

IN BRIEF

PM Modi pays tributes to Dr Manmohan Singh on his birth anniversary

New Delhi, Sept 26 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid tributes to former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

In a post on social media platform X, Modi said, "Tributes to former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji on his birth anniversary. We recall his contributions to our nation during his long years in public life."

Dr Singh, who served as the 13th Prime Minister of India from 2004 to 2014, is widely regarded for his role in shaping India's economic reforms in the early 1990s and his tenure in public service spanning several decades.

Pondy Univ holds Natl seminar on Crystallography, Drug Design

Chennai, Sept 26 (UNI): The Department of Bioinformatics, Pondicherry University conducted a three-day National seminar on Crystallography and Drug Design and workshop on Bioinformatics, including R Language, Python programming, Molecular Modelling and Drug Design – NSC'52. Prof. Krishna, Head of the Department welcomed the dignitaries and the participants.

The event featured a line-up of distinguished scientists and academicians including Prof T.P. Singh, SERB distinguished Scientist, AIIMS, New Delhi, who delivered the plenary lecture, a PIB release said here today.

Prof S.M. Yusuf, who delivered the Chidambaram Memorial Lecture and was awarded for the same.

Prof S.C. Mande, former DG-CSIR, Prof. Rajnikant, University of Jammu, Dr D.Velmurugan, Member-Secretary of TANSCHIE who gave the scope of the seminar, Prof Joseph Selvin, Dean of the School of Life Sciences, and Prof Tharanikkarasu, Director who delivered the Presidential address and Vote of thanks. More than 300 participants from all over the country participated in the seminar cum workshop. The session concluded with insightful closing remarks by Dr M.Suresh Kumar.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks as he virtually launches Bihar's Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana via video conferencing from New Delhi on Friday.

MiG-21 legacy will inspire India's defence self-reliance: Rajnath Singh

Dharmsthala, Sept 26 (UNI) : Dr D Veerendra Heggade, Dharmadhikari of Dharmasthala, has spoken out amid the controversy surrounding alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala village, expressing gratitude to the Karnataka government for constituting a Special Investigation Team (SIT) and asserting that the investigation is uncovering the truth.

Addressing the public and media today, Heggade said, "Even now, I fail to understand why there is so much hatred directed at us. We are here only for the people."

He recalled the post-COVID period when he devoted time to reading numerous spiritual texts, including works by Siddaganga seers, emphasising that selfless service and adherence to dharma are the guiding principles of his work. "We

serve without expecting recognition. Service is not a tool for publicity. Our well-being over the years is the result of sincere, selfless work," he added.

Heggade highlighted the community support that has sustained him and his team despite ongoing criticism. "Whether in Dharmasthala or nearby villages, the dedication and love we received outweigh the baseless attacks. Our faith in truth remains unshaken," he said. He also stressed that any criticism must be constructive and rooted in goodwill, noting that personal attacks or malice are unwarranted.

On the SIT report, Heggade stated, "I speak confidently because the SIT report has brought half the truth to light. I am grateful to the government for its intervention. Our integrity remains intact, and we will continue our service

sincerely under the guidance of spiritual leaders like Manjunath Swamy and Annappa Swamy."

Emphasising the value of truth and transparency, Heggade said the allegations had caused distress but would not deter the Dharmasthala administration from continuing its charitable and religious activities. "We do not harbor animosity toward anyone. Our confidence comes from knowing we have done no wrong. We need support from our own people, not criticism from afar," he remarked. The controversy over alleged mass burials has drawn widespread attention, with strong opinions expressed both locally and nationally. While the SIT continues its investigation, Heggade's statement seeks to assure the public of Dharmasthala's commitment to service, honesty, and spiritual integrity.

Stalin thanks Telangana CM for attending TN Excels in Education event

Chennai, Sept 26 (UNI) : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M K Stalin today thanked his Telangana counterpart and senior Congress leader Revanth Reddy for taking part in Tamil Nadu Excels in Education event in the city last eventin.

The event was presided over by Mr Stalin and Mr Revanth was the Special Invitee and Chief Guest on the occasion.

The event was held to highlight the rapid strides made by TN and revolutionising the educational sector, and various schemes launched by the DMK's Dravidian Model governance that empowered students and youth.

In a post on X today, Mr Stalin wrote "Thank you, Hon'ble Thiru. @revanth_anumula garu, for joining the "Tamil Nadu Excels in Education" celebrations. Your announcement to take the CM Breakfast Scheme to Telangana from the next academic year made this occasion truly spectacular."

"By applauding our flagship schemes like Pudhumai Penn, Naan Mudhalvan, and Tamil Pudhalvan, you reaffirmed that Tamil Nadu's pioneering path in education is lighting the way for entire India", he said.

In his address, Mr Revanth Reddy said taking inspiration from TN, the Congress government in Telangana would implement the revolutionary CM's Breakfast scheme in his state from the next academic year.

Taking an inspiration from the Tamil Nadu's pioneering Chief Minister's Breakfast scheme for students of Classes 1 to 5, which has increased the enrollment rate in schools and prevented drop outs, Mr Revanth Reddy tonight said his government would replicate this scheme in his state from the next academic year.

Ladakh climate activist Sonam Wangchuk arrested two days after violent protests in Leh

Leh/Srinagar, Sep 26 (UNI) :Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was arrested by police today, two days after violent protests in Leh left four people dead and more than 50 others injured, sources said. Wangchuk, a Magsaysay Award winner, is accused of inciting the violence. He was scheduled to address a virtual press conference from Leh but was taken into custody shortly before it began. The Zoom meeting went live, but the activist never appeared.

The protests, organised to demand Sixth Schedule status and statehood for Ladakh, turned violent on Wednesday when demonstrators clashed with security forces. In the aftermath, Wangchuk ended his planned 35-day hunger strike on 15th day. The union Home Ministry accused him of instigating protesters through provocative speeches. A day later, it also revoked the Foreign Contribution Regulation

Act (FCRA) licence of the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), an institution founded by Wangchuk.

Since Wednesday police in Ladakh have intensified crackdown on anti-social elements with more than 50 people already detained. Investigators are also probing possible external involvement in the unrest, officials added. Wangchuk began his 35-day hunger strike on September 9, accusing the Centre of deliberately delaying dialogue with Ladakhi leaders. He recalled that the BJP, in its 2020 Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council manifesto, had promised Sixth Schedule protections for the region but has since avoided serious discussion on the matter. On September 20, the union Home Ministry announced that talks with Ladakhi leadership would resume and scheduled the next round for October 6.

India Ship Technology Centre to be set up at IMU campus Vizag

Chennai, Sept 26 (UNI) union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said an India Ship Technology Centre (ISTC) will be established at the Indian Maritime University (IMU) Campus at Vizag at a cost of Rs. 305 crore. It will be an agency responsible for the overall development of the capabilities of the Indian shipbuilding sector, he said, while delivering the Convocation address at the IMU here today. The ISTC will provide a common platform for the shipbuilding industry by providing access to common facilities, skilling of future personnel and providing a productive ecosystem for ship design, R and D, engineering capabilities etc, he added. "ISTC will be set up at the Visakhapatnam Campus of IMU which will be inaugurated today", Mr Sonowal said, adding, this marks a new chapter for our nation's Atmanirbharta in Ship Technology.

Students are navigators of future, India's rise this century closely linked to Oceans : Minister, Sonowal

Chennai, Sept 26 (UNI) Observing that students are the navigators of future, union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today said India's rise in this century was closely tied to the oceans.

Delivering the Convocation address at the Indian Maritime University (IMU) here, he told the graduands that "You are going to be the navigators of our future. We want to build a nation that is strong, prosperous, inclusive, and respected across the world." Stating that India's rise in this century is closely tied to the oceans, the Minister said from the oceans comes prosperity, from prosperity comes India's fulfilment. He said new Challenges are emerging each day, due to dynamic global geo-political situation, emergence of Artificial Intelligence, climate change, quantum jumps in

technology within a short span of time, etc.

"You must all face these challenges with determination and continue to up-skill yourself to adapt and emerge victorious in whatever challenging situation you find yourself", he added. Noting that for this, the maritime sector has a key role to play, he told the students to play their role with dedication. "Some of you will work on ships, some in ports, some in logistics, some in research. Wherever you go, carry the spirit of service to the nation." "Be ethical, be innovative, and be bold. The seas are vast and full of opportunities. Pointing out that the Maritime sector was witnessing the Golden era of resurgence driven by the path-breaking reforms initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the

Union Minister said Mr Modi has laid before you a vibrant Maritime Sector

packed with thousands of opportunities for professional growth and development and exhorted the students to take full advantage of these opportunities to learn and grow further. Mr Sonowal told the students that there were not just receiving their degrees today, but receiving a responsibility--the responsibility to serve the nation, to serve humanity, and to serve the seas.

Noting that the country's prosperity and security are linked to the seas, he said the students, who passed out today, would now be the custodians of this maritime future.

He said "For achieving the vision of making India a Vikasit Bharat, an Atmanirbhar Bharat, a 30 Trillion Dollar economy, we need to become a Vikasit Atmanirbhar Maritime Nation also by 2047... For those who rule the Seas, rules the World."



UN chief urges funding, political support for UNRWA

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday urged funding and political support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). "I appeal to you today to provide the funding and political support UNRWA needs to help build peace and stability -- for Palestinians, for Israel and for the region," Guterres said at a ministerial meeting in support of UNRWA. In his remarks, the UN chief said generations of Palestine refugees have counted on UNRWA for education,

(See on page 2)

India emerges as global leader in leveraging technology



Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai today said India has emerged as a global leader in leveraging technology for disaster response and management. Speaking at the 21st Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) here Rai stressed that the government was consistently working towards the ambitious goal of achieving zero casualty from disasters, an official statement said.

(See on page 2)

Delhi CM launches important power projects in North-West



Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today launched three major projects in the national capital that will benefit residents of areas like Narela, Rithala, and Mubarakpur Dabas, which are also part of the capital's rural belt.

(See on page 4)

Bangladeshi Jamal Hossain wins Telangana Golconda



Jamal Hossain from Bangladesh was declared the winner of the INR 1 crore NSL Luxe presents Telangana Golconda Masters 2025 after heavy rain forced abandonment of the final round at the Hyderabad Golf Association (HGA) on Friday.

(See on page 7)

Compensate to fishermen as per Mumbai Municipal Corporation norms : Mumbai Suburban Guardian Minister Adv. Ashish Shelar



(By Rajesh undi)
Mumbai, Sept 27 : While providing compensation to fishermen who suffer losses due to Coastal Road and Sea Bridge, Mumbai Suburban Guardian Minister Adv. Ashish Shelar instructed here today that compensation should be provided as per

Mumbai Municipal Corporation norms. Due to Bandra Versova Sea Bridge, fishing of fishermen in Khar Danda Koliwada area will be affected. Therefore, they will be compensated by the government, but there is a difference between the norms of Mumbai

Municipal Corporation and the norms of the government. Minister Ashish Shelar instructed that the government should accept the same norms prepared by Mumbai Municipal Corporation for the section of Coastal Road built by Mumbai Municipal Corporation and provide

compensation as per these norms from Khar Danda to Versova to Bhayander, where the Coastal Road goes. While the compensation for damage is less as per the government norms, the fishermen affected by the Worli Sagar Bridge received compensation as per the norms of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation. Due to this, the fishermen had objected to this and complained to the Suburban Guardian Minister Ashish Shelar. Today, Minister Ashish Shelar held a joint meeting of the Mumbai Maritime Board, MSRDC, MMRDA and Mumbai Municipal Corporation and instructed the officials to amend the government ordinance by including the norms of the Municipal Corporation in this meeting.

