

IN BRIEF

Nepal team apprised of Vizag Port’s infra facilities

Visakhapatnam, Sept 1 (UNI) : Jhakka Prasad Acharya, Consul General of Nepal, Kolkata, along with Janak Raj Bhatta, Deputy Consul General, visited Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA), here today.The delegation was accorded a warm welcome by Durgesh Kumar Dubey, Deputy Chairperson, VPA, who briefed them on the port’s operations and various strategic initiatives.During the visit, the Nepal team was apprised of the port’s infrastructure facilities, cargo handling capacity, modernisation and mechanization efforts, covered storage facilities, solar power initiatives, and sewage treatment plant (STP) water recycling for industrial use.

The discussions also focused on investment opportunities and potential avenues to enhance import-export activities through Visakhapatnam Port.

Minister hails international recognition to Kurnool IIIT

Vijayawada, Sept 1 (UNI) : Minister for R&B and Infrastructure Development BC Janardhan Reddy today hailed IIIT Kurnool getting international recognition at the World Architecture Festival.

In a statement here, Minister Janardhan Reddy said that Kurnool IIIT earned 9th place at the World Architecture Festival 2024 held in Singapore. IIIT Kurnool competed with the 760 institutions of various countries and has earned 9th place.

Kurnool IIIT securing 9th place at the World Architecture Festival 2024 in Singapore is pride to Kurnool district, the Minister commended.

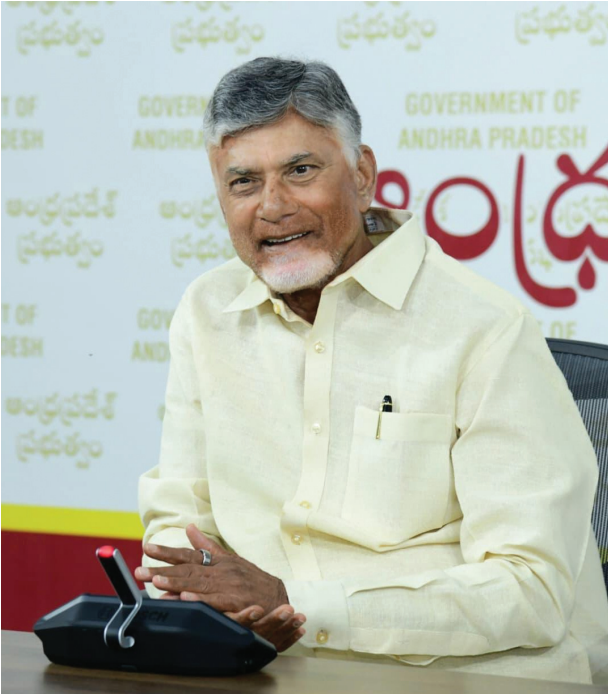
“It is happy to note that the Kurnool IIIT Campus from our country has secured a place in the 'Institutions' category, facing tough global competition among campuses built with the best architectural skills around the world,” he lauded. Special congratulations to the students, faculty and staff who have transformed the Kurnool Triple IT campus with new innovations, advanced features, eco-friendly features, and creativity added to technology, the Minister said.

N Chandrababu Naidu completes 30 years

(Standard Post Bureau)
Vijayawada, Sept 1 : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu today completed 30 years. Mr Naidu was the Finance Minister in Chief Minister N T Rama Rao’s Cabinet.

However, Mr Naidu led a majority of MLAs, who revolted against N T Rama Rao and ultimately dethroned him. The then Governor Krishna Kant invited Chandrababu Naidu to form the government. Mr Naidu was sworn in as the Chief Minister of united AP State on September 1, 1995.

Recalling the political events which took place on September 1, 1995 in the combined AP State, Chandrababu Naidu’s son and IT and Human Resources Development Minister Nara Lokesh reminisced that thirty years ago today, N Chandrababu Naidu took oath for the first time as Chief Minister,



marking the dawn of an era that reimagined Andhra Pradesh’s ambitions and accelerated its rise.

“From retooling governance with technology to catalysing investment and jobs, this journey has been about turning possibilities

into reality and aspirations into durable institutions. From HITECH City and Genome Valley powering a new tech identity, to Amaravati symbolising our will to build future-ready urbanism, his leadership stitched together

innovation, infrastructure, and inclusion,” IT Minister Lokesh said on social media ‘X’ today and tagged a photo of Naidu’s swearing-in.Mr Lokesh said, “The ‘CBN playbook’ blended speed with accountability, building resilient infrastructure, data-driven services, and platforms that empower citizens and enterprises alike. By creating poverty alleviation schemes and reservation policies, Mr Naidu’s tenure has been marked by a remarkable improvement in social justice and the empowerment of the weakest. “Warm greetings on completing three decades, a person I am privileged to call “Nanna” at home and “Boss” at work. Still young at heart and steadied by experience, our Chief Minister stands ready to meet new challenges with clarity, courage, and conviction,” Nara Lokesh observed.Finance Minister

Payyavula Keshav congratulated Chandrababu Naidu for completing 30 years since taking the first oath as the Chief Minister on September 1, 1995. “Mr Chandrababu Naidu has seen many ups and downs in his political life. He became the Chief Minister four times and the Leader of the Opposition three times. He has brought an IT revolution to the combined AP State and implemented reforms in the electricity sector and earned a reputation as a ‘visionary’. He has left an indelible mark on the Telugu people,” Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav complimented.

Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav, R&B Minister BC Janardhan Reddy, Endowment Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy and Transport Minister M Ramprasad Reddy also congratulated Chandrababu Naidu.

Jagan Reddy exhorts cadre not to lose confidence

Kadapa, Sept 1 (UNI) : YSRCP president and former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy met party leaders, workers, and local people during his visit to his constituency Pulivendula today and exhorted them not to lose confidence.

He held a public interaction at the Bhaskarapuram camp office, where he patiently listened to grievances and encouraged the party rank and file to stay strong.

Party leaders and workers complained to him that the Naidu-headed coalition Government was resorting to attacks and unleashing a reign of lawlessness. Responding to them, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy assured that no one should lose courage and urged the cadre to face TDP’s excesses with determination. He emphasized that every worker should adopt a spirit of struggle and move forward boldly.Expressing anger at the “violent politics” being promoted by coalition leaders, he said that not only the police system but all institutions were being corrupted under the present rule.He underlined that any government should work for the welfare of the people, not to harm them. He recalled that during YSRCP’s rule, benefits were given to every eligible person without discrimination of caste, religion, or party.

The former Chief Minister alleged that instead of serving the public, the TDP-led coalition was solely targeting YSRCP leaders and activists out of political vendetta. The camp office in Pulivendula was crowded with party workers, leaders, and people who came to express solidarity. Jagan advised YSRCP public representatives to stand firmly with workers during these testing times.

Ganesh immersions turn tragic as 6 killed

Vijayawada, Sept 1 (UNI) : The Ganesh immersions turned tragic in the West Godavari and ASR districts as six people were killed in two accidents.

Police said that when a Ganesh immersion procession was being carried out at Torrutalla village in Mogaltur mandal in West Godavari district last night, a tractor ploughed through the procession, killing four persons and injuring five others.The tractor driver drove the vehicle in a reckless and rash manner, resulting in it ploughing through the crowd, an eyewitness told the media.

The deceased were identified as Tirumala Narasimha Murthy (35), Gururu Murali (38), Kadiyam Dinesh (9) and Eemana Suryanarayana (58). The injured were admitted to the area hospital in Narasaraopet. Government Whip and MLA Bommi Nayakar visited the injured in the hospital.

District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani and SP Adnan Nayeem Asmi visited the scene of the accident and the injured in the hospital.In Alluri Sitarama Raju district, when a Ganesh idol was being taken in a procession to immerse, an SUV ploughed the crowd, killing two persons and injuring six others at Paderu near Chintalaveedi crossroads in the wee hours of today.Two persons who were dancing in the procession were killed instantaneously, and they were identified as Korra Sitaram (62) and Gunda Kondababu (32).

The injured persons were admitted to the GGH, where the condition of two of the injured is said to be very critical. The police arrested the SUV driver.Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock and grief over the death of six devotees who were participating in Ganesh immersion processions in two accidents in two districts.

Rahul Gandhi warns of ‘hydrogen bomb’ in voter theft allegations

Patna, Sept 1 (UNI) : In a high-voltage political offensive ahead of the upcoming Bihar elections, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi today warned that a “hydrogen bomb” of voter theft is about to come, following what he described as the earlier “atom bomb” now allegedly exposed with proof. Addressing a rally on the last day of his Voter Adhikar Yatra here along with former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Tejashwi Yadav, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP of undermining democracy through what they term as

“vote theft”. “Stealing votes means stealing rights, reservation, employment, education, democracy and the future of our youth,” he said.Echoing the sentiment, Tejashwi Yadav said, “Bihar, the mother of democracy, is under attack. BJP leaders, with the support of the Election Commission, are attempting to destroy that very democracy.”He accused the BJP of deceiving Bihar by setting up factories in Gujarat while seeking power in Bihar, warning that the public will not fall for it again. Moreover, Mallikarjun Kharge emphasised that symbolic gestures cannot replace real change.“Simply sharing a meal in a poor

person’s home will not uplift the poor — their rights must be protected, and the Constitution upheld,” he said.Former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren also claimed that the BJP government came to power through money and the misuse of central agencies like the ED and CBI. He alleged voter roll tampering through SIR implementation and urged voters to send a strong message.The 16-day Voter Adhikar Yatra culminated today with the INDIA bloc leaders sharing stage.

They urged the people of Bihar to uproot the NDA-ruled state government.

The rally covered a distance of more than 1300 km across 25 districts.

India, Russia ties a vital pillar of regional and global stability: PM

Tianjin/New Delhi, Sep 1 (UNI) :Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had an excellent meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Tianjin today and the two also discussed the peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict.

In a post on X, the PM said the India-Russia partnership is a vital pillar of regional and global stability, and that he is looking forward to welcoming him in India for the 23rd bilateral summit in December.“Had an excellent meeting with President Putin on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Tianjin. Discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in all sectors, including trade, fertilisers, space, security and culture.

“We exchanged views on regional and global developments, including the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine. Our

Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership remains a vital pillar of regional and global stability.”In his remarks at the bilateral, the PM said that it is a great pleasure to meet the Russian leader.

