

Urban Naxalism a major challenge, pushes youth toward anarchy: CM

Nagpur, Oct 23 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis today described urban Naxalism as one of the most significant challenges facing the government, warning that such movements are attempting to influence the younger generation towards anarchic ideologies.

Speaking informally with journalists in Nagpur on the occasion of Diwali, Fadnavis said that while the problem of armed Naxalism in Maharashtra and neighbouring Chhattisgarh has largely been contained, the rise of urban Naxalism poses a new and more complex threat.

Fadnavis stated that urban Naxals do not have a single identifiable face and



operate in concealed forms, spreading dangerous ideas.

“Urban Naxals do not have a single identifiable face. They operate in different forms, spreading dangerous ideas and misleading young people.

They are trying to push today’s generation towards anarchy,” the Chief Minister said.

He added that unlike traditional, gun-based Naxalism where the enemy was visible, urban Naxalism

is more difficult to recognise due to its concealed and ideological nature. Fadnavis also accused these groups of attempting to erode public trust in the Constitution and democratic institutions,

though he expressed confidence in the government’s ability to counter them. “The constitution will ultimately defeat these anarchic tendencies,” he said.

Responding to a question on the increase in caste-based politics in Maharashtra, Fadnavis stated that it is primarily driven by political leaders during elections, not by voters themselves. He noted that while everyone has social and caste-related issues, the intensity increases due to political leaders. He asserted that the government is trying to give justice to everyone, adding that caste-based politics will “automatically reduce” once elections are over.

Fire erupts in Mumbai high-rise; 24 rescued, no injuries reported

Mumbai, Oct 23 (UNI) : A fire broke out today morning in a commercial high-rise building in Mumbai’s Jogeshwari area. Twenty-four people trapped inside were rescued, and no injuries have been reported so far, a Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) official said.

According to the MFB, the blaze was reported at around 10:51 am at the JNS Business Centre, located on SV Road near Gandhi School. The fire was confined to the 9th to 12th floors of the 13-storey glass-facade building, with flames and smoke visible from several levels. “Firefighters equipped with breathing apparatus sets carried out rescue operations and ventilation efforts,” the MFB said in a statement. All rescued individuals were safely evacuated through staircases and with the help of an HP-4 cage. A total of nine fire engines, a quick response team, a fire tender, two turntable ladders, and an ambulance, along with other disaster management units, have been deployed at the site.



India is committed to the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity

:Anurag Singh Thakur, former union Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament from Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel, presented India's position on the topic "Upholding Humanitarian Standards and Supporting Humanitarian Action in Times of Crisis" at the General Debate of the 151st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary union (IPU) in Geneva, Switzerland.

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Class IV health employees threaten statewide agitation

Parbhani, Oct 23 (UNI) : Class IV employees of Maharashtra’s Health Department have threatened to launch a statewide agitation over long-pending service-related demands, citing continued government inaction. The

Fourth Class Employees Association convened a major meeting at the District General Hospital auditorium in Parbhani, signalling preparations for a large-scale protest across the state. The meeting was presided over by

Bhauseheb Pathan, State President of the Intermediate Federation of Class Four State Government Employees, and attended by district president Sujata Kamble, district president Sheikh Siraj, comrade Syed Azhar,

and women’s wing head Chanda Khandre of the Maharashtra Government Nurse Intermediate Federation. Pathan outlined several unresolved issues, including promotion opportunities, implementation of job charts, the junior

pension scheme, hereditary service allowance for retired staff, and salary revisions.

He further demanded that the basic monthly salary be increased from Rs 15,000 to Rs 18,000, along with two weekly holidays for all Class IV employees.

Manoj Jarange Patil warns of massive agitation if flood-hit farmers don’t receive aid soon

Beed Oct 23 (UNI) Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil today issued a stern warning to the Maharashtra government, stating that if financial aid promised to flood-affected farmers is not disbursed immediately, he will launch a nation-shaking agitation. He further declared that local body elections will not be allowed to take place until the farmers receive compensation.

