

IN BRIEF

Uncle and nephew killed, in Lightning Strike

Wardha, Sept 27 (UNI) : Two persons were killed and a 17-year-old boy was seriously injured after being struck by lightning in Hinganghat taluka of Maharashtra's Wardha district, police said today. The incident took place last evening on the Sonegaon-Allipur road near Dhotra crossroads when Anil Thakare, a resident of Bhipur, was returning home on a two-wheeler along with his son Vedant (17) and nephew Saurabh.

As heavy rain and lightning began, the trio took shelter under a tree, where a sudden lightning strike hit them.

Anil and Saurabh died on the spot, while Vedant sustained grievous injuries.

The injured boy was rushed to Hinganghat Subdistrict Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment and is reported to be in critical condition.

The police have registered a case, and investigation is underway, they added.

Natural gas found on Andaman islands

New Delhi, Sept 27 (UNI) : India has announced "an ocean of energy opportunities" in the Andaman Sea with the occurrence of natural gas on the east coast of Andaman islands at a depth of 295 meters.

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri said this occurrence of natural gas will help India in taking forward exploration ambitions in coordination with global deepwater exploration experts and will be a significant milestone in our journey through Amrit Kaal.

"Very happy to report the occurrence of natural gas in Sri Vijayapuram 2 well at a distance of 9.20 NM (17 km) from the shoreline on the east coast of the Andaman Islands at a water depth of 295 meters and target depth of 2650 meters," the Minister said on X.

Initial production testing of the well in the range of 2212 – 2250 meters has established the presence of natural gas with intermittent flaring. The gas samples were brought by ship to Kakinada, were tested and found to be 87 percent methane. The size of the gas pool and commercial viability of the discovery will get verified in the coming months but establishing the presence of hydrocarbons in the Andaman basin.

CM, Fadnavis interacts with farmers in Jalgaon



(Standard Post Bureau)

Jalgaon, Sept 27 : Farmers in areas affected by heavy rains in Jalgaon district will be given substantial compensation for their losses, and no rules will be allowed to interfere with this, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, providing relief to the farmers. Chief Minister

Fadnavis was speaking while interacting with farmers in the affected talukas of the district at Jalgaon Airport. Today, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis arrived at Jalgaon Airport and interacted with the affected farmers from the talukas of Pachora, Bhadgaon, Jamner, Muktainagar, Bhusawal, Jalgaon, and Erandol.

He said that assistance will be provided as soon as their problems are assessed.

He assured that the affected farmers do not need to worry.

The government is standing firmly behind them and has instructed the administration to provide help to everyone without excluding anyone in terms of damage. Only a record of the damage is required for compensation.

He added that the government will also accept photos of the damage taken by the farmers themselves.

The government has already allocated Rs 2,300 crore for areas where Panchnama reports of damage have been received.

Fadnavis assured that necessary assistance will be provided once the Panchnama reports from other areas are received.

Farmers in the rain-affected talukas expressed satisfaction at the support and help shown by the local representatives and administration during the heavy rain disaster.

Uddhav Thackeray tells Fadnavis to waive off farmers' loans and make them debt-free

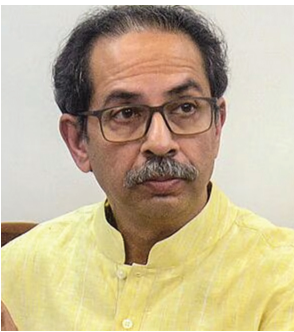
Mumbai, Sept 27 (UNI) : Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray, who is back in Mumbai after touring flood-hit villages, today demanded that the Devendra Fadnavis led state government waives off loans of all farmers in Maharashtra, make them debt-free, and also announce assistance of Rs 50,000 per hectare of crop lost to floods.

"We must have seen that after the Chief Minister went there (Ujani village in Latur district's Ausa taluka on September 24), the farmer who asked him when and how much help he would give, Fadnavis said, come on, don't do politics, and the police went after him. What kind of democracy is this? What kind of government is

this? Why are you ruling?" Uddhav Thackeray told media persons here on Saturday, highlighting the incident.

Uddhav Thackeray said that the amount announced as relief to farmers has not yet reached them.

"Therefore, our demand is that the farmers should be completely debt-free. Today, I request the Chief Minister with folded hands on behalf of farmers that you should waive off the loans of farmers, immediately announce Rs 50,000 per hectare to the farmers as assistance, and distribute it in a time-bound manner. Stop all loan debt collection notices being sent to the farmers by banks," Uddhav Thackeray demanded.



Significantly, waiving off farmers' loans was part of the BJP's 2024 assembly election manifesto, and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis had referred to it after he met PM Modi in Delhi yesterday, requesting financial assistance from the Centre to cope with rains and floods in Maharashtra.

"The Prime Minister has asked the state government to send a proposal in this

38 people dies in Stampede tragedy at Vijay's rally

Chennai, Sept 28 (UNI) : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister early this morning reached Karur, where 38 people died in a tragic stampede at TVK Founder and actor Vijay's political rally. Soon after reaching Karur, accompanied by Ministers Mathiiventhan, K N Nehru and EV Velu, he met the injured at the Karur Governor Medical College Hospital, where they were undergoing treatment. He also met the doctors, drafted from various districts at the Karur government hospital, where special wards were set up, and enquired about the nature of treatment being given to the injured.

He also met the met the family members of the deceased and personally offered his condolences.

After chairing a high level emergency meeting at the State Secretariat to take stock of the situation, he rescheduled his visit (earlier decided to visit

tomorrow) and decided to fly to Karur late last night and biarded the flight at midnight. After reaching Trichy airport at 0130 hrs, Mr Stalin held brief discussions with the officials about the prevailing situation before driving down to Karur, an ahour's drive, where Ministers Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozihi, former Minister V Senthilbalaji and Collectors of various districts were camping to oversee the medical treatment being given to the injured, which the officials put it at 51, including at karur government hospital and private hospital.

Earlier, Mr Stalin ordered a Judicial Probe headed by Retd Justice Ms Aruna Jagadeesan and also announced a solatium of Rs ten lakh each to the families of the deceased, and Rs one lakh each to those injured and undergoing treatment.



UP Govt to act strictly against those spreading unrest, Aparna Yadav

A day after violence in Bareilly district, Vice Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission Aparna Yadav on Friday said that any kind of anarchy is unacceptable in the state. Talking to reporters after the prize distribution at the closing ceremony of the Girls Kho-Kho National Championship organised by the CBSE Board in Ayodhya, Aparna said that every citizen has complete freedom to practice their religion. (See on page 2)

R Venkataramani's tenure as attorney general extended



Senior advocate R. Venkataramani will continue as the Attorney General for India for the next two years, following the union government's decision to extend his tenure. Venkataramani, who succeeded KK Venugopal in 2022, was initially appointed for a three-year term set to conclude on September 30, 2025.

(See on page 4)

UAE FM Abdullah bin Zayed presses for Gaza ceasefire



UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed met with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, and stressed on the need for an urgent ceasefire in Gaza and firmly rejected Jerusalem's potential annexation of Palestinian territories. According to statements by the UAE Foreign Ministry, (See on page 5)

We have shed the pressure and are keen to sustain the



When the UP Yoddhas step onto the mat, it's rarely about one player. But when Gagan Gowda is in form, the team knows it has a weapon. Eight games into Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 12, Gowda has already scored 82 points, the highest for his team.

(See on page 8)

Marathwada braces for heavy to very heavy rain

Ch. Sambhajinagar, Sept 27 (UNI) : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Marathwada on September 27 and 28, and heavy rainfall on the 29th.

This fresh spell follows recent floods that claimed 84 lives and submerged crops across the region. The forecast is due to a well-marked low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal intensifying into a depression and moving westward. Recordings from the 24 hours ending 8:30 am on September 27 showed high levels: Ahmedpur

(Latur) at 17 cm, Palam (Parbhani) at 15 cm, Loha (Nanded) at 14 cm, Gangakhed (Parbhani) at 11 cm, Aundha Nagnath (Hingoli) at 10 cm, Beed town at 9 cm, and Washi (Dharashiv) at 7 cm. Latur district's Ahmedpur (17 cm) and Chakur (11 cm) stations will see continued heavy to very heavy rain on the 28th. Nanded's Loha (14 cm) and Naigaon Khairgaon (10 cm) are expected to face thunderstorms and strong winds persisting into the 28th. Parbhani saw 15 cm at Palam; Hingoli recorded 10 cm at Aundha Nagnath; Beed town logged 9 cm; and (Contd on page 3)

Central Railway to Continue Services of 578 Special Trains Running via Solapur Division

(Standard Post Bureau)
Solapur, Sept 27 : entral Railway will continue the services of 578 special trains running via Solapur Division to clear the extra rush of the passengers as per details given below:
Train no 01435 Solapur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Mumbai Weekly Special notified to run every Tuesday up to 30.09.2025 is now continued to run till 30.12.25. (13 trips)
Train no 01436 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Mumbai-Solapur Weekly Special notified to run every Wednesday up to 01.10.2025 is now continued to run till 31.12.2025.(13trips)
Train Nos. 01435/01436 Solapur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Mumbai Special will now have an additional halt at Murud with immediate effect.

Timings:
01435 Solapur-LTT - 18:00 / 18:01 hrs
01436 LTT-Solapur - 22:04 / 22:05 hrs
Following daily trains notified to run daily till 30.09.2025 have been continued up to 31.12.2025
- Train nos 01461/01462 Solapur-Daund Unreserved Daily Specials (92 trips each)
- Train nos 01465/01466 Solapur-Kalaburagi Unreserved Daily Specials (92 trips each)
- Train nos 01487/01488 Pune-Harangul Daily Specials (92 trips each)
Train Nos. 01487/01488 Pune-Harangul Special will now have an additional halt at Murud with immediate effect.
Timings:
01487 Pune-Harangul - 11:25 / 11:26 hrs
01488 Harangul-Pune - 15:19 / 15:20 hrs
There will be no change in timings, composition and halts for above mentioned trains except in the already specified.
Reservation & Booking: Reservations for continued trips of special trains on special charges will be available at all computerised reservation centres and on website www.irctc.co.in.
Bookings for unreserved coaches can be done through booking counters at stations and UTS app also.
Passengers are requested to travel with valid tickets to avoid inconvenience.
For detailed timings at halts of these special trains please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App.

Central Railway to Run Dhammachakra Pravartan Din Special Trains between Solapur and Nagpur

(Standard Post Bureau)
Solapur, Sept 27 : Central Railway will run special trains between Solapur and Nagpur for the Dhammachakra Pravartan Din 2025 on 2nd October to clear the extra rush of the passengers as per details given below:
Solapur-Nagpur Dhammachakra Pravartan Din Special Trains
- Train no 01029 Solapur-Nagpur Special will depart Solapur at 09:50 hrs on 01.10.2025 and arrive Nagpur at 05:10 hrs the next day.
- Train no 01030 Nagpur-Solapur Special will depart Nagpur at 23:30 hrs on 02.10.2025 and arrive Solapur at 23:45 hrs the next day.
Stoppages: Kurduvadi, Daund, Ahilyanagar, Belapur, Kopargaoon, Manmad, Chalisgaon, Pachora, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Malkapur, Shegaon, Akola, Murtajapur, Badnera, Dhamangaon, Pulgaon, Wardha and Ajni.
Composition: 16 Unreserved Coaches and 2 Luggage Cum Brake Vans. (18 Coaches)
Booking: Bookings for unreserved coaches can be done through booking counters at stations and UTS app also.
Passengers are requested to travel with valid tickets to avoid inconvenience.
For detailed timings at halts of these special trains please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App.

