

IN BRIEF

GST reforms cause immediate spike in vehicle sales

Vijayawada, Sept 24 (UNI) : The GST reforms have come as a boost in the automobile sector as the sales of vehicles have escalated considerably in Andhra Pradesh during the last two days.

Informing this to the media here on Wednesday, Transport Minister M Ramprasad Reddy said that since the new GST slabs came into effect, the sales of vehicles increased considerably in the state. The people are thronging to the showrooms to buy new vehicles as the price is reduced.

“On Monday itself, 2,991 vehicles were sold on temporary registration across the State. Out of the 2991 vehicles sold on Monday, 2,352 motorcycles, 241 cars, 60 tractors, 227 auto rickshaws, 47 goods vehicles, 50 mini-transport vehicles and other 12 vehicles. The speed of registration of vehicles would also increase in the coming days” he said.

2 red sander logs seized, 9 woodcutters arrested

Rayachoti, Sept 24 (UNI) : The Andhra Pradesh police have seized 12 red sander logs, worth Rs 34 lakh and arrested nine woodcutters at the Sundupalli forest area of Annamayya district, a senior officer said today.

District Superintendent of police Dheeraj told the media here that the Red Sander Anti Smuggling Task Force personnel sighted the woodcutters while conducting a combing in the forest area.

On noticing the police team, the woodcutters, who were carrying the logs, started fleeing into the forest. The task force personnel chased and apprehended nine of them and seized 12 red sander logs valued at Rs 34 lakh. However some woodcutters managed to escape into the forest. In the melee, some task force personnel were injured and they were treated in a hospital.

The check-posts in the area were alerted and a search was also launched to arrest the escaped woodcutters. The arrested woodcutters were produced before the court and they were sent to judicial remand.

CM present silk robes toTirumala deity on day one of Brahmotsavams



(Standard Post Bureau)

Tirumala, Sept 24 : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu presented a pair of ‘Pattu Vastrams’ (silk robes) to the temple of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala on Wednesday, a customary presentation on behalf of the state government on the first day of the annual Brhamotsavams that began today.

Visakhapatnam-based Hindustan Enterprise MD donates gold Yagnopaveetam worth Rs 3.86 cr

Tirumala, Sept 24 (UNI) : Visakhapatnam-based Hindustan Enterprise Managing Director (MD) Puvvada Mastan Rao and Kumkuma Rekha donated a gold Yagnopaveetam (sacred golden multi layered thread) worth Rs 3.86 crore to Lord Venkateswara Swamy here on Wednesday. This gold Yagnopaveetam, is specially crafted with diamonds weighing around 3.86 kgs.

The donors handed over this donation to TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu at the Ranganayakula Mandapam inside Srivari Temple complex. On this occasion, the Chairman congratulated the donors for their largesse and presented Srivari Theertha Prasadams.

This marks the 14th time Naidu has presented ‘pattu Vastrams’ to Lord Balaji on the event of the annual brahmotsavams in his capacity as the CM of the state, setting a record for any CM in the history of Andhra Pradesh.

He took part in a brief ceremony at the Sri Bedi

Anjaneya Swamy Temple located in front of the main temple, where priests tied him a ‘parivattam’ (silk headband).

Mr. Naidu along with his wife Bhuvaneswari carried the sacred ‘vastrams’ on his head in a silver plate and marched in a procession towards the main temple complex where he formally

Dy. CM Pawan Kalyan assures of resolving pollution issue

Vijayawada, Sept 24 (UNI) : Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan has assured the agitating fishermen of resolving the pollution issue and announced that a committee comprising higher officials, representatives of fishermen and local leaders will be set up to identify the problems. A large number of fishermen at Uppada area in Kakinada district are agitating in protest against the pollution being generated by the pharmaceutical industries. The farmers of the area are voicing their concern on the pollution as it is affecting their livelihood. “I do understand the problems of fishermen. However, the Assembly session is going on now and that is why I

can not meet the fishermen to know their problems personally. However, I am discussing with the district and state level officials to resolve their problems,” deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said in a release here on Wednesday. He said that he was taking into consideration every issue the fishermen raised and directed the officials to take steps to resolve the issues. “We will form a committee with the Pollution Control Board, Industries, Fisheries, Revenue officials and Kakinada District Collector. We have decided to give a place to fishermen representatives and local leaders in this.

Along with solving the problems, this committee will also focus on

handed them over to the priests inside the sanctum sanctorum, amid veda mantras. The deity will be adorned with the ‘vastrams’ on the Garuda Seva day on September 28. Later, the Chief Minister offered prayers to the presiding deity of Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

After darshan along with his family including his son and IT Minister Lokesh, the CM was rendered Vedasheervachanam at the Ranganayakula Mandapam inside the hill temple.

He was also presented with Theertha Prasadams, a laminated photo of Srivaru on the occasion by the TTD Chairman BR Naidu along with the Executive officer Anil Kumar Singhal.

Earlier Naidu arrived at the hill temple accompanied by endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy and TTD officials. He later participated in the Pedda Sesha Vahanam for a brief period.

improving livelihoods and creating infrastructure in coastal villages. This committee will also discuss the assessment of compensation. This committee will study the problems of fishermen and prepare a report with actionable recommendations,” the deputy Chief Minister revealed. The Committee will study the issues and submit a report on taking steps to resolve them and the Government take steps to resolve the problems, he noted. “I have already discussed with the authorities the issue of payment of the insurance amount due to the families of the 18 fishermen, who died and the payment of compensation for the boats damaged near the Uppada Fishing Harbor.

Minister says 2,524 statues were illegally installed in govt lands

Vijayawada, Sept 24 (UNI) : Minister for Roads and Buildings BC Janardhan Reddy told the Legislative Council on Wednesday that 2,524 statues were installed on government sites and highways unauthorizedly across the state.

Replying to a question in the Council, asked by MLCs Alapati Rajendra Prasad, B Ram Gopal Reddy and B Tirumala Naidu, the Minister said 38 statues were installed on the national highways, 1,671 statues of leaders, prominent people and individuals were installed on the state highways and 815 statues were installed on other roads at various places in the state.

“The Government issued an order, on February 18, 2013 to regulate the installing of statues on the national and state highways and other government lands. Permission will not be given to install statues on public roads, pathways and walk ways and other public places to construct a structure,” the Minister recalled.

However, this GO order would not apply for erecting high-mast lights, street lights, electrification, beautification of public utility and creating infrastructure, the Minister said.

District Collectors were directed to remove the statues which were installed at public places and on highways without taking permissions, as per the guidelines of the government order.

Beautification works have been taken up in Pulivendula town at a cost of Rs 3.50 crore by the planning department, he acknowledged. The Minister highlighted that Rs 7.21 crore was sanctioned to renovate municipal schools in Kadapa city.



Rahul makes a series of promises before Bihar assembly elections

In an attempt to woo Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) before upcoming Bihar assembly elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today made a series of promises including measures to be taken like protecting them from atrocities as done for SCs and STs by making legal provisions. Gandhi while addressing a function organised to mark release of "commitments to improve the condition of EBCs and bring them in mainstream of the society", said that EBCs had not been given their due rights even after seven decades of Independence. His party and Grand Alliance in Bihar were committed to take steps to give EBCs their due rights, he added.

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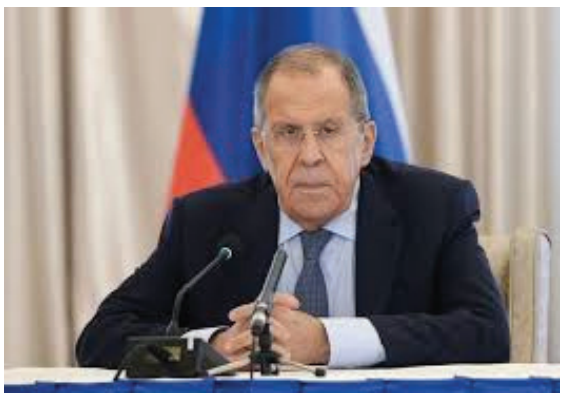
The Tragic Death of Zubin Garg: Assam Loses Its Musical Heart



Assam woke up to a devastating reality with the sudden and tragic death of Zubin Garg, one of its most beloved cultural icons. Known as the “Heartthrob of Assam,” Zubin was not only a singer of immense popularity but also a figure who bridged music, cinema, and social movements with unmatched passion.

(See on page 4)

Russian Dy Foreign Minister speaks against oppression of ...



The oppression of Russian speakers in the Baltic countries violates all the norms of the old European "civilization," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Dmitry Lyubinsky told Sputnik. "In the same vein,

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Milind Soman named Brand Ambassador, Rs 22 lakh prize ...



Kerala’s capital city is gearing up for its largest ever marathon on October 12, as the second edition of the UST Trivandrum Marathon promises a festive celebration of fitness, endurance, and community spirit.

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Leh protests turn violent, 4 reportedly killed, 20 injured

Leh/New Delhi, Sept 24 (UNI) : Four people were reportedly killed and more than 20 injured in violent demonstrations by students in Leh town demanding grant of statehood to the union Territory of Ladakh and inclusion of Ladakh into the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The number of casualties, however, could not be officially confirmed.

Students clashed with police and resorted to stone pelting. The clashes took an ugly turn as the protestors torched a CRPF vehicle and the local BJP office. Police fired teargas shells and resorted to cane-charge to disperse the protestors.

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk who has been on hunger strike since September 10 demanding statehood for the UT and



inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule, was supported by Youth wing of the Ladakh Apex Body (LAB). The LAB had given a call for protest and shutdown after the condition of two of the people on hunger strike deteriorated and were

admitted to hospital last evening. Additional forces were deployed to restore law and order.

Talks between the Centre and representatives of LBA and Kargil Democratic Alliance are scheduled to be held on October 6.

The LBA called for a shut down in support of the demands. People came out on the streets and marched through the streets. The protests turned violent after the students resorted to stone pelting. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution meant for the tribal population of four northeastern states Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram, has special provisions for governance, powers of the President and Governor, type of local bodies, judicial mechanisms and financial powers to be exercised through autonomous councils.

In a related development, the closing ceremony of the four-day annual Ladakh festival was cancelled after the clashes. Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta was scheduled to attend the

closing ceremony.

"The administration of the union Territory of Ladakh has announced cancellation of the last day and closing ceremony of the ongoing Ladakh Festival due to unavoidable circumstances. The administration deeply regrets the inconvenience caused to all stakeholders, including local artists, cultural troupes, tourists, and the people of Ladakh who were eagerly looking forward to the event," the Department of Information and Public Relations said in a statement. The Ladakh festival has served as a platform for young and budding artists from the region to showcase their talent and develop their skills. It is aimed at promoting tourism in the union Territory, the statement said.

