

Govt. won't do injustice to Maratha and OBC communities: CM, Fadnavis

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Aug 28 : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday said the government will consider the interest of both Maratha and OBC communities, and there is no question of doing injustice to anyone, as the government will solve the problems of both the communities.

“The OBC community should also remember that the government will not allow injustice to be done to them. Also, the government has solved all the problems of the Maratha community. Tell me, who else has solved them? When I was the Chief Minister and Eknath Shinde was the Chief Minister, the problems were solved and we will solve them in future

too,” he assured.

He was speaking to reporters at a time when the pro-Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange-Patil was marching with a large number of his followers to Mumbai to launch his indefinite fast from August 29 to demand reservation for the Maratha community from the OBC quota.

Jarange-Patil has declared that the permission granted by the Mumbai police for holding a protest for a day was not acceptable to him, as he would sit on an indefinite fast until the government accepts all its demands.

CM Fadnavis said, “The state government has given reservation to the Maratha community, and it has been

upheld in court. In a democracy, we have the right to raise our issues and protest.

As long as any protest is conducted democratically, we have no problem. We will solve the problem through discussion.

One thing is for sure: a reservation has been given to the Maratha community.”

On Jarange-Patil’s resolve to hold an indefinite fast, CM Fadnavis said, “We expect that no protest should go outside the framework of democracy. If the protest is carried out by following the rules and norms, we have nothing to say.”The chief minister further stated, “Now they (Jarange-Patil) are demanding reservation to

the Maratha community from the OBC quota. The government has already provided 10 per cent separate reservation to the Maratha community.”

According to the Chief Minister, there are about 350 castes in the OBC. “Suppose if we look at medical admissions, the cutoff of OBC is above SEBC (Socially and Educationally Backward Classes), and the cutoff of SEBC is above EWS.

If we look at the statistics carefully, we will realise what is in the interest of the Maratha community.

It is also the responsibility of the leaders of the Maratha community to study the interests of the Maratha community and

make demands. Political reservation will not be provided.

If there is a social or job reservation, then it can be considered,” he said.

CM Fadnavis remarked that the media is now seeing that the movement (pro Maratha reservation) is becoming political.

“Some political parties are trying to benefit themselves by putting a gun on their (Jarange-Patil)shoulders, but they will not benefit; they will suffer. The government (Maha Vikas Aghadi government) that was in the state for two and a half years should show one decision taken for the interest of the Maratha community. It cannot be shown,” he claimed.

Nitin Gadkari, Udhav Thackeray seeks blessings at Lalbaugcha Raja

Mumbai Aug 28 (UNI) : Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, along with their families, offered prayers at Mumbai’s iconic Lalbaugcha Raja, marking the grand beginning of this year’s Ganeshotsav.

Gadkari, accompanied by his family, reportedly reached the pandal late last night and joined devotees in the rituals.

Known for his deep personal faith, the minister stood praying alongside his family members, seeking blessings for their well-being. Meanwhile, Thackeray, along with his family, also visited the pandal and participated in the aarti with devotion, joining the long queue of devotees who consider a visit to the mandal auspicious on Ganesh Chaturthi.



Satellite campus of IIM-Nagpur to be established in Pimpri-Chinchwad: CM Fadnavis

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday announced the establishment of a satellite campus of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Nagpur in Pimpri-Chinchwad, Pune, on a 70-acre site in Moshi. According to officials, the IIM-Nagpur satellite campus in Pimpri-Chinchwad will build on the institute’s esteemed reputation, bringing world-class management education to Pune’s dynamic industrial and academic ecosystem. CM Fadnavis conducted multiple high-level meetings in Pune, Mumbai, and Nagpur over the past year to ensure its success. (See on page 3)

Death toll rises to 17 in building collapse near Virar

(Standard Post Bureau)
Virar, Aug 28 : The death toll in the building collapse near Mumbai has risen to 17, following a tragic incident in the Virar area of Palghar district, about 30 kilometers from the city, according to officials.

The collapse occurred early on the morning of August 27, when the rear portion of the Ramabai Apartment, a 13-year-old unauthorized four-storey structure in Vijay Nagar, gave way and buried several residents under debris.

Rescue operations are still underway, with teams from the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation’s fire brigade and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) actively working to remove debris from the site.

The incident took place in Ramabai Apartment, a 13-year-old unauthorised four-storey structure in Vijay Nagar. Officials said that the rear portion of the



Rescue operation underway after a four-storey unauthorised building collapsed onto adjacent vacant chawl, at Virar, in Mumbai. 15 dead, several injured in the incident.

building suddenly gave way at around 12:05 am on August 27, burying residents under tonnes of debris.

While talking to UNI, Lalu Ture, Senior Inspector, Virar Police Station, confirmed the death and injuries while adding that the rescue operation is still underway.

The deceased have been identified as Arohi Omkar Jovil, (24), Uttkarsha Jovil, Laxman Kisku Singh, (26), Dinesh Prakash Sakpal, (43), Supriya Nivadkar, (38), Arnav Nivadkar, (11), Parvati Sakpal, (60), Dipesh Soni, (41), Sachin Newadkar, (40), Harish Singh Bist, (34), Sonali Rupesh Tejam, (41), Deepak Singh Bohra, (25), Kashish Pawan Saheni, (35), Subhangi Pawan Saheni, (40), Govind Singh Rawat, (28).The identity of two more deceased individuals, whose bodies were recovered this afternoon, has not yet been disclosed. The death toll in the Virar building collapse, which occurred in the early hours of August 27, has now risen to 17.

Chief Minister

Devendra Fadnavis paid tribute to the victims, announcing an ex-gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh for each of the deceased’s families. “We stand with the bereaved families in this hour of grief,” Fadnavis said in a statement.

The Chief Minister’s Office (CMO) added that the ongoing rescue operation, which has been underway for 48 hours with the assistance of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), is expected to conclude within the next few hours. Meanwhile the builder of the collapsed structure, Nital Gopinath Sane, has been arrested following a complaint filed by the civic official.

A case has also been registered against the landowner under sections 52, 53, and 54 of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (MRTP) Act, as well as section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Mumbai to remain under yellow alert

Mumbai Aug 28 (UNI) : Mumbai witnessed scattered rainfall across parts of the city today, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) continued to maintain a yellow alert for the region.

Although the possibility of very heavy showers today has been ruled out, intermittent spells of rain are expected to persist. Daytime temperatures are likely to range between 26°C and 28°C. The IMD has also forecast normal to above-normal rainfall for Mumbai during the August–September period, advising residents to remain alert for sudden shifts in weather patterns. Mumbai is expected to see moderate to heavy showers tomorrow, with temperatures ranging between 27°C and 24°C. The following day, August 30, is likely to bring moderate rainfall, with the mercury fluctuating between 27°C and 25°C.

Army commander visits Ajmer Rashtriya Military School

Pune, Aug 28 (UNI) :Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, visited Rashtriya Military School (RMS), Ajmer today.

The Army Commander undertook a comprehensive tour of the institution and inspected the academic, training and residential facilities. He was briefed on the initiatives undertaken by the school for the all-round development of cadets, with particular emphasis on academics, military training, discipline and character-building.

The General Officer expressed appreciation for the high standards maintained by the institution and lauded the collective efforts of the faculty and staff in shaping the cadets into future leaders of the Armed Forces.

During the visit, the General officer released the school’s annual magazine ‘Abhivyakti’, which encapsulates the literary and creative talents, achievements and multifaceted endeavours of the cadets.

He also felicitated cadets who earned laurels in academics, sports, cultural activities and inter-school competitions, commending their efforts and achievements.

A major highlight of the visit was the interaction with the cadets, during which the Army Commander engaged them in discussions on their aspirations, challenges and future goals. He motivated them to share their thoughts freely and responded to their queries with practical advice and words of encouragement.

Speeding truck rams into autorickshaw, 4 killed

Chandrapur, Aug 28 (UNI) : A speeding truck rammed into an autorickshaw in Maharashtra’s Chandrapur district today, leaving four people dead on the spot and three others seriously injured, police said. According to police, the accident occurred on Thursday near Kapangaon in Rajura taluka. The autorickshaw, carrying passengers, was hit violently by a truck coming from the opposite direction. The impact was so severe that the rickshaw was completely crushed.

The deceased have been identified as autorickshaw driver Prakash Meshram (48), resident of Panchgaon, Ravindra Bobade (48)-Panchgaon, Shankar Pipare (50), resident of Kochi and Varsha Mandade (50), resident of Khamona.

IMD issues heavy rainfall alert for Vidarbha

Nagpur, Aug 28 (UNI) : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a heavy rain warning for Nagpur and several districts of Vidarbha, forecasting intense showers over the next 24 hours.

By Thursday afternoon, many parts of the region had already experienced heavy downpours, causing waterlogging and traffic snarls in Nagpur city.

Officials have urged residents to remain indoors unless necessary and take precautions in flood-prone and low-lying areas.

According to the IMD, districts including Bhandara, Gondia, Wardha, Yavatmal, Amravati, Akola, Washim and Buldhana are likely to witness heavy to very heavy rainfall.

With water levels rising in rivers and reservoirs, local administrations have kept disaster management teams on alert. Authorities have also advised citizens, especially in rural belts, to stay away from swollen rivers and streams. Farmers have been cautioned to closely monitor their fields, as excess water could damage standing crops. The warning will remain in effect until weather conditions improve, the department added.

Nagpur, Aug 28 (UNI) : The two-day ninth international conference on Construction, Real Estate, Infrastructure and Project Management (ICCRIIP 2025), organized by NICMAR University, Pune, concluded with its valedictory function here today.

The valedictory was graced by Dr T V S N Prasad, Chief Information Commissioner, Haryana; former chief secretary, Haryana and Distinguished Professor of Economics & Public Policy at NALSAR University of Law.

Delivering the valedictory address, Dr Prasad emphasised the need for policy innovation, sustainable governance and integration of research with practice to build resilient

administrations have kept disaster management teams on alert. Authorities have also advised citizens, especially in rural belts, to stay away from swollen rivers and streams. Farmers have been cautioned to closely monitor their fields, as excess water could damage standing crops. The warning will remain in effect until weather conditions improve, the department added.

Rahul Gandhi vows to expose 'vote rigging' in LS, Haryana ...



Accusing the BJP and the Election Commission of colluding to “steal votes” in recent elections, leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi today said while Karnataka had already “revealed evidence” of electoral malpractice, his party would soon present proof of vote rigging in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the Haryana Assembly polls. (See on page 4)

Over 360 BSF Personnel, 5,000 Civilians stranded after Ravi ...



A major breach in the Ravi River embankment near Ajnala has worsened the flood situation, leaving thousands of residents in distress. Rising waters have inundated several villages, forcing families to abandon their homes as water levels reached up to five feet inside residential areas. (See on page 7)

Western Railway to run two pairs of Special Trains



For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season of Durga Pooja, Diwali & Chhath Pooja, Western Railway will run Special Trains on Special fare between Udhana – Malda Town & Vadodara - Kolkata stations. (See on page 8)

Health

Are you chained to your office desk for long hours at a stretch with little to no daily exercise? Does your life circle around your laptop?

Is typing while hunched over a tiny desk how you spend each day? If the answer is yes, then you need to get proactive about your mental and physical state of being. To help you achieve just that, here are eight yoga asanas for the office that will help you combat mental and physical stress by increasing your concentration levels and relaxing any muscle tensions. Read and practise right away!

1: Wrist Stretches- Perform these simple stretches as a warm up exercise before starting your work and you'll never complain of wrist pain. (1) Extend and stretch both wrist and fingers acutely as if they are in a hand stand position and hold them up for a count of 5. (2) Make a tight fist with both hands and then bend wrist down while keeping the fist and hold it for a count of 5.

2: Neck Asana- Breathe in as you bend your head in the right direction. Try and aim at a point where your shoulder touches the ear.



8 yoga asanas for the Office

Exhale as you bring your back to the normal position. Make sure you keep your neck and spine long. Now do the asana on the left side. Perform five breathing cycles on each side.

3: Reversed Shoulder Rotation and Thoracic Wave-

Inhale as you move your shoulders in an upward and backward direction. Exhale as you move them in a downward and frontward direction. Pay key attention to the breathing cycle and keep your neck and spine comfortably straight. Perform eight to ten rotations on each side.

4: Cow Face Pose for your upper back-

Take both your hands and clasp your hands behind your back. If you are unable to clasp, don't try too hard, comfortably stretch your fingers towards one another. Release with an exhalation. Now shake your arms for about 30 seconds and repeat.

