTube discussions." To this, the CJI firmly noted, "The Court does not decide matters based on press reports." The exchange highlights growing judicial scrutiny of the Enforcement Directorate's functioning, especially regarding its extensive use of arrest and detention powers under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), in the backdrop of low conviction rates.

CM Revanth Reddy meets Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge



New Delhi, Aug 7 (IANS) : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday met Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge to brief them on the protest for Presidential assent to two Bills passed by state legislature for 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes.

He urged them to exert pressure on the Central government in the Parliament to approve the Bills for 42 percent reservation for Backward Classes in education, employment and local bodies.

The Chief Minister, who led the dharna at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday, met Rahul Gandhi at the latter’s residence on Thursday night. Revanth Reddy also conveyed to him that he along with ministers, MPs, MLAs and other leaders waited the entire day for an audience with President

Droupadi Murmu but there was no reply to their request for an appointment.

The Chief Minister met Rahul Gandhi at the dinner hosted by the latter for INDIA bloc leaders and briefed them on alleged electoral manipulation by the BJP.

After the meeting, Revanth Reddy, in a social media post, praised Rahul Gandhi and called him future of India. “He stood up with an intrepid resolve, a courage to voice the truth few may dare, and exposed the darkest underbelly of the PM Modi-HM Shah’s game. Every dirty trick possible to deny people’s real mandate, every form of fraud , every imaginable malpractice, BJP have shamed entire country. In contrast a leader who told the truth with calm, plain resolve to not let democracy be defeated & giving courage to the country. It is sad that significant institutions have caved in and stand

comprised and complicit in this conspiracy to rob people of their most fundamental power - the vote. But there is hope for India and democracy,” wrote Revanth Reddy.

The Chief Minister, ministers and other leaders earlier met Mallikarjun Kharge to brief him on their protest.

Addressing a press conference along with few ministers and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud, the Chief Minister blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the President denying them the appointment. He said the entire Cabinet waited for the appointment with the President but it was unfortunate that they received no reply.

He said they came to Delhi to achieve 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes and made their efforts for three days but

the Centre did not cooperate.

Revanth Reddy alleged that the BJP stalled Backward Class reservation on the pretext of Muslim reservation. He dared BJP to bring a legislation to scrap Muslim reservation.

He also slammed the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) for not participating in the dharna for Backward Class reservation. He wanted to know why the BRS leaders were not criticising BJP for stalling the Bills.The Chief Minister alleged that both BJP and BRS were obstructing the BC reservation Bills. “These two parties will be seen as traitors of Backward Classes by the Telangana society,” he said.

He cautioned BJP that the delay in approving the Bills would prove costly for them. He said the Congress party would chalk its future course of action to ensure that people teach a lesson to both BJP and BRS.

Minister urges Centre to hike disability pension to Rs 3,000

New Delhi/Hyderabad, Aug 7 (UNI) : Minister for SC, ST, Minority, Disabled, Elderly, and Transgender Welfare Adluri Laxman Kumar, along with Disabled Corporation Chairman Muttineni Veeraiah, met Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr Virender Kumar in Delhi today and submitted a representation demanding enhanced welfare measures for persons with disabilities.

The key demands included increasing the disability pension from the current Rs 300 to Rs 3,000, reducing the eligibility threshold from 80 per cent to 40 per cent disability, and granting pension benefits from childhood rather than waiting until 18 years of age.They also urged the Centre to align with Telangana's model, where pensions are provided from 40 per cent disability onward, and free assistive devices are distributed to all eligible individuals. The delegation pointed out that the central pension amount has remained unchanged since 2014, despite soaring prices and an expanded Union budget.

If the Centre fails to act, there could be growing discontent among the disabled community, the ministers cautioned. Congress leaders Guduri Srinivas and Kota Mallikarjun Rao were also present during the meeting, an official statement said.

BC Commission expresses concern over incomplete data; plans meeting with Dept Heads on Aug 25

Hyderabad, Aug 7 (UNI) : The Telangana State Commission for Backward Classes, under the chairmanship of G Niranjan, held a meeting on Thursday at its Khairatabad office to deliberate on key issues concerning backward classes in the state.

Commission members Rapolu Jayaprakash, Tirumalagiri Surender, Rangu Balalakshmi, and Member Secretary Bala Maya Devi, IAS, were present at the meeting.

A major point of discussion was the ongoing data collection exercise regarding government employees. The Commission voiced dissatisfaction over the failure of several departments to furnish accurate and complete information.

Taking serious note of this, the Commission has decided to convene a meeting with the heads of all Secretariat departments on August 25.

A formal communication in this regard will be sent to the Chief Secretary of the state.

The Commission also resolved to expedite its report on the issuance of DNT (Denotified Tribes) certificates for applicants under the Central Government’s Seed Scheme for nomadic tribes.

Deputy CM urges Centre to approve Rs 6,895 crore green energy corridor proposal

New Delhi/Hyderabad, Aug 7 (UNI) : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu met Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in New Delhi on Thursday, seeking swift approval for key proposals submitted by TGTRANSCO under the Green Energy Corridor – Phase 3 (GEC-III).During the meeting, the Deputy CM briefed the Union Minister about Telangana’s ambitious renewable energy plans.

He explained that the Solar Energy Corporation of

India (SECI) had initially identified renewable energy zones totalling 13.5 GW across five districts of the state.Following detailed consultations with SECI and TGREDCO, and after assessing land and energy potential, the plan was expanded to 19 GW covering eight districts.In line with this revised target, Telangana State Transmission Corporation (TGTRANSCO) has submitted a comprehensive proposal to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

The plan comprises

eight intra-state transmission schemes with a combined power evacuation capacity of 19 GW, estimated to cost Rs 6,895 crore.

Bhatti Vikramarka urged the Union Minister to expedite the approval process, highlighting that the proposed infrastructure is crucial for Telangana’s green energy push and will strengthen the state’s ability to integrate renewable energy into the national grid, an official statement said.

CS Ramakrishna Rao directs emergency measures amid heavy rainfall in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Aug 7 (UNI) : In response to the heavy rainfall lashing Hyderabad and surrounding areas, Telangana Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao has directed officials to take all necessary precautions to prevent loss of life and property.

Acting on the instructions of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the Chief Secretary conducted a high-level teleconference from the Police Command Control Room on Thursday evening to assess the situation and coordinate emergency response.

The Chief Secretary noted that sudden, intense rainfall had recorded up to 12 cm in parts of the city and stressed the importance of immediate action to avoid any casualties. Special attention was called to water-logging hotspots such as the IT Corridor, TV9 office, Times of India junction, Raj Bhavan Road, and Sheikhpet. He instructed GHMC and other civic bodies to clear stagnant water swiftly and ensure smooth traffic movement.Citizens were advised to remain indoors unless absolutely necessary. The CS urged people not to tamper with drainage covers or venture near electric poles during rain. He emphasized that field-level staff must remain alert and respond promptly to public complaints in coordination with the HYDRAA emergency network.Officials informed the Chief Secretary that 250 field teams, including GHMC, NDRF, SDRF, and fire department personnel, were actively working across the city. Control

rooms have been activated at GHMC and district collectorates. Himayat Sagar’s floodgates were partially opened, releasing 300 cusecs of water as a precautionary measure.

Around 250 electricity-related complaints were reported, with 149 already resolved and the remaining expected to be addressed within 30 minutes. The SPDCL CMD has been directed to urgently restore damaged power lines and transformers. Additionally, 150 GHMC flood control teams and 201 monsoon teams are on the ground, focusing on clearing waterlogged main roads to restore normal traffic flow.

Fire and disaster response teams are equipped and ready for any emergencies. The Chief Secretary assured citizens that the

government is fully prepared and urged everyone to follow official instructions and not to panic.Emergency helpline numbers have been issued for public assistance:

NDRF: 8333068536, ICCC: 8712596106, HYDRAA: 9154170992, Traffic Helpline: 8712660600, Cyberabad Police: 8500411111, Rachakonda Police: 8712662999, TGSPDCL (Electricity): 7901530966, RTC: 9444097000, GHMC: 8125971221, HMWSSB (Water Board): 9949930003

The Chief Secretary assured that all departments are on high alert and working in coordination to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens during this period of heavy rain, an official statement said tonight.

Rahul alleges 'organised vote ...

(Contd from page 1)

Maharashtra in just five months than had been added over the past five years, calling the spike “staggering” and “statistically abnormal.”

He also alleged that in some areas, the number of new voters exceeded the total population, raising questions about the authenticity of the additions.

Another red flag, according to Gandhi, was a sudden surge in voter turnout after 5 PM on polling day — a pattern he described as “highly unusual” and suggestive of possible tampering.“Our alliance, which had swept the Lok Sabha elections just a few months earlier, was suddenly wiped out in the Vidhan Sabha elections. The swing was inexplicable and deeply suspicious,” he said.

