

IN BRIEF

CM Naidu announces Rs 10 lakh ex gratia for families of vizag blast victims

Vijayawada, Aug 8 (UNI) :Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has announced a Rs 10 lakh ex gratia to the families of the three deceased who were killed in an explosion which took place in a welding shop in Visakhapatnam yesterday.

The Chief Minister today announced the Rs 10 lakh ex gratia and directed the officials to hand over the amount to the family members of the three deceased. Naidu also directed the officials to provide the best medical treatment to the injured.

The three people were killed when a massive explosion took place in a welding shop near the fishing harbour. The blast took place as a gas cylinder exploded, killing Ganesh (45), Mutyalu (27) and Srinu (32). The condition of the three injured is said to be critical.

Heavy rain likely in AP as weather systems persist: Met Centre

Amaravati, Aug 8 (UNI) : The Meteorological Centre today said that the upper air cyclonic circulation over north interior Karnataka and neighbouring areas at 5.8 km above mean sea level has persisted. Another cyclonic circulation over south coastal Andhra Pradesh, between 1.5 and 3.1 km above mean sea level, is also continuing.

A north-south trough is running from south coastal Andhra Pradesh to north Sri Lanka across coastal Tamil Nadu, extending up to 1.5 km above mean sea level.

The Met Centre further predicted that a low-pressure area is likely to form over the northwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal around August 13.Heavy rain is likely at isolated places in south coastal Andhra during the next 48 hours and again on August 12, 13, and 14. Similar conditions are expected in north coastal Andhra Pradesh during the next 24 hours and from August 12-14. Rayalaseema is also likely to receive heavy rain during the next 48 hours.

CM to Attend Intl Tribal Day programmes in Paderu



(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, Aug 8 : With the NDA government assuming office, a new chapter has begun in the development of tribal areas.

The state government is working tirelessly to bring progress and light into the lives of tribal communities in the agency districts. Fulfilling its promises, the government is striving to elevate agency regions to the same level of development as plains areas. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will attend the International Tribal Day celebrations in Paderu on August 9.

This year, the United

Nations has called for the observance of International Tribal Day with the theme "Indigenous Peoples and Artificial Intelligence – Defending Rights, Shaping the Future." In line with this, the state government is organizing the event in Paderu, Alluri Sitarama Raju District.

The Chief Minister will first visit the Modakondamma Temple and then participate in traditional tribal ceremonies. He will interact with tribal families to understand their challenges first hand.

Later, he will engage with coffee plantation growers and attend a public meeting

at Lagisapalle. During the event, the CM will lay the foundation for development projects in tribal areas and govt will sign some of the MoUs related these initiatives.

The government has accelerated road construction projects to connect remote tribal habitations with major hubs and plains regions. A total of ₹2,404 crores has been allocated to build roads and bridges, ensuring connectivity for over 2,075 tribal villages in the next five years. In Alluri Sitarama Raju District, road corridors worth ₹41 crores will be developed.Under the Jal

Jeevan Mission, the government has initiated works worth ₹2,373 crores to provide clean drinking water to 13,816 tribal habitations, aiming for completion by 2026. Additionally, multi-specialty hospitals will be constructed in ITDA regions like Sitampeta, Parvatipuram, Rampachodavaram, KR Puram, and Srisailam, with ₹50 crores allocated for each facility. The medical college in Paderu is also progressing rapidly.

To support tribal youth in competitive exams, the government has established study circles in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Tirupati, and other areas. Residential school buildings are being converted into hostels with an allocation of ₹150 crores, benefiting over 520 schools. A high-level bridge over the Nagavali River between Purnnapadu and Komarada will be constructed at a cost of ₹10 crores.

The government is also promoting Araku coffee as a global brand by expanding plantations and setting up processing units, with an investment of ₹202 crores. Tourism projects are being launched to create employment opportunities for tribal youth.

ColdStar Logistics opens new distribution hub in V'patnam

Visakhapatnam, Aug 8 (UNI) ColdStar Logistics, India's fastest-growing temperature-controlled supply chain solutions provider, has expanded its reach in Andhra Pradesh with its second state-of-the-art distribution hub in Visakhapatnam (Vizag).

Located at Sontyam, Anandapuram Mandal, Visakhapatnam, ColdStar's hub will cater to marine, pharmaceuticals and FMCG businesses, ensuring last-mile delivery to the rest of the country.

"Being India's largest seaport, Visakhapatnam handles tons of cargo each year. Over the years, this coastal city has established itself as a vital maritime and pharmaceutical hub. As the demand for real-time deliveries grows for fresh seafood and FMCG, we, at ColdStar, are very excited to expand our presence here and be a part of this dynamic landscape. With a capacity of 3500+ pallets, our new hub is well-equipped to facilitate a seamless movement of goods into-and-from the city," said Sameer Varma, Executive Director, ColdStar Logistics.

With a growing presence across 23+ cities, ColdStar's cold chain network is designed to offer end-to-end visibility and control.



Shah challenges Lalu to list his work for Mithilanchal's

Challenging RJD Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav to list his work from the ground zero he had done for the development of Mithilanchal, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said that Modi government was dedicated to Bihar's development specially the Mithilanchal region and has been providing every possible support to the region.Addressing a rally after laying the foundation stone of Janki temple in Punoradham of Sitamarhi, Shah hit back at leader of opposition in Bihar assembly Tejaswi Prasad Yadav asking him to specify what happened during his parents' rule apart from lawlessness and kidnappings.

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Governor celebrates 'Rakhi for Soldiers' at Raj Bhavan



Governor Jishnu Dev Varma participated in the 'Rakhi for Soldiers' celebrations at Raj Bhavan today, organised by the Samskruti Foundation. The event brought together students from various colleges in the Twin Cities, who tied Rakhis to officers of the Army, Navy,

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Mexican President Sheinbaum slams anti-migrant raids in US



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has come down heavily on the latest anti-migrant raids in the United States, vowing to protect Mexican nationals staying in the US. "We do not agree with the raids, and we will protect and help our compatriots," the Mexican president said at her daily press conference.

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Nwaneri signs new long-term Arsenal deal



Arsenal teenager Ethan Nwaneri has signed a new five-year contract which will keep him at the Premier League club until the summer of 2030.The 18-year-old's previous deal had been set to expire in June 2026."It means everything to me, I'm so happy to have got it done.

(See on page 7)

YSRCP protests shifting of polling stations in Kadapa district

Vijayawada, Aug 8 (UNI) : The Opposition YSR Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh has urged the State Election Commission (SEC) to immediately stop the shifting of certain polling stations in YSR Kadapa district, alleging that the move would cause serious inconvenience to voters and could be misused to prevent them from casting their vote.In a representation submitted to the SEC, YSRCP State General Secretary and MLC Lella Appi Reddy said that polling stations numbered 6 to 11, which were previously located in villages such as Yerraballi, Nallagondurvari Palli and Nallapureddy Palli, have been shifted to new locations at considerable distances from the original centres.

He pointed out that the distance between Yerraballi and Nallapureddy Palli is about 2 km, while the distance between Nallagondurvari Palli and Nallapureddy Palli is around 4 km. Earlier, the polling stations were located within the voters' own villages, making it

easy for them to exercise their franchise.

The YSRCP leader warned that shifting the polling stations to far-off locations could result in voters being stopped or intimidated on their way to the new centres. He alleged that this was being done at the behest of the ruling TDP to reduce voter turnout in certain areas.

Appi Reddy also referred to incidents on August 4 and 5, in which YSRCP leaders and supporters were attacked, allegedly to create fear among voters. He said the relocation of polling stations, combined with these attacks, pointed to a deliberate attempt to influence the election outcome by discouraging people from voting freely and fairly.The party has requested the State Election Commission to restore the polling stations to their original locations, saying that only then can voters participate in the election without fear or inconvenience. It stressed that free and fair elections depend on providing easy access to polling stations for all citizens.

Cabinet clears Rs 4,200 Cr MERITE scheme to boost technical education

New Delhi, Aug. 8 (UNI) : The Union Cabinet today approved the Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) scheme with a total outlay of Rs 4,200 crore, aimed at improving quality, equity and governance in technical institutions across India.The five-year Central Sector Scheme, to be implemented from 2025-26 to 2029-30, covers 275 institutions- 175 engineering colleges and 100 polytechnics - across all States and Union Territories. The programme includes a Rs 2,100 crore loan component from the World Bank, said the government in a statement. The scheme is aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and is aimed at enhancing employability and ensuring better placement outcomes for graduates, added the statement.MERITE will be anchored by a Central Nodal Agency, with key roles played by IITs, IIMs, AICTE, and NBA. Around 7.5 lakh students are expected to benefit, alongside technical education departments in States and UTs. Key interventions include digitization, multi-disciplinary programme design, research promotion, curriculum reforms aligned with labour market demands, and improved accreditation processes.

Rahul Gandhi accuses Modi of coming to power 'through theft'

Bengaluru, Aug 8 (UNI) : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today launched a scathing attack on the BJP and the Election Commission, alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government was "made through theft" and claiming that complete access to electoral data would prove that "seats across India were stolen."

"If we get this data, we will prove that not just one, but seats across India were stolen... Prime Minister Narendra Modi was made through theft," Gandhi told a public gathering in Karnataka, accusing the Election Commission of colluding with the ruling party to manipulate results.

He said the 2024 mandate rested on a margin of just 25 seats and that 25 constituencies were won with margins below 34,000 votes. "This is an attack on the foundational idea of the Constitution — one man, one vote," he said, warning that those responsible "will be caught one by one."

Citing his party's investigation into the Mahadevapura Assembly segment under Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha seat, Gandhi claimed that out of

6.5 lakh votes, 1.25 lakh were fraudulent. He alleged the irregularities took five forms — duplicate voters casting multiple votes in different booths; fake or incomplete addresses; bulk registrations at small dwellings; invalid or missing photographs; and misuse of Form 6 for first-time voters, sometimes for individuals shown as aged over 90.

According to Gandhi, similar patterns were evident in Maharashtra in 2019, where one crore new voters appeared in the Assembly polls but not in the Lok Sabha elections — and "all such new votes went to the BJP." In Karnataka, internal surveys had predicted Congress would win 15–16 Lok Sabha seats, but it secured only nine, prompting questions about possible manipulation.

He alleged that the Election Commission denied the Congress an electronic copy of the voter list, refused to share polling booth videography, and later changed rules to destroy such footage within 45 days. "They know that if people start questioning this data, their entire system will collapse," Gandhi said.

China welcomes PM Modi's upcoming visit to Tianjin for SCO Summit

New Delhi, Aug 8 (UNI) China today welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s upcoming visit to Tianjin for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit saying it will be a “gathering of solidarity, friendship and fruitful results.”

“China welcomes Prime Minister Modi to China for the SCO Tianjin Summit. We believe that with the concerted effort of all parties, the Tianjin summit will be a gathering of solidarity, friendship and fruitful results,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said.He said the SCO will enter a new stage of high-quality development featuring greater solidarity, coordination, dynamism and productivity.

China will host the SCO Summit in Tianjin from August 31 to September 1. Leaders of over 20 countries including all member states of the SCO and heads of 10 international organizations will attend the events.

“The SCO Tianjin Summit will be the largest summit in scale since the establishment of the SCO,” the spokesman said.



Students from different schools celebrate Raksha Bandhan festival at an orphanage, in Jammu on Friday.

BJP’s BLO appointments through Chilume: Dy. CM, DK Shivakumar

Bengaluru, Aug 8 (UNI) :Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President DK Shivakumar today alleged that the BJP had appointed more than 8,000 of its workers as Booth Level Officers (BLOs) through the Chilume organisation, calling it a major instance of election fraud.

“We fought and managed to contain the damage. We should have

filed a complaint with the Election Commission then, but as election disputes rarely get resolved in this country, we let it go. Now, we have decided to place these frauds before the people. Rahul has raised his voice, and it is our responsibility to fight for this cause,” he told media before participating in the ‘Our Vote, Our Right’ protest at Freedom Park here.Shivakumar expressed full support to Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi, describing his campaign as a “bold fight” to protect the Constitution and voters’ rights. “This is a historic fight. Rahul Gandhi has sent a strong message about safeguarding the Constitution and voters’ rights. Karnataka is writing the foreword for the nationwide expose on election malpractices,” he said, addressing the gathering.