More than 50 surgeons, lecturers, and deans of municipal medical colleges set to retire by September, 30 should be given an extension

BJP MLA Mihir Kotecha and former BJP group leader Prabhakar Shinde urge BMC chief Bhushan Gagrani

(By Rajesh undi)
Mumbai, Sept 27 : More than 50 key positions — including deans, surgeons, and senior medical professors — across four medical colleges and one dental college under the jurisdiction of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) are set to fall vacant by the end of September. In order to prevent disruption in patient care services, these

senior officials should be granted an extension, demanded Mulund MLA Mihir Kotecha and former BJP group leader in the BMC, Prabhakar Shinde. MLA Kotecha and Shinde met with Municipal Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani today to discuss the issue. BMC Chief Bhsuhan Gagrani responded positively to their request and assured them that appropriate

action would be taken, according to the BJP leaders. “If the senior medical officers retiring at the end of September are not granted an extension, surgical services in hospitals will be severely affected, medical education will suffer, and hospital administration may collapse. Therefore, it is imperative to extend their

service,” said MLA Mihir Kotecha and Prabhakar Shinde. They also pointed out that the recruitment process for new appointments has not yet begun. “Since the recruitment process has not been initiated, it is essential to retain the current officers until the vacant posts are filled. Otherwise, patients may be left in the lurch,” added Kotecha and Shinde.

India emerges as global leader in leveraging technology for disaster management: Nityanand Rai

New Delhi, Sept 26 (UNI) : Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai today said India has emerged as a global leader in leveraging technology for disaster response and management. Speaking at the 21st Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) here Rai stressed that the government was consistently working towards the ambitious goal of achieving zero casualty from disasters, an official statement said. He also highlighted the importance of delivering early warning to the last mile. He mentioned about the Vision for a Resilient 21st Century India, emphasising that the “approach is not merely about surviving disasters, but about understanding them, learning from them and transforming these challenges into opportunities for building resilience”. Disasters should not be feared or avoided, but rather studied, understood and used as catalysts for preparedness, innovation and long-term development, Rai added. About the Prime Minister’ visionary 10-point agenda for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) which was introduced in 2016, he said this forward-looking agenda continues to serve as a guiding principle not only for India but at a global level towards building disaster-resilient communities. “By integrating this agenda into our national disaster management strategies, India has achieved significant progress on multiple fronts,”

he added. The Minister informed that at present, the country has over one lakh trained Aapda Mitras (Disaster Volunteers), of which 20 percent are women, proudly referred to as Aapda Sakhis. Under the Youth Aapda Mitra Scheme, an additional 2.5 lakh young volunteers from premier national institutions such as the NCC, NSS, Nehru Yuva Kendra and the Bharat Scouts and Guides are being trained. The Minister also released a series of key knowledge products, guidelines and reports designed to strengthen disaster preparedness and mitigation across the country. Meanwhile, Member and HoD, Rajendra Singh said, “Technology is our shield, but a disaster-resilient India will not be built by technology alone, it will be achieved through community participation, capacity building and our collective unity and sensitivity. Emerging technologies such as AI, Big Data and digital platforms are enabling disaster management to become more precise, faster and more effective. NDMA’s goal is to ensure timely warnings reach to every citizen and every community is empowered to deal effectively with disasters.” The technical session held during the event brought together domain experts, policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders who deliberated on the role of innovation and digital systems in enhancing disaster resilience and community safety.

NIA chargesheets 7th accused in PLFI case

New Delhi, Sep 26 (UNI) The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has charge sheeted one more accused in a People’s Liberation Front of India (PLFI) terror conspiracy and extortion case aimed at reviving and strengthening the terrorist group in Jharkhand and neighbouring states. Krishna Yadav alias Krishna Mahto alias Sultan of Ranchi district of Jharkhand is the seventh accused to be charge

sheeted in the case. In the third supplementary chargesheet filed today before the NIA Special Court in Ranchi, he has been charged under various sections of IPC and UA(P) Act. NIA, which had registered the case Suo moto in October 2023, found during investigation that Krishna had conspired with other cadres/members of PLFI, a terrorist gang and an unlawful association, to strengthen PLFI. The

organisation is engaged in waging war against the Government of India and devising ways to boost extortion of levy from coal traders, transporters, railway contractors, businessmen etc in Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. The PLFI members had also conspired to commit various terrorist activities, including murders, arson, and violent attacks, to create terror among the

public, especially businessmen and contractors. Earlier, in 2024, NIA had filed three chargesheets, including two supplementary chargesheets, against accused Nivesh Kumar alias Nivesh Poddar, Raman Kumar Sonu alias Sonu Pandit, Kapil Pathak, Binod Munda, Nilamber Gope alias Delga alias Dikal and Shiv Kumar Sahu alias Charku under various sections of IPC, Arms Act and UA(P) Act.

Empowerment Office for the Disabled in Thane District

(By Rajesh undi)
Zilla Parishad, Thane, Sept 26 : The District Disabled Empowerment Office has been started in Thane district to ensure that the disabled in Thane district get the benefits of government schemes, facilities and services in a more convenient and effective manner. This office has been operational from September 01, 2025, on the ground floor of the main building of the Zilla Parishad, Swearfit Home, Opposite GST Bhavan, Wagle Estate Road No. 22, Thane Through this office, information about various government schemes, application process, necessary guidance to get benefits and assistance for problem solving will be provided to the disabled. The main objective behind the establishment of this office is to enable the disabled citizens of the district to take proper advantage of the welfare initiatives of the government. District Divyang Empowerment Officer Ujjwala Sapkale said, "This office will play an important role in achieving social, educational and economic empowerment of the Divyang brothers. Therefore, all Divyang citizens should contact this office and benefit from it."

Cong slams BJP & media for 'misrepresenting Ladakh councillor', threatens legal action

New Delhi, Sept 26 (UNI) The Congress today warned that it will initiate legal and criminal proceedings against BJP leaders, television anchors and social media influencers for allegedly spreading misinformation ?about one of its elected councillors from Ladakh. In a post on X, senior Congress leader Pawan Kherra condemned what he termed a deliberate attempt to misrepresent an individual as Phuntsog Stanzin Tsepag, a sitting Congress councillor. “Several leaders of the BJP and some anchors/social media influencers have been showing a picture and footage of someone, and misrepresenting him as the elected councillor of Congress - Phuntsog Stanzin Tsepag,” Kherra said. Warning of criminal proceedings against those allegedly involved in defaming the Congress, Kherra said, “We are proceeding with legal recourse and criminal proceedings against all those who have not just attempted to defame our party but have also tried to cause social unrest to fuel further dissensions”. Accusing the BJP of exploiting the public sentiment in Ladakh for political gain, Kharge alleged, “Instead of sensitively engaging with the betrayed people of Ladakh, the BJP and their media/social media minions are engaging in their usual mudslinging and looking for an opportunity to milk the outrage of Ladakh and settle scores with political opponents”.

IMD issues Orange alert for heavy rain in Mumbai

Mumbai, Sept 26 (UNI) : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for Mumbai, forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall from September 27 onwards, with conditions expected to intensify through September 28 and 29. Meteorological experts predict extremely heavy precipitation of 300-400 millimetres over this weekend, which may impact festive celebrations across the city. According to IMD forecasts, Mumbai will experience peak rainfall intensity starting September 27, as a well-marked low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal strengthens into a depression and crosses the South Odisha-North Andhra Pradesh coasts around the morning of September 27. This weather system is expected to bring widespread rainfall activity, including heavy to very heavy rainfall at several locations, with isolated extremely heavy rainfall likely over Konkan and adjoining ghat areas. The Meteorological Department has specifically warned that Mumbai, along with neighbouring districts Thane and Raigad, will witness intense rainfall during the weekend of September 27 and 28. The orange alert indicates the probability of heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places, which may lead to waterlogging, traffic disruptions, and local train delays. Weather forecaster Rushikesh Agre cautioned that extremely heavy rains are expected over Mumbai

starting September 27-28, with many weather models predicting substantial precipitation during September 27-29 due to a southward shift in the low-pressure system’s trajectory. Mumbai has already been experiencing moderate rainfall preceding this weather system. The IMD’s Colaba observatory recorded 28 millimetres of rainfall, while Santacruz measured 17 millimetres in the 24 hours ending September 23. Seasonal totals now stand at 1,959 millimetres in Colaba and 2,920 millimetres in Santacruz. The Santacruz observatory has already recorded nearly 400 millimetres of rainfall in September, significantly exceeding the monthly average of 383.5 millimetres, with over a week remaining in the month. The weather warning extends beyond the weekend, with meteorologists predicting continued rainfall across Mumbai through September 30. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds reaching speeds of 30-40 kilometres per hour are also likely at isolated places over Konkan during this period. Authorities have advised commuters to carry rain protection, as intermittent showers may disrupt movement across the city. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation reported that water levels in the seven reservoirs supplying Mumbai have reached 99.14 per cent of their total capacity,

ensuring adequate water supply during the rainy period. The weather system has prompted precautionary measures, including the postponement of the Navi Mumbai International Airport inauguration from September 30 to October 30, and the delay of the Mumbai Metro 3 project inauguration to October. The IMD warned of potential impacts including localized inundation and flooding of low-lying urban areas, possible uprooting of weak trees, collapse of old structures, disruption to road, rail, air, and ferry transport, and local disruption of municipal services. Rough sea conditions along the coast and squally weather are expected over coastal districts of Konkan. High tide conditions may compound the rainfall impact, with the city witnessing a high tide of 4.09 metres on September 26. Citizens are advised to check traffic conditions before travelling, follow traffic advisories, avoid vulnerable structures, and refrain from working in open areas during thunderstorms. People are also cautioned against taking shelter under tall trees and structures during thunderstorms and are recommended to unplug electrical appliances during lightning activity. This weather development comes as Mumbai prepares for the festive weekend, with heavy rainfall likely to affect outdoor celebrations and travel plans across the city and suburbs during September 27-29.

Centre releases Rs 540 cr under PM-KISAN for flood-hit farmers in HP, Punjab and Uttarakhand

New Delhi, Sept 26 (UNI) : In a major relief for farmers affected by recent floods and landslides, union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has released the 21st instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme, disbursing over Rs 540 crore to more than 27 lakh farmers in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Uttarakhand via video conferencing. According to officials, the three northern states have witnessed widespread crop damage and loss of livelihood due to heavy rains and natural calamities over the past few weeks. The financial aid, provided under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, aims to provide immediate support as farmers prepare

for the next sowing season. As part of the latest tranche, each eligible farmer received Rs 2,000 directly in their bank accounts, including nearly 2.7 lakh women beneficiaries, the officials said. The union Minister assured farmers that the government “stands firmly with them in times of distress” and emphasized that this instalment is not just financial support, but a message of solidarity from the Centre. “This assistance will help farmers meet urgent needs like household expenses, seeds, and fertilizers. More importantly, it restores their confidence to return to the fields,” said Chouhan during the virtual release. Since the launch of the PM-KISAN scheme in

February 2019, cumulative financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Uttarakhand has crossed Rs 13,600 crore. In the 21st instalment alone, over Rs 540 crore was disbursed to more than 27 lakh farmers across the three flood-affected states. Punjab received Rs 221.98 crore for 11.09 lakh farmers, bringing its total assistance under the scheme to Rs 6,553 crore. Himachal Pradesh saw Rs 160.21 crore transferred to 8.01 lakh beneficiaries, taking its cumulative total to Rs 3,631 crore. Meanwhile, Uttarakhand received Rs 157.83 crore for 7.89 lakh farmers, pushing its overall disbursement under PM-KISAN to Rs 3,442 crore, said the officials.

