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External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meets Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya in New Delhi on Saturday.

‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ anchors India’s global peacekeeping vision says Minister, Jaishankar

New Delhi, Oct 16 (UNI) : External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, speaking at the United Nations Troop Contributing Countries (UNTCC) Chiefs’ Conclave today, underscored India’s long-standing commitment to global peacemaking, emphasising that the nation’s approach is deeply rooted in its civilisational ethos.

"As the foreign minister of a country that has contributed immensely to this cause, I'm here to share our perspectives, not only on the challenges before us, but also on the principles that must guide us in shaping the future of global peace and security," Jaishankar said.

Highlighting India’s philosophical foundation in promoting harmony and cooperation, the minister stated, "India approaches peacekeeping from its civilisational ethos. We see the world as one family, a vision enshrined in the timeless phrase ‘Vasudhaiva

Kutumbakam’.”“This is not just cultural wisdom, but an outlook that anchors our worldview,” he added, noting that India’s inclusive vision drives its advocacy for global justice, dignity, opportunity, and prosperity.

“It is why India has consistently advocated for justice, dignity, opportunity, and prosperity for all societies and people. It is also why we place our faith in multilateralism and international partnerships,” Dr Jaishankar affirmed.

Ramdas Athawale offers surrendered Naxalites to join his party and contest elections

Nagpur, Oct 16(UNI) : Union Minister of Social Justice, Ramdas Athawale has extended an offer to surrendered Naxalites in Gadchiroli to join his party, the Republican Party of India (A), and contest elections. At a press conference held in Nagpur, Athawale expressed sympathy for the Naxalites' decision to lay down their arms, describing their movement as one that sought justice for ordinary people. When asked about his message to those who had surrendered, Athawale praised the large-scale surrender of Naxalites, calling it a “praiseworthy step.” He welcomed the individuals who had renounced violence and embraced the Indian Constitution, saying, "Naxalites who have laid down arms and embraced the constitution.. We welcome them. They should come into the mainstream. Now they should enter politics and contest elections. Beginning of a

new life should be good." He further appealed that the remaining Naxalites should also surrender and come into the mainstream.

"All of them should come into the mainstream, that there is no objection if they join our party (Republican Party of India (A)) and may also contest elections from his party", Athawale said.

Referring to RPI, although there are many factions of the Republican Party, Athawale said only his party is active nationwide. He currently has two MLAs in Nagaland. If he gets MLAs in two more states, his party would receive “national party” status.

The minister said the RPI-A will hold a national convention in Nagpur on March 8 next year.

Regarding the ongoing seat-sharing disagreements within the opposition alliance, Mahagathabandhan, Athawale suggested that the rift could work in favor of the NDA (National

Democratic Alliance). "If the opposition alliance fails to come to an agreement, it will only benefit us because the NDA will secure more seats," he said.

"Our party(RPI) did not even try to get seats to contest. However, we will support the NDA and I will also campaign for it there," he said.

Responding to a query on NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule's remark that there was nothing wrong if Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) aligns with the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Athawale said he believes that there will be no consensus in the opposition alliance on the issue of MNS.

"NCP (SP) may support it, but Congress will fight separately. Congress has not made its stand clear and it will go as per the high command's direction. The Congress high command will not give a green signal to the MNS. Hence, a split is certain in the MVA," he said.

Mumbai Oct 16 (UNI) : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will once again organise the sensitive and socially conscious initiative “Diwali on the Plinth” across the state this year, said BJP State President Ravindra Chavan today. Under this initiative, BJP ministers, MLAs, MPs, and office bearers will visit sugarcane harvesters, nomadic and de-notified communities, construction workers, and other underprivileged groups to celebrate Diwali with them, he said. Across the state, through BJP workers and social organisations, Diwali treats, sweets, clothes, and gifts will be distributed in these settlements. Firecrackers and educational materials will also be provided for children, he said.

The “Diwali on the Plinth” initiative is a beacon of social sensitivity and inclusivity.

Through the celebration of festivals, the BJP is committed to bringing respect, care, and joy to the marginalised sections of society.

India adopts ruthless approach to bring Fugitives to Justice



Union Home Minister Amit Shah has declared that India is adopting a "ruthless approach" to bring every fugitive involved in economic crimes, cybercrime, terrorism, or organized crime to justice.

(See on page 2)

Govt committed to develop sports infra, nurture young athletes



Emphasizing on timely completion of SASCI projects and Capex initiatives to strengthen sports infrastructure for the students and youth of Jammu and Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Yasha Mudgal today said that the Government is committed to develop sports infrastructure,

(See on page 7)

Syrian transitional President Al-Sharaa, Putin discuss



SPUTNIK) : Syria’s transitional president, Ahmed al-Sharaa, and Russian President Vladimir Putin held discussions on the resumption of direct flights between Syria and Russia during a meeting in Moscow on Wednesday.

(See on page 5)

India's structural reforms have positioned India to become



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal today said India’s GDP grew by 7.8 percent in the first quarter, making it the fastest-growing large economy in the world for the past four years, and this momentum would continue for at least the next two decades.

(See on page 8)

SAU suspends hostel warden, another staffer after student alleges bid to suppress sexual assault

New Delhi, Oct 16 (UNI) : Following allegations by a South Asian University student of sexual assault and claims that hostel officials dissuaded her from contacting police, the university removed the girls’ hostel warden and suspended another staff member even as an inquiry has been launched.

“Dr. Rinkoo Devi Gupta, Warden of the Girls’ Hostel, is relieved from her duties effective immediately, following the Committee’s discussion,” read an official order signed by Bibhupada Tripathy, Deputy Registrar (SG) Admin.

According to the order, Dr. Kajori Bhatnagar, currently Assistant Warden, has been appointed to take over as Warden until further instructions.

In a separate order issued the same day, South Asian University stated, “Following the Committee’s discussion, Ms. Anupma Arora, Assistant II (Girls Hostel) (Outsourced), is suspended until the submission of the Enquiry Report.”

Both orders mention that they were issued “with the approval of the Competent Authority.”

The action was taken after a student told police that hostel staff tried to manage the situation internally when she was found disoriented near a campus construction area.

In her complaint to the police, the student alleged that hostel staff instructed her to change her clothes and take a bath while also discouraging her from contacting her family.

“They said they would call the PRO and handle the matter internally,” she stated.

The action follows an FIR filed by Delhi Police on Tuesday, where the student reported receiving threats via emails and encrypted messages warning that a morphed nude photo of her would be shared if she didn’t go to a secluded area on campus.The student

told the police that she walked alone towards the convocation center area around 8 pm, describing the stretch as “dark and empty at night”.

According to her account, four men approached and attempted to overpower her.

She alleged that they tried to remove her clothes, covered her eyes, assaulted her, and forced a pill into her mouth before fleeing the scene when a food cart worker appeared nearby.

When a classmate couldn’t reach her for almost two hours, police were alerted. Students found her near the open-air theater before a PCR unit arrived. She was first taken to a hostel room, then escorted by police to a Delhi hospital for examination.

The incident prompted an immediate student mobilization on Monday night, with students staging a sit-in along the administrative corridor to demand the suspension of the hostel warden and the inclusion of student representatives in the inquiry committee.

On Tuesday, the university issued a statement on social media expressing solidarity with the survivor, stating: “We, the SAU community—faculty, staff, and students—stand united in the wake of the alleged horrific act of sexual violence reported on campus. SAU maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual harassment and all forms of violence against women.”

CCTV footage, guard entry logs, and the internet protocol trail of the emails sent to the student are being examined by Delhi Police, officials said.

Ankit Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South), said, “The FIR was filed under applicable sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and the investigation is being handled with due sensitivity and priority.”



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, accompanied by officials and party leaders, inspects cleanliness and rejuvenation efforts along the Yamuna River ahead of the Chhath festival, at Kalindi Kunj, in New Delhi.

Six students injured as school van overturns due to potholes in Bhandara

Bhandara, Oct 16 (UNI) : At least six school children sustained injuries after their van overturned on a bridge in Maharashtra's Bhandara district today, reportedly due to large potholes and poor road conditions, sources said.

The incident occurred near the Bhilewada–Surewada route while the

Maruti Omni van was transporting students from Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule School in Kardha. The van was en route to Mandvi, Matora, and Khamari villages in Bhandara taluka when the driver lost control while navigating a damaged stretch of road near a bridge, causing the vehicle to topple off the

roadside.Local residents and passersby rushed to the scene and helped rescue the injured students from the vehicle.

All injured individuals were immediately taken to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. No fatalities have been reported.The incident has sparked outrage among parents and local

residents, who have criticised both the poor condition of public roads and the alleged negligence of school authorities.Civic activists and locals have demanded urgent road repairs in the region, warning that deteriorating infrastructure poses a serious risk to daily commuters.

Change or Risk irrelevance’: Jaishankar’s strong message to UN

New Delhi, Oct 16 (UNI) : In a powerful call for global institutional reform, India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S Jaishankar, warned that if international organisations don't change, they run the risk of becoming irrelevant and losing their legitimacy. He called upon the United Nations to change into a more democratic, inclusive, participatory, and fully representative organisation that represents the realities of the twenty-first century rather than the old power structures.

The EAM was addressing the gathering on the concluding day of the ongoing United Nations Troop Contributing Countries’ (UNTCC) Chiefs Conclave 2025, being organised by the Indian Army, here today.

Coming down harshly on the United Nations, the EAM said that it still

reflects the realities of 1945, not of 2025. “Eighty years is a long time by any standards, and during this period the UN membership has actually quadrupled. It must amplify the voices of the developing world and reflect the aspirations of a rising Global South. The UN’s legitimacy, and I would say the UN’s credibility depends on it doing so,” he said in his address to the delegates.

Adding that there is a strong desire amongst members of the UN for a reformed United Nations, including expansion of the permanent and non-permanent categories of the membership of the Security Council Jaishankar said that the process of reform itself is being used to derail that agenda. “As a result, historical injustices still continue. India affirms its commitment to assume

greater responsibilities in a reformed United Nations and in a reformed multilateralism.”Calling UN Peacekeepers the “true torchbearers of multilateralism,” the EAM emphasized that the evolving geopolitical landscape, the increasing complexity of global affairs, and the changing nature of conflicts have all influenced the demands placed on peacekeeping efforts.

He underlined the key issues that the United Nations must take into account while planning peacekeeping operations. Stressing the importance of consulting both troop-contributing countries and host nations when drafting mission mandates, Jaishankar said, “Peacekeeping can only be effective when the mandates are matched with the resources available.

These mandates must be both realistic and clearly defined. The primary responsibility for the protection of civilians continues to rest with the host state.”