5: Cat Asana for the lower back-

While exhaling, bend your back in a backward direction creating a sharp curve in your spine.

Now bend in a forward direction with the point between the shoulder blades and inhale. Do it for 5 breathing cycles to relieve your body of long hours at the desk.

6: Konasana for toned arms-

Stand straight with legs wide apart. Now bend forward from your waist. Try and touch the ground with the tips of your fingers, if possible place both your hands on the ground while standing. Your upper body should be in a straight line. Look ahead by about 3 inches. Perform konasana for 10 to 30 seconds and breathe normally throughout the asana.

7: Bhastrika for your abdomen-

Sit in a comfortable position with your back straight. Close your eyes and start exhaling and inhaling via nose by focusing on the abdominal muscles. As soon as you release your abdominal muscles you'll realize that your diaphragm contracts before you start to inhale. Hear the sound of your breath and perform this asana 5 times at a stretch. Give it a pause. Breathe normally. And start again. Complete one to two rounds on a daily basis and increase the number of your breaths by 5, each week.

8: Leg Extension Asana-

Sit in a comfortable position with one leg bent and placed on a chair or desk in front of you. Place both your hands on your feet. Keeping your spine straight, inhale and extend your leg



outward while holding it with your hands. Stay in this position for 3 to 5 breaths. Exhale as you come back to the normal position, while moving your hands and placing them on your waist. Stay in this position for 3 to 5 breaths. Relax. Perform 5 to 10 rounds like this. Read more Personal

Bring back your childhood Exercises

The fun, excitement, fights and the boisterous yelling of childhood is etched in all our hearts.

We all share a similar memory, returning from school, indulging in snacks and hustling down to play with your friends. Most of us knew ourselves to be strong, agile and energetic back then. Then why is that the very activities that worked for us and made us fit as kids are relegated to 'childhood' memories alone? We take a look at childhood activities and exercises that can help us shape up through adulthood. Begin today!

Skipping rope: How do you reduce body fat and build stamina in a short period of time? Skipping rope is your answer; you can skip at home, it doesn't cost much, is convenient and a great exercise if you are on the run. Take notes: It will help you increase your cardio vascular capacity and lung capacity, also builds your agility, speed, balance, and coordination. You can burn roughly 1,000 calories per hour. But remember - skipping rope for an hour is stuff athlete workouts are made of.

Monkey bars: You want to build your strength, get primitive, well not literally. Most playgrounds and schools have monkey bars and kids love it. It helps in back development and is a great addition to any upper body workout. It gives a whole new meaning to hanging around with friends.

Cycling: All of us have fallen off a bicycle, but



that didn't deter us from cycling around and popping a wheely. But now a car or a bike is the most preferred mode of transport. Well yes, it is convenient but doesn't make us sweat. Cycling is a full body workout, builds your cardio respiratory health, also muscle and strength. Whatever the problem-stress, weight loss, heart disease or shaping your body cycling is perfect for you.

Running: From the time we are toddlers to adulthood we are always running. It comes naturally to kids but it's a stretch for adults. Run if you want to be fit, lose weight, increase stamina, tone your body and the list goes on. But a word of caution, running can cause certain injuries.

Hula hoop: A baby of the 60s, hula hoops are evergreen with young girls. Once you get the rhythm of the twirl, you can sweat out 100 calories in ten minutes. Hula hoop wards off cardiovascular illness; it improves your co-ordination and helps in

muscle tone. But if you're going to hula hoop for fitness, check on workout hula hoops meant for exercise. They are different from the ones available in stores.

Climbing: As kids we have scaled walls and climbed trees; now that you're an adult you can't do the exact same thing, but you can still engage in rock climbing. Along with the above activities, climbing also improves cardiovascular health, weight loss and improves muscle tone. This common trend running through childhood games makes you want to go back to the past.

Swimming: This is one activity we wish was included in our school curriculum. Swimming is the best activity during summers. Besides, swimming can do wonders to your body mentally and physically. It builds muscles, improves strength, and you are guaranteed a healthy heart and powerful lungs. A full body workout, swimming improves co-ordination, posture, and is a great way to bust stress.

Outdoor sports: As Indians, sport is the last thing we want to engage in unless it plays on the tube. But if we did engage in sports we wouldn't be obese, sluggish, or have a string of ailments. They say laughter is the best medicine, but outdoor sports can beat it any day. It's beneficial for heart problems and other diseases, co-ordination, and builds you mentally, keeps you alert and is a lot of fun.

In today's fast paced world, stress and running around are an inevitable part of most peoples lives. And while lethargy and tiredness are commonplace, if you find yourself constantly thinking of doing nothing but just lying down, you may have a problem on your hands.

While there may be several underlying issues when it comes to feeling drained out, some of the most common ones include...

- An iron deficiency or anaemia is one of the first things that your doctor will check for when you complain of frequent tiredness. A lack of iron in your diet will result in lethargy after some time. While anaemia is more prevalent among women, men also get affected. And doctors say that an increasing number of young women today are suffering from this ailment (menstruating women are most prone to anaemia). One of the best ways to keep this ailment at bay is to eat a diet rich in

Reasons why you

feel tired most of the time

iron — think green, leafy vegetables.

- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) is another common ailment that makes one feel constantly exhausted, which eventually affects the quality of one's life. Patients often complain that in spite of sleeping for the stipulated

hours daily, they still end up feeling tired the next day. While doctors say that it is difficult to pinpoint what exactly causes CFS, some reasons include a hormonal imbalance, a viral infection, low immunity or even stress. Treatment differs from patient to patient and include a range of therapies.

- Another reason could be fluctuating blood sugar levels. Diabetes may have different symptoms and one common one happens to be often feeling exhausted. Other symptoms include

frequent trips to the washroom and feeling thirsty. A simple blood test will help you figure out if your blood levels are in control.

- Feeling depressed or anxious about something? This could cause to to feel tired often, worsening other symptoms. Don't hesitate to visit a mental health care expert for treatment.



Should you eat curd at night?

The hot season is here and so is the urge to consume foods that cool down your system. Curd, evidently, stands on top of the list. And why not. Curd is an excellent source of good bacteria and aids digestion. It is good for your teeth and bones. But as with most of the foods, there are some rules that you need to follow for consuming curd. One of the most commonly heard rules is to avoid eating it at night. But is it valid for everyone. Here are some of the rules:

- Do not eat curd at night, especially if you are prone to cough and cold. Ayurveda explains that curd consumption at night is not good as it leads to mucus development. But if you can't do without it, opt for buttermilk instead.

- If you are eating curd during the day, have it without sugar but if you are eating curd at night, add sugar or

some black pepper. It will assist in digestion and calm your digestive system.

- Never have hot curd.

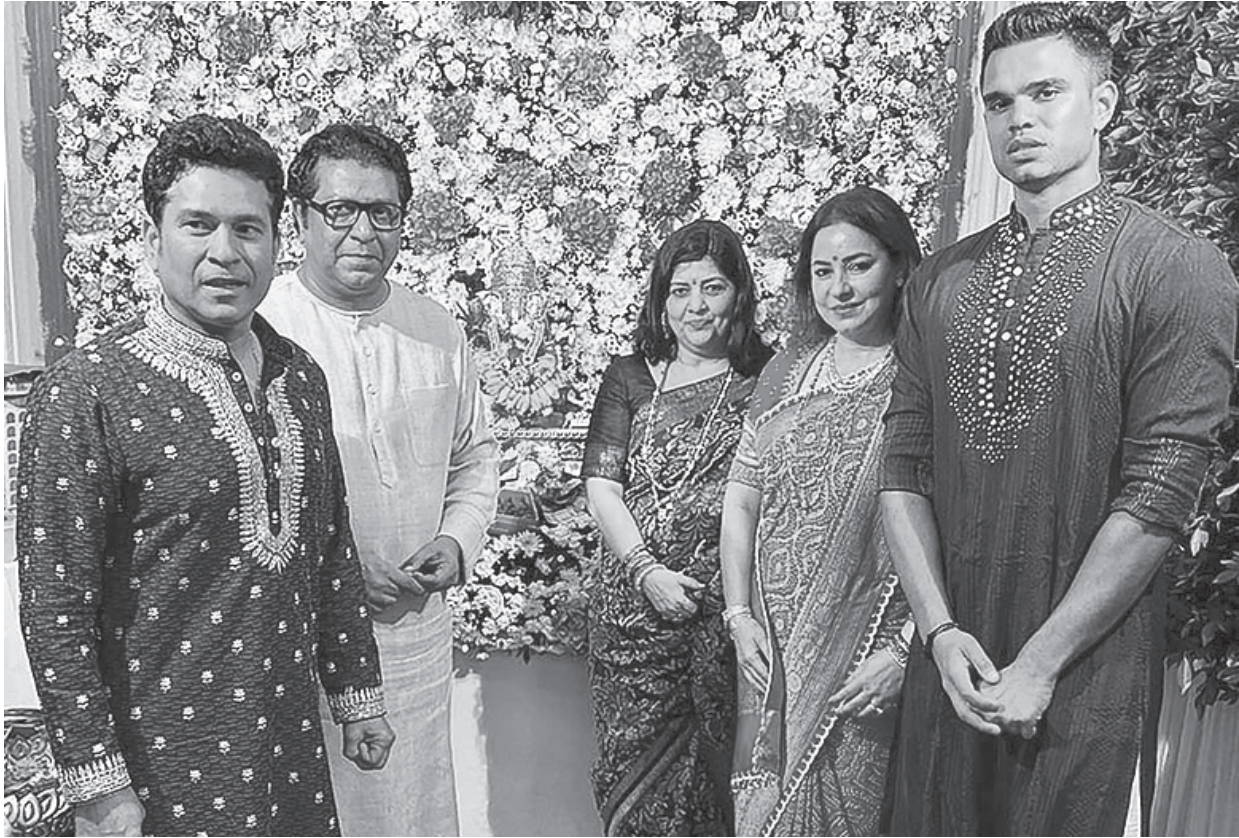
While the basic rules apply, if you are a curd lover, we bring you some easy options to include it in your diet, anytime of the day:



Curd rice: This is very good for the stomach and a light option for the summers too. Curd with sugar: Add a spoonful of sugar to your curd and you are good to go. Buttermilk/ Lassi: Ditch aerated drinks for these two options. Raita: A common Indian side dish, you can add onion, cucumber, tomato to your curd with some herbs and a healthy option is all set.

Kadhi: Mixing gram flour (besan) with buttermilk makes for an appetizing curry called Kadhi. It is mostly eaten with rice (you might want to opt for brown rice).





Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar with wife Anjali and son Arjun visits Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray’s residence on the occasion of the ‘Ganesh Chaturthi’ festival, in Mumbai.

Satellite campus of IIM-Nagpur to be established in Pimpri-Chinchwad: CM

Mumbai, Aug 28 (IANS) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday announced the establishment of a satellite campus of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Nagpur in Pimpri-Chinchwad, Pune, on a 70-acre site in Moshi.

According to officials, the IIM-Nagpur satellite campus in Pimpri-Chinchwad will build on the institute’s esteemed reputation, bringing world-class management education to Pune’s dynamic industrial and academic ecosystem. CM Fadnavis conducted multiple high-level meetings in Pune, Mumbai, and Nagpur over the past year to ensure its success.

Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said this development solidifies Maharashtra’s position as a leader in management education, adding that the

revenue department has earmarked 70 acres of land in Moshi.

Minister Bawankule said, “As we commemorate the vibrant occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, the foundation for IIM Nagpur’s satellite campus in Pimpri-Chinchwad marks an auspicious milestone for our city. This industrial hub, home to residents from across India and renowned for its robust Mumbai-Pune connectivity, will gain further distinction with this prestigious institution.”

He further mentioned: “Pune, widely recognised as the ‘Oxford of the East’, is a hub of academic excellence, industrial innovation, and advancements in IT and automotive sectors. The new satellite IIM Nagpur campus is poised to attract top talent from across the nation, fostering opportunities in education, research, and

entrepreneurship. With 21 IIMs currently operational across India, Maharashtra continues to lead with its existing IIMs in Nagpur and Mumbai.”

The minister said the land acquisition process is underway, with officials committed to accelerating development to realise this vision. “The IIM Nagpur satellite campus will strengthen India’s management education ecosystem, create high-value opportunities, and contribute significantly to the region’s economic and intellectual growth,” he observed.

Earlier on Thursday, on a separate but much-discussed matter, CM Fadnavis said the government will consider the interest of both Maratha and OBC communities, and there is no question of doing injustice to anyone, as the government will solve the

problems of both the communities.