Cabinet clears Rs 2,277 cr DSIR scheme to strengthen R&D in human capital

New Delhi, Sept 24 (UNI) The union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the 'Capacity Building and Human Resource Development' scheme of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), with a total outlay of Rs 2,277.397 crore for the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26).The scheme, to be implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), is designed to strengthen India's capabilities in Science, Technology & Engineering, Medical, and Mathematical Sciences (STEMM), through structured support for human capital development.Officials said the scheme will offer a platform for young

researchers to pursue careers in academia, industry, and public R&D, guided by leading scientists and academicians. It is expected to contribute meaningfully towards India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by increasing the number of researchers per million population and nurturing scientific excellence.

The Cabinet's approval marks a significant milestone for CSIR, which is currently in its 84th year of service to the nation's scientific and industrial research. The scheme will be implemented under four major sub-components namely doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships, extramural research scheme, including the emeritus scientist and Bhatnagar Fellowship programmes,

awards scheme to recognise scientific excellence and travel and symposia grant scheme to promote global knowledge exchange.

According to DSIR, the initiative comes at a time when India is witnessing an upward trajectory in global scientific rankings. The country now ranks 39th in the Global Innovation Index (2024), as per WIPO data, and is among the top three globally in terms of scientific publication output, as reported by the National Science Foundation (USA).

The scheme is currently supporting thousands of research scholars and scientists whose work has contributed significantly to India's growing reputation in the global scientific landscape.

'Talks with centre on Delhi villagers' toll tax waiver demand reach no conclusion'

New Delhi, Sept 24 (UNI) : The talks between the Delhi villagers delegation led by Palam 360 Khap chief Surender Solanki and the Centre today, demanding toll waiver at UER 2 has not reached any conclusion, the Khap chief said.

Solanki has informed that the committee of villagers formed at the Mahapanchayat held on September 21, had met union Minister of State Harsh Malhotra and Delhi MPs today regarding their demand of toll tax waiver for the national capital's villages along UER-2.

The villagers sought a resolution regarding the issue from the centre. However, after the meeting, Solanki informed that the talks were not fruitful as the government has not agreed to waive toll tax for any of the Delhi villages for now, and are suggesting to opt for the monthly pass option. Palam 360 chief has now said that the movement of the villagers demanding levy waiver, which was put on hold for a couple of days after the Mahapanchayat on September 21, will now again resume and further intensify to push for the interest of the villagers.

On September 21, two local MLAs had met the villagers in the Mahapanchayat held at Bakkarwala village near the toll plaza, and it was decided that rural representatives appointed by Mahapanchayat will meet the concerned central minister of state and MPs today. Solanki now says that the villagers can again plan for Chakka Jam on the UER-2 Mundka Bakkarwala toll, and further step up the protests until their demands are met. The villagers delegation led by Solanki included Chaudhary Dhara Singh, from Bawana village, Anar Singh, Tikri village, Samundar Singh, Karala village, Mukhtyar Singh, Bakkarwala village and Surender Lakra from Mundka village.

US and European countries themselves trade with Russia : China

New Delhi/Beijing, Sep 24 (UNI) China today said most countries in the world including the US itself and Europe, continue to trade with Russia and Beijing would do whatever is necessary to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests.Rebuffing US President Donald Trump's statement in his UN General Assembly address yesterday that China and India are funding the war in Ukraine by buying Russian oil, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said "Most countries in the world, including the U.S. and European countries, continue to trade with Russia."He said the normal exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and Russian companies are consistent with WTO rules and market

principles. They do not target any third party and should not be disrupted or affected. Commenting on President Trump's criticism of the United Nations in his address the spokesman said that over the past 80 years, the UN has played an irreplaceable role for safeguarding international peace and security and promoting global development.' 'China always believes that in a world as turbulent as ours, it is all the more important to uphold and defend the authority of the UN."He said China firmly supports the UN in playing a core role in international affairs. President Xi Jinping has put forward the Global Governance Initiative, which is China's latest proposal to strengthen and improve global governance.

He added, "His legacy will continue to guide us. My heartfelt condolences to his family and countless admirers. Om Shanti."

Skilling of the homeless to re introduce them into the mainstream

New Delhi, Sept 24 (UNI) : Asian Paints has tied up with Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan (AAA) in the national capital for skilling homeless and rag pickers so that they can be gainfully employed and lead a life of dignity.

Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan (AAA) has been working for the homeless

people since 25 years. The NGO has been training the homeless in house painting work since 2018, after the 10-15 day course modules, the NGO finds them work in construction sites.

Speaking to UNI, Dev Kumar, Programme coordinator, said: "We teach them painting work on walls, wood and metal. After the training, we help

them find work. "Kumar himself was homeless for a while before joining AAA.

"I came to Delhi in 2004. After losing my job, I fell on hard times and was homeless. I began to live in an AAA night shelter. Later on, I became an employee of the NGO. The homeless often sever ties with their home and relatives due to embarrassment. I myself,

for about four years, cut off all ties with my family when I was homeless."Not having an ID is a big problem. Hence one of the earliest things that we at AAA did was get ID's of such people made. The homeless and the rag picker community are often targeted and harassed by the police, Hence we motivate them to learn a trade and join the

mainstream, that way they can earn more, live with dignity and not be unnecessarily targeted by the police."Fellow Program coordinator Rajni Singh says that initially, the homeless people have some inhibitions about coming to the night shelters and learning some craft and hence their counselling is very important.

66th Foundation Day of K. J. Somaiya College Shines with the Light of Patriotism

(By Rajesh Undi)

Mumbai, Sep 24: K. J. Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce in Vidya Vihar celebrated its 66th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. During the event, Thane District Information Officer Manoj Sanap presented the 5000th performance of his solo act, 'Shaheed Captain Vinayak Gore,' a powerful tribute to a brave soldier that has been inspiring students for the past three decades. The performance deeply moved the audience. In this short but impactful play, every dialogue conveyed valor and every scene exuded patriotism. The performance seamlessly blended the joy of the college's Foundation Day with a profound lesson in patriotism, serving as a continuous source of inspiration for students. The event proved the college's commitment to instilling values, a love for history, and a sense of social responsibility in its students.

During the event, Principal Dr. Kishan Pawar felicitated several distinguished individuals, including Dr. Pawan Agarwal, Director of the Alumni Association, Veermata Anuradha Gore,



and former headmistress Suman Shivaji Sanap. The college also specially honored alumni and professors who have made significant contributions in their respective fields: national award-winning Hindi literature professor Dr. Satish Pandey, Lieutenant Colonel Satish Kumar Singh, District Information Officer Manoj Suman Shivaji Sanap, BJP Maharashtra Pradesh Vice President Smt. Varsha Bhosle, and Ghulamhusen M. Sayyed.

Many dignitaries were present at the event, including Dean Dr. Atish Toukari, Dr. Hemali Sanghvi, Dr. Sangeeta Bhat, Dr. Mahendra Mishra, NSS committee member Dr. Anant Dwivedi, Alumni Association Director Smt.

Durga Sinha, Chartered Accountant and Alumni Association Chief Coordinator Nileshkumar Agarwal, B.L. Ruiya School's Vice Principal Dinesh Gaikwad, Dr. Rajesh Kateshia, Adventure Club Director Baban Pawar, former Mumbai University Senate member and social media expert Triyoginarayan Pandey, Bureau Chief Harikesh Jaiswal, along with a large number of students from NCC, NSS, Marathi Prabodhan, and the Cultural Forum, as well as college alumni and staff. History Illuminated for the 5000th Time: Courage in Every Dialogue, Patriotism in Every Performance On September 26, 1995, at the age of 27, Captain Vinayak Gore sacrificed his life for

his motherland on the border of Jammu and Kashmir. Just one day later, on September 27, 1995, Manoj Sanap, who was an NCC cadet at the time, performed this mono-act for the first time at K. J. Somaiya College. Even during its 5000th performance, the play continues to be a source of inspiration for students.

Every dialogue and every word in the play has a direct and profound impact on the audience's hearts. Inspired by this performance, many young people have joined the army, while others have started serving the nation through blood donation, organ donation, honoring the families of soldiers, collecting funds for Flag Day, and other social

welfare activities.

Manoj Sanap has never sought personal gain, only keeping the torch of patriotism alive. The 5000th performance on Foundation Day was a magnificent example of preserving the values instilled by the college. The eyes of the audience were filled with tears of pride and gratitude, and everyone shared a single emotion: a salute to our martyred heroes and to the artist who keeps their history alive!

The celebration of K. J. Somaiya College's Foundation Day and Manoj Sanap's patriotic performance together ignited the flame of valor, sacrifice, and patriotism among the students, making it the most significant feature of this year's celebration.

UP traders and consumers benefit the most from GST reform: Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow, Sept 24 (UNI) : The "Next Gen GST Reform," which came into effect on the first day of Shcaradiya Navratri, has infused new energy into the market, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said today.

Addressing a media conference at Universal Booksellers in Hazratganj, Adityanath stated that the reduced GST rates are significantly benefiting all segments, including consumers, traders, and entrepreneurs.

While the reform has provided relief to consumers, it has also paved the way for strengthening the market and creating employment. He said being the state with the largest consumer base in the country, Uttar Pradesh's traders and consumers will benefit the most from the GST reform.

The Chief Minister informed that GST on notebooks, pencils, and other educational materials for students has been reduced to zero. Similarly, most essential household items have been brought under the zero or 5 per cent tax bracket. As many as life-saving medicines have also been completely exempted from GST. He said that

increased consumption in the market has led to increased production. This has benefited both traders and entrepreneurs and opened up new employment opportunities for the youth. This major step has brought relief to consumers during the festive season.

The Chief Minister stated that after the implementation of GST, national collections have gone up from 77 lakh crore to 722 lakh crore, while in Uttar Pradesh, it has increased from 49 thousand crore to over 71.15 lakh crore.

Before the press conference, the Chief Minister met with traders and consumers in Hazratganj Market. During the meeting, he distributed pamphlets and banners related to the GST reform. The Chief Minister also interacted with shopkeepers and customers.

Traders and consumers expressed their gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Finance Minister. CM Yogi said that these reforms were extremely necessary for the Indian economy and would prove to be a big step towards providing relief to the country from inflation.

Special Programme on Vigilance Awareness Week at Hubballi Division



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Sept 24 : As part of Vigilance Awareness Week –2025, a special programme was organized today at the Railway Officer's Club (ROC), Hubballi Division, South Western Railway.

On this occasion, Shri Annadurai, Senior Deputy General Manager (SDGM), delivered a detailed and insightful presentation on the workshop, emphasizing

the need for ethical practices and transparency in all spheres of railway operations. He elaborated on the theme of vigilance, "our shared responsibility" among Central Government employees as a motto for vigilance awareness.

The programme was graced by Smt. Bela Meena, Divisional Railway Manager, Hubballi, along with vigilance officials, senior officers and staff. All

participants took part with great enthusiasm, reaffirming their commitment towards integrity, accountability and good governance.