Highlighting the critical role of innovation, Jaishankar noted that “technology and peacekeeping go hand in hand,” describing technology as a “force multiplier” for such missions. He affirmed India’s readiness to serve as a technology demonstrator to boost the operational effectiveness of peacekeeping forces. Addressing the importance of strategic communication, he called for stronger efforts to combat misinformation and disinformation.

He also stressed the vital role of ICT and underscored that the safety and security of

MLA alleges one lakh bogus names in Buldhana voter list

Buldhana, Oct 16 (UNI) : Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) MLA Sanjay Gaikwad today alleged that over one lakh bogus names have been included in the voter list in Maharashtra's Buldhana district.

Gaikwad claimed that despite repeatedly raising the issue with the district administration, no effective action has been taken.He claimed that names of thousands of deceased or migrated individuals still remain on the rolls. He also alleged that some voters have registered in both rural and urban areas and may be casting votes twice.

Gaikwad said he had submitted a list of more than 4,000 such names to the district collector, but no corrective measures have been taken so far.

Launching a sharp attack on Shiv Sena (UBT faction) MP Sanjay Raut, Gaikwad called him a “destructive-minded leader,” accusing him of first damaging his own party and now attempting to harm alliance partners.

Mumbai Court convicts retired cop, wife in 15-yr-old caste abuse case

Mumbai, Oct 16 (UNI) : A special court set up in Mumbai to look after the cases registered under the Atrocity Act convicted a retired police officer and his wife for intentionally insulting the then chairman of the housing society over his caste 15 years ago.

The court accorded a jail term of six months and levied a fine of Rs 5000 on Gajendra Kadam (58) and his wife, Shraddha Kadam (54).

After its judgement, the court granted them bail to file an appeal in the higher courts.

The complainant was the chairman of the housing society in 2010, while the accused and his wife were its members.

On February 14, 2010, during a society meeting, the accused persons had allegedly abused the complainant and passed derogatory remarks against his caste.

The prosecution held the couple guilty after taking accounts from eyewitnesses.

India adopts ruthless approach to bring Fugitives to Justice, Says Amit Shah

New Delhi, Oct 16 (UNI) : union Home Minister Amit Shah has declared that India is adopting a "ruthless approach" to bring every fugitive involved in economic crimes, cybercrime, terrorism, or organized crime to justice.

Addressing a CBI conference in New Delhi on 'Extradition of Fugitives: Challenges and Strategies' Shah emphasized that the issue of fugitive criminals is directly connected to

national sovereignty, economic stability, and security, asserting that India cannot be fully secure until those harming the nation from abroad fear its justice system.

The Home Minister outlined several key initiatives, including the establishment of a special CBI Global Operation Centre for real-time international police coordination. He revealed that from January to

September 2025, over 189 Red Corner Notices have been issued, which he cited as the highest in the CBI's history.

Furthermore, nearly two billion dollars have been recovered over four years using the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act. Shah issued directives for every state to set up a dedicated unit and an Expert Special Cell for extraditing fugitives, and also called for the

construction of special prisons that meet international standards.

Highlighting a major legal reform, Shah underscored the new 'Trial in Absentia' provision under the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, which allows trials to proceed even if the accused is a fugitive. He concluded by stating that the belief among criminals that Indian law cannot reach them is now decisively ending.

Govt announces Diwali Gift for employees working with the Film, Theatre and Cultural Dev Corp

Mumbai, Oct 16 (UNI) : The Maharashtra government today announced that regular, contractual and outsourced officers and employees working with the Maharashtra Film, Theatre and Cultural Development Corporation will receive ex-gratia and incentive financial assistance on the occasion of Diwali.

In this regard cultural minister Ashish Shelar had issued directions to the Corporation’s Managing Director, Mrs.

Swati Mhase Patil, regarding this decision.Acting promptly, Mrs. Mhase Patil instructed the administration to take immediate steps to implement it. Accordingly, the officials and employees will receive Rs 16,800 as ex-gratia and Rs 30,000 as Diwali allowance, while contractual and outsourced employees will receive Rs 15,000 each. Additionally, employees working at ND Studios under the Corporation will receive Rs 5,000 each as Diwali gift.

CBI Nabs Punjab DIG, his associate in Rs 8 lakh bribery scam; recovers crores in cash, jewellery

New Delhi, Oct 16 (UNI) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) today arrested a senior Punjab Police DIG and a private individual in a bribery case.

The 2009-batch IPS officer, posted as DIG of Ropar Range, was apprehended along with his alleged middleman for demanding a bribe of Rs 8 lakh and recurring monthly payments from a complainant.

According to the CBI, the officer had demanded the illegal gratification to "settle" an FIR against the complainant and shield his business from any further police action.

The agency laid a trap in Chandigarh's Sector 21,

where the middleman was caught red-handed accepting the Rs 8 lakh in cash. A controlled call was then made to the DIG, who acknowledged the payment and summoned them to his office, where he was subsequently arrested.

Searches conducted at the DIG's premises across Punjab and Chandigarh led to staggering recoveries, including approximately Rs 5 crore in cash, 1.5 kg of jewellery, 22 luxury watches, keys to luxury vehicles (Mercedes and Audi), locker keys, imported liquor, and several firearms.

The middleman was found in possession of ?21 lakh in cash.



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To implement scheme of 'Second shift Sweeping Yojana' in K/West ward', the interested Local registered labour Co-operative societies, Service Co-operative societies, unemployed service co-operative societies, non-governmental organizations, etc. who are registered in the jurisdiction of the K/West ward will be selected to implement the "Second shift Sweeping Yojana" in K/West by drawing lottery from an eligibility list of sansthas.

For details, application form and letter of intent, interested firms should contact the website <http://portal.mcgm.gov.in> or the office of Assistant Engineer (SWM) K/West Ward.

The organization should purchase the tender form in the department office from 17.10.2025 from 11.00 am to 28.10.2025 at 01.00 Pm. The organization should submit the tender form on or before 29.10.2025, 01.00 pm, in the department office.

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K/W Ward.

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Rescue operation underway after a four-wheeler plunged into the Hooghly river, at Nimtala crematorium ghat in Kolkata. Four passengers survived with minor injuries.

Unseasonal showers deepen farmers’ crisis ahead of festival, yellow alert issued for 15 districts

Ch. Sambhajnagar, Oct 16 (UNI) : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for 15 districts across Maharashtra, warning of rain with thunderstorms and strong winds today and tomorrow, coinciding with the Diwali festival period. The forecast has raised concern among the farmers already reeling from drought-like conditions and earlier crop losses. Districts placed under the alert include Ch. Sambhajnagar, Beed, Jalna,

Latur, Dharashiv, Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Pune, Satara, Raigad, and Ratnagiri, along with various ghat regions of the state. The IMD has predicted light to moderate rainfall accompanied by gusty winds and thunderstorm activity across these areas. According to the department’s report, wind speeds in the Nashik, Palghar, and Pune ghat belts may range between 30 to 40 kmph, posing risks of falling branches,

reduced visibility, and temporary power disruptions. Light showers have already been recorded in Konkan, North Maharashtra, and parts of Marathwada, signalling the onset of the predicted system. Maharashtra’s agriculture sector, still recovering from unseasonal downpours since May, faces renewed challenges as standing Kharif crops continue to suffer damage. In several districts, produce left in fields has

begun to rot, and these pre-Diwali rains threaten to worsen the financial distress of farmers across rain-hit regions. The IMD has urged citizens to exercise caution, advising people to avoid unnecessary outdoor travel during thunderstorms and to stay away from electric poles, open fields, and trees. Authorities have also asked district administrations to remain on alert and ensure swift response to any weather-related emergencies.

Symbiosis Skills and Professional University Convocation in Pune sees unexpected visitor, Snake

Pune, Oct 16 (UNI) : The convocation ceremony of Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU), Kiwale, was held today in the presence of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. However, moments before the event began, chaos broke out near the stage when a snake was spotted. Just minutes after CM Devendra Fadnavis’s convoy arrived at the venue, some attendees noticed the snake near the stage area. Snake rescuers were immediately called to the scene, and the reptile was safely captured

and removed before the program commenced, much to the relief of the organisers. The ceremony was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Cooperation Murlidhar Mohol, State Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant Patil, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister of State Madhuri Misal, and Dr. S. B. Mujumdar. The unexpected snake sighting caused brief commotion before the event resumed smoothly.

Two killed in separate attacks

Nagpur, Oct 16 (UNI) : Two murders within city limits late last night have jolted Nagpur days ahead of Diwali festival. In one incident, two minors allegedly bludgeoned a man to death over a monetary dispute in the Imambada area, while in another, a 27-year-old man was fatally stabbed in New Kamptee over a longstanding rivalry. According to police, the first incident took place

around 11 pm. The deceased, identified as Nilesh alias Bala Ambadare, reportedly had a history of criminal activity, with at least 12 cases registered against him. A verbal altercation between Ambadare and two minors escalated over a money-related issue, leading the accused to fatally strike Ambadare with a stone. Both minors were arrested shortly after

the incident. In another incident, near Neri village, Vivek Tandekar (27) was allegedly murdered by Deva Wanjari (41) following an argument rooted in personal enmity. India marches toward self-reliance (Contd from page 1)

Creating caste and religious divide is

(Contd from page 1) provocative and inflammatory statements. Sule clarified that her party does not oppose the government merely for the sake of opposition. “We may have differences of opinion, but not of heart,” she said, praising union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju’s ‘Khelo India’ initiative for helping nurture new athletes. She also appreciated former corporators Lakshmi Dudhaney and Swapnil Dudhaney for continuing development work in their constituencies despite the municipal elections being delayed for four years. Speaking at the event, Prashant Jagtap alleged that while the BJP holds power at every level, it is promoting religious polarisation through slogans like “Jai Shri Ram” instead of addressing inflation and unemployment. He urged citizens to vote for leaders who work sincerely, not those who rely on empty slogans. Swapnil Dudhaney, in his introductory remarks, shared the four-year journey of planning the archery complex. He highlighted the hidden talent among children from underprivileged backgrounds and emphasised the need for the municipal corporation to provide facilities to nurture such talent.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also lauded Symbiosis for its timely vision. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized skill development in 2017–18, Dr. Mujumdar established this university in the same spirit. Today, it has achieved national excellence, and soon it will gain global recognition, he said. Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, founder of Symbiosis, explained that the university was established with the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — the world is one family. A Symbiosis graduate is a global graduate not just professionally competent but also deeply rooted in humanity and national values, he concluded.