“I always feel that meeting you is a memorable meeting. We get an opportunity to exchange information on many things.”He said the two have been in constant touch.

“There have been many high-level meetings between the two sides on a regular basis. 1.4 billion Indians are eagerly waiting for you for our 23rd Summit in December this year,” he said.“This is a reflection of the depth and breadth of our Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. India and Russia have always stood shoulder to shoulder even in the most difficult situations. Our close

cooperation is important not only for the people of both countries, but also for global peace, stability, and prosperity,” he added.

On Ukraine, he said the two sides have been regularly discussing the Ukraine conflict.“We welcome all the recent peace efforts. We hope that all parties will move forward constructively. A way must be found to end the conflict as soon as possible and establish lasting peace.

This is the call of entire humanity.”A readout of the meeting, said that the two leaders held a bilateral on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Tianjin, China.

The leaders discussed bilateral cooperation, including in the economic, financial, and energy sectors and expressed satisfaction with the sustained growth in bilateral ties in these areas.



Kharge slams BJP at Voter Adhikar Yatra finale, says Bihar to uproot 'double-engine

In a fiery address marking the conclusion of the 16-day-long Voter Adhikar Yatra today, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge attacked the BJP-led central and state governments, asserting that Bihar will lead the nation in uprooting what he claimed a “double-engine corrupt government”. Addressing a massive crowd here alongwith leaders of the INDIA bloc, Kharge congratulated all those who participated in the yatra, describing it as a “people’s awakening”.

(See on page 4)

Plane carrying EU Commission President forced to land using ...



A plane carrying European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was struck by GPS jamming over Bulgaria on Sunday. Officials have alleged that Russia was the perpetrator of the incident, forcing the aircraft to circle for an hour before landing safely in Plovdiv.

(See on page 5)

Swiatek cruises past Alexandrova into US Open quarters



World No.2 Iga Swiatek continued her impressive run at the US Open 2025, storming into the quarterfinals with a straight-sets win over Russia’s Ekaterina Alexandrova at the Louis Armstrong Stadium here today.

(See on page 7)

BJP-RSS has ruined India's foreign policy : Akhilesh



Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav today said that BJP-RSS has ruined India's foreign policy as all the friendly countries of the world have veered away from New Delhi. "Recently, even during Operation Sindoor, our neighbouring countries did not stand with us.

(See on page 8)

Condolences and Condemnation: "AMWJU and EGM Pay Tribute, Condemn Violence



(By Asem Bhakta)
Imphal, Sept 1: The All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) and Editors' Guild Manipur (EGM) paid their respects to Shri H. Achouba Sharma, former Editor of Sana Leibak, Lamjingba Times/Times of

Manipur, and Joint Editor of Naharolgi Thoudang, following his demise. Members observed a two-minute silence to honor Sharma's dedication to Manipur's journalism community. "The AMWJU and EGM

strongly condemned a recent attack on a Hornbill Express journalist, who was shot with an airgun rifle near Laii Village in Senapati District. They urged state authorities to take swift action to ensure justice and prevent similar incidents, emphasizing the need for

journalist safety and press freedom.

Key Points:
- **Condolences:** AMWJU and EGM paid tribute to Shri H. Achouba Sharma for his contributions to Manipur's journalism.
- **Condemnation:** The organizations condemned the attack on the Hornbill Express journalist.
- **Call to Action:** AMWJU and EGM urged authorities to take swift action to ensure justice and journalist safety.
This incident highlights ongoing concerns about journalist safety in Manipur, with AMWJU and EGM continuing to advocate for press freedom and a safe working environment.



Ganpati Bappa Morya! May Bappa's presence bring you joy, health and peace in life!" Best wishes from Mr. Basappa Malashetti and family (Pune Eon Homes)

Achieves Record Growth in Passenger and Freight Earnings - August 2025 : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Sept 1 : South Western Railway recorded an outstanding performance in August 2025, achieving a gross revenue of ₹755 crore and registering its best-ever August originating freight loading of 4.22 MT . Passenger earnings grew to ₹305 crore with 14.5 million passengers carried, while freight earnings surged to ₹418 crore , supported by record loading of commodities such as Iron Ore, Steel, Coal, RMSP, Fertilizer, Containers, and Foodgrains. Additional contributions came from ₹24 crore in other coaching services , ₹13.5

crore in parcel traffic , and ₹8.3 crore from sundry earnings , reflecting the zone's balanced growth across both core and ancillary segments. Passenger earnings showed steady growth, rising from ₹264 crore in August 2024 to ₹304.5 crore in August 2025, with passenger numbers increasing from 13.4 million to 14.5 million, underscoring improved connectivity and customer confidence. " Freight earnings continued to lead the performance, contributing ₹418 crore during August 2025 compared to ₹323 crore in August 2024. On the loading front, SWR

achieved its best-ever August performance of 4.22 MT, registering a 26.3% growth over last year's 3.35 MT.Commodity-wise, Iron Ore reached 1.68 MT (15.5% growth), Steel rose to 0.941 MT (70.5% growth), Coal touched 0.75 MT (22% growth), and RMSP more than doubled to 0.23 MT (108% growth). Fertilizer loading increased to 0.11 MT (7% growth), Containers rose to 0.09 MT (31.3% growth), while 0.01 MT of Foodgrains was loaded against nil last year. Additionally, SWR handled 0.175 MT of Mineral Oil, 0.32 MT of Cement, and 0.21 MT of Balance Other Goods."

Other revenue streams further strengthened performance. SWR earned ₹24 crore from other coaching, ₹13.5 crore from parcel services, and ₹8.3 crore from sundry earnings. Ticket checking drives generated ₹4.16 crore, and ₹0.59 crore from penalties, while commercial sundry revenue contributed ₹3.18 crore.Appreciating this commendable achievement, Shri Mukul Saran Mathur, General Manager, South Western Railway, congratulated the officers and staff for their dedicated efforts in delivering record-breaking results in both passenger and freight sectors.

SWR Provides Rs 1 Crore Support to Bereaved Employee's Family Under Railway Salary Package



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Sept 1 : South Western Railway has extended financial support of Rs 1 crore under the Railway Salary Package (RSP) to the family of late Shri Channabasappa Kumbhar, Hospital Attendant, Hubli Division, who passed away in March 2025. "

The claim amount was credited on 28 August 2025 to the account of his widow, Smt. Mallamma Kumbhar. In addition, the family has been provided Social Security Scheme benefits and settlement dues.

On the occasion, General Manager South Western Railway, Shri Mukul Saran Mathur, conveyed condolences to the bereaved family and said, "Life cannot be compensated, but SWR administration will always stand by our railway families in times of grief, ensuring all

possible support." "The initiative was made possible through the efforts of Ms. Bela Meena, DRM/Hubli; Smt. Suvarna Deshpande, CPO/A/SWR; and Shri R. Prasad S. Ichangimath, Sr.DPO/Hubli, in close coordination with the banking authorities. Senior officials of the State Bank of India, including the Deputy General Manager and Assistant General Manager, were also present during the function, reflecting the strong partnership between Railways and SBI in implementing the scheme.

The Railway Salary Package provides comprehensive financial security cover to railway employees, ensuring accident insurance support to families in the event of untimely death. This initiative once again reaffirms the commitment of South Western Railway administration to employee welfare and its continuous endeavour to stand by the larger railway family..

Permanent Augmentation of Hadapsar-Kazipet Express with 2 coaches

(By Asem Bhakta)
Solapur, Sept 1: Railways has decided to permanently augment Hadapsar-Kazipet Express with 2 additional coaches i.e. one AC-II Tier Coach and one AC-III Tier Coach as per details given below:-
- Train No 17014 Kazipet-Hadapsar Exp with effect from JCO 01.09.2025
- Train No 17013 Hadapsar-Kazipet Exp with effect from JCO 02.09.2025
Revised Composition: 2 AC-II Tier, 5 AC-III Tier, 11 Sleeper Class, 6 General Second Class including 2 Luggage cum Brake Vans (24 Coaches)
Passengers are requested to kindly note and avail the facility. JCO - Journey Commencing On

SC issues notice on plea for transgender-inclusive sexuality education in schools

New Delhi, Sept 1 (UNI) The Supreme Court today issued notice on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking directions to the union government and states to introduce transgender-inclusive Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in school curricula across India.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran was hearing the plea, which argued that inclusive CSE is essential to foster awareness, equality, and protection of rights for transgender students nationwide.

The petition points out that despite the landmark 2014 NALSA judgment recognizing the rights of transgender persons and the enactment of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, school curricula remain largely silent on issues of gender diversity and sexual orientation. It contends that incorporating scientifically accurate and inclusive CSE would not only safeguard the dignity of transgender children but also play a vital role in countering bullying, stigma, and misinformation in schools.

NTH, Western Region, Mumbai Celebrates its 114th Foundation Day



(By PIB, Mumbai/ Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Sept 1 : The National Test House (NTH), Western Region, Mumbai, celebrated its 114th Foundation Day at its premises in Andheri (East), Mumbai, today (1st September, 2025). Established on 31st August 1912, NTH has remained a pioneering scientific institution, upholding the values of trusted quality, integrity, and nation-building for over a century through its dedicated service in testing, calibration, and quality assurance.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and cake-cutting ceremony, followed by a tree plantation drive symbolizing NTH's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. The celebrations further featured customer engagement & B2B interactions, scientific and technological

deliberations, a guided laboratory visit, and a medical camp on health check-up and fitness awareness training, reflecting NTH's holistic approach towards science, industry, and society.

The distinguished guests present on the occasion included Dr. Bijendra Kumar Sharma, Former Director General, NTH; Dr. S. K. Kulshrestha, Former Director, NTH (WR); Former Scientists Smt. Padma Natarajan, Smt. Uma Bhakta, Smt. Kaushil, and Smt. Sheno, along with former officials and staff of NTH (WR); eminent Professor Dr. Viswanathan Numi from IIT Bombay; as well as delegates and representatives from leading organizations such as M/s. Aditya Birla Opus, M/s. Asian Paints, M/s. Bauer Kompressoren, and M/s. Kansai Nerolac Paints. The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from engineers of CPWD (Civil) and students of the Mechanical Engineering branch of D. J. Sanghvi College. On this occasion,

the Director of NTH (WR), Shri Dilip Gwra Basumatary, warmly welcomed all the distinguished delegates and guests. The scientists, officials, and staff of NTH (WR) participated with great enthusiasm, celebrating the historic day with pride and joy. The grand ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks followed by a photo session, marking a memorable conclusion to the event.

