

IN BRIEF

Five booked in Palghar for child marriage, repeated sexual assault

Palghar, Oct 17 (UNI) : Police have registered an FIR against five persons for their alleged involvement in the forced marriage and repeated sexual assault of a minor girl in the neighbouring Palghar district.

Police sources said the girl's grandfather allegedly arranged her marriage to a man from A h i l y a n a g a r , Maharashtra, in September. Following the marriage, the victim was repeatedly sexually assaulted, and the groom's parents also mentally harassed her.

Based on a complaint filed by the minor, police have registered a case under the POSCO Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

"We have registered a case against five individuals, including a family member, for the forced marriage, trafficking, and repeated sexual assault of a minor girl.

The case involves multiple jurisdictions, and we are coordinating the investigation to ensure immediate action is taken against all the accused involved in this serious crime," an official confirmed.

Cop nabs 2 drug peddlers

Nagpur, Oct 17 (UNI) : Under the ongoing Operation Thunder, the NDPS squad of Nagpur city police arrested two accused involved in the illegal trade of MD drugs, police said today.

According to police, the raid was conducted between midnight and 2:30 am near Tajuddin Pande area, Shivankar Nagar slum, Nandanvan, following a tip-off about suspicious activity.

During the search, police found 57 grams of MD drug powder, along with a car, moped, mobile phone and Rs 2,55,000 in cash, amounting to a total seizure worth Rs 9 lakh.

The arrested accused identified as Raju alias Raviraj Raghuvver Baghel (28) and Shubham Shekhar Bagde (26), both with prior criminal backgrounds.

A third suspect, Waseem Sheikh from Kamptee, is currently absconding and efforts are underway to trace him. This successful operation once again highlights the strong and continuous action being taken by Nagpur Police under Operation Thunder to root out drug abuse and safeguard the youth from the grip of narcotics.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flags off the first made-in-India Tejas Mk1A fighter jet from the newly inaugurated production facility at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), in Nashik on Friday.

LCA Mk1A a symbol of growing self-reliance in defence: Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh

Nashik, Oct 17 (UNI) : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today described the LCA Tejas Mk1A aircraft as a shining symbol of India's growing self-reliance in defence and reaffirmed the government's commitment to achieving 100% domestic manufacturing in the near future. Highlighting the transformation of the defence sector in the last decade, Singh asserted that the country, which once imported 65-70 per cent of critical military hardware, is now manufacturing 65 per cent of the equipment on its own, according to a Defence Ministry statement.

The Defence Minister was speaking after inaugurating the third production line of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A and the second Production Line of Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40

(HTT-40) at the Nashik facility of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

He also flagged-off the first LCA Mk1A produced at the facility.

Listing out other feats achieved due to the government's consistent efforts, Singh stated that annual defence production, which was worth Rs 46,429 crore in 2014-15, has surged to a record figure of over Rs 1.50 lakh crore in 2024-25, with exports touching an all-time high of Rs 25,000 crore from less than Rs 1,000 crore a decade ago.

"We have now set a target of increasing defence manufacturing to Rs 3 lakh crore and exports to Rs 50,000 crore by 2029," he added. On the constantly-evolving nature of modern-day warfare, Singh underscored the importance of staying ahead of the

curve as Artificial Intelligence, cyber warfare, drone systems and next-generation aircraft are shaping the future and wars are being fought across multiple frontiers.

"India must always stay ahead in this new race, and not lag behind," he said, exhorting HAL to make its mark in the fields of next-generation aircraft, unmanned systems & civil aviation, and not limit itself to LCA Tejas or HTT-40.

As Rajnath Singh voiced the government's commitment towards inducting state-of-the-art, indigenous technologies, he appreciated the role of HAL in carrying forward the vision, terming the Defence Public Sector Undertaking as the backbone of India's defence sector.

While he praised HAL for providing operational

support to the recently-decommissioned MiG-21, he also shed light on its valuable contribution during Operation Sindoor.

"In our security history, there have been only a few instances when the entire system has truly been tested simultaneously. Operation Sindoor was one such mission. Our forces not only demonstrated valour and commitment, but also displayed their confidence in indigenous platforms," Singh said.

"HAL provided support at various operational sites 24 hours a day during the operation. It ensured the Indian Air Force's operational readiness by carrying out prompt maintenance on fighter jets and helicopters," he added.

The Nashik team, he said, performed the crucial task of installing the

Sena (UBT) demands bonus for BMC and BEST workers

Mumbai, Oct 17 (UNI) Ahead of the Diwali festival, Shiv Sena (UBT) today demanded a bonus for the employees of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and BEST employees.

Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray has called for the BMC and BEST employees to be granted their rightful bonus, which he said has not yet been paid this year despite the festival already beginning.

In a tweet in Marathi, he said that this bonus is essential for the employees and their families to celebrate the festival with joy.



Tanvi Sharma becomes first Indian female in 17 years to be assured of a medal

Tanvi Sharma became the first Indian female player to be assured of a BWF World Junior Championships medal in 17 years when she fought back from a game down to beat Japan's Saki Matsumoto and reach the girls' singles semifinals at the National Centre of Excellence here on Friday. The 16-year-old kept her nerves under pressure and found winners with her cross-court slice hits to beat Matsumoto 13-15, 15-9, 15-10 in a 47-minute quarterfinal clash that kept the spectators on edge.

(See on page 7)

Rahul Gandhi gets relief from Varanasi MP-MLA court in



Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has received significant relief from the Varanasi MP-MLA Court in a case related to his statement about Sikhs during his visit to the United States. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (IV) (MP-MLA Court) Neeraj Kumar Tripathi today dismissed the pending petition in the case after hearing the arguments.

(See on page 2)

Former Japan PM Tomiichi Murayama dies



Former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who served as leader of the country in the mid-1990s, passed away in his hometown Oita, at the age of 101, Kyodo News reported. Born on March 3, 1924, in Oita Prefecture,

(See on page 5)

Agriculture Minister directs timely implementation of



Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, has issued directions for time-bound implementation of the two schemes -- 'Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission' and the 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana', announced by PM Modi on October 11.

(See on page 8)

BJP criticises MVA leaders for 'delaying tactics' ahead of local polls

Mumbai, Oct 17 (UNI) : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Media Cell Chief Navnath Ban today criticised the leaders of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), asserting that they are gripped by the "fear of defeat" in the upcoming local body elections in Maharashtra.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office here, Ban alleged that due to this frustration, MP Sanjay Raut and Uddhav Thackeray are making "baseless allegations" and attempting to find excuses to postpone the elections.

Ban questioned whether Thackeray and Raut will demand a voter list revision campaign (SIR) in Maharashtra similar to the one in Bihar. He accused Raut of opposing the voter list revision in Bihar but now pretending to demand postponement of Maharashtra elections, calling it "mere theatrics."

Responding to Raut's criticism of demonetisation, Ban hit back, saying Raut could not convert his "massive amount of black money into white" due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision, which is why he is "still suffering from a 'stomach ache' over it."

Referring to Raut's recent remarks calling the Chief Minister a "superstar campaigner," Ban reminded him that the people have elected Devendra Fadnavis three times. "Hence, Fadnavis is truly Maharashtra's political superstar," he asserted.

He further claimed that under the leadership of Thackeray and Raut, the MVA has repeatedly faced defeat, making Raut the "biggest loser."

Ban also advised that since Raut's actions have cornered Thackeray's faction and worsened their situation, Thackeray should adopt the "Gujarat Pattern" and remove Sanjay Raut from his group.

PM declares nation's relentless momentum amid economic, technological breakthroughs

New Delhi, Oct 17 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today emphatically declared, "India won't stop, India won't halt," underscoring the country's unstoppable momentum amid remarkable economic growth and transformative reforms".

Speaking at the NDTV World Summit, PM Modi expressed strong national confidence, stating, "India is not in the mood to stop today! We will neither pause nor slow down. 140 crore Indians will move forward together with full momentum." His remarks highlighted India's extraordinary journey from being part of the "fragile five" economies to now ranking among the world's top five economic powerhouses.

The Prime Minister showcased India's comprehensive self-reliance, asserting, "Today, from chips to ships, India is self-reliant and filled with

confidence in every sphere." This transformation spans multiple sectors, including technology, manufacturing, and infrastructure.

PM Modi spotlighted key initiatives driving India's progress, such as the e-Sanjeevani digital healthcare platform, which has already served over 100,000 people, enhancing access to medical care nationwide. He also highlighted the development of a domestic 4G technology stack, a testament to India's accelerating technological innovation.

The Prime Minister further pointed to India's increasing attractiveness to global investors, citing Google's recent investments in the Indian artificial intelligence ecosystem as evidence of the country's expanding innovation landscape.

Addressing governance and economic reforms, PM Modi contrasted the current

administration's achievements with past Congress-led governments, which he criticised for neglecting public sector undertakings (PSUs).

"PSUs were locked up under their watch," he said, emphasising that under current policies, these enterprises are breaking profit records and contributing significantly to the economy.

He also highlighted improvements in energy infrastructure, noting, "Congress tried to shut petrol pumps. Now, petrol pumps remain open the whole night," symbolizing enhanced service delivery and economic vitality.

On national security, the Prime Minister condemned Maoist terrorism as "a great injustice and a grave sin against the nation's youth," reporting significant gains with over 303 Naxal militants surrendering in the past 75 hours and a notable reduction in affected regions.

Amrit Samvaad Strengthens Citizen ; Railway Connect at Kalaburagi Station



(Standard Post Bureau)
Solapur , Oct 17 : The Solapur Division of Central Railway organised an “Amrit Samvaad” event at Kalaburagi Railway Station with the aim of creating a direct dialogue platform between Railway authorities, passengers, and stakeholders as part of Special Campaign 5.0.

The Amrit Samvaad initiative is part of Indian Railways’ citizen-centric approach to enhance transparency, inclusivity and participation in the developmental journey of the rail network. The event encouraged passengers

and stakeholders to share their valuable feedback, experiences and suggestions to further improve amenities and services.

Highlights of Amrit Samvaad: The programme focused on evaluating and showcasing the key improvements made at Amrit Stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, which include:

- Assessment of improvements carried out under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme
- Feedback from citizens regarding ongoing developmental initiatives
- Identification of

further areas of improvement for enhancing passenger convenience

- Encouragement of public participation in the developmental journey of Indian Railways
- Promotion of awareness among passengers about their role in maintaining cleanliness and station upkeep.

DRM Solapur and other senior officials including Sr DCM, DEN (South), ADEN (GSU) and ADEN Kalaburagi, along with representatives from various stakeholder groups like Kalyana Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (KKCCI), ZRUCC, DRUCC and other rail users participated in the event and interacted with passengers to understand their needs and expectations.

“The Amrit Samvaad at Kalaburagi Station reinforced the spirit of partnership between citizens and Indian Railways. Promoting open communication, encouraging feedback and involving the public in the improvement process, reflects the continued commitment of Solapur Division of Central Railway towards service excellence and passenger satisfaction.

Railways to Run Special Train Services between Kalaburagi-Bengaluru Cantonment and Yesvantpur for Diwali Festival 2025

(Standard Post Bureau)
Solapur , Oct 17 : Railways to Run Special Train Services between Kalaburagi-Bengaluru Cantonment and Yesvantpur for Diwali Festival 2025“

Bengaluru Cantonment – Kalaburagi – Yesvantpur Special (2 trips)

- Train No. 06203 Bengaluru Cantonment – Kalaburagi Special will depart from Bengaluru Cantonment at 19:40 hrs on 18.10.2025 and arrive Kalaburagi at 07:30 hrs the next day. (1 trip)
- Train No. 06204 Kalaburagi – Yesvantpur Special will depart from Kalaburagi at 09:35 hrs on 19.10.2025 and arrive

Yesvantpur at 20:30 hrs the same day. (1 trip).