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SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No: 96255532. Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on Behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website www.irops.gov.in from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works. PL Code (Group): 600605881012. Item Type GST (Y/N): Goods (Y). Stock/Non-Stock: Non Stock. Ordering: – Consider for Eval: Yes. Approving Agency: RDSO. Inspection Agency: TPI Agency. Currency Allowed: INR. Estimated Rate: – Description: Manufacture and supply of 10125 mm pre-curved/curved switches with ZU-1-60/60E1A1 thick web grade 880 class A tongue rails and UIC 60kg/m Grade 880, class A/class B prime quality stock rails with elastic fasteners and spring operated setting device (RDSO-T/6216 read along with alterations), complete (with check rails) with all fitting for 1 in 12, BG 60 kg turn out for fan shaped layout on PSC sleepers i.e. all fitting for switch portion as per sub assembly drg. No. T-6155 (read with Latest alterations) in accordance with RDSO's standard drawing No. 6154 (read along with latest alterations) conforming to RDSO specifications IRS-T-10-2025, IRS-T-62-2025 excluding standard fish Plates, fish bolts and nuts ER clips, insulating liners. Note: (1). The date of applicability for the Alterations to Drawing/Specification etc shall be as on date of publishing of the tender! (2). Pre-curing shall be done as per RDSO letter No. CT/PTX/TWS/Design dt. 06.07.2023 (ANNEXURE-V). (3) Quantity of Pre curved TWS as per LH/RH side, Contrary/Similar Flexure and Degree of Curve is as per attached Annexure-A. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. Consignee: SE(PWAY), [PWAY DEPOT] SUR, CR, Maharashtra.7.00 Set. UVAM Item ref.: (Item Id:-3100582 - THICK WEB SWITCHES, THICK WEB SEJ & END FORGING, Sub Item Id: -3100582001-THICK WEB SWITCHES). Inspection Details: Stage Inspection Not Required. Earnest Money (INR): ₹ 1,08,750/- Date & Time of Closing of Tender on www.irops.gov.in : 01/09/2025 after 11:30. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: www.irops.gov.in
Akar/Sur-59
Sr.DMM/Solapur
Traveling with dangerous and explosive goods is a punishable offense

Amity University to partner with Telangana, Chancellor meets CM

New Delhi/ Hyderabad, Aug 7 (UNI) :Amity University Chancellor Atul Chauhan today met Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at the latter’s official residence in Delhi and expressed the varsity’s commitment to supporting the state’s education and skill development sectors.

Chauhan thanked the Chief Minister for the Telangana Cabinet’s approval to establish an Amity University campus in the state.

He said the institution would actively collaborate with the state’s Skill Development University and be a strategic partner in various training and upskilling initiatives.

“Amity is known for its academic excellence and state-of-the-art facilities.

We aim to bring the same level of quality to Telangana and contribute meaningfully to the state’s educational landscape,” Chauhan told the Chief Minister.

Amity University’s representative Ramachandram also took part in the meeting, an official statement said.

KTR accuses Congress of betraying BCs

Hyderabad, Aug 7 (UNI) : BRS Working President K T Rama Rao (KTR) launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accusing him and the Congress party of deceiving Backward Classes (BCs) and running the government in a theatrical fashion.

Addressing party workers at Telangana Bhavan after welcoming new leaders from the Parigi constituency into BRS, KTR said the Congress had backtracked on its promise of 42 per cent BC reservation, made with much fanfare before the elections.

He questioned the Chief Minister’s latest remark that BCreservations would only be possible if Rahul Gandhi became Prime Minister, asking if such a condition was ever mentioned in the 'BC Declaration'.

Drawing a comparison, KTR said former CM KCR

went to Delhi and brought back Telangana, while Revanth had only returned with excuses.

Taking a jibe at Revanth, KTR claimed the CM is suffering from a “KCR-phobia” and is obsessed with dragging KCR’s name into every issue. He accused the Congress government of using the BC reservation issue as a smokescreen to hide its failure in fulfilling over 420 poll promises.

Slamming the Congress style of governance as pure drama, KTR said Revanth was more interested in creating a show with Modi, Rahul Gandhi, and even Chandrababu Naidu than in delivering on his commitments. He also hit out at defected MLAs, saying they now hide behind religious scarves, unable to clarify which party they belong to.

With local body polls approaching, KTR warned

that Congress leaders were preparing to pump in corrupt money collected over the last 20 months. He urged the people to reject this politics and support BRS to restore governance and accountability.

Highlighting issues like power cuts, fertiliser shortage, and deteriorating village administration, KTR said Telangana had regressed under Congress rule. He cautioned that schemes like Rythu Bandhu could be scrapped next. “No section of society has been spared by this government,” he added.

Calling upon the BRS cadre to gear up for the local elections, KTR acknowledged that workers might have felt overlooked during BRS’s previous term, but promised their efforts would be recognised once the party returns to power. “We will wipe out Congress and BJP, and bring back KCR as Chief Minister,”he declared.

Govt committed to handloom revival: Minister Tummala

Hyderabad, Aug 7 (UNI) : Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao expressed heartfelt gratitude to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for entrusting him with the responsibility of representing two vital communities — the farmers who feed the nation and the weavers who clothe it.Marking National Handloom Day, Minister Tummala participated in a vibrant celebration held at People’s Plaza on Necklace Road, where he inaugurated a grand handloom and textile exhibition featuring over 100 stalls.

The event showcased the rich weaving traditions of Telangana, and the Minister took time to personally interact with artisans and inspect their products.

He paid special attention to stalls organised under the Prison Department, appreciating the craftsmanship of inmates trained in weaving.

He also congratulated the recipients

of the Konda Laxman Babuji Handloom Awards, recognising their contribution to preserving traditional textile arts.

Later, addressing the gathering, Minister Tummala said Telangana ranks first in the country when it comes to the welfare and development of handloom workers.

He added that the state also leads in geo-tagging of handloom products.

Describing handloom as not just a livelihood but a representation of Indian culture and heritage passed down through generations, the Minister called on everyone to take responsibility for protecting this art form.

He said Telangana has earned national recognition in the handloom sector, with products such as Gadwala, Narayanpet, Pochampally Ikkat, Siddipet Gollabhama, Warangal durries, and Karimnagar bedsheets gaining international fame.

STANDARD POST

RIC reboot? Putin’s India visit gains significance amid global realignments and US tariffs

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, who is in Russia, said that President Vladimir Putin will visit India. He, however, added that the dates are being worked out. The visit by President Putin, his first since the Russia-Ukraine war, will be watched closely, especially by the United States.

The visit would come at a time when the US has imposed a 50 per cent tariff on India for purchasing Russian oil. President Donald Trump says that India is funding Russia’s war machine by buying oil from Russia.

The visit by the Russian President is crucial in the wake of several developments that the world is seeing. India has, over the years, inched closer to the United States through collaborations such as the Quad. However, New Delhi still maintains that its ties with Russia are steady and time-tested.

During his visit, he would hold high-stakes meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While the agenda is not clear, there could be a possibility of the Russia-India-China Troika being revived. Although China would need to be part of this dialogue, many see the visit by President Putin as a start.

The RIC, which was once seen as a counterweight to the Western world, has once again gained significance as under President Trump, all three countries are facing increased pressure, particularly on the economic front.

Another reason why there is a chance of a recalibration is that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be visiting China on August 31 to take part in the Shanghai Cooperation Summit (SCO). In China, he is likely to meet with President Xi Jinping. If the meetings go well, then the RIC could become a formidable force to counter the pressures from the US and other European countries.

Russia is, however, keen on reviving the RIC, which has been dormant for a long time. In May this year, Moscow had said that the format should be revived to reposition itself at the heart of Eurasian diplomacy.

However, one thing is clear for now, and that is India would not back down from the US threat of tariffs for buying Russian oil. This explains the visit by NSA Doval to Russia and President Putin’s visit to India sometime this month.

The Trump administration has imposed new tariffs on several countries, including India, China, and trade partners linked to Russia. While Russia remains heavily sanctioned due to the war, China is facing trade restrictions. These are factors that have created a common ground for the RIC nations to fight back.

Tariffs and secondary sanctions are largely a threat to all three countries, and hence the trio may stick together and revive the Troika.

India has, in recent years, stayed away from the RIC due to border tensions with China. However, today, the fast-changing global situation may make both India and China think of this grouping. India prefers to stay independent in its foreign policy and also avoids taking sides either with the US or China. Hence, the RIC fits well for India as it could work with Russia and China on specific issues. Moreover, for India, both Russia and China are important for its energy needs. The RIC would also give India a buffer against pressure from the West. The RIC format was initiated in the 1990s by former Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov. He had said that this would be a perfect counterbalance to Western dominance. There have been 20 ministerial-level meetings. However, following the 2020 Galwan Valley incident, the format lost momentum.