The active involvement of industry partners, academicians, customers, and both former and present scientists and staff added immense value to the celebrations, making the event a true confluence of science, technology, and industry.

The day-long programme reaffirmed NTH's unwavering commitment to advancing scientific excellence, industrial support, and public service, thereby reinforcing its stature as one of the nation's most trusted and enduring institutions since 1912.

Indian Army contingent departs for India-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas

New Delhi, Sep 1 (UNI) An Indian Army contingent has departed for Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA, to participate in the 21st edition of the India-USA Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025, scheduled from September 1 to 14. The Indian contingent, comprising personnel from the Madras Regiment, battalion will train alongside soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment "Bobcats" of the Arctic Wolves Brigade Combat

Team, 11th Airborne Division of the USA, a Defence Ministry statement said today. Over two weeks, troops will rehearse a spectrum of tactical drills including heliborne operations, employment of surveillance resources and unmanned aerial systems, rock craft, mountain warfare, casualty evacuation, combat medical aid and the integrated use of Artillery, Aviation and Electronic Warfare systems. In addition, subject-matter experts from both

armies will conduct working groups on critical domains such as UAS and Counter-UAS operations, information warfare, communications and logistics. The exercise will culminate in jointly planned and executed tactical manoeuvres, ranging from live-fire exercises to high-altitude warfare scenarios, with a focus on improving capabilities for United Nations peacekeeping operations and strengthening preparedness for multi-domain challenges.

More than 800 killed in devastating earthquake in Afghanistan, PM Modi offers help

New Delhi/Kabul, Sept 1 (UNI) : At least 812 people were killed and 2800 injured in a devastating temblor that struck Eastern Afghanistan in the dead of night today.

The death toll reached 812 and more than 2,800 people were injured. The government has formed a special committee to coordinate the response and allocated 100 million Afghanis for immediate relief, Afghanistan government chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences over the loss of lives in the earthquake

and said India is ready to provide all possible humanitarian assistance to the affected people. "Deeply saddened by the loss of lives due to the earthquake in Afghanistan. Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families in this difficult hour, and we wish a speedy recovery to the injured. India stands ready to provide all possible humanitarian aid and relief to those affected," the Prime Minister said on X.

The powerful earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale struck eastern Afghanistan around midnight affecting four provinces, with the mountainous region of Kunar bearing the brunt. The earthquake triggered landslides and flooding complicating the situation. In Kunar province's Nurgal district (Mazar Dara), Chawkay, Watapur, Manogi, Chapa Dara and surrounding areas, 800 people have died and 2,500 were injured. In Nangarhar's Dara-i-Noor district, 12 people were killed and 255 injured. Laghman's Alingar district reported 58 injuries and Nuristan's Nurgam district reported four injuries. In Panjshir's Abshar district, five houses were destroyed, but no

casualties were reported. Mujahid said that in Kunar province, many villages have been destroyed. International bodies are delivering aid and assisting in rescue operations. The temblor at 11:47 p.m. local time, was centred about 27 km east-northeast of the city of Jalalabad in Nangarhar province. The quake was followed by several aftershocks sending residents fleeing their homes again. Buildings shook as far away as Kabul and Islamabad, more than 350 km to the south.

Govt. committed to make state cancer-free: Minister

Visakhapatnam, Sept 1 (UNI) :Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav today made it clear that the main objective of the Government is to ensure that the state becomes cancer-free.

Talking to the media here, the Health Minister said that the government is providing funds for the development of KG Hospital and other health facilities in the state.

Appointments of doctors and medical staff are being carried out, he said and pledged to fill up all vacant posts in the GGHs. In this context, an amount of Rs 42 crores was sanctioned for screening and other modern equipment for KGH, he announced.

The cancer patients are going to other states for advanced medical treatment.

If the new medical equipment is installed, they can get the advanced treatment here itself, he revealed. The Central government is also extending funds for cancer treatment. As per the World Health Organisation's data, there are over 73,000 cancer patients in AP State, the Minister mentioned. MLAs Vishunu Kumar Raju, Vamsi Krishna Yadav and others were present.

SC declines to entertain plea on alleged caste discrimination in Andhra Pradesh village

New Delhi, Sept 1 (UNI) : The Supreme Court today dismissed a petition raising concerns of caste-based discrimination and social boycott of Dalits in a village in Andhra Pradesh.

A Bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta heard the matter and advised the petitioner, Dasari Chenna Kesavulu, who appeared in person, to approach the High Court or seek other remedies available under law.

Kesavulu alleged that Dalits in a village under Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's Pithapuram constituency were subjected to social boycott following the accidental death of an electrical worker in April.

He claimed that no FIR had been registered nor compensation provided to the deceased's family, despite protests by the community.

During the hearing, the Bench declined to entertain the plea and directed the petitioner to move the jurisdictional High Court, approach the Superintendent of Police, or pursue other lawful remedies.

Reports indicate that the boycott stemmed from tensions after compensation agreed with the deceased worker's family was not paid, prompting protests by Dalits in the village.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with J&K LG Manoj Sinha during a visit at flood-affected areas, near Tawi Bridge at Bikram Chowk, in Jammu.

CM dares YSRCP MLAs to take part in Assembly discussions on govt welfare schemes

Kadapa, Sept 1 (UNI) :Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu challenged the Opposition YSR Congress Party MLAs for a discussion on development and welfare schemes being implemented by the NDA government in the Legislative Assembly instead of resorting to false campaigning.

He said the YSRCP cannot deceive people through false campaigns and if its 11 elected MLAs attend the Assembly session, he (CM) is ready to discuss the development and welfare programmes.

Naidu revealed that he is also ready for discussion on the government's super six schemes, irrigation projects and investments and at the same time on the "murder politics" of YSRCP including Y S Vivekananda

Reddy murder, door delivery of bodies and on the dramas of YSRCP for political mileage.

The Chief Minister made it clear that the government is ready to punish those who resort to abusing women using social media platforms.

The Chief Minister during the day visited Boinapalli village of Rajampet mandal of the district as part of 'Pedalaku Sevalo' programme. He visited the house of Yadavalli Sumitramma and distributed social security pension to her personally.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that distributing pensions is a responsibility of the government and the NDA government spent Rs 42000 crore towards pensions so far.Naidu said erstwhile

Chief Minister N T Rama Rao introduced the social security pension scheme with Rs 30 and he increased the pension amount several times, including ten times in five years and 12 times for physically challenged persons.

He regretted that the previous YSRCP government misused the pension scheme by distributing pensions to their party cadre by producing fake certificates.

"The State Government sanctioned 7,872 widow pensions recently and distributed pensions to 8,10,182 physically challenged people. The State Government is committed for the welfare of all sections of people and has been implementing several welfare schemes in addition to the promises made during elections," he

highlighted.

The Chief Minister appealed to people to raise their voice against the false campaign of YSRCP leaders. Naidu reminisced that he assumed charge as Chief Minister on September 1, 30 years ago and discharged duties amidst facing several challenges.He assured the development of the Rajampet constituency despite the ruling TDP-BJP-JSP not winning the seat.

Stating that politics and administration are different, the Chief Minister vowed to make efforts for the establishment of a college in Rajampet.

Later, the Chief Minister visited Boinapalli Dhobi ghat and interacted with washermen. He directed the officials to construct sheds and provide necessary facilities for the washermen.

SC rules teachers' eligibility test mandatory for continuation and promotion in service

New Delhi, Sept 1 (UNI) The Supreme Court today held that the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) is a mandatory requirement for teachers to remain in service or seek promotion in schools.

A bench comprising Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Augustine George Masih delivered the ruling while deciding a batch of petitions, including those from Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, concerning the applicability of TET.

The court clarified that teachers who have only five years left to reach superannuation will be

allowed to continue in service without qualifying TET.

However, those who have more than five years remaining are required to pass the test in order to remain in service.

"Otherwise, they may quit or apply for compulsory retirement with terminal benefits," the Bench said.

The court also referred to a larger bench the issue of whether states can mandate TET for minority institutions and how such a requirement would impact the rights of those institutions under the

Govt. accepts proposals of IBM to install Quantum Computer

Vijayawada, Sept 1 (UNI) "Government today issued orders accepting US headquartered tech giant IBM's proposals to instal Quantum Computer at Amaravati Quantum Computing Centre.

It may be noted that the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) allotted 50 acres of land for developing Quantum Valley in Amaravati to benefit Research programmes of universities, startups and industries.

The IBM company came forward to set up a 133-qubit, 5k gates quantum computer in Amaravati in a 2000 sq ft area with advanced facilities. IBM also proposed subsidised rentals at Rs 10 per sq ft and committed 250 hours of free computing time annually for academic and government institutions in the state.

The Amaravati Quantum Computing Centre board agreed to the proposal of rental charges at Rs 30 per sq ft as per government norms and 365 hours of free computing time annually for academic and government institutions in the state. The state Quantum Mission chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu endorsed the AQCC board's decision.

The orders were issued by Bhaskar Katamneni, Secretary Information Technology, Electronics and Communications Department.

Naidu led Govt. turning TTD into a business hub: YSRCP alleges

Tirupati, Sept 1 (UNI) : YSRCP Spokesperson and former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy today came down heavily on the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government, accusing it of converting Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) into a commercial hub instead of safeguarding its sanctity.

Addressing the media in Tirupati, Bhumana Karunakar Reddy said the government's interference in reopening the Sannidhanam Canteen despite arrears of over Rs.2 crore was a shocking violation of TTD rules.

He alleged that under direct pressure from the Chief Minister's Office, the canteen was reopened and its encroachment of 201 square meters of temple land was regularised with a token penalty of just Rs.50,000 a month.

He warned that such acts, carried out to protect businessmen close to the ruling coalition, are destroying the spiritual fabric of Tirumala. Officials, he said, gave false reports on tree felling and manipulated reopening dates, while TTD Chairman BR Naidu even tried to waive crores in arrears.Bhumana Karunakar Reddy declared that the coalition government has reduced TTD into a marketplace where businessmen thrive at the cost of devotees. "If this continues, not an inch of Tirumala will remain free from encroachment. The government and TTD board are serving contractors, not devotees," he thundered.

The former TTD chairman demanded immediate corrective action and vowed that YSRCP will fight relentlessly against these blatant irregularities and the commercialisation of TTD under the coalition regime.