Expect a smooth and peaceful democratic transition in Bangladesh: India

New Delhi, Sept 26 (UNI) India today said that it expects a smooth and peaceful democratic transition in Bangladesh through free, fair, credible and inclusive elections in the country. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, said this during a briefing today. The spokesperson declined to comment about victory of the Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing, Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), in the Dhaka University Students union elections for the first time in Bangladesh’s history.

“On the parliamentary elections scheduled to be held in February next year, we have repeatedly underlined our expectation of a smooth and peaceful democratic transition through free, fair, credible and inclusive elections in the country in Bangladesh.” On India sheltering former Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, whose extradition has been sought by Dhaka, the MEA spokesperson declined to say anything. India has chosen not to respond to Bangladesh’s request for her extradition.

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“Don’t Miss a Beat” in protecting India’s heart health : Apollo's World Heart Day msge

Chennai, Sept 26 (UNI) : On World Heart Day 2025, Apollo Hospitals today appealed to every Indian to “not miss a beat” and make heart-healthy living a daily discipline. In his message, Hospitals Group Chairman Dr Prathap C Reddy siad cardiovascular disease continues to claim millions of lives each year, yet most of these losses are preventable through timely detection, treatment, and lifestyle changes.

With the theme “Don’t Miss a Beat”, Apollo is calling on individuals, families, workplaces, and communities to embrace prevention-first healthcare, close care gaps and ensure timely screening across every age group.Findings from Apollo’s Health of the Nation 2025 study underscores this urgency. Silent risks are widespread artery calcification, fatty liver, and sleep apnea are being detected even in those without symptoms.

Post-menopausal women face higher cardiovascular risk and need tailored screening. Vitamin D and B12 deficiencies and anemia reduce energy levels, making regular exercise harder to sustain, he said.

Alarminglly, inactivity among teenagers is leading to poor flexibility, strength, and balance before the age of 25, setting the stage for future heart disease, Dr Reddy said.

Regional trends across Apollo’s network reflect the challenge--in Delhi-NCR, hypertension prevalence continues to rise, with fatty

liver seen in 65% of those screened; in Mumbai, 46% of asymptomatic individuals had coronary calcium; 25% already had obstructive CAD and 2.5% were under 40; in Chennai, 29% were diabetic and 37% pre-diabetic; in Bengaluru, early-age hypertension and dyslipidemia are driven by sedentary indoor work hours; in Hyderabad, over 80% of individuals with fatty liver were diabetic, and three-fourths of hypertensive had fatty liver; in Kolkata, hypertension and diabetes co-exist with hidden anemia and micronutrient deficiencies and in Lucknow, risks begin early, with 28% of college students’ overweight and 19% pre-hypertensive.

As India’s pioneer in comprehensive cardiac care since 1983, Apollo Hospitals has consistently set benchmarks in outcomes and innovation. With over three lakh heart surgeries at a 99.6% success rate, more than 500 robotic cardiac procedures, 500 TAVI interventions, and a team of over 375 cardiologists, Apollo continues to lead India’s fight against heart disease.

Dr. Reddy said ‘Don’t Miss a Beat’ is a call to every Indian household to know your blood pressure and your numbers, sleep well, be active, and seek timely medical advice. As a pioneer in cardiac care, Apollo brings trusted clinicians and advanced, data-led tools together so that risk is found early and treatment is precise.”

Lapses in food safety can trigger global crises, warns JP Nadda

New Delhi, Sept 26 (UNI) : Any lapse in food safety can lead to serious public health crises, disrupt trade, and damage the reputations of businesses and nations alike. Therefore, food safety is not just about compliance, but about building trust in the global food systems, union Minister of Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda said today.He was speaking at the third Global Food Regulator Summit organised by the Food Safety and Standards of India (FSSAI) in the national capital.Highlighting the crucial role played by FSSAI in developing global food safety standards, such as the initiation of rapid testing kits and mobile labs for testing, he said the summit will showcase India’s commitment to global food safety, enhance global cooperation to ensure that the food systems are safe, resilient, and inclusive.

“FSSAI has emerged as a global leader in food safety and standards, playing a pivotal role on the international stage through the Codex Alimentarius Commission. India, through FSSAI, hosts the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs, and has developed 14 global standards and serves as the regional coordinator for Asia, promoting street food safety and regional cooperation,” the union Minister said.“India has secured critical Codex support for standards related to millets, cashew, and advanced supplement and functional food standards,” Nadda added.

Madras HC orders Sony Music to share daily revenue from Ilaiyaraaja songs

Chennai, Sept 26 (UNI) : Madras High Court today directed Sony Music Entertainment to furnish details of the revenue generated on a day-to-day basis by broadcasting and telecasting songs composed by maestro Ilaiyaraaja, in the case pertaining to protection of creative autonomy and copyright for his works.

Justice N. Senthilkumar gave the interim direction on a petition filed by Ilaiyaraaja, seeking to declare that Sony had no rights, title, or interest in his works and also to restrain the firm from telecasting/ broadcasting his works.

The judge made it clear that full details of revenue

generation by the company were necessary to decide the matter and ordered production of day-to-day earnings from telecasting/ broadcasting songs of the maestro till October 22.

Further hearing in the case was posted to that date.

The judge also observed the primary issue of whether the producers had entered into an agreement with Ilaiyaraaja and were made parties to the earlier proceedings when a single judge had prevented monetisation of Ilaiyaraaja’s film scores.

During a previous hearing, it was said that the ultimate sufferers in this dispute were music lovers.

In his petition, the legendary composer submitted that in his long career, he had scored 7,500 songs and consistently maintained and exercised his authorship and ownership, besides retaining absolute rights and titles, including moral rights over his original compositions and related sound recordings.

He further submitted that his works were not created at an instance, direction, or under the control of any producer, as they emerge from his complete creative autonomy, save for some inputs from the director.

Hence, he sought a declaration that his musical

works were his independent creations, which are distinct and separate, vested exclusively with him as the original author under the copyright legal framework.

Not only is he the first owner, but also the continuing copyright holder, the petition read.

The plea also sought to declare that Sony had no such rights, title, or interest in his musical works.

His counsel told the court that the company was taking his music and distorting it by introducing beats and remixing them.

Under the Copyright Act, even after assignment, the composer could claim damages for mutilation and

other modifications prejudicial to his reputation.

Countering this, the counsel for Sony argued that prior to the 2012 amendment to the Copyright Act, the producer who engaged a music director became the owner after paying remuneration to the composer.

It was submitted that since Echo Recording, which originally purchased the rights for 118 movies, had sold them to Sony, Ilaiyaraaja could not claim with respect to those works.

Further, he contended that the author could claim damages only when the modification affected his reputation.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah after offering prayers at the Kalighat Kali Temple, in Kolkata. Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari and State BJP President Samik Bhattacharya, extreme right, are also seen.

Early administration of BCG, Oral Polio Vaccines for Low Birth Weight babies reduces death risks

Chennai, Sept 26 (UNI) : Early administration of BCG and Oral Polio vaccines for Low Birth Weight babies--weighing less than 2,000 gms--reduces the risk of deaths, according to a study by IndianResearchers which was published in British Medical Journal.

JIPMER, Pondicherry, in collaboration with ICH and IOG, Chennai, provided breakthrough evidence through its study, recently published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ).

The study tested whether giving the Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccine (Danish strain) along with Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) within the first 48 hours of life could save newborn lives--particularly those weighing less than 2000 grams.

India continues to face a high neonatal mortality rate, with 24.9 deaths per 1,000 live births--a figure much higher than that of developed countries.

The leading causes of newborn deaths are prematurity (birth before 37 weeks of pregnancy), sepsis (serious infections),

and birth asphyxia (difficulty breathing at birth). Because the immune system of newborns--especially those who are premature or underweight--is not fully developed, they are more vulnerable to infections and these infections can often be fatal.The rising problem of antimicrobial resistance further complicates treatment and prevention. Traditionally, BCG is given at birth to protect against severe forms of tuberculosis. However, many small or sick newborns receive it late--only at the time of hospital discharge.

This trial showed that when BCG and OPV were given immediately after birth rather than delayed, neonatal mortality was reduced by 17% overall and nearly halved in cases of death due to infection. Importantly, one in every 21 babies vaccinated early survived who otherwise might not have, the study said.This trial is among the largest of its kind, involving 5,420 babies, and provides robust scientific evidence that BCG has benefits

beyond tuberculosis--it boosts the newborn’s immune system to fight off life-threatening infections during the most vulnerable early weeks of life.

Experts believe these findings could have a significant impact on national and global vaccine policies, emphasizing the need for timely administration of BCG in all newborns, even those who are very small or sick.

Opening a vial of BCG even for a single infant, rather than waiting for multiple babies, could help save thousands of lives in high-mortality settings like India, the study said.

In short the study revealed that early BCG OPV within 48 hours of birth reduced deaths in fragile, low-birth-weight babies and protection was strongest against infection-related deaths.

CCRS signs MoU with Dravidian Univ of AP to strengthen Siddha research

Chennai, Sept 26 (UNI) : The Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS), union Ministry of Ayush, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dravidian University located at Kuppam in, Andhra Pradesh.

This collaboration aims to strengthen academic and research partnerships in Siddha medicine and allied disciplines, a PIB release here said. Prof. Dr. N.J. Muthukumar, Director General, CCRS, and Prof. Dr. Kiran Kumar, Registrar, Dravidian University, formally signed the MoU, marking a significant milestone in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration for mutually fruitful outcomes.The signing of the MoU was graced by senior officials, CCRS delegation and faculty members of the Dravidian University.The key focus areas of the MoU include translation of Siddha literature into Dravidian and foreign languages, training in manuscriptology, Tamil linguistics research and documentation of tribal and folklore medicine and establishment of a Research Centre within the University campus.

Madras HC directs Sony Music Entertainment to furnish day-to-day revenue generated by Ilaiyaraaja songs

Chennai, Sept 26 (UNI) : The Madras High Court today directed Sony Music Entertainment to furnish details of the revenue generated on a day-to-day basis by broadcasting and telecasting songs composed by music maestro Ilaiyaraaja, in the case pertaining to protection of creative autonomy and copyright for his works.

Justice N Senthilkumar gave the interim direction on a petition filed by Ilaiyaraaja, seeking to declare that Sony had no rights, title or interest in his works and also to restrain the firm from telecast/ broadcast of his works.

The judge made it clear that full details of revenue generation by the company was necessary to decide

the matter and ordered production of day-to-day earnings by telecasting/ broadcasting songs of the maestro till October 22. Further hearing in the case was posted to that date.

The Judge also observed the primary issue of whether the producers had entered into an agreement with Ilaiyaraaja and were made parties to the earlier proceedings when a single Judge prevented monetisation of Ilaiyaraaja’s film scores. During a previous hearing, had said that the ultimate sufferers in this dispute were music lovers.

In his petition, the legendary composer submitted that in his long career, he had scored 7,500 songs and consistently maintained and exercised

his authorship and ownership besides retaining absolute rights and titles, including moral rights over his original composition and related sound recordings. He further submitted that his works were not created at an instance, direction or under the control of any producer as they emerge from his complete creative autonomy save some inputs from the director.