Two civic official and a private person arrested in bribery case

Mumbai, Oct 16 (UNI) : Mumbai Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) have arrested two civic officials and a private person in a bribery case of Rs 15;000. Those arrested have been identified as inspector (licenses) A.S. Kamble (52), peon P.P. Khandagale (34), K/West ward of BMC and a private person R.A. Dethe (44).According to the ACB, the complainant has given his shop at D. N. Nagar, Andheri (W), Mumbai, on rent. On October 09, the license inspector Kamble visited the complainant’s shop, and when he checked the shop documents, it was found that a license issued by the BMC was not there. Later on, Kamble demanded a bribe of Rs 15 thousand, but the owner of

Mumbai AQI remains moderate category for 2nd consecutive days

Mumbai, Oct 16 (UNI) : The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Mumbai is 124 this morning (October 16), which falls under the ‘moderate’ category and has been in the same category for two consecutive days. As reported by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the city AQI marks a slight dip from Wednesday morning at 138 and 143 on Tuesday. The highest AQI was recorded at Bandra (216), closely followed by Chembur at 206, both of which fall under the ‘poor’ category.

72 clerk-typist posts open for ex-Servicemen in Maharashtra

Parbhani, Oct 16 (UNI) : The District Sainik Kalyan Office has invited online applications from ex-servicemen candidates to fill 72 vacant clerk-typist posts under Group-C category. Resident Deputy Collector and District Sainik Kalyan Officer Anuradha Dhalke said the application window will remain open until November 5. Out of the total 72 vacancies, one post has been reserved specifically for disabled ex-servicemen.

To be eligible for this position, applicants must have a minimum of 40 per cent disability, with selection based on the nature of disability, job suitability, and merit ranking, as per government norms. The entire recruitment process will be conducted through TCS-ION, which will handle application management, examination, and result processing. Officials have clarified that applications will be accepted only through online mode, and manual or offline submissions will not be entertained under any circumstances. Eligible candidates can submit their applications via the official website mahasainik.maharashtra.gov.in between October 14 and November 5 up to 11:59 p.m. After this deadline, the application portal will be permanently closed. For guidance and further assistance, applicants may contact the District Sainik Welfare Office in Parbhani, where officials will provide clarifications related to the recruitment process, eligibility, and docum-entation requirements.

Seat-sharing discord in 'Mahagathbandhan' could benefit NDA: Athawale

Nagpur, Oct 16 (UNI) : Union Minister Ramdas Athawale today pointed to ongoing disagreements within Bihar’s opposition alliance, the Mahagathbandhan, over the distribution of assembly seats. He suggested that if the alliance partners fail to reach a consensus and decide to contest separately, it would ultimately work in favor of

the NDA by improving its electoral prospects. Speaking at a press conference in Nagpur, Athawale said, “There appears to be discord within the Mahagathbandhan regarding seat allocation. It would be better if they can resolve their differences. But if they go their separate ways, it will help the NDA secure more seats.” Expressing confidence

in the NDA’s chances, he added, “We believe Nitish Kumar will return as Chief Minister, with the NDA forming the next government.” The Mahagathbandhan alliance includes the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the Congress and several Left parties. Athawale also spoke about his own party, the Republican Party of India (A), acknowledging its limited presence in Bihar. “Our party has a small base there, so we didn’t push for any seats. Nonetheless, we are firmly backing the NDA, and I will personally campaign in the state,” he said. The Bihar assembly elections, covering 243 constituencies, will be conducted in two phases on November 6 and November 11. The results will be announced on November 14.

FDA seizes contaminated, substandard food items worth Rs 58 lakh in Nagpur

Nagpur, Oct 16 (UNI) : The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Vigilance Department, Nagpur Division, has seized contaminated and substandard food items worth Rs 58 lakh, including edible oil, cheese, curd, khoya and sweets, officials said today. The department has intensified inspections across Maharashtra under its special campaign, ‘Festivals of Maharashtra, Resolution of Food Safety’. The ongoing drive aims to curb the sale of adulterated and unsafe food products ahead of major celebration such as Diwali. According to the official, the campaign, was launched in anticipation of widespread food adulteration during the festive month. Raids have since been carried out at several manufacturing units, retail outlets and storage facilities across the Nagpur region. During inspections, officials uncovered two rasgulla manufacturing units operating in unhygienic and unsanitary conditions. Following that production was immediately halted and perishable products such as paneer, khoya and curd were destroyed on-site to prevent them from reaching to consumers. The FDA said the food safety drive will continue till Diwali, ensuring closer scrutiny of festive food markets.

Traders and manufacturers have been warned against adulteration, with officials stressing that ensuring food purity and safety is both a legal obligation and a moral responsibility during the festive season. Authorities have urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious or substandard food products to the FDA. The operation is being conducted under the guidance of Dr Rahul Khade, Joint Commissioner (Food Vigilance), with Assistant Commissioner Abhay Deshpande leading the team. Food Safety Officers Lalit Soyam and Raosaheb Wakde were also actively involved in executing the raids.



BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA

Licence (Encroachment) E ward
ACE / 31586 / Lic (Ench.) Date: 13-10-2025
Public Notice
Subject : Public notice regarding supply of contract labour through Local Unemployed Service Co-operative organisation for removal of unauthorized hawkers in E Ward.

In the financial year 2025-26 applications are invited for providing contract labour from the local unemployed service co operative organization by preparing the eligiblity list, selecting by lottery system to work on encroachment removal vehicle from 01.11.2025 to 31.03.2026 (Excluding Sunday) for the period of 129 days 12 workers are required for 08 hours per day from this selected organization..

Application sampil are available in Senior Inspector (Encroachment) Licence department E Ward Room No.21,Fourth Floor, New Hind Mill, Manda Colony Ghodepdev, Mumbai -4000033 . by paying Rs 3630/- plus 18% GST in cash form (non refundable) from dt 17.10.2025 to 27.10.2025 in the morning between 11.00 am to 02.00 pm. According to the crieteria, the Assistant Commissioner of E Ward shall allocated the work to an organization which is successful through the lottery system from the elegible list as per the terms and conditions of the work. Assistant Commissioner E ward shall have the power to cancel the result of lottery system.

Last date of application will be 28.10.2025 Till 03.00 PM (in sealed envelope). Any application fill after then will not be consider. . The tender will be drawn on 29.10.2025 at 3.00 PM.

Please note that institutions not meeting the above criteria will be disqualified without assigning any reason.

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Avoid self medication.

Sd/-

Asstt.

Commissioner

'E' Ward



SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on %@Scrialwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

E- Tender Notice No. 475/DRM/W/GNT Dt. 15.10.2025
The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below upto 15:30 hrs. of 11.11.25.
Sl. No.: 01, **Tender Id:** 2820, **DEN Section:** North & West, **Description of work:** Providing/Improving basic infrastructure at Track machine sidings in Guntur division, **Approx value in Rs.:** 1,50,78,835/- **EMD Rs.:** 2,25,400/-
1. Last date for online submission of E-bids upto 15:30 hrs of 11.11.2025. For detailed information login to website www.ireps.gov.in
2. Any further Communication/ Corrigendum shall be intimated through E-portal www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Guntur
e-TENDER NOTICE No: 08 / 2025-26
Divisional Electrical Engineer (Maintenance), Guntur acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites the following E-Tenders through IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in
Sl. No.: 01, **Tender Title:** Providing / Improving basic infrastructure at Track machines sidings in Guntur division-electrical arrangements, **Tender Ref No:** GNT-E-08.2025-26, **Dt.** 10.10.2025, **Approx. value in Rs.:** 3,91,17,283.84/- **Earnest money deposit in Rs.:** 3,45,600.00/- **Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in Rs.:** 0
Last Date and time for online submission of E-bids for tender **03-11-2025 up to 15.30 hours.**
Any further Communication/Corrigendum will be published in E-portal www.ireps.gov.in only.
Divisional Electrical Engineer/M/ Guntur
Tender Notice No: 13-Mech-SATM-TPTY-25-26, Dated 14.10.2025
Dy.CME/CRS/TPTY acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No: mentioned here under closing date as mentioned below up to11:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Sl. No.: 01, **Description of work:** Tender Notice No. 13-Mech-SATM-TPTY-25-26, Dated 14.10.2025 One time Repair with Up-gradation of software & 2 years CAMC of Enkay Make Shock Absorber Testing Machine (M & P No. 3780221) and Coil Spring Scragging & Load Deflection Testing Machine (M & P No. 3750322), **Approx. Cost in Rs.:** 31,11,070/- **Bid Security in Rs.:** 62,200/- **Period of completion:** 36 months, **Period of Closing:** 05.11.2025 @ 11.00 Hrs.
Website particulars www.ireps.gov.in
Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen Office of the chief workshop manager, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati
For further Tender Conditions/details (available in the tender documents) & for downloading of Tender Documents, Corrigendum, please visit our website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/ Carriage Repair Shop/Tirupati
e-TENDER NOTICE
Divisional Electrical Engineer (Maintenance), Guntur acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites the following E-Tenders through GEM portal <https://gem.gov.in>
Sl. No.: 01, **Tender Title:** Hiring of Non AC Base SUV with Driver for the Exclusive use of DEE M GNT on regular run of 2000 Kms per month 12 Hours usage per Day / Night, **Tender Ref No:** GEM/2025/B/ 6772931 dated 09.10.2025, **Approx. value in Rs.:** 12,60,000.00/- **Earnest money deposit in Rs.:** 25,200.00/- **Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in Rs.:** 0
Last Date and time for online submission of E-bids **03.11.2025** up to 17.00 hrs.
Any further Communication/Corrigendum will be published in E-portal <https://gem.gov.in> only.
Divisional Electrical Engineer/M/ A1639 Guntur
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

STANDARD POST

India’s energy diplomacy: Navigating pressure amid Trump’s claims and Opposition critique

The remarks by US President Donald Trump, asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had assured him that India would cease buying oil from Russia, have sparked a fresh political and diplomatic stir both within India and on the international stage.

Trump’s statement, made to reporters in Washington, seemed to claim credit for influencing India’s energy policy, saying, “I was not happy that India was buying oil. And he (Modi) assured me today that they will not be buying oil from Russia. That’s a big stop.”

This claim triggered a swift and multifaceted response. India’s Ministry of External Affairs reaffirmed its sovereign right to shape its energy policy based on national interests, stating that “India is a significant importer of oil and gas” and that its “consistent priority” remains safeguarding the interests of Indian consumers amid a highly volatile global energy market.

The government emphasized that its import policies are driven by the twin goals of stable energy prices and secure supplies, with diversification and broad-based sourcing as key pillars.

This pragmatic stance echoes India’s ongoing efforts over the past decade to expand energy procurement from multiple partners, including the United States, while balancing geopolitical realities. The current US administration’s willingness to deepen energy cooperation with India augurs well for future collaboration that respects India’s sovereign choices.