Jarange reminded that the state government had promised to release relief before Diwali, yet farmers are still waiting. To decide the next course of action, a meeting of farmers’ organizations will soon be held at Antarwali Sarati, he added. Jarange appealed to his supporters saying, “Do not allow election materials, voting machines, or ballot papers to enter your villages until farmers get their due aid.” Jarange also criticized the government’s limited financial support to women, calling it “insufficient and disappointing.” On the issue of the Maratha reservation, he praised Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for implementing the Hyderabad Gazette that paved the way for Marathas to receive Kunbi caste certificates, but reminded him that the responsibility to ensure its full implementation now rests with him. Jarange didn’t spare political leaders either he launched sharp attacks on Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, Minister Pankaja Munde, and former minister Dhananjay Munde, saying, “Dhananjay Munde doesn’t even figure in my calculations.

Lalu Yadav forced his allies to declare Tejashwi as CM candidate: Samrat Choudhary

Patna, 23 Oct (UNI) Bihar’s Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Samrat Choudhary has attacked the RJD and the INDIA Alliance over the announcement of Tejashwi Yadav as the alliance’s chief ministerial candidate for the upcoming Assembly elections.

He alleged that RJD president Lalu Yadav, through sheer coercion and political “torture,” forced his allies to declare his son as the chief ministerial candidate.

He said, “The people of Bihar gave RJD 15 years to govern, but in return, they received loot, murder, and corruption. Today, the corrupt, the son of a convicted criminal, dreams of becoming the Chief Minister of Bihar. The INDIA Alliance has decided to make the son of a thief,

(Contd on page 3)

India will "sharply reduce" Russian oil imports by



President Donald Trump has reiterated his claim that India will “sharply reduce” its imports of Russian oil by the end of this year, citing what he described as a personal assurance from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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Pratika Rawal joins elite list with World Cup century



Young opener Pratika Rawal struck her maiden World Cup century to etch her name in the record books, as India's opening duo produced a historic double hundred stand against New Zealand in their ICC Women’s World Cup clash at the DY Patil Stadium here.

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BJP’s slams Omar Abdullah-led govt for ‘betraying people’s ...



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary and J&K in-charge Tarun Chugh today launched a scathing attack on the Omar Abdullah-led government, accusing it of betraying the trust of the people and failing to fulfil a single promise made in its election manifesto.

(See on page 8)

GST BACHAT UTSAV

TAKING CARE OF OUR HEALTH HAS BECOME CHEAPER

FESTIVAL OF SAVINGS, SEASON OF JOY

Ensuring Health & Dignity of Elderly

UP TO ₹9,000 SAVINGS ON ANNUAL HEALTH PREMIUM OF ₹50,000

SENIOR CITIZEN Health Insurance gets Cheaper

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SAVINGS OF UP TO ₹16,000 ON ONE-TIME EXPENSE

“ The mantra ‘नागरिक देवो भवः’, with which we are moving forward, is clearly reflected in the Next Generation GST Reform. ”

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

GST- Better & Simpler

Central Railway to Run Special Trains for Kartiki Fair 2025

(Standard Post Bureau)
Solapur, Oct 23 : Central Railway will run special trains for Kartiki Fair 2025 at Pandharpur to clear the extra rush of the passengers during the fair as per details given below:
Miraj-Latur Unreserved Specials (24 trips)
- Train no 01443 Miraj-Latur Unreserved Special will depart Miraj at 07:00 hrs everyday from 30.10.2025 to 04.11.2025 and arrive Latur at 15:30 hrs the same day. (6 trips)
Pandharpur: Arrival 10:15 hrs, Departure 10:20 hrs.
- Train no 01444 Latur-Miraj Unreserved Special will depart Latur at 16:00 hrs everyday from 30.10.2025 to 04.11.2025 and arrive Miraj at 23:45 hrs the same day. (6 trips)
Pandharpur: Arrival 19:45 hrs, Departure 19:50 hrs.
- Train no 01442 Latur-Miraj Unreserved Special will depart Latur at 06:00 hrs everyday from 30.10.2025 to 04.11.2025 and arrive Miraj at 13:50 hrs the same day. (6 trips)
Pandharpur: Arrival 10:55 hrs, Departure 11:00 hrs.