Bengaluru Cantonment–Kalaburagi Special (2 trips)

- Train No. 06207 Bengaluru Cantonment – Kalaburagi Special will depart Bengaluru Cantonment at 19:40 hrs on 20.10.2025 and arrive Kalaburagi at 07:30 hrs the next day. (1 trip)
- Train No. 06208 Kalaburagi – Bengaluru Cantonment Special will depart Kalaburagi at 09:35 hrs on 21.10.2025 and arrive Bengaluru Cantonment at 20:30 hrs the same day. (1 trip)

Bengaluru Cantonment–Kalaburagi Special (2 trips)

- Train No. 06209 Bengaluru Cantonment – Kalaburagi Special will depart Bengaluru Cantonment at 22:10 hrs on 21.10.2025 and arrive Kalaburagi at 09:00 hrs the next day. (1 trip)
- Train No. 06210 Kalaburagi – Bengaluru Cantonment Special will depart Kalaburagi at 10:45 hrs on 22.10.2025 and arrive Bengaluru Cantonment at 22:30 hrs the same day. (1 trip)

Stoppages: Yelahanka, Hindupur, Dharmavaram, Anantapur, Guntakal, Adoni, Manthralayam Road, Raichur, Krishna, Yadgir and Shahabad.

Composition: 20 Sleeper Class coaches and

2 Second Class Luggage-cum-Divyanganjan coaches. (22 coaches)

Reservation & Booking: “Reservations for Special trains on special charges will open at all computerised reservation centers and on website www.irc.co.in.

Bookings for unreserved coaches can be done through booking counters at stations and UTS app also.

Passengers are requested to travel with valid tickets to avoid inconvenience.

For detailed timings at stoppages of these special trains, please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App.

Rahul Gandhi gets relief from Varanasi MP-MLA court in Sikhs statement case

Varanasi, Oct 17 (UNI) Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has received significant relief from the Varanasi MP-MLA Court in a case related to his statement about Sikhs during his visit to the United States.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (IV) (MP-MLA Court) Neeraj Kumar Tripathi today dismissed the pending petition in the case after hearing the arguments. Senior advocates Anuj Yadav, Naresh Yadav, and Sandeep Yadav represented Gandhi in the court. The case stemmed from a statement Gandhi made in the United States in September last year, questioning the environment in India and whether a Sikh would be allowed to wear a turban, a kada, or visit a gurdwara.

Advocate Anuj Yadav stated that a resident of Tilmapur, Sarnath, Nageshwar Mishra, had initially filed a suit in the court of Judicial Magistrate (II), calling the statement a conspiracy. That suit was later dismissed by the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (MP-MLA Court). Mishra had then filed a review petition in the Sessions Court against the lower court's order. The Sessions Court accepted the review petition and ordered the lower court to rehear the case. The pending petition was dismissed today after a hearing.

PM Modi commends Egypt’s role in Gaza peace

New Delhi, Oct 17 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today met with Egypt’s Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and lauded Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi for his pivotal role in facilitating the Gaza Peace Agreement. The meeting highlighted the growing strategic partnership between India and Egypt, underlining its significance for both countries and the wider region.

“India-Egypt Strategic Partnership continues to grow from strength to strength for the benefit of our people, our shared region, and humanity,” PM Modi said in a post on X, emphasising the deepening ties. The discussions reflected a mutual commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors, including trade, technology, energy, defence, and people-to-people connections.

PM Modi thanked President Sisi for his leadership in advancing peace, signaling India’s support for regional stability.

Both leaders stressed the importance of sustained regional dialogue and collaboration to tackle common challenges, reinforcing the positive momentum in India-Egypt relations and their shared vision for peace and prosperity.

ECI ramps up crackdown on illegal cash and inducements ahead of Bihar Polls

New Delhi, Oct 17, (UNI) : The Election Commission of India convened a high-level meeting today at Nirvachan Sadan, bringing together top officials from various enforcement agencies to craft a robust strategy aimed at curbing the circulation of cash, drugs, liquor, and other inducements that threaten the integrity of the forthcoming Bihar Assembly elections, the Commission said in a press statement.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, emphasized the crucial need for proactive and preventive measures during the electoral process.

The session, organized under the Multi-Departmental Committee on Election Intelligence (MDCEI), included representatives from key agencies such as the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and

Customs (CBIC), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB), Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Indian Banks’ Association (IBA), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Railway Protection Force (RPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Border Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Airports Authority of India (AAI), and the Postal Department.

Senior officials from Bihar, including the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, State Police Nodal Officer, and Chief Electoral Officer, joined virtually. Agencies presented updates on their preparations and ongoing initiatives to prevent misuse of money and inducements that could distort the electoral process. The Commission stressed the importance of

enhanced cooperation and intelligence sharing across agencies to effectively combat economic offenses. Highlighting the need for seamless coordination, the ECI directed law enforcement bodies at national, state, and district levels to work in close collaboration.

A critical task involves mapping constituencies and monitoring the movement of smuggled goods, narcotics, liquor, cash, and counterfeit currency along inter-state and international borders.

Reaffirming its commitment to clean elections, the Commission reiterated a ‘zero-tolerance’ stance toward any activities that undermine the democratic process in Bihar. The message was clear: any attempts to compromise the election will face strict action. This concerted effort aims to protect the sanctity of Bihar’s elections and bolster public confidence in the democratic system amid a complex political environment.

Decadal GDP growth of NE region has been higher than country's average: Scindia

New Delhi, Oct 17 (UNI) : Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia today expressed pride over the progress made by the region in the past year, saying its decadal GDP growth has been higher than the country's average.

Scindia chaired a joint media briefing on the one-year achievements (August 2024 – September 2025) of the Ministry, Department of Posts (DoP), and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). Minister of State for Communications Dr Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Minister of State for Education and DoNER Dr Sukanta

on the three pillars of 'Reform, Reach, and Results', achieving record growth in infrastructure, investment, governance, and youth engagement.

“The Northeast today represents the spirit of a new India — empowered, connected, and future-ready. Guided by the Prime Minister’s vision, the region has transformed from a frontier into a front-runner, symbolising confidence and competitiveness,” he stated.

Elaborating on the high growth potential of the NE region, he noted that the decadal GDP growth of the region has been higher than the country's average. He highlighted the high

literacy rate and huge demographic dividend, with 70 per cent of the population below the age of 28 years.

“All these combine to make the region the growth engine of India in the true sense,” he said.

He highlighted that the Ministry achieved its highest-ever expenditure of Rs 3,447.71 crore in FY 2024-25, marking a 74.4 per cent increase over the previous year and more than 200 per cent growth in three years.

Lauding the performance, he noted that this reflects MDoNER’s emphasis on fiscal discipline, digital monitoring, and timely delivery.



GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai
e-mail - maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com
MMGPA, 1st Floor, Arogya Bhavan, St. Georges Hospital Compound, MUMBAI - 400 001.

TENDER NOTICE

Date :- 17.10.2025

Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai invites tender in two Envelope system from the eligible bidders for the following items for purchase of medicines.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Item(s)	Prebid Meeting	Period of sale, download & submission of bid	Bid Opening
1	E-226	Equipments for Blindness Program	Dt. 27.10.2025 At 12.00PM	Dt. 17-10-2025 at 5.00PM to Dt. 07-11-2025 Upto 02.00 PM.	Dt. 10-11-2025 at 02:00 PM.

1. For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

2. The Chief Executive Officer reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity to be purchased and also reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without giving any reason to.

For e-tendering help/ information, please contact.
Website:- <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
Email --- maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com



Signature/---
Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai



BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Chief Engineer (Mechanical & Electrical)’s Department

No.E.E.MECH/3621/REF//Dt. 16-10-2025

E-Tender Notice

Subjects : Comprehensive Servicing & Maintenance contract of Bluestar make IVRF units of 120 HP (32 indoor units) at Borivali Command Centre for Mumbai Fire Brigade at Borivali (West) for the period of one years. (T-61/25-26)

Bid Numbers	2025_MCGM_1231105_1
Bid Start Date & time	18-10-2025 at 11.00 a.m.
Bid End Date & time	27-10-2025 at 16.00 p.m.
Website	http://portal.www.mcgm.gov.in
Contact Officer Name	Shri A. K. Jambhore
Mobile No.	9930128387
Email	eemechref.me@mcgm.gov.in

PRO/1976/ADV/2025-26

Keep the terraces clean, remove odd articles/junk/scrap.

Sd/-
E.E. Mech. (Refrigeration)



A woman performs rituals on a cow during Govatsa Dwadashi (Vasu Baras), a religious festival that marks the beginning of Diwali celebrations, in Mumbai.

Congress gives 'Black Diwali' call as Uddhav demands loan waiver for farmers

Mumbai, Oct 17 (UNI): Senior Congress leader from Maharashtra Vijay Wadettiwar today issued a call to farmers hit by unseasonal rains and floods to celebrate a 'Black Diwali, even as Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray demanded that the Devendra Fadnavis government should give farmers financial assistance worth Rs 1 lakh and waive off all their loans.

Congress leader Vijay Vadettiwar attacked Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar for their "anti-farmer policies". "The help provided by the government to farmers affected by heavy rains is just a sham. Due to this deception, it is time for farmers to celebrate this year's Diwali as a 'Black Diwali' as a protest against this government. All farmers in Maharashtra should celebrate 'Black Diwali'. Everyone should turn off their lamps and

protest against this government. I appeal to everyone to take into account the plight of farmers," Wadettiwar said.

Talking to media persons here today, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray lashed out against the Fadnavis government and demanded complete loan waiver for disaster-hit farmers and demanded that the government must make an immediate deposit of Rs 1 lakh in the bank accounts of farmers' accounts before Diwali. "While I wish you all a happy Diwali, I remember the disaster-hit farmers of Maharashtra. Whether anyone else visits those disaster-hit farmers or not, Shiv Sena will remain with them at every step to ensure justice for them. This government is only cheating farmers and deceiving them. I have promised the farmers of Maharashtra that we will exert maximum pressure on this government until their debts are waived off

completely," Uddhav Thackeray said.

"Even though I am in Mumbai, I am in frequent contact with Shiv Sena office-bearers in Marathwada. Even though I will visit the place after Diwali, we need to see whether the farmers have received any help announced by the government at the taluka level or not. Also, our Shiv Sainiks have to do the work of providing them help.

Congress leader Vijay Vadettiwar displayed copies of two Government Resolutions (GRs) issued by the Fadnavis government to the public. In the GR issued on the October 9, the Fadnavis government mentioned concessions like land revenue exemption, loan restructuring, loan recovery moratorium and exam fee waiver for farmers affected by heavy rainfall. However, in the second GR issued on October 10, the mention of these concessions was omitted.

BJP MLA Shivaji Bhanudas Kardile passed away

Ahilyanagar, Oct 17 (UNI) ; Shivaji Bhanudas Kardile, Bharatiya Janata Party MLA and chairman of the Ahilyanagar Zilla Sahakari Bank, passed away on Friday at the age of 67 after a brief illness.

He was the sitting MLA representing the Nagar-Rahuri-Pathardi constituency in Maharashtra. Kardile reportedly experienced chest pain early in the morning. Though family members rushed him to a private hospital, he passed away before he could be admitted. A prominent political figure in Maharashtra, Kardile's journey began at the grassroots level as the sarpanch of Burhanagar village near Nagar Shahar.