Russia, too, weighed in through Ambassador Denis Alipov, who underscored the benefits of Russian oil to the Indian economy and stated Moscow would not interfere in India’s bilateral decisions with the US.

“India and the US are independent in their decisions,” he noted, reaffirming Russia’s commitment to its longstanding energy partnership with India.

On the domestic front, opposition voices seized on Trump’s comments to criticize the government’s handling of foreign relations. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused Prime Minister Modi of displaying subservience to Trump, listing a series of actions including India’s silence on the alleged oil deal, repeated congratulatory messages to Trump, and missed diplomatic engagements. Gandhi’s critique reflects broader concerns about India’s diplomatic balancing act amid competing global pressures.

Yet, the core issue extends beyond political point-scoring to a fundamental truth about energy security in a developing nation. India’s vast population and growing economy require uninterrupted, affordable energy supplies—an objective that must sometimes transcend geopolitical allegiances. India’s approach—anchored in diversification, market responsiveness, and careful diplomacy—illustrates the complex calculus that emerging economies must navigate when global energy markets are increasingly politicized. The narrative that India is simply yielding to external pressure overlooks the nuanced realities of energy demand, supply chain constraints, and the imperatives of economic growth.

As energy policy becomes ever more entwined with international geopolitics, India’s message is clear: energy security is about sustaining livelihoods and development, not merely geopolitical posturing. The international community would do well to recognize this perspective and engage India with respect and cooperation rather than coercion.

In the final analysis, the controversy around Trump’s claims and the ensuing political backlash in India highlight the challenges faced by democracies striving to balance national interests with global alliances in an era of shifting power dynamics and energy uncertainties.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Lays The Foundation Stone, Inaugurates And Dedicates To The Nation Development Projects Worth Rs 13,430 Crore In Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh



(Standard Post Bureau)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth around Rs 13,430 crore in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh today. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Prime Minister offered salutations to Lord Narasimha Swamy of Ahobilam and Shri Mahanandishwara Swamy of Mahanandi. He also sought blessings from Guru Shri Raghavendra Swamy of Mantralayam for the wellbeing of all.

Reciting a verse from the Dwadasha Jyotirlinga Stotram—”Saurashtre Somnatham cha Srisaila Mallikarjunam”, Shri Modi highlighted that among the twelve Jyotirlingas, the names of Lord Somnath and Lord Mallikarjuna appear together at the beginning. “It is my fortune to have been born on the sacred land of Somnath in Gujarat, to have had the opportunity to serve the land of Baba Vishwanath in Kashi, and now to receive the blessings of Srisailam”, said Shri Modi. Following his visit to Srisailam, the Prime Minister paid tribute at the Shivaji Spurti Kendra and extended his respects to Chhatrapati Maharaj from the dais. He offered salutations to revered Shaivite saints such as Allama Prabhu and Akkamahadevi. He also paid homage to great freedom fighters including Shri Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy Garu and Shri Hari Sarvottama Rao.

“Andhra Pradesh is a land of pride and rich culture, as well as a hub of science and innovation”, affirmed the Prime Minister, emphasising the state’s limitless potential and the boundless capabilities of its youth. He remarked that what Andhra Pradesh needed was the right vision and leadership. Today, with leaders like Chandrababu Naidu Garu and Pawan Kalyan Garu, Andhra Pradesh possesses visionary leadership along with full support from the Central Government, said the Prime Minister.

Highlighting that over the past sixteen months, Andhra Pradesh has witnessed rapid development, with unprecedented progress under their Governments at the Union and state, Shri Modi noted that Delhi and Amaravati are working together towards accelerated growth. Shri Modi reaffirmed that by 2047, India will surely be a developed nation and the 21st century belongs to India and its 140 crore

citizens. He announced the inauguration and foundation laying of several projects related to roads, electricity, railways, highways, and trade. These initiatives will strengthen connectivity across the state, boost industrial growth, and improve the ease of living for citizens. The Prime Minister emphasized that these projects will greatly benefit Kurnool and surrounding regions, and extended his congratulations to the people of the state.

Emphasising that energy security is essential for the development of any nation or state, the Prime Minister announced the launch of a transmission project worth approximately 1 3,000 crore in the power sector, which will further enhance the country’s energy capacity. He urged citizens not to forget past conditions amidst rapid development. Eleven years ago, Shri Modi said that under the opposition-led central government, per capita electricity consumption was less than 1,000 units, and the country faced challenges like blackouts. Thousands of villages lacked even basic electricity poles. He highlighted that today, from clean energy to total energy production, India is setting new records across all sectors. Electricity has reached every village, per capita consumption has increased to 1,400 units, and both industry and households are receiving adequate power supply, noted the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister highlighted that Andhra Pradesh is a major hub of India’s energy revolution. He announced the launch of the Natural Gas Pipeline Project from Srikakulam to Angul, which will supply gas to approximately fifteen lakh households. He also inaugurated an LPG Bottling Plant in Chittoor, with a daily filling capacity of twenty thousand cylinders. This facility is expected to generate employment in the local transport and storage sectors and create new opportunities for the youth.

“ M u l t i - m o d a l infrastructure is developing rapidly across the country and we are focusing strongly on connectivity, from villages to cities and from cities to ports”, emphasised the Prime Minister. He further announced that the newly constructed highway between Sabbavaram and Sheelanagar will further enhance connectivity. In the railway sector, he remarked that a new era has begun with the launch of new rail lines and the

construction of rail flyovers, which will improve passenger convenience and provide fresh momentum to industries in the region.

Stressing that the nation is committed to the goal of a developed India by 2047, and this resolve is being energized by the vision of Swarna Andhra, the Prime Minister remarked that Andhra Pradesh and its youth have always been at the forefront of technology, and under their governments at the Union and the state, this potential is being further harnessed and expanded.

“Today, the world is witnessing the speed and scale of progress in India and Andhra Pradesh”, said Shri Modi, highlighting that just two days ago, Google announced a major investment in Andhra Pradesh. He informed that Google is set to establish India’s first Artificial Intelligence Hub in the state. This new AI Hub will feature powerful AI infrastructure, data center capacity, large-scale energy sources, and an expanded fiber-optic network, noted the Prime Minister.

Announcing that Google’s AI Hub investment will include the development of a new International Subsea Gateway, the Prime Minister remarked that this gateway will comprise multiple international subsea cables reaching India’s eastern coast at Visakhapatnam. He stated that this project will establish Visakhapatnam as a major hub for AI and global connectivity, serving not just India but the entire world. He extended special congratulations to the people of Andhra Pradesh for this achievement.

Affirming that the development of Andhra Pradesh is essential for India’s progress, and the growth of Rayalaseema is vital for Andhra’s advancement, Shri Modi stated that the projects launched today on the soil of Kurnool will open new doors of employment and prosperity across every district of Rayalaseema, accelerating industrial development in the region.

The Prime Minister emphasized the need to establish new industrial corridors and hubs to accelerate Andhra Pradesh’s development. He stated that the government is developing Orvakal and Kopparthi as the new industrial identity of the state. Increasing investments in these regions are continuously generating new employment opportunities.

“Today, the world views India as the new

manufacturing center of the 21st century, with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat being the foundation of this success”, exclaimed the Prime Minister, emphasizing that Andhra Pradesh is emerging as a key contributor to the success of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. He remarked that previous governments neglected Andhra Pradesh’s capabilities, causing a setback to the entire nation. A state that could have propelled national progress was left to struggle for its own development. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction that under their government, Andhra Pradesh’s trajectory is changing, with rapid growth in manufacturing. He announced the launch of an Advanced Night Vision factory in Nimmaluru, marking another step towards self-reliance in the defence sector. He added that this facility will enhance India’s capability to produce night vision equipment, missile sensors, and drone guard systems, and will elevate the country’s defence exports to new heights. He further remarked that the entire world had witnessed the success of Indigenous weapon systems during Operation Sindoor.

Expressing satisfaction that the Andhra Pradesh government has resolved to develop Kurnool as India’s drone hub, the Prime Minister stated that through the drone industry, several new sectors linked to futuristic technologies will emerge in Kurnool and across Andhra. He cited the success of drones in Operation Sindoor and affirmed that Kurnool will become a national strength in the drone sector in the coming years. Shri Modi reiterated the government’s vision of citizen-centric development, highlighting ongoing reforms aimed at simplifying citizens’ lives. He noted that income up to 1 12 lakh is now completely tax-free, and initiatives such as affordable medicines, low-cost healthcare, and Ayushman cards for senior citizens have ushered in a new chapter in ease of living.

The Prime Minister announced that significant GST reductions have been implemented from the first day of Navratri. He expressed happiness at witnessing the celebration of the GST Bachat Utsav under the leadership of Nara Lokesh Garu and commended the successful rollout of the “Super GST—Super Savings” campaign. He shared that next-generation GST reforms are expected to yield savings of over 1 8,000 crore for the

people of Andhra Pradesh, enhancing the festive spirit. The Prime Minister urged that the GST Savings Festival be celebrated in alignment with the ‘Vocal for Local’ pledge. He concluded by stating that the dream of a developed India will be realized through a developed Andhra Pradesh, and once again congratulated the people of the state for the new projects.

The Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Syed Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, Union Cabinet Ministers, Shri Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu, Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Shri Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma were present among other dignitaries at the event.

Background

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth around Rs 13,430 crore. These projects span across key sectors including industry, power transmission, roads, railways, defence manufacturing, and petroleum and natural gas, reflecting the Government’s commitment to enhancing regional infrastructure, accelerating industrialisation, and driving inclusive socio-economic growth in the state.

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the Transmission System Strengthening at Kurnool-III Pooling Station, at an investment of over Rs 2,880 crore. The project includes the construction of a 765 KV double-circuit Kurnool-III Pooling Station—Chilakaluripeta transmission line, which will increase transformation capacity by 6,000 MVA and enable large-scale transmission of renewable energy to support the nation’s growth.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stones for the Orvakal Industrial Area in Kurnool and the Kopparthi Industrial Area in Kadapa, with a total investment of over Rs 4,920 crore. Developed jointly by National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) and Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd (APIIC), these modern, multi-sectoral industrial hubs feature plug-and-play infrastructure and a walk-to-work concept. They are expected to attract Rs. 21,000 crore in investments and generate approximately one lakh jobs, boosting industrial development and global competitiveness in Andhra Pradesh’s Rayalaseema region.