The event served as a platform to spread awareness on preventive vigilance and to encourage employees to adopt a proactive approach in strengthening the values of honesty and responsibility in the organization.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Gavai to inaugurate Nashik Dist Court

Nashik, Sept 24 (UNI) : Supreme Court Chief Justice Bhushan Gavai will inaugurate the new building of the District Court here on September 27.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the parking lot building will also be held on the same day at the Police Parade Ground, Police Headquarters, at 9.30

am.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will be the chief guest for the programme.

The ceremony will be chaired by Bombay High Court Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar. Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, along with Bombay High

Court Justices Makarand Karnik, Sarang Kotwal, Jitendra Jain, and Ashwin Bhobe, will be present as guests of honour.

The Chief District and Sessions Judge, Nashik, Srichand Jagmalani, and the President of the Bar Association, Nitin Thackeray, have appealed to all to attend the function.

Tirumala annual brahmotsavam commences with Dhwajaroohanam

Tirumala, Sept 24(UNI) : The nine-day annual brahmotsavams in Tirumala commenced on a spectacular religious note with the grand ceremonial

sacred Garuda flag hoisting ceremony atop the temple pole on Wednesday evening.

Traditionally called Dhwajaroohanam, the primary purpose behind this celestial flag hoisting ceremony, bearing the image of Garudalwar-the, the favourite carrier of Sri Mahavishnu(Venkateswara), is to invite the deities of all the 14 worlds and other celestial beings to participate in the Brahmotsavam festivities.

Significance of Dhwajaroohanam: The Vedic chants by the archakas include "Namostute Dhwajaay Sakala Bhuvana Janahitaaya, Vimala Bhodakaaya, Mahita Mangalaaya" during Dhwajaroohanam, praising the flag as a beacon of

purity and prosperity for all, besides reciting Garuda Astakam, Garuda Gadya, and Garuda Stuti.

These sacred chants purify the environment and invoke the presence of the deities.The sacred religious event took place in the auspicious Meena Lagnam between 5:43pm and 6:15pm.

Earlier in the evening, the Garudapatam, Parivara deities, including Anantha, Garuda, Chakrattalwar and Vishwakseena, were also paraded along four mada streets while the processional deities of Sri Malayappa, flanked by Sridevi and Bhudevi on golden Tiruchi.Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Trust BoardChairmanBRNaidu, Executive officer Anil Kumar Singhal, Board members and officials were also present.



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, LoP in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav and other leaders during the launch of 'Ati Pichda Nyay Sankalp', in Patna on Wednesday.

CI sends Legal Notice to AP CM in Vivekananda Reddy murder case

Vijayawada, Sept 24 (UNI) : The sensational murder of former Minister and MP YS Vivekananda Reddy took another turn today as Circle Inspector of police J Shankaraiah sent a legal notice to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for making statements damaging his personal reputation.

Shankaraiah was CI in Pulivendula police station when former Minister and MPYS Vivekanand Reddy, was hacked to death in his house on March 15, 2019. The CI was suspended for dereliction of duty.

Vivekananda Reddy was the younger brother of former Chief Minister late Y S Rajasekhara Reddy and paternal uncle of former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

The CI complained to the CBI officials that MP YS Avinash Reddy and D Shankar Reddy threatened him not to send Vivekananda Reddy's body for postmortem. However, the CI did not appear before the Magistrate to give the same statement.

Shankaraiah has alleged that Naidu made public

statements that evidence was destroyed in the Vivekananda Reddy murder case and he held him responsible for the same.

"The Chief Minister made the statements during the Assembly sessions, Collector and SP conference, stating that I am responsible for destroying evidence after the murder of Vivekananda Reddy. The Chief Minister's allegations have dented my personal reputation and prestige," he mentioned in the legal notice sent to the Chief Minister through lawyer

Dharaneswar Reddy.

The lawyer of the CI made it clear that the CBI mentioned Shankaraiah's name as only an eye witness and did not mention his name as an accused in the murder case.

In the notice, the Circle Inspector demanded that the Chief Minister apologise publicly within 15 days of receipt of the legal notice. The CI warned of filing a defamation suit for Rs 1.45 crore, if the Chief Minister failed to apologize publicly. Circle Inspector Shankaraiah is in Vacancy Reserve (VR) now.

CM's accusations of private hospitals charging exorbitantly, proves privatization of medical colleges is wrong: YSRCP

Vijayawada, Sept 24 (UNI) : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu' statement alleging that private hospitals are being operated like luxury hotels, charging exorbitant fees and conducting C-sections without attempting normal delivery, is proving that privatization of medical colleges and health sector is detrimental to the people of the state, especially to the poor said Dr.Naga Radhakrishna Yadav, Chairman YSRCP NTR District Doctors Wing today.Speaking to the media Dr. Yadav said that the Chief Minister's statement validated the YSRCP's President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's warnings against privatization of medical colleges and hospitals under the PPP model, which endangers the fundamental rights to affordable and

equitable healthcare and education.At the same time, the Naidu headed coalition Government has failed to manage simple, treatable public health issues effectively, he slammed.

"The recent widespread outbreak of diarrhoea in Vijayawada and other parts of the State, affecting vulnerable children and families, has exposed serious lapses in preventive measures and healthcare delivery. Despite ongoing health crises, the government has not ensured the supply of pure drinking water, a basic necessity to prevent such waterborne diseases," he flayed.

Dr. Naga Radhakrishna Yadav revealed that these repeated failures have caused unnecessary suffering to people and endangered lives. "While

the Chief Minister criticize private hospitals for profiteering, the same government's attempt to hand over vital public medical institutions to private players through PPP reflects a contradictory and dangerous policy stance. The people of Andhra Pradesh deserve clarity, not confusion. "

"It is the YSRC Congress Party that has been consistently upholding the cause of social justice, demanding that medical colleges and hospitals remain fully government-owned to guarantee reservation rights and priority healthcare for poor and marginalized sections," Dr.Yadav asserted.

The YSRCP leaders called upon people to strongly oppose this self-contradictory and harmful PPP model, which threatens

to worsen health inequities and deny essential services.

He demanded the TDP-led government to withdraw the PPP model immediately, prioritize public welfare over private profits, and address the continuing health emergencies caused by impure water and inadequate disease control.

STANDARD POST

Cardiovascular diseases behind 1 in 3 global deaths in 2023

Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) remain the leading cause of disease burden, causing one in three deaths worldwide in 2023, according to a study.

The study showed that the number of cardiovascular disease deaths worldwide has risen sharply, climbing to 19.2 million in 2023 from 13.1 million in 1990.

The heart-related mortality was driven by population growth, ageing, and exposure to a broad range of risks, including increasing rates of obesity and diabetes, as revealed by the report based on the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study, and published today in JACC.

Ischemic heart disease affected an estimated 240 million people in 2023, while lower extremity peripheral arterial disease impacted 122 million; stroke remained a leading cause of death and disability across all regions.

Men had higher cardiovascular mortality rates than women in most regions, and risk increased steeply after age 50.

High body mass index and high fasting plasma glucose were the fastest-growing metabolic contributors between 2018 and 2023, mirroring global trends in obesity and diabetes.

“The finding that CVD burden is substantially greater outside of the most developed settings, even after accounting for differences in population age, remains among the most important messages of this analysis,” said Gregory A. Roth, Professor in the Division of Cardiology, University of Washington.

“Our analysis shows wide geographic differences in CVD burden that can’t be explained by income level alone. Given this kind of variation, our findings offer the opportunity to tailor local health policies to target the most relevant risks for specific populations,” she added.

Researchers estimated the burden due to 376 diseases, including CVD, from 1990 to 2023 in 204 countries using all available data and statistical models.

CVD also remained the leading cause of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) and deaths estimated in the GBD globally. There were 437 million CVD DALYs in 2023, with a 16-fold difference between the countries with the lowest and highest CVD DALY rates.

This is a 1.4-fold increase from the 320 million CVD DALYs in 1990.

Importantly, 79.6 per cent of all CVD DALYs globally in 2023 were attributable to modifiable risk factors, which have increased globally by 97.4 million since 1990, largely due to population growth and ageing.

The top risk factors include metabolic, such as high body mass index (BMI) and high fasting plasma glucose, followed by behavioral and environmental/occupational, like air pollution, lead exposure, and higher temperatures.

The Tragic Death of Zubin Garg: Assam Loses Its Musical Heart

(By Geetartha Pathak)

Assam woke up to a devastating reality with the sudden and tragic death of Zubin Garg, one of its most beloved cultural icons. Known as the “Heartthrob of Assam,” Zubin was not only a singer of immense popularity but also a figure who bridged music, cinema, and social movements with unmatched passion. His death has triggered waves of grief that remind us of the loss of global icons like Michael Jackson, Princess Diana, or Whitney Houston — stars whose passing left a void that could never be filled.

An Icon for Generations, Especially Gen Z

For the younger generation, particularly Gen Z, Zubin was more than a singer. His romantic numbers, modern pop creations, and powerful stage presence connected deeply with the youth. Unlike many stars who remain aloof, Zubin embodied accessibility — he was down-to-earth, approachable, and always vocal about social causes. His songs gave voice to youthful energy, love, and defiance, making him an inseparable part of Assam’s modern cultural identity.“

Circumstances Around His Death

Yet, the circumstances of his demise remain shadowed by contradictory reports.



What appears consistent is the fact that Zubin had been physically weak, having only recently recovered from a hospital stay. A known epileptic, he required constant care and vigilance, especially during large public events. Many believe the event organizers failed to ensure his safety. With his celebrity stature, additional medical supervision and protective measures should have been mandatory. The absence of such precautions raises painful questions.

Beyond Music: A Humanitarian and Rebel Voice

Zubin’s popularity was not confined to his romantic ballads or film appearances. He was a humanitarian who extended help to the poor

and needy, often quietly without seeking publicity. Local accounts recall how he funded education for underprivileged children, supported artists in distress, and reached out to flood-affected families across Assam.

He was also a rebel voice who did not compromise with power for personal gain. He stood against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), lending his voice and presence to people’s protests. When the Assam Government ordered the felling of centuries-old trees near Guwahati’s Dighali Pukhuri, Zubin openly opposed the move, standing firm with environmental activists. His integrity and courage made him more than an entertainer — he was a

conscience-keeper of society.“

The Mass Appeal and Comparisons with Legends

The outpouring of grief after his death is being compared to the extraordinary scenes following Bhupen Hazarika’s passing. Crowds that thronged to catch a last glimpse of Zubin surpassed earlier records, a testament to the emotional bond he shared with his people. In this, he joined a rare league of stars whose deaths trigger mass mourning: Michael Jackson, whose sudden end shocked global fans; Princess Diana, whose fatal accident evoked worldwide tears; and Kobe Bryant, whose death left millions shattered.