BJP slams Rahul Gandhi's 'Hydrogen Bomb' claims, calls him irresponsible

New Delhi, Sept 1 (UNI) : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today slammed Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, for his repeated references to "Atom Bomb" and threats to unleash a "Hydrogen Bomb" in the political arena, which it said, has little connection to electoral politics.

Former union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, addressing the media here, said, "Whenever I listen to Rahul Gandhi, whether inside or outside Parliament, it takes time to understand what he is trying to say. How are the atom bomb and hydrogen bomb related to elections? Rahul Gandhi is being irresponsible."

This sharp rebuke came after the Congress leader doubled down on his allegations of "vote chori" (vote theft) and warned the BJP of an impending expose he described as a "hydrogen bomb." Prasad dismissed these claims as baseless and difficult to comprehend.

"Before speaking, Rahul Gandhi should respect the dignity of his position," they said. "How many remember the bitterness and hate he has spread under the guise of love?"

Prasad also accused Rahul Gandhi of irresponsibility and noted the absence of Lok Sabha member and RJD chief Lalu Prasad's daughter Misa Bharti from the political scene during his visit, calling it a "family matter."He said while Rahul Gandhi has become a main political player, Bihar RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has been reduced to playing a secondary role.The BJP leader stated that the Election Commission has

conducted fair elections wherever polls were held, pointing to Congress's defeats in Haryana and Delhi as evidence of public sentiment.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
(1) Notice No.: eT-North-WAT-34-2025 Dt.: 23.08.2025	
NAME OF THE WORK: EXECUTION OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN LADDA (IN) TO PARVATIPURAM (EX) STATIONS FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2026 UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY)/ PARVATIPURAM UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / RAYAGADA ON RAIPUR-VIZIANAGARAM LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 2,11,12,373.17, EMD: ₹ 2,55,600/-	
(2) Notice No.: eT-North-WAT-35-2025 Dt.: 23.08.2025	
NAME OF THE WORK: EXECUTION OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN PARVATIPURAM (IN) TO DONKINAVALASA (IN) STATIONS INCLUDING BOBBILI-SALUR SECTION FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2026 UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY)/BOBBILI UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / RAYAGADA ON RAIPUR-VIZIANAGARAM LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 1,96,79,378.57, EMD: ₹ 2,48,400/-	
(3) Notice No.: eT-North-WAT-36-2025 Dt.: 23.08.2025	
NAME OF THE WORK: EXECUTION OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN TIKIRI (IN) TO SINGAPUR ROAD (EX) STATIONS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING ON 30.09.2026 IN THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY) / TIKIRI UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / LAKSHMIPUR ON KORAPUT-RAYAGADA LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 1,99,71,629.43, EMD: ₹ 2,49,900/-	
(4) Notice No.: eT-North-WAT-37-2025 Dt.: 23.08.2025	
NAME OF THE WORK: EXECUTION OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN KORAPUT (EX) TO TIKIRI (EX) STATIONS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.09.2026 IN THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY) / LAKSHMIPUR UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / LAKSHMIPUR ON KORAPUT-RAYAGADA LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 1,84,84,994.46, EMD: ₹ 2,42,400/-	
(5) Notice No.: eT-North-WAT-38-2025 Dt.: 23.08.2025	
NAME OF THE WORK : IMPLEMENTATION OF MITIGATION MEASURES (ROCK BOLTING, SHORTCRETING AND GROUTING) TO PREVENT BOULDER FALL AND SEEPAGE IN EXISTING 8 NOS. TUNNELS (TUNNEL NO. 3, 4, 11, 14, 23, 25, 29 & 32) IN KR LINE UNDER TRAFFIC BLOCK CONDITIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/LAKSHMIPUR ROAD ON KORAPUT-RAYAGADA LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 16,28,01,212.77, EMD: ₹ 9,64,000/-	
Completion Period of the Work : For the period upto 30.09.2026 (for Sl. No. 1 to 4) & 18 (Eighteen) Months (for Sl.No. 5).	
Tender Closing Date and Time : 15.09.2025 at 1500 Hrs.(for all Tenders).	
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.	
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.irpds.gov.in	
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.	
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), PR-541/Q/25-26	Waltair

STANDARD POST

Many pre-schoolers get ADHD medication before therapy

Despite clear clinical guidelines recommending six months of behavioral therapy before initiating medication for young children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), a significant number of pre-schoolers are being prescribed medication almost immediately after diagnosis, a new Stanford Medicine-led study has revealed.

Published in JAMA Network Open, the study highlights a troubling trend: many children aged four and five years are starting pharmacological treatment far earlier than advised, in direct contradiction to guidelines issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Researchers analysed the medical records of nearly 10,000 preschool-aged children across eight pediatric health networks in the US. The findings were stark: 42.2% of these children received ADHD medication within just one month of diagnosis. Alarming, only 14.1% began medication after completing the recommended six-month period of behavioral therapy.

Dr Yair Barnett, assistant professor of paediatrics and the study's lead author, expressed serious concerns about this practice. "Starting ADHD treatment with a behavioural approach is beneficial; it has a big positive effect on the child as well as on the family," he said.

Behaviour therapy focuses on modifying the child's environment and routines, training parents to manage behaviours effectively through positive reinforcement and structured schedules.

Moreover, stimulant medications, commonly prescribed for ADHD, tend to cause more side effects in younger children. Children under six years metabolize these drugs less efficiently, resulting in irritability, emotional instability, and aggression. Dr Barnett noted, "While toxicity is not a major concern, treatment failure is high because families often discontinue medication due to these side effects."

ADHD is characterised by hyperactivity, impulsivity, and difficulty maintaining attention. Early diagnosis and effective treatment are crucial, as children with ADHD face higher risks of academic struggles and school dropout. Research confirms that appropriate management improves long-term outcomes in education, employment, relationships, and legal behaviour.

The American Academy of Pediatrics endorses parent training in behaviour management as the first-line treatment for preschool children with ADHD. This evidence-based therapy equips parents with skills to nurture positive behaviours and ignore negative ones, providing tools such as visual schedules to help children organise daily tasks.

Medication serves a complementary role, alleviating core ADHD symptoms. Its effects are temporary and dependent on consistent dosing. Most children with ADHD benefit from a combination of behavioural therapy and medication, but behavioural intervention should precede pharmacological treatment, especially in young children.

The study's analysis could not determine why doctors frequently prescribed medication early. However, informal conversations with physicians revealed that limited access to behavioural therapy is a major factor.

In many regions, therapists trained in behavioural management are scarce, and insurance coverage is often inadequate.

Dr Barnett stressed the importance of educating paediatricians on available resources, including free or low-cost online behavioural training for parents. "If behavioural therapy is unavailable, doctors sometimes feel compelled to prescribe medication rather than offer no treatment at all."

While this study focused on 4- and 5-year-olds, behavioural therapy remains vital for older children with ADHD.

For those aged six and above, guidelines recommend combined behavioural and medication treatment to provide both symptom relief and long-term coping skills.

Dr Barnett concluded, "Medication is never the sole solution for ADHD. Behavioural therapy teaches the child and family long-term skills that will help them in life." In other words, behavioural therapy builds lifelong skills that medication alone cannot provide.

Robotic Era Redefines Urological Surgeries: Global Experts at "Robo-Lap" Conference by AINU

One of India's largest Urology Conferences dedicated to advancing excellence in urological laparoscopy and robotics surgery



(Standard Post Bureau)

The era of robots in urological surgeries has arrived, and patients, whether from urban or rural areas, increasingly demand minimally invasive surgeries with smaller incisions. International medical experts noted that the perception of robotic surgery as less painful and offering faster recovery is now widely accepted. Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology (AINU), India's largest single-specialty hospital chain for urology and nephrology, successfully hosted the Robo-Lap 2025 conference—one of the country's most significant gatherings dedicated to robotic and laparoscopic advancements in uro care. More than 1,000 Urologists across India, the England, USA, Belgium, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka attended the conference, where complex urology cases were

discussed with the esteemed panel of experts. This unique conference led by AINU became a vibrant hub for exchanging clinical knowledge, future-ready surgical practices, and global perspectives to redefine patient outcomes in this specialty.

The two-day academic exchange featured complex case discussions, workshops, and high-level deliberations on future technologies shaping urology and nephrology.

Speaking about the conference, Dr. Mallikarjuna C, Managing Director & Chief Consultant Urologist, AINU, said, "At AINU, we have always believed that advancing patient care begins with advancing clinical knowledge. Robo-Lap 2025 was not just about showcasing surgical innovations—it was about creating a forum where specialists from across the

globe could engage, share insights, and collectively reimagine the future of Urology care. By curating platforms of this scale, we ensure that the urology community has access to the latest breakthroughs in robotics and minimally invasive surgery. Clinical knowledge exchange lies at the heart of AINU's mission, and this conference reaffirms our commitment to shaping the future of care in India and beyond. A trailblazer in laparoscopic and robotic urological surgery."

"Today, whether—urban or rural—patients are asking for smaller incisions, because they know it reduces pain, ensures faster recovery, and helps them return quickly to normal life. However, training in such procedures, particularly in the urology field, has not traditionally been part of medical college education.

For this reason, the conference proved extremely useful to practitioners who enhanced their knowledge and skills and are now better equipped to return to their states or countries and provide satisfactory treatment to patients there." He added.

Sandeep Guduru, Chief Executive Officer at AINU, said, "The 'Robo-Lap' initiative reflects AINU's commitment to clinical excellence, continuous learning, and technological innovation in the fields of urology. At AINU, we believe in pushing the boundaries of innovation, and Robo-Lap is a shining example of that spirit."

The conference also served as a vital knowledge-sharing platform on the management of advanced uro-oncology surgeries, reconstructive surgeries, complex pediatric surgeries. Renowned experts deliberated on surgical solutions for challenging cases, demonstrating how robotic and laparoscopic techniques are transforming precision, reducing invasiveness, and enabling faster patient recovery.

Robo-Lap 2025 stands as a testament to AINU's thought leadership in fostering collaboration, innovation, and academic rigor for the benefit of the global urology and nephrology community.

Kharge slams BJP at Voter Adhikar Yatra finale, says Bihar to uproot 'double-engine corrupt govt'

Patna, Sept 1 (UNI) ; In a fiery address marking the conclusion of the 16-day-long Voter Adhikar Yatra today, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge attacked the BJP-led central and state governments, asserting that Bihar will lead the nation in uprooting what he claimed a "double-engine corrupt government".