BJP releases list of star campaigners including PM Modi, Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh for Bihar assembly elections

New Delhi, Oct 16 (UNI)

The Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) today released a list of 40 star campaigners for first phase of the upcoming Bihar Legislative Assembly elections including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The other senior leaders include J P Nadda, Nitin Gadkari, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Dharmendra Pradhan, Giriraj Singh, Devendra Phadnavis, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Ms Rekha Gupta, Ms Smriti Irani, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

The party has announced candidates for all of the 101 seats it is contesting in the Bihar Assembly elections. The elections will be held in two phases on November 6 and 11. Counting of votes will take place on November 14.

Congress demands probe into BJP MP's wife's ssset surge

New Delhi, Oct 16 (UNI)

In a sharp attack on the BJP, Congress today demanded a full investigation into the "disproportionate" rise in assets of Nishikant Dubey's wife, Anamika Gautam. The party alleged that Gautam's wealth skyrocketed from Rs 50 lakhs in 2009 to a staggering Rs 31.32 crores in 2024, based on affidavits filed by Dubey over the years. Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinате, speaking at a press conference, revealed the startling asset growth. "In 2009, Ms. Gautam's movable assets stood at Rs 50 lakhs with no immovable property. By 2014, movable assets had doubled to Rs 1.03 crore, and immovable assets appeared at Rs 5.53 crores," she said. "By 2019, the figures ballooned further—movable assets reached Rs 3.72 crores, immovable assets Rs 9.35 crores, totaling Rs 13.06 crores." Shrinате raised serious doubts about the authenticity of loan claims totaling Rs 8 crores, including Rs 1.20 crore allegedly lent by Abhishek Jha, who has denied any such transaction. "There is no record or evidence supporting these loans," she pointed out. Calling the case "an open and shut example of corruption," Shrinате said, "The assets held by Ms Dubey do not align with the declared income over these years. This demands a thorough probe and immediate clarification from the Dubey family." The Congress leader also slammed the Lokpal's handling of the complaint filed on May 24, 2025, stating, "Despite seeking a response from Dubey within four weeks, it remains unknown if any reply was submitted, raising serious questions about transparency."

Cambodia arrests 3,455 online scam suspects in nearly 4 months

Phnom Penh, Oct 16 (UNI) : The number of suspects arrested in crackdown operations on online scam centers in Cambodia has increased to 3,455 so far, said a press release issued by the Ad-Hoc Committee to Combat Online Scams late Wednesday. The authorities have raided a total of 92 compounds in 18 cities and provinces across the kingdom's 25 cities and provinces since June 27 to date, the press release said, adding that the arrested suspects are from 20 different nationalities.

Dozens of ringleaders have been sent to courts for prosecution, while most others have been deported back to their birth countries, the press release said. The Southeast Asian country has launched an unprecedented nationwide crackdown on cyber scam networks, aiming at maintaining and protecting security, public order, and social safety.

Syrian transitional President Al-Sharaa, Putin discuss resumption of direct flights

Moscow, Oct 16 (UNI/SPUTNIK) : Syria’s transitional president, Ahmed al-Sharaa, and Russian President Vladimir Putin held discussions on the resumption of direct flights between Syria and Russia during a meeting in Moscow on Wednesday. According to Mahmoud al-Hamza, a representative of the Syrian diaspora, President Putin responded positively to the proposal. This marks al-Sharaa’s first official visit to Russia since assuming the role of transitional president. During his working trip, he met with President Putin and also held a separate meeting with members of the Syrian diaspora in the Russian capital. "President al-Sharaa discussed the resumption of direct flights with Vladimir Putin during today's meeting. The Russian leader responded positively," al-Hamza told Sputnik. Direct flights between Moscow and Damascus were suspended in December 2024, following the resignation and departure of former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Al-Sharaa was officially declared transitional president on January 29, 2025.Al-Hamza added that President al-Sharaa expressed satisfaction with the outcomes of his talks in Moscow, which focused on strengthening bilateral relations and supporting Syria's ongoing transition.

UN Afghan mission says 17 civilians killed in Pak-Taliban clashes

Kabul, Oct 16 (UNI) : The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said at least 17 civilians were killed and 346 others wounded during recent clashes between Pakistani border forces and Taliban fighters in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province. The UNAMA noted that the figures were preliminary, and that the actual toll could be a lot higher in comparison to the data. The mission also confirmed that one person was killed and 15 others injured in separate incidents in Paktia, Paktika, Kunar, and Helmand provinces. The body issuing a separate statement, urged both sides to cease hostilities, and stressed on the need to protect civilians and prevent further loss of life amid escalating border tensions, which have already made the security situation between the two quite fragile.

According to Afghanistan's Emergency Hospital personnel, at least 40 people, including women and children, were rushed to its Kabul wing after a series of powerful explosions shook the Afghanistan capital on Wednesday evening, with five confirmed dead. Simultaneously, the Human Rights Alliance heavily condemned Pakistan's airstrikes on Afghan civilians, calling them a grave violation of the country's territorial sovereignty and a breach of international law.In a statement issued on Thursday, the rights group said that ordinary Afghans were paying the price for Islamabad's "terror-driven politics" with their blood, and urged that the sanctity of national sovereignty and innocent be "respected," at the utmost level.

Pak conducts airstrikes in Kabul

Islamabad/Kabul, Oct 16 (UNI) : In a further escalation of tensions, Pakistani military said that it carried out airstrikes inside Afghanistan late Wednesday, targeting what officials described as "important sites" in the provinces of Kabul and Kandahar, following a series of powerful explosions in both locations. An anonymous Pakistani security official, speaking to Afghan media confirmed that the PAF had carried out "significant targets in Kabul and Kandahar were hit." However, there have been no verified reports of casualties so far. Locals in Kabul confirmed four large explosions near Sarak-e-Panj in the Taimani Project area and the Chaharahi Asbha junction. Witnesses said the blasts continued intermittently, with loud detonations heard every few minutes. According to locals, the explosions occurred near the premises of Sultan Mahmood Ghaznavi School in Taimani, with several residents attesting to hearing the blazing sound of fighter jets overhead, just moments before they saw explosions in the near distance. Afghan Taliban reportedly rushed to the scene on military vehicles with ringing sirens to contain the situation, as panicked residents fled the area. The Taliban have not officially commented, but their spokesperson released a video claiming that one of the explosions was caused by a fuel tanker blast.



Sri Lanka Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya during her visit to the Hindu College, in New Delhi.

Germany to invest \$10.8 billion to increase fleet of military drones to bolster air defences

Berlin, Oct 16 (UNI) : Germany plans to invest over •10 billion (\$10.8 billion) in the next few years in a bid to substantially increase its fleet of military drones, Defence Minister Boris Pistorius announced on Wednesday, signalling Berlin's growing role in Europe's evolving air defence strategy. Berlin's increased expenses for expanded drone program, comes amid the growing militarisation of the EU, as member states – particularly Poland, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany - are ramping up their air defence capabilities for responding to any future military aggression by Russia.Recently, several EU nations – such as Poland, Estonia, Latvia - have accused Moscow of breaching their airspace by deploying its military aircraft and drones, terming all the incidents as part of an alleged "hybrid war" being conducted by the Kremlin, which Russia has called ludicrous.Pistorius

declared that Germany would make a "visible contribution" and that its drone purchases would encompass "all types and altitudes," including both defence and attack craft. A ministry spokesperson also confirmed that Germany will deploy two Eurofighter jets to Malbork, Poland, from December to March. The announcement comes amid the EU's proposed construction of "drone wall" — a continent-wide network of air defence and surveillance systems – aimed at countering all Russian aerial attacks. The European Commission is set to unveil a "roadmap" for its "drone wall" plan this week, touted by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, according to media reports. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has condemned the idea, stating that "building walls is always bad, as history shows."The initiative follows several

unexplained drone sightings over key German infrastructure, including Munich Airport, where recent disruptions forced dozens of flight cancellations and delayed thousands of passengers. Some European officials and media outlets have suggested that Moscow may be behind the incursions, a claim Russia has dismissed as baseless. Russian President Vladimir Putin, addressing the issue earlier this month, mocked EU officials and said "They feel uneasy? I won't send them anymore — not to France, not to Denmark, not to Copenhagen. Where else do they fly? Lisbon?" Putin, refuted all claims of having any plans for carrying out a future military incursion into Europe, accusing the West of fostering increasing Russophobia, in order to justify its increased military spending and draw domestic attention away from their own failures.

Trump aides echo mediator's assessments on difficulty of locating dead Israeli hostage bodies in Gaza rubble

Washington, Oct 16 (UNI) : Amidst Hamas' claims of delivering all the dead hostages it could, and Israel threatening military action against it for not honouring its side of the ceasefire deal, mediators have warned that it could take the terror group – even with all its resources - weeks to locate all the bodies, owing to the immense mounds of debris surrounding the entire Gaza Strip. The assessment was echoed by a pair of senior US President aides during Trump's press briefing on Wednesday, arguing that for all its intents and purposes, Hamas has honoured its end of the US-brokered Oct 9 ceasefire deal."We've heard a lot of

people saying, 'Hamas violated the deal, because not all the bodies have been returned.' The understanding we had with them was we get all the live hostages out, which they did honour that," said one of the advisors, remaining a n o n y m o u s . " T h e sentiment in Israel is always (that Hamas) can do more. What we basically say to the Israeli side... is, 'Give us whatever intelligence you're hearing or seeing... If you think that there's something (the mediators or Hamas) could be doing or should be doing that you don't think they're doing, then pass it over and we'll convey it," the first aide stated. Under the Oct 9 agreement, Hamas was

required to release "all Israeli hostages, living and deceased" within 72 hours of the ceasefire taking effect — a deadline that expired on Oct 13. However, subclauses in the same agreement also state: "Within the 72 hours, Hamas will release the remains of the deceased hostages in its possession and those in the possession of the Palestinian factions in Gaza."And, "Hamas will share, within the 72 hours, all the information it obtained relating to any remaining deceased hostages" through an "information-sharing mechanism.""Right now, we have a mechanism in place where we're working closely with mediators... to

U.S. judge blocks Trump administration from firing federal workers during govt shutdown

San Francisco, Oct. 16 (UNI) : A U.S. federal judge on Wednesday temporarily barred the Trump administration from dismissing federal employees amid the ongoing government shutdown. "The activities that are being undertaken here are contrary to the laws," Susan Yvonne Illston, judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, said on Wednesday when she issued the temporary restraining order. The injunction came a few days after the administration sent reduction-in-force notices to over 4,000 federal workers. Two major unions

representing government employees petitioned to halt the layoffs. Illston stated that the administration had "taken advantage of the lapse in government spending and government functioning," expressing confidence that the unions could prove the government's actions were unlawful. The Trump administration had warned that it intended to cut jobs during the shutdown, and U.S. President Donald Trump repeatedly claimed that the reductions targeted "Democrat agencies" or programs. Earlier, White House budget director Russell Vought said he expected that "north of 10,000" federal positions would be

cut because of the shutdown. Illston's order was issued on the 15th day of the shutdown, just before the Senate once again failed -- for the ninth time -- to pass a temporary funding bill that would reopen the government. Democracy Forward, an advocacy organisation representing the unions, welcomed the judge's order. The organisation's CEO, Skye Perryman, said the president seems to think his government shutdown is distracting people from the harmful and lawless actions of his administration, but the American people are holding him accountable, including in the courts.