Over the years, he rose through the political ranks, serving in various capacities and aligning with different political parties including the Congress, NCP, and later the BJP. In the early morning he complained of chest pain. Family members immediately admitted him to a private hospital but he died before getting admit. Shivajirao Kardile was the sitting BJP MLA from Rahuri assembly constituency. His political journey has been from Sarpanch of Burhanagar village near Nagar Shahra to MLA and former minister. He has worked for parties like Congress, NCP, BJP.

He contested the Lok Sabha elections from NCP, in which he was defeated. In 2014, Kardile contested the Assembly elections on a BJP ticket and won as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a public meeting in Rahuri to campaign for him.

Bengali actress falls prey to 'digital arrest', loses Rs 6.5 lakh

Mumbai, Oct 17 (UNI) : A popular Bengali TV actress who has worked in language serials as well as a few Hindi shows was allegedly duped of Rs 6.5 lakh after falling victim to cyber fraud by a scammer posing as a police officer from cyber cell of Delhi Police who placed her under a digital arrest for nearly seven hours. The actress recently arrived in Mumbai, police said.

Local Oshiwara police station has registered an offence under various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS) and Information Technology Act while the investigation is underway to trace the suspects, officials said

today. Police said the victim, who lives in Mumbai to pursue a career in Bollywood, received a WhatsApp video call from a man dressed in a police uniform. He introduced himself as an officer from the Delhi Police's cybercrime department, and told her that she was involved in multiple financial frauds and that her passport and bank accounts would be frozen.

He also sent her fake Supreme Court documents and legal notices, and directed her to follow the instructions heightening her fear.

During the video call, the man instructed her to sit alone, display her Aadhaar

card, and cooperate in what he described as a "verification process".

Under pressure, the actress was told to deposit Rs 6.5 lakh into a bank account for "temporary verification" to prove her innocence. The fraudster assured her that the money would be refunded once her identity was cleared. Believing the story, she made the transfer as directed. After the prolonged video call ended, the actress grew suspicious and checked the caller's number, which identified it as a potential scam. Realising she had been duped, she approached the Oshiwara police station and lodged a complaint.

72-year-old investor loses Rs 58 crore in digital arrest scam

Mumbai, Oct 17 (UNI) : A major cyber fraud investigation has uncovered that criminals used as many as 6,500 bank accounts across India to disperse Rs 58 crore stolen from a 72-year-old share trader in a sophisticated 'digital arrest' scam. According to police officials, the fraudsters swiftly dispersed the stolen funds across multiple accounts to evade detection and prevent authorities from blocking the transactions.

The extensive network of bank accounts used in the fraud was found to be spread across various parts of the country. Police have so far arrested seven individuals, including several account holders and their handlers involved in the money movement.

Investigators said the accused used innovative tactics, such as cheque withdrawals from multiple banks, to obscure the digital trail of transactions and make tracking the funds more difficult.

A senior official explained that after withdrawing money via cheques, the fraudsters would deposit the amounts into unlinked accounts within the same bank, making it difficult for authorities to trace the fund trail. This marks a significant evolution from earlier methods, where ATM withdrawals allowed identification through CCTV footage. The current approach of using bank transactions involving third-party services complicates identification

efforts as multiple people are typically present in banking halls simultaneously.

The 72-year-old victim first received calls from impersonators claiming to be Enforcement Directorate and CBI officials on August 19. The fraudsters informed him about "illegal funds" in his account and placed him under digital arrest, providing fabricated documents to establish their credibility as genuine officers. They then convinced the complainant and his wife to transfer funds to specified accounts for verification, promising refunds afterwards. Between August 19 and October 8, the couple transferred Rs 58.13 crore through RTGS to various bank accounts provided by the accused.

Next hearing of Rahul Gandhi-Savarkar defamation case to be held on Nov 7

Pune, Oct 17 (UNI) : The defence in the defamation case filed by Satyaki Savarkar, the great-grandnephew of freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, against the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, today requested a special MP/MLA court here to record the evidence submitted by the complainant Satyaki Savarkar until the time it could study the historical records in depth and file a comprehensive reply during the next hearing..

The case pertains to the alleged remarks made by Rahul Gandhi during an event of the Overseas Congress in London concerning Veer Savarkar.

During the hearing of the defamation case today, Judge Amol Shinde sought the response of the defence counsel for Rahul Gandhi regarding an application filed by complainant Satyaki Savarkar while referring to certain historical events.

In his application, he mentioned that Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse, however, despite the assassination, no social boycott was imposed upon Godse's family members. When the court sought the response of the defence counsel, Rahul Gandhi's lawyer Milind Pawar submitted that a close reading of the complainant's application shows that the complainant was indirectly justifying the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

evidence before filing a detailed reply.

Adv. Pawar further requested the Court to grant time for the defence to study the historical records in depth and to file a comprehensive reply.

He also requested that until such time, the complainant be directed to record his evidence. Therefore today chief examination of complainant Satyaki Savarkar was recorded and

adjourned for further chief examination.

The Court accepted the submission of Adv. Pawar and granted time to the defence to file their detailed statement.

The matter is now posted for further hearing on November 7.



पालघर नगरपरिषद, पालघर

सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग ई-निविदा सूचना (प्रथम)

मुख्याधिकारी पालघर नगरपरिषद, नागरी स्थानिक स्वराज्य संस्थांच्या परिक्षेत्रात अधिसूचित विशिष्ट नागरी सेवा व सुविधा पुरविणे अंतर्गत विकास कामासाठी शासनाकडील आवश्यक त्या वर्गातील नोंदणीकृत ठेकेदारांकडून/सेवा पुरवठादारांकडून ऑनलाईन पद्धतीने ई-निविदा मागविण्यांत येत आहे. ई-निविदा दाखल करण्याची मुदत दि. १८/१०/२०२५ पासून सुरु होत असून सविस्तर तपशिल शासनाच्या www.mahatenders.gov.in या संकेत स्थळावर उपलब्ध होईल.

जा. क्र. पानप/सा.बा./कार्या-४३०७/२०२५-२६
दि. १७/१०/२०२५

सही/-
मुख्याधिकारी
पालघर नगरपरिषद

पालघर नगरपरिषद, पालघर



प्रभाग समिती (एफ) पेलहार
ता. वसई, जि. पालघर,
पिन - ४०१ २०३.



दूरध्वनी : ०२५० - २४०२१७९/ २४०३२२४/ २४०२१०१
फॅक्स : ०२५०-२४०२५६३
ई-मेल : vasaivirarcorporation@yahoo.com

जावक क्र. : व.वि.श.म./नासो/बांध/११४८/२०२५-२६
दिनांक : १७/१०/२०२५

वसई-विरार शहर महानगरपालिका

प्रभाग समिती (ई)

बांधकाम विभाग

जाहीर निविदा सूचना (सन २०२५-२६)

वसई - विरार शहर महानगरपालिका प्रभाग समिती (ई) कार्यालयातील सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभागाकडील ०७ कामांकरीता योग्य त्या वर्गातील नोंदणीकृत व अनुज्ञाप्राप्त ठेकेदारांकडून निविदा मागविण्यात येत आहेत. सदर कामाचे कोरे निविदा फॉर्म दि. २४/१०/२०२५ ते दि. ०१/११/२०२५ पर्यंत दुपारी १.०० वाजेपर्यंत सुट्टीचे दिवसाखेरीज महानगरपालिकेच्या कार्यालयीन कामकाजाचे वेळेत प्रभाग समिती (ई) कार्यालय, १ ला मजला बांधकाम विभाग, वृंदावन गार्डन, नालासोपारा (प) येथे रोखीने विकत मिळतील. सदर कामी पूर्णपणे भरलेल्या मोहोरबंद निविदा दि. ०४/११/२०२५ रोजी दुपारी २.०० वाजेपर्यंत महानगरपालिकेच्या सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग, प्रभाग समिती (ई), नालासोपारा या कार्यालयात ठेवलेल्या सिलबंद निविदा पेटीत टाकण्यात याव्यात. प्राप्त निविदा शक्य झाल्यास दि. ०६/११/२५ रोजी दु.३.०१ मि. नंतर अथवा इतर सोयीच्या दिवशी उघडण्यात येतील.

सही /-

जावक क्र. व.वि.श.म./नासो/बांध/११४८/२०२५-२६

दिनांक : १७/१०/२०२५

उप आयुक्त

वसई - विरार शहर महानगरपालिका

He further pointed out that the contents of the application are based entirely on certain historical incidents and narratives, which require careful examination and verification of historical

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. VSKP-ELECTG-25-26-WC-26, Date : 13.10.2025

NAME OF THE WORK :
1) ELECTRIFICATION WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH "DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PASSENGER HALT AT ARAKU VALLEY" 2) DEVELOPMENT OF GOODS SHEDS WITH BASIC FACILITIES & POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES AT BACHELI.

Tender Value : ₹ 41,55,916.38, **Bid Security :** ₹ 83,100/-, **Completion Period:** 240 Days.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1330 Hrs. of 06.11.2025.

Date and Time of Opening of Tender : At 1600 Hrs. of 06.11.2025.

The Tender documents & Complete details will be available at website www.ireps.gov.in

The tenderers are required to watch the website for any corrigendum issued.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Gen.), PR-690/Q/25-26 Waltair



BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Ch. Eng. (S.O.) DEPARTMENT

e- TENDER NOTICE

The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai invites the following online tender. The tender copy can be download from MahaTender portal (<https://mahatenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>) under "e-Procurement" section.

Sr. No.	Description of work	Tender Reference No.	EMD in Rs.	Tender Fee Rs.	Tender due On
1.	Work of replacement and overhauling of electrical drive of pumpset no.206 at Dadar Pumping station.	2025_MCGM_1230045_1	8,500/-	1452/- + 18 % GST	27-10-2025 04.00 P.M.

For further details log on to <https://mahatenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

PRO/1962/ADV/2025-26

Fever? Act now, see you doctor for correct & complete treatment.

Sd/-

(P.A. Salgaonkar)

E.E. Eng. Mech. (Sew.) City-1, I/C

Ajit Pawar announces financial package for rain-hit Beed Farmers

Beed, Oct 17 (UNI) : The Maharashtra state government has approved a financial package of Rs 577 crore for farmers in Beed district who were affected by heavy rains and floods last month.

According to Ajit Pawar, the compensation amount will be deposited directly into the bank accounts of farmers who already possess valid identity cards. Farmers without completed documentation have been instructed to complete their e-KYC process immediately to avoid any delays in receiving the financial assistance.

The government has clarified that the funds will be transferred directly to farmers' accounts before or during Diwali. A Vijay Singh Pandit has requested all eligible farmers to complete their identification process promptly to ensure they receive the compensation promptly.

In September, the Beed district suffered extensive damage due to abnormal rainfall and water leakage from dams. During that period, Ajit Pawar personally visited the affected areas and assured farmers of adequate financial assistance. The approval of this Rs 577 crore package represents the government's fulfillment of that promise.

CHANGE OF NAME

- I have changed my old name Gokul Rampyare Gupta to new name Gokulprasad shrirampyare Gupta as per my Document.
- I have changed my old name Shraddha Gokul Gupta to new name Shraddha Gokulprasad Gupta.
- I have changed my old name Shanti Gokulprasad Gupta to new name Shantidevi Gokulprasad Gupta.

STANDARD POST

Delhi logs another ‘poor’ air day, experts say local factors at play

For the fourth consecutive day, Delhi’s air quality remained in the ‘poor’ category, with forecasts warning of a further dip to ‘very poor’ on Diwali day as traffic congestion and changing weather conditions worsened pollution levels.

Heavy traffic snarls across city roads ahead of Diwali festivities have aggravated the situation. Key junctions such as ITO, Moolchand Flyover, Akshardham Flyover, and the Delhi–Meerut Highway witnessed long hours of gridlock throughout the day.