As the writer Albert Schweitzer once said: “The only thing of

importance, when we depart, will be the traces of love we have left behind.” Zubin’s traces are woven in the songs sung by college youth, the memories of rural concerts, and the ideals of protest and compassion he embodied.

Conspiracy Theories and Political Shadows

Not all accept his death as merely natural. Eminent intellectual Dr. Hiren Gohain has suggested there could be more beneath the surface. Given Zubin’s open criticism of the BJP and rumors of his possible entry into electoral politics, some whisper of a conspiracy to silence a rising political voice. While many see this angle as improbable, the suspicion reflects the unease of a society

unwilling to accept the sudden departure of such a vital figure.

Understanding Public Grief: The Psychology of Losing Icons

The collective grief following Zubin’s death highlights the psychology of societies when their cultural icons die. For many, stars like Zubin are not just artists but emotional anchors. They shape identity, provide solace, and symbolize hope. When such figures die, it feels like a part of one’s own life has ended. As John Lennon once reflected on Elvis Presley’s death: “Before Elvis, there was nothing.” Similarly, for thousands in Assam, life now feels incomplete without Zubin.“

The Final Note: A Legacy That Will Outlive Death“

Whatever the controversies or unanswered questions, one truth stands firm: Zubin Garg is no more. But his music, his ideals, and his humility have carved a permanent space in Assam’s cultural memory. His voice will continue to resonate in the hum of guitar strings, in protest rallies, and in the quiet hearts of young lovers.

Assam has lost a son, but generations will remember the singer who gave them words for their emotions and courage for their struggles. His death may have silenced his body, but his legacy will remain an eternal song.

TERI launches green budgeting Toolkit 2.0 to align fiscal policy with climate goals

New Delhi, Sep 24 (UNI) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) today launched Version 2.0 of its Green Budgeting Toolkit and an online portal aimed at helping governments, academia, and civil society integrate environmental considerations into fiscal planning.

The launch took place during a national webinar that drew registrations from over 50 countries and participation from stakeholders in Bihar, Assam, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu.

The updated toolkit, which includes a playbook, pro-forma for departmental self-assessment, a Green Budget Statement structure, and presentation templates, seeks to mainstream sustainability in public finance.

TERI said the initiative builds on India’s tradition of issue-based budgeting, such as gender and child budgeting, and is designed to provide both conceptual clarity and practical instruments to embed green concerns in financial management.

“Public budget in most

states and countries is the largest source of expenditure in the economy. The purpose of the webinar is to heighten awareness of green budgeting and stimulate more thought and action,” said Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, TERI, in his opening remarks.

Dr. Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow at TERI, described green budgeting as a self-assessment tool. “It helps in understanding who spends money on what activities, how much, and for which environmental goals. Green budgeting can evolve to be aligned with outcome budgets.”

Government officials and experts from Puducherry and Bihar shared their experiences of implementing green budgeting at the state level. Puducherry’s Environmental Engineer K. Kalamegam called it a “transformative framework” that ensures government decisions are viewed through a climate lens. Bihar’s State Green Budgeting Manual, developed with TERI’s

support, has already spurred expansion across sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry, and solar energy, said Dr. Sunil Kumar Gupta of ADRI, Patna.

Data presented at the event showed states scaling up green budgeting significantly. Bihar increased its allocations more than 4.5 times between 2020–21 and 2025–26, Assam by 1.6 times in two years, and Puducherry by 3.6 times between 2022–23 and 2025–26.

Other states, including Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, and Rajasthan, have also introduced climate-focused budgeting exercises.

Globally, countries such as France, Indonesia, the Philippines, and members of the European union have adopted green budgeting frameworks, TERI noted.

TERI said wider adoption across departments, greater innovation within schemes, and joint ownership by finance and environment ministries will be key to embedding green budgeting in India’s fiscal system.

SC seeks dedicated portal under Home Ministry to trace missing children

New Delhi, Sept 24 (UNI) : The Supreme Court today directed the Centre to create a dedicated online portal under the aegis of the union Home Ministry to trace missing children and monitor investigations in such cases.

A Bench comprising Justice B.V. Nagarathna and Justice R. Mahadevan highlighted the lack of coordination among state and union territory police forces in tracing missing children.

The court said each state should designate a nodal officer to be in charge of missing complaints and dissemination of information through the portal.

The Bench stressed the need for a “coordinated effort” and asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, to seek instructions.

The court was hearing a petition filed by NGO Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan, which raised concerns over unresolved cases of child kidnapping and trafficking despite the government’s existing “Khoya/Paya” portal. The plea cited five cases from Uttar Pradesh in which children were trafficked to Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

SCBA president Vikas Singh urges CJI Gavai to reform Judicial appointments process

New Delhi, Sept 24 (UNI) : Senior Advocate Vikas Singh, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), has written to Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai, pressing for urgent reforms in the judicial appointments system and finalisation of the long-pending Memorandum of Procedure (MoP).

Calling for a “transparent, merit-driven, and equitable framework” to replace the existing collegium mechanism, Singh said the current system, though intended to safeguard judicial independence, suffers from “structural flaws” that have created serious challenges.

He highlighted three key concerns that Lawyers from the Supreme Court Bar are often overlooked for elevation to their parent High Courts despite their exposure to national jurisprudence, leading to what he termed a “systematic marginalisation of valuable judicial talent.”

Singh urged that women and under-represented groups continue to remain sidelined, with official data showing women constitute just 9.5 percent of High Court judges and 2.94 percent of Supreme Court judges as of February 2024.

He said that Informal networks and visibility in court allegedly outweigh analytical ability and courtroom preparation, leaving out deserving juniors and briefing counsel, described as the “unseen architects of courtroom success.”

Citing the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. union of India (2016) judgment, the SCBA proposed four key reforms for incorporation into the MoP: creation of an independent secretariat in every High Court and the Supreme Court to manage records and vacancies, adoption of an application-based process to broaden the pool, publication of eligibility criteria to guide selections, and establishment of a grievance redressal mechanism to ensure accountability.

“The proposals are not a radical overhaul but institutional safeguards to strengthen the collegium system,” Singh stressed, adding that elevation “must no longer be a function of proximity or visibility, but of merit, integrity, and constitutional fidelity.”

Super typhoon Ragasa batters Macao, triggers top alert

Macao, Sept. 24 (UNI) Super typhoon Ragasa passed within 100 km of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) on Wednesday morning, causing gale and heavy rain, said Macao's meteorological bureau, which hoisted the No. 10 tropical cyclone signal at 5:30 a.m. local time.

The Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau noted that the wind in Macao has reached hurricane-level force 12 and will sustain in the next few hours, and therefore, the top-level typhoon signal will be in effect for a period of time.Storm surge brought rapidly rising water levels in low-lying areas, causing seawater to flood inland. The bureau forecast maximum flooding of 1.5 to 2.5 meters around noon.

According to information from the Civil Protection Operations Center, Macao's power utility Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) has implemented power suspensions in flood-affected areas to ensure public safety and protect power supply facilities.

The center also noted that when the water recedes, power restoration will be arranged as soon as possible.

The SAR's Social Welfare Bureau reported that as of 11 a.m. Wednesday, a total of 642 people have taken shelter at evacuation centers.

Russian Dy Foreign Minister speaks against oppression of Russian speakers in Baltics

Moscow, Sept 24 (UNI) : The oppression of Russian speakers in the Baltic countries violates all the norms of the old European "civilization," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Dmitry Lyubinsky told Sputnik."In the same vein, I would like to mention the increasingly harsh oppression of Russian-speaking people in the Baltics in violation of all conceivable norms of the old European 'civilization,'" Lyubinsky said.Belarusian Foreign Minister Maxim Ryzhenkov said earlier this year that the Baltic states have no achievements in implementing any important, peaceful or development-oriented international initiatives.

The Baltic states want to show the European union that they are an outpost on the EU's eastern borders, holding back the Belarusians and the Russians, and mean at least something for the EU, Ryzhenkov said.

Russia to begin trials of mRNA cancer vaccine against melanoma

Moscow, Sept. 24 (UNI) : Russian scientists are ready to launch clinical trials of personalised mRNA cancer vaccines targeting melanoma within the next six weeks, according to media reports on Tuesday.

Alexander Gintsburg, head of the Gamaleya National Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology, told TASS news agency that the necessary documents had already been submitted to the Russian Health Ministry pending approval.

The first batches of the vaccine will be produced once approval is granted, Gintsburg said, adding that patient groups have already been selected and their genetic data have been mapped for fully personalized treatment.Preclinical studies have shown that the vaccine can effectively suppress tumor growth and the possibility of metastases. The next mRNA vaccines will be developed for patients with non-small cell lung cancer, TASS reported.

EU Defence Commissioner Andrius Kubilius calls 'drone wall' unfeasible as Europe lacks drone detection capability

Brussels, Sept 24 (UNI) : Amid renewed calls from the European members of the NATO for the construction of a 'drone wall' – in light of Russian breaches into Lithuania, Estonia, and Poland – EU Defence Commissioner Andrius Kubilius said that Europe currently lacks the capability for drone detection, calling construction of any such wall now unrealistic.

Speaking to Euroactiv, he argued that the EU could significantly improve its drone detection capabilities within a year but it will take much longer to develop a full network across land and sea able to even track them, and maybe longer for neutralising targets.

The concept of a European "drone wall" gained rapidly massive traction following calls by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for its construction, making the proposal a centrepiece of her September State of the union speech, stressing the urgency of closing the gaps in Europe's air defences."We need to understand that we lack capabilities to detect drones," Andrius Kubilius said at the launch of Euractiv's new daily defence newsletter, Firepower, on Tuesday.

"Maybe we have good capability to detect air fighters and missiles, but drones have specificity – they are flying very low, they are small."

The first step is to "quickly" get detection systems, which he said can be done. Experts say such a system could be ready in "somewhere around a year" to be ready to fend off Russian attacks and "provocations", he said. Kubilius pointed to Ukraine's military – which he said should be used by the EU as a model for this purpose – calling to attention its use of acoustic sensors to identify incoming unmanned aerial vehicles that evade traditional radar.Lasers, he added, could offer a cost-effective means of destroying drones once detected, though a comprehensive system capable of tracking and neutralising them on the ground would take longer to develop.

Palestinian killed by Israeli settler in West Bank: Health Ministry

Ramallah, Sept.24 (UNI) A Palestinian man was killed on Tuesday evening by an Israeli settler in the village of Al-Mughayyir, east of Ramallah in the central West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

In a press statement, the ministry identified the victim as 20-year-old Saeed Murad Nasan, who died of his wounds after being shot during the attack.

Earlier in the day, a medical source from the ministry said that at least five Palestinians were injured, including one seriously, during clashes in the village after settlers, backed by the Israeli army, stormed the area.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli army on these incidents.

Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant loses all off-site power, risking safety

Vienna, Sept 24 (UNI) The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant lost all off-site power on Tuesday, showcasing persistent risks to nuclear safety, according to a UN nuclear watchdog.

The power loss was the 10th time during the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Tuesday on social platform X, adding that its team is investigating the cause of the incident.

The agency's Director General Rafael Grossi said later that day that emergency diesel generators had started operating to supply the plant with power, citing its team at Zaporizhzhia.

Zaporizhzhia's six reactors have been in cold shutdown since 2024 but still require cooling water for their reactor cores and spent fuel pools. Before the conflict, it had 10 off-site power lines available.

Super typhoon Ragasa lashes Hong Kong, prompts top alert

Hong Kong, Sept. 24 (UNI) The Hong Kong Observatory issued the hurricane signal No. 10, the top level warning, at 2:40 a.m. local time on Wednesday as super typhoon Ragasa whirls by.

This was the second time the highest alert was activated this year after typhoon Wipha passed by on July 10. Hong Kong has not repeated the No. 10 signal in one year since 1964.

Ragasa lashed Hong Kong with torrential rains and winds with speeds of 118 km per hour or more.

Amid Ragasa's rampage, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government had received 169 reports of snapped trees and one report of mudslide by 8 a.m. on Wednesday. Public hospitals received 19 patients for typhoon-related injuries.By 8 a.m., 49 emergency shelters set up across Hong Kong had housed 747 occupants.



Indian Naval Ship Trikanth, a stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, called at Limassol, Cyprus on Sept. 21, 2025, during its ongoing deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

Trump claims Ukraine in position to "win all of Ukraine back"

Washington, Sept. 24 (UNI) U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday said on social media that he believes Ukraine, with support from Europe and NATO, "is in a position to fight and WIN all of Ukraine back in its original form."

The remarks signaled a sharp shift in the White House's position on the Russia-Ukraine conflict since Trump has for months pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to make concessions to reach a ceasefire deal with Russia, claiming Kiev "doesn't have the cards" in the negotiations.

"After getting to know and fully understand the Ukraine/Russia Military and Economic situation and, after seeing the Economic trouble it is causing Russia, I think Ukraine, with the support of the European Union, is in a position to fight and WIN all of Ukraine back in its original form," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

"With time, patience, and the financial support of Europe and, in particular, NATO, the original Borders from where this War started, is very much an option," Trump said.

"We will continue to supply weapons to NATO

for NATO to do what they want with them," said the president.

When meeting with Zelensky on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City earlier on Tuesday, Trump told reporters that NATO countries should shoot down Russian jets that violate their airspace.

In a letter dated Saturday and addressed to the president of the UN Security Council, Estonia claimed that three Russian MiG-31 fighters entered up to 10 km inside Estonia's airspace and stayed for 12 minutes on Friday.

Russia's first deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, Dmitry Polyanskiy, denied that Russian jets had violated Estonian airspace and accused European states of Russophobia.

Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, said Monday that China urges the parties concerned to remain calm and exercise restraint, clarify facts and dispel doubts through dialogue and communication, avoid misunderstanding and misjudgment, and prevent the situation from expanding or escalating.

Hungarian PM Viktor Orban warns EU on verge of slow

Budapest, Sept 24 (UNI) : Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban in yet another jab at the European Union, warned that the body was in the throes of a slow and inevitable collapse if it fails to embrace radical change.

Commenting on the EU's fragility and frictions within member states, he cautioned that unless the body refuses to act now, it will wane, and collapse much like the Roman Empire.Addressing parliament in Budapest, he said "I do not see in the European union the capacity for renewal we need. If the EU does not urgently make a sharp turn, its history will come to an end," reports RIA Novosti.

Orban stressed that this disintegration would be marked by a gradual erosion, as more and more member states will move to abandon Brussels' directives, whom he called akin to "bad GPS

navigator," due to what he alleged was its aimless wondering, continuous recalculation of every decision leading to greater indecision, and no ultimate destination.He cited Brussels' move of sanctions, its immigration policies, and focus on green transition as being emblematic of this failure, accusing its objectives of beingrootedmore in idealism than any kind of realism.

Drawing comparisons to the Roman Empire again, he said it was similar to how the ancient regime "long believed that it continued to exist in its former territories, although in fact it had long ceased to exist."

He praised Budapest's direction and his government's actions, stating that in comparison to the weakening EU states – specifically in the West - it had by contrast gained strength and knowledge, enough to develop at a

pace matching that of the US and the rise of Asia.

"I see the US and Asia moving forward alongside us. And I see Hungary's ability... to develop faster. Its pace of development matches that of the US and Asia, not the EU."

The Hungarian premier has repeatedly claimed that the bloc's current economic direction is unsustainable, warning that "its days are numbered." However, despite his contentions with the bloc, he ruled out exiting it, though claimed that the EU would collapse under its own weight unless sweeping reforms occur within two to three years.He argued that the only way to prevent Europe from "falling apart before our eyes" would be for the liberal establishment in Brussels to be replaced by governments grounded in patriotism, even calling for political "purges" similar to those in Washington.

Iran rebuilding missile production facilities crippled by Israeli offence in June, as per satellite imagery

Tehran, Sept 24 (UNI) : Satellite images show that Iran is back on course for rebuilding its missile production facilities destroyed during its 12-day war with Israel in June, though analysts say the programme remains crippled by the absence of a crucial component: the planetary mixers used to manufacture solid fuel, reports Times of Israel.

These large machines, with blades rotating around a central axis like orbiting

planets, provide the uniform mixture necessary for solid propellants, and as such are essential for Tehran's mission to rebuild its missile capabilities, which can't happen without the mixers.

For Tehran, restoring its missile capability is urgent, particularly as the war in June decimated its air defence systems, damaged military infrastructure, and has derailed its nuclear programme for some time - leaving missiles among the

few tools of deterrence it still possesses.Post the ceasefire, Iranian officials stated that they are more than convinced another war with Israel is only a matter of time, making the acquisition of mixers a priority, calling any peace temporary.With no capacity to build them domestically amid inadequacies in infrastructure – damaged further by the war - Iran is expected to turn to China, where it has previously sourced missile fuel

ingredients and other sensitive equipment.

The effort comes at a moment of acute vulnerability, as the E-3 nations had appealed to the UN for triggering the snapback mechanism, under which all international sanctions placed on Iran prior to the 2015 nuclear deal would be automatically restored.

The UK, France and Germany had threatened Iran several times that sanctions would be

Typhoon leaves 14 dead, 18 injured in Taiwan

Taipei, Sept. 24 (UNI) : Typhoon Ragasa left 14 dead and 18 injured in Taiwan as of 6 a.m. on Wednesday, said local authorities.

About 100 people remain trapped awaiting rescue, according to the island's emergency operation center.The typhoon's outer circulation continues to batter Taiwan's eastern, northern and southern coastal areas, bringing heavy rainfall. On Tuesday afternoon, a dam at a barrier lake in Hualien County overflowed, triggering flooding.

Russian Air Defence systems down 70 Ukrainian drones overnight: Defence Ministry

Moscow, Sept 24 (UNI) : Russian air defence systems destroyed 70 Ukrainian drones over five Russian regions and the Black Sea overnight, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Wednesday. "During the past night, from 23:00 Moscow time [20:00 GMT] to 07:00 Moscow time, 70 Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles were destroyed and intercepted by air defence systems on duty over the territories of the Belgorod, Kursk, Rostov, Volgograd regions, the Republic of Crimea and over the Black Sea," the ministry said in a statement.

POTUS affirms full support to Israel

New York, Sept 24 (UNI) : Meeting at the UN with French President Emmanuel Macron, US President Donald Trump affirmed his full support to Israel, telling reporters "I'm on the side of Israel. I've been on the side of Israel, really, my whole life, and we're going to get a solution, and it's going to be a solution that's good for everybody."

Macron, whose nation led the current wave of Palestinian recognition, told the POTUS that if he wanted to truly win the Nobel Peace Prize, he could do so only upon ending the IDF campaign in Gaza, as per Times of Israel.He made his comments at the onset of his meeting with leaders of the Muslim world, stating that all the parties will "see if we can do something about" ending the war in Gaza.Trump linked the effort to free the hostages seized during Hamas' 7 October 2023 assault, saying "We want to stop that. We want to get our hostages back, or their hostages back."Commenting on Paris' move to recognise Palestinian sovereignty, he echoed his statement from the UNGA, aligning with the Israeli position and said "I think it honours Hamas and you can't do that because of October 7. You just can't do that."

Macron replied that "nobody forgets the 7th of October," but asked, "after almost two years of war, what is the result?"

While he gave his support to Israel's targeting of Hamas leadership, and argued that Jerusalem's move for their elimination was indeed a "great achievement," there has been little reduction in the number of terrorists in the war-torn enclave.He added "you have as many Hamas fighters as you had the first day. So, it doesn't work to dismantle Hamas. This is not the right way to proceed. So, we need a full-fledged process."

reimposed, unless it fully resumes cooperation with the IAEA, which it had suspended after the war, and has even now only partially resumed, before formally appealing to the UN. While Iran had rubbished the threats, stating that Europe had no legal leverage to trigger the sanctions, the UN greenlit the E-3 request for snapback sanctions, and as such urged to resume full compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal.

Home & Garden

Simple tips to do up your Car Interiors



New cars may be rolling on to the roads today, but not many would like to shell out big bucks with their dipping bank balance during the on going recession. In such times, you can still 'own a new car'; all you need to do is give your car a much-needed makeover with interior car accessories.

The interior of a car is often the most overlooked area, when it comes to customizing or redoing a car. However, people fail to realise that it's the interior of the car that you see more often than the exterior.

So, dress up your 'old' car to make it a 'new' one. Pick one or all of the car accessories that will help dress up your car, after all, when you are driving in your 'new' car, you'll feel better too!

Replace old seat covers

Since seats make up a large part of the car interior, changing their

colours can make a big difference in how the car looks and feels.

With time while leather seats get scratched, fabric seats show stains and tears.

Replace old seat covers with new ones to help cover up those stains and scratches and give your car a 'renewed life'. Car seat covers are easy to install, and cost much less than it would to replace leather seats.

Change floor mats

Rubber floor mats will not only cover up worn out spots on your car's floor, but will also give it a cleaner look. Everyday, mud, sand, slush, and debris are tracked into your vehicle and mats protect the car carpet from these. Easier to maintain, these can be



Just like we do up the interiors of our homes, we should also do up our car interiors. Here is how...

washed from time to time with just water. You can also customize the floor mats to perfectly fit the model of your car.

Place sun films

The installation of these films on front windshield, back windshield or side windows helps combat ultraviolet rays. It helps cut annoying glare on

your windshield reducing intense bright spots on sunny days and blinding headlights at night. These films also make your air conditioner functioning more effective.