US-led Gaza reconstruction center to begin operations

Moscow, Oct 16 (UNI?SPUTNIK) : The US-led coordination center based in Israel to monitor the implementation of the Gaza ceasefire agreement will begin operations in the coming days, the ABC News broadcaster reported, citing two US officials. The center is expected to be headed by a US lieutenant general, whose identity has not yet been disclosed, the report said on Wednesday.The report noted that the center will not be located on an Israeli military base to ensure its openness to representatives from other countries involved in the region's reconstruction. US President Donald Trump, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Sisi, Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed a comprehensive document on the Gaza ceasefire. The same day, Palestinian movement Hamas released the 20 remaining living hostages held in the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, as part of an agreement

with Israel. The Palestinian Prisoners' Media Office confirmed that Israel had released 1,718 Palestinian prisoners held in Gaza and another 250 inmates serving long prison sentences. Trump's 20-point Gaza peace plan was unveiled on September 29. It called for an immediate ceasefire, contingent on the release of hostages within 72 hours. The document also proposed that Hamas or other Palestinian armed factions should have no role in governing the Gaza Strip and that control of the enclave should be transferred to a technocratic committee supervised by an international body led by Trump.Moreover, Gaza City authorities have reported that more than 80 percent of the city’s infrastructure has been destroyed since Israel launched its offensive to seize the urban center in October 2023. Officials are now calling for the immediate establishment of land, sea, and air corridors to facilitate the delivery of heavy equipment and humanitarian aid.

Trump accuses BRICS of attacking USD

Washington, Oct 16 (UNI) : In a sharp escalation of his anti-BRICS rhetoric, US President Donald Trump has accused the multi-national alliance of allegedly launching "an attack on the (US) dollar," and claimed that several BRICS nations have begun "dropping out" of the group after his threats of new tariffs. However, no such move has been declared by any of the member of partner nations of the bloc.

Trump reportedly made his remarks during a bilateral lunch with his Argentinian counterpart President Javier Milei at the White House. "I'm very strong on the dollar, and anybody that wants to deal in dollars, they have an advantage over people that aren't," Trump said. "I told anybody that wants to be in BRICS, that's fine, but we're going to put tariffs on your nation... Everybody dropped out.

They're all dropping out of BRICS."BRICS was an attack on the dollar and I said, you want to play that game, I'm going to put tariffs on all of your products coming into the US. They said, like I said, we're dropping out of BRICS...They don't even talk about it anymore," he added.The US President had asserted that he and his administration were dedicated to preserving the dollar's global dominance, and would never allow it to

be dethroned, warning of harsh retaliation against any country or alliance it considers being a threat. A long-time critic of the multi-national economic bloc – founded by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa - Trump had previously called the organisation a bloc of "anti-United States countries" working against "US interests", and warned that any nation wanting to join the bloc would face additional tariffs.

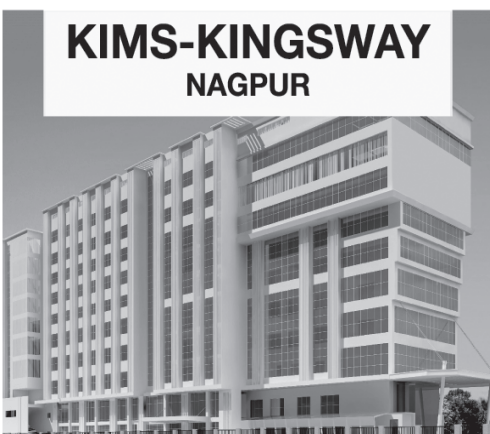
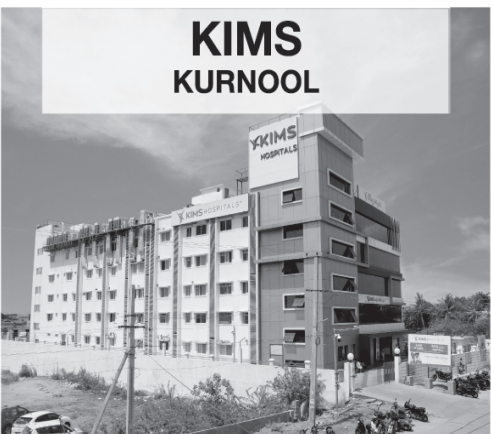
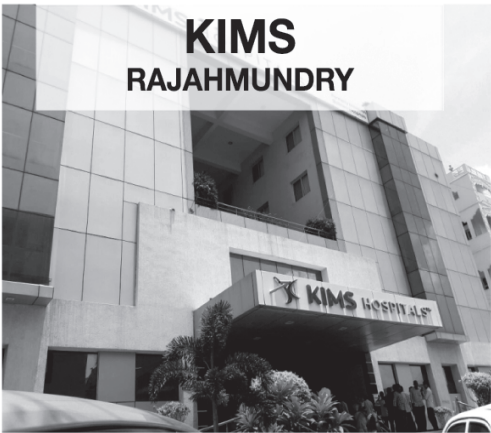
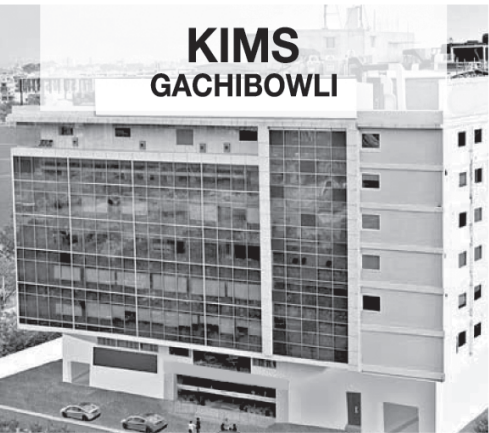
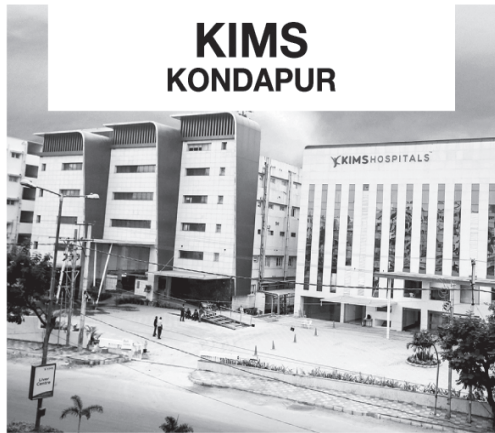
No casualties reported after 6.6-magnitude quake hits Indonesia

Jakarta, Oct 16 (UNI) : No casualties or major damage have been reported after a 6.6-magnitude earthquake struck Indonesia's Papua province on Thursday. According to the Indonesian Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG), the quake's epicenter was located about 32 km southeast of the Sarmi district at a depth of 18 km. No tsunami warning was issued following the tremor. Indonesia, a vast archipelagic nation, sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an area with frequent seismic and volcanic activity.

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Ishant Kishan stretches Jharkhand's total, Sahil's all round show leaves TN reeling in Ranji tie



Chennai, Oc 17 (UNI) : After stretching his overnight score, adding another 48 runs on the second day, skipper Ishant Kishan, who scored 173, in Jharkhand's healthy total of 419, then led astutely to reduce Tamil Nadu reeling at 18 for five, when rain stopped play during tea on the Elte A Raji Trophy Group match at the Sri

Ramakrishna College of Arts and Science Ground in Coimbatore, today. Earlier resuming at 307 for six in 90 overs, Jharkhand, thanks to left handed Ishant Kishan and all round show by another not out batsman No,8 Sahil Raj, who stretched their seventh wicket partnership to 214 runs in 61.2 overs leading the team to a big total.

Ishan, resuming at 125, scored 173 (247 balls, 15x4, 6x6) and Sahil added 13 to his overnight score of 64. Sahil scored 77 off 183 balls with seven fours and two sixers as the duo not only rescued the Jharkhand's innings after losing six wickets on the opening day yesterday, virtually outbatted the home side. For Tamil Nadu lefta rm over Gurjapneet Singh

claimed four wickets, while leftarm spinner D T Chandrasekhar and debutant off spinner J Hemchedeshan claimed two wickets each.

Then the Jharkhand medium pacers showed enough promise and firepower and dismantled the Tamil Nadu top order picking up five wickets to send the home team reeling at 18 for five when the heavens opened up.

Rightarm medium pacer Jatin Kumar Pandey and his fellow new ball bowler Sahil Raj shared the spoils claiming three and two wickets respectively in 11 overs. Brief scores:

Jharkhand 419 in 132.1 overs (Sharandeep Singh 48, Ishan Kishan 173, Sahil Raj 77, Gurjapneet Singh 4 for 71, D.T. Chandrasekar 2 for 114, J. Hemchudeshan 2 for 64) vs Tamil Nadu 18 for 5 in 11 overs (Jatin Kumar Pandey 3 for 10, Sahil Raj 2 for 8).

Blue Tigresses to clash with Iran and Nepal in tri-nation showdown

Shillong, Oct 16 (UNI) : Meghalaya, the heartland of 'Indian Football' is all set to once again become the epicentre of International Women's Football as it gears up to host the Women's Tri-Nation International tournament this October.

The prestigious event will see the national women's teams of India, IR Iran and Nepal face each other for the title at the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Shillong.

The tournament, which marks India's first FIFA international window, post their sealed spot at the AFC Women's Asia Cup 2026, reinforces Meghalaya's ever-growing stature as a premier destination for major sporting events in the country.

Govt committed to develop sports infra, nurture young athletes, ensure timely execution of projects: Mudgal

Jammu, Oct 16 (UNI) : Emphasizing on timely completion of SASCI projects and Capex initiatives to strengthen sports infrastructure for the students and youth of Jammu and Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Yasha Mudgal today said that the Government is committed to develop sports infrastructure, consolidate assets, nurture young students and athletes, and ensure timely execution of projects.

Assessing the progress of Capex and SASCI projects of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports here in a meeting, she also directed the

officers to set a target of achieving 80 percent physical and financial progress by December, 2025 and 100 percent expenditure of all projects by March 31, 2026.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasised on regular weekly monitoring of all projects at District, Divisional and Directorate level.