At 4 p.m. on Friday, the Central Pollution Control Board’s daily Air Quality Index (AQI) bulletin recorded a reading of 254, up from 245 on Thursday, 233 on Wednesday, and 211 on Tuesday.

Experts attribute the declining air quality to a combination of adverse weather and local pollution sources, including vehicular emissions, road dust, and smoke carried by south and southwesterly winds.

“After the withdrawal of monsoon, cold and dry winds start blowing from the west and northwest,” said Mahesh Palawat, Vice President–Meteorology at Skymet Weather. “During the night, winds remain largely calm, which causes pollutants to accumulate near the surface, worsening the air quality index.”

Palawat added that the situation is likely to deteriorate further as the festival approaches. “As we approach Deepavali, a gradual rise in firecracker burning is expected. Unfortunately, the wind systems aren’t strong enough to disperse pollutants, so the trend of poor air quality is likely to continue over the next few days,” he said, predicting the presence of smog in the early morning hours on the eve of Diwali and for 24–48 hours afterward.

According to Palawat, local pollution sources will dominate this year’s air quality trends. “Local pollution—from vehicles, road dust, and other urban sources—will play a major role this year. Stubble burning, however, is unlikely to be a significant factor since the winds are blowing from the west. That means smoke from Punjab, north Haryana, and Pakistan won’t reach Delhi this time,” he noted.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Traffic Police said it had deployed additional personnel and special drives to manage traffic during the festive rush. “We have deployed our maximum staff. Motorcycles are patrolling, and officers are continuously monitoring the field,” said Dinesh K. Gupta, Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic).

“We’re removing vehicles parked on roads, issuing challans through our app, and have prepared area-specific traffic plans for Lajpat Nagar, Sarojini Nagar, and Connaught Place. Special drives are also being conducted to check drunken driving, with teams using alcohol meters in coordination with local police,” he added.

Celebrate the Festival of Lights Without Harming Your Sight

(Standard Post Bureau)

Diwali, the festival of lights, brings joy, celebration, and togetherness. But amidst the festive sparkle, it also brings a surge in eye injuries and vision-related emergencies. Every year, hospitals across India witness a significant rise in patients reporting eye burns, foreign body injuries, infections, and allergic reactions due to firecrackers and smoke exposure. As we prepare to celebrate the festival, it’s vital to remember that our eyes — one of the most delicate and precious organs — need special protection during this season of lights.

Firecrackers, though synonymous with Diwali celebrations, are the most common cause of eye injuries during this time. Sparklers, rockets, fountains, and bombs can cause burns, corneal abrasions, and even globe rupture if they burst too close to the face. Flying debris, chemical particles, and smoke further irritate the eyes, leading to redness, watering, and itching. Even those who do not directly participate

in lighting crackers — including bystanders and children — are often caught unawares and suffer injuries.

Those wearing spectacles are at risk of the spectacle glass breaking into pieces, which enter the eye, and aggravate the nature of injuries.

The nature of these injuries is often sight threatening. A young population suffering vision loss due to such injuries could mean a prolonged, and even lifelong inability to be a productive member of the society, and suffer loss of capacity to earn livelihood for themselves and family.

The problem is not limited to fireworks. Air pollution levels spike dramatically after Diwali, with particulate matter and toxic gases such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide causing dryness, irritation, and allergic conjunctivitis. Those who already have dry eyes, contact lens users, or people recovering from eye surgery are especially vulnerable.

Precaution is the Best Protection



Dr. Mahipal Singh Sachdev, Chairman and Managing Director, Centre for Sight Group of Eye Hospitals

The key to a safe Diwali is precaution. Here are some essential tips to protect your eyes and those of your loved ones during the festivities:

1. Maintain a Safe Distance: Always light fireworks from a safe distance and never bend over them. Children should only handle low-intensity sparklers under

close adult supervision.

2. Avoid Rubbing Your Eyes: If smoke or particles enter your eyes, avoid rubbing them as it may worsen the injury. Instead, gently rinse with clean water or saline solution.

3. Be Cautious with Contact Lenses: Contact lens users should avoid

wearing lenses while bursting crackers as heat and smoke can cause discomfort and dryness.

4. Stay Indoors During Peak Pollution Hours: Post-celebration smoke lingers in the air, so keeping windows closed and using air purifiers indoors can help reduce irritation.

5. First Aid for Eye Injuries: In case of an eye burn or foreign body injury, wash your eyes with clean water and seek immediate medical attention. Do not apply ointments or home remedies without consulting an ophthalmologist.

However, if a more severe injury is suspected, DO NOT try to force open the eye, and DO NOT put any water or eye drops/ ointments in the eye. Such act can aggravate the injury. Immediately consult an eye specialist.

Children are particularly vulnerable during Diwali as their curiosity often outweighs caution. Teach them basic firecracker safety — to never relight used fireworks, to wear cotton

clothes instead of synthetic ones, and to always light crackers in open spaces. Emphasizing the importance of distance and supervision can prevent life-changing accidents.

Diwali is about illumination and happiness, not noise or pollution. Opting for eco-friendly crackers or celebrating with lights, diyas, and family gatherings instead of fireworks can make the festival more meaningful and safer for everyone. This not only reduces the risk of injuries but also contributes to cleaner air and a healthier environment.

Eyes are irreplaceable, and even a small injury can have long-term consequences. By exercising caution and awareness, we can ensure that the festival of lights remains a time of joy and not regret. Let’s pledge to celebrate a safe and responsible Diwali—one that shines bright with happiness and good health, not fire hazards or pollution.

Wishing everyone a safe, joyous, and sparkling Diwali!

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Dedicates To The Nation



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Oct 17 : Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology, ShriAshwini 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. MrAshwini Vaishnaw dedicated passenger amenities works completed at 65 railway stations across Rajasthan—including stations such as Ramsar, Siwani, Luni, Pirthvirajpurand BhagatkiKothi—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 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, 1 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.

C. Ravinder Reddy Elected as President of All India Federation of Master Printers

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Oct 17 : Mr. C. Ravinder Reddy, CEO of Sravya Graphics, a leading printing press in Hyderabad, has been elected as the President of the All India Federation of Master Printers (AIFMP) for the year 2025–2026.

The election took place during the 72nd Annual General Body Meeting of the Federation, held at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on Monday.

Mr. Ravinder Reddy currently serves as the President of the Telangana Offset Printers Association (TOPA), Hyderabad. He has also served the AIFMP as its General Secretary during 2021–22. In addition to his leadership in the printing industry, Mr. Reddy is the Printer and Publisher of Public Relations Voice, the only journal in India dedicated exclusively to the public relations profession, originally founded by the late Dr. C. V. Narasimha Reddi.



Established in 1953, the All India Federation of Master Printers (AIFMP) is the apex body representing over 2.5 lakh printers across India, employing approximately 15 lakh persons directly and 10 lakh persons indirectly. The Federation draws its strength from 76 regional associations affiliated across the country, serving as the collective voice of India’s printing industry.

Congress demands ban on RSS-ABVP in educational institutions, condemns BJP leaders for defending accused activists

New Delhi, Oct 17 (UNI) : The Congress party today called for a ban on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh(RSS) and its student wing, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, in educational institutions, accusing them of promoting a divisive ideology. The demand comes amid allegations against ABVP activists for attempting to film girl students while changing costumes at a government college in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh.

At a press conference addressed by Congress leaders Alka Lamba and Varun Choudhary, the National Students’ union of

India(NSUI) President, the party criticized BJP leaders for defending the accused ABVP activists.

"It is shameful that BJP leaders are defending those who tried to violate the dignity of young girls," said Alka Lamba.

"We will not allow the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh to let these activists go scot-free. The dignity and honour of our girls cannot be compromised." She further referenced a recent reported sexual assault case at South Asian University in Delhi, demanding accountability from Home Minister Amit Shah and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

Varun Choudhary demanded a strict crackdown, stating, "RSS and ABVP must be banned from educational institutions as they spread a divisive and harmful ideology. Additionally, Deepika Jha, an ABVP leader and DUSU joint secretary, should be rusticated for physically assaulting a professor at a Delhi University-affiliated college."

Highlighting wider concerns, Choudhary cited a tragic incident in Kerala where an IT professional committed suicide after revealing years of sexual exploitation within RSS shakhas and training camps.

Hot spring worker missing in suspected bear attack in northeastern Japan

Tokyo, Oct. 17 (UNI) ; A worker at a hot spring facility in the northeastern Japan prefecture of Iwate has gone missing following a suspected bear attack, local media reported.

At around 11:15 a.m. local time on Thursday, the Iwate prefectural police were alerted by the facility, located in Waga district in the city of Kitakami, that a 60-year-old male employee had gone missing while cleaning an open-air bath, Jiji Press reported.

What appeared to be blood stains were found on a rock near the entrance of the outdoor bath area and under nearby fences, the report said.

The police also discovered a pair of glasses belonging to the missing employee, a single sandal and cleaning tools scattered near the fences, as well as strands of hair believed to be from an animal.

The police believe that the man was attacked and dragged away by a bear, the report said.

Officials from the Ministry of the Environment said Wednesday that the number of people killed by bear attacks in Japan from April to early this month totaled seven, surpassing the six recorded last fiscal year and marking a record high since records began in fiscal 2006.People in northeastern Japan are on alert after a series of bear attacks, with experts warning attacks tend to surge in autumn before bears hibernate. Low yields of beech nuts in northeastern regions could drive more bears into residential areas.

5 hospitalised following chemical leaks at post offices

Sydney, Oct. 17 (UNI) : Five people have been hospitalised after being exposed to an unidentified chemical at two post offices in the northeastern Australian state of Queensland on Friday.

Emergency services were called to reports of fumes and an odor at an Australia Post location in the rural town of Charters Towers, over 1,000 km northwest of Brisbane, shortly after 6:30 a.m. on Friday.

Four people were treated at the scene by ambulance paramedics before being taken to hospital in stable conditions.

A short time later, paramedics were sent to reports of an unknown fluid leaking from a package at a second Australia Post location in the city of Townsville, 105 km north of Charters Towers.

The Townsville location was evacuated, and one person was taken to hospital for monitoring.A spokesperson for the Queensland Fire Department (QFD) told News Corp Australia newspapers that the incident was centered around a package that had been transported between the two locations.

QFD scientific crews have been deployed to both locations to conduct urgent testing to identify the type of chemical involved.The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that police were awaiting test results before starting an investigation.

Former Japan PM Tomiichi Murayama dies

Tokyo, Oct. 17 (UNI) : Former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who served as leader of the country in the mid-1990s, passed away in his hometown Oita, at the age of 101, Kyodo News reported.Born on March 3, 1924, in Oita Prefecture, Murayama became chairman of the Japan Socialist Party in 1993 and served as prime minister from June 1994 through January 1996.

On Aug. 15, 1995, Murayama issued a cabinet-endorsed statement in his name to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, which declared that "Japan, following a mistaken national policy, advanced along the road to war... and, through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations."

The Murayama Statement also expressed "deep remorse" and offered a "heartfelt apology," using unprecedented language to apologise for Japan's wartime actions, which was widely recognised by the international community.

Murayama retired from politics in 2000 and continued to devote himself to the cause of peace.

On Aug. 15, 2020, the 25th anniversary of his statement, Murayama stressed the importance of acknowledging history, expressed apology and resolve to refrain from aggression and colonial rule again, and expected the Murayama Statement to continue to contribute to reconciliation, peace and development in Japan, Asia and the world in the future.