The DCM recalled that during a recent event on

the Constitution, Rahul Gandhi had proposed the creation of “legal banks” in every polling booth, similar to blood banks in hospitals, to defend voters’ rights. “We are committed to implementing that idea,” he said.He also noted that Rahul Gandhi had initiated a detailed investigation into electoral malpractices through the Congress’ internal research unit, which continues to probe the issue.

Tejashwi displayed fake EPIC before media persons on Aug 2 : EC

Patna, Aug 8 (UNI) Election Commission today dubbed the EPIC as fake, displayed by leader of the opposition in Bihar assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav before media persons on August 2 and directed him to surrender it before the Commission by August 16.

Election Commission sources said here that Yadav had displayed an Essential Photo Identity Card (EPIC) before media persons, claiming that his name was missing in the draft voters’ list released after the first phase of Special Intensive Revision(SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Later, on the same day his name was found in a draft voters’ list with different EPIC numbers, sources added.

“Our records show that EPIC displayed by Yadav before media persons was fake and it was not issued by Election Commission”, sources said adding that Yadav had also used the EPIC number during filing of his nomination papers while contesting 2020 Bihar assembly elections from Raghopur constituency, which was mentioned in draft voters’ list released after SIR.

Even Yadav had also submitted the same EPIC to Booth Level Officer(BLO) during the first phase of SIR, sources further added.

“It is a serious offence to prepare a fake official document and keep it, so a fake EPIC should be submitted to the Commission by August 16”, the Election Commission directed Tejashwi.

Tejashwi and leaders of other opposition parties had been targeting the Election Commission for alleged irregularities being committed by Election Commission during SIR. They had apprehended that a large number of voters’ could lose their rights to exercise their franchise due to omission of names from electoral rolls as a result of irregularities.

Rescheduling of Vishwamanava Express : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Aug 8 : I. Rescheduling of Vishwamanava Express

Train No. 17325 Belagavi–Mysuru Vishwamanava Daily Express, journey commencing on 12th August 2025, will be rescheduled by 60 minutes from Belagavi and regulated for 40 minutes en route in view of the launching of Foot Over Bridge (FOB) steel girders at Kalas Halt station, located between Gudgeri and Yalvigi stations.

II. Rescheduling and Regulation of Trains South Eastern Railway has notified the rescheduling and regulation of train services in connection with yard remodelling at Jharsuguda Goods Yard under Chakradharpur Division. Accordingly, Train No. 12836 SMVT Bengaluru–Hatia Bi-weekly Superfast Express, journey commencing on 26th, 28th August and 9th September 2025, will be rescheduled to depart from SMVT Bengaluru 2 hours late and will be further regulated for 4 hours en route. Similarly, Train No. 12890 SMVT Bengaluru–Tatanagar Weekly Superfast Express, journey commencing on 1st and 8th September 2025, will be rescheduled to depart from SMVT Bengaluru 2 hours late and will be further regulated for 3 hours en route.“

Priyanka backs Rahul’s 'vote theft' allegation, calls for proper investigation

New Delhi, Aug 8 (UNI) : Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra today strongly came out in support of her brother and leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi’s allegations of "vote theft" urging Election Commission to conduct a thorough investigation before making any statements.

"The entire country is saying that the Election Commission should conduct a proper investigation and only then make any statements. Nothing can be said without an investigation," Priyanka Gandhi said in the parliament complex while speaking to reporters.

"Someone is giving you proof. In one Assembly constituency, there were so many fake votes — everyone has seen it. It's all there as evidence. Take that and investigate it, then tell the country what's actually happening," she dare the Election Commission.

Her remarks follow a

day after Rahul Gandhi claimed that electoral irregularities, including fake voting, had taken place during the recent elections.

Responding to questions about whether the issue should be discussed in Parliament, Priyanka Gandhi accused the government of lacking the courage to allow a debate on the matter, particularly regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

"The government doesn't have the courage to allow a discussion on the SIR. What discussion will they have on this? The government has become completely weak. They are unable to run the House," she said.

She further said, "And honestly, running the House isn't that difficult — sit with everyone and say, 'We are ready for a discussion.' What's the problem in having a discussion? You present your views, we'll present ours. That's it."

BJP counters Rahul Gandhi’s poll rigging claims, cites Election Commission data

New Delhi, Aug 8 (UNI) : The Bharatiya Janata Party today dismissed Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi’s recent claims of electoral rigging in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, likening them to “cutting the very branch on which one sits.”

At a press briefing here, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav criticised the Congress leader for adopting an "unbecoming tone" towards the Election Commission, warning officials of repercussions for allegedly facilitating the ruling party’s purported malpractices.

“Rahul Gandhi’s lies about ‘electoral fraud’ would be laughable if they were not so dangerous for Indian democracy,” he said,

underscoring the sanctity of constitutional institutions. Yadav emphasised, “such language is unprecedented and inappropriate.”

Referring to official data from the Election Commission, Yadav clarified that the number of voters in the November 2024 Maharashtra Assembly polls rose by over 40 lakh compared to the Lok Sabha elections held earlier that year — far less than the figure of one crore alleged by Rahul Gandhi.“The Opposition leader had evidently invested considerable time in preparing his narrative,” Yadav observed, “but the fundamental premise of his accusation stands disproved.” He accused Gandhi of orchestrating an

elaborate campaign to propagate misinformation, adding, “Henceforth, every claim from his side should be met with a 60% discount.”

Highlighting several constituencies such as Madha, Mohol, Nagpur West, and Nagpur North — all won by Congress or its allies — Yadav pointed out the corresponding increase in voter numbers in these areas, which directly contradicts the opposition’s assertions.

Addressing Gandhi’s promise of evidence akin to an “atom bomb,” Yadav dismissed it as a futile attempt at self-sabotage, reiterating, “This is like cutting the branch on which one is seated,” and called rhetoric against the Election Commission an

assault on India’s democratic fabric.

“If there are genuine grievances regarding the electoral process,” Yadav suggested, “Gandhi should substantiate his allegations through a sworn affidavit to the Election Commission, rather than resorting to media theatrics.”

He accused the Congress of persistently disseminating falsehoods aimed at discrediting the electoral body following its electoral setbacks. “Their strategy is simple — lie and evade accountability,” he stated, alluding to the opposition’s parliamentary disruptions over the Special Intensive Review of Bihar’s electoral rolls as attempts to avoid substantive debate.

“The Congress is

systematically undermining our constitutional institutions for familial political gains,” Yadav noted, citing Gandhi’s earlier disparagement of the armed forces and noting the latter’s subsequent apology to the Supreme Court for unfounded claims.The controversy erupted after Rahul Gandhi, yesterday, presented an "analysis" of electoral data from a Karnataka Lok Sabha constituency during the 2024 elections. He alleged “massive criminal fraud” orchestrated by the BJP with the complicity of the Election Commission, branding it a “crime against the Constitution.” Gandhi has also accused the BJP-led alliance of rigging the Maharashtra Assembly polls to secure victory.

Shah challenges Lalu to list his work for Mithilanchal's development

Sitamarhi, Aug 8 (UNI) : Challenging RJD Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav to list his work from the ground zero he had done for the development of Mithilanchal, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said that Modi government was dedicated to Bihar’s development specially the Mithilanchal region and has been providing every possible support to the region.Addressing a rally after laying the foundation stone of Janki temple in Punoradham of Sitamarhi, Shah hit back at leader of opposition in Bihar assembly Tejaswi Prasad Yadav asking him to specify what happened during his parents’ rule apart from lawlessness and kidnappings.

“I challenge Lalu

Yadav to come to Punora Dham and list the work he has done for Mithilanchal."Shah said that before his visit to Bihar, the RJD held a press conference stating that since he was coming to the Mithilanchal region, he should explain what development work he had done so far.

He added that Modi was making continuous efforts to take the art and culture of Mithila to the global stage, noting that he had even presented Mithila-related artworks to the Presidents of Argentina and South Korea, which helped in its international promotion.

Shah further said that to ensure farmers of Mithila get fair value for their crops, the Makhana Board has been set up.

This decision of the central government will greatly benefit farmers involved in makhana production and improve their economic condition.

Listing a series of development projects linked to Mithilanchal, he said that several infrastructure developments, including the construction of NH-527 were being undertaken for the progress of the Mithila region.He detailed expenses ranging from railways to roads, stating that PM Modi, during his last six visits to Bihar, had announced projects worth Rs 86,000 crore for the state.He mentioned that a National Highway was being built in Sitamarhi, Rs 2,400 crore was being spent on a railway

section, Rs 474 crore on railway line doubling, and Rs 1,600 crore on the construction of the 140 km Khagaria–Purnia road on National Highway 31.

He said that during the tenure of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, grand Ram Temple was built in Ayodhya, Kashi Vishwanath Corridor and Ujjain corridor were developed and now a grand temple and entire complex of Maa Sita was now being built at Punaura Dham in Sitamarhi, the birthplace of Maa Sita at an expenditure of Rs 890 Crore.Describing Mithilanchal culture as an ornament of India’s heritage, the minister said that the NDA government has honoured Mithila in many ways.

Congress provides cash relief to kin of Piplodi school ceiling collapse victims in Jhalawar

Jaipur, Aug 8 (UNI) : The Rajasthan Congress state president Govind Singh Dotasra gave away relief - assistant of Rs 1 lakh to the next of kin of each of the seven school children who lost their lives in a school ceiling collapse in Piplodi village of Jhalawar district recently.The state chief of the grand old party visited the village under Manohar Thana block to hand over the cash relief. He has also given Rs 10,000 to each of the injured and assured the victim families that the Congress party would provide them all possible help and assistance.

"The leaders and workers of the Congress would also extend help and support to these families", Dotasra stated.

"I appeal to all (public representatives) to rise above the party politics to help such hapless victims and also play constructive role in revamp the system, failure of which is responsible for the tragedy in reference", he said adding- "We all should ensure that such tragedies do not reoccur in future."

"We, the Congress, will also raise the issue in the assembly in the next session, and will request to the Speaker to hold a meaningful discussion on the issue so that a unanimous solution could be evolved," he said.

NABL Accreditation Granted to Agriculture dept. for Quality Assurance Standards

Vijayawada, Aug 8 (UNI) : The Department of Agriculture of Andhra Pradesh has achieved a major milestone in enhancing its facilities for the chemical analysis of fertilizers and pesticides.

NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories) has granted prestigious accreditation to the laboratories located in Nellore, Bapatla, and Kurnool, ensuring adherence to quality assurance norms.

Director of Agriculture, Dilli Rao acknowledged that the recognition is a

matter of pride for the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The following laboratories have been accredited under the ISO/ IEC 17025:2017 standards: Fertilizer Control Laboratory (FCO Lab), Bapatla Bio & Organic Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratory (BOFQCL), Nellore Pesticide Testing Laboratory (PTL), Kurnool

These laboratories have demonstrated their competence in performing high-standard quality tests aligned with international benchmarks, he noted. "The NABL accreditation will enhance farmers'

confidence in the reliability of agricultural inputs and contribute to better-quality assurance practices in the sector<," he mentioned. On the occasion, the dedicated efforts of the staff at Bapatla, Nellore, and Kurnool laboratories were duly appreciated. Director of Agriculture, Dilli Rao emphasized that this recognition marks the beginning of a larger mission. The government is committed to bringing all agricultural laboratories across the state under NABL accreditation in a phased manner to ensure uniform quality control mechanisms.

Interstate meeting held to coordinate security for Independence Day celebrations

New Delhi, Aug 8 (UNI) : Ahead of Independence Day celebrations, an interstate coordination meeting was held at Delhi Police Headquarters to enhance cooperation among law enforcement agencies and ensure incident-free events.

The meeting, chaired by Delhi Police Commissioner S.B.K. Singh, was attended by senior police officers from Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Chandigarh, along with representatives from central intelligence and enforcement agencies.

Discussions focused on intelligence-sharing, anti-terror measures, border security, and monitoring suspicious

activities, including the movement of paragliders, drones, and other flying objects. Concerns were raised about interstate criminal networks operating in the National Capital Region (NCR), particularly those involved in illegal firearms and narcotics trafficking.