Addressing a massive crowd here along with leaders of the INDIA bloc, Kharge congratulated all those who participated in the yatra, describing it as a "people's awakening".

"This yatra wasn't just a protest, it was a movement to reclaim democracy and the fundamental right to vote. Wherever it passed, crores poured onto the streets. The people of Bihar made it a resounding success," he said.

Kharge further accused the Modi government of systematically dismantling democratic institutions over the past 11 years, alleging the misuse of agencies like the ED, CBI, and Income Tax Department to destabilise Opposition governments.

"First, they stole from the poor and handed public wealth to a few industrialist friends. Then, they used that money to topple elected governments. Now, they've moved from theft to outright robbery," he alleged.

He also took aim at the recent legislation passed in Parliament, calling it a tool to silence the Opposition and deflect from the government's failures.

The Congress president also praised Rahul Gandhi for consistently standing up for the oppressed, linking the Voter Adhikar Yatra with previous campaigns like Bharat Jodo Yatra, Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, and Jai Babu – Jai Bhim – Jai Samvidhan.

"Every time the rights of the marginalised are under threat, Rahul ji raises their voice whether it's Dalits, tribals, backward classes or women. This yatra continues that legacy," he said.

Equating the alleged voter fraud in Bihar with the theft of people's basic rights, Kharge said, "Stealing your vote means stealing your ration, your pension, your right to housing, and your MGNREGA wages. Voting is not just a right, it's your dignity".

Referring to the recent Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Kharge said the Opposition had been vindicated by the Supreme Court and criticised the BJP for shielding the Election Commission from scrutiny.

Kharge also slammed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and said, "He lacked the courage to fight against injustice. Abandoning the socialist ideology, he aligned himself with the RSS and BJP. The people of Bihar have realized that these are 'partners in crime'. Not just Bihar, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, people have seen their true face".

Darasing Khurana Hosts Heart-stirring Donor–Recipient Meet In Pune, Calls For More Blood Stem Cell Donors



(Standard Post Bureau)

Actor, emcee, and philanthropist Darasing Khurana, Brand Ambassador for DATRI Blood Stem Cell Donors Registry, led an emotional donor–recipient meet organized by DATRI in collaboration with Sahyadri Hospital. The highlight was a rare reunion where twin sisters Shaurya and Aarya, both diagnosed with Acute Lymphoid Leukemia at three-and-a-half, met their lifesaving donor Mr. Meeneshwar of Hyderabad, who had donated his blood stem cells and "gave them a second chance at life." Addressing attendees, Khurana saluted the resilience of the twins' parents and urged more Indians to register as voluntary blood stem cell donors, noting that each new registration can be a potential match for a patient fighting a fatal blood disorder. His appeal aligns with his long-running advocacy as DATRI's Brand Ambassador, a role publicly featured by the organization. The Sahyadri medical team, led

by Dr. Kannan Subramanian with guidance from Dr. Shashikant Apte, performed the unique transplants and emphasized the critical need for expanding India's donor base. "With every new donor, we increase the chance of saving lives," said Dr. Subramanian.

For the family, the meet was profoundly personal. "We could never imagine that one person's selfless act would give us back our children," the parents shared, thanking DATRI, Sahyadri Hospital, and the donor. Mr. Meeneshwar called the reunion "the most emotional moment" of his life. Since inception, DATRI has facilitated more than 1,645 blood stem cell donations and built a registry of over six lakh donors, underscoring the momentum behind such lifesaving measures. About Darasing Khurana: Winner of Mister India International 2017, Khurana is a known advocate for youth and health causes and frequently fronts DATRI's awareness efforts across events and campaigns.

Interactive session on Latest Advancements in Neurosciences concludes successfully



(Standard Post Bureau)

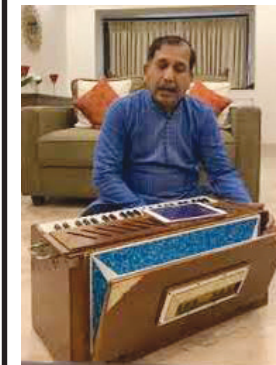
Artemis Hospital Gurugram in association with CRREST neuro services, Neurological society of Agra, IACM – Agra recently spearheaded an interactive session in the city focusing on 10 commandments of Brain health. The seminar aimed to shed light on cutting-edge treatments for various types of neuro related disorders, making them more accessible, reliable, and safer than ever before.

The session was orated by Dr. Aditya Gupta, Chief Neurosurgery & CNS Radiosurgery & Co-Chief – Cyberknife centre, from

Artemis Hospitals, who spoke on the topic Collaborative cases in neurosciences. Dr. Aditya Gupta, Chief Neurosurgery & CNS Radiosurgery & Co-Chief – Cyberknife centre, Artemis Hospitals emphasized the significance of cyberknife radiosurgery in tackling complex neurosurgical cases, said "M6 Cyberknife Radiosurgery is precise, painless, and non-invasive radiation treatment. It is extremely efficient for the treatment of inoperable cancerous and non-cancerous tumors, requires no anesthesia & incision and has no reported risks or side effects. This

therapy has a proven clinical success rate of over 95% of the brain tumor patients and works best for tumors up to 2.5-3 cm in size. The seminar aimed to create awareness among both the medical community and the public about these advancements, ultimately striving to enhance patient care and outcomes. Artemis Hospital Gurugram remains committed to pushing the boundaries of medical excellence and introducing state-of-the-art technologies to ensure accurate and effective treatment options for patients worldwide.

Harmonium Performance by Dr. Dilip Gayatonde



(Standard Post Bureau)

On behalf of the Dadar Matunga Cultural Centre, a solo harmonium performance by Dr. Dilip Gayatonde is being organized in memory of Nana and Bhau Rajadhyaksha, supported by the Rajadhyaksha family. The event is scheduled for Sunday, September 7, 2025, at 5:00 PM at the Centre's V.V. Gokhale Auditorium. Sunil Jayaphalkar will accompany on the tabla.

This program is open to all. The Centre warmly invites music enthusiasts to attend and enjoy the performance. For more information, contact: 7700994495, 24304150.

Powerful earthquake strikes eastern Afghanistan

Kabul, Sept 1 (UNI) : A powerful earthquake of magnitude 6.3 struck eastern Afghanistan today, near the border with Pakistan, with tremors felt across parts of Pakistan, including the capital Islamabad nearly 400 km away.More than 115 injured people have been taken to hospitals in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, where casualties are being reported,BBC reported officials as saying.

According to seismological data, the epicentre was located about 27 km (17 miles) from Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province and Afghanistan’s fifth-largest city.The quake comes just days after Nangarhar province was battered by severe flooding between Friday and Saturday, which destroyed properties and left five people dead, local authorities said.

According to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), the quake occurred at 00:47:41 IST, with its epicentre located at latitude 34.50°N and longitude 70.81°E, at a depth of 160 km. “EQ of M: 6.3, On: 01/09/2025 00:47:41 IST, Lat: 34.50 N, Long: 70.81 E, Depth: 160 Km, Location: Afghanistan,” NCS posted on X.

The initial tremor was followed by multiple aftershocks ranging between magnitudes 4 and 5. A 4.7-magnitude quake struck at 01:08 IST at a depth of 140 km, not far from the original epicentre. It was followed by a 4.3-magnitude tremor at 01:59 IST at a depth of 140 km, and later, a stronger 5.0-magnitude quake at 03:03 IST at a shallower depth of 40 km, the NCS reported.

Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev says SCO sets itself apart from Western forums due to real cooperation

Tianjin, Sept 1 (UNI) : In a subtle jab at Western economic bodies, Kirill Dmitriev, Russian President Vladimir Putin’s aide on international economic affairs, commented that what sets SCO apart from Western forums is its genuine spirit of cooperation, with “no one bothering anyone”, reports RT.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit, which started on August 31 in the Chinese city of Tianjin, brought together more than 20 members and partner nations.

In particular, the forum saw the Indian and Chinese leaders meeting in the wake of improved bilateral relations and US President Donald Trump’s sweeping economic tariffs, which has been a thorn for both the economic powerhouses.Speaking to reporters on Monday, Dmitriev said the meeting showcased countries “cooperating between themselves, which contrasts the disjointed Western world.”

Within the organisation “no one bothers anyone”, he added, and “the entire world sees this spirit of cooperation, even as there are many forces, particularly in Europe, whose aims are against cooperation.”

His remarks came as EU and the US administrations have found themselves at odds over major global issues, including international trade practices amid Trump tariffs, the Israeli military campaign against Hamas in Gaza, and the Russia-Ukraine war, hindering cooperation and not leading to any concrete results.

The Russian official said that this stems from the West’s aim at preserving a unipolar world order, which no longer reflects ground realities.

Russian police ban 39 Polish citizens over unauthorized rally

Ryazan, Russia, Sept1 (UNI) : Police have issued administrative protocols against a group of Polish citizens who staged an unauthorized rally near the Russian city of Tver, banning them from entering Russia for five years, the Interior Ministry’s Tver branch announced on Sunday.

According to Russian media reports, several dozen Polish bikers belonging to the far-right ultranationalist All-Polish Youth group held a torch-lit religious ceremony at the Mednoye memorial in the Tver Region. They reportedly entered Russia through a border checkpoint with Belarus in the Pskov Region.

“Information about an unsanctioned rally at the Mednoye memorial complex near Tver was disseminated in the media.

Police identified all participants of the event, who turned out to be Polish citizens. Administrative offense protocols were issued against 39 individuals under Part 2 of Article 18.8 of the Russian Code of Administrative Offenses,” the ministry said in a statement on Telegram.

The decision was made to ban them from entering Russia for a period of five years, it added.

U.S. widens visa ban on Palestinian passport holders

Washington, Sept 1 (UNI) : The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has broadened its visa restrictions on Palestinian passport holders, halting approvals for nearly all categories of non-immigrant visitor visas, reported The New York Times.

The expanded suspension covers applications for medical treatment, university study, business travel, and visiting friends or family, said the report on Sunday.

The measure, laid out in an Aug. 18 cable from the State Department to U.S. embassies and consulates, marks a sweeping extension of earlier measures that applied only to residents of Gaza. The new policy now targets Palestinians in the West Bank and across the diaspora. Earlier this month, the Trump administration also revoked visas from members of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, preventing them from attending the upcoming United Nations General Assembly in New York.