‘Tehran expects to resolve gas supplies issue from Russia’

Moscow, Oct 17 (UNI/SPUTNIK) : Tehran expects to resolve the issue of Russian natural gas supplies soon, Iranian Deputy Petroleum Minister Omid Shakeri told Sputnik on the sidelines of the Russian Energy Week.

"We are currently discussing this issue. I hope we will reach a result soon. We are currently holding talks," he said when asked whether Tehran and Moscow had reached an agreement on the price of Russian gas to be supplied to Iran.

Earlier, Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali, as reported by the Tasnim news agency, said that all issues, except for the price, had been resolved. According to him, deliveries should begin within a few months. RIA Novosti is an information partner of the 2025 Russian Energy Week, which is taking place in Moscow on October.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya during her official visit to India, in New Delhi on Friday.

Hamas leadership calls mediators to follow up with second phase of ceasefire deal

Gaza City, Oct 17 (UNI) : Hamas personnel called on the mediating parties on Friday, and urged them to begin the implementation of the remaining steps of the US-brokered ceasefire agreement with Israel, which ended the two year long war in Gaza.

The Palestinian terror group said in a statement that there was a need to complete the formation of a community support committee, which could oversee the administration of the war-torn Strip.

However, the Islamic terror group's demand comes amid its continued delays in repatriating the remains of all the deceased hostages, hindering a follow up on the deal, as Israel has warned the terror

group of military retaliation should it not return the deceased hostages- as agreed.

Hamas officials have claimed that they have returned all those they could, and can't do any more as it does not know where the remains are, given the massive rubble in the Strip, though some Israeli security officials have disputed the claim and believe that the terror group knows where most of the bodies are, and are purposefully not returning them.

Hamas's executions against those it accused of collaborating with Israel have also led many third party observers to believe that terrorist organisation has no willingness to give

up its administrative powers in Gaza and disarm, two other terms of the agreement.

While not destroyed nor militarily crippled, Hamas' power has greatly waned post the two-year long IDF onslaught.

As such, Hamas fighters are reportedly sending their members back into the streets of Gaza since the ceasefire began on Friday, moving cautiously in case it suddenly collapses, as per the Jerusalem Post.US President Trump has also threatened retaliation, and wrote in a Truth Social Post on Thursday that "if Hamas continues to kill people in Gaza, which was not the Deal, we will have no choice but to go in and kill them."

Chinese politburo expels top two military officials from party ranks

Beijing, Oct 17 (UNI) : The Chinese Communist Party has expelled two of the PLA's top ranking officers from its ranks, and the military has placed them, along with seven others under investigation for "serious violations of discipline and law", the Chinese Defence Ministry said on Oct 17.

He Weidong, China's second highest ranking general, and Miao Hua, the Chinese army's top political officer, are the most senior military officials to be purged as part of an anti-corruption campaign.

Both men were part of the six-member Central Military Commission,

China's top military command body, until Miao was removed in June.

He Weidong, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) and a member of the 24-man Politburo, was expelled from the Communist Party and the army, the Defence Ministry said.

He is the first serving member of the present Politburo, the Communist Party's top decision-making body, to face such an investigation.

Miao Hua, former member of the CMC in charge of the military's political, ideology and personnel work, was

likewise expelled for "serious violations of discipline and law," the ministry said.

Seven others along with He and Miao were found culpable in high levels of corruption and expelled, and are currently under investigation.

The roster includes: He Hongjun, Miao's deputy and former executive; and Wang Xiubin, former executive deputy director of the CMC Joint Operations Command Centre, Lin Xiangyang, former commander of the Eastern Theatre Command; Qin Shutong, former political commissar of the army; Yuan Huazhi, former

Israeli airstrikes kill 1, wound 7 in Lebanon: Health authorities

Beirut, Oct. 17 (UNI) : One person was killed and seven others were wounded on Thursday in a series of Israeli airstrikes on Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon, the Health Ministry's Emergency Operations Center said.The center said in a statement that one person was killed in the eastern town of Shmustar, one injured in Bna'foul in the Sidon district, and six wounded in Ansar in the Nabatieh district.The official National News Agency (NNA) reported that Israel launched an

airstrike around 9 p.m. local time (1800 GMT), hitting a concrete mixing plant and a quarry in Wadi Basfour, between the villages of Ansar, Sinay, and Basfour in southern Lebanon.

A Lebanese Army Intelligence source told Xinhua that the Israeli Air Force carried out 31 strikes targeting Hezbollah positions in southern and eastern Lebanon, without giving further details.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun condemned the attacks, saying the repeated Israeli strikes were part of a systematic policy

aimed at destroying productive infrastructure, undermining economic recovery, and destabilizing the country under "false security pretexts."A U.S.- and French-brokered ceasefire has largely held between Israel and Hezbollah since Nov. 27, 2024, ending months of cross-border clashes linked to the Gaza war that began in October 2023.Israel, however, continues to launch periodic strikes in Lebanon, saying they target Hezbollah threats, while maintaining forces at five main positions along the border.

Michael Randrianirina sworn in as Madagascar's president

Antananarivo, Oct. 17 (UNI) Michael Randrianirina, a Malagasy military officer, was sworn in on Friday as the president of Madagascar in the capital here.

"Before God, the nation, and the people, I do solemnly swear to faithfully fulfill my duties as the Head of State of Madagascar," Randrianirina said at the country's Constitutional High Court.On Tuesday, Randrianirina announced that state power in Madagascar has been taken over, noting that the decision followed "the observation of non-compliance with the Constitution and the flouting of human rights."

China renews alerts for rainstorms, strong winds

Beijing, Oct. 17 (UNI) : China's National Meteorological Center (NMC) on Friday renewed alerts for rainstorms and strong winds in some parts of the country.From 8 a.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Saturday, heavy rains are forecast to hit parts of Chongqing, Hubei, Henan, Shandong, Anhui, Jiangsu, Hunan and Guizhou, the center said.

It noted that some parts of these regions could experience heavy rainfall, with hourly precipitation highs exceeding 50 millimeters, accompanied by thunderstorms and gales.Local governments have been urged to make appropriate preparations and fulfill their related responsibilities accordingly.

The NMC also renewed a blue alert for strong winds, warning that from 8 a.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Saturday, strong winds are expected in parts of Xinjiang Uygur

Autonomous Region, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and provinces of Qinghai, Liaoning, Shandong, Henan, Anhui, Jiangsu and Sichuan.

From 8 a.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Saturday, gales are expected to sweep parts of the Bohai Sea, the Yellow Sea, the Taiwan Strait, the Bashi Channel and the South China Sea, according to the NMC.

The NMC has issued a reminder for all ships and personnel navigating and operating in sea areas affected by the strong winds, urging them to promptly return to ports for safety. Relevant departments have been called upon to prevent fires in forests, grasslands and urban areas, as well as ensure transport security.

China has a four-tier, color-coded weather warning system, with red representing the most severe warning, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

TTP forces kill seven Pakistani officers

Miranshah, Oct 17 (UNI) : Seven Pakistani soldiers were killed and 13 others injured in a 'coordinated suicide attack' on an army camp in Mir Ali, near the Afghan border, officials confirmed on Friday.

According to police investigation, the assault began when a suicide car bomber linked to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into the compound. The blast triggered a fierce gunfight in which three TTP fighters were killed.

The resultant suicide explosion caused significant damage to nearby homes, and videos from the scene showed thick black smoke billowing into the air, charring some of the nearby ground.

The TTP formally claimed responsibility of the attack, confirming that its Khalid bin Waleed suicide unit and Tehreek Taliban Gulbahadar carried out the attacks.

The attack comes in wake of a very fragile 48 hour truce along the Durand Line between the Pakistan military and the Afghan Taliban, following a week of intense cross-border clashes, killing dozens of fighters on both sides of the border.

The ceasefire, agreed upon on Wednesday evening, was reached at the request of the Afghan Taliban, Pakistan's Foreign Office claimed.

According to Islamabad, the Pakistan Army deployed attack helicopters and paramilitary as heavy clashes continued in the area.

Security officials describing the recent attack as being one of the most serious armed offensives by militant groups in North Waziristan in the past few months, underscoring the ever-growing security threat along the volatile frontier.

The TTP has been an active security threat in the frontier regions, being heavily active in the frontier regions of the country, particularly entrenched in KPK, and has carried out numerous deadly attacks on security forces in the last few years.

In a separate incident, a powerful explosion shook the Mamund Tangi Shah area of Bajaur, reportedly caused by a roadside vehicle packed with explosives.

No casualties have been confirmed, and security forces have sealed off the site to investigate any possible TTP or related separatist connections.

Original KISS lead guitarist 'Spaceman' Ace Frehley dies aged 74

Los Angeles, Oct 17 (UNI) : Rock icon and original KISS guitarist Ace Frehley passed away. The rock icon was aged 74, and reportedly died after suffering grievous injuries from a fall at his home.

Earlier this month, Frehley had cancelled his remaining 2025 tour dates, citing unspecified "ongoing medical issues" related to that accident. It was later reported that the rock veteran had suffered a brain bleed earlier today, and was on life support.

"We are completely devastated and heartbroken," his family

said in a statement. "In his last moments, we were fortunate enough to have been able to surround him with loving, caring, peaceful words, thoughts, prayers and intentions as he left this earth.

"We cherish all of his finest memories, his laughter, and celebrate his strengths and kindness that he bestowed upon others. The magnitude of his passing is of epic proportions, and beyond comprehension. Reflecting on all of his incredible life achievements, Ace's memory will continue to live on forever!"Born Paul

Daniel Frehley in New York City in 1951, he co-founded Kiss in 1973 with singer Paul Stanley, bassist and part-time singer Gene Simmons and drummer Peter Criss.

Best known as the 'Spaceman' of the iconic face paint-donning '70s hard rock group, Frehley was known for his simplistic, sloppy, but flashy, and creative chops, with his legacy as a self-taught guitarist inspiring many to pick up the instrument.

Extending their condolences, Stanley and Simmons said in a joint statement that they were "devastated". "He was an

essential and irreplaceable rock soldier during some of the most formative foundational chapters of the band and its history. He is and will always be a part of Kiss's legacy," they said, paying tribute to "all those who loved him, including our fans around the world".

Criss wrote on X: "I'm shocked!!! My friend ... I love you!"Frehley – known for his standard rock'n roll melodies – was instrumental in crafting the group's signature sound, writing many of the hooks, solos, and riffs, from their eponymous debut in 1973 to their sixth album 'Love Gun' in 1977.

Healthy, wealthy and wise!



Fit, successful and beautiful! Are you worth the effort it takes to achieve it? Of course you are

Believe in the power of laughter

Having a good giggle lowers stress levels, inducing a feel-good factor no drugs could ever supply. Adults with a sense of humor live longer than those who don't get the joke. When you're feeling down, slot a comedy into your DVD player, curl up with a funny book or get in touch with the perpetual joker among your family and friends.

Believe in the power of regular exercise

Make exercise a regular feature of your health regime. Exercise releases "happy endorphins" in our brains, which boost our mood; it keeps sickness at bay generally and increases our concentration.

Make time to breathe and meditate

Meditation may not allow you to do "that thing gurus do when they levitate" but studies have shown that it will allow you to decrease your insomnia by 42% and loosen you up with just three deep breaths whenever stress threatens to spoil your day. Meditation is also known to reduce gray matter in the amygdala, the part of our body where anxiety and emotions are regulated.

Consume enough water

Staying rehydrated energizes our bodies, flushes out toxins and helps our bodies to perform at their best.

Drink at least 2 litres of water or liquid a day, restricting coffee, soda and tea consumption to 3 cups per day. If you feel your brain is foggy and tired at work, that's because you haven't had enough water.