Traffic restrictions for Independence Day and measures to prevent unauthorized border entries were also finalized, with states urged to cooperate for effective implementation. The Delhi Police emphasized the need for a joint strategy to tackle criminal gangs, especially those using modern technology to operate across borders. The meeting aimed to streamline coordination among agencies to ensure security during the upcoming celebrations.

Six-year-old Indian girl targeted in latest racial attack in Ireland

Dublin/New Delhi, Aug 8 (UNI) : A six-year-old Indian girl was punched by a group of boys, called a "dirty Indian" and told to "go back to India", in Waterford, southern Ireland, in the latest incidence among a spate of violent attacks on Indians in Ireland.

Nia Naveen was allegedly attacked by a group of boys aged 12 to 14 while playing outside her home in Waterford city on Monday, an Irish news site reported.

The Embassy of Ireland in New Delhi, expressing deep shock and sadness over the recent attacks on Indians in Ireland, said it condemns the attacks in the strongest terms. "They are an assault on the values of equality and human dignity that Ireland holds dear. Racism and xenophobia have no place in Irish society. The actions of a few do not reflect the spirit of the Irish people. It will not be tolerated," it said in a statement today.

It said over 100,000 Indians call Ireland their home, and that Ireland is enriched by the diversity of people who live in Ireland,

especially the Indian community whose contributions continue to deepen the bonds between the two nations.

It said that the Irish Deputy PM and Minister for Foreign Affairs will be meeting with representatives of the Indian community in Ireland on Monday, August 11. Ireland's national police, Gardaí, said that they responded to report of an alleged assault in the Kilbarry area of Waterford city on the evening of Monday, August 4.

The gang allegedly punched the girl in the face, hit her with a bicycle, and shouted racial slurs at the child. Nia's mother, Anupa Achuthan, a nurse originally from Kerala in southern India, shared details of the ordeal, saying how her daughter returned home in tears.

The assault has shocked the Indian community and comes amid growing concerns about racist violence. The incident follows similar recent attacks in Dublin's Tallaght and Clondalkin areas. Kranthi Ireland, a forum for Indians in Ireland,

said it "condemns the racist and brutal attack on a six-year-old girl of our family in Waterford".

"The child suffered bruises from the attack and is in trauma after being subjected to racial abuse, including being called a 'dirty Indian' and being told to 'go back to India.'

"This family had already reported the racist abuse - and was disregarded. We stand with the child and her family. We call for a thorough investigation and swift action by the government. We call for accountability - from the perpetrators, and from the authorities who did not act. "We also appeal to all progressive minds, and to all who have love and compassion in their hearts, to stand with us - in solidarity, in action, and against hate. Ireland must never be a country where children live in fear and racism is allowed to grow."

According to the mother, who recently became an Irish citizen, the child is now traumatised, and refuses to go outside. The family no longer feels safe in their neighbourhood.

BRAOU ranked among India's top B-schools for MBA in healthcare management

Hyderabad, Aug 8 (UNI) : Dr BR Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU), Hyderabad, has been named among India's Best 10 Business Schools for MBA in Healthcare Management - 2025 by Academic Insights, earning recognition for its pioneering role in healthcare management education. In a statement here on Friday, Vice-Chancellor Prof Ghanta Chakrapani said the honour highlights the university's innovative approach to quality management education through its MBA (Hospital and Health Care Management) programme, introduced in 2008-09 and comprehensively restructured in 2019-20. The course blends academic rigor with hands-on exposure through internships, hospital visits, and project work, preparing graduates for leadership roles in one of India's fastest-growing sectors.

Recognised by the Distance Education Bureau (DEB) of the UGC, the programme uses a blended learning model combining self-learning materials, classroom instruction, audio-visual content, field visits, hospital internships, and expert-led seminars. Its curriculum covers hospital administration, patient care systems, medical technology, quality assurance, insurance, health policy, and analytics.

BRAOU has active collaborations with institutions such as Apollo Institute of Hospital Administration, KIMS School of Healthcare Management, and the Department of Hospital Management at Osaisi Group of Hospitals. These tie-ups provide students with real-world experience and have led to strong placement records, with alumni working as COOs, CEOs, and hospital managers at leading organisations including Apollo, KIMS, Yashoda, Care, Continental, and AIIMS, as well as in corporate giants like Wipro, Deloitte, and ICICI Lombard.

"This honour reflects our commitment to making world-class, industry-relevant healthcare management education accessible to diverse learners. Our focus on innovation, inclusivity, and practical readiness ensures our graduates are ready to lead in a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape," Prof Chakrapani said, congratulating Prof. Anand Pawar, Dean, Faculty of Commerce; Prof. Rabinranath Solomon, Head of the Department of Commerce; Prof. Kiranmayi; and Dr. Radhakrishna for their contributions. Meanwhile, BRAOU has announced that the MBA and MBA (Hospital and Healthcare Management) Entrance Test-2025 will be held on August 24 (Sunday). The last date for online registration is August 14, 2025. More details are available on the university's portals — www.braouonline.in and www.braou.ac.in.

5-day Atmanirbharta karmayogi Management Development Program concluded at ASCI

Hyderabad, Aug 8 (UNI) The five-day Atmanirbharta Karmayogi Management Development Program organized by the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, was successfully concluded here today.

The programme, which commenced on August 4, was spearheaded by Dr. N. Ramesh Kumar, IAS (Retd.), and Lt Gen K. Surendra Nath, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.), with Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy, former Advisor to the Raksha Mantri and Member, NSC, as Chief Guest. The Atma Nirbharta programme, initiated under the Karmayogi Bharat framework, is a transformative step towards building a self-reliant and future-ready government workforce.

It focuses on enhancing the professional capabilities of personnel through structured training modules, practical exposure, and innovative learning approaches.

By instilling confidence and fostering skill development, the programme empowers

individuals to contribute effectively to the evolving needs of governance and public service. Aligned with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, this initiative emphasizes innovation, accountability, and leadership at every level of administration. It fosters a culture of continuous learning and performance excellence, ensuring that government officials remain agile, adaptable, and responsive to emerging challenges.

The inaugural session underscored the critical importance of self-reliance in science and technology for national resilience and strategic autonomy.

Drawing inspiration from luminaries like Dr. Vikram Sarabhai and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the discussions highlighted India's aspiration to lead in emerging domains such as space, cyber, and artificial intelligence. Subsequent sessions featured insights from Giridhar Aramane on the fostering indigenous excellence in defence manufacturing and Air Vice Marshal Arjun

HRC orders Telangana Govt to clear six-year pending wages for Mahila Shakthi Kendra staff

Hyderabad, Aug 8 (UNI) : The Telangana State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), headed by Dr Justice Shameem Akther, has directed the State government to immediately release all pending salaries to Social Counsellors, Legal Counsellors, Police Constables, and Data Entry Operators working in Mahila Shakthi Kendras, who have not been paid since April 2019.

In its order dated July 25, 2025 (HRC No. 285/2020), the Commission observed that denial of wages to individuals rendering essential services amounts to a violation of their Right to Livelihood and Right to Live with Dignity guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The Commission noted that the prolonged non-payment has caused severe mental, physical, and financial hardship to the affected employees, adversely impacting their families and quality of life. It stressed that those engaged in supporting vulnerable women should not be left in such distress.

The Chief Secretary of Telangana has been asked to ensure that the dues are cleared without further delay and to submit an action-taken report to the Commission within two months, an official statement said on Friday.

US Tariffs on Indian pharma ultimately burdening American consumers: Pharmexcil

Hyderabad, Aug 8 (UNI) : US tariff on Indian Pharma would be counterproductive, ultimately burdening American consumers, according to Pharmexcil.

In a statement today, Pharmexcil Chairman Namit Joshi said "The US decision to temporarily exempt Indian pharmaceutical exports from increased tariffs, subject to the

outcome of the investigation under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, reiterates India's critical role in ensuring affordable, high-quality medicines for the American population.

India supplies over 40 percent of generics used in the US, including treatments for chronic diseases, cancer, and infectious conditions, he said. Tariffs on Indian pharma would be counterproductive, ultimately burdening American consumers, he said.

Indian companies manufacture low-cost generics not high-margin products so any tariff costs would pass directly to US consumers, he said.

Replicating India's pharmaceutical capabilities would take 3-5 years at minimum, with significant challenges in achieving comparable scale, cost efficiency and talent depth.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Follow us on @SCRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
Tender No. GTL-EM-23-2025-26 Date: 06.08.2025
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Maintenance/Guntakal acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.
Tender No: GTL-EM-23-2025-26. Name of the Work Guntakal Division :- Proposal for Welding grid for Freight Examination Yard Gy Depot. Approximate Value Rs. 1,48,12,783.08/-
Closing date and time: 29-08-2025 at 15.00hrs
For Bidding the tender and other details login to http://www.ireps.gov.in . Corrigendum of tender, if any will be issued online only. Tender Document may be downloaded from to http://www.ireps.gov.in by the tenderers free of cost.
Note: To participate/Bid in this e-Tender, tenderer should have valid DSC (Digital Signature Certificate).

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Maintenance, Guntakal
Open e-Tender Notice No. DRM/ Works/BZA/16/2025 dt.05.08.2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tenders for the following works up to 15-00 hours and the date mentioned against each.

SI.No.: 1 Tender No. E-32-EAST-BZA-2025 Details of Work Name of work Provision of minimum essential amenities/Divyangjan facilities at stations in SSE/Works/BVRM, GDV and BZA sections under DEN/E-BZA Jurisdiction. **Period of completion** 12(Twelve Months) **Tender value Rs.** 2,10,76,818/- **E.M.D. Rs** 2,55,400/- **Date of closing** 19/08/2025

SI.No.: 2 Tender No. E-33-EAST-BZA-2025 Details of Work Name of work Vijayawada Division - KI-BZA Section: TFFR- Widening/ repair of cess, filling up low lying areas near toe of bank to avoid water stagnation duly providing Toe Bank of CR Line (0.450 km to 3.000 km) & Bulb line II (0.300 km to 1.400 km) with track centers less than 5.30m for total length of 3.65 km. **Period of completion** 12(Twelve Months) **Tender value Rs.** 72,28,665/- **E.M.D. Rs** 1,44,600/- **Date of closing** 19/08/2025

SI.No.: 3 Tender No. E-13-SOUTH-BZA-2025 Details of Work Name of work GDR-BZA Section: TFFR-Widening/repair of cess, filling up low lying areas near toe of bank to avoid water stagnation, providing central & cross drains for a total length of 27.862 km in Sr.DEN/S/BZA jurisdiction **Period of completion** 15(Fifteen Months) **Tender value Rs.** 13,93,80,490.00/- **E.M.D. Rs** 8,46,900/- **Date of closing** 19/08/2025

SI.No.: 4 Tender No. E-24-North-BZA-2025 Details of Work Name of work Vijayawada Division - BZA-VSKP Sections (UP & DN): TFFR- Widening/ repair of cess, filling up low lying areas near toe of bank to avoid water stagnation duly providing Toe Bank, providing Precast / Cast insitu RCC central & cross drains to limited length where the distance between adjacent tracks is large enough (UP or DN line) in formation of height greater than 3m at various locations for a total length of 17.781Kms (sanctioned locations enclosed as Annexure). **Period of completion** 18(Eighteen Months) **Tender value Rs.** 17,41,90,959/- **E.M.D. Rs** 10,21,000/- **Date of closing** 20/08/2025

SI.No.: 5 Tender No. E-25-North-BZA-2025 Details of Work Name of work SW-I: Repairs to FOBs at TUNI, NRP and AKP Stations in SSE/Works/TUNI Section under ADEN/TUNI Sub-Division. SW-II : Repairs to FOBs at DWP, APT, SLO, SPVM, CCT, COA, PAP, GLP and ANV Stations in SSE/Works/SLO Section under ADEN/SLO Sub-Division. SW-III : Repairs to FOBs at PSDA, KVR, GVN and RJY Stations in SSE/Works/RJY Section under ADEN/RJY Sub-Division. SW-IV : Repairs to FOBs at CEL, TDD and NDD Stations in SSE/Works/NDD Section under ADEN/RJY Sub-Division. **Period of completion** 12(Twelve Months) **Tender value Rs.** 2,53,64,818/- **E.M.D. Rs** 2,76,800/- **Date of closing** 21/08/2025