AAP leader Manish Sisodia condemns arrest of Sonam Wangchuk

New Delhi, Sept 27 (UNI) : Senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Manish Sisodia today criticized the central government over the arrest of Ladakhi activist and innovator Sonam Wangchuk, labeling the action as unjust.
Sisodia, who serves as the party's Punjab in-charge, stated that the real threat to the nation comes not from Wangchuk, but from those who imprison individuals like him. He described Wangchuk as a person who has dedicated his life to the development of Ladakh and its children.
The former Delhi Education Minister said he has known Wangchuk personally and is familiar with his work, which he claimed is admired globally. Sisodia referenced the Bollywood film "3 Idiots," noting that a central character was inspired by Wangchuk's life and innovations in education.
"To brand such a human being a threat to the country and jail him under laws meant for severe criminals is deeply shameful," Sisodia remarked during a press release.
He argued that Wangchuk's arrest, for raising concerns about Ladakh, was wrong.

Shah, Rajnath express grief over Karur stampede tragedy

New Delhi, Sept 27 (UNI) : Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today expressed anguish over the loss of lives in a stampede in Tamil Nadu's Karur.
In a post on X, Amit Shah said, "Deeply pained by the tragic loss of lives in a stampede in Karur, Tamil Nadu."
He said, "My heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. I pray to the Almighty to give them the strength to bear this grief and for the speedy recovery of the injured".
Meanwhile, Rajnath Singh also conveyed his pain over the tragic incident.

"Deeply anguished by the tragic accident at a rally in Karur, Tamil Nadu. The loss of innocent lives is truly heartbreaking," he said.He further added, "My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the speedy recovery of those who are injured".As many as 30 people died and several were injured in a stampede during TVK leader Vijay's rally in Karur today evening.

PM Modi welcomes World Para Athletics championships 2025 in Delhi

New Delhi, Sept 27 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended a warm welcome to all athletes and delegates as India commenced hosting the World Para Athletics Championships 2025 here today.In a message shared on social media platform X, the Prime Minister said, "India is proud to be hosting the World Para Athletics Championships 2025 in Delhi, which commences today. A warm welcome and best wishes to all participants. This tournament celebrates human determination and spirit. May this tournament inspire a more inclusive and vibrant sporting culture across the world."The Championships aim to highlight the extraordinary talent and resilience of para-athletes, underscoring India's commitment to promoting inclusivity in sports.



The Musi river flows in spate through the under-construction Moosarambagh bridge after heavy rainfall, in Hyderabad on Saturday

Sonam Wangchuk brought Jodhpur Jail from Leh

Jaipur, Sept 27 (UNI) : Leh-based climate activist Sonam Wangchuk whose stir for demand for statehood for Ladakh turned violent there on Wednesday, was shifted to the High Security Jodhpur Jail late last night following his arrest in Leh on Friday.
In a sudden development, Wangchuk who was spearheading a crusade for statehood for Ladakh, after the arrest yesterday afternoon was booked under the National

Security Act (NSA) and subsequently sent to Jodhpur by special flight late last night.This move was made so secretly that even people of Sun City Jodhpur came to know about it Saturday morning only. Wangchuk is accused of "inciting violence" during the demonstrations on Wednesday.In a statement back home in Leh - Ladakh, the authorities said that it was important to prevent Wangchuk from further acting in a provocative manner (making speeches). To restore normalcy in the peace loving town of Leh, it deemed it necessary to shift him from here (Leh).
However, former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot was not convinced with the explanation and held that it was a case of mishandling of the situation at the level of the Centre.In brief chat with the media in Udaipur, Gehlot said "I am unable to understand what the hell

broke loose there suddenly that the authorities were forced to shift him to the Jodhpur Jail."
"Is he (Wangchuck) a dreaded terrorist? No he is not; but he is an activist used to raising local issues. Earlier, he remained a staunch supporter of Prime Minister Modi, so what might have gone wrong, why did the situation for promulgation of NSA arise? "I believe that this government has been mishandling the situation," he added.

Cong condemns govt's handling of Ladakh crisis, slams arrest of Sonam Wangchuk under NSA

New Delhi, Sept 27 (UNI) :The Indian National Congress today condemned the government's handling of the situation in Ladakh and the arrest of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk under the National Security Act.
In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused the BJP of betraying the people of Ladakh by failing to deliver on its promise to grant the region Sixth Schedule status under the Constitution, which would have provided special protections and autonomy.
He said, "The Indian National Congress strongly condemns the pathetic handling of the situation in Ladakh by the Government & subsequent arrest of Sonam Wangchuk under the draconian National

Security Act".
Kharge said, "At the heart of the crisis lies the BJP's persistent betrayal of the aspirations of people of Ladakh.
For over a year now, there has been turmoil and instead of lending a patient hearing to the cries of the people for inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, Modi Government is responding with violence".
"The BJP had pledged Sixth Schedule status for the region, sadly that promise has been squarely abandoned," said the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha.
He said, "The Indian National Congress seeks nothing but peace in Ladakh. For decades, we have ensured that this beautiful border region remains harmonious and secure, upholding both the spirit of Democracy and the cause of National Security," he said.
He demanded a judicial investigation into the deaths of four persons and the serious injuries suffered by several others during the Ladakh violence.
"We demand a judicial investigation into the deaths of four innocent young men and the serious injuries inflicted upon many others," he said.
He added, "The democratic institutions and democracy need to be revived and restored in Ladakh".
Notably, two days after the Ladakh violence that left four dead and scores injured, Sonam Wangchuk was arrested by police yesterday. He was accused of inciting the violence in Leh.

India Post releases special postal cover to commemorate Shyam Lal College'S Sashtipoorthi

New Delhi, Sept 27(UNI) A special postal cover, commemorating 'Sashtipoorthi' of Shyam Lal College, was officially released by India Post on Friday at a gracious function held at Krishna Nagar Post Office today.
The event was organized by India Post and was attended by Debi Prasad Dash, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Delhi East Division, Delhi, Prof. R.P. Tulsian, Governing Body Member of the Shyam Lal College, Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar-Principal, Shyam Lal College and other distinguished guests.
The release function was presided over by Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar and Debi Prasad Dash who unveiled the cover along with a c o m m e m o r a t i v e cancellation that marks the historical importance of the occasion.In his address, Prof. Kar highlighted the rich history of Shyam Lal College and also said that. "Special covers like these serve not only as collectibles but also as enduring symbols of our rich heritage," he noted.The design of the special cover features Building of the College, reflecting the essence of the occasion of Sashtipoorthi of the College. The cover also carries a unique cancellation mark dated [26.09.2025], making it a valuable addition to any philatelic collection. Attendees praised the initiative and many philatelists expressed keen interest in acquiring the limited-edition cover. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and distribution of the covers to dignitaries and attendees.

Cabinet approves 10,023 new medical seats within next five years

New Delhi, Sept 27 (UNI) : The union Cabinet has approved addition of 10,023 new medical seats with an investment of Rs. 15,034 crore as part of the goal to create 75,000 medical seats within the next five years.
These include 5,000 post-graduate and 5,023 undergraduate seats in existing government colleges and hospitals by 2028-29, an official spokesman said today.
At a meeting here chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi it was also decided to double the number of medical colleges to 808 in 2025-26 from 387 in 2013-14, with undergraduate seats up 141 percent and postgraduate

seats up 144 percent.
New 2025 regulations allow experienced government specialists to become professors without mandatory residency requirements. Initiative specifically targets underserved communities while positioning India as a global hub for affordable healthcare.
"This will improve our healthcare system and enhance medical education infrastructure. It will ensure that every part of India has availability of skilled doctors," the Prime Minister Narendra said in a post on X on September 24.
The country has significantly expanded its medical infrastructure over the past decade, yet the demand continues to outpace supply.
The total investment is Rs. 15,034 crore covering the period from 2025-26 to 2028-29. Of this, 68.5 percent amounting to Rs. 10,303.20 crore will be funded by the union government while the remaining Rs. 4,731.30 crore will be contributed by the states. The investment per seat is Rs. 1.5 crore.
Prime Minister Modi envisions 75,000 additional medical seats in the next five years, and this new approval made on September 24, 2025, is a step towards that goal, the spokesman added.
India has the highest number of medical colleges (808) and has been

expanding its medical educational infrastructure for years.
There are 1,23,700 MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) seats today. In the last decade, 69,352 seats were added, a growth of 127 percent. During this period 43,041 post-graduate seats were added, a growth of 143 percent.A total of 22 new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) were approved under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, which aims to make affordable and reliable tertiary healthcare accessible to all people and regions and improve the quality of medical education in the country, the spokesman added.

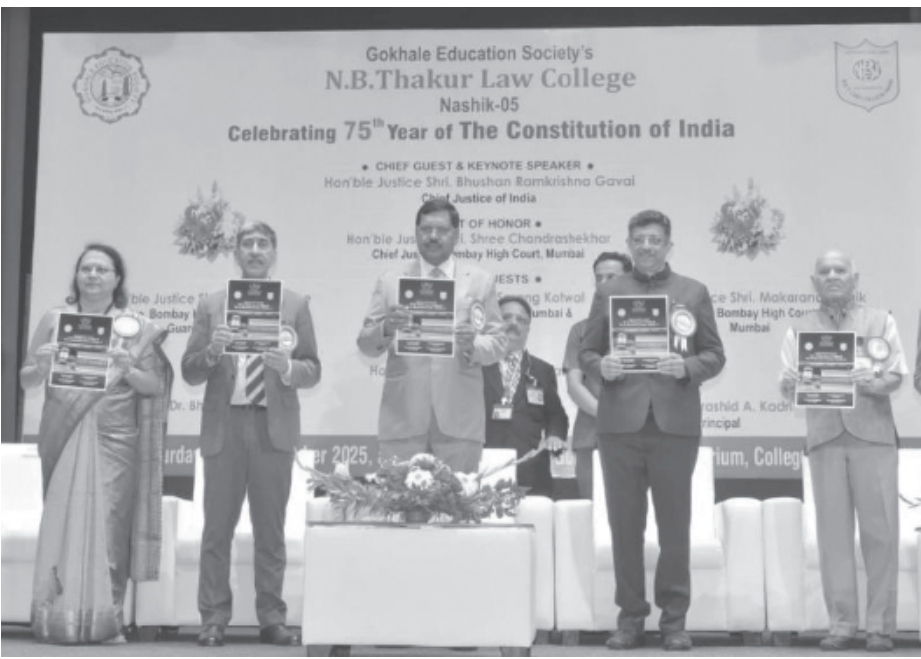
Students should carry forward the ideals of the Constitution says Chief Justice Bhushan Gavai

Nashik, Sep 27 (UNI) : The fundamental rights granted to citizens by the Constitution of India and its guiding principles have always been our compass.

While studying law, students should embrace the values of the Constitution and move forward with vigilance to ensure justice for every citizen, asserted Chief Justice Bhushan Gavai of the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Shri Gavai visited the NBT Law College here today. He was speaking at a program organized on this occasion.

Present at the event were Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court Shri Srichandrasekhar, Justice Makarand Karnik, Justice Sarang Kotwal, Justice Ashwin Bhobe, Member of the Maharashtra and Goa Bar Council Jayant Jaibhave, President of Gokhale Education Society Dr. R.P. Deshpande,



Secretary Dipti Deshpande, Principal A.J. Kadri, Coordinator Bharat Kourani, Dr. Sanjay Mandavkar, and the students of the college.

Chief Justice Shri Gavai said that the preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.

“My education started

at the Municipal School, and today I owe all credit to the Constitution for reaching this position. I have advanced on the path of progress keeping the ideals of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in mind. To be successful in life, students should set their goals. If you set high

goals, you will definitely achieve success in your field,” Chief Justice Shri Gavai advised the students.