He was speaking to reporters at a time when the pro-Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange-Patil was marching with a large number of his followers to Mumbai to launch his indefinite fast from August 29 to demand reservation for the Maratha community from the OBC quota.

Jarange-Patil has declared that the permission granted by the Mumbai police for holding a protest for a day was not acceptable to him, as he would sit on an indefinite fast until the government accepts all its demands.

“The OBC community should also remember that the government will not allow injustice to be done to them. Also, the government has solved all the problems of the Maratha community,” CM Fadnavis said.

Declare Eid Milad holiday on Sept 8 instead of Sept 5 in Maha: Naseem Khan

Mumbai, Aug 28 (UNI) Maharashtra Congress Working President M. Arif Naseem Khan today appealed to the state government to reschedule the Eid-e-Milad holiday, which marks the birthday of Prophet Mohammed, from September five to September eight.

The request comes as the holiday coincides with the Ganeshotsav immersion ceremonies scheduled for the same day.

In a formal letter addressed to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Khan pointed out that the ten-day Ganeshotsav festival concludes on Anant Chaturdashi with immersion processions taking place on September six. The Congress leader highlighted that major Muslim organisations across Maharashtra including the All India Khilafat Committee and communities from Mumbai, Thane, Aurangabad, Jalna, Nashik, Beed, Pune and other districts have already voluntarily decided to postpone their Eid-e-Milad processions by three days to September eight.

Jarange-Patil heads for Mumbai as hundreds of cops turn Azad Maidan into fortress

Mumbai, Aug 28 (UNI) : Maratha reservation quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil visited the birthplace of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Shivneri Fort in Pune district today and moved towards Mumbai along with a large number of Maratha supporters to launch his protest at Azad Maidan on August 29 (Friday), after he delivered a speech to his supporters.

"We cannot sit still unless justice is given to the Maratha community. The government has given us permission to protest. We appreciate the government for that. From the foothills of Shivneri Fort, we request Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to grant permission for the protest until our demands are accepted. We will protest within the rules. We will protest until reservation is implemented. We will also follow the law. We also accept the government's condition of 5,000 people at the protest venue," he said. Meanwhile, the protest venue of Azad Maidan has been turned into a fortress with hundreds of armed police

personnel, plainclothesmen and wireless vans deployed near the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus railway station and the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) building. In the letter issued by Mumbai's Azad Maidan police station, Jarange-Patil has been informed that the police permission would be granted only for one day and that it would not be given on Saturdays, Sundays or government holidays. “A maximum of 5,000 people can participate in the protest in the designated space of 7,000 square metres at Azad Maidan. Since other protesters also have permission to protest on the same day, their rights must not be affected,” the letter has stated.

The letter has specified that a protest march would not be allowed and that permission would be required for the use of microphones, speakers or any noise-making devices. The police have cautioned that traffic should not be disturbed or statements which may disturb peace or hurt sentiments should

not be made.

The letter has stated that the protest is allowed from 9 am to 6 pm at Azad Maidan, which faces St Xavier's College.

In a related development, Maharashtra's OBC community held a meeting today and OBC leader Babanrao Taywade has announced that the National OBC Federation will start a chain hunger strike at the Constitution Square in Nagpur from Saturday and even consider marching to Mumbai if needed, demanding that Marathas must not be given OBC Kunbi caste certificates indiscriminately.

"A decision has also been taken in the meeting to create awareness in every district. Our demand from the government is that Maratha community members should not be given Kunbi certificates indiscriminately. We welcome the statement by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis that OBC reservation will not be affected. We hope no decision will be taken under the pressure of Jarange's agitation," OBC leader Babanrao Taywade said.

SC grants bail to Arun Gavli after 17 years in jail

New Delhi, Aug 28 (UNI) The Supreme Court today granted bail to gangster-turned-politician Arun Gawli, who is serving a life sentence for the 2007 murder of Mumbai Shiv Sena corporator Kamlakar Jamsandekar, taking note of his long incarceration.

A Bench comprising Justice M. M. Sundresh and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh observed that Gawli had spent over 17 years and three months in prison, while his appeal against conviction remained pending before the Court."

Admittedly, the appellant has been under incarceration for 17 years and three months. We also take note of the fact that he is 76 years old," the Bench recorded.

The Court ordered his release on bail, subject to conditions imposed by the trial court, and fixed the matter for final hearing in February 2026.

Gawli had challenged the December 9, 2019 judgment of the Bombay High Court, which upheld his conviction and life sentence awarded by a Mumbai sessions court in 2012. The trial court had also imposed a fine of Rs 17 lakh.

A prominent figure who rose to power from Dagdi Chawl in Byculla, Gawli founded the Akhil Bharatiya Sena and was elected as MLA from Chinchpokli constituency between 2004 and 2009.

He and others were arrested in 2006 and later convicted in the murder case of Jamsandekar.

Three arrested on murder charges over Bihar property dispute

Mumbai Aug 28 (UNI) The Mumbai police have arrested three persons for allegedly murdering a 35-year-old man over a land dispute in Bihar, a police officer said here today.

According to the officer, on Tuesday the police control room received a call that the body of a person had been found in a drain at the Suryakund Mahapurush society at Mazgaon in the Byculla area of South Mumbai.

A police team went to the society. A Panchnama was drawn and the body was sent for post-mortem, which confirmed the person had been murdered. The victim was identified as Keshav Chaudhary Jha.

Accordingly, the Byculla police registered a murder case against unidentified persons.

Initial investigation revealed that the society watchman, Girdhari Rai, 22, who was absconding, was involved in the murder.

The police said they found that Rai, along with others, had allegedly murdered the deceased in the watchman’s cabin and thrown his body into the drain.

Various squads were set up to track the accused. The police then began scanning CCTV cameras in the area and using technical tools to track down the accused. They first arrested one Mrityunjay Jha, 36, who was trying to flee to Bihar, yesterday in Sewri.

Four teachers win national teacher awards

Mumbai/ New Delhi Aug 28 (UNI) The Ministry of Education, government of India, has announced the winners of the National Teacher Awards 2025, with four educators from Maharashtra receiving the prestigious recognition for their exceptional contributions to school and higher education.

These teachers have been honoured for their innovative teaching methods, research, and social initiatives that have significantly impacted students' lives. The awards will be presented on September 5, 2025, during the national Teacher’s Day celebration.

The Department of

School Education and Literacy selected 45 teachers from 27 states, 7 union Territories, and 6 institutions. Among them, Dr Sheikh Mohammad Wakuoddin Sheikh Hamidoddin from Zilla Parishad High School, Ardhapur, Nanded, and Dr Sandipan Gurunath Jagdale from Dayanand College of Arts, Latur, were recognized for their dedication to innovative teaching and holistic student development.

The selection process was rigorous and transparent, conducted online from June 23 to July 20, 2025, across district, state, and national levels.

Out of the 45 winners,

1,500 security personnel deployed for Maratha reservation protest

Mumbai, Aug 28 (UNI) : Mumbai police have deployed more than 1,500 security personnel at Azad Maidan in anticipation of the Maratha reservation protest led by activist Manoj Jarange-Patil, who is expected to arrive in the city late this evening.

The extensive security arrangements include local police forces along with companies from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Rapid Action Force (RAF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Maharashtra Security Force, with some units being diverted from the ongoing Ganesh festival duties. Jarange-Patil has been granted conditional permission to hold a protest at Azad Maidan on August 29 between 9 AM and 6 PM, with authorities limiting attendance to 5,000 participants within a designated 7,000 square

metre area.

The activist has strongly criticised the one-day restriction, calling it an insult to the Maratha community and declaring his intention to begin an indefinite hunger strike from tomorrow. Police authorities anticipate over 20,000 protesters gathering in South Mumbai, with supporters already arriving from various parts of Maharashtra.

Traffic restrictions have been implemented on key routes, including the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, JNPT Highway and Vashi areas, with heavy vehicles banned except for those providing essential services. Navi Mumbai Police have issued comprehensive traffic advisories with multiple road closures and alternative routes for commuters. The protest coincides with ongoing

Soldier injured as parachute crashes on house at Nashik

Nashik, Aug 28 (UNI) : One soldier was injured when his parachute crashed on a house during a military demonstration in Maharashtra's Nashik district today, official sources said. The incident occurred in the military area of Shinde Bahula in Deolali Camp. The slightly injured soldier has been admitted to the Military Hospital with the help of local citizens and military personnel.

The house was extensively damaged, the sources said.

Man allegedly burns wife alive, arrested

Navi Mumbai, Aug 28 (UNI): A thirty-five-year-old man from Navi Mumbai allegedly burned his thirty-two-year-old wife to death after becoming suspicious of her having an extramarital affair, police officials said today.

The alleged murderer attempted to disguise the murder as suicide, but was arrested after her seven-year-old daughter said he had set her mother on fire.

The incident occurred in the early hours of August 25 at Pagotegaon in Uran area, with the accused being arrested the following day.

The accused, identified as Rajkumar Ramshiromani Sahu, was suspicious of his wife, Jagrani Rajkumar Sahu, maintaining an extramarital relationship.

According to Uran police station's senior inspector Hanif Mulani, Sahu allegedly tied the victim's hands and legs, poured kerosene on her body, and set her ablaze using a lighter inside their Uran residence.

The woman was rushed to a hospital where doctors declared her dead on arrival. Initially, the husband claimed that his wife had locked herself inside a room and committed suicide, leading police to register a case of accidental death. However, investigation revealed discrepancies in his story when the couple's seven-year-old daughter, who witnessed the incident, told police that her father had set her mother on fire. The child's statement directly contradicted the husband's version of events.

Police also examined CCTV footage from the locality, which clearly showed the accused leaving the house in the early hours following the incident, providing vital evidence that contradicted his claim of not being present at home during the time of the incident.

24 are men and 21 are women. In the higher education segment, 21 teachers across India were awarded. Maharashtra’s winners are Dr Neelakshi Jain of Shah & Anchor Kutchhi Engineering College, Mumbai, and Prof. Purushottam Pawar of SVPM’s Institute of Technology & Engineering, Baramati. Introduced in 2023 under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, these awards recognize inspiring faculty for teaching excellence, research, innovation, and community engagement. Dr Jain and Prof. Pawar were selected for their outstanding academic contributions and societal impact.

Ganesh festival celebrations, creating additional security challenges for Mumbai authorities. Jarange-Patil, who reached Pune district this morning after paying tribute at Shivneri Fort, is travelling to Mumbai via the Chakan - Talegaon - Lonavala - Panvel - Vashi - Chembur route.

The activist's primary demand remains the recognition of all Marathas as Kunbis under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category so that they can secure reservation benefits.

During the march, a protester from Beed district died of a heart attack at the Junnar campsite. State minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil has indicated the government's willingness to engage in talks, while Mumbai remains on high alert as authorities prepare for potential disruptions to traffic and public gatherings during the demonstration.

Sangharsh Shetkari Sanghatna backs Jarange Patil’s Mumbai protest

Ch. Sambhajnagar, Aug 28 (UNI) :The Sangharsh Shetkari Sanghatna has declared its support for the ongoing Maratha reservation movement.

Party sources said today that members during an organizational meeting unanimously resolved to continue the struggle until reservation is achieved, extending full backing to Manoj Jarange Patil’s Mumbai Mocha initiative. The meeting concluded with participants raising enthusiastic slogans of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Jijao, Jai Shivarai, Jai Bhim, Jai Maharashtra."

The gathering, held at the Pasadevi office under the leadership of founder-president Pandharinath Godse Patil, focused on strengthening the organizational framework and appointing new office bearers. Key appointments included Ravinder Kumar Arjun Rao Kirtishahi as liaison head of the health department for Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district, Balasaheb Bhume as Marathwada president, Satish Borse as vice president, Vijay Ghale as organizer, and Uday Raj Gaikwad as district president, along with several others.

STANDARD POST

PM Modi, President Xi eye ‘modus vivendi for mutual benefit

Two Asian giants, India and China, are warming up, and the world is watching with curiosity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s upcoming visit to Tianjin for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, his first in seven years,is being seen as a potential “gamechanger”.

This comes at a time when US President Donald Trump's imposition of 50 percent tariff on India has come into effect, prompting New Delhi to inject fresh momentum in its bilateral relations with Beijing. Both Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping appear to have recalibrated their approaches, recognising the shifting ground realities of a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.India-China relations remain deeply complex, marked by both competition and cooperation. The Galwan clashes had plunged ties to historic lows, but shifting global dynamics are now compelling both nations to reconsider rigid positions. Modi’s SCO visit, coupled with India’s broader global outreach strategy, could create “momentum for a sustainable modus vivendi between Asia’s two giants.”