(Standard Post Bureau)

Many middle-aged individuals are struggling to distinguish whether the discomfort they feel is due to gastric issues or a heart-related problem, says Dr. Rajesh Deshmukh, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Kamineni Hospitals. He notes that the symptoms of both conditions are often very similar, which leads to confusion and negligence, sometimes until the condition becomes severe.

Dr. Deshmukh explains that his hospital frequently sees patients who ignore early warning signs, thinking it’s just a gastric issue. “In recent times, heart problems have been rising, particularly among people aged 40 to 55. Due to lifestyle changes, more people are facing heart-related issues at younger ages,” he said while speaking to the media, Dr. Rajesh Deshmukh was joined by Dr. A. Ravikanth, Consultant Cardiologist, Dr. Rishith Bathini, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon and Dr. Suresh Kumar, Chief Cardiac Anaesthesiologist. Together, they elaborated on the increasing prevalence of heart disease and the importance of early detection, especially in patients who mistake heart symptoms for gastric issues.

“When people experience discomfort in the chest area, nausea, dizziness, or indigestion, they often assume it’s just gastric trouble. However,

Gas Pain or Heart Attack?



Middle-aged adults urged to differentiate symptoms and seek timely care

in cases of angina, a condition caused by reduced blood flow to the heart, symptoms like upper abdominal pain, chest burning, and bloating can occur. These are easily mistaken for gastric symptoms. Similarly, conditions like ulcers or GERD (Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease) also produce symptoms that closely resemble heart-related chest pain.”

He advises that individuals, especially those with risk factors like age, diabetes, and high blood pressure, should suspect heart issues when such symptoms arise. “Proper evaluation — including symptom history, ECG, and troponin tests are crucial. A delay

in identifying heart problems can put lives at risk. General physicians also need to carefully examine such cases in high-risk patients and educate them on the difference between gastric and heart pain to provide timely treatment that could save lives.”

“Many patients assume it’s a gas issue and go directly to a pharmacy to buy antacids or syrups without medical consultation. This often doesn’t help, and the underlying issue may continue to worsen. By the time they come to a heart specialist, the condition is already critical,” he warns.

He adds that such cases are seen more commonly in men than in

women, with around 10 such patients reported every month. One way to differentiate: if the symptoms occur even after eating, it might be heart-related. If it’s truly a gastric issue, the pain typically appears on an empty stomach. Also, if gastric medications don’t relieve symptoms within a month, one should consult a cardiologist immediately.

Heart issues are no longer limited to older people. Due to smoking, alcohol consumption, and other lifestyle factors, even younger individuals are reporting these symptoms. In middle-aged people, high blood pressure and diabetes remain key contributors to this trend.

“With the rising number of heart conditions, we are also seeing sudden cardiac arrests in some patients, which are extremely difficult to manage without immediate action. That’s why every citizen should learn CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and how to use an AED (Automated External Defibrillator),” said Dr. A Ravikanth, Consultant Cardiologist.

He emphasized that government efforts are needed to promote CPR training widely and make AED devices available in public places, junctions, and transit hubs. “Only then can we effectively reduce deaths caused by sudden heart attacks,” he stated.

Putin to visit India, dates 'almost finalised' : NSA Ajit Doval

New Delhi/Moscow, Aug 7 (UNI) Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit India and the dates have been ‘almost finalised,’ National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said today.

“We are excited and delighted to learn about the visit of His Excellency President Putin to India. I think the dates have almost been finalised now,” Mr Doval said in Moscow.

He, however, did not give a date for the meeting. President Putin is expected to travel to New Delhi later this year for the annual India–Russia summit.

Mr Doval said more important is that the Summit meetings have always been a watershed. “We are committed, as you are committed, to the fight against terrorism,” he said.

Mr Doval was in Moscow for discussions with his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu for strengthening the Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

“The world is passing through a very tumultuous situation. There is some unpredictability, and there are some things that are uncertain. In an environment like this our old strategic and privileged partnership has a very special role,” Doval said in his opening remarks at the meeting.

'Give the bully an inch...' Chinese Ambassador, after Trump slaps more tariffs on India

New Delhi, Aug 7 (UNI) Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong posted on social media, “Give the bully an inch, he will take a mile”, a day after US President Donald Trump slapped an additional 25 percent tariffs on Indian products, taking the total to a high of 50 percent.

The Chinese Ambassador posted the statement, “Give the bully an inch, he will take a mile”, alongside a quote from Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who said:

“Using tariffs as a weapon to suppress other countries violates the UN Charter, undermines WTO rules, and is both unpopular and unsustainable.”

The Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said this during a phone call with Celso Amorim, chief advisor to the President of Brazil, on August 6.

On Wednesday, US President Trump signed an executive order slapping an additional 25 percent tariffs on Indian products to the US, citing India’s purchases of Russian oil as a reason.

India slammed the US 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.

All new Feature Packed Adventure X Persona of Harrier and Safari launched, starting at Rs 18.99 Lakh

(Standard Post Bureau)

Tata Motors, India’s leading SUV manufacturer, today unveiled the All-New Adventure X Persona, featuring in its flagship SUVs – the Tata Harrier and the Tata Safari. With this new persona, the Company has brought in a complete package of adventure, performance, and features, offering

greater value proposition and access to a robust and adventurous lifestyle to its customers. Packed with segment-first features at this price point, the Harrier and Safari Adventure Persona includes ADAS with Adaptive Cruise Control (AT), 360° HD Surround View, Trail Hold EPB with Auto Hold, Trail esponse

Modes (Normal, Rough, Wet), a Land Rover-derived Command Shifter (AT), along with segment-leading features such as the Ergo Lux Driver Seat with Memory & Welcome function, a 26.03 cm Ultra-View Twin Screen System, Trail Sense Auto Headlamps, Aqua Sense Wipers, and Multi Drive Modes (City, Sport,

Eco).These personas will be available for grabs, starting today, at an introductory price of ? 18.99 Lakh for the Harrier Adventure X and ? 19.99 Lakh for the Safari Adventure X+ persona.

With the launch of this new variant, Tata Motors has enhanced the appeal of the Harrier and Safari lineup by making the

range more intelligent, cohesive, and value-packed than ever in the high SUV segment. With a streamlined persona structure, feature-rich variants, and new colour options, the line-up also comes with the new Pure X persona which will offer enhanced value to the customers at a great price point.

Himesh Reshammiya Becomes the Only Indian Artist on Bloomberg’s Global Pop Power List

(By Rajesh undi)

In a historic moment for Indian music, Superstar Rockstar Himesh Reshammiya has earned a place on Bloomberg’s ranking of the world’s most influential pop stars, becoming the only Indian artist to be featured on the prestigious list.

The ranking, based on seven data-driven performance metrics, celebrates the artists dominating the global pop landscape today. Bloomberg evaluated artists based on seven key metrics, including revenues and ticket sales from recent live shows, album and digital song sales, and YouTube views.

Standing shoulder to shoulder with global pop heavyweights including Beyoncé, Post Malone, Sabrina Carpenter, Coldplay, Shakira, and others, The Hit Machine Himesh’s inclusion marks a watershed moment not just for his career, but for Indian



music at large, making India proud on a global level.”

Known for his chart-topping hits, signature vocal tone, and ability to

constantly reinvent himself, Reshammiya’s crossover into the global spotlight reflects the growing recognition of Indian talent

in international arenas. As his music continues to dominate the playlists of audiences across all generations, Himesh has struck a chord with Gen Z, especially. His latest release, Badass Ravi Kumar emerged as a blockbuster for the right reasons, generating maximum interest among Gen Z about the iconic character, Ravi Kumar. From iconic Bollywood tracks to viral digital hits, Superstar Rockstar Himesh Reshammiya’s journey has been anything but conventional. Over the years, the hit machine has delivered over 2000 superhit songs and has earned exposure of over 200 billion views on YouTube, cementing him as an artist whose success is meteoric! This recognition from Bloomberg not only cements his status as a household name in India but also as a global music powerhouse. In addition to this, his recently held

concerts and musical shows have created a frenzy among the audiences, whether national or international! After the magnificent success of his recent concerts, the lineup of his next shows is soon to be announced! Earlier too, Himesh Reshammiya made India proud with his first studio album ‘Aap Kaa Surroor’, which emerged as the second highest-selling album in the world after Michael Jackson’s ‘Thriller’. His recent recognition highlights that Himesh’s own music album is the biggest label in India for any individual artist! On YouTube, Himesh’s music label, ‘Himesh Reshammiya Melodies’ has crossed more than 25 billion views, marking a significant feat.

As Indian music finds a wider global audience, Himesh Reshammiya’s inclusion signals a meaningful step forward — both for the industry and for the fans who’ve followed his journey.

Australian researcher gain fresh insights into invasive chital deer's diet

Canberra, Aug 7 (UNI) : An Australian researcher has used advanced DNA analysis of deer feces to gather new insights into the diet of invasive chital deer harming northern Australia's agricultural landscapes.