Fuel up with food

Food is fuel for our bodies. Treat your body like a temple and consume only whole, clean and natural food stuffs. Eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables a day and keep red meat consumption to a minimum. Develop a healthy attitude to eating and food in general.

Don't avoid entire food groups

Avoid food fads, diets that tell you to cut out whole food groups and eat only protein or carbs or drink nothing but cabbage soup. Only a balanced diet will keep your body working at maximum potential.

Work with your body, not against it

All those disgustingly healthy people you've met so far have one thing in common: they listen when their body tells them something important. They don't work against their

bodies, but with them. Put aside your knife and fork, when you're full; say "no" to colleagues or boss, when you're inundated with work already; take the pain in your legs or back or arms seriously when you're in the gym and stop pushing yourself too hard.

Go out and get some fresh air

Don't be a hermit and stay indoors all the time. Go out for a brisk walk at lunchtime, soak up sunshine, and breathe in fresh air. You'll be amazed how much better you'll be able to perform whatever task lies ahead, including weekend fun and socializing.

Get enough sleep

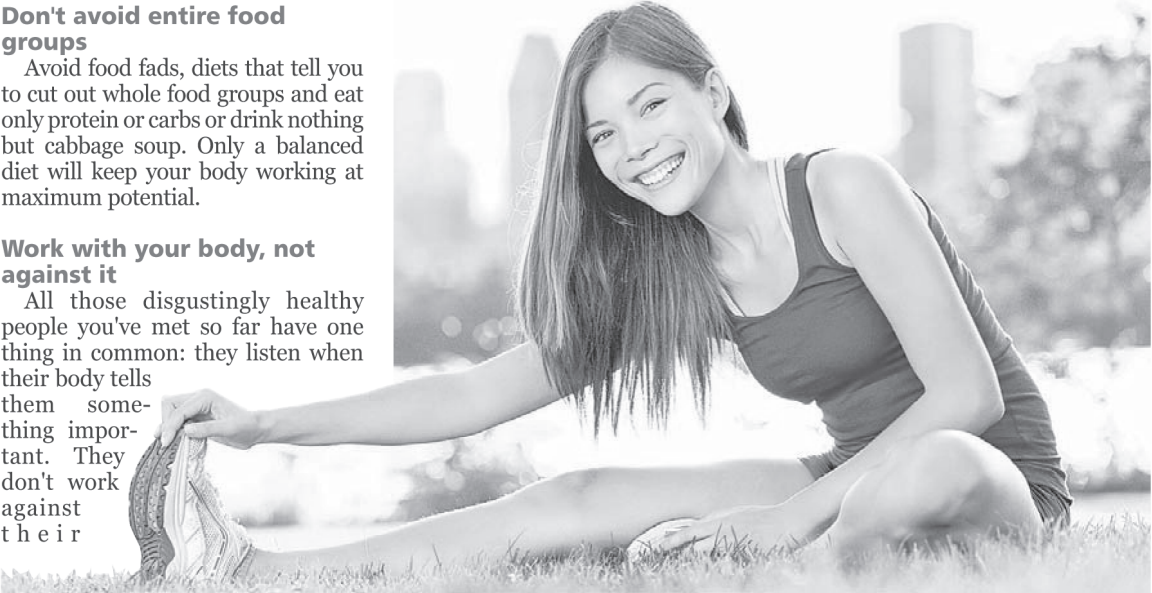
Insufficient sleep can raise our blood pressure, cause memory loss

and lack of concentration. And there's the whole issue of unsightly bags under your eyes. To stay healthy you'll need a minimum of 7 hours sleep every night.

Strive for a 80/20 balance

Any health regime that requires 100% commitment, 100% of the time will get boring and irritating over time. Follow the 80/20 principle and you'll be able to sustain a healthy lifestyle that has the occasional treat built in. Meaning 80% of the time you're eating clean, healthy food as recommended by your doctor, and 20% of the time you can stuff your face with whatever takes you're fancy. As long as it's an occasional indulgence, you won't come to any harm.

(With inputs from Lauren Chadwick for allwomenstalk)



Sugar splurges? Beat, kill and conquer!

Feel like hogging on sweets day and night? Energy tends to slump without it? Well, listed here are few ways you can adopt to resist the lure once and for all

Stop eating so many sweets

What? How is that going to help? This might surprise you, but research shows that eating sweet foods drives the craving for more of them. When you cut back on the number of sweets you eat, you'll begin to crave them less. This isn't easy and will take a bit of willpower

Eat a tablespoon of coconut oil

Here's something that may stop a craving instantly. Eating a bit of coconut oil can make a sugar craving disappear. Add a bit of raw cacao powder to give it an appealing taste. Coconut oil contains a certain type of fatty acids that your body converts to energy quickly, much like sugar.

Have a piece of fresh fruit

Really? The last thing any one would want when there are brownies is an apple. However, nibbling on a piece of fruit easily satisfies a sweets craving with far fewer calories and no fat. Try berries, grapes or anything your heart desires. Go ahead and splurge on dessert now and then, but for everyday sugar cravings, beat them with fresh fruits.

Stop eating diet sweets

You might feel like you're doing something virtuous for your body by choosing sugar-free treats like diet soda or candy.

However, what happens when you eat them is that your body expects sugar and when it doesn't get what it thinks is coming, you start to crave more sweet stuff. Skip the diet foods.

Try a real meal instead

Next time you get an intense sugar craving; make yourself a meal instead of eating the cheesecakes. Not only does this give you the opportunity to fill your body with energising foods, but you also get some vitamins and minerals at the same time. Eat something with a healthy mix of protein, carbs and fat and you may find that you don't want the sugary junk anymore.



Keep the sugar out of your house and office

Stop bringing home sugary things and you'll be more likely to get through a sugar craving without giving in. Keep junk out of your office too. When one has to go to the store to get the sugar fixed makes it a whole lot less appealing.

Do something to distract yourself

When you find yourself dying for a slice of cake or a can of soft drink, do something else to keep your mind off the craving.

Theme it the food way!

Do you love experimenting, hogging on new delicacies everyday? Or perhaps you are a chef or a cook who just really loves delicious, fresh food; if any of these details describe you, a foodie themed wedding is the perfect fit for you and your spouse-to-be!

Foodie themed wedding invitation

Not only is this invitation suite perfect for your foodie themed wedding, but it would also be perfect for your fall apple decor wedding. If you are serving farm fresh ingredients, or just love food, this adorable collection will show your guests the charming details of what's to be expected on your wedding day.



Foodie themed wedding decor

How cute is this wagon display idea for your foodie themed wedding. Perhaps you grew up on a farm, met each other at a farmer's market, or you started to grow your own little garden full of carrots, tomatoes, eggplant, and more; couldn't you just picture foodie themed decor like this at your big day.



Foodie themed wedding centerpiece

Is that asparagus I see being used in the centerpiece? Why yes it is! What a creative idea to take a stalk vegetable and tie it around a votive candle for a foodie themed wedding centerpiece, it's simple yet it makes such a big statement to really show your love for fresh food.

Foodie themed escort cards

What's a foodie themed wedding without a barbecue sauce escort card to send your guests home with! Of course this has to be a homemade barbecue sauce since you are a foodie after all. The printed tags and the little barbecue grill stamped on them, the bag included with the escort card tag is a homemade spice rub. Won't your guests just fall in love with you all over again when they get to use this sauce and rub at home, tell them not to forget to invite the new bride

and groom over for dinner!

Foodie themed wedding bar

Are you celebrating a small brunch wedding with just a few close family members and friends? Well why not set up a pancake bar full of fresh fruit and fresh orange juice for your foodie themed wedding brunch that everyone will drool over, especially

when you offer them fresh coffee as well! Pancakes are such a wonderful comfort food that just about everyone loves, so bring that warm, cozy feeling to your foodie big day and watch your guests go home with hearts and stomachs full of happiness!

Foodie themed wedding table

When think of a foodie

themed wedding and a bride and groom who love food, picture a family style set up for the reception tables. A family style dinner is when the food is brought out in big bowls and serving platters and everyone passes it along to be shared. It's a great way to really appreciate not only the food, but the loved ones you are enjoying the meal with.

You don't have to be a chef to have a foodie themed wedding or even be someone who is an expert cook. A foodie themed wedding can be for any couple, who loves these foodie ideas, loves fresh food and ingredients, loves travelling and experiencing new foods, and loves creating fun recipes for their friends and family to try. A foodie themed wedding can be centred on a farmer's market, a backyard barbecue, a brunch full of fresh fruits and pancakes, or anything about food that you love.

Oh! He is unKNOWN!



Our moms always told us not to talk to strangers when we were kids and of course, it was a good advice for reasons best known to all, but sometimes talking to the unfamiliar can actually put you in good stead

Time flies faster

Having to wait in line or commuting to work can be a real bore. Sparking up a conversation with a person near you can make the time fly faster. It's like having real-life Facebook updates! And don't worry! You aren't committed to ever speaking to that person again, so if the conversation goes poorly, no biggie! At least you'll have a fun story to tell your friends.

A great way to

improve your social skills

Talking to strangers is a great opportunity to perfect two essential social skills-asking questions and being a good listener. When interacting with someone, many of us end up too focussed speaking ourselves, pretty much ignoring what the other has to say.

You never know who you might meet

The person next to you

on the bus or the one you start a conversation with when walking your dog might one day become your best friend or spouse. Or they may be the one to finally offer you the job of your dreams. In today's world, who you know is often what matters, not what you know - so the random stranger you talk to on your way to work could become your greatest asset.

New perspectives

There is always someone

out there who'll know more about a topic than you do, and listening to their perspective can completely change your views on that subject, expanding your horizons.

Taking a chance and interacting with people you don't know can really change your life - and theirs - for the better.



Wake up healthy!

Who wants to feel groggy and tired all day? Here are few ways that will give a lively start to your day

Drink water as soon as you wake up: It will not only make you feel great on the outside it will make you feel great on the inside! It will prepare your digestive system and hydrate you!

Eat a healthy breakfast: Eating breakfast in the morning is great for your health. By filling your tummy with some eggs or some fruit or even oat meal with yogurt it will give you energy that is badly needed to start the day.

Drink warm water with lemon: This is a great alternative if you are a coffee or tea lover in the mornings. This drink will boost your metabolism making you burn more calories throughout the day, give you energy.

Do yoga: Doing yoga is a great thing to do in the morn-

ing. It will stretch muscles and make you feel great! Accomplishing something like a yoga class or stretches will make you feel on top of the world!

Be exposed to morning sunlight: Being exposed to sunlight in the morning will remind your body that it's time to wake up. It will brighten your room and it will make you feel calm and ready to start the day! So at night why don't you just leave your curtains open a crack?

Exercise: Exercising will boost your metabolism and give you heaps of energy! Who doesn't want that!?

Tanvi Sharma becomes first Indian female in 17 years to be assured of a medal

Guwahati, Oct 17 (UNI) : Tanvi Sharma became the first Indian female player to be assured of a BWF World Junior Championships medal in 17 years when she fought back from a game down to beat Japan's Saki Matsumoto and reach the girls singles semifinals at the National Centre of Excellence here on Friday.

The 16-year-old kept her nerves under pressure and found winners with her cross-court slice hits to beat Matsumoto 13-15, 15-9, 15-10 in a 47-minute quarterfinal clash that kept the spectators on edge.

The last Indian female player to win a world junior medal was Saina Nehwal, who bagged the gold medal in the 2008 edition in Pune. Saina, who had also won a silver medal in 2006 and Aparna Popat (1996 silver) are the only other Indian female players to stand on the podium in the history of the competition.