Former Ambassador Anil Trigunayat called Modi’s upcoming visit “significantly important both bilaterally and in the regional context.” He noted, “India-China relations have witnessed their biggest lows in the past five years, especially since the Galwan crisis. But the changing global dynamic has shifted the leverage since the BRICS summit in Kazan. Now, with high-level visits and frequent interactions, the bilateral context has acquired greater prominence. Even though China will remain a strategic challenge for New Delhi, both sides are seeking a sustainable modus vivendi for mutual benefit.”Trump’s tariff-heavy foreign policy has fundamentally altered global dynamics. His “America First” approach, driven by the MAGA agenda, disrupted traditional alliances and pushed countries to reassess strategies. Rather than aligning unquestioningly with a superpower for concessions, nations are increasingly pursuing foreign and economic policies rooted in national interest.

India, too, has felt the sting of US protectionism. Trump’s imposition of an additional 25 percent tariff on Indian goods forced New Delhi to rethink its external engagements. Ironically, this setback has opened new space for India and China to explore pragmatic cooperation. While Beijing will remain a long-term strategic challenge, both nations are actively seeking common ground for mutual benefit, Ambassador Trigunayat said.Washington has accused India of fuelling the Russia-Ukraine war by purchasing Russian crude, even imposing sanctions despite India’s stabilising role in global energy markets and its efforts to promote dialogue between Moscow and Kyiv. Such unilateral pressure underscores Washington’s opportunism, hypocrisy, and neo-colonial mindset, while underestimating India’s civilisational resilience and multi-alignment strategy.

In many ways, Trump’s unilateralism has benefited middle powers by forcing them to diversify trade relations, reduce dependence on Washington, and pursue new opportunities, he said.

For both India and China, the task ahead is not only to manage divergences but also to transform convergences into durable partnerships—anchored in pragmatism, mutual respect, and national interest.

Momentum in India-China ties has been building through a series of high-profile visits. From June 25–27, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited China to attend the SCO Defence Ministers’ meeting, marking the first visit by a senior Indian minister since the Galwan clashes of 2020. Singh also held a bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Dong Jun, in Qingdao. The “constructive and forward-looking exchange of views” led to the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra after nearly six years.

Both sides are keen to maintain positive momentum while avoiding fresh complications in the relationship. Modi, who has consistently emphasised economic growth as India’s mission, has long prioritised ties with Beijing. In fact, Xi Jinping was the first foreign leader he hosted after becoming Prime Minister in 2014. Later, Modi hosted Xi for an informal summit in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu, in October 2019,the second such meeting after Wuhan in 2018, designed to ease tensions.Faisal Ahmed, Professor of International Business and Geopolitics at the FORE School of Management, said: “PM Modi’s upcoming visit to Tianjin for the SCO summit is substantiated by both optimism and pragmatism for the SCO and for India-China bilateral ties. Key regional security concerns—such as counterterrorism, intelligence sharing, cyber warfare, and transnational organised crime—must be addressed. At the same time, boosting economic and cultural cooperation through realigning regional value chains, focusing on connectivity corridors, and creating more opportunities for academic and youth exchanges is essential.”

The upcoming Modi-Xi meeting on the sidelines of the SCO summit is expected to inject strategic depth into bilateral ties. At the core lies the goal of reducing the persistent “trust deficit” that has plagued relations. While military and diplomatic negotiations are slowly working toward easing border tensions, progress on this front could pave the way for broader cooperation in economic, cultural, and strategic domains.

Dr. Vishal Khurana’s inspiring TEDx talk: How your gut and Liver can Rejuvenate your Life

(Standard Post Bureau)

Dr. Vishal Khurana’s inspiring TEDx talk illustrates the power of resilience, holistic medicine, and self-transformation, showing that adversity can fuel achievement and personal growth. TEDx talks, independently organized events under the TED umbrella, play a crucial role in sharing impactful stories and new ideas with communities worldwide, encouraging listeners to reflect and act for positive change.

What Are TEDx Talks? TEDx events are local, independent gatherings modelled after the global TED conferences, which spotlight “ideas worth spreading” on science, education, health, and human experience. Speakers are carefully selected — often community leaders, innovators, or individuals with powerful personal stories. TEDx fosters deeper understanding, empathy, and inspiration by bringing diverse voices to a wider audience, creating ripple effects in society through fresh perspectives and actionable advice.

Importance of TEDx Talks

- Empowering Individuals: TEDx talks highlight ordinary people accomplishing extraordinary feats, motivating others to believe in their potential despite challenges.

- Spreading Innovative Ideas: Talks offer evidence-based insights and practical solutions on crucial topics such as health, education, environment, and well-being.

- Building Community Dialogue: By delivering lectures in familiar settings, TEDx helps start local conversations about global issues and the value of individual action.

Dr. Vishal Khurana’s Journey: Overcoming Adversity Dr. Khurana’s story began in Faridabad, in a lower middle-class family, where affording education and coaching was a struggle.

Through scholarships, supportive teachers, and constant determination, he excelled in both Engineering and medical entrance exams. He underscores that true success is about personal transformation — from surviving hardship to



thriving with humility and gratitude.

From Clinic to Community: Educating About Gut and Liver Health

As Director of Gastroenterology in a major hospital, Dr. Khurana noticed widespread misinformation about gut

and liver health. In response, he launched “Dr Vishal Khurana’s Gut and Health Bytes” in 2021, a free public initiative to dispel myths and provide accurate information to all, bridging the gap between medical science and public knowledge.

Key Lessons From the Talk

- Gut-Liver Connection and Holistic Health

- Microbial Impact: Over 100 trillion gut bacteria influence digestion, metabolism, and overall health, sending signals that affect other organs.

- Root Cause Healing: Dr. Khurana advocates addressing underlying causes — nutrition, stress, physical activity — over symptomatic treatment, to unlock the body's natural healing abilities.

- Mindful Eating and Movement

- Conscious Chewing: Proper chewing improves digestion, controls calorie intake, and enhances gut health.

- Eat in Silence: Mindful eating, especially in a distraction-free environment, reduces stress and brings awareness to the act of eating, supporting better gut-brain interactions.
- Daily Physical Activity: Simple routines like brisk walking can significantly improve metabolic and liver health, even for those with busy schedules.

- Antibiotic Use and Self-Healing

- Antibiotic Impact: Frequent, unnecessary use disrupts gut bacteria, but the body has strong self-regenerative potential.

- Natural Recovery: The liver and intestines regularly renew themselves — healing is possible with proper lifestyle changes, without exotic supplements or detox regimes.

Real-Life Transformation

Dr. Khurana’s patient, embodies the talk’s principles: by removing processed foods, practicing mindful eating, walking daily, and managing stress, he reversed fatty liver, lost weight, improved energy, and regained his health — proving that holistic, sustainable lifestyle changes can dramatically improve one’s life.

Conclusion Dr. Vishal Khurana’s TEDx talk is a motivating example of perseverance, compassion, and evidence-based living. It demonstrates the value of TEDx platforms for sharing transformative stories, dispelling health myths, and reminding communities of the immense power of conscious choices in shaping healthier futures

Rahul Gandhi vows to expose 'vote rigging' in LS, Haryana polls

Riga (Sitamarhi), Aug 28 (UNI) Accusing the BJP and the Election Commission of colluding to “steal votes” in recent elections, leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi today said while Karnataka had already "revealed evidence" of electoral malpractice, his party would soon present proof of vote rigging in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the Haryana Assembly polls.

Speaking at a public rally in the Riga block of Sitamarhi district as part of the ongoing Voter Rights Yatra, Gandhi dubbed the Central government of the BJP as not a people’s government which he claimed to have formed through vote theft. "With full evidence, we will expose how votes were stolen in the Lok Sabha and Haryana elections,” Gandhi asserted.

He alleged that nearly 65 lakh names were deleted from Bihar’s electoral rolls, with the majority belonging to the poor, marginalised, and deprived sections of society. “Not a single rich person’s name was removed. The BJP and Election Commission want to end democracy and replace it with monarchy. For the poor, the right to vote is their only weapon to defend dignity and rights,” Gandhi said.

The Congress leader praised the political awareness of Biharis, saying it was far higher than in other states. “It is very difficult to mislead the people of Bihar. No matter how hard the BJP tries, not a single vote will be stolen here,” he added.

Charting the Future: Modi’s visit to Japan to focus on defence, technology and economic security

New Delhi, Aug 28 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Japan tomorrow to attend the 15th annual India-Japan Summit will pave the way for further strengthening the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two democracies.

This visit is particularly significant as Japan has announced plans to invest an impressive USD 68 billion over the next decade to boost bilateral business relations with India. During the summit, both nations are expected to elevate their defence cooperation and discuss key areas of economic security, including emerging technologies such as semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and critical minerals.

This will be Prime Minister Modi’s first meeting with the newly elected Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, marking an important chapter in India-Japan relations. It will also be Modi’s eighth visit to Japan, underscoring the enduring leadership-level diplomacy between the two countries.

India is in urgent need of rare earth minerals and advanced AI capabilities to secure its technological and economic future, particularly as the rest of the world progresses rapidly in these areas. Rare earths are vital for manufacturing advanced electronics and clean energy technologies, while AI is a cornerstone of modern innovation.

To prevent technological dependence and achieve its strategic goals, India is actively implementing multifaceted strategies to strengthen

its position in both fields.

The timing of the visit is especially crucial for India, which has been working to expand its global outreach in response to recent unilateral US tariffs. The summit is seen as an opportunity for both countries to deepen their collaboration in areas that drive economic security, technological innovation, clean energy and people-centric development.

With growing cooperation across a variety of sectors — ranging from defence and infrastructure to space and technology —the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership is continuously increasing in importance, fostering regional stability, economic growth and innovation.

India and Japan have shared this partnership since 2014, built on deep civilisational ties and a common vision for regional and global issues. Both nations' approaches to the Indo-Pacific — India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and Japan’s Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) —align closely, further strengthening cooperation across a range of areas.

This collaboration encompasses enhancing connectivity and infrastructure through initiatives like the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) and supporting the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), as well as coordinating the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). Key areas of cooperation include economic development and supply

chain resilience.

During the summit, Prime Ministers Modi and Ishiba are expected to discuss ways to further enhance their economic ties, particularly in securing stable supply chains for critical goods. A new framework is expected to be signed, focusing on emerging technologies such as semiconductors, AI and pharmaceuticals.

In addition to the summit, Prime Minister Modi is slated to visit Sendai, a city in Northeast Japan renowned for its cutting-edge semiconductor research and development.

The visit also highlights India’s growing interest in strengthening technology ties with Japan. Modi is also expected to invite Prime Minister Ishiba to an international AI conference in India scheduled for February next year. Both leaders will explore opportunities for global cooperation in shaping international rules to govern AI development, ensuring the technology remains safe, ethical and trustworthy.

Beyond technology and economic collaboration, both sides will deliberate on key regional issues such as Indo-Pacific security, climate change, and economic stability.

Japan, being a crucial player in the G7 and Quad, plays an important role in supporting India’s push for a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

India and Japan’s cooperation extends beyond bilateral discussions into several multilateral platforms,

including the Quad, the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI). Japan remains a crucial partner in the IPOI’s connectivity pillar and continues to be India’s largest official development assistance (ODA) donor, supporting a wide range of critical infrastructure projects.

Bilateral trade between India and Japan reached USD 22.8 billion in 2023–24. India imports machinery, steel, reactors, and copper from Japan, while it exports chemicals, vehicles, aluminium, and seafood. Japan is India’s fifth-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), with cumulative investments amounting to USD 43.2 billion by December 2024.

The presence of over 1,400 Japanese companies operating across nearly 5,000 establishments in India further underscores the strength of the two nations' economic ties. Emerging areas for collaboration include digital cooperation, clean energy, industrial competitiveness and supply chain resilience.

Japan has been a key ODA partner to India since 1958, supporting a range of important infrastructure and development projects. One of the most iconic collaborations is the Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (Shinkansen) project, which stands as a symbol of advanced technology transfer and skill development.

Japan has also supported the development of metros,

industrial corridors, renewable energy, and urban infrastructure, with JPY 580 billion (USD 4.5 billion) in ODA disbursements during 2023–24.

On the multilateral front, India and Japan are committed to promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific, with both countries working together in the Quad alongside the US and Australia. Their cooperation under the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative further strengthens the diversification and security of global supply chains. Their leadership during the 2023 G20 presidencies also showcased their growing alignment on issues of global importance, especially concerning the Global South.