Originally introduced in 1886 with just four individuals, the chital deer population expanded to approximately 44,000 by 2014, causing concern over their impact on agriculture and ecosystems, according to a statement released by Australia's James Cook University (JCU).JCU PhD candidate Matthew Quin led a two-year DNA metabarcoding study of 149 deer fecal samples, revealing new insights into chital deer feeding habits.Non-native species invasions are a leading cause of extinctions and major drivers of ecosystem change, Quin said."Invasive, plant-eating ungulates (hoofed mammals) can reduce vegetation biomass and alter nutrient cycles, which can negatively impact other native herbivores and ecosystems," he added.

The study showed that, contrary to earlier beliefs that chital primarily consume grasses and grass-like plants during the wet season, their diet is dominated year-round by tree foliage and shrubs in the tropical savanna landscapes of northern Australia.

This discovery suggests that competition between chital and livestock such as cattle for pasture may be less severe than previously assumed, as the deer mainly feed on trees and shrubs.

The research highlights the value of DNA metabarcoding in quickly and accurately identifying dietary components in chital deer than older methods, and supports efforts to manage the expanding chital population in Australia's tropical savannas.

US President Donald Trump vows to intensify economic pressure on India via secondary sanctions

Washington, Aug 7 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump has vowed to intensify economic pressure on India over its purchase of Russian oil, implying that these pressures would likely materialise in the form of secondary sanctions.

Despite India being one of the US’ most prominent trading partners, and the two nations sharing high-level-diplomatic ties, Trump has levied a massive 25% tariff on all imports from the south Asian giant as a punitive measure over New Delhi’s continued purchase of Russian oil and gas.Trump has stated that he will be enacting an additional 25% tariffs on India, bringing the total percentage up to 50% for the world’s fourth largest economy, and Washington’s ninth-largest trading partner.

“It's only been 8 hours. So, let's see what happens. You're going to see a lot more... You're going to see so much secondary sanctions,” Trump said in response to a question regarding why India was being singled out for its oil purchases from Russia, reports RT.

Secondary sanctions are penalties that target third parties who interact with a sanctioned country, with the aim to limit their access to the sanctioning country's market.“For us, the interest of farmers is our top priority,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in response to the sanctions yesterday.“India will never compromise on the interests of farmers, fishermen, and dairy producers. I know we will have to pay a heavy price for it and I’m ready. India is ready for it,” he said.

No decision on resuming talks With US: Abbas Araghchi

Tehran, August 7 (UNI) : Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said that no final decision has been made regarding the resumption of indirect nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington, though communication between the two sides continues.

“There is no final decision [on resuming indirect talks with the United States]. Contacts have taken place. We have received messages from the other side [the U.S.], and [the decision on] whether negotiations will be held in the future... depends on whether our interests are respected,” Araghchi said in a live interview with Iranian state television channel Tehran.Iran and the United States held five rounds of indirect talks on the Iranian nuclear program with the mediation of Oman, and the sixth round was supposed to take place on June 15. It did not take place due to the outbreak of a military conflict between Tehran and Tel Aviv.

The key pretext for the start of military action against Iran was the accusation that the Islamic Republic was developing a secret military nuclear program. Therefore, during the conflict, the main target was Iran's nuclear facilities, which were subjected to airstrikes first by Israel and then by the United States.

Iranian officials reject the accusations of developing a secret military nuclear program, saying Tehran is ready to resume the negotiating process with Washington, but without preconditions.

U.S. Army base shuts down

New York, Aug 7 (UNI) : Parts of the U.S. Army's Fort Stewart in southeast Georgia state were locked down Wednesday after an active shooter was reported on the sprawling Army post, according to an official social media post of the fort.At least five soldiers were shot at Fort Stewart Hunter Army Airfield. The gunman was apprehended shortly afterward, according to the fort.

The lockdown was initiated at 11:04 a.m. (1504 GMT) and was lifted in the main cantonment area at 12:10 p.m. (1610 GMT). The 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team complex, where the shooting reportedly occurred, is still under lockdown."All Soldiers were treated on-site and moved to Winn Army Community Hospital for further treatment. There is no active threat to the community," said Fort Stewart.

8 killed, 15 injured after truck falls into ravine in southern Philippines

Manila, Aug 7 (UNI) : Eight people have been killed and 15 others injured after a mini dump truck, carrying 22 people, plunged into a ravine in Sultan Kudarat province in the southern Philippines, police said on Thursday.

Police said the accident happened at around 5:20 p.m. local time on Tuesday while the truck was navigating a downhill curve along a highway in Lebak town.

According to police, the truck's brakes failed, causing it to crash into concrete debris from an ongoing road construction project before falling into a ravine.

Emergency workers took the injured to a local hospital, where eight were pronounced dead.

It is common in Philippine rural areas to use a dump truck to transport people.

Thailand and Cambodia reach consensus on ceasefire details, pledge not to increase forces

Kuala Lumpur, Aug 7 (IANS) : Cambodia and Thailand reached a consensus on the details of the ceasefire and signed an agreement at the extraordinary meeting of the General Border Committee (GBC) held on Thursday.

Officials from Cambodia and Thailand attended the meeting, while delegates from the United States, China and Malaysia participated as third-party observers.According to a joint statement following the talks hosted at the Malaysian Ministry of Defence, both sides agreed to a ceasefire involving all types of weapons, pledging to avoid unprovoked firing towards each other's positions or troops, and agreed not to increase forces along the border.

Both sides agreed to maintain current troop deployments without further movement as they were at the time when the ceasefire was reached at midnight on July 28. They also committed to ensuring



the proper treatment of captured soldiers in accordance with international humanitarian law.

The statement further noted that both sides expressed support for an ASEAN observer team led by Malaysia to monitor compliance with the ceasefire. In the interim, a temporary observation mission consisting of defence attaches from ASEAN countries will be

stationed in Cambodia and Thailand, Xinhua news agency reported.

The statement also said that both sides agreed to maintain regular communication between all army areas and military regions and units, to convene a Regional Border Committee meeting within two weeks, to schedule the next GBC meeting of both countries within one month, and, if necessary, an extraordinary GBC meeting

should be called immediately.

Speaking at a briefing after the talks, Thai Acting Defence Minister Nattaphon Narkphanit stated that this meeting was crucial to bilateral relations and regional peace and expressed the hope that this meeting would serve as an opportunity to work with Cambodia to promote long-term peace.For his part, Cambodian Minister of National Defence Tea Seiha

said that Cambodia will fully implement the consensus reached and will continue to maintain close coordination and cooperation, demonstrating Cambodia's constructive approach to regional peace.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Home Minister Saifuddin noted that both countries had adhered to the principles upheld within the ASEAN framework."In ASEAN, we believe in resolving disputes through consensus, non-confrontation, and through trust, mutual respect, and the spirit of non-interference. We strengthen our regional unity, and this ASEAN spirit has guided us today and will continue to guide us in the journey ahead," he said.

Armed clashes between Cambodian and Thai forces erupted on July 24 along their border. The two countries agreed to a ceasefire on the afternoon of July 28, which took effect at midnight on the same day.

Trump pushes for swift meetings with Putin and Zelenskyy

Moscow, August 7 (UNI) : Giving a renewed diplomatic push, US President Donald Trump has instructed his team to move swiftly in organizing meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, CNN reported, citing senior White House officials.

According to The New York Times, Trump is aiming to meet Putin in person as early as next week, followed by a possible trilateral summit involving both Putin and Zelenskyy. The effort comes amid renewed attempts to de-escalate the Russia-Ukraine conflict

and explore avenues for strategic dialogue.

Putin received US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff in the Kremlin. Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said that they discussed the Ukrainian crisis and prospects for the possible development of strategic cooperation between the United States and Russia.

During the meeting, the parties exchanged "certain signals" about the situation in Ukraine, he added.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also reported progress in his diplomatic engagement with the US, he described a phone call with President

Trump as “productive,” emphasizing the urgency of halting the ongoing violence.“It is truly a must to stop the killing as soon as possible, and we fully support this,” Zelenskyy said in a post on X.According to Zelenskyy, the conversation covered several critical issues, including sanctions against Russia, Ukraine’s cooperation with NATO member states, and the deepening of bilateral defense ties with the United States. He also revealed that Ukraine has prepared a draft agreement with the US focused on joint drone development and cooperation.

Foreign Ministers of Iran, Egypt discuss Tehran's Nuclear issue

Tehran, August 7 (UNI) : Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a phone conversation with his Egyptian counterpart, Badr Abdelatty, during which they discussed issues related to Tehran's nuclear program, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said. "Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, during a phone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, discussed bilateral relations and events in the region and the

world ... During the conversation, topics related to the Iranian nuclear issue, which arose after the military aggression of the Israeli regime and the United States against our country, were also discussed," the ministry said in a statement.

On June 13, Israel launched a military operation against Iran, targeting nuclear facilities, military commanders, prominent nuclear physicists and air bases after accusing the country

of running a secret military nuclear program.Iran rejected the accusations. For 12 days, they exchanged strikes, which were joined by the United States, which struck Iranian nuclear facilities on June 22.