SI.No.: 6 Tender No. E-10-Bridges-BZA-2025 Details of Work Name of work BZA Division-BZA-VSKP Sec:- Provision of PVC pipe covering on Bottom X-bracings and covering of CG Top flanges with galvanized MS sheet and replacing of MS side pathway at isolated damaged locations with SS Chequered plate on Br.No.248A (Rail cum Road Bridge) in SSE/BR/II/RJY section under ADEN/BR/II/BZA jurisdiction. **Period of completion** 12(Twelve Months) **Tender value Rs.** 2,38,91,454/- **E.M.D. Rs** 2,69,500/- **Date of closing** 21/08/2025

SI.No.: 7 Tender No. E-18-CENTRAL-BZA-2025 Details of Work Name of work GDR-BZA-VSKP Section Dewatering-Desilting and maintenance of existing RUBs/LHS in ADEN/EE Sub-Division and in ADEN/BPP Sub-Division in central Jurisdiction the the Mon soon year 2025-26 **Period of completion** 12(Twelve Months) **Tender value Rs.** 20,25,562/- **E.M.D. Rs** 40,500/- **Date of closing** 26/08/2025

SI.No.: 8 Tender No. E-35-EAST-BZA-2025 Details of Work Name of work Vijayawada Division: KI -BZA- GDR & BZA-BVRM-NDD section's: CTR(P) of Exg. 52kg/90UTS & 60kg/90UTS (SH) rails on PSC5/ PSC6 (SH) sleepers 1540/1660/km density with new 60Kg/R260 rails on new Wider sleepers 1660 Nos./Km including recoupment and increasing of ballast cushion to 35 cm. and deep screening of ballast for a total length of 17.663 Km on passenger running loop line. **Period of completion** 12(Twelve Months) **Tender value Rs.** 5,23,72,431.00/- **E.M.D. Rs** 411900 **Date of closing** 26/08/2025

SI.No.: 9 Tender No. E-34-EAST-BZA-2025 Details of Work Name of work Vijayawada Division: Carrying out ancillary works in connection with Rail/Weld/ SEJ/ Switch testing by Ultra flow Detection equipment in Vijayawada Division for 2 years. **Period of completion** 24(Twenty Four Months) **Tender value Rs.** 4,43,80,939/- **E.M.D. Rs** 3,71,900/- **Date of closing** 26/08/2025

SI.No.: 10 Tender No. E-26-BZA-North-2025 Details of Work Name of work sw-1 Vijayawada Division: BZA-VSKP Section:- Replacement of dilapidated RCC Slab Bridge No.s 596DN, 597DN, 601DN, 694DN, 722DN, 666 UP, 668UP, 696UP = 8 No's with RCC Box of size 4.0 m x 2.5 m by "Air Pushing Method" Between Hamsavaram station to Duvvada stations. sw-2 Vijayawada Division: BZA-VSKP Section:- Replacement of dilapidated RCC Slab Bridge no.s 579DN (1X1.83), 673DN (1X1.83), 675DN (1X4.57), 734DN (2X3.66) and 717UP (1X4.57) = 5 No's with RCC Box of sizes of 2.0m x2.5m ; 5.0m x2.5m and 2x 4.0 m x 2.5 m by " Air Pushing Method" Between Hamsavaram station to Duvvada stations. **Period of completion** 09(Nine Months) **Tender value Rs.** 6,95,52,114/- **E.M.D. Rs** 4,97,800/- **Date of closing** 27/08/2025

SI.No.: 11 Tender No. E-27-North-BZA-2025 Details of Work Name of work BZA Division: BZA-VSKP Section: In-Situ Reconditioning of worn-out CMS Crossings using Robotic Welding Machine in DEN/North/BZA Jurisdiction for a period of 2 years **Period of completion** 24(Twenty Four Months) **Tender value Rs.** 1,18,88,004/- **E.M.D. Rs** 2,09,500/- **Date of closing** 28/08/2025

1) Tender conditions/other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above works, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at "www.ireps.gov.in". 2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website "www.ireps.gov.in". before the date of tender closing to note any changes/corrigenda for any tender. 3) The Tender Notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Divisional Railway Manager (Works), S.C. Railway, Vijayawada and ADEN sub-divisional offices of Vijayawada Division which can be seen. 4) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Visit our site at "www.ireps.gov.in"

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Vijayawada
A1185
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in



Notice Inviting Tender

Request for Proposal for Selection of a Specialist Consultant for Content Development for the **Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum**, New Delhi has been floated on 05 August 2025 by Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Interested bidders may see details on eprocure.gov.in and indiaculture.gov.in. Last date for bid submission is **26 August 2025**.

cbc 09101/11/0014/2526

STANDARD POST

Four paws, one mission: Army’s canine warriors brave landslides and floods to save lives near Harsil

As search and rescue teams from the Indian Army, NDRF, and SDRF work tirelessly after the devastating cloudburst near Harsil, a special group of heroes is quietly making a big impact: six four-legged soldiers and their dedicated handlers.

These trained Search and Rescue (SAR) dogs from the Indian Army are navigating mud, rubble, and soaked ground to do what machines often cannot: find survivors.

Their names; Sara, Opana, Jansi, Hazel, June, and Rahi, may sound gentle, but their work is far away from being the same. Capable of detecting even the faintest scent of life beneath up to seven feet of debris, this pack is capable of scanning more than 5 acres in under an hour, matching the effort of 20 soldiers with high-tech gear.

Considering the current situation when seconds can mean the difference between life and death, their speed and accuracy are lifesaving.

Following the cloudburst on August 5 that ravaged the Dharali valley with landslides and flash floods, these canine soldiers were quickly flown in from Meerut, Dehradun, and Lucknow and deployed by the Indian Army’s Central Command.

Sara, Opana, and Jansi had just completed SAR training at the Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) Centre and College. Despite their youth, they are already experienced, having participated in earlier rescue efforts during the floods in Wayanad (Kerala) and Rampur (Himachal Pradesh).

June, one of the first responders, along with handler ADT Ghevarlal D Patel, had been in Harsil since May. As the rains poured and water levels rose, their rescue convoy narrowly avoided being swept away. Stranded but determined, they pressed on, ready to help.

As the disaster's extent became clear, more reinforcements arrived.

Dog Rahi was sent from Dehradun but faced blocked roads just 60 km short of Harsil. On August 7, when the weather permitted, Sara, Opana, Jansi, and Hazel were airlifted in, braving the dangerous conditions to join the mission.

At high altitudes, in relentless rain, and on unstable ground, these dogs have shown incredible courage, obedience, and stamina. With each successful rescue, whether of a trapped survivor or a missing loved one, they have brought not just results, but also hope and closure to grieving families. “These dogs are not just trained, they're trusted,” said an Army spokesperson. “They bring unmatched speed and accuracy to our operations. But more than that, their presence provides emotional support to both rescuers and survivors.”From Wayanad to Rampur, and now Dharali, these canine heroes have shown time and time again why they are some of the Army’s most valuable assets in times of crisis. In situations where machines fail and human hands cannot reach, these four-legged warriors continue their work, sniffing, searching, and saving lives.

Rare Pancreatic Condition in a 10-Year-Old Boy

(Standard Post Bureau)

Chronic Calcific Pancreatitis is a very rare condition in children, characterized by the formation of stones in the pancreas over a prolonged period. In South India, it is seen in only about 126 children per 1 lakh population just 0.126%.

A 10-year-old boy named Rithik, suffering from severe abdominal pain, fever, and other symptoms due to this rare condition, underwent a successful surgery at KIMS Hospital, Kurnool. The surgical team, led by Consultant Surgical Gastroenterologist Dr. S. J. Janakiram and Pediatric Surgeon Dr. M. Sreekanth Babu, performed the Frey’s Procedure to relieve his condition. “Rithik had been suffering from this problem since the age of five. It is a progressive disease that



gradually worsens over time, leading to the formation of numerous stones in the pancreas, especially in the head region. Normally, the pancreatic head is larger

than the body and tail portions. The pancreas plays a vital role in producing insulin and aiding digestion. In his case, the stones had been present for nearly five

years, causing repeated episodes of severe abdominal pain. His parents had been taking him to local hospitals for treatment. Eventually, doctors advised them to go

to Hyderabad for further care. However, upon learning about the facilities at KIMS Hospital, Kurnool, they brought him here.

We first conducted an MRI to thoroughly assess his condition and decided that Frey’s Procedure was the only effective surgical option. Since the patient was only 10 years old, we involved Pediatric Surgeon Dr. M. Sreekanth Babu. Together, we opened the pancreas, removed all the stones, and also excised some affected tissue. The stones had caused significant swelling in the pancreatic duct, which returned to normal size after stone removal. A small section of the intestine was also resected and then surgically joined to the pancreas. This surgery will completely relieve his abdominal pain. However, because the pancreas will

not function normally as before, there is a higher risk of developing diabetes in the future. He may also experience oil droplets in the stool (oil stools) after consuming fatty foods, for which we have prescribed medication. This is a chronic condition and cannot be fully cured, but removing the stones ensures that his pain will be completely eliminated. We have explained all these aspects and the necessary precautions to his parents,” said Dr. Janakiram and Dr. Sreekanth Babu.

Such complex cases usually require treatment in major cities like Hyderabad or Bengaluru. Now, with multi-specialty expertise and advanced facilities available at KIMS Hospital, Kurnool, people in the Rayalaseema region can access this level of care locally.

Toyota Innova Completes 20 Glorious Years in India, Trusted by 12 Lakh Plus Customers

(Standard Post Bureau)

Marking a proud milestone in its journey in India, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today celebrated 20 remarkable years of the Toyota Innova, a name that has grown to become a trusted companion for millions of Indian families and businesses. With over 12 lakh plus units sold across its three offerings, Innova, Innova Crysta, and Innova HyCross, the brand stands as a symbol of unwavering customer trust and lasting value.

Over the past two decades, the Innova has continuously evolved to reflect the changing aspirations of the customers in India, while staying rooted in Toyota’s core philosophy of Quality, Durability, and Reliability (QDR). This is not just a milestone of numbers, but a celebration of innumerable journeys, memories, and moments made possible by Innova that has truly stood the test of time. Speaking on the Toyota Innova milestone, Mr. Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President - Sales-Service-Used Car Business – Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, “The Toyota Innova has built a deep emotional bond with customers over the last two decades – trusted as a dependable companion for families, loved by all for its comfort and reliability, and chosen time and again across

generations. Whether for daily commutes or memorable road trips, the Innova has remained a part of countless personal journeys. Beyond its emotional connect, the Innova stands strong as a product benchmark – offering spacious interiors, robust build quality and smooth drivability, making it one of the most trusted and loved MPVs in India.”

A 20-Year Journey of Innovation and Evolution

Throughout the last 20 years, the Toyota Innova has been a shining example of continuous innovation and customer-centric evolution in the Indian automotive landscape. Introduced in 2005, the Innova redefined the MPV category with its groundbreaking blend of superior ride comfort, spacious interiors, durable body-on-frame construction, and advanced safety. In 2016, the brand took a bold step forward with the launch of Innova Crysta, which brought a completely new design, powerful engine, premium features, and enhanced safety, elevating the ownership experience to new heights.

Furthering this spirit of progress, 2022 witnessed the arrival of the Innova HyCross, a revolutionary leap into self-charging hybrid electric vehicle technology. Based on a deep understanding of customer insight, the

HyCross has been crafted to elevate comfort, performance, and efficiency, while retaining the reliability and spaciousness that made the Innova a household name. With its self-charging hybrid powertrain, refined drivability, bold crossover-inspired design and reduced emissions, the HyCross has marked a new era in sustainable mobility. It represents Toyota’s 5th Generation Self-Charging Hybrid Electric System, combining a 2.0-litre gasoline engine and e-drive transmission, delivering combined max power output of 137 kW (186 PS) and segment-best fuel economy. It stands out with features such as a panoramic sunroof, automatic LED headlamps with auto high beam, a bold front grille with gunmetal finish, a first-in-segment dual-function Daytime Running Light (DRL) and more. The Innova HyCross 1,00,000 units sales milestone in India, during November 2024 marking its second anniversary, stands as a compelling testament to Toyota’s successful multi-pathway approach - reinforces the trust of customers on brand Toyota, whilst marks the growing popularity of the Innova HyCross much loved for its advanced technology, unmatched comfort, and exceptional performance.