In the realm of science and technology, India and Japan are advancing an ambitious agenda to deepen their collaboration in space exploration, satellite navigation, and agricultural monitoring.

The India-Japan Year of Science, Technology, and Innovation Exchanges (2025–26) will serve as a major platform to deepen cooperation in these fields. India’s Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Japan’s Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) are already collaborating on lunar exploration, Space Situational Awareness (SSA), and other critical space technologies. The launch of the IIT Bombay–Tohoku Joint Institute of Excellence in April 2025 further strengthens academic and research ties, ensuring continued progress in scientific innovation.

Central Asian countries, Japan preparing 1st joint summit

Tashkent, Aug 28 (UNI) : The Central Asian countries and Japan are preparing the first joint summit, the office of Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said.

"On August 27, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received a delegation headed by minister of foreign affairs of Japan Takeshi Iwaya, who’s currently in our country with an official visit. An exchange of views on international and regional agenda, including organization of an upcoming summit in ‘Central Asia Japan’ format also took place," the office said in a statement yesterday.

In addition, Mirziyoyev and Iwaya discussed strengthening bilateral strategic partnership and expanding multifaceted cooperation, the statement added.The Central Asia-Japan summit was scheduled for August 2024 in Kazakhstan.

However, it was canceled due to the threat of a powerful earthquake in the area of the Japanese islands.

UK Liberal Democrat leader to boycott dinner with Trump over his stance on Gaza

Moscow, Aug 28 (UNI) : Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey has said that he will boycott a state banquet with US President Donald Trump over the latter's stance on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"In three weeks' time, Trump will touch down in the UK for his second state visit, which will include a state banquet at Windsor Castle hosted by King Charles. One of the great privileges of being the leader of my party is that my wife, Emily, and I are invited to attend state banquets. To refuse an invitation like this goes against all of my instincts.

But having thought and prayed long and hard about it with Emily, I have come to the conclusion that on this occasion I must refuse," Davey said in an article for The Guardian newspaper yesterday, adding that he intends to draw the leaders' attention to the problem of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Davey believes that Trump has "more power than anyone else" to solve the Gaza issue using the two-state solution, putting Israel and Palestine on the path to lasting peace.At the same time, Davey noted that UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer is doing the right thing by interacting with Trump, saying that Washington is an important ally.

Australian government to cut 500 nuisance tariffs

Canberra, Aug 28 (UNI) : The Australian government today said that it will cut another 500 "nuisance" tariffs as part of a push to boost productivity and encourage free trade.Treasurer Jim Chalmers, Trade Minister Don Farrell and Industry and Innovation Minister Tim Ayres today announced that the small tariffs on items including tyres, wine glasses and televisions will be removed from the start of the next financial year on July 1, 2026, to reduce the compliance burden on businesses.

Chalmers told reporters in Canberra that the nuisance tariffs "often do more than good". He said that current tariffs on tyres raise less than 80,000 Australian dollars (52,109.8 U.S. dollars) in revenue every year, but that removing them will save businesses more than 32 million AUD (20.8 million USD) in compliance costs annually."We are putting our money where our mouth is," Farrell said, adding, "We want countries to remove trade barriers. We are demonstrating to the rest of the world we are serious about this issue."

The government in 2024 abolished 457 nuisance tariffs on items including certain vegetables, refrigerators and rubber. The further cuts were proposed during the government's economic reform roundtable, which brought together business groups, trade unions and economists earlier in August to discuss ideas to stimulate Australia's stagnating economic productivity.

Chalmers said that the treasury will consult on the proposed tariffs to be cut until December and the final agreed list will be published in the next federal budget, which he is expected to hand down in May 2026.

Italian cheese exporters face higher tariffs in US than agreed upon with EU

Rome, Aug 28 (UNI): Italian cheese exporters are facing tariffs from some US customs authorities that exceed the rate agreed with the European union on imports of certain types of the product, the Italian Foreign Ministry said.

"In particular, some US customs authorities reportedly requested a higher tariff than the rate agreed in the EU-US Joint Declaration for the import of Italian products, such as Grana Padano and Parmigiano Reggiano," the ministry said in a statement yesterday.

The Italian Foreign Ministry informed the European Commission and the US Embassy in Italy about the situation, the statement added."Italy has always supported an open and constructive approach in its dialogue with the United States, and will continue to do so by calling for the proper implementation of the agreement," Italian Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani noted.The volume of Italian cheese exports to the United States reaches 500 million euros (USD 582 million). With the introduction of new tariffs on August 7, all types of cheese are supplied to the US at a single tariff rate of 15 percent.

In August, the US and the EU announced that they had reached a framework trade agreement. This agreement envisages that the EU will eliminate tariffs on all US industrial goods, while the US will maintain a 15 percent tariff on most European goods.

Israel launches fresh strikes on Yemen's capital

Sanaa, Aug. 28 (UNI) Israel launched airstrikes on Yemen's capital Sanaa on Thursday afternoon, Houthi-run al-Masirah TV reported, as local residents heard a series of explosions.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz confirmed the airstrikes in a statement, while Israel's state-owned Kan TV news reported that the airstrikes were aimed at Houthi leaders, without disclosing their identity.

The strikes came a few hours after the Israeli military said it intercepted two drones fired from Yemen.

The first drone entered Israeli airspace at noon, triggered air raid sirens, and was then intercepted by Israeli air force over communities near Gaza, while the second, fired less than two hours later, was intercepted before crossing into Israeli territory, the military said in a statement.

No human casualties or material damage have been reported from the two drone launches. There was no immediate comment from Yemen's Houthi group regarding the incidents.

The Houthis, who control much of northern Yemen, have carried out drone and missile attacks on Israel since November 2023 in what they describe as solidarity with Palestinians during the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Most of the projectiles have been intercepted by Israeli defenses.

Israel has responded with strikes on Houthi-held areas, targeting airports, power stations, and ports in Yemen's capital Sanaa and the city of Hodeidah.

Ukrainian President appoints former Deputy PM Olha Stefanishyna as new ambassador to US

Kyiv, Aug 28 (UNI) Ukraine's former Deputy Prime Minister Olha Stefanishyna has been appointed as the country's new ambassador to the US, after months of speculation.

The appointment comes after the dismissal of her predecessor Oksana Markarova, who fell out of favour with the US over allegations of election manipulation. She held the post since 2021.

Ukraine's new ambassador, Stefanishyna will be tasked with strengthening diplomatic ties, particularly focusing on weapons procurement for Kyiv, specifically drones, missiles, and interceptor systems to bolster its air defences amid Russia's ongoing military advance.In a post on social media, President Volodymyr Zelensky announced her appointment and said "The formal procedures are complete – today I signed a decree appointing the ambassador."“I identified key tasks for updating the work of our embassy, and most importantly – to fully implement all agreements with Washington. In many ways, the long-term guarantee of Ukraine’s security depends on relations with America.”

One killed after stabbing incident in Australia's Sydney



Sydney, Aug 28 (IANS) : One teenager is dead and another has been hospitalised following a stabbing incident in western Sydney on Wednesday night, police said on Thursday.

According to the police, emergency services were called to a bus station in Mount Druitt, 38 km west of central Sydney, following reports of a concern for welfare shortly after 10:10 p.m. on Wednesday.

Police officers arrived at the scene and found two men, both aged 19, suffering from stab wounds. One of the men was treated by ambulance paramedics for stab wounds to his chest, but could not be revived and was declared deceased at

the scene.The other man sustained stab wounds to his arm and was treated by paramedics before being taken to the hospital in a stable condition, reports Xinhua news agency.

Local police established a crime scene and have commenced an investigation into the incident with assistance from the homicide squad.

This comes just days after two men were hospitalised with serious injuries and a third was arrested following a stabbing in the northern suburbs of Brisbane on August 22.

Police in the Australian state of Queensland said in a statement that emergency services received reports that two men had been

stabbed by another man inside a property in the northern Brisbane suburb of Zillmere.Emergency services arrived at the scene and found two men, one aged in his 20s and the other in his 30s, with serious injuries. Both were transported to the hospital.

A 51-year-old man was arrested a short time later and hospitalised under police guard to be treated for a laceration to his finger.

The Queensland Police Service said that investigators believe the three men are all known to each other and that there was no threat to public safety.

A crime scene was declared at the property, and an investigation into the incident was ongoing.

Hungary rejects reports of conceding to US Pressure on Ukraine’s EU membership

Budapest, Aug 28 (UNI) Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto has refuted reports of agreeing on Ukraine’s EU membership after US pressure

Hungary will not support Ukraine’s accession to the European Union, Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said , rejecting claims that Washington had convinced Budapest to alter its stance on the issue.

As per Politico, anonymous officials have suggested that US President Donald Trump

had managed to succeed in persuading Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban to reconsider his long-standing opposition to Kyiv’s membership.

This comes as majority EU leaders are hoping to overcome the deadlock on the issue in the coming months by applying pressure on Hungary which has been fiercely critical of the whole issue, stating that it would mean dragging the rest of Europe into a direct military confrontation with Russia.

“Hungary will never support Ukraine’s fast-track

membership in the EU. This would be a tragedy for Hungary and the entire Union. Anyone thinking sensibly will see the impact Ukraine’s accession would have, it would be a fatal blow,” Szijjarto Hungarian outlet Mandiner at a forum organised by them.

The minister warned that Ukraine’s entry would allow “the Ukrainian mafia to roam freely across Europe” and flood markets with “low-quality Ukrainian products” that he argued would devastate agriculture. Being in the same bloc with Ukraine, he

3 more Palestinian camps in Lebanon hand over weapons to army

Beirut, Aug. 28 (UNI) ; Lebanon on Thursday conducted the second phase of transferring weapons from Palestinian camps in the country to the Lebanese army, according to Lebanese media and Palestinian sources.

The second phase, including eight trucks loaded with machine-gun weapons, B7 rockets, and grenades from the camps of Rashidieh, el-Buss, and Burj Al-Shemali, was conducted at the army's Second Intervention Regiment barracks in the Shawakir area of Tyre city, southern Lebanon, Lebanon's official National News Agency reported.

Subhi Abu Arab, Palestinian national security chief in Lebanon, told a press conference held at the barracks that "the weapons handed over today by (the Palestinian) Fatah (movement) to the Lebanese army included, in addition to light weapons, landmines and Grad surface-to-surface rockets."Meanwhile,

Ramez Dimashkieh, head of the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee, told the press conference that more Palestinian camps in Beirut will hand over their weapons to the army on Friday.

The first phase of the handover, involving weapons from the Burj Barajneh camp in Beirut, was conducted on Aug. 21.Lebanese authorities have reaffirmed that all weapons in the country must be placed under state control and have tasked the Lebanese army with developing a plan, to be completed by the end of this month, to collect and remove Hezbollah's weapons.

However, Hezbollah leader Sheikh Naim Qassem on Monday rejected the Lebanese government's demand for Hezbollah's disarmament, calling it "an illegitimate decision made under American and Israeli dictates," and insisting the group's weapons remain essential to Lebanon's sovereignty and defense.

Charlie Hunnam to portray Ed Gein in new season of 'Monster'

Los Angeles, Aug 28 (UNI) Charlie Hunnam steps into the skin-crawling role of Ed Gein in the forthcoming third season of "Monster", the acclaimed anthology by Ryan Murphy and Ian Brennan. Subtitled "The Ed Gein Story", the series will debut globally on October 3, with all episodes dropping simultaneously, reports The Hollywood Reporter.

Promoted by the streamer as its "most harrowing season yet", the series delves into the unsettling duality of Gein's existence, an ostensibly mild-mannered recluse who concealed a grotesque obsession within the decaying confines of his family farm.

His macabre legacy later led to the creation of some of Hollywood's most enduring fictional villains, from Norman Bates in "Psycho" to Leatherface in "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre" and Buffalo Bill in "The Silence of the

Lambs".Monster: The Ed Gein Story tells the tale of how one simple man in Plainfield, Wisconsin, became “history’s most singular ghoul,” says the streamer, revealing to the world “the most horrific truth of all — that monsters aren’t born, they’re made ... by us.”Says the official logline: “Serial killer. Grave robber. Psycho. In the frozen fields of 1950s rural Wisconsin, a friendly, mild-mannered recluse named Eddie Gein lived quietly on a decaying farm — hiding a house of horrors so gruesome it would redefine the American nightmare.

"Driven by isolation, psychosis, and an all-consuming obsession with his mother, Gein’s perverse crimes birthed a new kind of monster that would haunt Hollywood for decades. Gein’s macabre legacy gave birth to fictional monsters born in his image and ignited a cultural obsession with the criminally deviant.