Cover the steer

Leather steering wheel covers are easily available and slip onto your steering wheel, giving it a new sporty look. The contoured ribs in the steering wheel cover help your hands relax while you drive.

Seat cushions

Jazz up your car interior with colourful seat cushions. Not only will this add to the accessories, if you buy a massage car cushion or heated cushion, you can have a comfortable ride home from work.

Music to soothe your ears

Replace the old audio cassette music system in your car with a high tech MP3 music. This will not only allow you to increase your choice of music, but will eliminate the tedious work of changing cassettes. And for all the tech savvy people, get a USB slot installed in your car to plug in your ipod to it. To experience better sound, you could get



amplifiers and woofers installed too.

Install SatNav guides

SatNavs not only save you from getting lost, but also eliminate the task of asking people for direction. The technology however is still at a nascent stage in the country. The GPS technology and digital mapping keep you on the move with easy-to-follow directions, through simple and clear voice prompt and visual directions. All you have to do is enter the street name that is located closest to where you would like to go. And the guide will calculate the best route for you.

Get the sporty look

Many car enthusiasts add sporty pedals and gear knobs, antilock brakes, to their vehicles in an effort to reduce weight and increase foot traction. You could also install tachometer, ideally meant for speedsters, to know engine RPM (revolutions per minute). It merely tells you that how fast your engine's crank-shaft is rotating and has nothing to do with fuel efficiency.

All of these accessories can turn even the oldest car into a flashier car. Well, how much will it cost for a 'car makeover' depends on what you buy and where you buy it from

Turn your bath area into a glam zone

Taking a shower in a very glammed up and pleasant bathroom is a rejuvenating experience.

Here is how can make your bathroom the best place in your house:

Deck up the interiors

Starting from the bath tub to the bathroom fittings, make sure there is class and plan the combinations out. Match the colour of the walls with that of the bathtub or choose reverse colours or contrast colours if you



like it to be spunky.

Colour code the bath place

Taking from the bath linen to colours of the tiles and the wash basin, plan what colours will pep up your mood and get your bathroom designed accordingly. Color therapy works everywhere, even in the bathroom. So pick up the colour sheet and work out some best colour combos for tiles, fittings as well as walls.

Jazz it up with tech

Starting from installing a wireless phone to making the bathroom a wi-fi zone to installing a touch screen panel with internet connectivity and to touch sensitive bathroom fittings, you can think of all the high end stuff that will totally revamp and make your bathroom an envious special zone. This will only pep up the atmosphere of your bedroom.

Stock up some spa essentials

Essential oils, body and face scrubs of your choice and a little bit of aroma therapy. What else do you need? A sauna? Well if you can install it, wonderful, otherwise a hot shower or a hot water bath in the Jacuzzi will let you rejuvenate equally.

1. Don't clutter with furniture

"People tend to have too much furniture in their house in a bid to show off their taste. This doesn't give a feeling of lightness, but only creates clutter and makes your room look smaller than it already is," says interior designer Shehzad Khan.

Conversely, spacing your furniture out and resting it flat against the wall is a fool's errand. It doesn't ensure a bigger room, instead your room ends up looking sparse. The trick is to angle it right. For instance, you can place a small console behind the sofa to create a sense of space. You can do the same thing with your bed and a side table in the bedroom.

2. Don't use too many small paintings

Fine art lends aesthetics and a sense of timelessness to your home. However, scattering small paintings or prints all over the walls will make a shoebox-sized home look smaller and more congested than it already is. Instead, invest in one life-size three-dimensional scenic painting on canvas, the keywords here being life-size and scenic. "Use wall cladding on the chosen surface and install the 3D canvas on it," says Gogia. Scenery gives a lot of depth to the wall. A DIY option is to paint the wall yourself. This way, you get to express and show off your creativity too. The market is also flooded with readymade wallpapers of scenic pictures that can be directly purchased and applied to one wall.

3. Do install French windows

Floor-to-ceiling glass windows is how the French won the West over, at least when it comes to decor. French windows automatically give spaciousness to the room. There are two reasons for this. They provide more natural light to stream into your room. Also, instead of an opaque wall, you have glass and openness extending beyond it.



6 ways to make your room Look bigger

From optical illusion to colour schemes and fine art, there are plenty of ideas to dig into for a more spacious-looking living space

4. Do have a white floor or ceiling

This may sound too stark for us Indians, since we love colour and all things vibrant. Having a stark white ceiling or floor is an international trend that is catching on in India. The easiest option for a white floor is marble. There is a variety available out there, so feel free to experiment. For a bit of warmth, lay out a soft rug. As for the ceiling, white is usually right. Says Girish Gogia, former interior decorator, "A milk white

ceiling doesn't feel heavy on the head." Pure and pristine, white is the best colour to instill a sense of airiness. Choose from ghost white, eggshell, pearl, cream or the popular 'off white'.

5. Do invest in multi-functional decor

Streamline your room with multi-functional pieces. For instance, a dining table that folds into a coffee table or seater. A trunk or an ottoman with built-in storage to keep your reading material in. In the mood to splurge? A number of decor labels are now available in India. For a DIY approach, look up the internet to design your own functional pieces.

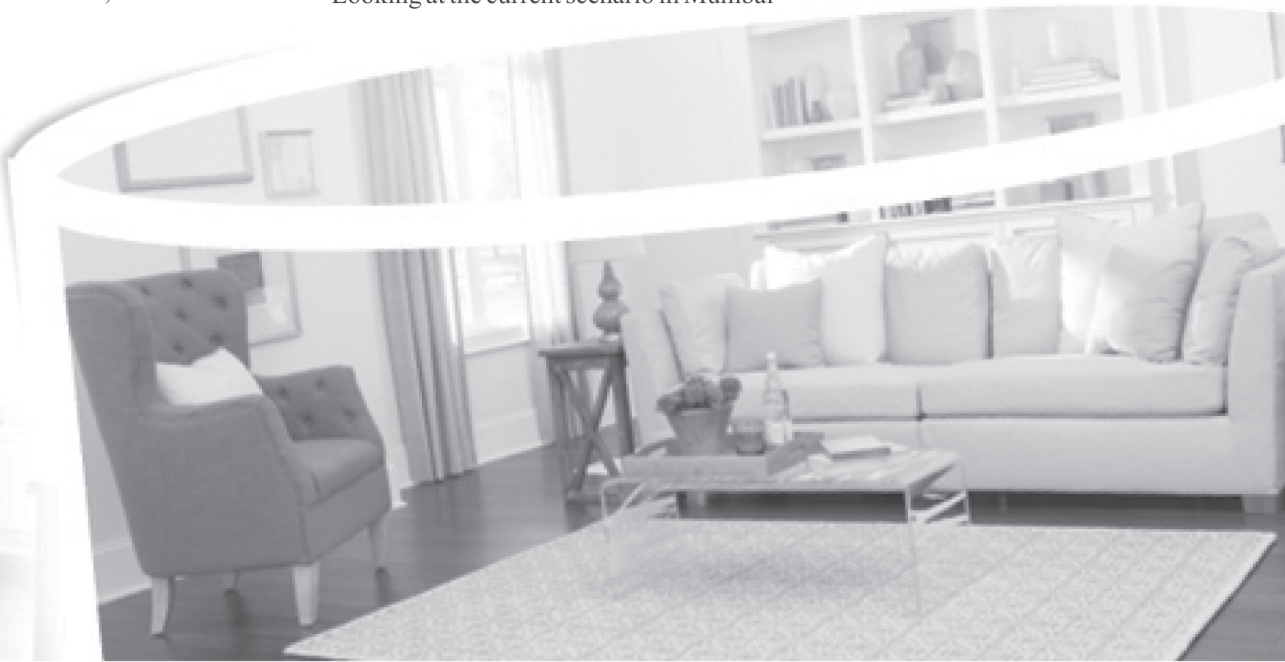
6. Do use paints in pastels

As far as walls are concerned, try to paints from the pastel family to make it appear brighter. Pastel colours are also easy on the eyes. "In fact, you can take the pastel theme further and do up your home with upholstery in pastel shades," says interior decorator Suraj Dutta.

"Looking at the current scenario in Mumbai



where the apartments are small, opt for lighter shades. The flooring shouldn't have too much design. It should have straight lines. Silver leafing and champagne leafing on the walls and even on the ceiling make your room appear larger. The technique adds a royal touch to your home and is quite the rage right now. It looks equally good in a 2 BHK flat as it does in an apartment studio of a bachelor."



Milind Soman named Brand Ambassador, Rs 22 lakh prize money

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 24 (UNI) Kerala’s capital city is gearing up for its largest ever marathon on October 12, as the second edition of the UST Trivandrum Marathon promises a festive celebration of fitness, endurance, and community spirit.

Organised by UST, a leading global AI and technology transformation company, in partnership with NEB Sports, the mega event will feature four categories the full marathon, half marathon, 10K run, and 5K run all flagged off from the UST campus at Technopark, Thiruvananthapuram.

Adding star power to the marathon, Milind Soman renowned actor, model, and fitness icon has been named the Brand Ambassador. Lending further sporting distinction to the event will be the presence of former Indian badminton coach Pullela Gopichand, athlete Reeth Abraham, and shuttler U. Vimal Kumar.

With over 10,000 runners expected to participate, the marathon carries a prize pool exceeding Rs 22 lakh, making it one of the most rewarding running events in Kerala.

Speaking about the initiative, Alexander Varghese, President, UST, said? “The UST Trivandrum Marathon is a prestigious event for us, as it spreads awareness on physical fitness and mental well-being. Bringing such an annual marathon to Kerala’s capital underlines UST’s commitment to society and its wellness.”

Nagaraj Adiga, CMD, NEB Sports, added, “This marathon ushers in pride for Thiruvananthapuram. With UST’s support, we are delighted to host more than 10,000 runners. The presence of Milind Soman as brand ambassador adds tremendous charm to this year’s edition.”

Jharkhand to upgrade mega sports complex, push for Sports University

Ranchi, Sept 24 (UNI) : Chief Minister Hemant Soren has directed senior officials to take concrete steps toward establishing a Sports University in Ranchi, signaling a major push to enhance sports infrastructure and athlete development in the state.

The announcement came during a high-level meeting at the Jharkhand Secretariat today, focused on the proposed upgradation of the Mega Sports Complex, Hotwar.

Speaking at the meeting, attended by Tourism, Art-Culture, Sports & Youth Affairs Minister Sudivya Kumar,

Chief Secretary Avinash Kumar, senior officials of the Sports Department, Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation (JSBCC), Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), and specialized agencies, the Chief Minister emphasized that all necessary procedures for the university should be completed promptly.