Hence, he sought a declaration that his musical works were his independent creations, which are distinct and separate, vested exclusively with him as the original author, under copyright legal framework. Not only is he the first owner, but also the continuing copyright holder, the petition read.

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STANDARD POST

IAEA chief: India-Pak Nuclear war ‘Unthinkable’

A nuclear war between India and Pakistan is unthinkable and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) does not carry out inspections of nuclear facilities in countries that have not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), said Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the UN nuclear watchdog.

Speaking to a group of visiting foreign journalists, he also said the safety regulations of the existing nuclear power plants will be applicable for the small modular reactors (SMR).

Queried about the leaders of Pakistan threatening that they would press the nuclear button against India if warranted and the IAEA's reaction to that, Grossi said: "A nuclear between India and Pakistan is unthinkable."

Grossi also said IAEA does not inspect the nuclear sites of countries that are not signatories to NPT.

Pakistan is not a signatory to the NPT. In May 2025, days after the India-Pakistan ceasefire, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had called for the IAEA to take charge of Pakistan's nuclear weapons,

"That is the reason for IAEA not inspecting the sites in Israel while it inspects the nuclear facilities in Iran. IAEA is not partial," Grossi said.

He said IAEA is not a global nuclear policeman and it has its power only under the NPT.

"We are saying all the countries should be a party to the NPT," Grossi added.According to him, Iran has said it would limit its interactions with IAEA if the US imposes sanctions on it.Grossi said there is increased tension in the world as there is war in the Middle East and also tensions in the Asia Pacific region."We live in a world where conflicts are incrasing. Many countries have nuclear weapons. People are worried about a nuclear war. IAEA has a chance to talk to the leaders of countries," he said.

Grossi refuted the notion that IAEA is biased towards the US. The organisation's largest funders are the US and China and not the members of NATO.According to him, there are thousands of nuclear weapons in the world and at first there should be a stability before looking at reduction. Pointing out the development of different kinds of SMRs and whether new safety regulations have to be drafted for the small reactors Grossi said the existing regulations for the bigger reactors would equally apply for the smaller ones. He said the safety regulations are being reviewed and updated.

Prostate cancer in younger men: Dr Rajesh Kumar Reddy Adapala, Uro Oncologist, Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology

(Standard Post Bureau)
September is the month of Prostate Cancer Awareness. Which is one of the most commonly detected cancers in men. It's time to bring prostate cancer into the spotlight and spread knowledge in terms of early detection and treatment.

Prostate gland is a part of the genitourinary system. Located below the urinary bladder and surround the urethra. It is about the size of a walnut but it grows with age. Apart from age related prostate enlargement, few patients can have disordered, uncontrolled and abnormal proliferation of prostate tissue to form tumors. This happens due to some kind of mutations in the cells.This is called prostate cancer. Dr Rajesh Kumar Reddy Adapala, Uro Oncologist at Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology (AINU) responded to some of the questions.

1. How common is prostate cancer in young men?

Prostate cancer is primarily a disease of the elderly with more than three quarter of the cases occurring in men above 65 years of age. It is relatively less common in young men under 50 years, accounting for about 2–10% of all prostate cancer cases. Incidence is raising though. However, when it does occur at a younger age, it's usually more aggressive. Hence awareness and timely detection is the need of the hour.

2. What are important risk factors for prostate

cancer?

Age: As already discussed, Age itself is biggest risk factor for prostate cancer Since the chances of developing prostate cancer increase steadily with advancing years.

2. Genetic predisposition: Certain genetic mutations acan increase the risk of prostate cancer

3. Family history have two- to three-fold increase in the risk of prostate cancer, especially if genetic mutations are involved

4. Race and ethnicity: African-Americans are more predisposed to get prostate cancer when compared with other ethnicities.

5. Metabolic syndrome: It is the combination of Obesity, high sugar levels, high blood pressure and excess cholesterol.

3. Are there specific causes of prostate cancer at a young age?

There are certain risk factors for prostate cancer in youngsters in specific. Genetic causes are usually the primary reason. Mutations in genes such as BRCA1, BRCA2, HOXB13, and ATM significantly increase the risk of developing prostate cancer at a younger age. Inherited cancer syndromes like Lynch syndrome can also contribute. If family history and genetic mutations are involved, risk increases further. Apart from genetic and hereditary factors, Lifestyle issues like obesity, sedentary lifestyle and unhealthy diet may accelerate onset in men who are genetically



predisposed.

4. How does family history of prostate cancer raise risk?

Having a close relative with prostate cancer significantly raises one's risk. For example, a man with a father or brother who had prostate cancer is about twice as likely to develop it himself. The risk increases even more when multiple close relatives are affected, sometimes by as much as four to five times. Family history is also linked with earlier onset and more aggressive forms of the disease.

5. What is the role of genetics in prostate cancer?
Genetics plays a central role in prostate cancer, especially in early-onset cases. Mutations such as BRCA2 not only raise the risk of developing prostate cancer but are also associated with more

aggressive disease. Other mutations like BRCA1, HOXB13, and mismatch repair genes found in Lynch syndrome also contribute. Men from families with multiple cases of prostate, breast, ovarian, or pancreatic cancer are advised to consider genetic counseling and testing.

Among the genetic factors BRCA2 mutations and lynch syndrome greatly increase the risk of prostate cancer, often at a younger age and with aggressive features. BRCA2 mutations also raise the risk of male breast cancer, pancreatic cancer, and melanoma, and in women, breast and ovarian cancers.

Lynch syndrome, caused by mismatch repair gene defects, elevates the risk of prostate cancer as well as colorectal, endometrial, ovarian, gastric, and urinary tract

cancers.

6. What tests help detect prostate cancer in the early stage?

As per the recommendations, men should get prostate cancer screening done at the age of 50 years and older. If there is a positive family history, screening is recommended a bit earlier i.e from the age of 45 years. Once your Urologist suspects prostate cancer, he will ask for MRI test to see the exact location of the tumour, any local invasion to surrounding area and to assess the operability. This is followed by prostate biopsy. The lesion is exactly targeted and biopsied with the help of TRUS, i.e a specialized ultrasound probe which is inserted into the rectum. Once cancer is confirmed by biopsy, further metastatic work-up is done by PSMA (Prostate specific Membrane Antigen) PET CT scan to look for spread of cancer to any other distant organs.

7. Can early-onset prostate cancer be prevented or detected early?

There is no guaranteed way to prevent prostate cancer, but lifestyle choices such as eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly, maintaining a healthy weight, and avoiding smoking may reduce risk. Routine PSA screening for all young men is not recommended. However, men in high-risk groups, such as those with a strong family history, known genetic mutations, or African ancestry, should consider starting PSA screening earlier, around

age 40–45. Combining PSA with MRI and genetic testing improves early detection in these men.

We come across different sets of people.

A 46 years man presented to us with borderline PSA elevation during his health check. Biopsy showed only one small focus of tumour of very low grade. We actually kept that patient under surveillance with periodic PSA checks, to avoid / postpone treatment related side effects and better quality of life. Since the tumor is at very low risk, the chances of progression is also negligible. This is called active surveillancde.

Another patient got PSA check-up at the age of 45 years, as his father also had same cancer. His disease was in first stage but the grade was aggressive type. Hence we did Robotic radical prostatectomy, i.e surgical removal of cancerous prostate with robotic assistance. The robot provides 3D vision and flexible movements of robotic instruments. This facilitates better surgical dissection with excellent precision. Small nerve fibers around the prostate which are responsible for urine control and potency, can be preserved during the procedure. We usually call as nerve sparing prostatectomy.

We also treated one 43 years male with locally advanced prostate cancer with spread to lymph nodes in pelvis and abdomen. This was not amenable for surgery. Hence patient was offered hormone therapy followed by radiation.

T-CHIP to Draft Global Semiconductor Constitution

Hyderabad will host the T-CHIP Semicon Constitution Summit 2025 on September 27–28 at Hotel Trident, Hitec City, Madhapur bringing together an unprecedented lineup of global leaders, government officials, academia, and industry to draft the guiding framework - or "Semiconductor Constitution" - for building a robust and sustainable semiconductor ecosystem.

The summit, organized under the Technology Chip Innovation Program (T-CHIP), is designed to be more than just a conference. It aims to set a foundational constitution for semiconductors, establishing principles, collaborations, and mandates to accelerate ecosystem development in India and beyond. The initiative builds upon T-CHIP's Four-Pillar Strategy — Talent, Design, Manufacturing, and Applications — creating a roadmap that addresses every link of the semiconductor value chain.

The two-day event will be attended by senior officials from the Government of India and Telangana, including representatives from the

Electronics, Education, and Defence sectors (DRDO). Leading voices from academia will include Vice Chancellors of major universities, Prof. V. Balakista Reddy, Chairman of Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE), and heads of departments from engineering institutions.

Global and national industry leaders will also be present, including Dr. KG Vishwanathan, Director of the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA), and Mr. Chelle Venkata Rama Raju, Director of Quantum Technologies, alongside international delegates from National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU), Taiwan Semiconductor Research Institute (TSRI), ARM, and GUS Technology led by CEO CC Chang.

One of the highlights of the summit will be IIT Hyderabad presenting its first indigenous Ai chip, symbolizing India's growing capabilities in semiconductor design. Other sessions will focus on knowledge exchange, with Chip Talks, MoU signings, and awards ceremonies, culminating

in a networking dinner where semiconductor stalwarts will discuss pathways for collaboration.

Speaking ahead of the summit, Mr. Sundeeep Kumar Makthala, Chairman of T-CHIP, said "The T-CHIP Semicon Constitution Summit is not just an event, but the beginning of a movement. For the first time, leaders from government, academia, industry, and international partners will sit together in Hyderabad to draft the guiding principles for a global semiconductor ecosystem. Telangana is the launchpad, but our mission is to serve India and the world."

The summit comes at a critical moment, as the world faces a shortage of 1.5 million semiconductor professionals by 2030, with India alone requiring 85,000 skilled experts. By convening global leaders and defining a shared constitution, the summit aims to position India — with Telangana at its forefront — as a key player in the global chip revolution.

For more information, registrations, and participation details, interested stakeholders can visit tinyurl.com/t-semicon or contact +91 8019977575.

Delhi CM launches important power projects in North-West Delhi

New Delhi, Sept 26 (UNI) : Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today launched three major projects in the national capital that will benefit residents of areas like Narela, Rithala, and Mubarakpur Dabas, which are also part of the capital's rural belt.

Gupta emphasized that her government is determined to make Delhi a self-reliant and environmentally balanced capital through modern technology, clean energy, and strong infrastructure.

The CM laid the foundation stone of a 66/ 11 kV GIS grid substation at Mubarakpur Dabas, inaugurated a modern fire station in Narela, and unveiled a 25 kW solar rooftop plant in Rithala.

She underlined that her government is working with foresight and determination for the comprehensive development of the national capital.

Gupta highlighted that the current government has achieved historic progress within just seven months, coming to power after a gap of 27 years.

"From cleanliness to energy and public amenities, work is being carried out across all sectors," said Gupta, adding that new waste-to-energy and e-waste plants have been launched to eliminate mountains of

garbage.

According to the CM, under Prime Minister Modi's guidance, Delhi is moving towards a sustainable and modern future, and she assured that her government stands by citizens during every challenge and is committed to round-the-clock service delivery.

She stressed that transparency, public participation, and efficiency are the pillars of her administration, stating, "With public support, we are writing a golden chapter in Delhi's development."

Criticizing past governments, she alleged that they relied only on advertisements and false promises, leaving Delhi lagging for 11 years and depriving citizens of basic amenities.