Top-seeded Tanvi, who had also bagged a bronze medal in the Badminton Asia Junior Championships earlier this year, began aggressively and looked like she was in control as she opened up a 10-6 lead. But a flurry of errors allowed Matsumoto to stage a comeback as the Japanese won seven straight points to take the lead. The Indian managed to stem the run but could not avoid losing the game.

The US Open finalist was much more comfortable with her shot selection in the second game and raced through to a 15-9 win. However, errors once again pegged her back at the start of the third game and it was clear that the top seed was under pressure as the players changed ends with the Indian trailing 5-8.

Those nerves definitely settled as she clinched four straight points to take the lead at 9-8 and then used her flat tosses and cross smashes to outplay her opponent.

“It is difficult to play

against Matsumoto as she slows down the game. So, I knew that I had to be aggressive. I am happy that I am assured of a medal,” said Tanvi, who will now face China's Liu Si Ya.

The Chinese defeated Sri Lanka's Ranithma Liyanage 15-9, 15-6 in the other quarterfinals. However, India's hopes of another medal in girls singles were dashed when eighth seed Unnati Hooda went down 15-12, 15-13 against second seed Anyapat Phichitprechasak of Thailand. Unnati clearly struggled with her front-court movement and though the Indian fought for every point in the 32-minute battle, she was repeatedly caught by Anyapat with her quick cross drops and smashes.

In the boys' singles quarterfinals, Gnana Dattu put up a strong fight against third seed Liu Yang Ming Yu of China but his spirited effort was not enough to avoid a 15-11, 15-13 loss. The mixed doubles combination of Bhavya Chhabra and Vishakha Toppo also fell short in the quarterfinals against Chinese Taipei's Hung Bing Fu and Chou Yun An 15-9, 15-7.

Results (as of 5.30 PM):

Boys singles:

1-Mohd. Zaki Ubaidillah (Indonesia) bt Zi Sheng Wu (China) 15-6, 17-15 (saved 2 gp); Li Zhi Hang (China) bt Chung Ching Cyrus (Hong Kong) 15-4, 15-7; 3-Liu Yang Ming Yu (China) bt Gnana Dattu TT (India) 15-11, 15-13; 2-Richie Duta Richardo (Indonesia) bt Ayu Fu Sheng (Malaysia) 15-9, 15-9

Girls Singles:

1-Tanvi Sharma (India) bt Saki Matsumoto (Japan) 13-15, 15-9, 15-10; Liu Si Ya (China) bt 4-Ranithma Liyanage (Sri Lanka) 15-9, 15-6; 6-Yataweemin Ketklieng (Thailand) bt Yuzuno Watanabe (Japan) 15-3, 15-12; 2-Anyapat Phichitprechasak (Thailand) bt 8-Unnati Hooda (India) 15-12, 15-13

Zoravar Singh Sandhu wins men's trap world championship bronze

New Delhi, Oct 17 (UNI) : 31-years after he shot his first junior world championship and 27-years after he shot his first senior worlds, Zoravar Singh Sandhu of India at the ripe young age of 48, clinched the men's trap bronze at the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Championship Shotgun 2025. Shooting at the Malakasa Shooting Range in Athens, Greece, on Friday (Oct 17), the Indian overcame rain, shadows and the most unsuitable bib number, to nail down 31 of the first 40-targets in the 50-shot final. He finished behind former Olympic champion and now world champion Josip Glasnovic of Croatia, who won gold with 44-hits and junior world champion Andres Garcia of Spain, who won silver with a score of 39. “It was a great experience. It was a tough range, tough conditions to shoot but that's how it is

and here we are. I would like to thank my family and my coaches and teammates for their support,” said a visibly pleased but amazingly calm Zoravar after the final.

A thrilled National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) President, Shri. Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, said after the results came through, “It is yet another historic moment for Indian shooting with Zoravar helping us win only a third individual world championship medal in trap. It shows the level of confidence of our Shooting squad that with every international outing, new barriers are being breached. Full marks to Zoravar for his commitment and dedication and also to Peter Wilson and the entire coaching staff, who since coming on has helped our Trap squad get better and better.” Zoravar's challenge began early on Friday morning with his first task

Western Railway sportsperson excel at National and International sports arenas



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 17 : Seen in the picture is Mr Vivek Kumar Gupta, General Manager, Western Railway; Shri V. A. Malegaonkar, Principal

Chief Operations Manager, Western Railway & President, Western Railway Sports Association; and Shri Rajneesh Kumar Tomar, Chief Rolling Stock Engineer (Coaching), Western Railway & General Secretary, Western Railway Sports Association, along with members of the medal-winning Wrestling & Hockey teams.

Western Railway has once again demonstrated its sporting prowess with remarkable performances

across Wrestling and Hockey at both National and International championships, bringing pride and recognition to the organisation.

According to a press release issued by the Public Relations Department of Western Railway, the Western Railway Greco Roman Wrestling Team clinched the Championship Title at the 66th Men All India Inter-Railway Wrestling (Free Style & Greco Roman) Championship 2025 held at NRSA, New Delhi from 7th to 9th October 2025.

The Greco Roman Wrestling team produced an exceptional medal tally

with 3 Gold Medals, 5 Silver Medals and 4 Bronze Medals.

In the Free Style Wrestling category, Western Railway secured 4 Silver Medals and 2 Bronze Medals, further demonstrating the depth of sporting talent within the organisation.

Adding further pride at the international level, Western Railway Women Hockey players Ms. Navneet Kaur and Ms. Manisha Chauhan represented India at the 2025 Women's Hockey Asia Cup held at Hangzhou, China, where the Indian Team secured the Silver Medal. Continuing their outstanding form at the

domestic level, Ms. Navneet Kaur went on to represent the Indian Railways Team, winning the Gold Medal at the 5th Hockey India Senior Women Inter-Department National Championship 2025 held at New Delhi.

Western Railway extends its heartiest congratulations to all the athletes, coaches, and support personnel for their unwavering spirit, dedication, and exemplary achievements which continue to inspire the railway fraternity.

Their success stands as a proud testament to Western Railway's commitment towards nurturing sporting excellence.

Yashwin Dahiya, Tavish Pahwa, and Ananditha Upadhyay miss out on direct qualification to 2026 Roland-Garros Juniors Tournament

Tokyo, Oct 17 (UNI) : After three days of intense competition from Wed, October 15- 17 at Dai-Ichi Life Sogoen Tennis Court in Tokyo, Roland-Garros Junior Series by Renault has determined its four boys' and four girls' semi-finalists. The semi-finalists in the girls' category are Minami Suzuki and Yui Komada from Japan, Junseo Jang from Korea, and Wang Xiaotong from China. In the boys' category, the semi-finalists are Kanta Watanabe and Motoharu Abe from Japan, along with Korea's Dongjae Kim and Junseo Jang.

India's Yashwin Dahiya lost all three encounters in the group stages. He went down to the top-seed, Kanta Watanabe, in

straight sets, 2-6, 2-6, followed by losses to Koyu Yanagi (2-6, 1-6) and Akmal Abdullaev (4-6, 3-6). Though Tavish Pahwa succumbed to Dongjae Kim (2-6, 4-6), and Shintaro Ogaki (3-6, 6-7[5]) he finished strong with a victory against Alan Zinatulin 6-4, 6-3.

Ananditha Upadhyay began her campaign with a loss to second seed, Xiaotong Wang 1-6, 3-6, she bounced back to take down Tomiris NURZHAN, 7-5, 6-1 before eventually losing her final clash to Japan's Riho Goto. 2-6. 4-6.

Kanta WATANABE (JPN), winner of Group A, shared his thoughts after advancing, “I had just played a tournament in Korea on hard courts,

which felt very different. I struggled a bit in my first match, but I managed to find my rhythm in the second and third. I really enjoy playing on red clay—it's one of my favourite surfaces. Since the winner of this tournament earns a wildcard for Roland-Garros Juniors, I want to perform at a level worthy of my top seeding heading into the knockout stage.”

On the girls' side, WANG Xiaotong (CHN) said, “I'm very pleased to have secured three consecutive wins in the round robin stage. Yesterday's match was particularly challenging due to the rain- the court gradually became more slippery, which tested me both mentally and

technically. But seeing the umpires remain on court and continue officiating in the rain was truly inspiring. It helped me regain focus and stay composed throughout the match, and I'm proud of the way I managed to handle those conditions.

Although most of my training takes place on hard courts, my game style suits clay very well, and I feel confident about my performance on red clay surface. I'll give my utmost effort in tomorrow's semifinal and aim to deliver my best tennis.”

Gathering some of the most promising junior players from across Asia, the tournament serves as a gateway to 2026 Roland-Garros Juniors Tournament

SA Women beat SL, move closer to World Cup semifinals

Colombo, Oct 17 (UNI) : South Africa Women moved a step closer to the semifinals of the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 with a commanding 10-wicket victory over Sri Lanka Women in the 18th match at the R Premadasa Stadium here today. Sri Lanka Women, electing to bat after winning the toss, were restricted to 105 for 7 in 20 overs. Vishmi Gunaratne (34) gave a promising start with multiple boundaries, while Hasini Perera (4) and Chamari Athapaththu (11) also contributed with shots that reached the ropes. Masabata Klaas bowled a disciplined spell, removing Hasini Perera and Athapaththu, while Nonkululeko Mlaba starred with three wickets, including dismissals of Harshitha Madavi (13), Nilakshi de Silva (18), and Vishmi Gunaratne caught by Karabo Meso. The innings ended dramatically with the run-out of Anushka Sanjeevani off Mlaba's throw.

Sri Lanka added only 59 runs in the final eight overs after the break, finishing on 105 for 7.

In response, South Africa Women comfortably chased the revised target of 121, adjusted due to a five-hour rain interruption, without losing a wicket.

Captain Laura Wolvaardt starred with an unbeaten 60 off 47 balls, hitting eight fours with elegant drives and cuts, while Tazmin Brits remained not out on 55, striking sixes and four boundaries, including a powerful over-the-keeper shot. Extras contributed 10 runs, including 8 wides, as South Africa cruised to victory. With this win, South Africa jumped to second place in the tournament standings, putting one foot firmly in the semifinals.

The match was umpired by Gayathri Venugopalan and Vrinda Rathi, with Eloise Sheridan as the third umpire. GS Lakshmi served as the match referee.

Match Summary:

Sri Lanka Women 105/7 (20 overs)

South Africa Women 125/0 (14.5 overs) – South Africa won by 10 wickets (DLS Method). The victory underscored South Africa's dominance with both bat and ball, cementing their strong position in the tournament.

“Playing in the PKL is the dream for these kids”, reckons Srinivas Reddy, Indian Boys Team Coach for Asian Youth Games

New Delhi, Oct 17 (UNI) : In a landmark initiative, the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) welcomed India's youth kabaddi teams to experience top-flight action, ahead of the upcoming Youth Asian Games. The squads, guided by coaches Srinivas Reddy, Deepak Niwas Hooda, and Mamtha Poojari, were present at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium in Delhi to witness their heroes in action.

The teams witnessed the triple-header at the Pro Kabaddi League with three teams in action. They first witnessed a thrilling tiebreaker between Patna Pirates and Bengaluru Bulls, followed by exciting matches - Telugu Titans vs U Mumba, and the defending champions, Haryana Steelers in action against UP Yoddhas.

Srinivas Reddy emphasized the value of this opportunity for young athletes. He said, “It's a

great opportunity for these young players to witness how the sport is played at the highest level in front of a big crowd. This is an inspiring moment for these young boys and girls, and it will create a spark within these young players. This is the generation you're going to see play in the PKL in the future.”