“The Sports University will provide a robust platform to nurture talent and advance the careers of our athletes,” he said.The Mega Sports Complex, Soren noted, has already given Jharkhand a distinct identity on the

Jamal Hossain opens up three-shot lead with stunning 62 on Day 2 telangana Masters

Hyderabad, Sept 24 (UNI) Bangladeshi golfer Jamal Hossain extended his lead to three shots with a stunning eight-under 62 in round two of the Telangana Golconda Masters being played at the Hyderabad Golf Association (HGA) here.

Jamal (61-62), the first-round leader by one shot who has been bogey free in the tournament so far, took his total to an impressive 17-under 123 today.

Chandigarh’s Akshay Sharma (62-64) signed for a 64 to continue in second place for the second straight day. Akshay’s total stood at 14 under 126.

Angad Cheema (66-62), another Chandigarh player, ended the day in third place at 12-under 128.

Medal rounds to commence on today

New Delhi, Sept 24 (UNI) :The first medals of the ISSF Junior World Cup New Delhi 2025, will be decided on Thursday with the 50m Rifle Prone event for both men and women, set to start proceedings at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range here.

The Olympic events will start on Friday, September 26, with the 10m Air pistol finals scheduled. A total of 208 shooters from 18 countries will be participating in 18 events, 15 Olympic and three Non-Olympic events, with a total of 54 medals to be earned.

India will field 10 athletes, five each in both the junior men’s and women’s categories for the 50m Rifle Prone event, a non-Olympic event which has 21 athletes in fray for the medals.

The Indian challenge will be spearheaded by Asian Championship bronze medallist Vedant Nitin Waghmare and 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) gold medalist in Shymkent, Anushka H. Thokur.

The other athletes in

the men’s section are Rohit Kanyan, Kushagra Singh Rajawat, Deependra Singh Shekhawat and Kunal Sharma while Nimrat Kaur Brar, Saniya Sapale, Aadhya Agrawal and Anshika will be in action in the women’s category.

The host nation, India, will lead the field with a strong contingent of 69 athletes, while other participating nations include the United States of America (20), Italy (10), Czechia (9), Islamic Republic of Iran (8), Croatia (7), Great Britain (6), United Arab Emirates (5), Slovakia (5), Qatar (4), Oman (4), Spain (8), Finland (3), Netherlands (3), Cyprus (3), New Zealand (2), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2), along with 40 Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN).

This will be the second and final World Cup for Juniors this year, following the first event hosted in Suhl, Germany, earlier this year in May, where India finished on top of the medals table with 11 medals, including 3 gold, 4 silver, and 4 bronze.

World Championship medal winning skaters felicitated by Sports Minister Mandaviya



New Delhi, Sept 24 (IANS) : Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, on Wednesday honoured India’s medal-winning team from the recently-concluded 73rd Inline Speed Skating World Championships 2025 held in Beidaihe, China, from September 13 to 21.

Marking a watershed moment for Indian skating, the national team achieved its best-ever performance, securing five medals (three gold, two bronze) and placing 5th among more than 40 nations.

A series of firsts marked this historic outing: India’s first senior medal at a Speed Skating World Championship, its first gold in the junior category, and

the highest medal tally India has ever achieved at the Worlds.

These historic medals at the World Championships show that our youth are conquering new frontiers, be it in mainstream or emerging sports. I w h o l e h e a r t e d l y congratulate our athletes, coaches, support staff, and the Roller-Skating Federation of India for bringing glory to Bharat with this remarkable performance,” Dr. Mandaviya said while felicitating the skaters.

At the championships, the 22-year-old Anandkumar Velkumar made history by becoming the first Indian to win a senior medal, claiming two gold medals. His first gold came in the 1000m sprint

event, while he secured his next in the 42,195 km marathon. Additionally, he added a bronze medal to his collection after finishing third in the 500m Sprint.

While 18-year-old Krish Sharma won India’s first-ever junior gold in the 1000m Sprint event, Anish Raj, 17, bagged a bronze in the Junior Men’s One Lap Sprint.

In all, 20 Indian athletes participated in the 73rd Inline Speed Skating World Championships 2025. The contingent included four senior men, four senior women, five junior men, and seven junior women competing in a championship with 42 events, covering both senior and junior categories, and featuring over 40 participating countries.

Madueke's injury to be determined: Arteta

London, Sept 24 (UNI) Arsenal winger Noni Madueke will undergo further scans to assess the knee injury he sustained in Sunday’s 1-1 draw with Manchester City, manager Mikel Arteta confirmed.

The 23-year-old England international, who joined Arsenal from Chelsea in the summer, was forced off at halftime and has already undergone initial tests. While the injury is considered serious, the club is relieved that it is not believed to be an anterior cruciate ligament problem.

"It looks like Noni is going to be out for a few weeks, but we don't really know yet, we will have to scan him next week again," Arteta said.

"He felt something at the beginning of the match and tried to carry on but it was too sore, so let's see," he added.

Madueke will miss Arsenal’s Carabao Cup tie against Port Vale on Wednesday, along with several key league and European fixtures. He has also been ruled out of England’s upcoming matches against Wales and Latvia, and remains a doubt for November’s World Cup qualifiers against Serbia and Albania.

If his recovery progresses as planned, Madueke could return for the north London derby against Tottenham on November 23, following Arsenal’s trip to Sunderland earlier that month.

3 Hero HIL 2026 Women’s Mini Auction: Agustina Gorzelany is most expensive player

New Delhi, Sept 24 (UNI) : The afternoon session of the Hero Hockey India League (HIL) 2026 Women’s Mini Auction saw four franchises battle it out for top names and emerging stars. With over 100 players in the pool, the auction witnessed tactical spending and smart squad-building.

With a salary cap of INR 2 Crores, the participating franchises — JSW Soorma Hockey Club, Ranchi Royals, SG Pipers, and Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers — built well-rounded squads featuring international stars alongside India’s brightest young talent.

Top Buys of the Women’s Auction - Agustina Gorzelany – signed by Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers for INR 42 Lakhs

- Granatto Maria Jose – signed by JSW Soorma Hockey Club for INR 34 Lakhs

- Valentina Raposo Ruiz de los Llanos – signed by Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers for INR 30 Lakhs

Highlights from the Women’s Auction: Monika (India

midfielder): Monika became the costliest Indian player of the auction, bought by Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers for INR 15 Lakhs after an intense bidding battle with Delhi SG Pipers.

?Agustina Gorzelany (Argentina defender): The standout signing of the day, Gorzelany commanded a staggering INR 42 Lakhs from Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers, following a fierce contest involving multiple franchises.

Maria José Granatto (Argentina forward): Another marquee Argentine star, Granatto was picked up by Delhi SG Pipers for INR 34 Lakhs, after overcoming competition from JSW Soorma Hockey Club and Ranchi Royals.

Udita (India defender): Last season’s costliest player in the women’s auction, Udita returned to Delhi SG Pipers, bought at her base price of INR 10 Lakhs.

Valentina Raposo Ruiz de los Llanos (Argentina defender): Emerged as one of the hottest properties in the pool, eventually signed by Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers for INR 30 Lakhs

after a multi-franchise bidding war.

Mahima Tete (India midfielder): The young midfielder will now team up with her sister Salima Tete at JSW Soorma Hockey Club, after being secured for her base price of INR 2 Lakhs.

Final squads of all women’s franchises:

JSW Soorma Hockey Club: Retained - Ajmina Kujur, Jyoti Chhatri (Jr Player - Traded from Ranchi Royals), Mumtaz Khan (Traded from SG Pipers), Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke (Jr Player), Hina Bano (Jr Player), Sonam (Jr Player), Penny Squibb (Overseas), Jimena Maria Cedres (Overseas), Olivia Shannon (Overseas), Savita, Nidhi, Baljeet Kaur, Jyoti, Nisha, Salima Tete.

New buys – Mahima Tete (INR 2 Lakh), Granatto Maria Jose (INR 34 Lakhs), Vilar Del Dupuy (INR 2 Lakh), Shihori Oikawa (INR 5 Lakh), Sarah Robertson (INR 10 Lakh).

Ranchi Royals: Retained - Nandini, Sakshi Rana (Jr Player), Kanika Siwach (Jr Player), Nikki Pradhan (Traded from JSW Soorma Hockey Club),

Deepika Soreng (Jr Player - Traded from JSW Soorma Hockey Club), Ishika Chaudhary, Neha Goyal, Rutaja Dadaso Pisal, Beauty DungDung (Traded from Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers), Sangita Kumari (Traded from SG Pipers), Jocelyn Bartram (Overseas), Claire Colwil (Overseas).

New buys – Lucina Von Der Heyde (INR 14 Lakhs), Agustina Albertarrio (INR 15 Lakhs), Agostina Alonso (INR 15 Lakhs), Lalhantluangi (INR 3.10 Lakh), Maria Paula Ortiz (INR 10 Lakhs), Annu (INR 2 Lakh), Valerie Magis (INR 5 Lakh), Bichu Devi (INR 9.8 Lakh)

SG Pipers: Retained - Shilpi Dabas (Traded from Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers), Sharmila Devi (Traded from JSW Soorma Hockey Club), Jyoti Singh (Jr Player), Manisha (Jr Player), Sunelita Toppo (Jr Player), Deepika (Jr Player), Bansari Solanki, Khaidem Shileima Chanu, Navneet Kaur, Ishika, Kaitlin Jaye Nobbs (Overseas – Traded from Ranchi Royals), Victoria Sauze (Overseas – Traded from Ranchi Royals).

New buys – Udita (INR 10 Lakhs), Thoudam Suman Devi (INR 5 Lakh), Cristina Cosentino (INR 5 Lakh), Costa Biondi Valentina Isabel (INR 10 Lakhs), Lola Riera Zuzuarregui (INR 21 Lakhs), Teresa Viana Ache (INR 11 Lakhs), Preeti Dubey (INR 2 Lakh), Juana Castellaro Morello (INR 12.50 Lakhs).

Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers*: Retained - Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Lalrinpuui Pachuav (Jr Player), Manisha Chauhan (Traded from SG Pipers), Jennifer Rizzo (Overseas), Mahima Choudhary, Vandana Katariya, Lalremsiami, Sonika (Traded from Ranchi Royals).

New buys – Monika (INR 15 Lakhs), Gurjit Kaur (INR 2 Lakh), Puja Sahoo (INR 2 Lakh), Agustina Gorzelany (INR 42 Lakhs), Valentina Raposo Ruiz de los Llanos (INR 30 Lakhs), Victoria Manuele (INR 2 Lakh), Emma Findlay (INR 5 Lakh), Puja Sahoo (INR 2 Lakh), Noor Orpa de Baat (INR 14 Lakhs), Sukhveer Kaur (INR 2 Lakh), Anjali Gautam (INR 2 Lakh), Sosha Carina Benninga (INR 5 Lakh).