She instructed the DG YSS, Anuradha Gupta to submit details of completed works pending closure due to liabilities, along with completion certificates, so that the Finance Department may release pending funds and the assets can be formally handed over for utilization.

The Commissioner Secretary further directed DG YSS to prepare district-wise physical and financial progress reports of both ongoing and new works, besides pending land issues, change of nomenclature, or related matters be resolved on urgent basis.

The Executive Engineer was directed to submit DPRs of pending works within one week and obtain technical sanctions of all pending works within 10 days.

During the meeting, DG YSS presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on ongoing, new works under Capex 2025 and SASCI projects.

Deepika Pandey Singh acquitted in 8-yr-old case

Ranchi, Oct 16 (UNI) : A Dumka court on Thursday acquitted Jharkhand Rural Development Minister Deepika Pandey Singh and six other accused in an eight-year-old case related to obstruction of government work and scuffles with administrative and police personnel during the removal of a road blockade following a fatal accident.

The verdict was delivered by Special Judge Mohit Chaudhary at the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate's Court cum Special Court for MPs and MLAs in Dumka, in connection with Mahgama Police Station Case No. 72/ 2017, Godda district. The case stemmed from a road accident on June 24, 2017, at Basuwa Chowk, Mahgama, in which a person died after being hit by a Hiwa vehicle.

In protest, the accused, along with around 100 unidentified persons, blocked the road by laying tarpaulins, disrupting traffic. A team led by then Block Development Officer Uday Kumar arrived to remove the blockade, during which scuffles occurred between the accused and the police. Allegations also included tearing of the post-mortem report and obstruction of official work.

During the trial, the government presented 12 witnesses, and both the public prosecutor and defense lawyers participated in the arguments. Considering the testimonies, the court found insufficient evidence to convict the accused. Consequently, Deepika Pandey Singh, Arvind Jha, Abhinav Kumar, Mo Ekram, Umesh Kumar Jha, Neeraj Kumar, and Mo Shabbir were acquitted. Defense counsel Prateek Jha confirmed that the charges against the seven named individuals, registered under IPC Sections 147, 149, 353, 332, 427, 283, 504, 506, and 120B, could not be substantiated due to lack of conclusive evidence.

Hyderabad Black Hawks secure 3-1 victory over Goa Guardians

Hyderabad, Oct 16 (UNI) : Hyderabad Black Hawks defeated Goa Guardians 15-13, 20-18, 15-17, 15-9 in the RR Kabel Prime Volleyball League (PVL) powered by Scapia at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, here on Thursday.

Yudi Yamamoto was named the Player of the Match and the Hyderabad Black Hawks climbed up to sixth place on the table with seven points. The Hyderabad Black Hawks raced to a two set lead while Goa Guardians struggled with unforced errors. Prince's presence at the net helped pull back a set for the Guardians but Yudi Yamamoto and Sahil's relentless attacks secured the 3-1 win for the Hyderabad Balck Hawks. Hyderabad began the first set on the front foot, with Brazilian Vitor Yudi Yamamoto and Sahil Kumar shining at the net. While the Guardians' Nathaniel Dickinson and Chirag Yadav kept them in touch with powerful spikes. However, Sahil Kumar's thunderous spike helped the Black Hawks claim the first set. Both teams continued to trade points but Dushyant's blocks helped Goa earn their first lead of the game halfway through the second set before Hyderabad's Niyaz Abdul powered through the Goan blockers to force a deuce.

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India one step away from first AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup qualification on merit

Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Oct 16 (UNI) :The Indian U17 women's team are a step away, or to be precise, a point away, from scripting history by becoming the first-ever batch to earn a place in the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup on merit. The Young Tigresses will face Uzbekistan in the last qualifying encounter in Group G at the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek on October 17, at 18:30 IST, knowing that avoiding defeat will book their place at the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026. "This game is what we have been working for all these months," said captain Julian Nongmaithem, who scored a stunning 90th-minute volley to guide India to a 2-1 win over Kyrgyz Republic in the first game on Monday.

"It was a tough start to the qualifiers against Kyrgyz Republic, but we

were happy to get the win in the end finally. That gave us a good advantage heading into the last game," Julian added. As usual, the 14-year-old dedicated the goal to her late father, who passed away last year. "I know he's watching from heaven," an emotional Julian said after the game.

Kyrgyz Republic bounced back and defeated Uzbekistan 2-1 in the second match on Wednesday. That means India still lead the three-team group due to a superior head-to-head record, and a point against Uzbekistan will see them top the standings and book their ticket to China next year.

Head coach Joakim Alexandersson was somewhat disappointed with the overall performance in the first game, despite the win, but assured that the team's

confidence remains intact.

"We weren't able to play exactly the way we wanted. We struggled in our build-up phases through most of the match. But in the second half, we used the flanks more effectively, creating some good attacking moments. Although the display didn't fully reflect our potential, we were happy to get the three points, which I thought we deserved," said the Swede. Alexandersson and his coaching staff were in attendance at the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium on Wednesday to watch Uzbekistan's first game of the qualifiers. Sharing his thoughts on the opponents, he said, "Kyrgyz Republic were tougher physically and more sharp, but Uzbekistan tried to play more with the ball." "I'm sure Uzbekistan will really want to bounce back from this result, so I

expect nothing less than a tough game for us in the last match. We will have more rest and more days to prepare than they will, which should normally be an advantage, but you never know. There's one game to go, and they will fight very hard for three points." "We'll go for a win, obviously. There's no point sitting back and playing for a draw. That's always risky. So we'll try to play our own game and not think too much about the scenarios. Everything is in our hands," the head coach affirmed.

Just over two months ago, Alexandersson led the U20s to AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup qualification, ending a 20-year wait. Now, the Swede finds himself on the cusp of more glory and snapping a bigger drought. The last time India played the AFC U17 Women's Championship was in 2005,

when 11 teams participated directly.

However, since the qualification system was introduced, India have never made it among Asia's elite, and never been as close as they are now.

Alexandersson knows exactly how big of a boost this can be for not just the U17 girls but for women's football in India, especially after the senior team also qualified for the 2026 Asian Cup on merit for the first time ever. "I'd be very happy if the U17s can achieve this as well. It would mean a lot for the coming years of women's football in India — to see not only the senior team, but also the U20 and U17 teams reaching this level. Hopefully, it will inspire even more girls across India to take up this beautiful sport."

The match will be streamed live on Kyrgyz Sport TV YouTube Channel.

Central Govt taking several measures to create opportunities for youth in Sports : Bandi Sanjay

Hyderabad/Srinagar, Oct 16 (UNI) : Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Thursday stated that the Central Government is striving to make sports a way of life for every citizen of the country.

Under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said, the government is taking several initiatives to create excellent opportunities for youth in

the field of sports.

Addressing at the All India Police Judo Clusster (Men and Women) closing ceremony held in Sringar, Sanjay said "It is a matter of great satisfaction that national-level sporting events are being held in Jammu & Kashmir with world-class infrastructure".

The Central Government is determined to expand sports culture across all levels of society and in particular, national

initiatives like 'Khelo India' and 'Fit India Movement' are being organized to encourage sportsmanship among police and paramilitary forces, he said.

He said that "It is an honor to attend the Closing Ceremony of the 10th All India Police Judo Cluster 2025–26 (Men & Women). Over the past nine days, our police forces from across the nation have displayed remarkable sporting spirit.

“ I extend my heartfelt

congratulations to the AIPSCB and Jammu & Kashmir authorities for successfully organizing this grand event," he said.

He further remarked: "Srinagar, a city of great cultural heritage and unity, has served as a magnificent venue for this sports meet. Sports help build human connections and foster friendship and unity — this Judo tournament is a true example of that spirit. The participants showcased

outstanding talent and fair play, making this event truly memorable." The Central Government has initiated several programs to promote sports culture at every level, extending full encouragement to police and paramilitary personnel, he said. He commended the organizing committee, technical officials, referees, coaches, and volunteers for their dedicated efforts in making the Judo Cluster a grand success.

capitalise on a few transition moments to pull ahead decisively in the second half.

For the Steelers, Shivam Patare was the standout performer with 15 raid points, making the most of his quick movements and strong finishes to give his side a commanding lead. Yet for the Yoddhas, this match will serve more as a learning step than a setback. Their ability to regroup quickly after earlier defeats — evidenced by consecutive

the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 12.

While the scoreline didn't reflect the intensity of the contest, the Yoddhas showed flashes of enterprise and aggression that had underpinned their back-to-back wins before this game. Gagan Gowda once again led the raiding department with seven points, displaying his trademark agility and ability to find spaces under pressure. Guman Singh, the Yoddhas' marquee

acquisition, added four raid points and continued to exhibit the leadership and composure that the team has banked on all season.

Bhavani Rajput chipped in with three points, while defenders Ashu Singh and Hitesh combined effectively in parts, contributing crucial tackles to restrict Haryana's rhythm early on. Mahender Singh and Sumit worked to plug gaps in the defensive setup, although Haryana's raiders managed to

wins leading up to this clash — has proven that one bad day doesn't define their campaign. The Yoddhas' camp remains upbeat, confident that the tactical adjustments and resilience displayed in previous games can fuel a late surge. As they gear up for their final two league matches, UP Yoddhas will look to draw upon their winning rhythm before this match and the mental toughness that has kept them very much alive in the playoff race.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw dedicates to the Nation

Passenger Amenities Work At 65 Railway Stations Across Rajasthan

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 16 : Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology, Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw visited Khatipura Railway Station today and unveiled significant initiatives aimed at enhancing passenger convenience and delivering modern, efficient railway services in Rajasthan. These initiatives mark another step toward transforming the state’s rail infrastructure and improving the overall travel experience for passengers.

Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw dedicated passenger amenities works completed at 65 railway stations across Rajasthan—including stations such as Ramsar, Siwani, Luni, Pirthvirajpur and Bhagatki Kothi—through video conferencing. These upgrades include improved waiting areas, enhanced lighting, upgraded sanitation facilities, seating, signage, and accessibility features, ensuring safer, cleaner, and commuter-friendly stations.

To further improve passenger comfort, the Union Minister also launched the new practice of printed blanket covers in



all AC classes of Jaipur–Asarva Express, promoting hygiene, uniformity and better onboard experience.

Speaking on the occasion, the Hon’ble Union Minister said that railway development is progressing on multiple fronts—introduction of new types of trains, construction of new stations, laying of new tracks, completion of electrification, and creation of modern maintenance depots. However, the main focus remains bringing a meaningful transformation in the lives of passengers.

In the Union Budget 2025–26, ₹ 9,960 crore has been allocated for railway infrastructure works in Rajasthan, driving rapid expansion and modernization. Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 85 stations are being redeveloped. Out of these 8 have already been inaugurated this year. The state now operates 12 Vande Bharat services, providing faster, safer, and more comfortable travel across major routes.