- Train no 01441 Miraj-Latur Unreserved Special will depart Miraj at 22:00 hrs everyday from 30.10.2025 to 04.11.2025 and arrive Latur at 05:30 hrs the next day. (6 trips)
Pandharpur: Arival 23:50 hrs, Departure 23:55 hrs.
Stoppages: Arag, Salgare, Kavathe Mahankal, Dhalgaon, Jath Road, Mhasoba Dongargaon, Sangola, Pandharpur, Modlimb, Kurduwadi, Shendri, Barsi Town, Pangri, Dharashiv, Yedshi, Kalamb Road, Dhoki, Murud, Ausa Road and Harangul.
Composition: 10 General Second Class/ Sleeper Class Coaches and 2 Luggage cum Guard’s brake vans. (12 Unreserved Coaches).
Solapur - Miraj Unreserved Specials (12 trips)
- Train no 01419 Solapur-Miraj Unreserved Special will depart Solapur at 07:00 hrs everyday from 30.10.2025 to 04.11.2025 and arrive Miraj at 12:10 hrs the same day. (6 trips)
Pandharpur: Arival 09:20

MANUU Engages Journalism Students in Road Safety

(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, Oct 23 : The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), organized an interactive session on Road Safety Awareness with the students of the department. The session aimed to encourage young communicators to view road safety not merely as a matter of traffic discipline but as a broader issue of public health, civic responsibility, and ethical storytelling.
The session is part of MANUU’s ongoing effort to connect classroom learning with real-world communication challenges. Faculty members, students, and guest speakers explored how the next generation of media professionals can shape a culture of safe mobility through responsible journalism, social media campaigns, and community outreach.
Setting the tone for the discussion, Prof. Mohammad Fariyad, Dean, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, MANUU, said that communication students have an important role to play in translating data into awareness. “When students learn to frame stories around social responsibility, like road safety, they not only inform audiences but also save lives,” he remarked.
Prof. Ehtesham Ahmad Khan, Head, Department of Journalism and Mass C o m m u n i c a t i o n , MANUU, announced that the Department will create a dedicated resource hub on Road Safety on its website.
Speaking on the health dimensions of road crashes, Dr. Syed Hubbe Ali, Health

Specialist, UNICEF India Country Office, emphasized that road traffic injuries are one of the leading causes of death among children and adolescents aged 5–19 years in India. “We must strengthen trauma care systems, empower communities with first-response knowledge, and ensure that child safety remains central to all mobility planning,” he said.
The discussion emphasized the need for safer school zones, slower vehicle speeds, and consistent use of helmets and seatbelts as simple, lifesaving measures.
The session concluded with an open discussion among students, faculty, and media representatives. Several students expressed interest in developing road safety features and digital campaigns as part of their coursework.

Will not rest till we break BJP’: Dy CM face Mukesh Sahani

Patna, Oct 23 (UNI) Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahani, declared as the Deputy Chief Minister face of the INDIA bloc in Bihar, said today that he had been waiting for three-and-a-half years for this opportunity.
He accused the BJP of betraying his party and the Mallah community, vowing to defeat the saffron party in the upcoming Assembly elections.
“I have been waiting for three-and-a-half years for this moment. The BJP broke our MLAs and pushed the poor Mallah to the streets. We had vowed that until we break the BJP, we will not rest. The INDIA alliance is strong. We will form the government,” Sahani said.
The announcement came as the INDIA bloc formally declared

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav as its chief ministerial candidate for the Bihar Assembly elections.
Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot, addressing a joint press conference with alliance partners, said the decision had been made with the consent of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi. Gehlot added that along with Sahani, another leader from the backward community would also be appointed deputy chief minister if the alliance forms the government.
Gehlot challenged the NDA to announce its own chief ministerial candidate, alleging that the BJP had betrayed its allies in Maharashtra and would do the same in Bihar.
“In Maharashtra, they