Piramal Finance’s Sameeksha Now Streaming on JioHotstar and Sun NXT OTT Platforms

(Standard Post Bureau)

Piramal Finance’s Sameeksha presents authentic, real-life stories of customers navigating financial challenges, highlighting the company’s commitment to fostering economic inclusion and empowering individuals and small businesses across Bharat. This initiative reinforces Piramal Finance’s mission to make financial awareness more accessible. By launching on OTT platforms, Piramal Finance aims to bring Sameeksha to a wider audience across Telangana and beyond, offering viewers flexibility and convenience. Rooted in the belief ‘Hum Kaagaz Se Zyada Neeyat Dekhte Hain,’ Sameeksha highlights the inspiring financial journeys of individuals who have transformed their lives with the proper guidance. With its launch on OTT platforms, Piramal Finance hopes to reach an even wider audience, especially in Telangana, where the company has built strong connections. In a heartfelt and inspiring interview hosted by Brahmaji, the focus is on Shri Kasoju Chary, whose journey to homeownership reflects a deep sense of pride in his profession. The candid conversation between Brahmaji and Kasoju delved into his emotional and aspirational journey —



highlighting the passion, skill, and determination that helped him turn his dream home into a reality. Sameeksha is live on YouTube, JioHotstar, and Sun NXT OTT platforms, connecting with a broader audience and amplifying the message of financial inclusion. Speaking on the occasion, Jagdeep Mallareddy, Chief Business Officer, Piramal Finance, said, “Stories like Mr. Chary’s reflect the aspirations of a rising Bharat - skilled, self-made individuals from smaller towns who take pride in their progress. Sameeksha allows us to spotlight these journeys, where homeownership is a financial and deeply personal milestone.

As one of the fastest-growing national NBFCs serving over 4.2 million customers and with a strong presence across 1,000+ locations, Piramal Finance sees immense potential in markets like Telangana. Sameeksha is more than storytelling - it’s our way of building trust, understanding local

aspirations, and staying closely aligned with the real needs of emerging India.

Arvind Iyer, Head of Marketing at Piramal Finance, shared, “Sameeksha is more than just a series-it reflects our deep commitment to understanding our customers beyond the paperwork. It’s about recognizing their true intent and aspirations - seeing the humanity behind the numbers. These stories showcase real people who, despite facing adversity, take that crucial step towards financial empowerment and transform their dreams into reality.”

He continued, “With the launch of Sameeksha on JioHotstar and Sun NXT, we can now share these inspiring stories with an even broader audience, especially in Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets like Telangana, where OTT viewership is rapidly growing. Sameeksha redefines lending by showing that it’s not just about transactions but about empowering individuals to make a change for the better.

IDFC FIRST Bank Launches RemitFIRST2India

(Standard Post Bureau)

IDFC FIRST Bank announces the launch of RemitFIRST2India, a next-generation digital remittance platform that allows Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to their families in India quickly, securely, and with zero transfer fees. NRI customers of IDFC FIRST Bank can simply log-in to the MobileBanking App and make the transaction. For non-IDFC FIRST Bank NRI users, the platform offers a simple, paperless onboarding journey through a dedicated web-portal.

RemitFIRST2India has been launched in partnership with SingX, a leading remittance provider licensed by Monetary Authority of Singapore, to offer a fully compliant and seamless cross-border payment experience. Currently, the platform supports transfers from Singapore and Hong Kong, with expansion plan across other countries. It also keeps the customer updated on each step of a transaction with live transaction tracking. The platform has been designed with a strong focus on speed, transparency, and easy access.

Key Features of RemitFIRST2India:

- Zero Transfer Fees:** Send money without any



- processing or platform fees

- Competitive, Guaranteed Forex Rates:** No hidden markups/charges

- Seamless Digital transfer:** Speedy paperless transfer to any bank account in India with real-time tracking

- Welcome Benefits:** Enjoy extra Forex margin on the first three transfers for new users

Speaking about this launch, **Ashish Singh, Head Retail Liabilities**, said, “RemitFIRST2India is more than just a remittance solution — it is a reflection of our customer-

first philosophy. We’ve designed it to be intuitive, transparent, and truly global. Whether you are an existing customer or new to the Bank, you can now send money home in just a few clicks, no charges and with complete peace of mind. This launch strengthens IDFC FIRST Bank’s position as a digitally forward bank that delivers secure, efficient, and affordable banking solutions to the global Indian diaspora “

Mr Atul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SingX said, “With world attention centred around India, NRI flows into India are likely to double in the next 5 years. Traditionally NRIs have sent money to India for family maintenance purposes. We are increasingly seeing a number of NRIs remitting funds to India to participate in Indian debt and equity investments. We are delighted to partner with IDFC FIRST Bank to launch an innovative service which enables NRIs to transfer funds to India in a smoother and more cost-effective fashion. “

NRI Customers with IDFC FIRST Bank can send money directly using their mobile banking app without any additional registration process. New customers can also experience a frictionless process, where they can complete a quick, one-step profile creation and immediately proceed to book their transaction.

Hostage families sail toward Gaza calling for Israel to end war

Jerusalem, Aug 8 (UNI) : Families of some of the Israeli hostages still held in Gaza have sailed towards the Palestinian enclave, in a desperate attempt to put pressure on the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as it contemplates expanding the war in Gaza.

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum, as well as the opposition and a large part of the Israeli public, are strongly against the expansion of the operation, arguing it would put their loved ones at even more risk, CNN reported. As the flotilla set off on Thursday from the port of Ashkelon in southern Israel, Lior Horev from the hostage families forum told CNN the sailing was “an SOS call”. “Unfortunately, we cannot enter Gaza and get our loved ones back home, but... this is a mayday call to the Israeli government,” he said.

Israel's security cabinet was convened on Thursday to vote on a full reoccupation of Gaza, a move that would mark a major escalation of the conflict after nearly two years of war in the territory. At least 61,158 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the war started after the Hamas-led October 7 terror attacks, the Ministry of Health there reported on Wednesday.

U.S. judge orders temporary halt to construction of "Alligator Alcatraz" detention center

Washington, Aug 8 (UNI) : A U.S. federal judge on Thursday ordered Florida to temporarily halt construction at an immigration detention center in the Everglades, marking a temporary win for environmental advocates. The judge, Kathleen M. Williams at the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of Florida, issued a temporary restraining order, halting construction for two weeks while she considers the arguments.

In June, environmental organizations filed a lawsuit, claiming that the immigration detention facility was developed without conducting the environmental review mandated by federal law.

Florida's so-called "Alligator Alcatraz," a proposed immigration detention facility, has sparked significant controversies revolving around environmental concerns and poor conditions. The controversial project, which is run by the state but houses federal immigration detainees, came as part of the Trump administration's mass deportation plan against undocumented immigrants. Meanwhile, "Alligator Alcatraz" has faced other legal action for alleged inhumane conditions and treatment of detainees.

Teenager arrested after man critically injured in Sydney public park stabbing

Sydney, Aug 8 (UNI) : A man has been hospitalized in a critical condition and a teenager has been arrested following the stabbing attack at a public park in Sydney.

Emergency services were called to reports of an assault at the park in the inner-western Sydney suburb of Annandale at about 10:45 p.m. on Thursday.

Police officers arrived and found six men with a range of injuries, who said they had been assaulted by a group of four unknown males following an argument.

One of the victims, a 21-year-old man, suffered stab wounds and was taken to hospital in a critical condition.

Four more of the injured men were also taken to hospital, while one was treated at the scene by ambulance paramedics but did not require hospitalization.

Police established a crime scene and commenced an investigation into the incident. Following inquiries, a 15-year-old boy was arrested in Annandale at around 12:15 a.m. and taken to a nearby police station.

Trump nominates Stephen Miran to chair Council of Economic Advisors

Washington, Aug 8 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump announced Thursday he had chosen Stephen Miran, chair of the Council of Economic Advisors, to serve in the just vacated seat on the Federal Reserve Board until Jan. 31, 2026.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration will continue to search for a permanent replacement to the vacancy left by Fed Governor Adriana Kugler, whose resignation will be effective on Aug. 8.

Miran is seen as one of the key advisers in shaping U.S. trade policies in Trump's second term. He served as an adviser of economic policy for the U.S. Department of the Treasury from 2020 to 2021. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is designed to have seven members, who are nominated by the U.S. president and confirmed by the Senate.

Mexican President Sheinbaum slams anti-migrant raids in US

Mexico City, Aug 8 (UNI) : Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has come down heavily on the latest anti-migrant raids in the United States, vowing to protect Mexican nationals staying in the US.

"We do not agree with the raids, and we will protect and help our compatriots," the Mexican president said at her daily press conference. Sheinbaum, who has called on Washington to recognise the role of migrants in its economy, has worked to strengthen Mexico's consular service in the U.S. to protect Mexicans deported or detained, including those being held at the "Alligator Alcatraz" detention centre in the U.S. state of Florida, according to Rutilio Escandon Cadenas, the Mexican general consul in Miami. From Jan 20 to Aug 1, more than 75,900 Mexicans were repatriated from the U.S., according to the Mexican government.

Portugal 'deeply concerned' over Israel's Gaza takeover plan, calls for immediate ceasefire



Lisbon, Aug 8 (IANS) : The Portuguese government on Friday voiced its deep concern over Israel's decision to "take over Gaza", urging the suspension of the plan and the immediate implementation of a ceasefire.

"The Portuguese government is deeply concerned about the new plan by the Israeli government to take over Gaza. The decision undermines efforts to achieve a ceasefire and worsens the humanitarian tragedy in the Gaza Strip," the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement published on the social media platform X.

The ministry called for the suspension of the plan, the release of hostages, and the urgent entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, Xinhua News Agency reported. Israel's Security Cabinet has approved a plan to take over Gaza City, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in

a statement on Friday.

Meanwhile, UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk has called on Israel government to halt the plan for a complete military takeover of Gaza Strip.

In a statement, Turk stated, "The Israeli Government's plan for a complete military takeover of the occupied Gaza strip must be immediately halted. It runs contrary to the ruling of the International Court of Justice that Israel must bring its occupation to an end as soon as possible, to the realisation of the agreed two-State solution and to the right of Palestinians to self-determination."

"On all evidence to date, this further escalation will result in more massive forced displacement, more killing, more unbearable suffering, senseless destruction and atrocity crimes," he added.

He stated that the war in Gaza "must end now" and people of Israel and Palestine must be allowed

to live side by side in peace. He called for the release of hostages and flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza Strip. He stated, "Instead of intensifying this war, the Israeli Government should put all its efforts into saving the lives of Gaza's civilians by allowing the full, unfettered flow of humanitarian aid. The hostages must be immediately and unconditionally released by Palestinian armed groups. Palestinians arbitrarily detained by Israel must also be immediately and unconditionally released."

On Friday, Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu's office announced that security cabinet had approved plan for the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) to take over Gaza City. In a statement, Israel PM's office said that Israel will provide humanitarian aid to the people residing outside combat zones on what it termed the decision taken by the cabinet to back Netanyahu's "proposal to defeat Hamas."

At least 99 starved to death in Gaza in 2025 : WHO

Gaza, Aug 8 (UNI) : At least 99 people died of starvation in the Gaza Strip in 2025, including 29 children, with the actual figures expected to be much higher, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, said on Thursday.

"So far, this year, 99 people have died from malnutrition, including 29 children under five. These reported numbers are likely underestimates," he told a closed-door briefing in Geneva.

On July 23, the WHO reported a sharp rise in malnutrition-related deaths in Gaza. Acute malnutrition affected over 10% of the population, while more than 20% of pregnant and breastfeeding women tested suffer from often severe forms of malnutrition, Tedros said. He warned that the hunger crisis was worsening due to restrictions on aid access to Gaza.

On Monday, Gaza authorities said that Israel permitted only 674 aid trucks to enter the Gaza Strip since July 27, meeting just 14% of the enclave's needs.

To adequately address the basic requirements for food, fuel, and medicines, at least 600 trucks should be allowed into Gaza daily, they estimated.