Trucks carrying Indian aid to earthquake-hit Afghanistan.

Plane carrying EU Commission President forced to land using analogue maps in Bulgaria post alleged Russian GPS jamming

Brussels/Sofia, Sept 1 (UNI) : A plane carrying European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was struck by GPS jamming over Bulgaria on Sunday.

Officials have alleged that Russia was the perpetrator of the incident, forcing the aircraft to circle for an hour before landing safely in Plovdiv.

The European Commission confirmed the incident, saying it occurred as von der Leyen began a four-day tour of European union nations bordering Russia and Belarus.

“We can indeed confirm that there was GPS jamming,” said commission spokesperson Arianna Podesta.

“We have received information from the Bulgarian authority that they suspect that this was due to blatant interference by Russia.”

Bulgarian air traffic officials said the disruption

knocked out satellite navigation across the airport area. “The whole airport area GPS went dark,” one official told reporters, describing the interference as “undeniable.”

The plane eventually landed using analogue maps and traditional terrestrial navigation tools.

The Bulgarian Air Traffic Authority confirmed the incident and said GPS interference in the region has risen sharply since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

More recently, it noted, there has been a surge in “spoofing” – the falsification of GPS signals – as well as outright jamming.

“These interferences disrupt the accurate reception of GPS signals, leading to operational challenges for aircraft and ground systems,” the authority said in a

statement.Von der Leyen, a vocal critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was unharmed and continued her schedule. Speaking to reporters after landing, she repeated her hard line on Moscow. “Putin has not changed, and he will not change. He is a predator. He can only be kept in check through strong deterrence.”

Her spokesperson said the incident reinforced the urgency of her mission. “This incident underlines the urgency of the president’s tour in the front-line member states,” Podesta said, adding that von der Leyen had seen “first hand the everyday challenges of threats coming from Russia and its proxies.”

The Bulgarian government also issued a statement confirming that the plane’s navigation system had been “neutralised” mid-flight. “To ensure the flight’s

safety, air control services immediately offered an alternative landing method using terrestrial navigation tools,” it said.

Cases of GPS jamming have been on the rise across Europe, particularly in eastern member states and the Baltic Sea region.

Planes, ships and even civilian GPS devices have been affected, prompting EU governments to warn that Russia’s use of electronic warfare tactics could trigger a major air disaster by effectively blinding commercial aircraft.

Von der Leyen has repeatedly pushed for greater EU investment in defence and security, pledging in Bulgaria that Europe would strengthen deterrence against Moscow. “Of course, the EU will continue to invest in defence spending and in Europe’s readiness even more after this incident,” her spokesperson said.

Venezuela ready for U.S. "any attack," says defence chief

Caracas, Sept 1 (UNI) : Venezuela is prepared for "any attack" from the United States, Venezuelan Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez said on Sunday."We will fight if you dare to set foot in Venezuela," Padrino Lopez warned the U.S. government in a statement released by state-run media. Venezuela is under a siege that aims to provoke internal chaos and undermine the nation's political leadership, said the defence chief."The announcement of these naval deployments in Caribbean waters is nothing more than a show of force, a way of marking territory so that other powers will not take control of the Caribbean Sea," he said, referring to U.S. military manoeuvres in the region.

The Venezuelan Armed Forces are patrolling the country's maritime borders and airspace in response to

President Nicolas Maduro's call to strengthen the Bolivarian National Militia, said the official.

Padrino Lopez added that 15,000 military personnel have been deployed to Venezuela's western region.The minister also highlighted the military's domestic security efforts, noting that anti-drug operations have led to the destruction of over 30 criminal outposts and illegal boat-building facilities.Tensions in the Caribbean Sea have escalated after the United States deployed warships near the coast of Venezuela earlier this month, which Washington describes as part of its strategy to fight the international drug cartels. Several leaders in the region, including Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Colombian President Gustavo Petro, criticised U.S. military manoeuvres near Venezuela in the Caribbean Sea.

Xi Jinping urges SCO to resist bloc confrontation, announces USD 281 million grant

Tianjin/New Delhi, Sep1 (UNI) Chinese President Xi Jinping today called on Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states to resist bloc confrontation and bullying while safeguarding a world order centered on the United Nations. He was speaking at the 25th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State in Tianjin. "We must uphold justice and impartiality, promote the correct view of the history of World War II, resist the Cold War mentality, bloc confrontation and bullying, and defend the system of international relations with the central role of the United Nations," Xi Jinping said.

Xi also called for safeguarding the UN-centered international system, and supporting the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.

Xi announced a grant of 2 billion yuan (about USD 281 million) for SCO member states this year, along with an additional 10 billion yuan in loans over the next three years through the SCO Interbank Consortium. He noted that China’s cumulative investment in other SCO member states has already exceeded USD 84 billion, while annual bilateral trade has surpassed USD 500 billion.

The Chinese President also urged the SCO to “strive for real results and high efficiency,” calling for the early operationalisation of the SCO Universal Center for Countering Security Threats and Challenges and the SCO Anti-Drug Center, as well as the establishment of an SCO Development Bank to strengthen security and economic cooperation.

Xi asked the member countries to uphold fairness and justice while addressing the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO session.The largest SCO summit in the history of the association is being held in the Chinese city of Tianjin from August 31 to September 1, with more than 20 foreign leaders and representatives of international organizations taking part.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an international organization founded in 2001. It includes India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Belarus officially joined the organization at the Astana summit on July 4, 2024. Observer countries are Afghanistan and Mongolia, dialogue partner states are Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bahrain, Egypt, Cambodia, Qatar, Kuwait, Maldives, Myanmar,Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Sri Lanka.

Indonesian president vows to uphold public order, security in accordance with law

Jakarta, Sept 1 (UNI) : Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto has issued a press statement regarding the recent demonstrations that have continued in several regions across the country, stressing that the state will uphold public order and security in accordance with the law.He said on Sunday that political parties had taken firm action against their members in parliament who committed misconduct, including the revocation of membership, allowances, and overseas working visits, in response to public concerns.He also called on the House of Representatives to open dialogue with community leaders and civil society groups to strengthen communication channels.

Addressing incidents of unrest in some regions, the president underlined that the state must not remain silent if demonstrations degenerate into anarchy.

He instructed the Indonesian National Police and the Indonesian National Armed Forces to act firmly and in accordance with the law to protect members of the public and safeguard public facilities.

European leaders made a mistake abandoning diplomacy on Ukraine

Brussels, Sept 1 (UNI) : European leaders have chosen a counterproductive path by prolonging the conflict in Ukraine instead of pursuing diplomatic solutions, well-known US economist and director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, Jeffrey Sachs said.

"All of the European leaders pursuing the war are deeply unpopular with their own people. This is true of (UK Prime Minister Keir) Starmer, (German Chancellor Friedrich) Merz, (French President Emmanuel) Macron and others. And I think it reflects the very poor

policies that Europe is choosing. The European leaders have failed to pursue diplomacy. They seem not to understand it, or they're afraid of it entirely," Sachs said.

Sachs highlighted the declining support for Germany’s Friedrich Merz, suggesting he could be one of the worst chancellors in German history.

"He (Chancellor Merz) is a warmonger and a German chancellor who is a leader of an important country, should be in direct talks with President (of Russia Vladimir) Putin to discuss the European scene, but Merz doesn't have that know-how or

capacity or interest," the economist explained.

On August 15, Russian President Vladimir Putin met US President Donald Trump for talks in Anchorage, Alaska. On August 18, Trump hosted Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders for talks at the White House.

Trump then called Putin to discuss the peace process. Putin and Trump agreed that direct negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian delegations should continue and discussed raising the level of representation, Russian presidential aide Yury Ushakov said.

Jude Law opens up about preparing for his role as Vladimir Putin: “I Became Obsessive”

Venice, Sept 1 (UNI) : Hollywood star Jude Law revealed that he immersed himself deeply into the persona of Russian President Vladimir Putin while preparing for his upcoming role as the leader.

British actor Jude Law told yesterday how he became an "obsessive" viewer of Vladimir Putin in preparation for his role as

the Russian president in his new movie "The Wizard of the Kremlin" that will open later at the Venice Film Festival.Law, 52, closely resembles Putin, mimicking his scowl and unique swagger in the movie by French filmmaker Olivier Assayas, which tells the story of the former spy's ascension."There's a lot of footage one could watch

and, personally, when I start going down that rabbit hole, it becomes sort of obsessive," he told journalists.

"You're looking for ever more, newer material."He described playing Putin as being a challenge due to his notoriously expressionless face.

"The difficult part to me was that the public persona

that we glimpse (of Putin), we glimpse very, very little," Law added.

"There's this mask."Law attributed his resemblance to the actual Putin to "an incredible makeup and hair team", stating that he was not afraid of backlash.

The film, two and a half hours long, is a thorough examination of Putin's

career gagging political adversaries, intimidating oligarchs, and enriching his circle.

According to media reports,"It is told through the eyes of a fictional political advisor, Vadim Baranov, played by Paul Dano. It is based on a top-selling book of the same name by Italian author Giuliano da Empoli.



EXPRESSWAY
SERVICES PVT. LTD.
HYDERABAD

Commanding all-around performance guides Puneri Paltan to mammoth 22-point victory over Gujarat Giants

Visakhapatnam, Sep 1 (IANS) : Puneri Paltan delivered a defensive masterclass to record a massive 22-point win against Gujarat Giants on Monday night's second game in Season 12 of the Pro Kabaddi League here. The Season 10 champions were dominant on both ends of the mat as they registered a 41-19 victory at the Vishwanadh Sports Club in Vizag.

Abinesh Nadarajan led the way with a High Five, while Gaurav Khatri and Gurdeep recorded four tackle points each. Aslam Inamdar, Aditya Shinde, and Pankaj Mohite also contributed to the team as they ran riot against the Gujarat Giants.

The Paltan began the game on the front foot with Aslam Inamdar and Pankaj Mohite leading the raiding unit. Abinesh Nadarajan also made his presence felt on the defensive end, recording four tackle points in the first ten minutes. They cruised to a six-point lead in the opening



exchanges after inflicting an All Out on Gujarat Giants.