Speaking on the occasion, Power Minister Ashish Sood said the CM is reaching out to every corner of Delhi and accelerating development work.He highlighted recent large-scale electricity production and EV charging projects in the Narela area, noting that three new projects were launched on Friday from the same platform.

Sood emphasized that launching 11 major projects in just two days demonstrates the speed of development in Delhi.

MP Yogendra Chandolia, MLA Rajkaran

Khatri, Kulwant Rana, and other leaders were also present on the occasion.

Officials said that the 25 kW solar energy plant at the Delhi Jal Board Rithala building will generate over 28,000 units of electricity per year.

This project is part of the Delhi government's ambitious plan to install solar plants on government buildings.

Regarding the Mubarakpur Dabas grid substation, the government, through Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL), is working to provide reliable and uninterrupted electricity to the surrounding areas.

With a capacity of 50 MVA, the substation will supply power to 16 feeder areas, strengthening the supply network and ensuring continuous, quality electricity.

The fire station, spread over approximately 1,000 square metres in Narela, includes facilities for filling water from Delhi Jal Board overhead tanks and borewells.The modern station features a shed for fire vehicles, maintenance rooms, and storage for firefighting equipment and materials.It will serve several areas including Ghoga, Lampur Border, Bankner, Sinhola, Singhu Border, Bakhtawarpur, Ibrahimpur, Nangli Poona, and Narela village.

Trump keeps Shehbaz, Asim Munir waiting at White House

Washington, Sept 26 (UNI) US President Donald Trump met Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir in the Oval Office at the White House.

Photographs released after the meeting showed Prime Minister Sharif and Field Marshal Munir standing on the President's right and left, respectively. Trump was also seen smiling and giving a thumbs-up gesture.The meeting started about half an hour late and subsequently lasted for one hour and 20 minutes. US Vice President J.D. Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio were also present during the talks.

Ahead of the meeting, Trump told a press conference that he was meeting "two great leaders". He said: "Both the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Field Marshal are excellent."

UN calls Sudan's El Fasher "epicenter of suffering" after more than 500 days under siege

Khartoum, Sept 26 (UNI) : The United Nations on Thursday described El Fasher, the capital of Sudan's North Darfur state, as the "epicenter of suffering" after more than 500 days under siege by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

"The people of El Fasher ... continue to bear the brunt of Sudan's ongoing conflict. Civilians are being killed in their homes, in hospitals and even in places of worship," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in its latest update.

OCHA said civilians face daily threats from shelling, airstrikes and drone attacks, with recent clashes reported in the city's northeastern districts. Satellite images show more than 30 km of earthen barriers surrounding the city, restricting movement and trapping residents inside.

The agency said over 50 bombardments have hit Abu Shouk camp in recent weeks, worsening displacement and civilian casualties. It estimated that some 260,000 people, including 130,000 children, remain trapped in El Fasher with no safe passage out.

Essential services are collapsing as fighting continues and funding dwindles. Water trucking to the city's only functioning hospital has been suspended, and community kitchens have closed, OCHA said.

El Fasher and nearby camps have been under near-constant siege by the RSF since 2024. Analysts warn the city could fall to the RSF unless the Sudanese army sends reinforcements. The wider conflict between the Sudanese army and RSF, which erupted in April 2023, has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions both inside Sudan and across its borders.

Mexico slams US for immigration raids

Mexico City, Sept 25 (UNI) : Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on Wednesday condemned the immigration raids carried out in the United States by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), saying a diplomatic note was sent to Washington requesting an investigation into the recent deaths of two Mexican nationals.

"Yesterday, a diplomatic note was sent on this case, requesting that all investigations be carried out, and if anyone is responsible for human rights violations, that they be punished," the president said at her daily press conference.Mexican migrants Ismael Ayala-Uribe and Silverio Villegas Gonzalez died following ICE raids and detention in the United States.

Sheinbaum lamented the criminalisation of migrants in the United States and stressed her government's initiatives in support of Mexicans living there, including establishing an emergency hotline and strengthening services that offer technical and legal advice.

Washington's aggressive anti-immigrant policies impact not just Mexicans but also the US economy, where business owners "in agriculture and services are reporting problems because they cannot hire workers," said Sheinbaum.

The president reiterated that Mexicans living in the United States, whether they are first, second, third, or fourth generation, contribute significantly to the US economy, and they also contribute to the Mexican economy through the remittances they send home.

"We oppose such treatment and the raids that have been carried out, which, in addition, cause fear and anxiety," she added.

Trump blames "radical leftists" for deadly shooting at ICE field office in Texas

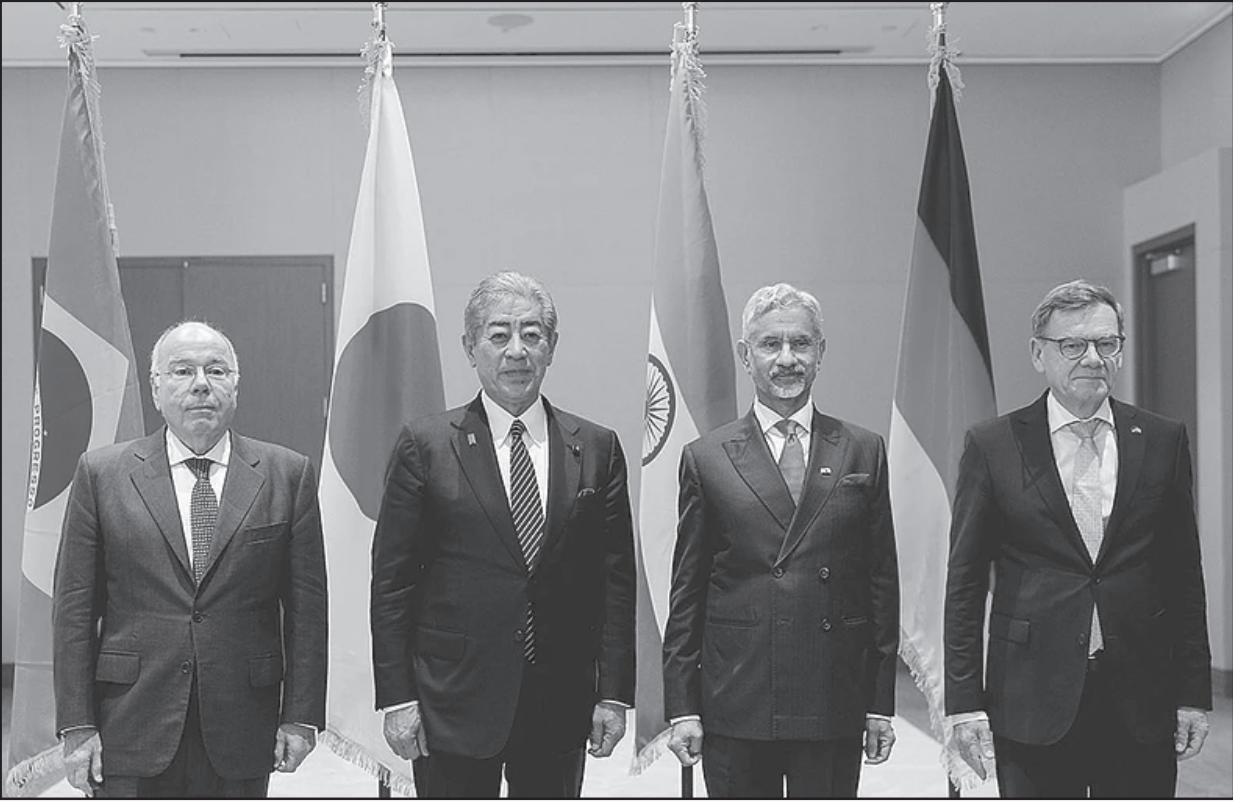
Washington, Sept 25 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump has blamed the "radical leftists" for the deadly shooting at a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) field office in Dallas, Texas.

Condemning the attack as despicable, Trump wrote on Truth Social yesterday that the brave men and women of ICE are just trying to do their jobs, but they are facing an "unprecedented increase in threats, violence, and attacks by Deranged Radical Leftists."

"This violence is the result of the Radical Left Democrats constantly demonising Law Enforcement, calling for ICE to be demolished, and comparing ICE Officers to 'Nazis'," Trump said.

"The continuing violence from Radical Left Terrorists, in the aftermath of Charlie Kirk's assassination, must be stopped," he said.

The US president said he will be signing an executive order this week to "dismantle these Domestic Terrorism Networks."



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with his Japanese counterpart Takeshi Iwaya, German counterpart Johann Wadephul and Brazilian counterpart Mauro Vieira during the G4 Foreign Ministers Meeting, in New York, USA.

UN chief urges funding, political support for UNRWA

United Nations, Sept 26 (UNI) : UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday urged funding and political support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)."

"I appeal to you today to provide the funding and political support UNRWA needs to help build peace and stability -- for Palestinians, for Israel and for the region," Guterres said at a ministerial meeting in support of UNRWA.

In his remarks, the UN chief said generations of Palestine refugees have counted on UNRWA for education, health care and other essential services. Before October 2023, it provided schooling for half a million girls and boys across the region.

Today, it delivers emergency food and cash assistance for 2.6 million people, and its primary clinics handle 10.5 million visits per year.

Despite all of this, UNRWA is being forced to operate under extreme and rising pressure, with its staff being killed in Gaza, its premises destroyed, and it faces budget shortfalls, Guterres said.

The UN chief urged UN member states to do all they can to support UNRWA by standing in solidarity, providing political support, countering the distortions that threaten one of the only lifelines many Palestine refugees have left, to ensure that the agency has the resources to carry out its mandate.

U N R W A Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini told the meeting that the international community is confronted with the stark consequences of prolonged inaction and impunity: a famine, a looming military occupation in Gaza, emboldened settlers and creeping annexation in the occupied West Bank, and a multilateral system in peril.

He warned that in the absence of a significant influx of new funding, the delivery of critical services to millions of Palestinian refugees across the region will be compromised before the end of the year.

"History will forever ask our predecessors why they failed to prevent the genocides perpetrated under their watch," Lazzarini said, urging UN member states to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the unconditional release of hostages.

Continuing further she said many countries are looking at India for supply chain.Refering to India's target of 100GW by 2047, she said the country has a huge job to do and all are looking at how it will be accomplished.

She said on the policy development, India has to amend its Atomic Energy Act, Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act.

On the relationship between India and Russia in the nuclear field Bilbao Leon said the two countries have a long standing collaboration.She also pointed out to the two

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Continuing further she said many countries are looking at India for supply chain.Refering to India's target of 100GW by 2047, she said the country has a huge job to do and all are looking at how it will be accomplished.

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On the relationship between India and Russia in the nuclear field Bilbao Leon said the two countries have a long standing collaboration.She also pointed out to the two

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India doing a fabulous job in nuclear power sector

Moscow, Sept 26 (UNI) : India has been doing a fabulous job in the nuclear energy sector with its indigenous programme, said Sama Bilbao Leon, Director General, World Nuclear Association.

She also said nuclear energy growth is good in China, India and in other Asian countries.

Speaking to international journalists here at the 'World Atomic Week' (WAW- 2025) Bilbao Leon when asked about India's nuclear power programme said: "India has been doing a fabulous job with its indigenous programme. The world is looking at India's capability."

WAW-2025 is dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Russian nuclear industry.

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Russia supplied 1,000 MW nuclear power units working in India and four more are under construction.

Bilbao Leon expects the collaboration between the two countries to continue.