Tehran retaliated by attacking the US air base Al Udeid in Qatar and then announced it had no intention of further escalating the conflict. US President Donald Trump said on June 23 that Israel and Iran had agreed to a ceasefire to end "the 12-day war."

Myanmar's acting president U Myint Swe passes away

Yangon, Aug 7 (UNI) : Myanmar's acting President U Myint Swe died at the age of 74 in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of Myanmar, on Thursday morning, the National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) said.

A state funeral will be held for the acting president, the NDSC said.

According to the NDSC on Aug. 5, U Myint Swe has been diagnosed with

treatment in Singapore and at No. 2 Defence Services General Hospital in 2024, but his condition worsened in July 2025, with severe symptoms including weight loss and cognitive decline, it said.Due to his critical condition, he had been receiving intensive care at Special ICU of No. 2 Defence Services General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw since July 24.

The acting president had been on a medical leave since July 2024, and transferred duties to Senior

General Min Aung Hlaing since then.U Myint Swe was born in 1951 in Mandalay region. He attended the Defence Services Academy in 1971 and served in various military ranks in the Tatmadaw (Myanmar military). He retired from the Tatmadaw in 2010 with the rank of lieutenant general.

U Myint Swe served as Yangon Region Chief Minister from 2011 to 2016.

On March 30, 2016, he was sworn in as vice president of Myanmar.

Russian security chief Sergey Shoigu meets India’s NSA Ajit Doval

Moscow, Aug 7 (UNI) :Russia’s top security official Sergey Shoigu has called for the further strengthening of security ties between India and Russia, amid New Delhi’s ongoing trade spat with the US over its purchase of Russian oil, and President Donald Trump’s economic sanctions, reports RT.

The Russian Security Council Secretary on Thursday held talks with his Indian counterpart National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, who is currently in Moscow to discuss the Kremlin’s security and defence ties with New Delhi.Doval’s discussions with his Russian counterpart and with other high-ranking Russian defence and security officials will be focused primarily on counterterrorism, cooperation, the acquisition of more S-400 systems, and the potential purchase of Russia’s fifth gen Sukhoi Su-57 fighter jets. The sides will also discuss cooperation in energy, fertilisers, and other commodities.

“Russia and India are linked by strong, trusting, time-tested bonds of friendship,” Shoigu told Doval.“For our country, the comprehensive strengthening of the

special privileged strategic partnership with India, based on mutual respect, equal consideration of each other’s interests and the desire to advance a unifying agenda, is of paramount importance.”

He added that both Russia and India are looking to create “a new, more just and sustainable world order, ensuring the supremacy of international law and jointly combating modern challenges and threats.”The visit comes amid Trump’s signing of an executive order on Wednesday which imposed an additional 25% tariff on all imports from India due, in a bid to pressurise New Delhi to cut its oil trade with Russia. In effect, most Indian exports to the US will be charged a 50% tariff.

India, for its part, has refused to budge, criticising the move and calling the White House’ measures “extremely unfortunate,” while pledging to protect its own national interests.

At his meeting with Doval on Thursday, Shoigu said, “Regular consultations through the Security Council of the two countries help deepen Russian-Indian relations and take them to a new, higher level in the current difficult international situation.”

China successfully completes comprehensive testing for landing-take-off for its manned lunar lander

Beijing, Aug 7 (UNI) : China on Thursday announced that it has successfully completed a comprehensive test for the landing and take-off of its manned lunar lander at a test site in Huailai County, Hebei Province.

The test completed on Wednesday represents a key step in the development of China's manned lunar exploration program.

It also marks the first time that China has carried out a test for extraterrestrial landing and take-off of a manned spacecraft, said the China Manned Space Agency.

Congress pays tribute to Shibui Soren, demands Bharat Ratna and University in his name

Ranchi, Aug 7 (UNI) : The Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee today held a condolence meeting at the Congress headquarters here to pay homage to veteran tribal leader and former Chief Minister Shibui Soren, popularly known as Dishom Guru, who passed away recently.

The meeting was presided over by Jharkhand Congress President Keshav Mahto Kamlesh, with senior party leaders and workers in attendance. Floral tributes were offered at a portrait of the late leader, recalling his life, legacy, and pivotal role in the creation of Jharkhand. Speaking on the occasion, Kamlesh said that Shibui Soren's life was like an "infinite book of struggle", each page chronicling sacrifices made for tribal identity, economic justice, and the rights of the people of Jharkhand.

"From his youth, he led movements for tribal rights, land, forest, and water. He united people across castes and communities in the fight for a separate state, eventually leading to the

formation of Jharkhand," he said.

Kamlesh urged the Central Government to honour Soren posthumously with the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award.

He also demanded the Jharkhand Government establish a university in his name, declare his residence a museum, and incorporate his life story into state school textbooks.

Congress's Jharkhand in-charge Dr Siribella Prasad called Soren a "symbol of struggle" whose efforts to uplift tribal communities and mobilise public awareness earned him respect and trust across the country.

"Absorbing his ideals into public life would be the true tribute to his legacy," he added. Leader of the Congress Legislative Party, Pradeep Yadav, said Soren not only envisioned Jharkhand but realised it through relentless struggle.

"To truly honour him, we must strive to realise his dreams of economic, social, and political empowerment for the people of Jharkhand."



Students form a concentric 'Rakhi' formation as part of celebrations ahead of 'Raksha Bandhan' festival, at Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul in Surat on Thursday.

Naveen Patnaik slams Odisha govt over deaths of three young girls in a month

Bhubaneswar, Aug 7 (UNI) : Leader of Opposition in the Odisha Assembly and BJD chief Naveen Patnaik today strongly criticized the Mohan Majhi-led BJP government, alleging administrative apathy following the deaths of three young girls in similar circumstances within a month. In a post on social media platform X, Patnaik expressed deep sorrow over the latest incident involving a girl from Pattamundai in Kendrapara

district, who allegedly set herself ablaze in desperation after her repeated pleas for justice went unheard.

"Deeply saddened and anguished to know that another girl from Pattamundai, Kendrapara, has set herself on fire in desperation after her pleas for justice fell on deaf ears yet again. My condolences to the young girl's family. My prayers are with them in this hour of grief. May God give them strength to bear this irreparable loss,"

Patnaik said. He further remarked, "It pains me to know that, within a month, three young girls have lost their lives under very similar circumstances. Each fatal flame that consumed these innocent lives reflects a deeply disturbing pattern in Odisha."

The former Chief Minister alleged that the administration had failed these daughters of Odisha, ignoring their cries for help.

"Three daughters of our soil have died in broad daylight because of an

apathetic administration that failed to hear their screams. And there are countless more such heinous crimes against women being reported across the state, almost daily," he added.

Posing tough questions to the BJP-led state government, Patnaik said, "How many more funeral pyres must light up before the state government wakes up? How many more mothers must hold the ashes of their daughters before the government acts?"

Bengal CM Mamata pays homage to Tagore on death anniversary

Kolkata, Aug 7 (UNI) West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today paid glowing tribute to Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore on his 84th death anniversary, saying the poet lives every day of the year and surrounds the lives of us.

Banerjee said they remembered the contributions of the poet, especially when the Bengali people were attacked and targeted for speaking the Bengali language.

"The poet is now an inspiration for us to carry on the fight," the Bengal CM said while remembering the Nobel laureate.

Tejashwi projecting himself as CM face without allies consensus: Kushwaha

Patna, Aug 7 (UNI) : Launched a sharp tirade against the leader of the opposition Tejaswi Prasad Yadav, the Janata Dal (United) Bihar President Umesh Singh Kushwaha today accused him for repeatedly projecting himself as the chief ministerial face without consensus from allies to quench his political thirst.

Kushwaha said here that, "Tejaswi Yadav has publicly declared himself as the CM candidate on multiple occasions. However, it's either a political irony or the misfortune of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) that its key ally, the Congress, has neither endorsed his leadership nor taken a clear stand in his

Assam CM warns against 'pattern' of cultural transformation through rented houses

Guwahati, Aug 7 (UNI) : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has raised concerns about what he described as a "pattern" in which rented houses are allegedly being used in ways that change the cultural and religious character of neighbourhoods.

Speaking at a public event, the Chief Minister said, "Those who do not align with our traditions and culture... if someone lives in a rented house and a cow is slaughtered there just for consumption, what about the temple located nearby? That cannot be accepted."

He said that in many cases across Assam, people first rent houses, then begin consuming beef, and later religious structures like mosques are built.

"Over time, a nearby Satra starts vacating the area. This is a pattern we are witnessing," he said. Sarma urged landlords to be cautious while renting out their properties.

"There's no harm in respectfully requesting landlords not to rent irresponsibly. You can speak to them and explain how the colony may be affected. But don't take the law into your own hands- it is the government's responsibility, and we will take appropriate action," he added.