While guiding the students, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court Shri Chandrashekhar said that today is the birth anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, who

dedicated his life to serving the country.

Similarly, by acquiring knowledge in the field of law, students can contribute meaningfully to society.

He added that students should progress in a way that preserves the dignity of both the legal profession and society.

Justice Shri Karnik said that the humility and simplicity of Chief Justice Shri Gavai are worth emulating. His guidance will undoubtedly motivate students.

The Chief Justice Shri Gavai also unveiled the stone of the Preamble of the Constitution at the institute, a proud moment for the institution.

“Study of law and timely delivery of justice are hallmarks of Chief Justice Shri Gavai’s work, and students should adopt these values,” said Secretary Mrs. Deshpande in her introduction.

Tension rises after attempted assault on Prof. Laxman Hake’s vehicle near Ahilyanagar

Ahilyanagar, Sept 27 (UNI) : While traveling from Pune to Pathardi to attend an ‘Elgar Sabha,’ OBC leader Prof. Laxman Hake’s vehicle was targeted by a group of unidentified youths wielding sticks on the Arangaon bypass road.

Prof. Hake and the others in the car escaped unharmed, but the incident sparked tension in the area.

Prof Hake was en route to a rally in Pathardi advocating for OBC reservation when the attack occurred shortly after the vehicle stopped for refreshments. Police security had been provided for him during the journey.

Earlier, Prof. Hake had reported receiving threats in recent days and mentioned that his son’s car was also attacked recently.

In light of this incident, it remains uncertain whether the Elgar Sabha scheduled to take place at Daitya Nandur near Pathardi will proceed as planned. The attackers have not yet been identified. The Ahilyanagar Rural Police have said that an investigation will be launched and those responsible will be brought to justice.

RSS chief Mohan Bhragwat calls Emergency-era jail prayer by volunteer

Nagpur, Sept 27 (UNI) : Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat today recalled an incident from the Emergency, saying that an RSS volunteer continued to recite the organisation’s daily prayer even while in jail. Speaking at the inauguration of the audio recording of the RSS prayer at Dr Hedgewar Smruti Bhavan in Reshimbagh,

Bhagwat said the prayer represents a collective resolve of devotion to the motherland. “In the prayer, we do not ask anything from Mother India, we only declare what we will offer her. Whatever is to be asked, is asked from God,” he said.

Bhagwat noted that since 1939, the RSS prayer has been recited daily in shakhas across the

country. “Over the years, it has gained the power of a mantra, making volunteers firm in their resolve,” he said.

Recounting an Emergency-era incident, the RSS chief said a volunteer once told him that though he could not attend the shakha regularly, he prayed daily while imprisoned. “That is why we started this initiative, so

the prayer could reach people everywhere,” Bhagwat said.

Explaining the origin of the prayer, he said it was first composed in Marathi and Hindi, but was later rendered in Sanskrit to give it a national character. The task was entrusted to Bhide Master, a Sanskrit scholar and RSS volunteer, who gave words to the sentiment, he added.

Sanjay Raut accuses BJP of using Shinde, Pawar factions to split Marathi vote and ‘swallow’ Mumbai

Mumbai, Sept 27 (UNI) : Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut today alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is actively working to divide the Marathi community.

Speaking at a press conference, Raut claimed the BJP’s sole aim is not the interests of Maharashtra or Mumbai, but splitting the regional vote.

He accused the BJP of using Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy

Chief Minister Ajit Pawar as “weapons” to achieve this goal. Raut asserted that the BJP holds no genuine affection for either Shinde or Pawar. He claimed their true objective was to fracture the original Shiv Sena, founded by Balasaheb Thackeray, and Sharad Pawar’s Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

According to Raut, the BJP’s ultimate plan is to “swallow Mumbai” by contesting elections under

the banner of the ruling Mahayuti (Grand Alliance).

He further described Shinde’s party as “nothing but a benami company” of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Raut recalled that when the Shiv Sena was undivided, the party determined how many seats to allocate to the BJP.

He predicted that Shinde would now be restricted to contesting just

25–30 seats, far fewer than the 100 he might expect.

Raut alleged that the Shinde faction consists of “contract men” who have been given the BJP’s contract to split Marathi votes in the Mumbai civic body elections. He called their alliance with the BJP “unnatural,” citing that the BJP insists on contesting independently in Thane, and Ajit Pawar takes a similar stance on local body polls.

Marathwada braces for

(Contd from page 1) Dharashiv's Washi measured 7 cm. Jalna and Aurangabad are also forecast heavy showers.

These fully saturated districts face a heightened flash flood risk, especially in low-lying areas and near streams. The IMD has highlighted potential surface runoff and inundation.

The IMD advised farmers to drain standing water from crops and protect harvested produce in orchards. Authorities urged residents to avoid unnecessary travel, steer clear of flooded roads and riverbanks, and follow local administration instructions. In light of the overall heavy-rain spell affecting multiple regions, the Maharashtra Public Service Commission has postponed its September 28 preliminary exam. The state disaster management department remains on high alert.

Balasaheb Thorat demands immediate financial assistance for affected farmers

Ch. Sambhajanagar, Sept 27 (UNI) : Senior Maharashtra Congress leader and former minister Balasaheb Thorat conducted an inspection of flood-affected areas in Pathin taluka of Ch. Sambhajanagar district today, visiting Dhorkan and Takli Phata localities to assess the damage caused by the recent flooding.

Thorat was accompanied by Congress MP Kalyan Kale and several local leaders during his visit to the impacted regions.

The Congress leader interacted extensively with affected farmers, observing that heavy rainfall has completely devastated agricultural operations

across the area. He noted that standing crops were washed away in several locations, while some areas experienced land slippage and destruction of valuable crops. Thorat expressed deep concern over the precarious condition of farmers and emphasised the urgent need to address this critical situation immediately.

Thorat appealed to the state government to implement practical measures beyond bureaucratic procedures and regulations, demanding substantial financial assistance and complete loan waivers for affected cultivators without delay. He also stressed the importance of accelerating

damage assessment surveys to ensure prompt relief distribution to those impacted by the natural disaster. The visit witnessed participation from District President Kiran Patil Dongaonkar, Yusuf Shaikh, Ravinder Kale, Vinod Tambe, Bhausaheb Jagtap, Ashok Dolas, Raosaheb Nade, Sambhaji Kate, Ravinder Amle along with numerous local farmers and residents.

The Congress leader’s assessment highlighted the severe agricultural losses suffered by the farming community and underscored the necessity for immediate government intervention to mitigate the crisis affecting rural communities in the region.

Torrential rain triggers widespread flooding in Beed

Beed, Sept 27 (UNI) : Continuous torrential rainfall over the past two days has caused extensive damage and widespread flooding across Beed district. Intermittent heavy showers have affected both urban and rural areas, causing several rivers to overflow and flood residential settlements. The sudden waterlogging has transformed roads into waterways, severely disrupting transportation and creating significant difficulties for residents.

The most severe impact has been reported in sensitive, low-lying regions. Areas including Masoom Colony, Khas Bagh, and Gandhi Nagar in Beed city witnessed water entering homes, prompting immediate evacuation efforts by the administration.

Since last night, residents of these affected localities have been instructed to vacate their properties. Temporary accommodation has been arranged in schools, community halls, and other

government buildings. Special arrangements are in place to provide clean drinking water, dry rations, and medical facilities to those affected.

Beed District Collector Vivek Johnson urged the public to disregard rumours and adhere strictly to official instructions. He emphasised that entry into any hazardous zones remains prohibited, and advised citizens to take necessary precautions given the possibility of additional rainfall.

The district administration has placed all departments on high alert and intensified relief operations. District Superintendent of Police Navneet Kavat personally visited impacted localities, interacting with residents and confirming that police teams are collaborating with other departments in relief efforts. MLA Sandeep Kshirsagar and former MLA Syed Saleem also toured affected areas, meeting with citizens and assessing the situation firsthand. Tehsildar Shelke has

WESTERN RAILWAY
REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF PLASTIC WASTE MATERIALS
Sr. DEN (South)/MMCT, Mumbai Central, invites E-tender Notice No: **BCT/25-26/236, dt.24.09.2025. Work and Location:** Chuchgate - Virar section: Removal and disposal of muck, garbage, plastic, plastic bags, papers and other waste materials from the track under ADEN (T/S) PL section. **Approx. cost of work:** ₹ 1,17,15,686.80. **EMD:** ₹ 2,08,600/-
Date & Time of Submission: Till 17.10.2025, 15:00 Hrs. **Date & Time of Opening:** On 17.10.2025 at 15:30 Hrs. For further details please visit our website www.irops.gov.in **0647**
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WESTERN RAILWAY
OHE WORK
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Sub), Western Railway, Mumbai Central, Mumbai – 400008, invites **E-Tender Notice No.: WR-MMCTOESUB (ESOT)/10/2024(RT), Date: 23.09.2025. Name of work:** Andheri - Borivali Section: Conversion of unregulated OHE of UPTH and DNTH lines into regulated OHE. **Estimated cost of work:** ₹ 12,01,26,239/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 7,50,600/- **Last Date and Time for Submission:** Till 22.10.2025, 15:00 hrs. **Last Date and Time of Opening:** On 22.10.2025 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.irops.gov.in **0637**
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/ BNC/EP/C/140/2025 Dated: 19-09-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Construction of a new broad gauge railway line between Malguru (Chainage -) 1906.6 (Ch: 108125 of Yelahanka - Penukonda) to Palasam Draram (Chainage 17/150) including 02 new yards (Chalivendala & Palasamudram) and Existing Malguru Yard modification with a route length of 19.057 km including Signal & Telecommunication, Electrification & Electrical General Service works) (Tender Ref. No.: MLU-PALASAMUDRAM -EPC01-R2)	Rs. 2,96,21,09,528/-

Date of closing of Tender is : **Upto 15:00 hrs on 20-11-2025**
For details log on: www.irops.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment
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TO RUN FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

TRAIN NO.	ORIGINATING STATION & DESTINATION	DATES OF SERVICE	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
09023	BANDRA TERMINUS - SANGANER	02.10.2025 to 27.11.2025	16:45 hrs (Thursday)	12:30 hrs (Next Day)
09024	SANGANER - BANDRA TERMINUS	03.10.2025 to 28.11.2025	16:50 hrs (Friday)	11:15 hrs (Next Day)

Halts: Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Nagda, Chauhama, Shamgarh, Bhawani Mandi, Ramganj Mandi, Kota and Sawai Madhopur station in both directions.
Composition: AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier & AC 3-Tier (Economy) Coaches.

09324	INDORE - KHADKI	01.10.2025 to 26.11.2025	11:15 hrs (Wednesday)	03:10 hrs (Next Day)
09323	KHADKI- INDORE	02.10.2025 to 27.11.2025	05:10 hrs (Thursday)	23:55 hrs (Same Day)

Halts: Dewas, Ujjain Jn., Nagda Jn., Ratlam, Godhra, Vadodara, Surat, Valsad, Vapi, Vasai Road, Kalyan And Lonavala station in both directions.
Composition: AC 2-Tier, & AC 3-Tier Coaches.
For detailed information regarding Timings, Halts and Composition, Passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

The Booking for Train Nos. 09023 and 09324 opens from 28.09.2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC Website. The above trains will run as Special Trains on Special Fare.

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STANDARD POST

Every minute, 8 die of heart disease in SE Asia, WHO cites weak enforcement, regulatory gaps

In South-East Asia, eight people die every minute due to cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), Dr Catharina Boehme, officer-in-charge of WHO South-East Asia, today said, blaming the toll on commercial interests, inadequate fiscal and regulatory frameworks, weak enforcement, and poor oversight of unhealthy product marketing.