On attracting women workforce into the nuclear field she said, tripling of the nuclear capacity by 2050 would need workers of both the sexes.

She said the nuclear power plant not only needs nuclear engineers but also other kinds of engineers, lawyers, communication professionals, accountants and others. The misconceptions about radiation and its impact on women's health have to be set right.

According to her, nuclear power plants do not significantly increase the ambient radiation levels.

"We are making efforts so that the nuclear industry welcomes women and other employees," Bilbao Leon said.On the role of small modular reactors (SMR) she said, if the goal of tripling the nuclear power capacity is to be achieved then, large and small reactors are needed.

On the fuel availability she said investment is needed to explore and extract fuel to power the nuclear energy plants and it is also important to close the fuel cycle and Russia is working on that.

experience and knowledge in building other advanced industries of the 21st century, such as nuclear medicine, digital systems, electric transport and innovative materials.

"As a result, we help our partners make a genuine development leap, bring their economies to a whole new level of efficiency, and ultimately improve quality of life," Putin said.Russia views peaceful nuclear technologies as the foundation for extensive international cooperation and for fostering closer ties among nations.

Russia is keen on establishing stable, long-term conditions for projects within the nuclear sphere, Putin said.

Trump vows 100 percent tariff on pharma products without US manufacturing

New Delhi, Sept 26 (UNI) : President Donald Trump today announced a new policy that will impose a 100 per cent tariff on certain pharmaceutical products starting October 1, 2025. The move is aimed at compelling companies to build manufacturing plants in the United States.

In a post on the social media platform, Truth Social, Trump said the tariff would apply to any branded or patented pharmaceutical product. He stated that the tariff would not be imposed if a company "is building" a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant in the US.

Home & Garden



Be creative while renovating your kitchen



Planning to renovate your kitchen? But this should not cost you a fortune or be beyond the reach of your modest budget. Just be creative, make simple changes and bring life into your kitchen.

All of these ideas will cost you must less. So, what are you waiting for? Bring in that whole new look in your kitchen.

Paint: The cheapest way to change a space for a newer and better look, is to paint it. Change the colour and bring in some elements of spark. If you are happy with bright colours then you can go and change the 'all white' look of your kitchen. You can also paint your tiles and give your kitchen a whole new look.

Cabinets: All that you need is to change the look. If your cabinet bases are in reasonably good shape, paint the cabinets. Or you can put some posters on the cabinets to give a new funky look.

Accessorise it: If you stick to neutral colours then you can add accessories. Put some cool poster in the kitchen. You can also frame artworks done by your kids in the kitchen. If you have a collection of books on food and different cuisines or recipes, you can put them in your kitchen. Another great way to add life and vibrancy is to have potted indoor plants in your kitchen.



5 appliances every cook must have



Planning to cook? Then there is a list of appliances that you must have in your kitchen. Take a look at some of them...

A paring knife

This is the basic one, needed to cut small vegetables and fruits. You can easily slice fruits with it, cut the peels of potatoes and other thick skins, devein shrimp, de-seed and section fruits, etc. Always look for one with a comfortable handle.

Measuring cup

It's not always possible to cook saying, 'take a handful of this or that'. Every kitchen must have a measuring cup or jar to measure liquids like milk or stick or even dry ingredients like sugar, before cooking. It's better to get a transparent plastic one that allows you to see what you are measuring.

Blender

A blender and hand blender are must-have appliances in the kitchen. The electric blender is used to mix foods and liquids like summer mocktails and soups and is available in different sizes. Blenders with a jug make it more convenient.

Vegetable peeler



Vegetable peelers or potato peelers are a most utilised appliance. They can get the skin off carrots and apples quickly and make the cooking process effortless. There are several designs available, like the Y or straight type. You can also use the peeler to cut slices of cheese or make thin

ribbons of chocolate.

Garlic press

This nifty little gadget is most useful as we Indians uses a lot of garlic in cooking. The press pushes the cloves through holes to get the peels. So you need not mince the garlic with a knife anymore, if you have this.



4 new decor ideas for your home

Product and interior designer Krsna Mehta of the Indiaticircus tells us about the four new collections to do up your home this year

Neo Nawab:

Neo-Nawab resurrects India's golden dynasty- the Mughals, to bring to you a enigmatic collection replete with strong Indian motifs. The collection references various emblems of the Mughal era, such as its world renowned intricate architecture, as well its unapologetic opulence. The collection's bright and vibrant luxury is tamed by its regal and sophisticated Mughal etiquette.

Jalebi:

The Jalebi Collection maintains its composure across a tight-wire between fun and frivolity. This colourful collection features various icons of the Indian cityscape, from bicycles and rickshaws, to grandiose monuments of bygone dynasties. Jalebi captures quintessential emblems of life in India, and transcribes this loud and colorful experience into a sophisticated style for a contemporary lifestyle.

Tamara:

Tamara references India's extremely rich and diverse visual treasure of flora and

foliage. Inspired by nature, the collection offers a bright and contemporary take on the Indian landscape. With various visually stimulating designs that lead the eye over its intricate details and patterns, Tamara has bountiful ornamentation for you, and your home!



Kuheli:

Kuheli pays homage to various traditional Indian arts and crafts. The designs feature graceful peacocks from the forest, as well mesmerizingly abstract visuals. Kuheli is dynamic in its colour palette and detailed in its intricate referentiality, wherein lies the collection's individuality. The designs appeal to those seeking rich visuals that have a delicate history behind them.

Help your kids design a fairy Summer garden

Are your kids in love with tiny little Tinkerbell and her world of fairies and pixies? Then a fairy garden would be the perfect summer gift for the little ones.

A fair(l)y new trend in container gardening, it is all about creating realistic landscapes — complete with cute little houses, cobblestone paths, fences and forests — in terracotta pots, wicker baskets, wide plastic bowls, wooden boxes, tubs et al.

Usually, these miniature gardens are created in such a way that they are visible from all sides. And it's completely up to you to create the ambience using small fences, tiny chairs or benches, random toys and whatever you fancy. Once your landscaping is done, create a small snaking path through your forest using coloured pebbles. Done? Now, let the fairies drop in! What's more, a fairy garden is the perfect way to initiate your kids into learning more about plants during their summer vacations! So, let your imagination run riot!

Get, set, go...
- Put potting mix in the container.

- You can experiment with various interesting arrangements by placing all the items for decoration

- toy furniture, rocks, ornamental mushrooms, pebbles, twigs, seashells etc

- here and there on the soil. Make sure they don't tumble out.
- Once the layout is set, plant the largest root first. Small creepers are good for the borders.
- Trim regularly to keep them growing low and lush.
- You can use succulents that don't require a lot of care.
- Water, as required, just to keep the soil moist.
- DIY: Broken-pot landscape
- Even a broken pot can look beautiful with some amount of imagination. It can be created either from the pieces left from an accidental break or from a carefully planned cut. To cut such a pot, soak it and use a craft drill or file to create a shape that can then be broken out with a hammer very carefully.
- Fill the container with potting mixture and arrange the shards in the soil.
- Broken pots with an assortment of succulents will make this garden a sight to behold.



Do up your pad with bronze decor

There's nothing that adds more style to your home than bronze decor items. While handicrafts and other decor items in crystal, wood and brass adds a classic touch to your house, bronze is another metal that makes your house look classy and elegant. However, there are different ways you can work this look out so that your home does not look cluttered.

Picture frames to adorn your living area

To make your living area look well-spaced out, use picture frames in bold bronze designs. You can use carved and detailed frames for paintings and photographs. If you wish to make a collage of many photographs, you can probably use a smaller picture frame in bronze to make it look interesting.

Bronze sculptures in your dining or living area

Bronze sculptures in different sizes and shapes looks very interesting. You can have Italian figures, Buddha sculpture or a bronze abstract sculpture placed in your living area. But make sure that you do not clutter the area. Choose one piece that will stand out and make your room look interesting.

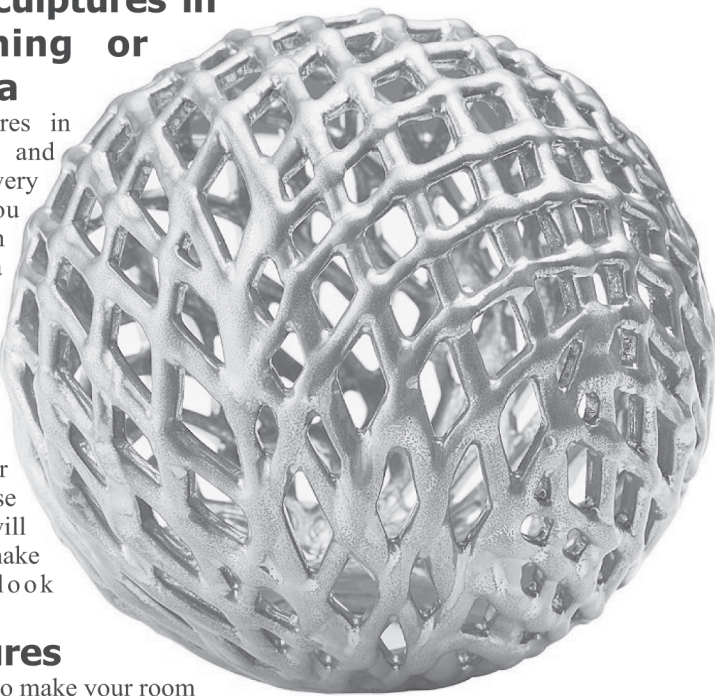
Wall fixtures

Wall fixtures also make your room

look interesting. You can try having one in your bedroom as a bookshelf so just as a showpiece where you can place other decor items.

Large mirrors

Wall mirrors placed in your living area or bedroom can make your house look elegant. You can place it either in your hallway or near your dining area so that it does not clash with other decor items in your house.



Indian Junior Women’s Hockey Team lose 2-3 to Australia U21 in Australia Tour opener

Canberra, Sept 26 (UNI) : The Indian Junior Women’s Hockey Team suffered a narrow 2-3 loss in their first match of the Australia Tour against their U21 side at the National Hockey Centre here today.

Lalthantluangi (47’) and Sonam (54’) were the goalscorers for India while Bianca Zurrer (36’), Evie Sransby (45’) and Sammy Love (59’) scored goals for Australia.

The first half remained goalless as both sides couldn’t manage to break the deadlock in the tight contest. In the 36th minute, Australia found the opening goal through a successful Penalty Corner by Bianca Zurrer. Australia then extended their lead with another Penalty Corner goal, this time courtesy of Evie Sransby in the 45th minute.

In the fourth quarter, India bounced back in the contest with two crucial goals to equalise. First, in the 47th minute, Lalthantluangi converted a Penalty Corner to reduce the deficit followed by a Field Goal by Sonam in the 54th minute to level the game again. With just over a minute left on the clock, Australia’s Sammy Love scored through a Penalty Corner to edge out a slim win over India.

RPS presented the prestigious award of ARPS of Society to Mohammad Shamsuddin



(By Snaps India) Hyderabad, Sept 26 : Simon Hill CPhot HonFRPS, President and Chair of Trustees of the Royal Photographic Society (RPS), today presented the prestigious award of Associateship (ARPS) of the Society to acclaimed Indian photographer Mohammad Shamsuddin.