European Commission criticises Ukrainian attack on Druzhba oil pipeline, calls it pivotal to regional energy security

Brussels, Aug 28 (UNI) The European Commission has condemned the attack on the Soviet-era Druzhba oil pipeline last week, calling the Russian pipeline a critical asset of the EU's energy security.

While refraining from condemning Ukraine, the body maintained that infrastructure vital to the region should not be targeted, and urged maximum restraint on these targets.As per Moscow

Times, the Commission emphasised that the Druzhba pipeline plays a key role in the EU’s energy security, but also said that the attack overall did not have any severe impact on the bloc’s overall energy security.

However, this attack put both Slovakia and Hungary against Ukraine, with Bratislava strongly calling out Kyiv for jeopardising regional security through its actions, while Budapest

called it a deliberate tactic to coerce the country to change its stance on its EU membership, which it has denied.Damages caused to the pipeline by the attack have been repaired, with Russian oil deliveries to Hungary and Slovakia via the Druzhba pipeline resuming on Thursday, a week after Ukrainian attacks on a pumping station in western Russia disrupted shipments, authorities in both countries said.

Sri Lanka to set up special courts to fast-track trials of organized crime suspects

Colombo, Aug 28 (UNI) Sri Lanka will establish dedicated courts to hear cases involving members of organized criminal gangs, a minister said on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters following the arrest in Indonesia of several Sri Lankans linked to organized crimes, Minister

of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs Ananda Wijepala said the establishment of such courts would help expedite trials and ensure swift justice.

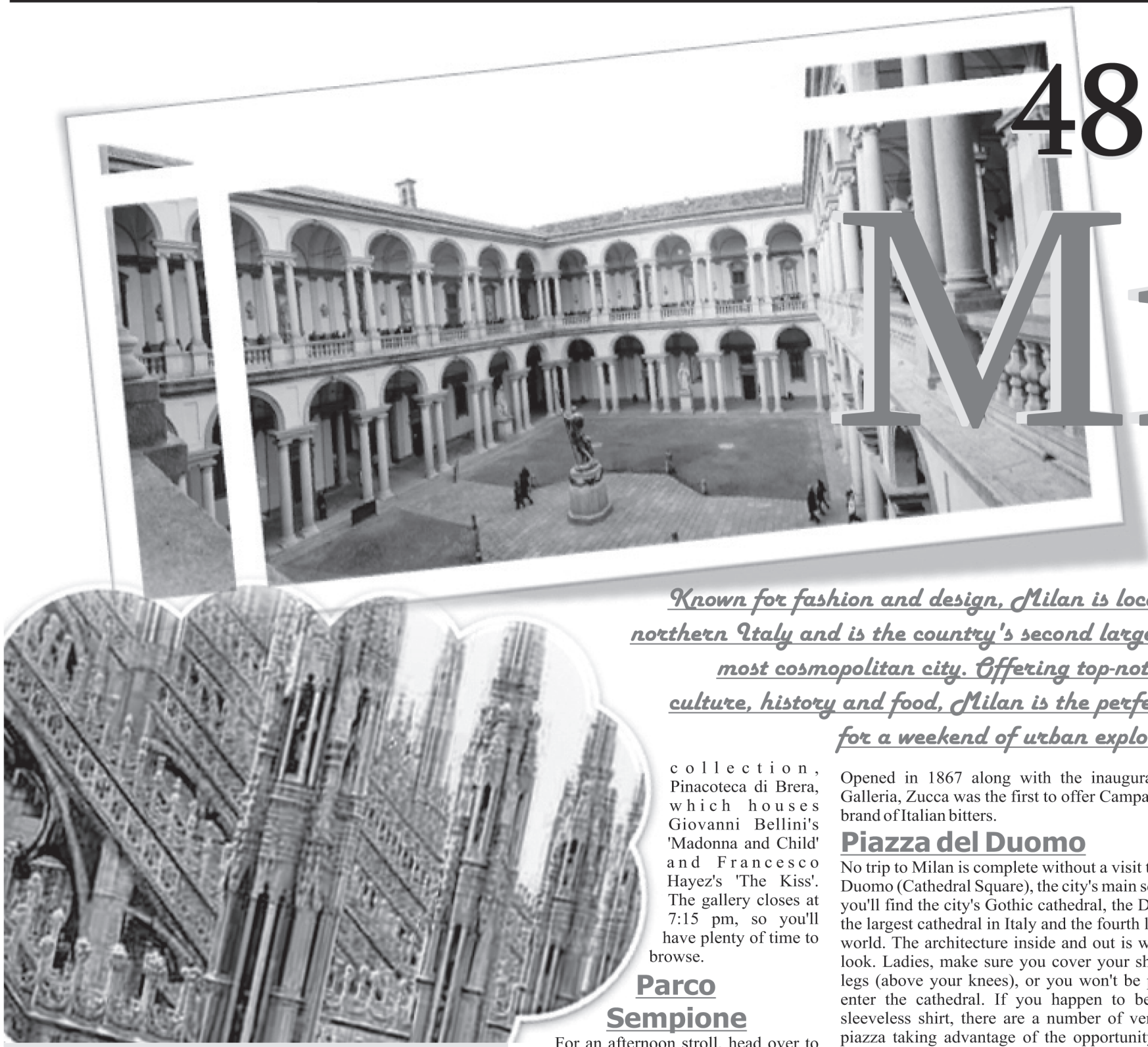
He noted that the government has already apprehended a significant number of individuals

connected to criminal networks, and some living abroad have been extradited since the current administration took office.

Wijepala stressed that specialized courts are necessary to fast-track proceedings against these suspects and deliver timely punishments.

Travel

48 hours in Milan



Known for fashion and design, Milan is located in northern Italy and is the country's second largest and most cosmopolitan city. Offering top-notch art, culture, history and food, Milan is the perfect spot for a weekend of urban exploration.

collection, Pinacoteca di Brera, which houses Giovanni Bellini's 'Madonna and Child' and Francesco Hayez's 'The Kiss'. The gallery closes at 7:15 pm, so you'll have plenty of time to browse.

Parco Sempione

For an afternoon stroll, head over to Parco Sempione, a beautiful city park ornamented by the Porta Sempione (Arch of Peace) and the 14th-century Castello Sforzesco (Sforza Castle). The castle's fountain, nicknamed the 'Torta degli Sposi' (wedding cake) for its design, is a magnet for children in need of a quick splash in the summertime.

Galleria Vittorio Emanuele

Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II is home to a number of luxury shops, including Prada, Gucci and Louis Vuitton—and some of Milan's oldest bars and restaurants. Scope out a lunch spot in the Galleria and stop by Zucca in Galleria afterwards for a cup of coffee or an aperitif.

Opened in 1867 along with the inauguration of the Galleria, Zucca was the first to offer Campari, a popular brand of Italian bitters.

Piazza del Duomo

No trip to Milan is complete without a visit to Piazza del Duomo (Cathedral Square), the city's main square. There you'll find the city's Gothic cathedral, the Duomo—it is the largest cathedral in Italy and the fourth largest in the world. The architecture inside and out is worth a close look. Ladies, make sure you cover your shoulders and legs (above your knees), or you won't be permitted to enter the cathedral. If you happen to be wearing a sleeveless shirt, there are a number of vendors in the piazza taking advantage of the opportunity by selling scarves and shawls.

Ristorante Pizzeria

If you're staying in Navigli, end your day with dinner at Ristorante Pizzeria Sant'Eustorgio, a restaurant and pizzeria that features simple dishes, a wide wine selection and terrace seating overlooking Piazza Sant'Eustorgio.

Pasticceria Marchesi

While in the Magenta neighbourhood, stop by Pasticceria Marchesi for the best sugar-coated croissants (called brioche) in the city. Circa 1824, Pasticceria



Marchesi is one of the oldest pastry shops in Milan. Don't forget to spend a few hours exploring on your own—after all, that's when the most exciting discoveries can take place.

Santa Maria delle Grazie

Make time to visit Santa Maria delle Grazie, a church and former monastery with a beautiful facade and interior. The church is home to Leonardo da Vinci's 15th-century masterpiece—The Last Supper. In order to see the painting, you will need to book a tour at least a few days in advance, as it is only shown to small guided tours for its protection.

Rinomata Gelateria

Stop by retro-styled Rinomata Gelateria (Ripa di Porta Ticinese, 1) for crepes or ice cream and continue your stroll along Naviglio Grande, as Gelateria doesn't offer seating. Navigli is worth a second look, as its beauty isn't limited to the night hours and it offers a completely different vibe during the daytime. Strolling along the canals in the afternoon, you'll encounter specialty boutiques and shops, rather than neon-lit bars.

Colonne di San Lorenzo

In front of the church stands the Colonne di San Lorenzo, Milan's best-known Roman ruin. Dating from the 2nd century, the columns were moved to their current location during the 4th century.

Navigli

After visiting the art gallery, make your way towards Milan's trendy Navigli neighborhood, noted for its charming canals and vibrant nightlife. The oldest canal, Naviglio Grande, is lined with restaurants and pubs, as well as old barges fitted out as bars. You'll be able to find dinner and drinks in the area, a great way to wrap up your first night in Milan.

Pinacoteca di Brera

Just a few blocks from the castle is Milan's largest art



summer by the British, Ooty is a visual delight filled with pretty cottages, fenced flower gardens, thatched-roof churches and terraced botanical gardens. Venture a few kilometres out and find yourself surrounded by greener, quieter areas dotted with an abundance of pine trees.

Darjeeling, West Bengal

Surrounded by emerald-green tea plantations and set against a backdrop of jagged white Himalayan peaks, Darjeeling is nestled away in the northern regions of West Bengal. A journey on the 'Toy train,' which meanders up the hills to Darjeeling

from New Jalpaiguri in the plains is a great way to explore and soak in the magnificent surroundings of this hill station.

Munnar, Kerala

Sprawling tea plantations, picture-perfect towns and winding lanes make Munnar a perfect destination for those looking for respite from the summer heat. Although the town itself is forever buzzing with activity, wander a few kilometres out and you'll be engulfed in a thousand shades of green.

Perfect summer destinations in India

Planning a vacation in India is a challenging task with the country's incredible diversity throwing up a long list of names. From tropical islands and tea plantations to lush valleys overlooking the mighty Himalayas, there is no dearth of options when it comes to planning the perfect summer getaway in India.

Coorg (Kodagu), Karnataka

Spread out across the Western Ghats, the misty valley of Coorg offers the perfect getaway from the scorching summer heat. Fondly referred to as the 'Scotland of India' due to its verdant beauty and pleasant weather conditions, Coorg has a special place among all hill stations in India. A place where you can just sit around and watch the fog roll by.

Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

Styling itself as the 'Yoga Capital of the World', Rishikesh is a magnet for spiritual seekers. Surrounded by the fast-flowing Ganga and forested hills, the setting is definitely conducive for relaxing and meditation. Rishikesh is also a popular white-water rafting centre and backpacking hang-out.

Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh

A heady mix of religion, history and nature, Tawang is one of the least discovered towns in Arunachal Pradesh. Dotted with Buddhist monasteries and mystical gompas on one end and a war memorial on another, the valley begins to work its magic on travellers the moment they start descending the hills.

Ooty, Tamil Nadu

Established as a retreat from the scorching heat of the



Pahalgam, Kashmir

Known as the 'Valley of Shepherds,' Pahalgam is a low-rise town that stands at the confluence of Lidder River and Sheshnag Lake. The surrounding mountains contain many picturesque spots and over 20

lakes to which countless guides and horsemen and more than eager to take you to.

Manali, Himachal Pradesh

With mountain adventures beckoning from all directions, Manali is the perfect destination for those looking to unwind during the summer months.

Backpackers come to hang around in the villages near the main town and adventure tourists come for trekking, paragliding, rafting and skiing. About 53 km away from Manali is the famous Rohtang Pass offering up breathtaking sights of glaciers, peaks and valleys.

Nainital, Uttarakhand

A welcome relief from the heat of Delhi, Nainital is a small town in Kumaon which encircles the picturesque Naini Lake. There's a busy town bazaar and a web of walking tracks around the forested hillsides, which have enticed travellers since pre-independence days to retreat to Nainital during the summer months.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The perfect summer getaway, Andaman and Nicobar Islands offer tourists a relaxed tropical ambience and an array of thrilling adventure activities. Tourists from all over the world visit this tropical paradise for its rich and diverse marine life which is best seen while snorkelling and scuba diving around its many pristine beaches.