3 more 9/11 victims identified, nearly 24 years after terror attacks

New York, Aug 8 (UNI) Almost 24 years after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, three more victims who perished in the tragedy have finally been identified.

In a news release shared with PEOPLE on Thursday, Aug 7, the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) announced Ryan Fitzgerald of Floral Park, N.Y., Barbara Keating of Palm Springs, California, and an adult woman, whose name is being withheld at the request of her family, as the 1651st, 1652nd and 1653rd persons identified.

Their identifications were made possible by advanced DNA analysis of remains recovered from the attack, along with family outreach, said the OCME.

The OCME added that Fitzgerald's identification was confirmed through DNA testing of remains initially recovered in 2002, while the identifications of Keating and the unidentified woman were based on remains first retrieved in 2001.

According to his obituary, as reported by CW affiliate WPIX, Fitzgerald had recently begun working in the foreign currency exchange desk at Fiduciary Trust before his death. As the oldest of three children, Fitzgerald had also just started living on his own in Manhattan, per the obit.

Fitzgerald, who was a fan of the New York

Yankees and Dave Matthews Band, was 26.

Keating, a 72-year-old grandmother who had worked as an executive director of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Middlesex in Massachusetts, divided her time between Cape Cod and Palm Springs. She was heading back to California after visiting her grandchildren on the East Coast when she was killed on American Airlines Flight 11, read an obituary.

About 2,753 people were killed in the World Trade Center attack on Sept. 11, 2001. The remains of about 1,100 victims are unidentified, the OCME said.

"Nearly 25 years after the disaster at the World Trade Center, our commitment to identify the missing and return them to their loved ones stands as strong as ever," said Dr. Jason Graham, the chief medical examiner, per the news release.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams issued a press statement following the announcement of the three latest identifications, stating "The pain of losing a loved one in the September 11th terror attacks echoes across the decades, but with these three new identifications, we take a step forward in comforting the family members still aching from that day...

We hope the families receiving answers from the Office of Chief Medical Examiner can take solace in the city's tireless dedication to this mission."

Heavy rain emergency warning issued for southwestern Japanese city

Tokyo, Aug 8 (UNI) : Japan's weather agency issued a heavy rain emergency warning on Friday morning for the city of Kirishima in the southwestern prefecture of Kagoshima, calling for the highest level of caution against landslides and flooding in low-lying areas and overflowing rivers.

The highest-level warning on the country's five-tier disaster alert system, the first of the year, came after Kirishima logged record rainfall, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). A part of Kirishima registered 107.5 mm of rain in the hour to 3 a.m. local time on Friday, the heaviest on record at the location. The 12-hour total reached over 480 mm, about 1.8 times the city's August average. Torrential rain is expected to continue in the Kyushu region, including Kagoshima, through Sunday, the JMA said.

The amount of rain in the 24 hours to Saturday morning is expected to be 200 mm in southern Kyushu, and 120 mm in northern Kyushu, it added.

Weather officials warned people to remain on alert as dangerous conditions may already exist in affected areas.

Israeli cabinet approves Netanyahu's plans to capture the entire Gaza Strip

Tel Aviv, Aug 8 (UNI) : Israeli cabinet has approved Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to capture the entire Gaza Strip, his office announced on Friday. The war-plan; heavily criticised by many, aims for the capture of the whole territory, and will follow up with the installation of a transitional government, reports Times of Israel. The Israeli premier said a "detailed plan" will be developed for this post-Hamas government, with Jerusalem not playing any role in the internal administration, nor allowing the Palestinian Authority to play a role, stating that it will be a civil

administration. Regarding his plans to capture the area, and whether he means its complete annexation, the PM said "We intend to, in order to assure our security, remove Hamas there, enable the population to be free of Gaza (sic), and to pass it civilian governance." But, he stressed, "We don't want to keep it. We want to have a security perimeter, but we don't want to govern it. We don't want to be there as a governing body."

The PM said that Israel wants to "hand it over to Arab forces that will govern it properly, without threatening us, and giving the Gazans a good life."

DRC carries out cabinet reshuffle amid mounting regional crisis

Kinshasa, Aug 8 (UNI) The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) today carried out a government reshuffle as the Central African country faces a mounting security crisis in its eastern region.

Presidentiale spokesperson Tina Salama said on national television that the new cabinet was formed after nationwide consultations to ensure efficiency, credibility, as well as political, geographical and sociocultural balance through "an inclusive

government."

Although initially announced as streamlined, the new government comprises 54 members -- only one fewer than the previous cabinet formed in May 2024 -- including six vice prime ministers, 12 state ministers, 24 ministers, five ministerial delegates and six vice ministers. Judith Suminwa Tuluka remains prime minister.

Opposition figure Adolphe Muzito, a former prime minister under ex-president Joseph Kabila, has joined the new

inclusive government as vice prime minister in charge of the budget.

In late February, DRC President Felix Tshisekedi announced sweeping political changes, including plans to establish a "government of national unity" to prevent the security crisis in the country's eastern part from escalating into a broader regional conflict.

Since then, Desire-Cashmir Kolongele Eberande, the DRC president's special security advisor, has led

future of Gaza agreed to by the Palestinians.

Israel currently controls over 75% of the war-torn enclave, with the IDF not venturing into areas where Hamas are believed to holding hostages, and has ordered all civilians to evacuate the area.

However, Netanyahu's war-plan has been met with a lot of criticism, chief being by IDF Chief of Staff Lt Gen Amir Zayal, who earlier cautioned that "occupying the Strip will drag Israel into a black hole." Some hostage families have also sounded an alarm, noting that expanded operations would put the surviving captives in jeopardy.

consultations involving the Sacred Union -- the ruling parliamentary coalition -- opposition parties within and outside parliament, civil society, and prominent figures, including former presidential candidates.

The eastern DRC has been troubled by decades of insecurity fuelled by ethnic tensions, local militias, and foreign rebel groups operating across porous borders, especially the March 23 Movement rebel group, which re-emerged in late 2021.

Relationships



The period chat with your Daughter



Your child should not be clueless when she has her first period. And with kids having periods as early as ten years old, it is necessary for parents to make their kids aware. As you start seeing your child having mood swings and getting irritated for no rhyme or reason, it is time that you sit down and have a chat with her.



head high when you have the period chat with your daughter, since you don't want her to feel that it is something that she should be ashamed of.

Avoid bombarding her with too much information

Do not give too much information that the child gets confused. In fact, the best time to start is when there is a sanitary napkin ad playing on television. Don't give a long lecture about periods in one sitting. Start with small talk, which is easy for your daughter to absorb. Tell her that these are little changes in the body which every girl undergoes, as she gradually becomes a woman. Find out from your daughter's teachers if they are covering anything about the reproductive system in their school. If they are, it gets easier for you as the mother to explain the topic as you know that your daughter has some information about it. Don't forget to have an age-appropriate discussion with your daughter.

Inform her about basic hygiene

It is important that you teach your child how to use a pad during menstruation and how often she needs to change it. Parents should tell the child about washing her hands thoroughly and to keep her private parts clean so that there is no infection. Teach her the right disposal method.

Common questions that you may have to answer:

- Why do only girls get periods?
- Does it hurt?
- How long does it last?
- Can I play during this time?

Ways to deal with PMS

Premenstrual syndrome (PMS) can be severe for some girls. Nutritionist Sheela Tanna suggests the following tips:

- She must have at least three servings of calcium-rich food a day, such as low-fat milk, cheese, yogurt, fortified orange juice, and soya milk
- Don't stop her from being physically active. Help her maintain a healthy body weight
- Make sure she avoids processed food
- Increase her water intake
- She should avoid junk food

Time for some pet Etiquette

Pets are adorable but they can get equally annoying if not trained properly. We share some tips to turn your pet into a great companion:



A recent study claimed that dog owners get the same surge of emotions when looking at their pooch as mothers do with their infants. While most of the pet owners will nod in agreement, you may find a few disagreeing. "I love my pet but he's such a nuisance. He will bark his lungs out in the middle of the night, chew on everything he gets his hands on and trouble my guests. I don't know what to do with him," says PR executive Aashish Sen who owns Peddle, a Pomeranian.

But you can set aside such worries. Dogs can adapt to human society. We share with you some useful tips to minimize your pet worries:

Exercising pet is a good pet:

Your pet needs regular exercise to get rid of his excessive energy. Do not take him out just to litter, let him run, have fun. "This is the only way to release his excessive energy which if not released could make him irritable. It amounts to building stress which will be exhibited through excessive barking and unwanted pouncing," says Delhi-based senior veterinarian, Dr James Rappai.

No loud business:

When you are feeding or talking to your pet, do not raise your voice. Make him adapt to commands but say it once and say like you mean it. It should be firm not loud. And if you keep saying it, he won't listen unless you snap at him. "Be careful about the commands and the words you use. Don't confuse them. If you use the command 'Sit' to make him sit, do not use 'Heel' instead," says Chennai based dog trainer J Rangarajan.

Attention with care:

Some pets are in a habit to bark to grab your attention. They will bark when hungry, while greeting you, wanting to play with you. Says Pet groomer Geetika Nigam, "This habit must be modified simply by not providing positive reinforcement when he is barking for no reason."

Even your pet needs toys:

If you see your pet chewing furniture or your favourite shoes, don't snap at him. Instead give him alternatives to chew on like pet friendly toys. Spread them all over the floor and if he still goes for your shoes, give him a chewy. Says Delhi-based dog trainer Raju Sinha, "If he still goes, then direct him to a chewy. In a way, your pet is trying to teach you to be more careful with treasured items."

Never hit him:

Don't hit your pet when you are angry with him. The next time you get angry, first tell him firmly that he's incorrect, ignore him, and nudge him off if he comes to you. This will disorient him and he will know that the behaviour is not acceptable. "Remember, you should never resort to hitting your pet," adds J Rangarajan.

Eating habits:

Never feed him while you are eating. This might be taken as a cue that he can take food from your plate.

Make him a social pet:

Don't restrict his exposure just to family else he will get really uncomfortable in front of your guests or might behave awkwardly. And remember never ask your friend if you can get your pet along to a get together or party. If they want him to come, they will say it.

Here are some ways how you can initiate a conversation about periods with your daughter.

Start the chat early

Menstruation is a part of growing up and there is absolutely no harm if you start the talk early, in small portions. It is quite a scary experience for a child to discover one fine day that she is bleeding. Says child counsellor, Ronita Chatterji, "The poor thing may not even know where the blood is coming from. She might think that she is terribly sick and that she is going to die. So, it is important that you begin the chat as soon as you see some changes in your daughter's body like pubic hair and breast development. She might even ask questions about these slight changes. When you are answering such questions you can discuss periods as well."

Prepare yourself first

It is important that you prepare yourself first when you start the conversation. Talk about your own experience and be prepared to answer all questions. You might require to go surf the net to study the female reproductive system. Says psychologist, Seema Hingorani, "Mental preparation for parents is very important when they sit down for a chat with their kids. Make them feel that it is absolutely normal and maintain eye contact while talking about it." Since having periods means the onset of sexual maturity, it is important that you inform your daughter about sex and how to be careful. There are a lot of questions that might come to a child's mind: How much it hurts? How often it happens? Will she be able to play outside with her friends? Clear all doubts that are playing in your daughter's mind. Hold your



Tips to teach table manners to kids

Here are some tips which will help you teach your kids table manners and etiquette

Table manners and dining etiquette are an important aspect every person should have. Starting early with kids can come in handy. Here are some tips on how you can imbibe table manners in your kids early -

Fixed time:

Fix a day and a meal where you can tell your kids about table manners - how to place the napkin, how to eat with a fork, knife and spoon, how to eat with their mouth closed, how to pass food to others, etc.

When you're out:

If you are dining out with your family, choose a kid-friendly restaurant. Let your kids order food for themselves, help them if required. This will make them feel grown-up and responsible.

Avoid the phone:

Avoid using your cellphone or tablet or any other technology

while dining with your family. Kids mostly see and learn. You don't want them to grow up to talk on their phone while eating.

Politeness works:

Teach them to use words like 'please' and 'thank you' while asking for food or passing it to others even at a family meal. They will make a habit out of it when you go

out with others for a meal.