CRS inspection of Donkinavalasa - Bobili Newly laid third line

(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, Sept 24 : Mr Brijesh Kumar Mishra, Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle conducted thorough inspection of the newly constructed electrified Third line of 12 kms between Donkinavalasa-Bobbili stations in connection with Rayagada-Vizianagaram Third line Project today (24.09.2025).
Shri Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair; Chief Administrative Officer/ Construction / Visakhapatnam Shri Ankush Gupta ; Chief Bridge Engineer Shri Ashok Kumar; Principal Executive Director, RVNL Shri SK Patro, Chief Electrical Engineer; Chief Signal Engineer, Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Construction, Deputy CRS officers and other officers from the Division accompanied Commissioner Railway



Safety during the inspection.
The newly laid section has been laid with 60kg rails, has major and minor bridges and curves which have been constructed to conform to 25T axle load. The inspection was completed successfully, speed trials were conducted successfully and authorizing received for taking up full-fledged commissioning. It is part of the doubling project of the Rayagada- Vizianagaram line. This was achieved after a lot of hard work done by Civil Engineering, Signal & Telecom and Electrical departments of Construction organisation in close coordination and operations and traffic planning by Waltair Division. As a part of this project, several traffic facilities in the section including new cross-overs laid at station yards, high level platforms, and bridges were also inspected today.

Odisha to Gujarat via Andhra Pradesh smoother and affordable : Amrit Bharat express Flagg off from Brahmapur to Surat : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, Sept 24 : Indian Railways is pleased to announce the services of Amrit Bharat express between Brahmapur and Surat (Udhna) connecting Odisha to Gujarat via Andhra Pradesh, linking multiple key districts across multiple states i.e Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. This new train services will boost the economical and industrial mobility by connecting mineral, textile and trade hubs, supporting business and workforce movement.
The inaugural train will be flagged off from Brahmapur railway station by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi,

through video conferencing from Jharsuguda on 27th September (Saturday, tentatively at 12:00 Hrs. The train will run via Vizianagaram – Rayagada- Titlagarh – Raipur – Nagpur – Bhusaval, connecting major towns and cities.
The Amrit Bharat train services will enhance the travel experience of passengers through modern LHB coaches, improved seating arrangements and modern onboard facilities. Further the train will enhance the travel convenience for passengers by reducing travel time and eliminating the need of change of multiple trains.

Inaugural train details: Train No. 09022 Brahmapur- Surat (Udhna) Amrit Bharat Express will depart from Brahmapur on Saturday, 27th September at 12:00 hrs and will reach Surat (Udhna) at 21:00 hrs on the next day.
The train will halt at major stations including Palasa, Srikakulam Road, Vizianagaram, Bobbili, Parvathipuram, Rayagada, Titlagarh, Raipur, Nagpur, Bhusaval and Nandurbar.
Other Stoppages (Both directions) : Srikakulam, Bobbili, Parvatipuram, Sungarpur road, Muniguda, Kesinga, Kantabanji, Khariar Road, Mahasamund, Lakholi, Durg, Gondia, Wardha, Badnera, Akola, Malkapur,

Jalgaon, Dharangaon, Amalner, Sindhkheda, Dondaicha, Navapur, Vyara and Bardoli.
Coach Composition: The train will consist of 22 coaches including General Second Class sitting- 11 coaches, Sleeper Class-08 coaches, Second class cum luggage van- 02 coaches and Pantry Car-01.
This inaugural run is a prelude to the introduction of regular Train No. 19021/ 19022 Udhna–Brahmapur–Udhna Amrit Bharat Express, details of which will be notified separately.
The introduction of the Amrit Bharat Express is not just about a new train, but about giving passengers a faster, safer, and more

affordable journey while strengthening the bridge of connectivity between Western and Eastern India. The Amrit Bharat Express is a significant step towards strengthening long-distance rail connectivity. With its modern design, affordable fares, and energy-efficient LHB coaches, this service will particularly benefit middle-class passengers who depend on economical travel while contributing to regional growth and people-centric development.
It reflects Indian Railways' commitment to modern, people-centric services that support both mobility and regional development.

Rahul makes a series of promises before Bihar assembly elections

Patna, Sept 24 (UNI) : In an attempt to woo Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) before upcoming Bihar assembly elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today made a series of promises including measures to be taken like protecting them from atrocities as done for SCs and STs by making legal provisions. Gandhi while addressing a function organised to mark release of "commitments to improve the condition of EBCs and

bring them in mainstream of the society", said that EBCs had not been given their due rights even after seven decades of Independence. His party and Grand Alliance in Bihar were committed to take steps to give EBCs their due rights, he added. "We, all constituents of Grand Alliance, promise that laws would be framed to protect EBCs from atrocities by framing laws as has been done for SCs and STs," Congress leader said

adding that 50 percent reservation would be given to EBCs, Backward Classes (BCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in government contracts of amount upto Rs 25 Crores in Bihar.
A high level body would be constituted to monitor whether reservation provisions made for SCs, STs, EBCs and BCs were being properly implemented or not, he added. "Reservation limit for EBCs in panchayats and

local bodies would be increased from 20 percent to 30 percent if Grand Alliance was voted to power in upcoming state assembly elections", Gandhi said adding that Nitish Kumar government, in last twenty years of regime, had done nothing for EBCs in Bihar. His party was committed to demolish the wall of 50 percent reservation limit to ensure its benefits to more people belonging to backward and deprived, he added.

"We forced Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take a decision to conduct national level caste census," Congress leader said adding that BJP government in Uttar Pradesh had banned holding caste based rallies and protest march, which reflected the mindset of saffron party. Congress and other partners of Grand Alliance in Bihar, would take all steps to ensure justice to every section of the society.

Central Railway Shines with Excellence in Sports, Culture, and Core Railway Functions

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Sept 24 : Central Railway has once again demonstrated its all-round excellence by achieving remarkable success in the fields of sports and culture, while maintaining the highest standards of performance in core railway parameters.
This multifaceted excellence has been recognized with the simultaneous achievement of three prestigious awards, the Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant Shield for overall efficiency, the Kaul



Gold Cup for the best-performing Zonal Railway in sports, and the recent addition of Inter Railway Cultural Competition Shield. By excelling across

all these domains, Central Railway has broken age-old barriers and showcased meticulous planning, talent cultivation, and execution

can lead to performance excellence across various pursuits. Central Railway continues to exemplify strength, grit, and resilience through the consistent performance across time and disciplines.
Shri Dharam Veer Meena, General Manager, Central Railway, proudly displayed all three awards, the Indian Railways - Cultural Competition Shield, the Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant Shield for overall efficiency, and the Kaul Gold Cup for being

the best performing zone in sports. The Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Shield, awarded for overall efficiency among all railway zones (jointly with North Eastern Railway), was received by Shri Dharam Veer Meena on 21st December 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
This recognized the meritorious performance of Central Railway across the core competencies like Traffic Operations, Construction and other disciplines.

Hafizpet Railway Station being Redeveloped with an Expenditure of Rs. 29.21 Crores under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, Sept 24 : With a vision to provide World-class facilities to the passengers, a major transformation is in progress for Indian Railways with up gradation of Railway stations on a massive scale under "Amrit Bharat Station Scheme" (ABSS). 40 Railway stations across the Telangana have been identified and are being redeveloped with an estimated cost of Rs 2,752 crores, to provide modern passenger amenities and convert them into growth centers to the regional population.
The mission got a major boost when the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for stations redevelopment in the state of Telangana during August, 2023 and February, 2024.

continuous basis with a long-term vision. The idea is based on implementation of various critical elements as per a master plan that caters to ever increasing needs and enhanced patronage of the Railway stations.
Hafizpet Amrit Railway station is one of the 40 Railway stations across the Telangana which is being redeveloped under ABSS.
It is categorised as Suburban Grade -3 (SG-3) and is one of the important suburban railway stations in the twin city region of Hyderabad & Secunderabad.
At present, the station is mainly catering the needs of suburban passengers and short distance trains. The average footfall of the station is around 9, 000 persons per day.
Around 60 MMTS trains and 8 express trains ply through this station.
The western parts of Hyderabad city is developing with fast pace in the recent times and as the Hafizpet station is located in west side and nearer to IT companies, the

station is gaining its importance day by day.
The estimated cost of redevelopment of Hafizpet station is Rs 29.21 crores.
Facilities planned under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme include
Improvements to the existing station building.
Circulating area development
Construction of 12 Meters wide FOB along with 2 lifts and 2 escalators
Additional Platform Shelter
Platform surfacing
Waiting hall renovation
Toilet Blocks
Present Status of the redevelopment works
Platform Shelter, circulating area and civil works of station building completed.
Improvements to station building along with waiting hall renovation in final stage.
Platform surfacing, 12 mts FOB with lifts and escalators in fast progress.
Signage boards, Toilet blocks, Façade lighting work in progress.
The works are in fast progress and are expected to be completed within a month or two months

National Workshop on Capacity Building for Working Urdu Journalists



(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, Sept 24 : The second day of the three-day national workshop "Capacity Building for Working Urdu Journalists" at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) witnessed thought-provoking technical sessions that explored diverse dimensions of journalism in the modern era. The event is being organized by the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), Ministry of Education, Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ), MANUU.
Mr. Sudhakar Reddy Udumula, Investigative Journalist and Editor, The Times of India, Hyderabad delivered talk on Fact Checking in the first session. He highlighted challenges such as misinformation, fake news, and deepfakes, and demonstrated AI-powered fact-checking tools like Google Lens, INVID, HIVE Moderation Detector, and Wayback Machine. Prof. Mohammad Fariyad, Dean and Head, Department of MCJ welcomed the guest.
Dr. Fazil Hussain Pervaz, Editor-in-Chief, Urdu Weekly Gawah, Hyderabad, spoke on the Prospects for Urdu Media in the second session of the workshop. He reflected on the growing digital

footprint of Urdu, the rise of online mushairas, the importance of comparative perspectives on education and development, and the role of technology in enriching Urdu journalism.
Mr. M.A. Majid, Senior Journalist from Hyderabad addressed the third session on the theme of Health, Education & Development Reporting in Urdu Media. He highlighted pressing issues such as Telangana's Rs. 11,000 crore health budget, disease outbreaks, mental health awareness, agriculture reporting, and affordable medicines.
In the fourth session, Mr. Asad Kamal Lari, former Editor of Jansandesh Times, Varanasi spoke on Ethics and Sensitivity in Reporting: Conflict, Crime & Community Issues. He emphasized the responsible use of words, conflict-sensitive reporting, and the impact of social media campaigns. Prof. Ehtesham Ahmad Khan, Professor, Dept. of MCJ presented a detailed lecture on Data Journalism in the concluding session. He explained how data visualization and storytelling tools can make news more accessible, credible, and impactful for audiences in today's digital ecosystem.
The research scholars of MCJ department - Nazakit Ali, Noushad, Nusrat Parveen, Shahwaz Khan and Shahid Paul moderated these sessions.