While Sarma did not name any particular community, opposition leaders and rights groups said his remarks could target minorities and create division.

The Congress party called his statement "divisive" and warned that it could promote discrimination against tenants based on religion or food habits.

Manipur Police intensifies ILP checks in Senapati District

Imphal, Aug 7 (UNI) : To regulate the movement of non-locals and detect undocumented immigrants, Manipur Police has launched a special verification drive across Senapati district, with over 2,400 individuals screened so far. According to an official statement, the ongoing operation—monitored closely by the Senapati District Police Task Force—has identified 170 individuals without valid Inner Line Permits (ILPs) and another 134 carrying expired ILP documents. These individuals were escorted to the Mao Gate ILP counter to obtain fresh documentation before being allowed to continue their journey. Police have clarified that while no illegal immigrants have been apprehended so far, the drive is primarily a pre-emptive measure to enforce ILP norms and ensure that only

individuals with valid permits are allowed access into the state. Checks at all inter-state and inter-district border entry points have been intensified, and authorities say the exercise will be scaled up further in the coming days. The Inner Line Permit system, a colonial-era regulation reintroduced and expanded in recent years, is mandatory for non-residents seeking entry into Manipur. The system is designed to safeguard the rights and identity of indigenous communities by regulating the influx of outsiders, particularly in the wake of rising demographic concerns in the northeastern region.

The renewed enforcement comes at a time when Manipur remains sensitive to demographic changes due to its complex ethnic composition and ongoing unrest in parts of the state.

Election Commission going beyond its jurisdiction to help BJP in Bengal : AITC Leader, Abhishek Banerjee

Kolkata, Aug 7 (UNI) : In a blistering attack on the Election Commission of India (ECI), All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee today accused the poll body of acting as an "extended arm of the BJP" and grossly overstepping its constitutional jurisdiction by interfering in the affairs of the West Bengal government well ahead of the assembly election announcement.

Banerjee alleged that the ECI was interfering in the functioning of the West Bengal government nearly a year ahead of the state assembly elections which he claimed was aimed at crippling the elected

administration and benefiting the ruling party at the Centre.

"The ECI is acting beyond its jurisdiction. Its responsibility begins only when the Model Code of Conduct comes into effect. After that, it can take over the state's civil and criminal/police administrative machinery to ensure that the election is free, fair, and impartial. But the work they have started for the past 3-4 months, when the election is still 10-11 months away, clearly shows that since they will not allow an elected government to function, they have done this. It has been done to give favours and advantages to the BJP," Banerjee said at the

city airport.

He alleged that they (Centre) have denied Bengal its rights and, at the same time, misused the judiciary.

"They have used a section of the media to defame Bengal by using a case like Sandeshkhali. Now they are using the ECI so that genuine Bengalis cannot exercise their right to vote. The ECI has taken on this shameless role so that they can snatch away the voting rights of these people. This is not within the ECI's jurisdiction anymore. They should have informed the State about their actions because this is an elected government," Banerjee continued. Banerjee, the

nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, said that the people had voted the TMC to power in 2021, and the government was accountable only to them and not to any political party or the Centre.

"We respect the judiciary, but since 2021, over 50 CBI investigations have been conducted through different benches of the Calcutta High Court, using the Centre's influence to undermine Bengal and keep AITC under pressure," he pointed out.

He said the state was also defamed and attacked nationally over the RG Kar case. But when the CBI took over, it failed to improve upon what the

Kolkata Police had already achieved within 24 hours.

"Those who are trying to belittle Bengal have been answered in the past and will be taught a lesson again. But the BJP never learns from its mistakes. They have stopped all funds under the Jal Jeevan Mission. All the money has been blocked. Water is life. Even that has been stopped. How will the people survive?" said Banerjee, who has been named the leader of the AITC Parliamentary Party.

He also charged Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a foreign policy failure after the Donald Trump administration imposed a 50 percent tariff on Indian goods exported to the USA.

VPP MP Syngkon meets Modi, seeks ILP, reinforcement of BSF

Shillong, Aug 7 (UNI) : Dr. Ricky Andrew Jones Syngkon, Voice of the People Party (VPP) MP from Shillong parliamentary seat, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi today, urging him to take urgent steps to implement the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regulation and other long-pending demands concerning Meghalaya.

Syngkon also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister sought deployment of three additional Border Security Force (BSF) battalions along the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya to enhance ground-level security and instil confidence among the border population.

Voicing concern over the large-scale of influx of migrants, including Bangladesh immigrants,

Syngkon sought the Prime Minister's intervention to grant ILP status to Meghalaya. "The long-standing demand for the extension of the ILP regime continues to be a matter of deep concern for its indigenous communities. The people of Meghalaya are increasingly alarmed by the growing influx of migrants, including from across the international border with Bangladesh and the unauthorised settlements and encroachments on tribal lands, particularly in sensitive border and fringe areas," Syngkon informed the Prime Minister. He added: "This demographic pressure poses a serious threat to the cultural identity, land rights, and socio-economic security of the tribal population of Meghalaya." Noting that

the ILP regime is already in force in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland, the VPP MP said, the ILP is viewed as a necessary and legitimate protective mechanism to regulate the entry of outsiders and preserve the unique tribal character of the state. Syngkon requested the Prime Minister to instantiate a structured consultative process with all stakeholders to examine the demand for ILP in Meghalaya in a fair, sensitive and time-bound manner. In fact, the Meghalaya Assembly had unanimously adopted a resolution on December 19, 2019, urging the central government to introduce the ILP regime into the state by including Meghalaya in the preamble of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873.

Rahul Gandhi to embark on "Voter Rights Yatra" in Bihar from Aug 17: Ram

Patna, Aug 7 (UNI) : With an aim to safeguard the democratic values and to ensure every citizen's right to vote, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will embark on his "Voter Rights Yatra" from Sasaram on August 17. After a key strategy meeting held today at the Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters, Sadaqat Ashram, here, AICC Bihar in-charge Krishna Allavaru told news persons here that the yatra is not just a political event but a campaign to uphold justice, equality, democracy, and public dialogue. "Rahul Gandhi's journey is a mission to restore the soul of the nation. It's about reconnecting with the people and addressing the

threats to democratic values," he said. He called on Congress workers to engage with energy, discipline, and dedication to ensure the success of the Yatra. "Bihar has always played a leading role in mass movements, and this time too, the party expect the state to take the lead in shaping the national narrative," Allavaru added.

The meeting to review the preparation of the yatra was attended by Allavaru, Bihar Congress President Rajesh Ram and senior party leaders. Speaking at the meeting, Rajesh Ram announced that the Voter Rights Yatra would be a two-week-long journey focused on safeguarding democratic values and ensuring every citizen's right to vote.

support." Taking a dig at the opposition alliance INDIA, Kushwaha pointed to ongoing infighting and lack of clarity over leadership within the bloc ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections.

"The alliance, formed on the foundation of personal political interests, is entangled in mutual distrust and constant internal conflicts. Rather than working together, the allies are busy pulling each other down," he said. He ridiculed the frequent alliance meetings as mere "photo opportunities," claiming they serve no real purpose and are unlikely to yield any concrete outcomes. Further slamming the RJD and Congress, Kushwaha stated that despite ruling

Bihar for years, they have no significant achievements to present to the people. "These opportunistic parties lack both a meaningful track record and a clear vision for the future. They have failed to deliver in the past and continue to mislead the public." Labeling the INDIA alliance as a "coalition of corrupt parties," the JDU state president accused them of being more concerned about enriching themselves than serving the public. "Words like public welfare and respect for citizens don't exist in their political dictionary. Their history is filled with exploitation and abuse of power, and the conscious people of Bihar will never trust them again," he asserted.

Five Indians assured of medals after commanding quarters wins



Bangkok (Thailand), Aug 7 (IANS) : Five Indian men pugilists will join their seven women compatriots in the semifinals of the U19 Asian Boxing Championships 2025 in the Thai capital on Thursday after registering convincing victories to reach the semifinals of their respective weight categories and assure themselves of a medal.

Shivam (55kg), Mausam Suhag (65kg), Rahul Kundu (75kg), Gaurav (85kg), and Hemant Sangwan (90kg) took down their opponents in style to ensure that India will come back with 12 medals from the U19 category. Shivam started India's winning march in the morning session when he utterly dominated Uzbekistan's Abdulaziz Abdunazarov for a 5:0 win.

Mausam Suhag was then pushed to the corner, but the youngster kept his composure under pressure to eke out a 3:2 win in the 65kg quarterfinals against Mukhammed Alimbekov of Kyrgyzstan. Rahul Kundu then went on a rampage against Eunjo Jeong of South Korea, and the referee had to ultimately stop the 75kg contest before Gaurav joined the

three in the last four stage with a hard-fought victory over Kuang-Yao Cheng of Chinese Taipei in the 85kg category.