These initiatives reflect Indian Railways’ commitment to building modern, efficient, and passenger-focused infrastructure in Rajasthan.

Western Railway to run a weekly special train between Bandra Terminus - Jodhpur

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 16 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season of Diwali and Chhath Puja, Western Railway will run a Special Train on Special fare between Bandra Terminus - Jodhpur stations.

According to a press release issued by Public Relations Department of Western Railway, the details of this train is as under:

1. Train No. 04826/04825 Bandra Terminus – Jodhpur Superfast Weekly Special [04 Trips]

Train No. 04826 Bandra Terminus – Jodhpur Superfast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Thursday at 21:20 hrs and will reach Jodhpur at 21:45 hrs, the next day. This train will run on 23rd October & 30th October, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 04825 Jodhpur–Bandra Terminus Superfast Special will depart from Jodhpur every Wednesday at 17:30 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 18:20 hrs, the next day. This train will run on 22nd October & 29th October, 2025.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat,

Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Jaipur, Phulera, Nawa City, Kuchaman City, Makrana, Degana, Ren, Merta Road and Gotan stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

The booking for Train No. 04826 will open from 18th October, 2025 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Special Train Service between Mysuru and Jaipur for Deepavali Festival : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 16 : To clear the extra rush of passengers during the Deepavali festival, the Railway Board has approved the operation of Special Express Trains between Mysuru and Jaipur for two trips in each direction. The details are as follows:

Train No. 06231 Mysuru–Jaipur Express Special will depart from Mysuru at 23:55 hrs on October 18 and 25, 2025, and arrive at Jaipur at 18:40 hrs on the following Monday.

In the return direction, Train No. 06232 Jaipur–Mysuru Express Special will depart from Jaipur at 04:00 hrs on October 21 and 28, 2025, and arrive at Mysuru at 03:30 hrs on the following Thursday.

En route, the train will have stoppages at Mandya, KSR Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Arsikere, Kadur, Davangere, SSS Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Ghataprabha, Miraj, Sangli, Satara, Pune, Kalyan, Vasai Road, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Sabarmati BG,

Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Falna, Rani, Marwar, Sojat Road, Beawar, Ajmer, and Kishangarh stations in both directions.

However, Train No. 06231 will skip the Sabarmati BG halt on its journey towards Jaipur, and Train No. 06232 will skip the Ahmedabad halt on its return journey towards Mysuru.

The special train will consist of 18 coaches, comprising 2 AC Two-Tier, 12 AC Three-Tier, 2 Sleeper Class, and 2 Second Class Luggage-cum-Brake Vans.

Festival Special Trains between various Destinations : SCR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Oct 16 : In order to clear rush of passengers during Diwali & Chhath festivals, South Central Railway to run special trains between various destinations as detailed below:-

Tr. No. 07497 Tirupati–Secunderabad Special Train:

These special trains will stop at Renigunta, Gudur, Nellore, Ongole, Chirala, Bapatla, Tenali, Guntur, Sattenapalli, Nadikude, Miryalaguda and Nalgonda stations. These special trains will consist of 3AC and Sleeper Class coaches.

Tr. No. 07498 Secunderabad - Tirupati Special Train:

These special trains will stop at Begumpet, Lingampalli, Vikarabad, Tandur, Sedam, Sulehalli,

Yadgir, Krishna, Raichur, Mantralayam Rd, Adoni, Guntakal, Gooty, Yerraguntla, Kadapa, Rajampet and Renigunta stations. These special trains will consist of 3AC and Sleeper Class coaches.

Tr. No. 07213/07214 Vijayawada – Secunderabad - Vijayawada Special Trains:

These special trains will stop at Mangalagiri, Guntur, Sattenapalli, Piduguralla, Nadikude, Miryalaguda, Nalgonda and Charlapalli stations in both the directions. These special trains will consist of AC Chair Car, 3AC (Economy) and Second Class Seating coaches.

Tr. No. 07165 / 07166 Hyderabad – Bhubaneswar New – Hyderabad Special Trains:

These special trains will

stop at Secunderabad, Charlapalli, Nalgonda, Miryalaguda, Sattenapalli, Guntur, Vijayawada, Gudivada, Kaikalur, Akividu, Bhimavaram Town, Tanuku, Rajahmundry, Samalkot, Annavaram, Anakapalle, Duvvada, Kottavalasa, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Rd, Palasa, Brahmapur, Khurda Rd and Bhubaneswar stations in both the directions. These special trains will consist of 2AC, 3AC, Sleeper and General Second Class Coaches.

Tr. No. 01437 / 01438 Solapur – Dharmavaram-Solapur Special Trains:

These special trains will stop at Kurduwadi, Barshi town, Dharashiv, Latur, Latur Road, Udgir, Bhalki, Bidar, Vikarabad, Yadgir, Krishna, Raichur

Mantralayam Road, Adoni, Guntakal, Gooty, Tadipatri, Yerraguntla, Kadapa, Rajampet, Renigunta, Tirupati, Pakala, Piler, Madanapalle Road, Mulkalcheruvu and Kadiri stations in both the directions. These special trains consist of 2AC, 3AC, Sleeper and General Second Class coaches.

Tr. No. 06095 / 06096 MGR Chennai Central – Santragachi -MGR Chennai Central Special Trains:

These special trains will stop at Sullurupeta, Gudur, Nellore, Ongole, Vijayawada, Tadepalligudem, Rajahmundry, Samalkot, Duvvada, Vizianagaram, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Baleswar, Kharagpur stations in both

the directions. These special trains consist of 2AC, 3AC and Sleeper Class coaches.

Tr. No. 05541 / 05542 Darbhanga – Yesvantpur - Darbhanga Special Trains:

These special trains will stop at Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Hajipur, Sonpur, Chhapra Gramin, Chhapra, Siwan, Deoria Sadar, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Barabanki, Aishbagh, Kanpur Central, Orai, VGL Jhansi, Bina, Bhopal, Itarsi, Jujharpur Cabin, Amla, Nagpur, Chandrapur, Balharshah, Ramangadam, Kazipet, Kacheguda, Mahbubnagar, Dhoni, Dharmavaram, Hindupur, Yelahanka stations in both the directions. These special trains consist of 3AC, Sleeper and General Second Class coaches.

NMDC Steel Becomes First in India to Receive BIS License for Hot Rolled Steel for welded steel pipe for Pipeline Transportation



(Standard Post Bureau)

Raipur, Oct 16 : NMDC Steel Limited (NSL), India’s youngest and a state-of-the-art integrated steel plant, has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first company in the country to receive an Indian Standards (IS) license for “Hot Rolled Steel Strip, Sheet, and Plates for Welded Steel Pipe for

Pipeline Transportation Systems - General Requirements (IS 18384:2023).”

The certification was presented by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) during the World Standards Day 2025 celebration organized by BIS, Raipur, at the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium, Raipur.

The award was

received by Shri Amrit Narayan, Chief General Manager (Steel), NMDC Steel, from Hon’ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, in the esteemed presence of Shri Dayal Das Baghel, Hon’ble Minister of Food & Civil Supplies, and Shri S.K. Gupta, Director & Head, BIS Raipur.

This certification underscores NMDC

Steel’s commitment to quality, innovation, and sustainable development. It reinforces NSL’s vision to produce world-class steel products that meet the most demanding standards of safety and performance in the petroleum and natural gas sectors. The IS 18384:2023 certification marks a significant benchmark for excellence in steel

products designed for pipeline transportation systems in the petroleum and natural gas industry. It highlights NMDC Steel’s focus on technological advancement, superior product quality, and sustainable manufacturing practices. Speaking on the achievement, Shri Amitava Mukherjee, CMD, NMDC Steel, said:

“We are proud to be the first in India to receive this BIS license. It is a testament to our dedication to excellence and our contribution towards strengthening India’s industrial standards and infrastructure.”

NMDC Steel Limited operates with a capacity of 3.0 MTPA and continues to play a pivotal role in advancing India’s self-reliance in the steel sector.

New Delhi, Oct 16 (UNI) : Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal today said India’s GDP grew by 7.8 percent in the first quarter, making it the fastest-growing large economy in the world for the past four years, and this momentum would continue for at least the next two decades.

He reiterated the government’s commitment to structural reforms, ease of doing business and reducing compliance burdens and said these efforts had strengthened investor confidence and positioned India to becoming the world’s third-largest economy aiming for a 30–35 trillion USD economy by 2047.

Addressing the India–Brazil Business Dialogue on World Food Day the Minister said India’s growth story depended upon three pillars including strong Macroeconomic Fundamentals, Modern Infrastructure and Improved Quality of Life.

Brazilian Vice President Mr. Geraldo Alckmin and Defence Minister José Múcio Monteiro Filho, currently on a three-day visit to India, also spoke at the function.

Marking World Food Day, the Minister highlighted the shared agricultural strengths of India and Brazil—two leading agri-producing nations that contribute

significantly to global food security. He expressed optimism that the dialogue would lead to greater collaboration in agri-business and food processing.

Quoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Goyal said India–Brazil relations should be “as colourful as a carnival and as passionate as football.” He also appreciated Brazil for including yoga and Ayurveda in its healthcare systems, noting that traditional knowledge and wellness practices can further strengthen cultural and health cooperation between the two nations.

Elaborating on the three pillars of India’s growth story, he said the government has maintained low inflation, ensured consistent growth, fortified the banking system and built one of the strongest foreign exchange reserve positions in the world.

“With USD 700 billion in foreign exchange reserves, India is among the top five countries globally in terms of forex strength,” Goyal said and emphasized that these strong macroeconomic fundamentals provide the threshold for the country to pursue ambitious growth targets and accelerate its development journey.

The second pillar focuses on taking modern,

high-quality infrastructure to the remotest corners of the country, he said and added investments in infrastructure not only improve connectivity and reduce logistics costs but also strengthen India’s ability to expand businesses and create jobs.

The Minister said the third pillar focused on improving the quality of life for the people by reducing the income tax burden on the middle class and simplifying the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system to make business processes easier.

Referring to the recent statement by the IMF Chief praising India’s bold reforms, Goyal said the IMF has revised India’s growth projection for 2025 upward from 6.4 percent to 6.6 percent.

In the last 12 years, 250 million Indians have been lifted out of poverty, creating a strong and aspirational middle class that now drives the nation’s consumption and growth story.

The Minister emphasized that India’s welfare and infrastructure investments are working in tandem to create a more inclusive and sustainable economy—ensuring that every citizen has access to food, housing, education, healthcare, electricity, digital connectivity, and clean water.