Ahead of World Heart Day on September 29, Dr Boehme pointed out, “CVDs remain the leading cause of death in the region, with nearly half of these fatalities occurring prematurely, in individuals below 70 years of age.”

Highlighting the progress made under the SEAHEARTS resolution, a regional commitment adopted two years ago to accelerate prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases, she said, “So far, the outcomes have been encouraging, but significant challenges remain.”

“By June 2025, over 90 million patients with hypertension and diabetes have received protocol-based care at public health facilities” noted Dr Boehme.

"Legislative bans on harmful trans fats now protect more than 1.7 billion people, and tobacco control measures have reached over 103 million individuals through at least three WHO MPOWER strategies,” said Dr Boehme, citing political will and multi-sectoral coordination as key drivers of this success.

However, significant challenges persist. “Commercial interests, inadequate fiscal and regulatory frameworks, weak enforcement, and poor oversight of unhealthy product marketing hinder progress,” Dr. Boehme noted.

Public awareness of cardiovascular risk factors remains low, and many Member States lack sufficient laboratory capacity and enforcement mechanisms to regulate sodium in foods, test tobacco products, or monitor trans-fat levels.

Hypertension, diabetes, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diets high in salt and fats, and physical inactivity remain the primary drivers of this epidemic.

“Alarmingly, 85% of those living with hypertension and diabetes in the region have their conditions poorly controlled,” Dr. Boehme warned, highlighting how rapid urbanisation and ageing populations are further straining already overstretched health systems.

The delivery of quality care is further hampered by limited funding for non-communicable diseases, shortages of trained healthcare workers, and insufficient access to essential diagnostics and medicines at the primary care level.

Dr Boehme emphasised that turning the tide will require collective responsibility: “Governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, and communities must unite — no single entity can combat cardiovascular diseases alone.”

The SEAHEARTS resolution aims to bring 100 million people with hypertension and/or diabetes under protocol-based management by 2025, while intensifying efforts to reduce tobacco use, salt intake, and eliminate industrially produced trans-fatty acids from food supplies.

Dr Boehme urged individuals to take preventive measures: “Quitting tobacco, reducing salt intake, engaging in daily physical activity, and managing stress are vital steps towards a healthy heart.”

For policymakers, she called for urgent action: “Salt reduction, enforcement of industrial trans-fat bans, and comprehensive tobacco control laws must be top priorities.”

Primary healthcare, she said, must remain the cornerstone of heart health. “This requires strengthening urban health systems, expanding access to protocol-based medicines and technologies, and involving the private sector in coordinated care,” said Dr Boehme."Enhanced health information systems can support patient tracking, improve treatment adherence, and monitor outcomes. Training health workers and streamlining referral pathways are essential to saving countless lives,” Dr Boehme said.

Prime Minister flags off Amrit Bharat Express between Brahmapur (Odisha) and Udhna (Gujarat)

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reviews the work of bullet train station at Surat

(Standard Post Bureau)

Surat, known as the diamond and textile hub of India, is witnessing rapid growth in passenger and freight movement. To meet the future demands of Gujarat, Indian Railways is undertaking comprehensive measures. These include the redevelopment of Railway Stations in Surat & Udhna and introduction of new passenger and freight trains.

Amrit Bharat Express between Odisha and Gujarat

Today, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi flagged off the Amrit Bharat Express between Brahmapur (Odisha) and Udhna (Gujarat). It is a new generation train designed for affordable, safe, and long-distance travel.

Features of Amrit Bharat Express:

Modern ergonomic seating with improved design

Fully connected coaches for seamless movement

Twin-engine configuration ensuring higher safety and reliability

Just as Vande Bharat has redefined travel for the middle class, Amrit Bharat Express will provide similar facilities at an affordable fare. The rail service flagged off today will be available at fare of Rs 495 (General class) and Rs 795 (Non-AC sleeper class) per journey.

The train will cover a distance of over 1700 km spread over 22 districts of 5 states (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha).

Through this new



connectivity, entrepreneurs and businesspeople including the youth will be able to find more avenues in textile, diamonds, and related sectors. This train will also benefit pilgrims going to Maa Tara Tarini Shaktipeeth.

Station redevelopment work in Gujarat

The stations of Gujarat are being developed as part of the Master Development plan, keeping the next 50 years in sight. Indian Railways is undertaking comprehensive redevelopment of Railway Stations such as Udhna, Surat, Bilimora, Sachin etc.

The Union Minister



took stock of redevelopment work of Udhna Station today. He mentioned that the station is being designed on modern lines. Special emphasis is laid on expanding the capacity of platforms and pit lines.

Earlier in the day, the Union Minister also visited

the Surat High Speed Rail Station to review the construction work. Work between Surat-Billimora is progressing rapidly. The civil work of the station is completed with the finishing and utility work currently underway.

During today's inspection, the minister

informed us that modern and innovative technology is being used in this project.

The work on tracks has been progressing at remarkable speed. He mentioned that the first turnout has been successfully installed at Surat station. A turnout is the critical junction of railway tracks. This feature will enable flexibility and smooth operation of high-speed trains.

The tracks also features roller bearings, allowing their smoother and safer movement while the bullet train runs on it at high speed. Additionally, sleepers on the track are made using composite material instead of concrete. This will ensure higher durability, reduced maintenance, and better performance at high speeds.

To further improve passenger comfort and reduce the noise in the environment, a vibration absorption mechanism in the form of dampers has been introduced. These will absorb the noise and shock. The Union Minister mentioned that with this project we will be able to reach Mumbai from Surat in one hour.

The station redevelopment and track laying is progressing at a steady pace. The High-Speed Rail project will eventually transform connectivity and boost economic activity. The entire stretch of Ahmedabad and Mumbai will become one economic corridor. The project will also set new benchmarks in railway technology and passenger experience.

Inorbit Mall Malad hosts Divya Raas Navratri with Keerthi Sagathia

(Standard Post Bureau)

Inorbit Mall Malad is all set to light up the city with festive fervour as it hosts Divya Raas Navratri Utsav 2025, featuring the dynamic and soulful Keerthi Sagathia live. From 21st September to 1st October, 7 PM to 10 PM, the mall's parking arena will be transformed into a vibrant celebration ground for eleven electrifying nights of Garba, Dandiya, and live music.

Keerthi Sagathia,

celebrated for his rustic yet versatile voice, will headline the eleven-night extravaganza. Known for Bollywood hits like “Bhai Bhai” (Ramleela), “Photocopy” (Jai Ho), “Shubh Din” (Parmanu), “Tum Tak” (Raanjhanaa), and “Mujh Mein Tu” (Special 26), Keerthi has also earned millions of views for his folk recreations, especially “Kaun Halave Limbdi”. His recent Gujarati superhits include “Ude Re Gulaal”

(Kutch Express) and “Kasumbo” (Kasumbo).

Conceptualised by Sagar Shah, Founder of Eventree, and Sagar Bhatia, Founder of Rudra-Akshar Entertainments and Holidays, with Varun Barot and Rutika Malaviya of Hardyboyz as official partners, Divya Raas promises to be Mumbai's grandest Navratri celebration—blending the soul of tradition with the energy of modern festivities. Bookings are

now open! Guests can reserve their passes online via BookMyShow – Divya Raas Navratri Utsav 2025, or at the booking booth inside Inorbit Mall Malad's atrium for added convenience.

This Navratri, Inorbit Mall Malad, as venue partner, promises eleven extraordinary nights of music, dance, devotion, and community celebrations; with one name that moves millions, Keerthi Sagathia, leading the stage.

Hidden Salt Driving Hypertension Crisis in Cuttack

(Standard Post Bureau)

As World Heart Day approaches, leading doctors in Cuttack are urging citizens to look beyond visible salt on the dining table and confront a far more dangerous threat—the hidden sodium present in packaged, processed, and street foods. With hypertension emerging as one of the biggest contributors to heart disease in India, experts say that ignoring this invisible culprit could prove deadly for Cuttack's residents.

Dr. Omm Prakash Nayak, MD, DM (Cardiology), SCB Medical College &

Hospital, explained that while many households consciously cut down on the salt sprinkled in home-cooked meals, the real danger comes from sodium consumed unknowingly. This includes bakery bread, instant noodles, chips, sauces, pickles, chutneys, papads, aerated drinks, and even “health foods” like flavored oats or packaged juices.

“The danger is not the salt you see, but the salt you don't,” said Dr. Nayak. “In Cuttack, I see patients who avoid adding extra salt at home, yet their daily diet includes namkeen, bhujia, fast-food items, and

bakery snacks that are loaded with hidden sodium.

The average adult is easily consuming nearly double the recommended 5 grams of salt per day without realizing it.

This silent overload gradually stiffens arteries, damages the kidneys, and increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes. By the time symptoms appear, hypertension is already well established. People must understand that salt is not just what comes out of the shaker—it hides in almost everything we eat outside.”

Cuttack's lifestyle and food culture make the problem even more acute.

Street food such as dahibara-aloo dum, gupchup, fried pakoras, and spicy rolls are household favorites, but they carry heavy doses of salt and refined oil.

Festive seasons bring platters filled with salted savories and deep-fried snacks that further push daily sodium intake beyond safe limits. Add to this the rising trend of eating out at restaurants and ordering packaged fast food, and the city faces a hidden epidemic.

Dr. Nayak emphasized that cutting hidden salt requires both individual and community action. “We must return to basics—fresh fruits,

vegetables, pulses, and millets with measured salt in cooking. Families should read food labels carefully and choose low-sodium options. Schools and local community groups can create awareness campaigns, while street vendors and food outlets must also be encouraged to provide healthier, low-salt alternatives. This is not about giving up taste; it is about safeguarding lives. A simple decision at the kitchen or market can prevent years of suffering from hypertension and heart failure.”

With nearly one in three Indian adults suffering from high blood

pressure, the impact is severe. Untreated hypertension is a leading cause of premature heart disease, kidney failure, and strokes. In Odisha, where traditional diets are rapidly being replaced by urban food habits, doctors warn that unless people become alert to hidden salt, the burden of cardiovascular disease will only worsen.

World Heart Day 2025 comes with a timely reminder: prevention starts not in the hospital but in daily food choices. For Cuttack, the message is clear—cutting hidden sodium today is the only way to protect tomorrow's heart health.

Myanmar Investment Commission approves 19 projects

Yangon, Sept. 27 (UNI) : The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) approved four foreign investment projects and 15 local ventures on Friday, state-owned daily The Global New Light of Myanmar reported on Saturday. These projects cover various sectors, including industry, services, electricity, transport, communications, as well as breeding and marine industries, and are expected to create 4,446 jobs for locals, the report said.The total investment is valued at 109.63 million U.S. dollars and over 417.54 billion kyats (about 198.82 million U.S. dollars), it said.

As of the end of August 2025, among the 53 investing countries, Singapore, China, and Thailand are the leading countries with the largest foreign investments in the country, it added.

The MIC oversees and approves investment project proposals from locals and overseas, and serves existing investors under the Myanmar Investment Law, the report said.

EU fanning 'drone wall' hysteria to justify military spending: Russia

Moscow, Sept 27 (UNI) : Hysteria surrounding the alleged drone incursion into the European union and its "drone wall" project is being inflated to justify increased military spending, Vladislav Maslennikov, chief of the Department of European Issues at the Russian Foreign Ministry, told Sputnik.

"It is obvious that 'hysteria' fanned by the EU members around the incursion of drones into the EU territory and the announcement of defense projects with big names pursue only one goal, which is to justify to the public why they are increasing military spending in Europe at the expense of socio-economic projects and the decreasing standard of living," he said.