The presentation took place at the Photography Centre at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London. The Centre, home to the RPS Collection and Library, was opened in October 2018 by Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, Patron of both the Royal Photographic Society and the Victoria & Albert

India meet Bangladesh in battle for SAFF U17 crown in Colombo

Colombo, Sept 26 (UNI) : It all comes down to the grand finale of the SAFF U17 Championship 2025, as the India U17 men’s national team prepare to face Bangladesh in the final at the Racecourse International Stadium here tomorrow. The Blue Colts head into the summit clash with four wins from four matches, their most recent being a commanding 3-0 triumph over Nepal in the semi-finals.

Goals from Wangkheirakpam Gunleiba, Azlaan Shah Kh, and Diamond Singh Thokchom sealed the victory, ensuring that the defending champions remain firmly on track to defend their crown and add an 11th SAFF men’s youth title to their cabinet.

Head coach Bibiano Fernandes, who has won four of those, was pleased with the manner in which his side overcame Nepal in the last four, especially in the second half. “Nepal pushed us hard, and it was a real test for the boys. What impressed me most was the way they kept their composure in difficult moments and found a way to get the result. That shows the character of this team,” said Fernandes. The final, however, promises to be an even greater challenge. Bangladesh overcame Pakistan 2-0 in their semi-final, and arrive with confidence and experience on their side. They beat both Nepal and Sri Lanka 4-0 in the group stage and are yet to concede a goal in the tournament. Bangladesh have eight players from last year’s U17 squad that finished runners-up to India in the SAFF final in Bhutan, while the Blue Colts have one — Azlaan Shah Kh. For the other 22 Indians, this is their maiden international tournament.

Fernandes stressed the need for India to respect their opponents while trusting in their own philosophy. “Bangladesh come into the final with more experience. They are a well-balanced side, and we respect their quality. For us, it will be important to stick to our identity and trust the work we have been doing throughout the tournament,” said the India U17 head coach.

Having just a day’s rest between the semi-final and the final, Fernandes highlighted the importance of discipline and sharpness in decisive moments.

“With only a one day between matches, the challenge is to manage our intensity and stay focussed. Finals are about small details, and we need to be disciplined in every moment. The players are hungry, and we will give everything to achieve our goal,” he added.

For captain Wangkhem Denny Singh, India’s approach will be to counter Bangladesh’s physicality with intelligence and quick thinking.

“Bangladesh play a very physical style of football, and we’ve had the chance to watch and analyse their matches.

3rd Jr Asian Pencak Silat Championship commences in Srinagar, 11 countries participating

Srinagar, Sept 26 (UNI) : 3rd Jr Asian Pencak Silat Championship got underway here at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex today. The championship which will run from September 25 to 30 will see participation from young athletes from 11 countries.

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who inaugurated the championship today said it was his first formal introduction to the fast-growing martial art of Pencak Silat, which has witnessed remarkable progress in Jammu and Kashmir since its introduction a decade ago.

“I was told that this discipline is being practiced in 19 out of 20 districts of J&K. I look forward to its introduction in the remaining district so that the entire J&K is covered,” he said.

The Chief Minister praised the inclusive spirit of the sport, highlighting that Pencak Silat enjoys equal popularity among both boys and girls.

“This game teaches us discipline and respect for our opponents. Your opponent is not your enemy, but an opponent only. That is the true spirit of sportsmanship,” he said.

Welcoming the athletes and delegations from India and abroad, Omar Abdullah said, “We take great pride in hosting you here and choosing Srinagar as venue for this prestigious championship. I hope you not only enjoy the competition but also carry with you fond memories of this place for the rest of your lives.” On the occasion, a march past of participating teams, cultural performances from Jammu and Kashmir, and a Pencak Silat demonstration by athletes enthralled the audience.

17th HFI Mini Handball Tournament Kicks Off in Grand Style



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Sept 26 : The national-level 17th HFI Mini Boys and Girls (Under-12) Handball Tournament began in a grand manner today at the Nizam College Grounds in Hyderabad. The tournament will continue till the 29th of this month.

The event was inaugurated by Transport & BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Sports Minister Vakiti Sreehari, Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy, TG RDSC Chairman & Telangana Handball

Association President Mallareddy Ramreddy, who attended as chief guests.

Key Highlights from Leaders’ Speeches:

Youth should build self-confidence by excelling in both academics and sports.

Sports play a vital role in both mental and physical development.

The government neglected sports, which pushed youth towards bad habits.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Congress government has allocated ₹460 crore for sports

development.

Innovative programs are being undertaken to steer youth away from addictions and towards sports.

Telangana will be showcased as a “National Model in Sports.”

Assurances were given that all arrangements have been made to ensure comfort for players arriving from 22 states.

The event was also attended by Finance Commission member Sankeppalli Sudheer Reddy, Nizam College Principal Dr. Rajashekar, HFI Technical

Committee Chairman Khursheed Khan, HFI General Secretary Pritpal Singh, HFI Referees Board Chairman Ramashankar Sharma, Narinder Singh (General Secretary, Chandigarh Handball Association), Vicky (General Secretary, Dadra & Nagar Haveli), Telangana Handball General Secretary Pawan Kumar, Treasurer Sanjeev Kumar, Ranga Reddy District Handball President Venkatram Reddy, General Secretary Thirumal Reddy, and Siva Kumar, South Asian Ambassador.

Bangladeshi Jamal Hossain wins Telangana Golconda Maters 2025 title

Hyderabad, Sept 26 (UNI) : Jamal Hossain from Bangladesh was declared the winner of the INR 1 crore NSL Luxe presents Telangana Golconda Masters 2025 after heavy rain forced abandonment of the final round at the Hyderabad Golf Association (HGA) on Friday. The tournament result was declared on the basis of the total scores after 54 holes as no play was possible in the fourth round due to the inclement weather in the city.

Jamal Hossain (61-62-64), who led the field by four shots after round three thanks to his 54-hole tally of 23-under 187, thus lifted his sixth title and first since November last year. As a

result, the 40-year-old from Dhaka, collected the winning purse of INR 15 lakh that propelled him from 14th place to 10th position in the 2025 PGTI Order of Merit. Chandigarh’s Akshay Sharma (62-64-65) claimed the runner-up spot as he totaled 19-under 291 after three rounds.

Akshay picked up a cheque worth INR 10 lakh to climb from 34th place to 21st position in PGTI’s merit list. Khalin Joshi (65-66-66) of Bengaluru finished third at a total of 13-under 197.

Delhi’s Arjun Prasad secured third place at 11-under 199. Arjun thus continued in second position in the PGTI Ranking with season’s

earnings of INR 69,71,599. Chandigarh-based Yuvraj Sandhu, who did not play this event, maintains his lead in the PGTI’s money list with season’s earnings of INR 88,67,200. Hyderabad’s Vishesh Sharma had the best result among the local golfers as he ended tied 22nd at five-under 205.

Jamal Hossain capped a wonderful week as he dominated all three rounds leading from the start till the finish. Jamal, who enjoyed a one-shot lead after the first round thanks to his tournament low of 61, extended his lead to three shots at the halfway stage following his second-round effort of 62. Hossain then stretched his lead to four shots after his 64 in

round three. He dropped just one bogey over 54 holes.

Jamal said, “I’m elated to have finally won this season after having come close on a couple of occasions in the past earlier this year. I would’ve loved to come out and play the final round but the weather is not in our hands. However, I feel I was quite consistent through the week thanks to my driving and putting. The first round of 61 just set up the tournament for me.

“My next big goal is to perform well and make a mark in the DP World India Championship in Delhi next month. I feel my form is building up well leading into that event,” he added.

Aishwarya Pissay of TVS Racing creates history, becomes first Asian women to compete at W2RC Portugal

Chennai, Sept 26 (UNI) : TVS Racing’s Aishwarya Pissay made history as the first woman from Asia to compete at the FIM Cross Country Rallies World Championship (W2RC): BP Ultimate Rally-Raid Portugal 2025, marking an important training milestone on her road to Dakar. The fourth-round W2RC rally, which concludes on September 28, covers a total distance of 2,000 km, including five stages and a prologue, on 100% gravel and dirt tracks spanning the Alentejo and

Ribatejo regions of Portugal and Extremadura in Spain. Aishwarya’s participation in Portugal is a crucial step in her preparation, followed by the Rally of Morocco, which is the key qualifier for Dakar. Her ultimate goal is to become the first Indian woman to compete at Dakar Rally 2026, inspiring women riders across the country to dream big and push boundaries. “This journey has been incredibly fulfilling and I’m proud to represent India at this level. Every milestone I have

achieved has been possible because of the unwavering support, guidance, and resources from TVS Racing.

Competing at the FIM World Rally - Raid Championship in Portugal is an important step in my preparation, and my next target is the Rally of Morocco, a critical qualifier on the road to Dakar. My eyes are firmly set on Dakar Rally 2026, and I am more determined than ever to push boundaries, break barriers, and represent India on the global stage”,

Aishwarya said “I hope this journey inspires women racers across the world to believe in themselves and chase their dreams,” she said. Established in 1982 as India’s first factory rally team, TVS Racing has been a cornerstone of Indian motorsports and a launchpad for over 3,000 professional racers.

Vimal Sumbly, Head of Business - Premium, TVS Motor Company said, “TVS Racing has always been a trailblazer in Indian motorsports, shaping champions, pushing boundaries, and fostering talent for over four decades.

Our commitment to nurturing riders and empowering women in the sport is at the heart of everything we do. Aishwarya Pissay is a shining example of this vision.

Her courage, skill, and determination demonstrate what is possible when talent is given the right support. As she races through Portugal on her path to Dakar 2026, she is not just pursuing a personal milestone, she is inspiring a generation of riders to dream bigger, break barriers, and compete on the world stage.

17th National HFI Mini Handball competition kicks off in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Sept 26 (UNI) ; The 17th National Level HFI Mini Boys and Girls Handball (Under-12) Competition commenced today at the Nizam College Grounds in Hyderabad with much fanfare. The tournament, showcasing young talent from across the country, will continue

until September 29. The event was inaugurated by Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari, alongside Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy and TGRDC Chairman & Telangana Handball Association President Malreddy

Ramreddy. The gathering also saw the presence of Finance Commission Member Sankeppalli Sudheer Reddy, Nizam College Principal Dr Rajasekhara, HFI Technical Committee Chairman Khurshid Khan, Handball Federation of India General Secretary Pritpal Singh, and other dignitaries.