Hemant Sangwan then got the better of Muhammadrizo Siddikov of Uzbekistan in the 90kg weight category and raised hopes of a 100 per cent win record on Thursday. However, Krish fell short of pulling off a victory against Iran's Abbas Gharshasbi in a close 90+kg bout.

The U19 and U22 Asian Boxing Championships, which are being held simultaneously, provide India's rising stars a platform to showcase their skills and determination against some of 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. India are also assured of 13 medals in the U22 category with five boxers set to fight for gold.

China trounces India for second straight win at men's basketball Asia Cup

Jeddah, Aug 7 (UNI) : China's men's basketball team trounced India 100-69 here today for its second straight win in preliminary Group C at the FIBA Asia Cup.

Hu Mingxuan and Zhao Jiayi had 17 points apiece, and Cheng Shuaipeng and Wang Junjie each added 13 as the Chinese men took an easy victory following their narrow 93-88 win over Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

The Asian powerhouse shot 15-for-28 from beyond the arc as Hu Jinqiu and Liao Sanning also scored in double digits with 11 points apiece.

"We demonstrated strong execution and a more balanced approach between offense and defense in this game compared to the first one," said China head coach Guo Shiqiang.

"Our fast breaks were effective, and we shot the ball pretty well." Hu Mingxuan buried two three-pointers and Wang, Liao and Gao added one each as China raced to a 29-14 lead after the first quarter and went on to enlarge it to 53-31 at halftime.

The Indians fought hard after the game resumed, but China staged a 10-0 run connecting the third and fourth quarter for an unshakable 78-48 cushion with eight minutes and 57 seconds remaining. Arvind Muthu Krishnan led India with 16 points. China will clash with Jordan in its third and final pool match on Saturday as India takes on Saudi Arabia.

NEROCA FC and Indian Navy play a goalless draw

Imphal, Aug 7 (UNI) : NEROCA FC and Indian Navy FT played out a hard-fought goalless draw in their Group F encounter of the 134th Indian Oil Durand Cup, here at the Khuman Lampak Main Stadium, to earn a point each. Despite several half-chances and moments of promise, both sides failed to find the finishing touch in a match that was high on midfield battles and defensive organisation. NEROCA head coach Gyan Moyon made three changes to his starting XI from the Imphal Derby, switching to a 4-2-3-1 formation. Jetli Sorokhaibam came in as goalkeeper, Gotimayum Muktasana was handed a midfield role, and Brazilian Lucas Da Silva slotted into the defence. Indian Navy head coach Raman Rai opted to retain his starting lineup from their previous win, sticking with the 4-3-3 system led by captain

Bhaskar Roy in goal, with Vijay Marandi and Sreyas on the flanks and Roshan Panna up front.

Deny Singh of Indian Navy made the first attempt in the 6th minute with a right-footed strike from the wing, but NEROCA's keeper Jetli Sorokhaibam was equal to the task, diving low to his left to make a comfortable save.

The Orange Brigade responded in the 11th minute when a through ball from midfield released Lourembam on the left. He sprinted down the flank and fired a shot at goal, but Bhaskar Roy handled it without fuss. The next few minutes saw NEROCA dominate possession, testing the Sailors' defensive line with bursts from Lourembam and Rohit Meetei, but the Navy defenders held firm.

Indian Navy had their moments too, with Deny Singh orchestrating the

play from deep and threading through balls for Sreyas. However, the forward failed to capitalise on these opportunities, his shot in the 27th minute lacked power and went straight to the keeper.

The first half saw strong defensive displays from both sides. For NEROCA, Lucas Da Silva and Japes were particularly solid at the back, intercepting key runs and managing aerial balls well.

The best chance of the second half for the Sailors came in the 50th minute when Roshan Panna laid the ball off for Deny Singh, whose curling effort spun wide. Three minutes later, Deny had another crack from outside the box, but it went wide.

Neroca's skipper Kinesh Singh nearly broke the deadlock in the 60th minute, but his left-footed placement off a lofted cross missed the target.

Tottenham midfielder Maddison to have ACL rupture operation

London, Aug 7 (UNI) : Tottenham Hotspur confirmed today that midfielder James Maddison will undergo surgery for a ruptured Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) in his right knee. "The 28-year-old midfielder suffered the injury during our pre-season friendly against Newcastle United on Sunday in Seoul," the Premier League club said in a statement.

"His surgery will take place in the coming days and, following that, James will then begin his rehabilitation with our medical team," the statement read. The midfielder, who scored 12 goals in 45 appearances for Spurs, is expected to miss the majority of the upcoming season.

Delhi High Court declines interim relief in petitions pertaining to BFI elections

New Delhi, Aug 7 (UNI) : The Delhi High Court today heard four writ petitions filed by the Delhi Amateur Boxing Association, Himachal Pradesh Boxing Association, Gujarat Boxing Association, and Madhya Pradesh Boxing Association in relation to the upcoming elections of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) scheduled for August 21, 2025.

The Delhi Amateur Boxing Association specifically sought an interim stay on the conduct of the elections, while the associations from Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh challenged the validity of the BFI's newly adopted Constitution, alleging that it is ultra vires.

These associations also prayed for a direction to appoint a new Returning Officer for the said elections. The High Court, however, did not grant any interim relief to the petitioners. The Hon'ble Court has however directed that the elections shall remain subject to the final outcome of the present writ petitions. Senior Counsel appearing for the Interim Committee of BFI submitted that 30 out of 34 State and Union Territory member units have approved the amended Constitution, which has also received approval from World Boxing, the international governing body. It was further submitted that the majority of the member units are in favour of conducting the elections expeditiously.

Advocate Parth Goswami, counsel appearing on behalf of the Interim Committee of BFI, confirmed that the Hon'ble Court has not stayed the elections and has directed the respondents to file their respective replies. The matter remains pending for further consideration before the High Court.

India look to be sharper in attack against Turkmenistan

Yangon, Myanmar, Aug 7 (UNI) : After a goalless draw with Indonesia on Wednesday, the Indian U20 women's team will look for their first win in the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand 2026 Qualifiers Group D when they take on Turkmenistan on Friday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, at 18:00 IST.

"To be honest, we were not happy with the result," said India captain Shubhangi Singh after the draw with Indonesia. "It's disappointing not to get three points from the game. We had more ball possession, and I felt we dominated from start to finish." Head coach Joakim Alexandersson expressed that he and the girls were left "hugely disappointed" with the slow start to the campaign, in which their aim is to qualify for the Asian Cup after a gap of 20 years. "We didn't perform well. The overall quality was lacking in everything we tried to do. We attempted to improve in the second half, but it just wasn't our day. On the ball,

Determined performances, fight for redemption, emotional departures in Asian Surfing

Chennai, Aug 7 (UNI) : The Day 4 of the ASF Asian Surfing Championships 2025 witnessed another gripping chapter in Asia's premier surfing contest, with Repechage Rounds and Main Round 3 action offering both redemption and heartbreak.

With high stakes and limited second chances, the waves off Mahabalipuram's historic coast witnessed raw determination, clutch performances, and emotional breakthroughs, especially in the Open Men's, Open Women's, and Under-18 Boys' divisions.

While India's women surfers Shrishti Selvam and Kamali Moorthy advanced to the Main Round 3, their championship journey came to an end in the face of seasoned international competition.

However, rising star Prahlad Sriram kept Indian hopes alive in the U18 Boys Division, progressing to Round 3 (Main Round) with a standout performance.

In the Open Men – Round 2 (Repechage) it was a battle for survival. The stakes were high with no

room for error. Surfers pushed the limits, determined to earn a second chance at championship contention.

Kanoa Heejae (KOR) - 16.67 (Won by 4.17) set the tone early with an aggressive frontside attack, securing the heat-winning score ahead of Chia-Chi Yu (TPE) - 12.50, Ramil Arromchuen (THA) - 8.00 and Afridun Amu (AFG) - 1.50 in the Open Men – Round 2 (Repechage).

The Open Women's Repechage Round 2 brought a glimmer of hope for Team India. Shrishti Selvam (IND) - 4.66 and Kamali Moorthy (IND) - 8.70 (Won by 0.73) who topped her Round 2 Heat 3 category.

Both hailing from Tamil Nadu's coastal surfing communities, displayed poise under pressure, navigating the inside sections effectively and progressing to the Main Round 3.

Unfortunately, Sugar Shanti, despite a promising start, was unable to back up her opening ride and exited the competition. Her powerful turns and crowd-pleasing style earned

appreciation, even as her campaign came to an end.

In the U18 Boys' Repechage, India's Prahlad Sriram stole the spotlight with a well-timed combination of vertical snaps and flow, earning him a decisive heat win and a place in Round 3 (Main Round). In the Open Women – Round 3 (Main Round) Indians put up brave efforts, but none could advance.

Shrishti Selvam and Kamali Moorthy carried India's flag into Main Round 3, facing off against Asia's elite, including Isabel Higgs (THA) - 12.00 (Won by 6.33) and Sumomo Sato (JPN) Despite valiant efforts and sharp execution, both surfers were edged out by narrow margins.