Maslennikov said there was no clarity regarding the length of the proposed "drone wall," and warned that personal ambitions and political games of the ruling elites in the EU would ultimately lead "not to a decrease, but to an increase in military and political tensions in our continent."

US reveals 21-point proposal for ending Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, calls for demilitarisation, future Palestinian state

New York, Sept 27 (UNI) : The US has revealed its proposal for ending the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, which quaintly enough sees Washington explicitly encouraging Palestinians to remain in the war-ravaged Strip, outlining a potential pathway for the establishment of a potential future Palestinian state, according to a copy obtained by The Times of Israel.

The 21-point document shared by the US with a handful of Arab and Muslim countries earlier this week on the UN General Assembly sidelines combines long-standing Israeli demands with new concessions to Palestinians.

The plan calls for the release of all hostages, the removal of Hamas from power, demilitarisation of Gaza, and deradicalisation of the enclave. Simultaneously, it also envisions post-war reconstruction, reform of the Palestinian Authority, and the creation of a "political horizon" for peaceful coexistence.

The exact sequencing for these steps isn't specified, but it appears that they are intended to come into effect in parallel with the ending of the war.

The plan marks a major shift for Washington, given that back in February, Trump had given the bizarre proposal of a US military takeover of the Strip to aid in the relocation of its two million population to another area.His statement had emboldened the far-right figures in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition who have openly supported "voluntary migration."

By contrast, the new proposal envisions a potential pathway to a future Palestinian state, after Gaza's redevelopment has advanced and the Palestinian Authority's reform has been completed, also appears to be a major departure from the Trump administration's policy to date, given that it has avoided expressing backing for a two-state solution.

The plan- largely crafted by US special envoy Steve Witkoff — and poised to be fine-tuned in the coming days — reportedly would even see the US establishing a dialogue with Israel and the Palestinians to agree on a "political horizon" for "peaceful coexistence."

However, its provisions also support Jerusalem's key demands for ending its war, with many calling its adoption dubious, owing to Hamas' likely rejection, particularly as the terror group has refused any calls for disarming.

The Israeli premier has been fiercely against any establishment of a Palestinian state, and echoed his animosity to such a suggestion during the UNGA session on Friday, where he stated "Giving the Palestinians a state one mile from Jerusalem after October 7th is like giving Al-Qaeda a state one mile from New York City after September 11th.

"This is sheer madness. It's insane, and we won't do it... Israel will not allow you to shove a terror state down our throats."

President Trump has however expressed optimism about his chances for success, telling reporters earlier in the day that a deal may already be in place, before posting on Truth Social that "intense negotiations have been going on for four days and will continue for as long as necessary to get a successfully completed agreement."

The plan is yet to be presented to the Hamas leadership, and being light on details, will require subsequent negotiations, even if the sides agree to the plan.

Prevalence of geopolitics distracts UNGA from nuclear agenda

Moscow, Sept 27 (UNI/SPUTNIK) : The prevalence of geopolitical issues at the United Nations General Assembly distracts the gathering from "moving the world together" in terms of nuclear energy development, World Nuclear Association Director General Dr. Sama Bilbao y Leon told RIA Novosti.

"I have been following the General Assembly, and I was in New York on Monday and Tuesday. It has been, unfortunately, not as promising as we would like. I think we have so many conflicts, so many tensions in the world, that we are really distracted from working together and moving the world together and providing for, well, the 800 million people in the world with no access to electricity," Bilbao y Leon said on the sidelines of the World Atomic Week forum in Moscow when asked whether the UNGA was doing enough to promote safe nuclear energy.

The director general added that she does not expect nuclear energy to be a "big topic at this General Assembly, unfortunately."

"We have other problems right now. I think that [International Atomic Energy Agency] Director General [Rafael] Grossi clearly is doing [Rafael] fabulous job making sure that nuclear energy is considered within the United Nations Global Agenda. Unfortunately, well, as I said, we have many other problems," she also said.The 80th anniversary session of the UN General Assembly opened on September 9. As per tradition, it includes the high-level week. General debates are taking place from September 23-27 and on September 29. Discussions during the assembly largely circle around the war in the Middle East, the Ukraine conflict, and the situation around the Iranian nuclear program.

UAE FM presses for Gaza ceasefire

Abu Dhabi/Jerusalem, Sept 27 (UNI) : UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed met with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, and stressed on the need for an urgent ceasefire in Gaza and firmly rejected Jerusalem's potential annexation of Palestinian territories.According to statements by the UAE Foreign Ministry, the top Emirati official also warned that the UAE's normalisation agreement with Israel could be harmed, if Tel Aviv moved ahead with the initiative, as per Times of Israel.

According to the UAE Foreign Ministry, the meeting, also attended by Ambassador to Israel Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Khaja and special envoy Lana Nusseibeh, focused heavily on the humanitarian toll of the conflict.

"The foreign minister stressed the urgent need to end the war in Gaza, reach a permanent and sustainable ceasefire, prevent further loss of life,



Protesters clash with riot police as they participate in a demonstration part of a nation-wide protest and general strike against the war in Gaza, in Milan.

Excessive force by Nepal Police hastened Oli govt's fall; 13,182 cases of firing took place on Gen Z protesters

Kathmandu, Sept 27 (UNI) : Official records from Nepal Police reveal that excessive force was used by its personnel to suppress the nationwide Gen Z protests of September 8-9, which ultimately precipitated the fall of the Oli government. A preliminary police report found that over 13,182 separate instances of firing were reported during the two days of unrest.

The report shows that 2,642 rounds of live ammunition were used, alongside 1,884 rubber bullets, 2,377 warning shots and 6,279 tear gas shells.

Much of the firing involved lethal weapons, including INSAS rifles, self-loading rifles (SLR) and pistols. Post-mortem reports at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital indicated that high-velocity bullets were responsible for most deaths, according to Kathmandu Post.

The heaviest use of force was recorded in the Kathmandu Valley, where police discharged 1,329 live bullets, 1,420 rubber bullets, 1,046 warning shots and over 3,000 tear gas shells.

In total, the Valley alone witnessed 6,891 firings. Other hotspots included

Madhesh province with 1,921 instances, Koshi with 1,568, Karnali with 932, Sudurpaschim with 763, Lumbini with 619, Gandaki with 306, and other Bagmati districts with 181.

"This is only a preliminary record prepared by the police. The numbers could rise," a Home Ministry official said.

Police spokesperson Binod Ghimire added that a committee led by Deputy Inspector General Deepak Regmi is still investigating the use and loss of ammunition, with records partly destroyed in an arson attack on the Valley Police Office in Ranipokhari.

Additionally, senior police officers have admitted to failures in intelligence-gathering, supporting the NHRC's claims of the government's sheer underestimation of the movement's scale.

Authorities reportedly expected only 4,000–5,000 demonstrators on Sept 8, and thus were woefully unprepared.

Initially, the Home Ministry ordered minimal deployment, with reinforcements inside Parliament.

Former Additional Inspector General Uttamraj

Subedi called the strategy flawed, stating "Declaring a prohibited area means preventing entry. Procedures that should have been completed before firing were not implemented."

Protesters -who coordinated by social media – broke through the barricades at Maitighar half past midnight and hung a 'Wake Up Nepal' banner on the Baneshwar's skywalk, and then proceeded to surrounded the Parliament's premises. Ill-prepared, police responded with live fire from Special Task Force personnel and other units.

Nineteen people were killed in Kathmandu on the first day, with further deaths in Koshi. By the second day, the death toll climbed to 75, including juveniles in correctional facilities, prisoners in Dhading and Ramechhap, 20 civilians in supermarket arson attacks, and three police officers beaten by protesters. Most fatalities were caused by bullets.

Critics have condemned the use of live fire. Former NHRC commissioner Mohna Ansari said "International crowd control principles mandate non-lethal weapons. Shooting protesters in the

head is even more serious."

Post-mortems revealed most gunshots struck above the waist, despite legal provisions requiring warnings and aiming at legs if firearms are used.

The scale of the shootings was beyond expectations and alarmed Nepal's political leadership. At an emergency National Security Council meeting, then Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli said such levels of firing were unprecedented.

Security leaders have claimed that lethal force was used only after protesters breached prohibited zones, though senior advocate Satish Krishna Kharel argued against the statement and said "Targeting protesters' heads was unprofessional. I suspect it was done to provoke the situation."

Some cases of mob violence, arson, and vandalism were also noted to have been incited from within the movement's inner circle – supposedly to hasten its goal of collapsing the Oli regime – and they proceeded to add greater fuel to the already raging flames, thus triggering the unexpected scale of mass violence, though these perpetrators are unknown.

Russia has know how, expertise to build closed fuel cycle NPP: World Nuclear Association

Moscow, Sept 27 (UNI) : Russia has the experience, know-how, and expertise to build a nuclear power plant with a closed fuel cycle, World Nuclear Association Director General Dr. Sama Bilbao y Leon told RIA Novosti.

On Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia would be constructing the world's first nuclear power system with a closed fuel cycle in the Tomsk Region, with the launch date set for 2030.

"That is definitely something that [Russian state nuclear corporation] Rosatom has been planning on doing. And frankly, I think we know that there is the experience already here. We already have the fast reactors that have been operating for 40-50 years. So, I think that Russia has the know-how and the

expertise to do something like that," Bilbao y Leon said on the sidelines of the World Atomic Week forum in Moscow when commenting on the announcement.

Bilbao y Leon also highlighted Rosatom's "fabulous track record" in cooperating with other countries in advancing their nuclear energy capabilities and noted that there are other examples of nuclear development cooperation, such as South Korea and the United Arab Emirates, as well as China and Pakistan."I think the beauty of the nuclear industry [is in] how we really work together, how this is a team effort, and how countries like to collaborate and learn from each other," the director general added.

Speaking of the global production of nuclear fuel, Bilbao y Leon noted that

EU plan to stop Russian energy imports by 2027 to hit Europeans: Russian diplomat

Moscow, Sept 27 (UNI/Sputnik) : The European Commission's plan to abandon Russian energy imports by 2027 looks unfeasible and would affect the standard of living in Europe, Vladislav Maslennikov, chief of the Department of European Issues at the Russian Foreign Ministry, told Sputnik.

"The intention to abandon Russian energy imports by 2027, which was announced by the European Commission president following her meeting with US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on September 23, will ultimately affect the standard of living of people in EU countries," Maslennikov said.

On September 11, European Commissioner for Energy and Housing Dan Jorgensen announced the EU's commitment to a plan to stop Russian gas imports by 2028. European Commission President von der Leyen had to correct Jorgensen to avoid angering Trump, the Russian diplomat said.

"The EU is ready to use any means, from anti-Russian demagoguery to methods that contradict established norms and rules of conduct, including in trade and the economy. Reality usually turns out to be more interesting than plans. It is already obvious to experts that the pace of the 'green' transition announced by Brussels is unrealistic," said Maslennikov.

"It is not clear how feasible the plans for an 'early' withdrawal from Russian energy imports are, not in the least because they do not take into account the interests of several EU member states," Maslennikov said.

the majority of countries in the world "are actually doing a lot of effort" in exploration and mining of uranium."I think that there are lots of opportunities in Central Asia. I think there are lots of opportunities in Africa. There are many countries in Africa that have enormous resources. We just really need to do the investment in finding it and extracting it," she said.During the Thursday announcement, Putin also said that the planned construction of the closed fuel cycle reactor is, in the full sense, a revolutionary development of Russian scientists and engineers. Such a mechanism will make it possible in the future to almost completely solve the problems of accumulation of radioactive waste and, most importantly, to remove the issue of uranium security, according to the president.

Career&tech

5 email etiquettes to avoid Embarrassment

This is the age of email communication. Although we have quick access messengers for instant chats, there are instances where you have to send an email.