The side led by Aslam Inamdar soon started asserting its dominance even further as Abinesh Nadarajan completed his High Five with five minutes remaining in the first half. Pankaj Mohite also piled on the pressure on Gujarat Giants, amassing the 400-point mark in the PKL. At the end of the first half,

Puneri Paltan had a six-point lead with the scoreline at 17-11. Puneri Paltan continued to be relentless on both ends in the second half, giving the Gujarat Giants no breathing room. Aditya Shinde recorded a two-point raid to extend Puneri Paltan's lead to nine points, before they inflicted another All Out to make it a fourteen-point lead in the blink of an eye.

Despite Gujarat Giants'

best efforts, they couldn't register a single point between their two All Outs. Mohammadreza Shadloui ended the game with zero points to his name for the first time since season 8, summing up Puneri Paltan's dominance. In the end, the Ajay Thakur-coached side put the game beyond all doubt and wrapped up a commanding performance with a 22-point win, as the scoreline read 41-19.

UP Yoddhas recover in style to spark commanding 34-31 come back win against Patna Pirates

Visakhapatnam, Sept 1 (UNI) : UP Yoddhas stormed to a commanding 34-31 victory over the Patna Pirates at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium in the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) 12 here, tonight.

The Yoddhas, aided by a strategic raiding blueprint and a vividly solid defensive framework, overcame the opposition in a tremendous second-half outing that saw them bag their second successive win this season. Raiders Bhavani Rajput and Shivam Choudhary chipped in with five points each, but it was the 33rd-minute reintroduction of Gagan Gowda that stole the show for the Yoddhas in the final stint of the proceedings.

Gowda amassed seven points, helping the Jasveer Singh-coached unit build a robust lead over the Pirates before the proceedings

rounded off. UP Yoddhas trailed by 19-13 at the end of the first half, but a timely re-gathering of plans propelled them to an emphatic triumph, signifying their resolve, resilience, and resistance to a spirited opponent.

The Yoddhas registered a 38.1 per cent raid success rate and 42.86 per cent strike rate on that front. Both teams had 16 successful raids. It was, hence, the defence that managed to pip the Pirates, with 12 successful tackles at a success rate of 46.15 per cent. They secured eight tackle points in the second essay of the encounter, as opposed to Patna's two, and this was made possible by the captain and vice-captain duo of Sumit Sangwan and Ashu Singh, respectively.

Both of them notched five points each, and a

solitary super tackle pushed them to edge ahead, in what eventually ended up transpiring into a clash of fine margins.

The Yoddhas also employed a calculated strategy in the do-or-die raids, with Bhavani and Gagan bagging crucial points in a couple of them in the opening stages of the second half.

If the first win against the Telugu Titans displayed the sheer quality brimming through the UP Yoddhas roster, this one against the Patna Pirates is a reminder that their players blend a tough character with promising talent, traits that promise to take them a long way this season.

UP Yoddhas are set to face the Haryana Steelers on September 5, whereas Patna Pirates will lock horns with the Jaipur Pink Panthers on September 2.

Sumit, Ashu shine as UP Yoddhas claw their way back against Patna Pirates

Vizag, Sept 1 (UNI) : A hard-fought comeback from the UP Yoddhas saw them beat the Patna Pirates 34-31 in what was a closely-fought contest to the very end at the Vishwanadh Sports Club in Vizag on Monday. Sumit and Ashu Singh got much-deserved High Fives, while Gagan Gowda scored seven points as the Yoddhas secured an impressive victory.

In the opening 10 minutes, Patna Pirates edged ahead of UP Yoddhas, leading 7-6 in what began as a tightly fought clash. Patna's young raider Ayan Lohchab was the standout performer in this phase, notching up three raid points and twice sending the Yoddhas defenders to the bench. Ankit made his presence felt with a crucial tackle on Guman Singh, while Maninder Singh chipped in with a successful raid to keep the Pirates narrowly in front. For the Yoddhas, Gagan Gowda looked lively with a couple of sharp raids, while Ashu Singh and Sumit contributed with important defensive tackles. Midway through the half, Ayan produced the game's defining moment - a brilliant raid that took out Ashu Singh and Mohammadreza Kaboudrahangi, inflicting the first All Out on UP Yoddhas. He continued to dominate thereafter, adding points at regular intervals, including a raid

that removed Mahender Singh and Bhavani Rajput in quick succession.

The Yoddhas found some respite late in the half when Ayan was finally trapped in a Super Tackle, but by then, Patna had built a commanding lead. At halftime, the score read 19-13 in favour of the Pirates, with Ayan leading the charge with eight raid points. Patna Pirates maintained their grip on the contest in the opening exchanges of the second half, extending their lead to 23-19 against UP Yoddhas after 30 minutes of play. Substitute raider Ankit Rana made an instant impact with a successful raid that sent Sumit to the bench, while Maninder Singh also did well in a Do-Or-Die raid against Hitesh.

The Yoddhas, however, refused to back down. Bhavani Rajput and Gagan Gowda added crucial raid points to keep their side in the hunt, and Sumit pulled off a fine tackle on Ayan to halt the Pirates' momentum. With both sides trading empty raids and defences tightening up, the margin remained slender, setting the stage for a tense final phase.

The Patna Pirates suffered their first ALL OUT in the 7th minute, as the UP Yoddhas equalled the score in style. They piled the pressure on the three-time champions, but Ayan Lohchab escaped Hitesh, giving his team a late lifeline.

Haryana Steelers Coach promises to bounce back strong after losing to Bengal Warriorz

Vizag, Sept 1 (UNI) : Haryana Steelers may have gone down against Bengal Warriorz in their Pro Kabaddi League Season 12 opener, but head coach Manpreet Singh made it clear that this was no reason to panic.

"We played very well. Our raiding was strong, our defence also held its ground. But there's a big difference between winning a match and winning a trophy," said Singh, his words carrying a message that the defending champions' ambitions lie far beyond this result.

The coach was quick to stress that the team is still finding its rhythm. "It is very difficult to perform at peak levels in the first match. Every league takes one or two matches for the team to settle. Once the team is set, you will see a very different Haryana Steelers." Star raider Naveen Kumar also pulled no punches while reflecting on the loss. "We lost the match because we didn't do what the coach had told us to do. The boys fought, but we made mistakes that Bengal Warriorz capitalised on, like the Super Raid. These are small errors, and we will fix them fast."

At the same time, Singh's defiance stood out. "This is just the first step. We're not here to count wins and losses, we're here to lift the trophy at the end. That's the only standard I'm holding this team to."

Closing on a note of intent, Singh issued a warning to the rest of the league. "We'll correct our errors and come back harder. When this team clicks, everyone will feel the heat. Haryana Steelers will not just compete - we are here to dominate."

Delhi to host landmark 30th edition of BWF World Championships

New Delhi, Sept 1 (UNI) : The BWF World Championships will return to India after 17 years, with the capital city, New Delhi, chosen to host the landmark 30th event in August 2026.

The announcement was made during the closing ceremony of the 2025 Championships in Paris, where a handover took place between BWF President Ms. Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, Frank Laurent, President of the Federation Francaise de Badminton, and Sanjay Mishra, Honorary General Secretary of the Badminton Association of India.

India's selection reflects its transformation into one of badminton's most consistent medal-winning nations at the BWF World Championships, with 15 podium finishes since 1983. The country's breakthrough came with Prakash Padukone's bronze in Copenhagen, while in 2011 Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponappa became the first Indian doubles medallists, signalling the nation's all-round rise. At the forefront stands PV

Swiatek cruises past Alexandrova into US Open quarters

New York, Sept 1 (UNI) : World No.2 Iga Swiatek continued her impressive run at the US Open 2025, storming into the quarterfinals with a straight-sets win over Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova at the Louis Armstrong Stadium here today. Swiatek, who had shown signs of vulnerability in her previous round when she was forced to stage a comeback from 1-5 down against Anna Kalinskaya, displayed a far more clinical and assured performance this time. She needed only one hour and four minutes to secure a 6-3, 6-1 triumph,

outclassing her opponent in all departments.

The Polish star was quick off the blocks, breaking Alexandrova early in the first set and dictating rallies with her trademark heavy forehand. After sealing the opener 6-3, she elevated her game further in the second, reeling off winners and applying constant pressure on Alexandrova's serve. The Russian, who struggled to match Swiatek's intensity, was broken thrice in the second set as the match quickly slipped from her grasp. With the victory, Swiatek advanced to her fourth straight quarterfinal

at Flushing Meadows, underlining her consistency on the big stage. The 24-year-old is chasing her maiden US Open title, having previously lifted trophies at Roland Garros and Wimbledon. Swiatek will next face either American Amanda Anisimova or Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia in the quarterfinals, a contest that could test her adaptability against contrasting styles. With her form gathering momentum, Swiatek has once again emerged as one of the frontrunners for the title as the tournament heads into its decisive second week

Bayer Leverkusen signs attacker Ben Seghir from Monaco

Berlin, Sept 1 (UNI) : Bayer Leverkusen has confirmed the signing of Morocco international Eliesse Ben Seghir from Ligue 1 side AS Monaco.

The 20-year-old attacker has signed a contract with the Werkself until June 2030. According to reports, the deal is worth around 35 million euros (41 million U.S. dollars), including potential bonuses, with a fixed fee of 32 million euros. "Ben Seghir is a first-class technician, inventive and clever in his dribbling with the ability to play precise, progressive passes," said Leverkusen sporting director Simon Rolfes.

"He will give our attack an extra push. Eliesse can operate both on the wings and in central attacking positions. He is unpredictable and will be a top reinforcement for our squad." Standing at 1.78 meters, the forward played 67 Ligue 1 matches for AS Monaco, scoring 12 goals and laying on five assists.

On the European stage, he made 10 UEFA Champions League appearances, finding the net twice. With the Morocco national team, Ben Seghir has collected 11 caps and scored three goals.

Ben Seghir expressed enthusiasm for the new challenge. "Joining Bayer 04 is a step into a new football culture for me. The Bundesliga is very different compared to Ligue 1, which makes it especially exciting. I've been impressed by the club's development in recent years. Leverkusen is respected internationally and is well known in both France and Morocco as a flagship of German football. I'm proud to now be part of this team," he said.

The move comes as Leverkusen looks to strengthen its offensive options following high-profile departures earlier this summer and a poor start into the season with just one point after two matches. Head coach Erik ten Hag is expected to use Ben Seghir primarily in a half-left attacking role behind striker Patrik Schick.