Perfect summer destinations in India



Gurpreet, Amanpreet finish 1-2 in 25m Standard Pistol

New Delhi, Aug 28 (UNI) : Rio de Janeiro Olympian Gurpreet Singh led India to a 1-2 finish in the 25m Standard Pistol event with Amanpreet Singh winning the silver at the 16th Asian Shooting Championship in Shymkent, Kazakhstan today to swell India's medal tally to 82, including 44 golds, 20 silver and 18 bronze. The duo also won the team gold along with Harsh Gupta with a combined score of 1709. The other gold medals of the day were won in the 50m Rifle Prone Junior team and 25m Standard Pistol Junior team.

The 37 year old Gurpreet won his first ever gold medal in an international competition and bettered the bronze medal which he had won in the Asian Championships in the same event, 12 years back in Tehran. Both Gurpreet and Amanpreet shot identical scores of 572 but Gurpreet's 18 inner circle shots against Amanpreet's 11 ensured the Army shooter finished on top. 25m Rapid Fire Pistol gold medalist Su Lianbofan of China won the bronze.

In the junior 25m Standard Pistol event, Suraj Sharma won silver with a score of 571-12x while

Tanishq Naidu won the bronze with a score of 568-11x. Mukesh Nelavalli, then combined with the duo to win the team gold with a combined score of 1703-39x.

The Indians could not secure any individual medals in 50m Rifle Prone in both the senior and junior categories, but the juniors managed to pick up the gold in the team event with the trio of Sami Ulah Khan, Adriyan Karmakar and Kushagra Singh Rajawat scoring a combined score of 1844.3.

The Asian Championships will conclude tomorrow with the 50m Rifle Prone Women, 25m Centre Fire Pistol Men and Men Junior events on the schedule.

25m Standard Pistol Men Individual Gurpreet Singh – 572-18x (Gold)

Amanpreet Singh – 572-11x (Silver)

Harsh Gupta – 565-13x (10th)

Udhayveer Sidhu – 58-13x (Asian Ranking Points Only)

Udit Joshi – 558-9x (Asian Ranking Points Only)

Team Gold (Gurpreet Singh, Amanpreet Singh, Harsh Gupta)

25m Standard Pistol Men Junior Individual Suraj Sharma – 571-12x

(Silver)

Tanishq Naidu – 568-1x (Bronze)

Mukesh Nelavalli – 564-16x (4th)

Sameer Gulia – 562-10x (Asian Ranking Points Only)

Sahil Choudhary – 556-11x (Asian Ranking Points Only)

Abhinav Choudhary – 551-10x (Asian Ranking Points Only)

Team Gold (Suraj Sharma, Tanishq Naidu, Mukesh Nelavalli)

50m Rifle Prone Men Parikshit Singh Brar – 617.1 (7th)

Samarvir Singh – 613.0 (15th)

Goldi Gurjar – 609.5 (21st)

Akash Kumar Ravidas – 613.2 (ARPO)

Suryadeep Singh – 609.3 (ARPO)

50m Rifle Prone Men Junior

Sami Ullah Khan – 617.0 (4th)

Adriyan Karmakar – 614.5 (7th)

Kushagra Singh Rawat – 612.8 (10th)

Vedant Nitin Waghmare – 615.1 (ARPO)

Manvendra Singh Shekhawat – 613.6 (ARPO)

Deependra Singh Shekhawat – 608.6 (ARPO)

Team Gold (Sami Ullah Khan, Adriyan Karmakar, Kushagra Singh Rawat).

Malewar, Patidar Power Central Zone to 432/2

Bengaluru, Aug 28 (UNI) : Danish Malewar and Rajat Patidar starred as Central Zone posted a commanding 432 for two against North East Zone on the opening day of the Duleep Trophy 2025 second quarterfinal at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground B here today.

Patidar led the charge with a scintillating 125 off 96 balls, including 21 fours and two sixes, before being dismissed by Pheiroijam Jotin. His aggressive innings, coming after an early loss, set the tone for the day.

Malewar anchored the innings masterfully, remaining unbeaten on 198 off 219 balls with 35 fours and a six, guiding Central Zone into a dominant position by stumps.

Opener Aryan Juyal, who retired hurt on 60, and Yash Rathod (32 not out) provided solid support, while Aayush Pandey fell cheaply for three.

North East bowlers struggled for consistency. Akash Choudhary (1/73) accounted for an early wicket, and Jotin (1/56) dismissed Patidar, but the rest of the attack, including Palzor Tamang, Bishworjit Konthoujam, and skipper Rongsen Jonathan, could not stem the flow of runs.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya felicitates young footballers after historic European treble



New Delhi, Aug 28 (IANS) : Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, felicitated the young footballers of Minerva Academy Football Club, Mohali, in New Delhi on Thursday, terming their victories across Europe as a new beginning for Indian football going forward.

The Under-14/15 squad of 22 players scripted history in July–August 2025 by completing a never-before-achieved European treble, winning the Gothia Cup (Sweden), the Dana Cup (Denmark), and the Norway Cup (Norway).

"This is a new beginning for Indian football in our quest to achieve more glory in the

international arena," mentioned Mansukh Mandaviya.

Union Minister urged the young athletes to keep in mind 'nation first' wherever they participate. "More emphasis has to be given towards sports science, nutrition, and mental resilience of these youngsters through psychologists. This will keep India on the winning path. These youngsters have to maintain their high confidence level and their passion towards the sport," Mandaviya added.

These tournaments are regarded as the three most prestigious youth football competitions in the world. The team remained unbeaten in 26 international

matches, scoring an astonishing 295 goals while conceding just a handful, against youth clubs from South America, Europe, and more. Minerva Academy FC, also a Khelo India Accredited Academy, was one of the six clubs from India that had teams in the U-14 Boys category playing during Gothia Cup 2025. They defeated Argentina's Escuela de Football 18 Tucuman 4–0 this July in the final of the Gothia Cup 2025, known as the 'Youth World Cup', in Sweden. Players like Konthoujam Yohenba Singh (Best Player, Gothia Cup) and Huidrom Tony (Best Player, Dana Cup) also earned individual honours.

Uganda turns focus to FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers, names squad

Kampala, Aug 28 (UNI) : Uganda has announced its senior national team squad ahead of two FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifier matches against Mozambique and Somalia.

After bowing out at the quarterfinal stage of the ongoing CAF African Nations Championship, the Cranes have quickly shifted their focus to the World Cup campaign.

Head coach Paul Put named a 28-man squad on Wednesday, recalling experienced goalkeeper Denis Masinde Onyango, who has come out of retirement.

Onyango, who plays for South African Premier League champions Mamelodi Sundowns, retired from international football in April 2021 after Uganda failed to qualify for

the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON). He will join the team as they prepare to face Mozambique on September 5 and Somalia three days later at the Mandela National Stadium in Kampala. Uganda, which has never qualified for a FIFA World Cup, currently sits fourth in Group G with nine points. Algeria leads with 15 points, followed by Mozambique and Botswana.

Put has also recalled another South Africa-based goalkeeper, Salim Jamal Omar Magoola, who has been out since 2023. Vietnam-based forward Joseph Mpande and Travis Mutyaba, who recently joined Tunisia's CS Sfaxien, are also included.

Notably, team captain Khalid Aucho, who recently transferred from Tanzania's

Young Africans SC to Singida Black Stars FC, has not been called up.

Uganda full squad:

Goalkeepers: Denis Onyango (Mamelodi Sundowns, South Africa), Salim Magoola Omar (Richards Bay FC, South Africa), Alionzi Nafian (Defence Forces FC, Ethiopia), Joel Mutakubwa (Bidco FC, Uganda)

Defenders: Elvis Bwomono (IBV Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland), Herbert Bockhorn (FC Maydeburg, Germany), Elio Caprodossi (FC Universitatea Cluj, Romania), Rogers Torach (Vipers SC, Uganda), Toby Sibbick (Burton Albion FC, England), Hilary Mukundane (Vipers SC), Jordan Obita (Hibernian SC),

Kayondo Aziizi (FC Slovan Liberec, Czech Republic), Achayi Herbert (KCCA FC), Gavin Kizito (KCCA FC)

Midfielders: Ronald Ssekiganda (APR FC), Kenneth Semakula (Al Arabi SC, Kuwait), Joel Sserunjogi (KCCA FC), Abdu Karim Watambala (Vipers SC), Travis Mutyaba (CS Sfaxien, Tunisia)

Forwards: Denis Omedi (APR FC, Rwanda), Allan Okello (Vipers SC, Uganda), Joseph Mpande (PVF Cand FC, Vietnam), Rogers Mato (FK Vardar, Macedonia), Regan Mpande (SC Villa, Uganda), Jude Ssemugabi (Kitara FC), John Paul Dembe (AL Hackens, Sweden), Patrick Jonah Kakande (SC Villa, Uganda), Ikpeazu Uchechukwu (St. Johnstone FC, Scotland).

Young Tigresses gear up for final stretch at SAFF U17 Women's Championship

Thimphu (Bhutan), Aug 28 (UNI) : While Wednesday's 5-0 win over Bhutan may have been a routine high-scoring display from India in the SAFF U17 Women's Championship, there were some deeper emotional elements involved in the game.

Young Tigresses' captain Julian Nongmaithem was named the MVP of the match after a top-drawn finish from outside the box.

The 14-year-old dedicated the award, her first in an international tournament, to her late father, who passed away last year.

"Papa, this is for you, and I miss you so much," she said, pointing to the sky, while talking to AIFF

Media after the match

On the other hand, Abhista Basnett, who assisted Julian's goal, had a special night as her parents were in attendance at the Changlimithang Stadium after making a 350-kilometre road trip from their home in Pakyong, Sikkim.

"It was the first time my mom and dad watched me play for India. It was a proud moment, and I was motivated to prove to my parents that I can do this, so there was no pressure at all," said Abhista.

The 14-year-old has been in superb form in Bhutan, scoring four goals and assisting three in the four games so far. The lanky player has shown her versatility by playing in the midfield and central

defence, and does not mind playing anywhere on the pitch as long as the coaches' demands are met.

"As a player, I should be ready to play in any position because wherever my team needs me, I have to be there. The coaches have trusted me, giving me responsibility in attack, defence, set pieces and in distribution when I play midfield. Whatever they say, I listen carefully. If I make a mistake and they tell me, I accept that," said Abhista.

Abhista's parents, especially her father, are, in a way, also her coaches.

"My parents said I played well, and they were really happy to see me performing at the international level. My

father always reviews my performance after matches and comments on it. He would be on video call, put on the game and tell me things like 'don't hold the ball inside the box in this move, don't try to fake twice, you could've put the team in danger' or 'you did this well, you need to improve in that'. He becomes a coach off the field, basically.

"My mother is my emotional support. She doesn't give me technical comments but always cheers me up and boosts my morale," said Abhista.

While Abhista's tall stature makes her a vital component of India's set pieces, it all starts with Shveta Rani's left-footed deliveries.

Shami impresses as North Zone end Day 1

Bengaluru, Aug 28 (UNI) : Veteran pacer Mohammed Shami bowled with exemplary control but went wicketless as North Zone finished Day 1 of their Duleep Trophy 2025 quarterfinal on 308 for six against East Zone at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground here today.

Shami, playing a rare domestic red-ball game, kept the batsmen in check with tight lines, conceding only 55 runs in his 17 overs. Despite his probing spells, the breakthroughs for East Zone came from left-arm seamer Manishi, who removed openers Ankit Kumar (30), Shubham Khajuria (26) and skipper Yash Dhull (39) to return with figures of 3 for 90.

Ayush Badoni (63 off 60 balls) then counter-attacked with an array of strokes to revive North Zone's innings, while Nishant Sindhu (47) provided valuable stability in the middle order. The duo added 61 runs for the fourth wicket, the biggest stand of the innings. North Zone, however, failed to capitalise on these partnerships, losing wickets at regular intervals. At stumps, wicketkeeper-batter Kanhaiya Wadhawan was unbeaten on 42, with Mayank Dagar (28 not out) giving him company.

Telugu Titans Vs Tamil Thalaivaa set to light up Pro Kabaddi League

Visakhapatnam, Aug 29 (UNI) Season 12 of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) commences from the port city of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The league returns here after a gap of seven years on 29th August, which is also the National Sports Day of India.