However, there are no set rules for the same. Remember your language classes in school where you were taught the important components of a letter? Yes, we did learn about letter writing skills - date, salutation, subject, body of the letter and sign off being the not to be missed components. Fortunately or unfortunately, this is missing from the emails that we exchange on a daily basis. Even though we use emails for office communication, we more often than not end up using an informal tone which at time might land you in trouble.

Here are a few things to keep in mind when you write an email

First things first: Do not use short forms. Agreed, we shorten words to fit the character length on our phones and also save time. However, this is a strict no-no in office communication. For all you know, the email may be read by your super boss or CEO of the company. Using short forms might lead him to

think you are not serious about your work. The bottom line — Be formal where required!

Know the addressee: get your facts right. Know who you are writing to. Also, find out his/her designation and follow protocol. For instance, even people in the top posts are addressed by their names in a media company which may not be the case in other corporate organisations. So it's best not to flout rules. If a person has to be addressed as sir/madam use the same.

Spell out the subject: Make a clear mention on the contents of the mail in your subject. For instance, if the mail pertains to a delayed project, mention the same in the subject line so the recipient knows what to expect. A subject line is what grabs attention of the recipient who receives hundreds of mails a day on an average.

Be crisp: Be clear on what you want to

convey. In the age of speed news, people do not have an entire day to read mails. Hence, no history required, just get straight to the point. Remember the attention span is limited and there are too many diversions. Hence the reader might lose interest and miss the actual point intended in the mail after reading your prelude. Keep the message brief, yet effective. MAKE sure you mention the important information in the first few lines itself.

Proofread your mail: Last, but not the least it's very important to reread what you have written so as to avoid typos and goof-ups to avert disasters. To err is human, but to rectify them is wise! It's better to be safe than sorry isn't it?



Is your high-flying job making you sick?

It's not breaking news that most office-goers suffer from lifestyle diseases. But a new survey highlights just how stark the differences are between the health of private sector employees and those who work in sarkari offices.

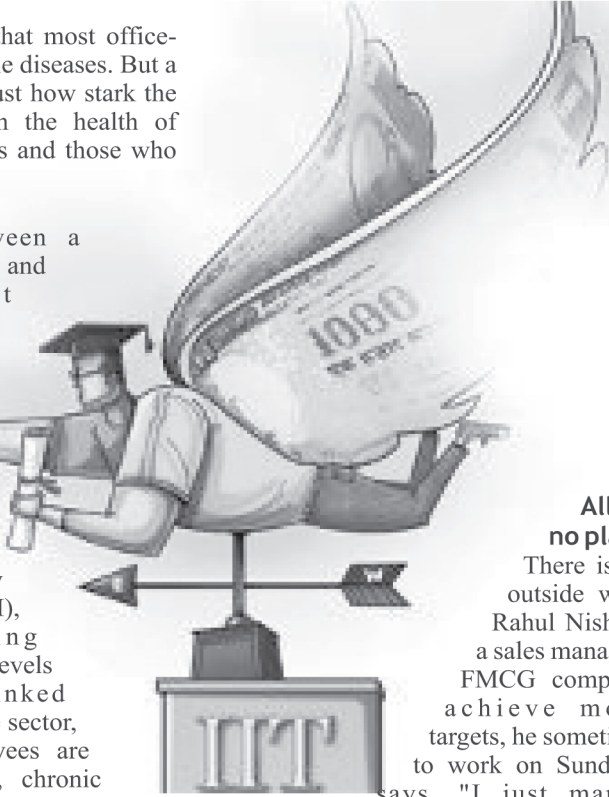
85% afflicted
The difference between a corporate professional and his government counterpart isn't in just how much salary they draw, but also in how healthy they are. According to a national survey by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), "Due to demanding schedules, high stress levels and performance-linked perquisites in the private sector, nearly 85% of employees are afflicted with lifestyle, chronic diseases and acute ailments, while government employees range below 8%."

Same work profile, different work hours

IT consultant Akshay Verma, 24, deals with foreign clients, and so his timings are never fixed. He says, "Before joining this consultancy job, I had no health issues. But in the last six months, I've developed spondylitis. I sit at my workstation for more than 12, and at times, 16 hours, per day." However, Praveen Sahay, 32, who is also an IT consultant but deals with a government enterprise, says, "My client's an Indian bank, so my work life isn't hectic at all. Mine are proper sarkari office timings. I don't have to work after 6pm. After going home, I sometimes help my wife in the kitchen to make her happy."

The young and the sick
Sumit Arora, 26, a web developer, says, "I've developed carpal tunnel syndrome, which happens when the movement of the hand is limited. I sit in front of the computer all day." Pratik Kumar, 27, a chartered accountant, has developed a dry eye because of long computer hours. "I use eye drops, but the damage is done," says he.

Survey says 85% of private sector workers have lifestyle diseases, while only 8% government office-goers do.



All work, no play

There is no life outside work for Rahul Nishant, 30, a sales manager at an FMCG company. To achieve monthly targets, he sometimes has to work on Sundays. He says, "I just married a computer engineer. Sometimes, I work on Sundays, and if I'm home before 9pm, I have to make excel sheets and PPTs for a morning meeting. I hardly get any quality time to spend with my wife. It is usually at dinner that we talk. She taunts me that I shouldn't have married her, but the excel sheets and PPTs. I've also got high BP because of work tension." Kapil Deo (name changed), 35, works as an R&D manager in an automobile company. He's called to office at 1am quite often. "Once you get into a private company, they act like they own you. I often get calls at midnight to be in office because machines are not responding properly. I've become an insomniac. I don't get time to play with my kid. She waits for Sundays as that's the only day I'm available for her." But Shibani Rai, a bank PO, says, "It's not that government employees don't work. They are not overloaded. They're not understaffed, so work is distributed equally. The only time when I'm really busy is March and April. We have the closing, and after that, audits happen. So, for two months, my routine is rather busy, but otherwise, I leave for home by 7pm. If I have to meet my relatives or have to shop, I don't have to wait till Sunday like many of my friends."

Marshall Goldsmith, in his book, What Got You Here Won't Get You There, makes a pertinent point: "If you keep your mouth shut, no one can ever know how you really feel." Yet, most employees answer diplomatically or simply beat around the bush during their exit interviews. Here are a few points that employers should keep in mind while conducting exit interviews.

-THE BASICS

An exit interview is an important HR tool to assess the company's well being at various levels. Good exit interviews enable organizations to extract relevant information from exiting employee, analyze it, and subsequently, perform reformative or corrective measures for organizational growth. Elaborating on this point, Manuel D'Souza, director, HR, Serco Global Services, says, "Exit interviews are a means to understand the underlying reasons that influences an employee to leave. Employee feedback can provide insights that can be used to eliminate the recurring factors and lower the attrition rate. The positive impact of such practices can sometimes even result in retaining the concerned employee."

However, exit interviews go beyond simply gauging employee issues and attempting retention. As Lakshmi Iyer, a brand consultant with over 15 years' experience at various branding and marketing and communication agencies, says, "Exit interviews are critical since they provide an opportunity for introspection within the organization. If conducted well, they clearly bring out what the organization should and should not be proud of."

-DOING IT RIGHT

To make the most of exit interviews and ensure that they are not conducted as mere formality, organizations must begin by asking the right questions through the right people. Appropriately planned discussions are an excellent opportunity to learn about both the strengths and weaknesses of both, the manager and organization. D'Souza says, "The interviewer must try to comfort the employees and ensure them that the information they share will be confidential. It largely depends on the

How to go about conducting exit Interviews

maturity of the person conducting the interview. If it inspires a level of comfort, then unpleasant conversations and subsequent discussions that trickle in could be sensibly handled." He adds, "The discussion pointers must include the overall work experience of an employee in the organization, reason key triggers for leaving and indicators that can make the employee stay."

He stresses on the fact that the interviewer must keep the discussion open and that information should be fairly presented to the management team.

-PUTTING IT IN PERSPECTIVE

While organizations must remain neutral and encourage honest responses from exiting employees, some inputs placed before the organization may be explosive in nature and, perhaps, against the management's practices. "It is important that in the face of negative feedback the organization does not get defensive and lose sight of the larger picture," shares Iyer. The hallmark of a good organization lies in its ability to accept criticism with grace and have mechanisms to assess and effectively deal with them.



Most importantly, perhaps, exit interviews reflect that the organization cares. "When employees resign, companies often steer their focus on finding apt replacements and figuring a smooth transition strategy from everyday business perspective. As a consequence, the importance of organizing a purposeful exit interview takes a backseat. Thus, not only does the organization lose an excellent opportunity to learn about its strengths and weaknesses, but also on parting on good terms," says Lasya Chand, a communications professional, who recently quit her job at a branding agency. However, she also adds that employees must insist on an exit interview and it shouldn't be the sole responsibility of the company.

In conclusion, Iyer puts it best when she says: "An exit interview is an inexpensive and effective primary research that gives solid insights into the internal culture of the organization, its strengths and weaknesses, and identifies the gaps in perception as well. And therefore, it should be taken very seriously."



Sheetal Devi, bags historic gold

Gwangju(South Korea), Sept 27 (UNI) India's armless archer Sheetal Devi won gold in the women's compound individual event at the Para World Archery Championship here today. Sheetal's main competition was from Turkiye's top-ranked archer Oznur Cure Girdi whom she overcame 146-143 in the final round.

This win marks the 18 year old's third medal at the event. Sheetal had earlier won a mixed team bronze alongside Toman Kumar.



Great Britain's Hollie Arnold competes in the Women's Javelin Throw F46 event at the World Para Athletics Championships 2025, at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, in New Delhi.

Optimistic Indian swimmers will bag 3-4 medals at the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships: Head Coach Nihar Ameen

Ahmedabad, Sept 27 (UNI) : A total of 40 swimmers including 20 men and 20 women will compete in the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships starting tomorrow at the newly-built state-of-the-art Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Naranpura, Ahmedabad.

The Indian contingent has been based in Naranpura over the past month for the national coaching camp and are all geared up to compete against the crème-de-le-crème of Asian continent. Over 1,100 swimmers, coaches and technical officials have arrived from 29 countries for the marquee event in Asian Aquatics calendar which will serve as a qualifying event for the Asian Games to be held in Nagoya, Japan next year.

Headlining India's campaign would be two-time Olympians Sajjan Prakash and Srihari Nataraj

while Dhinidhi Desinghu and Bhavya Sachdeva will be India's top hopes in women's category. Optimistic about India's chances in the event, which is historically dominated by the Chinese swimmers, India Head Coach Nihar Ameen said, "We had very good preparations with the entire contingent training together here at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex. It is a fantastic facility and it's a very fast pool so I am quite confident our swimmers will do well here."

He further touted Sajjan, Srihari and Rohit B Benedicton to medal in their respective events. Ameen said, "We should win at least 3-4 medals. If Sajjan swims as fast as he did in 200m butterfly in the Senior Nationals, he is sure to win a medal and same goes with Srihari, who will be swimming 100m and 200m backstroke. Rohit also stands a chance to win a

medal in 200m freestyle. In all, we will witness some very exciting races. Among the women, Dhinidhi, Bhavya, Nina Venkatesh, Soubrity Mondal are all clocking good times. We will have relay teams as well in the women's categories and we are optimistic of a good show."

A total of 10 water polo teams in the men's category and 8 water polo teams in the women's category will be vying to book their berth for the Asian Games next year to be held in Nagoya, Japan. In diving, 16 countries will participate, while artistic swimming has entries from 10 countries and swimming will have total 21 countries participating.