Hampshire's Sonny Baker is set to make his international debut

London, Sept 1 (UNI) Sonny Baker is all set to make his debut as England announced the playing

XI for the first ODI against South Africa to be played on September 2.

Baker, who impressed with nine wickets in this season of the Hundred at an average close to 16, also has 24 wickets to his name in List-A cricket at an average of 24.04. The 22-year-old will join Jofra Archer, Brydon Carse and Adil Rashid to form the core of England's bowling attack.

Wicketkeeper-batter Jamie Smith is slotted to open with Ben Duckett, with Joe Root coming in at No. 3. Skipper Brook walks in at the fourth place, followed by former captain Jos Buttler and then Jacob Bethell at six.

Exciting off-spin all-rounder Will Jacks comes in at no. 7.

England XI: Jamie Smith, Ben Duckett, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jos Buttler, Jacob Bethell, Will Jacks, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Sonny Baker.

Felix books place in US Open quarters

New York, Sept 1 (UNI) : Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime produced a commanding performance to book his place in the US Open 2025 quarterfinals, defeating Russia's Andrey Rublev in straight sets at the Arthur Ashe Stadium here today.

The 25th seed registered a 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 victory in two hours and 16 minutes, marking one of his most significant Grand Slam wins in recent years. The triumph also ended a three-year wait for Felix against Rublev, improving his career head-to-head against the Russian to 2-7. Rublev, seeded 15th, made a strong start by breaking early in the first set to lead 4-2. However, Felix responded with clinical shot-making and a powerful serve, breaking back at a crucial stage before running away with the set 7-5. From that point, the Canadian seized complete control of the contest. He dictated rallies with his forehand and kept Rublev under constant pressure with deep returns, sealing the second set 6-3. In the final set, Felix maintained his composure, earning the decisive break to close out the match 6-4.

The victory carried added significance for Auger-Aliassime, who had struggled against top-15 opponents in recent majors. With this result, he advanced to the last eight of the US Open for the second time in his career, signalling a resurgence in his form on the big stage.

Felix will now face Australian eighth seed Alex de Minaur in the quarterfinals, a contest that promises to be an intense battle for a semifinal berth.

With confidence restored, Auger-Aliassime is now eyeing a deep run at Flushing Meadows, where he first reached the semifinals in 2021.

Printed, Published and Owned by
Mohammed Shafi
Printed at Sri Lakshmi Venkateswara Offset
Printers, D.No : 22-11-81, K. V. R. Complex,
Tunuguntlavari Street, Lalapet, Guntur, AP.
Published from H.No. 1-3-105, First Floor,
Near Masjid, Gujjalagundla, Guntur-522006, AP.
Editor: Mohammed Shafi
R.N.I.No. : APENG/2014/57079
Cell : 9849881368
Email : standardpostguntur@gmail.com

Indian Railways and State Bank of India Sign MoU for Enhanced Insurance Benefits to Railway Employees in the Presence of Ashwini Vaishnaw



(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, Sept 1 : A landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today between two of India's leading institutions – Indian Railways (IR), one the largest rail networks in the

world, and the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest public sector bank. The ceremony was honoured by the August presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics

& Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw; the Chairman, Railway Board, Mr Satish Kumar; and the Chairman, SBI, Mr C.S. Setty. Under this MoU, insurance coverage for Railway employees maintaining salary

accounts with SBI has been significantly enhanced. In case of accidental death, the insurance benefit has been increased to Rs 1 crore, compared to the current coverage of Rs 1.20 lakh, Rs 60,000 and Rs 30,000 for Group A, B, and

C employees respectively covered under CGEGIS. Additionally, all Railway employees holding only a salary account with SBI will now be eligible for natural death insurance coverage of Rs 10 lakh—without the need for paying any premium or undergoing any medical examination. With nearly 7 lakh Railway employees maintaining salary accounts with SBI, this agreement marks a major step towards employee welfare, reflecting a caring and constructive partnership between Indian Railways and SBI. Some of the key complimentary insurance covers under this MoU include: Air Accident Insurance (Death) Cover of Rs 1.60 crore plus an additional up to Rs 1.00 crore on RuPay Debit Card; Personal Accident (Permanent Total Disablement) Cover of Rs 1.00 crore; and Personal Accident (Permanent Partial Disability) Cover of up to Rs 80 lakh. This MoU between two leading entities is employee centric, compassionate, and designed to bring exclusive benefits to the workforce—especially frontline railway personnel in Group C and others.

First Kavach-Equipped locomotive flagged off from DLS - VSKP : ECoR



(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, Sept 1 : The first freight locomotive (WAG9HC) of East Coast Railway fitted with the indigenous KAVACH Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) was flagged off by Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair, Shri Lalit Bohra, at Diesel Loco Shed, Visakhapatnam (DLS/VSKP) today, on September 1, 2025 in august presence of Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Diesel) Shri MK Sahoo and other officials. KAVACH is a cutting-

edge system developed to prevent train collisions, offering real-time signal information directly to loco pilots within the cab. By exchanging data between station interlocking systems and locomotives through a secure wireless network, and utilizing track-installed RFID tags, KAVACH ensures precise positioning of locomotives. Diesel Loco Shed has received 123 KAVACH units for Phase 1 commissioning. For system testing, a dedicated

“station kavach” and a 500-meter test track have been established by the Diesel Loco Shed. The Kavach equipment, feature of Automatic protection against head-on collisions and signal-related accidents. It enables the Real-time information and interlocking for loco pilots, ensuring strict compliance with safety standards. The launch of KAVACH marks a significant stride in the Indian Railways' commitment to operational safety and modernization.

6 Employees of WR felicitated with GM's safety award

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Sept 1 : Mr Vivek Kumar Gupta - General Manager of Western Railway felicitated six employees at WR Headquarters, Mumbai for their outstanding work which resulted in safe train working. These employees were awarded in appreciation of their alertness on duty and contribution towards averting untoward incidents, during the month of June & July, 2025 and thereby ensuring the safety of train operations. Out of the six employees, two each are from Ahmedabad & Vadodara Divisions, while one each is from Mumbai



Mr Vivek Kumar Gupta - General Manager of Western Railway is seen along with Principal Head of Departments and the recipients of GM's Safety Award.

Central & Bhavnagar Divisions. According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, Shri Gupta appreciated the

alertness of the staff who were being awarded and mentioned that they are exemplary role models for everyone to emulate. The employees showed their great zeal and commitment

towards safe running of trains in various areas of safety such as brake binding or Hot Wheel Axle, application of emergency brakes to save untoward incidents, saving lives of

passengers etc. Western Railway is proud of all the awardee employees who with their prompt action and alertness, helped to avert the possibility of any untoward incidence.

Last chance for verification of original documents for candidates for the post of Electrical Assistant

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Sept 1 : Verification of documents of candidates selected for the post of Electrical Assistant in Mahavitaran has been completed from 20th to 22nd August. However, the last chance for verification of original documents of some candidates who were absent due to heavy rains and flood conditions in the state and other reasons has been given on 9th and 10th September. Mahavitaran has announced the list of candidates selected for the post of Electrical Assistant and the circles to which they have been allocated on the company's official website under advertisement No. 06/2023. The verification of original documents and

certificates of these candidates has been done in the respective circle offices between 20th and 22nd August. However, due to heavy rains and floods in the state and some unavoidable reasons, some absent candidates who were selected on these three days could not be present, have been given another opportunity for verification of original documents and certificates. Accordingly, now on September 9 and 10, the scrutiny and verification of the entries, qualifications, documents, certificates in the online applications of the absent candidates will be done in the respective circle offices assigned to them. This process will start at 10 am. For this, the concerned

candidates must be present with all the original documents and certificates. The selection of the candidates who do not appear for the verification of documents despite being given another opportunity will be considered cancelled and no correspondence will be entered into with them in the future, it has been clarified by Mahavitaran. Further action will be taken in the concerned circles regarding the appointment of the candidates who are selected for the post of Electrical Assistant in the scrutiny and verification of original documents and certificates. Information about this is available on Mahavitaran's website www.mahadiscom.in.

BJP-RSS has ruined India's foreign policy : Akhilesh

Lucknow, Sep 1 (UNI) : Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav today said that BJP-RSS has ruined India's foreign policy as all the friendly countries of the world have veered away from New Delhi. "Recently, even during Operation Sindoor, our neighbouring countries did not stand with us. At that time, China was helping Pakistan in every way. US, with whom there was great friendship, has now imposed 50 percent tariff on trade and has also threatened more stringent economic sanctions. The frightened BJP government has now taken refuge in China, whose track record has been one of enmity with India," he claimed. Yadav, while addressing the party leaders here, said: "We have seen the fate of the slogan of Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai in 1962 and 4000 of our military officers were imprisoned and subjected

to all kinds of torture. Earlier in 1950, China had occupied Tibet". He said that China has always had its eyes on Indian land. "It broke India's War Memorial in Rizangla, it snatched Five Fingers, it occupied Pangong Lake, and it has thousands of square miles of Indian land under its control. China also claims a large part of India's Arunachal Pradesh as its own. It has not stopped its military activities in the Galwan Valley and other important military areas. Then why are the two countries holding talks?," he questioned. The SP president said that China is finding itself helpless in front of US economic pressures and on the other hand, the sword of closure is hanging in front of India's business establishments as exports have stopped and imports have become very expensive.

Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, GM, SCR holds Safety Review Meeting



(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, Sept 1 : Mr Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager of South Central Railway, convened a comprehensive Safety Review Meeting today at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad, underscoring SCR's unwavering commitment to safe train operations. The session was attended by Shri Satya Prakash, Additional General Manager, Principal Heads of Departments, and Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) from all six divisions viz, Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, and Nanded who joined via video conference. The General Manager placed strategic emphasis on safety measures across vulnerable operational zones, including: Train shunting operations and derailment prevention protocols Structural integrity of bridges

and tunnels
Signal visibility and alarm systems
Track blanketing and ballasting
Emergency equipment readiness
Special attention was given to Road under Bridges (RUBs) prone to water logging, with directives to reinforce safety barriers, upgrade signaling systems, and ensure robust alarm mechanisms. To elevate safety standards, Shri Srivastava instructed, to conduct round-the-clock monitoring and frequent inspections at critical locations, ensure immediate completion of repair works at vulnerable sites, maintain accurate and up-to-date operational registers, adhere strictly to Railway Board's guidelines for all safety-related activities, implement staff sensitization programs, including group meetings and one-on-one counseling for safety category personnel.