Deepak Niwas Hooda, who is regarded as one of the best all-rounders in the Pro Kabaddi League history, echoed that sentiment, adding, “Each one of these kids watch the PKL, either at home or on their phone. They analyse certain situations and visualise them as well. That's as important as coaching them. Playing in the Pro Kabaddi League is a dream for these kids.”

Extending his heartfelt gratitude for this special initiative, Srinivas Reddy added, “A big thanks to the AKFI (Amateur Kabaddi

Federation of India), Mashal Sports and Star Sports. They've given these young players a chance to witness a live match and this is going to be a big boost for them heading into the tournament. This will inspire these players and you'll see superstars emerge from this team.”

Mamtha Poojari, the coach of the Indian Girls Team, explained how she took this opportunity to prepare her squad for big-stage pressure. She said, “The kids were very excited to be there. It's an international standard match and there's so much crowd around. So, I was telling them about the crowd and subtle nuances while playing at the highest level and also how the players are only focused on the game, despite the huge crowd.”

She also highlighted how some of the kids got

to witness their heroes in action from the stands, and how the PKL is inspiring younger generations. “Patna is playing today and some of the kids love Ayan. They're delighted to witness him in action”, she said. “One of the kids is a fan of Sunil from U Mumba. He wanted to watch him live and observe how patient he is, waiting for the right moment and how he controls the team. So, almost all the kids have their heroes from the PKL”,

Poojari added. Highlighting the importance of inspiring a generation and the role it plays in the larger kabaddi ecosystem as India aims to host major sporting events, Srinivas Reddy stated, “This is the generation of players that will go on to win the Asian Games, National Championships for India.” “We're hopeful of India hosting the Olympics in 2036, and this will be the generation that will represent India at that stage.

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Editor: Mohammed Shafi

R.N.I.No. : MAHENG/2014/59632

Cell : 9849881368

Email : standardpostmumbai@gmail.com

WR’s Mumbai Central Division holds, Amrit Samvaad to connect with passengers



In the 1st picture Mr Pankaj Singh, Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central Division, is seen engaging in an interactive session with passengers during Amrit Samvaad at Mumbai Central station.

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 17 : In alignment with the national vision of Amrit Kaal and inspired by the guiding principles of Panch Pran as articulated by Prime Minister, Western Railway’s Mumbai Central Division organised a dynamic “Amrit Samvaad” on 16th October 2025 at the Concourse Area of Mumbai Central Station. The initiative, held under Special Campaign 5.0, aimed to foster direct engagement between

railway authorities and passengers to drive transformative progress through collective participation. According to a press release issued by the Public Relations Department of Western Railway, the event was led by Shri Pankaj Singh, Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central Division, who, along with other Senior Railway Officers, interacted directly with passengers in an open Question & Answer session. Passengers

enthusiastically participated, raising queries and sharing suggestions regarding public security, station amenities, CCTV cameras in coaches, as well as introduction of premium sleeper long-distance express trains. DRM Shri Pankaj Singh attentively addressed each query, assuring passengers of sustained efforts towards augmenting passenger amenities, strengthening safety systems, and delivering modern, technology-driven

travel experiences. He further encouraged passengers to join hands with Railways by maintaining cleanliness, adopting responsible travel habits, and contributing positively to the nation-building journey. The Amrit Samvaad initiative seeks to build a collaborative platform where citizen feedback translates into meaningful action, paving the way towards Viksit Bharat @2047, fully aligned with the vision of Amrit Kaal and Panch Pran.

Energy conservation measures initiative by WR



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 17 : Railways’ is taking significant steps to promote sustainability across its network in today’s world, where energy conservation and environmental responsibility are more important than ever. Western Railway’s Electrical Power Department of Mumbai Central Division, has rolled out energy-saving initiatives aimed at reducing electricity consumption, improving operational efficiency and adopting eco-friendly technologies. These efforts reflect a strong commitment to building a greener future.

According to a press release issued by Public

Relations Department of Western Railway, as part of its commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency. Western Railway, has launched several impactful energy conservation drives. These efforts align with Indian Railways’ commitment to environmental stewardship and operational efficiency. Under this initiative, almost 12,500 energy-efficient Brushless Direct Current (BLDC) fans have been installed at stations and service buildings across Mumbai Central Division. These BLDC fans consume about 40% less electricity than traditional ceiling fans, while offering quieter operation, longer lifespan and superior

performance. In addition, the Division has achieved a complete transition to energy efficient LED lighting with more than 1,48,700 LED fixtures installed across stations, offices and service areas. This initiative has significantly reduced power consumption and maintenance costs. To enhance passengers convenience with maintaining energy efficiency, 10 natural water coolers have been installed at major stations including Dadar, Bandra Terminus, Borivali, Bhayandar, Surat, Udhna, Nandurbar and Vapi. These coolers work without compressors and have a cooling capacity of 45 litres per hour and store

up to 150 litres, maintaining a temperature between 23°C and 27°C while using minimal energy. Additionally, across Mumbai Central Division more than 1,200 occupancy sensors have been installed to optimize the air-conditioning systems more efficiently. These smart sensors detect human presence and automatically adjust the air-conditioning, reducing unnecessary energy usage in empty rooms. Through these consistent efforts, Western Railway is setting a strong example by adopting innovative and eco-friendly technologies, further supporting the vision of a greener and more energy-efficient future.

New Dialysis unit inaugurated by Lalit Bohra

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Oct 17 : A newly outsourced Dialysis Unit at the Divisional Railway Hospital, Waltair was inaugurated on 17th October 2025 by Mr Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair, and Smt. Joshna Bohra, President, East Coast Railway Women’s Welfare Organisation (ECORWWO/Waltair).

The new unit has been established through SAP Medicals, Hyderabad, under the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) initiative, ensuring transparent and efficient outsourcing. This facility is aimed at providing



Agriculture Minister directs timely implementation of two key farmer schemes

New Delhi, Oct 17 (UNI) : Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, has issued directions for time-bound implementation of the two schemes -- ‘Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission’ and the ‘Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana’, announced by PM Modi on October 11. To ensure the expeditious execution of the farmer-benefitting programmes, he will soon convene a meeting with ministers from 11 ministries.

The mission aims to increase the area under pulses from 275 lakh hectares to 310 lakh hectares, production from 242 lakh tonnes to 350 lakh tonnes, and productivity to 1,130 kg per hectare by 2030–31. Along with improved productivity, the mission is also expected to generate substantial employment opportunities. During a high-level meeting with senior officials of the Ministry, the union Minister conveyed that the ‘Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission’ will be implemented through the creation of district-level clusters, with support being sought from States for the formation of these clusters.

He also directed officials to ensure effective implementation of the ‘Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana’ at the grassroots level. He noted that the timely execution of both initiatives at the ground level would benefit farmers directly. The ‘Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana’, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to promote agricultural advancement in 100 aspirational districts across the country by integrating 36 sub-schemes of 11 ministries. In this context, Chouhan instructed officials to organise a meeting with the ministers and secretaries of these 11 ministries, along with officials from the NITI Aayog, to ensure that the maximum benefits of the scheme reach the farmers.

The union Agriculture Minister also directed officials to hold a meeting with nodal officers of the states concerned with the ‘Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission’ to ensure its successful and timely implementation.

improved renal care services to railway beneficiaries and their dependents, enhancing the overall medical infrastructure of the division.

The inaugural function was attended by Shri Shantaram, ADRM (Infrastructure), ADRM (Operations), Branch Officers, Doctors, and the entire medical and paramedical staff of Divisional Railway Hospital/Waltair.

The introduction of this Dialysis Unit marks another important facility in Waltair Division’s efforts to provide quality healthcare facilities to its employees and their families.

Vishwa Hindi Sahitya Seva Sansthan, Prayagraj, Felicitated Santosh Kumar Jha with the 'Rajbhasha Samman

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 17 : On the second day of the three-day International Literary Conference organized by Vishwa Hindi Sahitya Seva Sansthan, Prayagraj, a ‘Hindi Seminar’ and ‘Felicitation Ceremony’ was held at Jagatpita Brahmadev Dharamshala, Devrakh, located in Naini, Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), in which Santosh Kumar Jha, Chairman and Managing Director of Konkan Railway and renowned poet, was felicitated with the ‘Rajbhasha Samman 2024’ for the excellent implementation of the official language under his leadership.

Divisional Commissioner Dr. Surendra Kumar Pandey, the chief guest of the ceremony, said that Sanskrit and Hindi are languages of the same cultural tradition. He said that knowledge of English is essential, but not at the cost of Hindi. Dr. N.B. Singh, the ‘Green Guru,’ was the special guest.

Numerous literary figures were honoured on this occasion. In the same vein, Mr. Santosh Kumar Jha, Chairman and Managing Director of



Santosh Kumar Jha, Chairman and Managing Director of Konkan Railway, is seen with the ‘Rajbhasha Samman’ and citation given by Vishwa Hindi Sahitya Seva Sansthan, Prayagraj.

Konkan Railway and renowned poet, was honoured with the ‘Rajbhasha Samman-2024’ for the excellent implementation of the official language under his leadership. It is noteworthy that Mr. Jha has published four poetry collections: “Unmukt,” “Suraj Ka Waris,” “Phool, Kalam aur Gun,” and “Siyahi Ka

Sipahi.” Other honoured literary figures included Dr. Vandana Agnihotri, Dr. Seema Verma, Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Rajni Prabha, Farhat, Rana Pratap, and numerous other scholars. Dr. Seema Verma and Rashmi Choubey anchored and Dr. Gokuleshwar Kumar Dwivedi expressed his gratitude.

PIB Mumbai and UNICEF India Host Media Workshop on Climate Change and Sustainability



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 17 : Press Information Bureau (PIB) Mumbai, in collaboration with UNICEF India, organised a media interaction on Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability, focusing on strengthening public awareness and communication on climate-resilient practices across Maharashtra. The session brought together media professionals, policy experts, and youth representatives to deliberate on water security, community-driven development models being implemented in the state.

Addressing the gathering, Director General (West Zone), PIB, Smita Vats Sharma, highlighted the everyday role of individuals in contributing to climate action. She stated, “Habits of the younger generation, such as small actions like switching off a fan, closing a tap, or avoiding single-use plastic, express their concern for the environment. I believe that

through this workshop, we become more conscious about it.” She underlined the crucial role of the media in amplifying public understanding and influencing responsible citizen behaviour towards sustainable living.

Elaborating on climate variability in Maharashtra, WASH and Climate Specialist, UNICEF India, Yusuf Kabir, remarked, “Districts within Maharashtra are showing swapping climate trends. Parts of Marathwada district, which were once rain shadow areas, are today witnessing heavy rainfall. This highlights the importance of coordinated action by Central and State Governments, in partnership with grassroots organisations and other stakeholders.”

Director, PIB Mumbai, Sayyid Rabeeshahmi, in his presentation, encouraged the use of traditional and sustainable items such as Hirachi Zaadu and Godhadi, products that reflect India’s enduring cultural heritage of sustainability. Maharashtra has emerged

as a frontrunner in climate-resilient development through an integrated approach to water conservation, renewable energy, and local participation. With over 90 percent of the state’s rural population dependent on groundwater, effective climate adaptation measures are essential.

Supporting India’s Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment), initiatives like Mission Amrit Sarovar have rejuvenated more than 68,000 water bodies nationwide, reinforcing the need for water conservation. Eco Clubs in schools continue to instill sustainable habits among students, ensuring that environmental mindfulness begins early. Highlighting youth-driven action, participants discussed the Youth Engagement and Water Stewardship Program, which has mobilised over one million students across 13 districts through WASH audits, plastic-free drives, and campus climate labs, integrating circular economy principles into grassroots practice.