See and learn:

Take out time to teach your kids more about food and cooking also, as this will help them understand food better. Talk to them while you are cooking, teach them bits and pieces, make them help you with small matters in cooking.

3 signs you are spoiling your kid

- The first sign is that you never use the word 'No' when it comes to your little one. Perhaps you don't have the heart to but whenever they ask for something that isn't a necessity or could be bad for them, you give in because you can refuse them. This will eventually become a habit and when they grow up, they will expect that things will always be the way they want, because they have never been refused or denied it.
- You buy them too many toys and gifts. Sure, it's their birthday and they want that big doll house or the latest iPad, but spending big money on your child doesn't mean you love them more. It's the time that you give them and the moments that you share together that count.
- They constantly whine and are never happy with the things they have. Even if you are doing everything you can for them and giving them the world, if you see that your kids are always complaining about things that they don't have, it is

You might want to give your children the best, but in this process are you raising a spoilt child? Read on to identify the warning signs.



time to realise that you have over pampered your child.

Aarit Kapil crowned U-11 national chess champion

Jalgaon, Aug 8 (UNI) Nine year old Chess prodigy Aarit Kapil today won the title in the 38th National Under-11 Open Chess Championship here. Aarit was dominant throughout the tournament scoring 9.5 points! West Bengal's Oishik Mondal won with 9 points finished second.

Aarit, a Class V student, created waves when he held World Champion Magnus Carlsen to a draw in an online blitz game at the ‘Early Titled Tuesday’ chess tournament on June 24. Aarit also became the third-youngest player globally to defeat a Grandmaster in classical chess when he won against Raset Ziatdinov of the US in December, 2024.

Speaking to UNI after his latest triumph, a beaming Aarit said "I was quite confident going into this tournament, and enjoyed playing here. My strategy was just to implement Vishal sir plans and I think I was successful in doing that, hence had a positive result."He will now start preparing for the Under 13 Chess nationals scheduled to take place in Goa in September.

Aarit's father Vijay Kapil said “We are very thankful to Aarit's coach International master Vishal Sareen sir, Chola Chess academy Nitin Narang sir (President, All India Chess Federation) and Bharat Singh sir (Chairman Asian Chess Federation). Due to Nitin Narang’s sir’s initiative, Aarit is receiving a stipend from the Federation which facilitates his training”

Kapil said now Aarit needs to play as many tournaments as possible. “He is playing across various age groups and winning, this is the time to gather as much experience as possible.

Germany wins Latin dance gold at World Games, China finishes fourth

Chengdu, Aug 8 (UNI) Germany's Marius-Andrei Balan and Khrystyna Moshenska claimed the Latin dance gold medal at the 2025 World Games here on Friday with a total of 195.71 points, while home favorites Du Yujun and Yan Bangbang finished fourth, marking China's best finish in Latin dance at the World Games."It's our first World Games, and the atmosphere has been fantastic," Balan said."From the moment we arrived until stepping onto the floor, we felt that everyone around us made this competition important. That gave us a stronger sense of responsibility."

It was also a debut performance for the German pair at the event, adding a new milestone to their decorated career. France's Charles-Guillaume Schmitt and Elena Salikhova took silver with 194.00 points, followed by Spain's Guillem Pascual Iniesta and Diandra Illes in third on 188.46.

Du and Yan scored 186.96, missing the podium by 1.5 points after five dances - samba, cha cha cha, rumba, paso doble and

Ajaraie’s double goals sends NorthEast United into Durand Cup quarter-finals

Shillong, Aug 8 (UNI) Alaaeddine Ajaraie’s double strike ensured defending champions NorthEast United FC overcome Shillong Lajong FC 2-1 in a thrilling NorthEast derby at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here in Meghalaya today, sealing their place in the quarter-finals of the Durand Cup.The Highlanders secured their second victory in Group E and have six points while Shillong Lajong have finished their group stage campaign also with six points from three matches.A point from the last match for NorthEast United will ensure that they qualify for the quarterfinals as clear group winners.

Head Coaches Juan Pedro Benali and Birendra Thapa fielded their strongest line ups for the all-important encounter making six and five changes respectively.Benali brought in goalkeeper Gurmeet Singh, new signing Jose Manuel Nunez Martin, Asheer Akhtar, Lalrinzuala, Redeem Tlang and Buanthanglun Samte while the Red Dragons brought in Kitboklang Khyriem, Savame Tariang, Damaitphang Lyngdoh, Rudra Ved and Sheen Stevenson Sohktung.

NorthEast United FC Star striker Alaaeddine Ajaraie continued his terrific goal scoring form in India, giving the lead for the defending champions the lead in just the fifth minute of the game.

The Moroccan found space to move between the central defenders as new signing, Jose Manuel Nunez Martin slipped in a perfect ball for the striker to calmly finish past the on

jive. Balan, 34, and Moshenska, 35, four-time world champions from 2021 to 2024, began their partnership in 2015 in Pforzheim, Germany, and quickly rose to the top of the sport.

They captured German, European and World Latin titles within six weeks in 2021 and have remained among the most successful couples in international Latin dance. Balan attributed their success to "consistency" under pressure.

"Whatever stress or challenge you have, you always step up. That consistency is what separates top athletes from the rest," he said.

Du and Yan, both 31 years old, are currently China's highest-ranked Latin dance duo. In 2024, they placed fourth at the World Championships - a best-ever result for Chinese dancers at that event. Over recent years, they have steadily climbed the world rankings, breaking multiple national records in the process. Inside the packed Chengbei Gymnasium, the home

rushing Lajong goalkeeper Siwel Rymbai for his fourth goal of the tournament.

The match settled down after the frantic start as both teams then tried to dictate the pace of the game.

NorthEast could have doubled the lead mid way into the half after Jithin M.S found Ajaraie inside the box with a low cross from the right wing. The striker was slow this time to reach the ball as he could not find a clean connection to divert the ball into the net.

Shillong Lajong did not sit back against the defending champions as they troubled the opposition defence with their quick counter attacks, using the speed of Sheen Stevenson and Phrangki BuamHn either wings and Everbrightson Sana down the centre.Gurmeet Singh showed his class, making three saves denying Shillong Lajong the equaliser. He palmed away a strong strike at the near post from Phrangki Buam before denying the winger and Sheen Stevenson by getting low to deny their shots on target.

The second half saw a drop in intensity of the attacks from both sides as both defences stood firm and did not allow any clear cut chances to be created.

The game became physical as both sides cancelled each other out in the midfield closing down the spaces. The conditions also did not help both sides as players were cramping at regular intervals.The game came back to life in the final ten minutes, with Shillong Lajong equalising in the 81st minute through substitute Figo Syndai.

crowd cheered and applauded enthusiastically each time the Chinese pair took to the floor.

The energy from the stands, Du later noted, "was like an extra push on every step," helping them produce one of their strongest performances on the international stage.

The Chinese pair's performance improved on their semifinal appearance at the previous edition in Birmingham, the United States, which had been the country's best performance in the event.

"We may have lost in results, but we won in our dance," Yan said. "It felt like everyone in the venue was dancing with us."

The pair are also known for blending Chinese cultural elements, such as Tai Chi and Baduanjin, into their routines.

"When we dance rumba or paso doble, we try to convey the feeling of tai chi's circular flow and internal energy," Yan explained.

"It's something different from the European style, and many people here told us they enjoyed it."

Nwaneri signs new long-term Arsenal deal

London, Aug 8 (UNI) Arsenal teenager Ethan Nwaneri has signed a new five-year contract which will keep him at the Premier League club until the summer of 2030.The 18-year-old's previous deal had been set to expire in June 2026."It means everything to me, I'm so happy to have got it done.

This is where I feel at home, and where I'm going to develop the best," he said."I'm very excited. I see this as my first real season and part of a proper squad in the changing room. I'm so excited for what I can bring to the team and how I can help the team.

"I think I've actually become more direct over the past few years and I've added more goals, so I'm excited for what will come next."

Nwaneri made headlines when he became the youngest player ever to appear in the Premier League aged 15 years and 181 days old against Brentford in September 2022.And the attacking midfielder made 37 appearances and scored nine goals in all competitions during a breakthrough campaign for the Gunners last term.

New Delhi, Aug 8 (UNI) : The Badminton World Federation (BWF) today announced the draw for the BWF World Junior Championships 2025 - Suhandinata Cup (Mixed Team Event), to be held at the National Centre of Excellence, Amingaon, Guwahati, from October 6 to 11.Second-seeded India will compete in Group H alongside Hong Kong, China, Nepal, and Ghana.

This prestigious global junior team event returns to India for the first time since 2008 and will feature 37 teams from across the

Indian Men’s Hockey team leaves for crucial four-match series in Australia

Bengaluru, Aug 8 (UNI) : The Indian Men’s Hockey Team departed for Australia today from Kempegowda International Airport, here, as they gear up for a crucial four-match series against the hosts.

The series, set to take place at the Perth Hockey Stadium from August 15 to 21, will serve as vital preparation for the upcoming Hero Asia Cup 2025, scheduled in Rajgir, Bihar later this month.

The tour is expected to provide the team with valuable match exposure against one of the world’s top-ranked sides, allowing the coaching staff to fine-tune combinations and assess player form ahead of the continental tournament.

Indian Men’s Hockey Team Captain Harmanpreet Singh, speaking ahead of departure, said, “Playing Australia in their home conditions is always a great challenge, and that’s

Punjab crowned champions with 4-3 win over Jharkhand



Chennai, Aug 8 (IANS) : Hockey Punjab was crowned as the champions of the 15th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2025 as they won the final of Division ‘A’ defeating Hockey Jharkhand 4-3 on Friday.

The match between Hockey Jharkhand and Hockey Punjab was a closely contested final, with both teams fighting till the final whistle. Hockey Jharkhand started the second quarter strongly, scoring two back-to-back goals through Ashish Tani

world. The tournament format will see the winner from each group advance to the quarter-finals.

Top seeds Thailand are drawn in Group A with Denmark, Slovenia, and Cook Islands. Defending champions Indonesia are placed in Group C with Türkiye, Romania, and the Netherlands, while 14-time champions China will face Japan, Singapore, Brazil, and Bhutan in Group E.

This year a new relay format will be tested in the competition. In the new format there will be best of three sets, where a team

reaching 45 points in a relay format wins a set.A set will have each of men’s singles, women’s singles, men’s doubles, women’s doubles and mixed doubles matches with the first match ending after one team reaching nine points and the next match will start. Earlier, the relay format consisted of a single set with a race to 110-points in 10 matches.

For the Indian team, medal winners from the Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2025 will gain direct entry, while the remaining spots will be decided through a selection

trial from 9th to 13th August 2025 at the same venue. Players eligible for the trials include those meeting the BAI ranking cut-offs, Indian shuttlers ranked in the BWF World Junior Top 20, and juniors ranked in the BWF Senior Top 50 as of July 29, 2025. All players selected in the Indian team for the WONDR Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2025 are also invited for the trials, except the medalists who already have direct entry.

Groups for the BWF World Junior Championships 2025 – Suhandinata Cup:Group A: Thailand, Denmark, Slovenia, Cook Islands Group B: Chinese Taipei, UAE, Canada, England, Norway Group C: Indonesia, Türkiye, Romania, Netherlands Group D: Poland, USA, Hungary, Ireland, Philippines Group E: China, Japan, Singapore, Brazil, Bhutan Group F: Malaysia, Australia, Sri Lanka, Slovakia, Vietnam Group G: France, Korea, Portugal, Egypt, Uganda Group H: India, Hong Kong China, Nepal, Ghana.

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Purti (21’) and Anish Dungdung (24’). However, Hockey Punjab quickly equalised with Akshit Salaria (29’) and Varinder Singh (30’) scoring in quick succession. Jharkhand's Sukhu Guria (42’) attempted to swing the game in his team's favour, but a brace by Punjab's Mandeep Singh (45’, 53’) sealed the deal for Hockey Punjab, crowning them champions of the 15th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2025.