This Season of PKL will see home favourites Telugu Titans take on Tamil Thalaivas in the curtain-raiser match whilst the Bengaluru Bulls and the Puneri Paltan play the second match on the same day, at the Vishwanadh Sports Club in Vizag. To set the ball rolling on proceedings for the new season, a grand launch was held at the Novotel at Varun Beach. Setting up the occasion were Anupam Goswami, Business Head of Mashal and League Chairman, Pro Kabaddi League; Vijay Malik, Captain, Telugu Titans; Pawan Sehrawat, Captain, Tamil Thalaivas, along with the remaining 10 Captains.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Anupam Goswami, Business Head of Mashal and League Chairman, Pro Kabaddi League, said: "We are thrilled to return for another season of the PKL – with an all-new format that is designed to bring fans even closer to the action. Every match will carry greater importance, increasing the intensity of this season, as we see the league make a much-awaited return to Vizag. We also celebrate our National Sports Day tomorrow with the league honouring legendary athletes, and to kickstart this edition on such an auspicious occasion feels incredibly exciting."

Ahead of the season, the PKL paid tribute to the Indian Armed Forces, with the 12 captains visiting the INS Kursura – a Submarine that participated in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, where it played a key role in patrol missions. Meanwhile, PKL Season 12 will begin in Vizag (August 29 to September 11), after which it moves to Jaipur (September 12 to September 28), Chennai (September 29 to October 10), and New Delhi (October 11 to October 23). A venue for the playoffs and grand finale is yet to be decided.

The Pro Kabaddi League Season 12 will be broadcast live on the Star Sports Network and streamed on JioHotstar, with the league kicking off on August 29.

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Ganesh Festival celebrations



Shyam Sitaram Satvidkar (Murud Janjira ekdara)



Ganesh Festival celebrated at Shruti Temkar’s residence.



Ganpati Festival Celebration at Mr.B.M Suvarna Residence Mumbai.

Western Railway to run two pairs of Special Trains

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Aug 28 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season of Durga Pooja, Diwali & Chhath Pooja, Western Railway will run Special Trains on Special fare between Udhana – Malda Town & Vadodara - Kolkata stations.

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

- 1. Train No. 03418/03417 Udhna – Malda

Dismantling of South Staircase of 2nd North Most FoB at Plat form No.6 and 7 of Vasai Road

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Aug 28 : In view of the station improvement work of Vasai Road station, it is proposed to dismantle the south side staircase of the 2nd North most Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at Platform Nos. 6 & 7, to carry out the foundation work of the Elevated Deck. Accordingly, the said staircase will be closed for passengers from the night of 29th August, 2025.

During this period, the passengers may use the North side staircase of 2nd North FOB and South side staircase of existing North FOB. Inconvenience caused is highly regretted by WR.

MANUU Admissions in distance mode courses

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Aug 28 : Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Centre for Distance & Online Education (CDOE) is inviting online applications for admissions in Open and Distance Learning Programmes for academic session 2025-26.

According to Prof. Mohd. Razaullah Khan, Director, CDOE, the last date for submission of online application for entrance test based programmes B.Ed. and MBA is September 17, 2025. The entrance test will be held on September 28.

Admissions are also open for merit based UG/ PG/Diploma/Certificate programme in distance education upto October 13, 2025. The programmes offered are M.A. (Urdu, Hindi, English, Arabic, History, Islamic Studies), B.A. (Hons), B.Com. (Hons) and B.Sc. (Hons). The admissions are also being offered in Diploma Programmes (Journalism & Mass Communication, Teach English, Early Childhood Care and Education, School Leadership and Management, Employability Skills and Urdu) and Certificate in (Functional English and Proficiency in Urdu through English).

Town Weekly Special [14 Trips]
Train No. 03418 Udhna – Malda Town Special will depart from Udhna every Monday at 12:30 hrs and will reach Malda Town at 02.55 hrs, on Wednesday. This train will run from 29th September to 10th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 03417 Malda Town – Udhna Special will depart from Malda Town every Saturday at 12:20 hrs and will reach Udhna at 00:45 hrs, on Monday. This train will run from 27th September to 08th November, 2025. Enroute this train will

halt at Chalthan, Vyara, Navapur, Nandurbar, Dondaicha, Amalner, Bhusaval, Itarsi, Pipariya, Madan Mahal, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Sasaram, Gaya, Tilaiya, Nawadah, Sheikpura, Kiul, Abhaipur, Jamalpur, Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Kahalgaon, Sahibganj, Barharwa and New Farakka stations in both directions.
This train comprises of Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.
2. Train No. 03110/03109 Vadodara – Kolkata Weekly Special [18 Trips]
Train No. 03110

Vadodara - Kolkata Special will depart from Vadodara every Thursday at 16:45 hrs and will reach Kolkata at 04:05 hrs, on Saturday. This train will run from 2nd October to 27th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 03109 Kolkata – Vadodara Special will depart from Kolkata every Tuesday at 08:00 hrs and will reach Vadodara at 19:45 hrs, the next day.
This train will run from 30th September to 25th November 2025. Enroute, this train will halt at Godhra, Ratlam, Kota, Gangapur City, Idgah Agra, Tundla, Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Sasaram, Gaya, Tilaiya, Nawadah, Sheikpura, Kiul, Jhajha, Jasidih, Madhupur, Chittaranjan, Asansol, Durgapur and Barddhaman stations in both directions.
This train comprises of AC -3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.
The booking for Train Nos. 03418 & 03110 will open from 30th August, 2025 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Cancellation, Partial Cancellation, Regulation of Trains : South Western Railway

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Aug 28 : In view of line block for replacement of Thick Web Switches at Ballari and Toranagallu yards, the following train services will be cancelled, partially cancelled, and regulated on September 03, 2025.
Cancellation of Trains:
Train No. 57415 Guntakal – Chikjajur Passenger, Train No. 57416 Chikjajur – Guntakal Passenger, and Train No. 07397 Hosapete – Ballari DEMU Special will be cancelled on September 03, 2025.
Partial Cancellation of

Trains:
Train No. 57405 Tirupati – Kadiridevarapalli Passenger, journey commencing on September 02, 2025 will be partially cancelled between Guntakal and Kadiridevarapalli and will be short terminated at Guntakal.
Train No. 57406 Kadiridevarapalli – Tirupati Passenger journey commencing on September 03, 2025 will be partially cancelled between Kadiridevarapalli and Guntakal and it will originate from Guntakal

instead of Kadiridevarapalli at its scheduled departure time.
Train No. 07395 Ballari – Davangere DEMU Special journey commencing on September 03, 2025 will be partially cancelled between Ballari and Hosapete and will originate from Hosapete instead of Ballari at its scheduled departure time.
Train No. 56911 SSS Hubballi – Guntakal Passenger journey commencing on September 03, 2025 will be partially cancelled between Munirabad and Guntakal

and will be short terminated at Munirabad.
Train No. 56912 Guntakal – SSS Hubballi Passenger journey commencing on September 03, 2025 will be partially cancelled between Guntakal and Munirabad and will originate from Munirabad instead of Guntakal at its scheduled departure time.
Regulation of Train:
Train No. 57402 SSS Hubballi – Tirupati Passenger journey commencing on September 03, 2025 will be regulated for 90 minutes en route.

Running of Weekly special trains to clear rush for Dussehra, Diwali and Chhath Puja Festival : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Aug 28 : In order to clear extra rush of Passengers during Dussehra, Diwali and Chhat Puja festivals season, Indian Railways will run Weekly Special trains as detailed below:-
SMV BENGALURU-NARANGI-SMV BENGALURU:
The train No. 06559 SMV Bengaluru-Narangi Weekly Special train will leave SMV Bengaluru on every Tuesdays at 23.40hrs from 02.09.2025 to 25.11.2025 which will reach Duvvada at 18.18hrs on the next day and departure at 18.20hrs; Kottavalasa at 19:03hrs and departure at 19:05hrs; Vizianagaram at 19:55hrs and departure at 20:00hrs; Srikakulam Road at 20:53hrs and departure at 20:55hrs and will reach Narangi at 05.00hrs on Fridays. (13 trips).
In return direction the train No. 06560 Narangi - SMV Bengaluru Weekly Special train will leave Narangi on every Saturdays at 05.30hrs from 06.09.2025 to 29.11.2025 which will reach Srikakulam Road on the next day at 12:53hrs and departure at 12:55hrs; Vizianagaram at 13:55hrs and departure at 14:00hrs; Kottavalasa at 14:28hrs and departure at 14:30hrs; Duvvada at 15:08hrs and departure at 15:10hrs and will reach SMV Bengaluru at 09.45hrs on Mondays (13 trips).
Stoppages: Special trains are having the following stoppages in over East Coast Railway Duvvada, Kottavalasa, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Road, Palasa, Brahmapur, Khurda Road,

Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhadrak.
These trains will have 21 Coaches comprising 2nd AC-01, 3rd AC-4, Sleeper-8, General Second Class-6, Second Class cum Luggage (Divyangjan) Coach-02.
CHARLAPALLI AND NAHARLAGUN SPECIAL
The train No. 07046 Charlapalli- Naharlagun Weekly Special train will leave Cherlapalli on every Saturdays from 30.08.2025 to 29.11.2025 at 08.40hrs which will reach Duvvada at 21.13hrs and departure at 21.15hrs, Kottavalasa arrival at 21.58hrs and departure at 22.00hrs, Vizianagaram arrival at 22.50hrs and departure at 23.00hrs, Srikakulam Raod arrival at 23.53hrs and departure at 23.55hrs, and will reach Naharlagun on Mondays at 16.00hrs.
In return direction, the train No. 07047 Naharlagun- Charlapalli Weekly Special train will leave Naharlagun on every Tuesdays from 02.09.2025 to 02.12.2025 at 13.00hrs which will reach Srikakulam Raod on Thursday at 04.55hrs and departure at 04.57hrs, Vizianagaram arrival at 05.45hrs and departure at 05.55hrs, Kottavalasa at 06.20hrs and departure at 06.22hrs; Duvvada arrival at 08.15hrs and departure at 08.17hrs and will reach Charlapalli at 21.30hrs.
Stoppages: Special train will be having the following stoppages at Nalgonda, Miryalaguda, Nadikudi, Sattennapalli, Guntur, Vijayawada,

Eluru, Rajahmundry, Samalkot, Elamanchili, Anakapalli, Duvvada, Kottavalasa, Vizianagaram jn, Srikakulam Road, Palasa, Brahmapur, Balugaon, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Jajpur Keonjhor Road, Bhadrak, Balasore, Kharagpur, Andul, Dankuni, Bardhaman, Bolpur, Rampur Hat, Malda Town, Kishanganj, Aluabari Road, New Jalpaiguri, Dhupguri, New Coochbehar, New Alipurduar, Kokrajhar, New Bongaingaon, Barpeta Road, Rangiya, Udalguri, Rangapara North, and Harmuti between Charlapalli and Naharlagun.
These trains will have 20 Coaches comprising 3rd AC-9, 3rd AC Economy-05, General Second Class-04, Second Class cum Luggage (Divyangjan) Coach-02.
MALDA TOWN– CHARLAPALLI–MALDA TOWN
The train No. 03430 Malda Town Charlapalli Weekly Special train will leave Malda Town on every Tuesdays at 17:15hrs from 30.09.2025 to 11.11.2025 which will reach Srikakulam Road next day at 12:25hrs and departure at 12:27hrs; Chipurupalle at 12:58hrs and departure at 13:00hrs; Vizianagaram at 13:30hrs and departure at 13:40hrs; Kottavalasa at 14:05hrs and departure at 14:07hrs; Duvvada at 15:30hrs and departure at 15:32hrs and which will reach Charlapalli on Thursdays at 04:00hrs. (07 trips).

In the return direction the train No. 03429 Charlapalli-Malda Town weekly Special train will leave Charlapalli on every Thursdays at 16:50hrs from 02.10.2025 to 13.11.2025 which will reach Duvvada next day at 04:50hrs and departure at 04:52hrs; Kottavalasa at 05:38hrs and departure at 05:40hrs; Vizianagaram at 06:30hrs and departure at 06:40hrs; Chipurupalle at 07:05hrs and departure at 07:07hrs; Srikakulam Road at 07:43hrs and departure at 07:45hrs and which will reach Malda Town on Saturdays at 05:00hrs. (07 trips).
Stoppages: This pair of Weekly Special trains will have stoppages at New Farakka, Rampur Hat, Bolpur Shantiniketan, Khana, Bardhaman, Dankuni, Bhattanagar, Andul, Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhor Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road, Brahmapur, Palasa, Srikakulam Road, Chipurupalle, Vizianagaram, Kottavalasa, Duvvada, Samalkot, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, Guntur, Sattenapali, Piduguralla, Nadikude, Miryalaguda, and Nalgonda between the Malda Town and Charlapalli Stations.
Composition: These trains will have 22 Coaches comprising Sleeper Class-10, Second Class General Coaches-10, Second Class cum Luggage (Divyangjan) Coach-02.
People are requested to make use of these special train services.