Shrishti posted a 3.03 heat total with her signature forehand cutbacks, while Kamali scored an 5.57 after missing priority in the closing minutes. Unfortunately, neither score was enough to push them through to the quarterfinals, marking the end of Team India's women's campaign at this edition of the championships.

Striker Marc Guiu arrives at Sunderland on loan from Chelsea

London, Aug 7 (UNI) : Sunderland continues to strengthen its squad on the club's return to the Premier League with the signing of former FC Barcelona striker Marc Guiu on loan from Chelsea for the 2025-2026 season.

The 19-year-old made 16 appearances for Chelsea last season, netting six goals, but the club has sent him on loan to gain more top-flight experience with the club that returned to the top-flight after winning last season's play-off from the Championship.

Sunderland has spent big since assuring promotion, spending well over 100 million pounds on

signings such as Enzo Le Fee, Habib Diarra, Noah Sadiki, Reinildo, Chemsdine Talbi, Simon Adingra, and Granit Xhaka, with the Swiss international returning to the Premier League from Bayer Leverkusen. "I'm feeling great and really looking forward to the season ahead," said Guiu, who in 2023 briefly became the youngest Barcelona player to score a goal in La Liga.

"I see myself as a powerful striker, who can make a difference on and off the ball, and I pride myself on being a natural goalscorer."

"This year is a huge opportunity for me to help

take this team where it truly deserves to be, and

I can't wait to get started," he said on the Sunderland website.

Sunderland's Director of Football, Kristiaan Speakman also welcomes Guiu's arrival.

"The competition for his signature was significant, and he had many high-quality options this summer, so we are delighted he's joined Sunderland. Marc's a progressive striker who has key attributes that align with the role in our team. In addition to providing a threat in the final third, we believe there are many other ways he can impact games," he said.

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TASA, Sparsh Hospice sign MoU to provide cashless palliative care for veterans

Hyderabad, Aug 7 (UNI) : In a significant step towards supporting terminally ill veterans, the Telangana & Andhra Sub Area (TASA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sparsh Hospice, an initiative of the Rotary Club of Banjara Hills, and the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) Hyderabad.

The partnership will enable over 2.8 lakh veterans and their dependents in Hyderabad and surrounding districts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to access cashless palliative care services, particularly for those battling terminal-stage cancer. Sparsh Hospice offers a comprehensive approach to palliative care with inpatient, outpatient, and home-based services.



Mr Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR met Mr K.Ramakrishna Rao, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana today at Dr. BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat and discussed regarding the Rail Developmental issues pertaining to the State.

MANUU ITI Hyderabad ; Admission counseling

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Aug 7 : Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Hyderabad is inviting application forms for second phase admission counseling into vacant seats in ITI Trades at Hyderabad. The Last date for submission of filled in application form at MANUU ITI Hyderabad is August 18, 2025.

According to the Principal, Dr. Arshia Azam applications form can be obtained from MANUU - ITI Hyderabad or can be downloaded from University website www.manuu.edu.in. The counseling will be held on August 20 from 9.30 am onwards at ITI, MANUU Campus, Gachibowli.

For details desiroud candidates can contact the ITI office in person or by telephone: 040-23008428 & 9440692452.

ESIC Organizes Awareness meet on SPREE, Amnesty Scheme and PM-VBRY at Mumbai



(By PIB Mumbai/ Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 7 : The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), under the Union Ministry of Labour & Employment, organized an awareness meeting at its Sub-Regional Office in Marol, Andheri (East), in Mumbai today. The meeting was convened to promote awareness about three key initiatives of the Government of India, Scheme for Promotion of Registration of Employers and Employees (SPREE) 2025, Amnesty 2025, and Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY).

Shri Ramji Lal Meena, Insurance Commissioner (West Zone), Smt. Abhilasha Jha, Regional Director (West), Maharashtra, and Shri MS

Arya, Regional PF Commissioner-I, Thane Zone addressed in the program with an aim to foster dialogue with stakeholders, clarify doubts, and ensure broader outreach and participation in these important schemes.

1. SPREE 2025 – Scheme for Promotion of Registration of Employers and Employees, aimed at enhancing social security coverage by encouraging voluntary registration of unregistered employers and employees, including temporary and contractual workers. The scheme waives off retrospective inspections and contribution demands for registrations done during the period of scheme from 1st July to 31st December 2025. For details, click here.

2. Amnesty 2025 – A

one-time settlement scheme offering an opportunity for employers to resolve disputes and litigations amicably, thereby reducing the burden on the judicial system. This scheme would be in force from 1st October, 2025 to 30th September, 2026. For details, click here

3. Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) – A transformative employment-linked incentive scheme launched by the Government of India to encourage job creation and benefit both employers and employees. For details, click here.

The awareness session witnessed participation from senior officials of the Union Ministry of Labour & Employment as well as officers from Maharashtra, signifying the collaborative spirit of the initiative.

RPF Cyber Cell Tracks and Recovers Lost Mobiles Under 'Operation Amanat'



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Aug 7 : In a significant boost to passenger services, the RPF/South Central Railway (SCR) has intensified its efforts under 'Operation Amanat' by effectively leveraging digital tools to trace and recover lost mobile phones. Through the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal, RPF Cyber Cell has been driving the recovery operations across the

zone, transforming technology into tangible outcomes. The RPF is authorized to facilitate the recovery of lost devices only when the incident is reported and registered through Rail Madad, and no FIR has been lodged by the complainant in the case. The CEIR portal, developed by the Department of Telecommunications, enables IMEI-based tracking and blocking of lost or stolen devices.



However, it is the RPF's dedicated Cyber Cell that has been leading mobile recovery efforts across the zone. During the month of July-2025, the RPF Cyber Cell has handled a total of 169 complaints received from Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur and Nanded Divisions of South Central Railway.

Out of these complaints, 139 mobile phones have been

blocked by Cyber Cell, traceability of 52 devices has been detected and 21 mobile phones have been successfully recovered, out of which 09 phones have already been returned to the rightful owners. These efforts are supported by structured follow-up and direct user engagement, reflecting the RPF's proactive approach.

Mr Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR appreciated Railway Protection Force,

South Central Railway for the strong focus on passenger welfare. He stated that the RPF Cyber Cell has become a key force in restoring stolen or misplaced property through digital intelligence, timely action, and inter-agency collaboration. This initiative continues to reinforce public trust in the RPF's commitment to ensuring security and service across the Railway network, he said.

Waltair Division celebrates 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign 2025 : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Aug 7 : On the eve of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' (HGT) campaign 2025, Waltair Division has initiated to host vibrant events to honor this national initiative under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager Mr Lalit Bohra. Designed to instill patriotic fervor and a sense of unity, the Division has been engaged with a variety of programs for staff, their families, and the broader community. The wide range of activities are being organized over the Division and includes Rangoli competitions, essay writing contests, quiz programs, enthusiastic Tiranga-themed bike and cycle rallies, a Tiranga Concert, Tiranga Art painting, and creative selfie booths etc.



All these events have been designed to bring the community together under the tricolor and to celebrate the values it embodies. Marking the occasion, the Personnel Branch of Waltair Division today conducted a lively Rangoli competition at the Rail Club, exclusively for women railway employees. The contest witnessed enthusiastic participation and showcased splendid artistry. Smt Jyotsna Bohra, President of ECoRWWO, along with other executive members, graced the event as judges, announcing the first, second, and third place winners. This special celebration underscored the importance of inclusion and the creative contributions of women in the Division.

Western Railway to run one more Rakshabandhan special train between Bandra Terminus and Jaipur

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Aug 7 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season of Rakshabandhan, Western Railway will run one more Special Train on Special fare between Bandra Terminus & Jaipur.

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

1. Train No. 09726/ 09725 Bandra Terminus – Jaipur Special [2

Trips]

Train No. 09726 Bandra Terminus - Jaipur Special will depart from Bandra Terminus on Monday, 11th August, 2025 at 09:30 hrs, and will reach Jaipur at 06:45 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09725 Jaipur – Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Jaipur on Sunday, 10th August, 2025 at 08:25 hrs, and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 04:55 hrs, the next day.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Ratlam, Mandor, Nimach, Chittaurgarh,

Bhilwara, Mandal, Bijainagar, Nasirabad, Ajmer and Kishangarh stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 2-Tier, AC -3 Tier, AC -3 Tier (Economy), Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

The booking for Train No. 09726 will open from 09 August, 2025 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Wild vegetable festival in thane



(Standard Post Bureau)

Thane, Aug 7 : To create employment for women in rural area zillaparishad thane took initiative to give opportunity for women to put stall like bhiwandi shahpur khadivali ambarnath Murbad taken part this is medicinal benefit and awareness to people various vegetable like dinda bhaji shevla aghada this they give to urban people what nature had given them nowadays diseases increasing this vegetable are useful for people high in nutrients so it

improves people health Wild vegetable festival in thane

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