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Vigilance Branch of SCR organizes lecture on SEVA



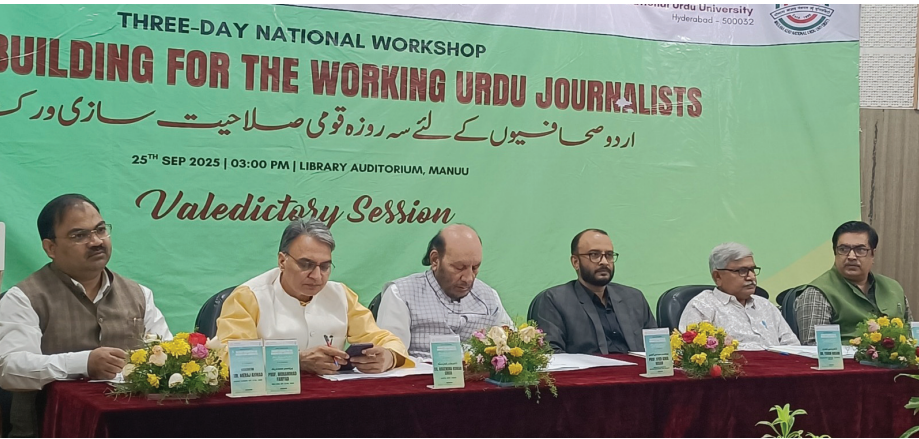
(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Sept 26 : As part of 3 months campaign as a prelude to “*Vigilance Awareness Week 2025*”, Vigilance Branch of South Central Railway has organized a lecture today i.e. 26th September 2025. This is the 4th lecture under “*Fortify Lecture Series*”. The theme given by “*Central Vigilance Commission*” (CVC) for Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 is “*Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility*”. To create awareness on the theme notified, a lecture on “*Stay Ethically Vigilant Always (SEVA)*” was organized today at Rail Nilayam Auditorium, Secunderabad. Renowned corporate coach and management consultant, Sri Himanshu Vishnoi has delivered the lecture. Sri Satya Prakash, Additional General

Manager, South Central Railway, Shri Chetna Nand Singh, Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer/SCR, Principal Heads of Departments of SCR, Divisional Railway Managers and other officials/staff participated. During the lecture, matters of personal and organizational values, ethics and integrity aspects were presented in detail. U n d e r s t a n d i n g organizational ethical expectations, handling ethical traps and dilemmas and the right way to take decisions were also dealt. Importance of maintaining highest standards of integrity while taking organizational decisions was also discussed with case studies. The main purpose of the lecture was to inculcate the habit of maintaining highest

standards of ethics and integrity in public life. Taking decisions in the best interest of administration was stressed upon. Shri Satya Prakash, Addl General Manager, South Central Railway has elaborated the similarity and importance between “*Cleanliness Campaign under Swachata Hi Seva*” and “*Vigilance Awareness Campaign*”. He stressed for cleanliness within one’s own mind to achieve the goals of such campaigns in letter and spirit. Mr Chetna Nand Singh, SDGM & CVO/SCR in his welcome address highlighted the importance of participative and preventive vigilance through such campaigns. He urged the officials to take decisions after thorough examination and record reasoned speaking orders in the files.

National Workshop on Capacity Building for Urdu Journalists ends



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Sept 26 : Three-day national workshop “Capacity Building for Working Urdu Journalists”, 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, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), concluded yesterday.Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Vice-Chancellor, in his valedictory address encouraged students to excel in their field. Herecited poetry to motivate them, and created a vibrant and inspiring environment with his words.The Chief Guest, Dr. Nagendra Kumar Singh, expressed his views on the importance of languages in

India, the contribution of Urdu journalism, and the revolutionary role of media in society. He also distributed certificates to all participants of the workshop.Dr. Mustafa Ali Sarwari shared his reflections on the workshop, while Dr. Mohd. Fariyad, Dean & Head of the Department, welcomed the dignitaries. Mr. Mohd. Tahir Qureshi, Assistant Professor, presented a comprehensive report summarizing the key highlights of the 12 technical sessions conducted by distinguished resource persons. Dr. Meraj Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Department of MCJ moderated the session. Feedback about the workshop was shared by participants including Mr. Yameen Ansari and Mr.

Asad Kamal Lari, who expressed gratitude for the valuable knowledge and practical insights gained. Dr. Danish Khan, Guest Faculty proposed a vote of thanks.In the first technical session, the resource person, Dr. Asif Ali from Ruby TV, Hyderabad, spoke on “Basics of Mobile Journalism (MoJo) in Urdu”. Dr. Waseem Rashid, resource person delivered a talk on “Personality Development for Women in Journalism” in the second session. The speaker, Dr. Nagendra Kumar Singh, Director, MGKVP, Varanasi, addressed the topic “Issues & Challenges in Field Reporting” in the third technical session. Research Scholars - Mr. Salman Khan, Ms. Sadiya Najar and Mr. Shehzan Khan moderated the technical sessions.

SC to hear plea on vacancies in information commissions

New Delhi, Sept 26 (UNI) : The Supreme Court today fixed October 27 for hearing a public interest litigation (PIL), highlighting the large-scale vacancies in the Central and State Information Commissions under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.The matter was mentioned before a Bench of Justice

Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi by Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioners.Bhushan informed the Court that the post of Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) is lying vacant, while 8 out of 10 posts of Information Commissioners remain unfilled.

Western Railway to run five pairs of festival special trains to various destination

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Sept 26 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season of Durga Pooja, Diwali & Chhath Pooja, Western Railway will run Festival Special Trains on Special fare between Bandra Terminus – Sanganer, Indore - Khadki, Indore – Hazrat Nizamuddin, Sabarmati – Patna and Rajkot – Barauni stations.

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

1. Train No. 09023/ 09024 Bandra Terminus – Sanganer SuperFast Weekly Special [18 Trips] Train No. 09023 Bandra Terminus – Sanganer SuperFast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Thursday at 16:45 hrs and will reach Sanganer at 12:30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 02nd October to 27th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09024 Sanganer – Bandra Terminus SuperFast Special will depart from Sanganer every Friday at 16:50 hrs and will

arrive Bandra Terminus at 11:15 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 03rd October to 28th November 2025.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Nagda, Chaumahla, Shamgarh, Bhawani Mandi, Ramganj Mandi, Kota & Sawai Madhopur stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC – 2 Tier, AC -3 Tier and AC -3 Tier (Economy) Coaches.

2. Train No. 09427/ 09428 Sabarmati – Patna Weekly Special [18 Trips]

Train No. 09427 Sabarmati – Patna Special will depart from Sabarmati every Wednesday at 18:10 hrs and will reach Patna at 01:00 hrs, on Friday. This train will run from 01st October to 26th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09428 Patna – Sabarmati Special will depart from Patna every Friday at 04:40 hrs and will reach Sabarmati at 09:55 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 03rd October to 28th November, 2025.

Enroute, this train will halt at Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Marwar, Ajmer, Jaipur, Gandhi Nagar Jaipur,

Dausa, Bharatpur, Achhnera, Idgah Agra, Tundla, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara and Danapur stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC -3 Tier Coaches.

3. Train No. 09324/ 09323 Indore – Khadki Weekly Special [18 Trips]

Train No. 09324 Indore – Khadki Weekly Special will depart from Indore every Wednesday at 11:15 hrs and will reach Khadki at 03:10 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 01st October to 26th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09323 Khadki – Indore Weekly Special will depart from Khadki every Thursday at 05:10 hrs and will reach Indore at 23:55 hrs, the same day. This train will run from 02nd October to 27th November, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt Dewas, Ujjain, Nagda, Ratlam, Godhra, Vadodara, Surat, Valsad, Vapi, Vasai Road, Kalyan and Lonavla stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC - 2 Tier and AC -3 Tier Coaches.

4. Train No. 09309/ 09310 Indore – Hazrat

Nizamuddin Bi - Weekly SuperFast Special [36 Trips]

Train No. 09309 Indore – Hazrat Nizamuddin SuperFast Special will depart from Indore every Friday & Sunday at 17:00 hrs and will reach Hazrat Nizamuddin at 05:00 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 03rd October to 30th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09310 Hazrat Nizamuddin – Indore SuperFast Special will depart from Hazrat Nizamuddin every Saturday & Monday at 08:20 hrs and will reach Indore at 21:00 hrs, the same day. This train will run from 04th October to 01st December, 2025.

Enroute, this train will halt at Dewas, Ujjain, Nagda, Ramganj Mandi, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City and Mathura stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC - 2 Tier and AC -3 Tier Coaches.

5. Train No. 09569/ 09570 Rajkot – Barauni Weekly Special [18 Trips]

Train No. 09569 Rajkot – Barauni Weekly Special will depart from Rajkot every Thursday at 17:00 hrs and will reach Barauni at 05:00 hrs, on Saturday. This

train will run from 02nd October to 27th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09570 Barauni – Rajkot Weekly Special will depart from Barauni every Saturday at 14:40 hrs and will reach Rajkot at 04:40 hrs, on Monday. This train will run from 04th October to 29th November, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt Wakaner, Surendernagar, Chandlodiya B Cabin, Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Falna, Marwar, Beawar, Ajmer, Kishangarh, Jaipur, Gandhi Nagar Jaipur, Dausa, Bandikui, Bharatpur, Idgah Agra, Tundla, Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur, Hajipur and Shahpur Patoree stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC - 2 Tier and AC -3 Tier Coaches.

The booking for Train No. 09023, 09427, 09324, 09309, & 09569 will open from 28th September, 2025 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

WR’s Jumbo Block between Churchgate and Mumbai Central Station on Sunday

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Sept 26 : To carry out maintenance work of tracks, signaling & overhead equipment, a Jumbo Block of five hours will be taken on UP & DOWN slow lines between Churchgate and Mumbai Central (local) stations from 10:35 hrs to 15:35 hrs on Sunday, 28th September, 2025.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, during the block period, all slow line trains will be operated on fast lines between Churchgate and Mumbai Central (local) stations. Due to this, some suburban trains will remain cancelled during the block and some Churchgate trains will be short terminated/ reversed ex Bandra/ Dadar station. Passengers are requested to take note of the above arrangements.

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Sept 26 : The speed trial on the newly laid third line between Parvatipuram and Donkinavalasa was successfully completed today, marking a another milestone for the Waltair Division and enhancing rail infrastructure in the region.

Following a thorough inspection of the 36 km newly constructed and electrified third line connecting Donkinavalasa, Bobbili, Sitanagaram, and Parvatipuram stations, Shri Brijesh Kumar Mishra, Commissioner of Railway Safety (South Eastern Circle), supervised the speed trial on September 26, 2025. He was accompanied by Shri Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager (Waltair); Shri Ankush Gupta, Chief Administrative Officer/ Construction (Visakhapatnam); Shri Ashok Kumar, Chief Bridge Engineer; Shri S.K. Patro, Principal Executive Director (RVNL); and key officials from Civil Engineering, Signal & Telecom, Electrical, and Traffic departments from Waltair Division

The new section has been constructed with 60 kg rails, comprising major and minor bridges and carefully engineered



curves, all designed to meet 25T axle load standards. This forms part of the doubling in the

Rayagada–Vizianagaram route and reflects the dedication of all involved departments and effective

coordination between Construction and other branches of Waltair Division.

During the inspection, officials reviewed newly provided facilities including station yard cross-overs, high-level platforms, and bridges. The inspection and speed trial were executed smoothly, receiving authorization for full commissioning of the section.

The upgraded line now enables higher speeds and increased line capacity, directly supporting enhanced rail traffic movement.

This infrastructure upgrade is destined to meet growing transportation requirements and

Railway Protection Force, SCR Organizes Blood Donation Camp

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Sept 26 : As part of the week long celebrations for Railway Protection Force Raising Day, a blood donation camp was organized today at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad.

The event was conducted under the guidance and leadership of Ms. Aroma Singh

Thakur, Inspector General cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner (PCSC), South Central Railway in coordination with Terapanth Yuvak Parishad, Hyderabad.

The camp saw enthusiastic participation with around 35 Railway Protection Force personnel donating blood

during the camp, including senior officers viz., Shri S.Z. Khan, Chief Security Commissioner/SCR, A. Naveen Kumar, Divisional Security Commissioner, Secunderabad, Shri U.K. Bandyopadhyay, Staff Officer to PCSC, Shri B. Satish Prabhu, Assistant Security Commissioner/ Crime, Shri.

Vijayakumar Assistant Security Commissioner / PS

The event was well-coordinated and received appreciation for its smooth execution and community impact.

On this occasion, an Eye Check-up Camp and an Awareness Campaign on Eye Donation were also conducted in coordination

with Vasan Eye Care, Hyderabad.

Mr Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR stated that the noble initiative reflects Railway Protection Force ’s commitment not only to provide security services in the railways, but also to work for broader humanitarian causes.