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On the final day of the event, the first match between Uttar Pradesh Hockey and Hockey Madhya Pradesh saw Hockey Madhya Pradesh start strong, taking a two-goal lead in the first half. However, they were outwitted by Uttar Pradesh Hockey in the final two quarters, as Ali Shahrukh (42’, 47’, 51’)

scored a hat-trick, supported by Mohd Atif Raynee (40’) and Prahalad Rajbhar (55’), who each scored a goal, leading their team to a 5-3 victory. The goals for Hockey Madhya Pradesh were scored by Aashir Aadil Khan (13’), Karan Gautam (20’), and Meezan Ur Rehman (58’).

Earlier on Wednesday, Hockey Punjab sealed their place in the final with a narrow 4-3 win against Uttar Pradesh Hockey, while in the second semifinal, Jharkhand defeated Hockey Madhya Pradesh 3-1.

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India U20 women beat Turkmenistan 7-0 in Asian Cup Qualifiers

Yangon (Myanmar), Aug 8 (UNI) : The India U20 women’s national team outplayed Turkmenistan 7-0 in their second Group D match of the AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup Thailand 2026 Qualifiers, at the Thuwunna Stadium, here today.

India led 5-0 at half-time.

With this result, the Young Tigresses climbed to the top of Group D, having garnered four points and a goal difference of seven. Hosts Myanmar, who drew 2-2 with Indonesia earlier in the day, are second, with the same number of points, and a goal difference of five.

India captain Shubhangi Singh (7’, 42’) and winger Sulanjana Raul (38’, 90+4’) each scored a brace, while Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam (14’), Thoibisana Chanu Toijam (35’), and Pooja (65’) netted a goal apiece.

After a disappointing stalemate against Indonesia in their first match, India were hungry to redeem themselves against Turkmenistan, and were at the opponents’ throats

mark, nodding in yet another Sulanjana corner from inside the six-yard box. The latter got to score one of her own just minutes later, when Remi Thokchom threaded her through between the Turkmen defensive lines as Sulanjana slipped it past the keeper.The India U20s skipper made it five, minutes before the half-time whistle, but India were not done yet. Despite the massive score-line, the Young Tigresses came out with intent to increase their goal difference in the second half.Turkmenistan, however, had learned their lesson and had gone into damage-control mode.

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ECoR’s Rail Madad Portal tops performance among 17 Railway Zones

(Standard Post Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Aug 8 : The East Coast Railway’s (ECoR) Rail Madad portal has once again secured the number one position among the 17 railway zones in the country for its outstanding performance in handling passenger grievances.

According to ECoR sources, the portal scored 70.06 points in the performance report for the first four months of the current financial year 2025–26, as of July 31.

Rail Madad (railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in) is an integrated grievance redressal platform catering to all categories of railway

customers—passengers, freight, and parcel. It has been instrumental in enhancing passenger satisfaction and improving the overall travel experience. Accessible through multiple channels—Rail Madad Helpline (139), website, and mobile app (Android and iOS)—the platform offers a quick and convenient way for passengers to register complaints and seek assistance. ECoR sources said that the average complaint disposal time during April 1–July 31, 2025, was reduced to 26 minutes from 1 hour 12 minutes in the

corresponding period last year. Similarly, the average complaint pendency time dropped to 16 minutes from 28 minutes. In the current financial year, ECoR received 35,507 complaints through Rail Madad, all of which were attended to promptly. About 77.77 percent of passenger feedback rated the service as excellent or satisfactory, marking a 13 percent improvement over last year’s figures. The portal’s integration with other platforms such as X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and Helpline 139 enables real-time data collection and quicker resolution of complaints.

Officials noted that Rail Madad’s efficiency has strengthened passenger trust in the railway grievance redressal system. By streamlining processes and addressing complaints swiftly, the portal helps minimise inconvenience during train journeys and at railway premises. The Ministry of Railways remains committed to further improving Rail Madad and incorporating passenger feedback to enhance the travel experience. Data from the portal also assists in identifying operational gaps, enabling targeted corrective measures.

PM to Flag-Off 3 Vande Bharat Trains, viz- Ajni(Nagpur)-Pune Vande Bharat , Bengaluru-Belgavi Vande Bharat & Katra-Amritsar Vande Bharat Trains on Sunday

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Aug 8 : Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, will flag off 3 Vande Bharat trains viz- Ajni(Nagpur)-Pune Vande Bharat , KSR Bengaluru-Belgavi Vande Bharat & Shree Mata Vaishnodevi Katra-Amritsar Vande Bharat Trains, from KSR Bengaluru Railway station, in the august presence of Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting & Electronics and Information Technology and other dignitaries on 10.08.2025.

Maharashtra will get its 12th Vande Bharat running between Ajni(Nagpur) & Pune and hitherto unserved area between Wardha - Manmad will get its first Vande Bharat.



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj , with Lal Mahal, his place of residence in Pune, Shivneri Fort, his place of birth, and various other forts in the region.

The famous Shaniwarwada, the then place of residence of the Peshwas is also in Pune. Pune is known for its various prestigious educational institutions and is also a pilgrimage centre with the famous Dagdu Sheth temple in the city and other places of religious significance like Alandi, Jejuri etc in the region. The Introduction of Vande Bharat Train service between Ajni(Nagpur) and Pune will immensely benefit a large population of passengers wanting to travel between these two cities and the towns enroute for work, business, studies and tourism. It will be beneficial for businessmen, students, employees proceeding on regular travel and special tours and will further promote tourism apart from increasing the avenues of trade and commerce. “The Ajni(Nagpur) - Pune Vande Bharat Express will be the longest running Vande Bharat, covering a distance of 881 kms. It is the 12th Vande Bharat running in Maharashtra, and the first Vande Bharat to cover the regions of Wardha-Akola-Shegaon – Bhusaval-Jalgaon-Manmad and regions between Puntamba and Daund. It is the fastest train between Nagpur and Pune with a speed of

73kmph and 10 intermediate stoppages. It exemplifies India’s strides in modern rail travel, offering passengers a faster, more comfortable journey and Railways’ dedication to serve the entire breadth and width of India.

The details of regular service of Pune- Ajni(Nagpur)-Pune Vande Bharat Express is as follows:

Train No. 26101 Pune- Ajni Vande Bharat Express will depart from Pune station 6 days a week (except Tuesday) at 06.25 hrs with effect from 11.08.2025 and arrive Ajni at 18.25 hrs same day.

Train No. 26102 Ajni- Pune Vande Bharat Express will depart from Ajni station 6 days a week (except Monday) at 09.50 hrs with effect from 12.08.2025 and arrive Pune at 21.50 hrs same day.

Halts – Wardha, Badnera, Akola, Shegaon, Bhusaval, Jalgaon, Manmad, Kopargao, Ahmednagar and Daund Chord Line.

Coach Composition: 8 Coaches including 1 Executive Chair Car(EC) and 7 Chair Car (CC), seating a total of 530 passengers (52 seats in EC coach, 78 seats each in 5 CC coach and 44 seats each in 2 CC coaches attached to the Loco Pilot’s Coach)

For detailed time table and halts of these trains please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App.

The Hon’ble Prime Minister will also flag off

the KSR Bengaluru-Belagavi Vande Bharat Express and Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Katra-Amritsar Vande Bharat at the event.

Presently 72 Vande Bharat Trains are running in the country covering 24 States & Union territories, offering safe, comfortable and fast travel through 144 services to its passengers. Indian Railways plans to introduce 200 plus Vande Bharat Trains in the next 3 years.

Special Features of Vande Bharat Train: Passenger Amenities

AC: - All coaches equipped with Air Conditioning systems

- Automatic Temperature Control: - Adjusts temperature automatically based on occupancy
- Seating: - Ergonomically designed seats for long-distance travel
- Lighting: - LED and ambient lighting in all coaches
- Doors: - Automatic sliding doors in all coaches
- Windows: - Large panoramic windows for scenic views
- Toilets: - Bio-vacuum toilets

Safety Features

- Fire Safety: Fire detection and suppression systems
- CCTV Surveillance: Camera monitoring across the train
- Emergency Communication: Intercom systems in every coach
- Braking System: Regenerative braking that saves up to 30% energy
- Dual Suspension System: Ensures comfort even at high speeds

As a product of the ‘Make in India’ initiative, this train underscores the nation’s commitment to cutting-edge technology and self-reliance. The launch of these trains will strengthen Maharashtra’s position as a hub of innovation and connectivity, driving regional prosperity. This event highlights the government’s vision of a connected India, with the Vande Bharat Express trains serving as a cornerstone of modern rail infrastructure.

Divisional Railway Manager conducts inspection at Jagdalpur Station : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, Aug 8 : Mr Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of Jagdalpur Railway Station, focusing on safety enhancements, passenger amenities, and the progress of key developmental works, including initiatives under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme.

Accompanied by senior officials from Civil Engineering, Operations, Electrical, Signal & Telecom, Commercial, and Safety departments, Shri Bohra undertook a meticulous review of operational and infrastructural aspects of the station.

The inspection covered essential facilities such as the Parcel Office, Booking Office, Crew Lobby, Waiting Halls, Station Master Panel room and Parking areas, ensuring best possible functioning and service activities.



During the visit, the DRM gave priority to the improvement of passenger amenities, further upgrading station facilities, staff quarters, and freight handling infrastructure. Key sites

—including the RPF Barrack and Goods Shed—were also inspected for enhancements. Shri Lalit Bohra interacted directly with staff at various locations, addressing their concerns and gathering

inputs to further elevate the standard of amenities provided. The inspection included a detailed review of several ongoing development projects to ensure timely execution and alignment with long-

term railway infrastructure goals. Shri Lalit Bohra emphasized the commitment of the railways to providing safer, more efficient, and passenger-friendly services at Jagdalpur station.

GM, WR, Vivek Kumar Gupta undertakes Shramdaan as part of the Swachchata Abhiyan



Mr Vivek Kumar Gupta, General Manager of Western Railway undertaking Shramdaan at Mumbai Central station. (2nd photo) Mr Gupta alongwith Mr Pankaj Singh, Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central is seen participating in the Tree Plantation drive.

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Aug 8 : Indian Railways is observing "Swachhata Abhiyan", as part of the ongoing Independence Day celebrations of our nation, and also to reaffirm its commitment to the national cause of cleanliness and public hygiene. This campaign is being observed across all its Zones and Production Units including PSUs, in two phases, namely from 1st to 15th August, 2025 followed by 16th Aug to 31st Oct, 2025. The campaign covers our endeavor towards cleanliness in all spheres of Railway functioning i.e. stations, trains, colonies, offices, depots, and workshops etc, while also promoting awareness among staff and passengers.

In this spirit, Western Railway is also actively observing the "Swachhata Abhiyan", across all its divisions and units. Embracing this attitude,

Shri Vivek Kumar Gupta, General Manager of Western Railway has shown the lead and set an example by undertaking Shramdaan at Mumbai Central station on 8th August, 2025. He was joined by Shri Pankaj Singh, Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central and other senior railway officials as well as staff. On this occasion, General Manager in his address emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness. He encouraged everyone to actively contribute to the upkeep and beautification of railway stations and surrounding areas. Thereafter, Shri Gupta participated in Tree Plantation drive.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the "Swachhata Abhiyan" emphasizes on cleanliness, hygiene, environmental responsibility, and

community engagement in alignment with the vision of “Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat”. The campaign began with the Swachhata Pledge administered by General Manager, Principal Head of Departments and senior officials at Zonal level as well as by Divisional Railway Managers at Divisional level and by Chief Workshop Managers at Workshop level, reaffirming their commitment to cleanliness.

Shri Vineet further informed that Nukkad Natak, Swachh Rath rallies and Prabhat Pheris are being organized at several locations with active participation from employees and public volunteers. Selfie booths based on Swachhata themes have been set up to engage the public. Intensive cleanliness drives, Shramdaan are being organized at stations, offices, railway colonies with the involvement of

employees and influencers. Health check-up camps are being arranged for Swachhata workers. In order to encourage people to pledge their commitment to cleanliness, Swachhata Hastakshar (signature campaigns) are being organized. Awareness drives for catering staff and inspections are also being carried out at food establishments, pantry cars and base kitchens. Passengers are motivated to use Plastic Bottle Crusher Machines to reduce plastic waste as well as proper disposal of waste in dustbins only. As part of green initiatives, Tree Plantation drives are being organized at different locations.

Western Railway's active participation in the Swachhata Drive during the Independence Day Celebration Week underlines its continued commitment to cleanliness, sustainability, and public engagement.