The Opening Ceremony, commencing at 5 PM tomorrow, will be graced by Chief Guest Shri Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat along with Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Minister of Home, Youth &

Sports, Government of Gujarat, Mr. Farid Fattahian, Executive Director, Asia Aquatics, Shri R.N. Jayprakash, President, Swimming Federation of India, Shri Virendra Nanavati, Sr. Vice President, Swimming Federation of India, Shri Monal Choksi, Secretary General, Swimming Federation of India and Shri Ashwini Kumar, Principal Secretary, Sports, Youth and Cultural Activities Department, Government of Gujarat.

Indian Swimming Contingent:

Men: S Dhanush, Shoaan Ganguly, Jashua Thomas, Aneesh Gowda, Rohit B Benedicton, Advait Page, Sajjan Prakash, Bikram Changmai, Heer Gitesh Shah, MS Yadesh Babu, Vidith S Shankar, Kushagra Rawat, Jananjay Jyoti Hazarika, Akash Mani, Nithik Nathella, Manikantha L, Vinayak V, Likith SP, Rishabh Anupam Das, Srihari Nataraj.

J and K Cricket Association to host 3 Ranjit Trophy among 8 matches

Jammu, Sept 27 (UNI) : The Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) is set to host a landmark season featuring a total of eight prestigious national matches including three Ranjit Trophy in the twin divisions.

As per the official handout, the thrilling lineup includes three Ranji Trophy (Senior Men), three CK Nayudu Trophy (U-23 Men), and two Cooch Behar Trophy (U-19 Men) matches.

In Ranji Trophy, J&K will clash against the legendary 42-time champions Mumbai, scheduled at SK Stadium Srinagar from October 15 to 18, 2025 followed by another intense Ranji Trophy face-off with Rajasthan at the same venue from October 25 to 28 and the action then shifts to JKCA Hostel Ground Jammu, where the J&K team will battle Meghalaya in the Col CK Nayudu Trophy from October 26 to 29.

Thereafter, the senior squad returns to the same ground for a Ranji Trophy match against Hyderabad from November 16 to 19.

At Jammu University Ground, the U-19 squad will

showcase their talent in a thrilling Cooch Behar Trophy encounter against Mumbai from November 23 to 26 and they will then take on Baroda from December 1 to 4 continuing the cricketing fervor in the region.

The JKCA will also host two more CK Nayudu Trophy matches against Baroda and Goa at JKCA Hostel Ground Jammu, scheduled between February 6 to 9 and February 13 to 16 in 2026.

Meanwhile, the JKCA has invited sports journalists from both Jammu and Kashmir regions to apply for accreditation to cover these momentous events.

Brigadier Anil Gupta, Member Administration JKCA, emphasized, "Only journalists and cameramen accredited by the JKCA will be granted access to these exclusive venues. We also remind all media representatives that no video recording or live broadcasting of the matches is permitted, in respect of the exclusive media rights held by the BCCI. JKCA reserves the right to reject any application without prior notice or explanation."

Mithun Manhas set to become BCCI President on Sunday, J&K Cricket Assn terms it historic milestone

Jammu, Sept 27 (UNI) : The Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) termed it a historic milestone as son of the soil, Mithun Manhas, is all set to become President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), effective from tomorrow.

An official communique issued by the J&K Cricket Association, stated that this monumental achievement has filled the people of Jammu and Kashmir with immense pride, marking a significant moment for the region's sporting legacy.

Manhas, a young and dynamic sports personality has an illustrious career adorned with numerous records and firsts. Under his visionary leadership, JKCA has scaled new heights, elevating the standard of cricket in the region. His efforts have not only enhanced J&K's reputation in the cricketing world but also provided a platform for aspiring cricketers from the region to shine on national and international stages.

However, it read that the joyous occasion was briefly overshadowed by a frivolous writ petition filed in the Jammu Wing of J&K & Ladakh High Court by Sudershan Mehta and a few disgruntled individuals seeking to stay Manhas' election on baseless and presumptuous grounds.

The Court, in its wisdom, dismissed the petition today, questioning Mehta's locus standi as well as the territorial jurisdiction of the Court to entertain the writ. The dismissal of this baseless petition reaffirms the unwavering support for Manhas and his transformative contributions to cricket in J&K and beyond, it read and said, "the people of Jammu and Kashmir stand united in celebrating this proud moment, undeterred by the actions of a few pessimists."

Aus still favourites, but others closing in

Bengaluru, Sept 27 (UNI) : Australia's women's side has dominated the ODI format for decades, but if you've been watching closely, there are cracks beginning to show. Sure, they still win more often than not, but the gap between them and the chasing pack isn't what it once was.

In their recent series against India, Australia were put under pressure more than once. India had their chances but couldn't quite close it out—something we've seen before. That's been the story for most teams against Australia: close, but not close enough.

History says they'll start the World Cup as favourites. Seven ODI titles and six in T20s tells you they know how to win the big tournaments. But winning streaks don't last forever, and right now, the others are making up ground. England beat them in the Ashes ODIs, and India are playing with enough belief to know they

BCCI clears objections against Harbhajan, Bhat, Shukla

Bengaluru, Sept 27 (UNI) : The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) electoral officer AK Joti has dismissed objections against key nominees, including former India spinners Harbhajan Singh and Raghuram Bhat, and Rajeev Shukla, ahead of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled tomorrow.

Objections had arisen from the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA), Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA), and Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA). Harbhajan Singh's nomination had been challenged over a potential conflict of interest due to his role as PCA's 'Chief

Cricketing Advisor,' but the position was clarified to be honorary, leading to the dismissal of the objection.

Similarly, objections against Shukla (UPCA) and Bhat (KSCA) were quashed, allowing Shukla to be re-elected as vice-president and Bhat to assume the role of treasurer despite allegations connected to the June 4 RCB-Chinnaswamy stampede.

Other challenges against nominees from Goa, Hyderabad, Baroda, and Arunachal Cricket Associations were also dismissed, confirming their eligibility for the AGM.

The AGM will see Mithun Manhas elected as BCCI president, with

Devajit Saikia continuing as secretary and Raghuram Bhat taking over as treasurer. Two new selectors – Pragyan Ojha and RP Singh – will join the senior men's selection committee, while four new members will join the women's panel. S Sharath will chair the junior selection committee. Key agenda items include approval of secretary and treasurer reports for FY 2024-25, adoption of the FY 2025-26 budget, appointment of auditors, ombudsman, ethics officer, standing committees, and formation of the Women's Premier League Committee, along with elections for BCCI and IPL governing council representatives.

We have shed the pressure and are keen to sustain the momentum: Gagan Gowda

Chennai, Sept 27 (UNI) : When the UP Yoddhas step onto the mat, it's rarely about one player. But when Gagan Gowda is in form, the team knows it has a weapon. Eight games into Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 12, Gowda has already scored 82 points, the highest for his team. But for him, personal milestones are secondary to the bigger picture. The young raider has seen games where even his Super 10s couldn't save the team from defeat, and he's determined not to let that pattern repeat itself. "Personally, I am keeping the processes the same as last year. However, when we were losing after I got Super 10s, I was not too pleased with that because the environment wasn't as vibrant back then. Even if I get fewer points, the topmost objective is to keep winning," Gowda explained. A certain phase in this season wasn't smooth. Four losses in as many matches had the Yoddhas under scrutiny, and the pressure was tangible. At that point, it was about keeping the team morale intact, but Gowda and his teammates have found a way to shrug off that burden.

"Definitely, there was pressure earlier, as we had lapses on both the offensive and defensive fronts. However, we have shed that pressure in the last two games, and recovered our mojo to begin winning games again," he says. Momentum, after all, is fragile in PKL, and regaining it can make the difference between playoffs and an early exit. Confidence is returning, but Gowda knows the team cannot afford complacency. The wins have helped, and right now, consistency is the ultimate goal. "There is still scope for improvement. Obviously, people doubted us when we lost four games. After consecutive victories, confidence is back, and the team is focused on sustaining

the momentum that could carry them to the playoffs," he said. Depth has become the Yoddhas' secret weapon. With multiple match-winners, the team doesn't rely on any one player, and Gowda is the first to acknowledge this strength.

"There are always benefits of the wealth of attacking riches we have at our disposal, because we always consult each other before and during the games. Someday Bhavani clicks, someday Guman does, and some other day someone else does...that's the advantage of having a strong squad depth. Both the coach and captain also advise us accordingly. Our pre-match analysis and training are top-notch." The next chapter of the season will unfold in Chennai, where every game will carry extra weight. With only 18 league matches, teams can't afford slip-ups, and the Yoddhas are acutely aware of this. "We are very excited about the matches in the Chennai leg. This season, we have only 18 league matches. In Chennai, the table scenario will become clearer – of who remains at the top and who qualifies for the playoffs. So, to win the forthcoming games is of utmost importance for us," Gowda said, highlighting the stakes and the hunger within the squad. This resurgence is built on a strong foundation, laid by coaches who understand the game and the players intimately. "We were placed 10th in Season 10. But coach Jasveer Singh saab spotted the right talents, retained the correct players, and took them to the semi-finals. Both he and Upendra Malik saab lay a special focus on preparing as per the games, giving the right inputs during the match, and maintaining a lively atmosphere that keeps everyone in the right spirits," he recalls.

Pecco denies Mir in epic Motegi pole battle

Tokyo, Sept 27 (UNI) : The trials and tribulations of Barcelona and Misano now seem like distant memories for Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team) as the double MotoGP™ World Champion snatched pole position at the Motul Grand Prix of Japan, continuing a weekend that has seen him back to his best. Joan Mir (Honda HRC Castrol) put in a stunner to run the #63 close in the battle for pole too, right in contention, but forced to settle for second. Still, that equals his best ever qualifying in MotoGP. Marc Marquez (Ducati Lenovo Team), meanwhile, completes the front row at Motegi as he faces down Championship points on Sunday.

Q1 was full of big names; Alex Marquez (BK8 Gresini Racing MotoGP), Franco Morbidelli (Pertamina Enduro VR46 Racing Team), home-hero Ai Ogura (Trackhouse MotoGP Team) and reigning World Champion Jorge Martin (Aprilia Racing) all aiming to graduate to Q2. Ogura and Morbidelli were the two provisionally going through with five minutes to go, with Alex Marquez only third.

Having gone into P2, Fermin Aldeguer (BK8 Gresini Racing MotoGP) then crashed at Turn 5 and paid the price as teammate Alex Marquez moved into the top two to nab that spot. Morbidelli hauled himself back into P1 ahead of an impressive charge from Ogura, before Alex Marquez had the final say, taking P2 before more yellow flags came out. Brad Binder (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing) had a fast one at Turn 12 and Alex Rins (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) went down at Turn 10, halting Ogura and Martin's Q2 charge, leaving them 13th and 17th respectively, as Morbidelli and Alex Marquez headed to the pole battle. As Q2 got underway, there was instant drama for Pedro Acosta (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing), who pulled back into the pits after his out-lap with a technical issue. As everyone's first runs were coming to a close, they all chased Pecco who, having been fastest on Friday, was leading teammate Marquez and Fabio Quartararo (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP). With the final run on the horizon though, there was plenty of time for surprises. In the last burst of track action, a flurry of red sectors and fast lap times. Morbidelli was the first to take provisional pole before Marc Marquez snatched it away, but the surprise was Mir, who rocketed up to P1. But a career first MotoGP pole for the #36 was just usurped with less than 30 seconds on the clock as Bagnaia completed his flying lap and snatched top spot. At the chequered flag, it was the first pole for the #63 since Brno and just his second of the 2025 season, ahead of Mir who equals his career-best grid slot of P2 and his best-ever for Honda.

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ACS (Energy) Abha Shukla and MSEDCL receive Energy Awards



(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Sept 27 : Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) Abha Shukla was awarded ‘Women in Energy Award’ and Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) was awarded ‘Energy Company Award’ in ‘The Economic Times Energy Leadership Awards 2025’ in New Delhi on Thursday, at the hands of Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy Shripad Naik and former Union Energy Secretary Anil Razdan. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Minister of State for Energy Meghna Sakore-Bordikar congratulated ACS (Energy) Abha Shukla as well as Chairman and Managing Director of MSEDCL Lokesh Chandra

Western Railway to run 3 Pairs of festival special trains to various destinations

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Sept 27 : 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 – Ayodhya Cantt, Bandra Terminus - Ludhiana Jn. and Udhna – Jaynagar. 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. 09095/09096 Bandra Terminus – Ayodhya Cantt Weekly Special [16 Trips]
Train No. 09095 Bandra Terminus – Ayodhya Cantt Weekly Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Wednesday at 11:00 hrs and will reach Ayodhya Cantt at 17:30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 01st October to 19th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09096 Ayodhya Cantt – Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Ayodhya Cantt every Thursday at 21:00 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 06:00 hrs, on Saturday. This train will run from 02nd October to 20th November 2025.
Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Dahod, Meghnagar, Ratlam, Nagda, Ujjain, Maksi, Shujalpur, Sehore, Sant Hirdaram Nagar, Bina, Virangana Lakshmbibai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Lucknow and Barabanki stations in both directions.
This train comprises of AC – 3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.
2. Train No. 09097/09098 Bandra Terminus – Ludhiana Jn. Weekly Special [18 Trips]
Train No. 09097 Bandra Terminus - Ludhiana Jn. Weekly Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Sunday at 21:50 hrs and will reach Ludhiana Jn. at 00:30 hrs, on

4941 electricity consumers in Thane, Palghar become self-reliant

(Standard Post Bureau)
Kalyan, Sept 27 : The Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Free Electricity Scheme has started receiving good response from electricity consumers in Thane and Palghar districts. 4941 electricity consumers in this district have started getting free electricity by installing solar power projects on their homes. 9500 electricity consumers in both the districts have applied to benefit from this scheme. Rooftop solar power project systems will also be installed on the homes of these consumers soon.

and all officers and employees for the honour. The two-day National Energy Leadership Annual Summit 2025, organized by the Economic Times, was attended by about 500 national and international representatives from the fields of energy, petroleum and natural gas, renewable energy, mining, environment, forest and climate change. ACS (Energy) Abha Shukla gave a special lecture along with a presentation on the power sector in Maharashtra. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has accelerated radical reforms in the energy sector of the state through energy transformation that are beneficial for all electricity consumers. Due to this, electricity tariff has been reduced for the first time and it will reduce further in the next five years. Mukhyamantri Saur Krishi Vahini Yojana 2.0 (MSKVY 2.0), the world's largest 16,000 MW decentralized solar power project, will be generating 70,000 rural jobs with an investment of Rs. 65,000 crore. Due to this scheme, along with an annual saving of Rs 10,000 crore in the purchase of power by MSEDCL, the annual burden of cross subsidy will be reduced by Rs 13,500 crore. So far, 454 projects with a capacity of 2458 MW have been completed under this scheme, and over 6 lakh farmers have been provided with daytime electricity for pumps, while 32 lakh acres of agricultural land is being irrigated through solar energy.

Tuesday. This train will run from 05th October to 30th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09098 Ludhiana Jn. – Bandra Terminus Weekly Special will depart from Ludhiana Jn. every Tuesday at 04:00 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 10:20 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 07th October to 02nd December 2025.
Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Hindaun City, Mathura Jn., New Delhi, Panipat and Umbala stations in both directions.
This train comprises of AC – 2 Tier, AC – 3 Tier and AC – 3 Tier (Economy) Class Coaches.
3. Train No. 09151/09152 Udhna – Jaynagar Special [02 Trips]
Train No. 09151 Udhna – Jaynagar Special will depart from Udhna on Tuesday, 30th September, 2025 at 06:45 hrs and will reach Jaynagar at 21.30 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09152 Jaynagar – Udhna Special will depart from Jaynagar on Wednesday, 01st October, 2025 at 23:00 hrs and will reach Udhna at 17:45 hrs, on Friday.
Enroute this train will halt at Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Godhra, Ratlam, Ujjain, Shujalpur, Sant Hirdaram Nagar, Bina, Katni Murwara, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga and Madhubani stations in both directions.
This train comprises of Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches. The booking for Train No. 09151 opens from 28th September, 2025 and bookings for Train Nos. 09095 & 09097 will open from 29th 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.

for 3 kW. A residential household gets a subsidy of Rs 30,000 for 1 kW. If an electricity consumer applies for a capacity of more than 3 kW, he will get a subsidy of Rs 78,000. Housing societies and residents' associations get a subsidy of Rs 18,000 per kW for charging electric vehicles on common areas. Net meters are being provided free of charge by Mahavitaran for rooftop solar. Applications received are being approved quickly by Mahavitaran. Also, electricity consumers have

Central Railway to run 60 additional Special trains for Puja, Diwali and Chhath Festival 2025

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Sept 27 : Central Railway will run 60 additional Special Trains for the convenience of passengers during the upcoming Puja, Diwali and Chhath festival season. Details as given below:
Central Railway will run 60 additional Special Trains for the convenience of passengers during the upcoming Puja, Diwali and Chhath festival season. Details as given below:
01146 Weekly AC Special will depart Asansol at 21.00 hrs every Wednesday from 08.10.2025 to 12.11.2025 and will arrive CSMT Mumbai at 16.20 hrs on third day. “(6 services)
Halts: Dadar, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Bhusaval, Itarsi, Bhopal, Bina, Virangana Lakshmbibai Jhansi, Orai, Govindpuri, Fatehpur, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Bhabua, Sasaram, Deoria Sadar, Anugraha Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Hazaribaug Road, Parasnath, NSC Bose J Gomoh, Dhanbad and Kult. Composition: 20 AC 3-Tier coaches and 2 Generator Cars.
2) C S M T - Karimnagar-CSMT Weekly AC Special - (12 Services)
01021 Weekly AC Special will depart CSMT Mumbai at 00.20 hrs every Saturday from 11.10.2025 to 15.11.2025 and will reach Karimnagar at 16.00 hrs same day. (6 Services)
01022 Weekly AC Special will depart Karimnagar at 17.30 hrs every Saturday from 11.10.2025 to 15.11.2025 and will reach CSMT Mumbai at 13.50 hrs next day. “(6 Services)
Halts: Dadar, Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Manmad, Nagarsol, Aurangabad, Jalna, Partur, Selu, Parbhani, Purna, Hazur Sahib Nanded, Mudkhed, Dharmabad, Basar, Nizamabad, Armur, Metpally and Koratla. Composition: 20 AC 3-Tier coaches and 2 Generator Cars.
3) LTT-Muzaffarpur-LTT Weekly AC Special (12 Services)
01043 Weekly AC Special will depart Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 12.15 hrs every Tuesday

from 07.10.2025 to 11.11.2025 and will arrive Muzaffarpur at 06.30 hrs third day. (6 services).
01044 Weekly AC Special will depart Muzaffarpur at 08.30 hrs every Thursday from 09.10.2025 to 13.11.2025 and will arrive Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 22.50 hrs next day. (6 services).
Halts: Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri. Nashik Road, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Bhopal, Bina, Virangana Lakshmbibai Jhansi, Orai, Govindpuri Jn, Fatehpur, Subedarganj, Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra and Hajipur.
Composition: One First AC, Three AC 2-Tier, 15 AC 3-Tier, 1 Pantry Car & 2 Generator Cars.
4) Pune-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Pune Bi-weekly Superfast AC Special “(24 Services)
01493 Bi-Weekly Superfast AC Special will leave Pune at 17.30 hrs every Monday & Thursday from 06.10.2025 to 13.11.2025 and will arrive Hazrat Nizamuddin at 20.00

hrs next day. (12 Services)
01494 Bi-Weekly Superfast AC Special will leave Hazrat Nizamuddin at 21.25 hrs every Tuesday & Friday from 07.10.2025 to 14.11.2025 and will arrive Pune at 23.55 hrs next day. (12 Services)
Halts: Lonavala, Kalyan, Bhiwandi Road, Vasai Road, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Vadodara Jn, Godhra (only for 01494), Ratlam, Shamgarh, Bhawani Mandi, Ramganj Mandi, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Bharatpur Jn, Mathura.
Composition: 16 AC 3-Tier coaches and 2 Generator Cars.
Reservation: Bookings for special train No 01145, 01021, 01043 & 01493 is open o-n at all computerised reservation centres and o-n website www.irctc.co.in. Tickets for Unreserved Coaches can be booked through UTS with normal charges as applicable for superfast Mail / Exp trains
“For detailed timings and halts please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App.

IRCTC West Zone Mumbai observes Swachhotsav ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ Campaign 2025

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Sept 27 : Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC), West Zone Mumbai, observed the “Swachhata Hi Seva” Campaign 2025 on 17th September 2025 under the nationwide Swachh Bharat Mission. On this occasion, Shri Gaurav Jha, Group General Manager, West Zone Mumbai, administered the Swachhata Pledge to all officers and staff.
The annual campaign, being conducted from 17th September to 2nd October 2025, reflects the spirit of “Whole of Government and Whole of Society,” uniting citizens, institutions, and leadership at all levels to reinforce the message of cleanliness.
Across all regional offices and workplaces of the West Zone, employees took the pledge with commitments that include:
Dedication to cleanliness and voluntary contribution of 100 hours annually (2 hours per week).
Maintaining cleanliness at the workplace and at home.
Avoiding littering and motivating others to do the same.
Spreading awareness about the Swachh Bharat Mission and inspiring at least 100 others to join the pledge.
Following the pledge,



employees actively participated in shramdaan (voluntary cleanliness activities). A series of events were organised under the campaign, including:
20th September 2025 – Yoga and sports activities with a special focus on cleanliness.
23rd September 2025 – Comprehensive cleaning drive at the Regional Office.
27th September 2025 – A street play presented by the NSS Unit of SST College of Arts and Commerce, Ulhasnagar, under the guidance of Mr. Jeevan Vichare (Vice Principal), supervised by Mr. Sadan Javare (Director, Drama Nomics), and coordinated by Mr. Pankaj Pandey, with leadership from Mr. Vikrant Khismatrao.
A group of 25 NSS students performed the street play at Kalyan Railway Station platform and premises, effectively spreading the message of keeping railway stations clean and hygienic. The

event was graced by the presence of Dr. A.K. Singh (PRO), Shri Nagesh Choudhary (Manager/HR), Shri Swapnil Awale (Vigilance Officer), Shri M.P. Yadav (Consultant, West Zone Mumbai), along with other dignitaries.
The “Swachhata Hi Seva” campaign will continue till 2nd October 2025 with a series of cleanliness drives, awareness programmes, and citizen engagement activities across the West Zone.

UP Govt to act strictly against those spreading unrest, Aparna Yadav

Ayodhya (UP), Sep 27 (UNI) A day after violence in Bareilly district, Vice Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission Aparna Yadav on Friday said that any kind of anarchy is unacceptable in the state. Talking to reporters after the prize distribution at the closing ceremony of the Girls Kho-Kho

National Championship organised by the CBSE Board in Ayodhya, Aparna said that every citizen has complete freedom to practice their religion.
“However, if any attempt is made to spread unrest or crime in the name of religion, it will be considered a crime and strict action will be taken,” she said. Regarding the Bareilly incident, she said that the government's decision to take strict action against those who spread evil in society is the right one.
State Sports Minister Girish Chandra Yadav said that people of both religions are free to worship in their own way. He warned that the

government operates a zero-tolerance policy against those who disrupt peace. While motivating athletes at Awadh International School, he said that through continuous practice, athletes can perform better in the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Olympics.