Be cautious of cyber fraud in the name of government schemes: SP Upasana

Kaithal, Oct 23 (UNI) : In the digital age, while technology has made the lives of common people easier, cyber criminals are constantly trying to cheat people by adopting new methods. Recently, cyber fraudsters have now started cheating people by taking the help of various welfare schemes run by the government. SP Upasana cautioned the general public and said that cyber fraudsters are misleading citizens by sending tempting messages and calls in the name of many government schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pension Scheme, Gas Subsidy, Women Empowerment Scheme, Scholarship Scheme.
The criminals, posing as officers or agents of any government department, ask for bank details, OTP, Aadhaar number, PAN card or other confidential information in the name of updating the beneficiary's data, verifying the application or releasing the benefits of the scheme. As soon as the person shares the information, the amount disappears from his bank account.
The SP said that the benefits of any government scheme are given only through the official portal or government offices. No department asks for personal information through phone, email or WhatsApp. Citizens should not click on any unknown link and verify such messages with the local administration or cyber crime branch. She said that cyber security is the biggest responsibility today. By adopting a little caution, we can protect ourselves and our families from fraud. In case of any kind of cyber fraud, immediately call 1930 and lodge a complaint.



Devotees perform rituals as they take a dip in the Yamuna river on the 'Bhai Dooj' festival, in Mathura.

Labourer lynched in Amethi

Amethi, Oct 23 (UNI) A 60-year-old labourer returning home after a day’s work was brutally beaten to death by three unidentified men with sticks and sharp weapons in Amethi tonight.
Following the attack, the three assailants fled the scene.
Police have launched an investigation into the incident, which has once again brought Gungwachh village into the spotlight.
According to the complaint filed late at night by the victim’s brother, Dharmaraj, two individuals, neighbour Ravi Kashyap and his sister’s son-in-law, Hubalal alias Deepak, have been named as the main accused. Dharmaraj also alleged that his sisters Satna and Karneita, along with Satna’s daughter Shobha, conspired to commit the murder.
The deceased, identified as Nirmal Kashyap of Tikarmafi village under Sangrampur

police station, earned his livelihood through daily labour. On Thursday, he went to work at the house of Abhishek Shukla in Tiwari Pur, a hamlet of Gungwachh village. Around 8 p.m., while returning home on his bicycle, three youths intercepted him near the 220 kVA power substation in Gungwachh.
Before Nirmal could react, the assailants attacked him with sticks and sharp weapons, leaving him severely injured.
Locals rushed injured Nirmal to the Community Health Center (CHC) by ambulance, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.
Police officers, including Kotwali in-charge Ravi Kumar Singh, reached the spot soon after receiving the information. Initially, police treated the case as an accident, but after protests by the victim’s relatives and villagers, they accepted a formal complaint from the family. According to Dharmaraj, his brother had no children and lived with him since the death of his wife 15 years ago.
The family alleged that Nirmal’s sister and her relatives had been pressuring him over a property dispute and had threatened him several times. Villagers also confirmed that the deceased’s sister often quarreled over land despite having received her share and built a separate house in Tikarmafi. They suspect property dispute behind the killing.
Police officials confirmed that the complaint has been received and that all possible angles, including personal and property disputes, are being examined. Police have sent the body for post-mortem examination and deployed teams to trace the suspects.
Officials assured that those found responsible will face strict legal action.

Tejaswi can be a CM candidate, but never Chief Minister: Nityanand Rai

Patna, Oct. 23 (UNI) union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai today dismissed the Grand Alliance’s decision to project Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejaswi Yadav as its chief ministerial candidate, asserting that while Yadav may be a candidate, the people of Bihar would “never allow him to become the Chief Minister.”
Rai told news persons here that Tejashwi’s selection as the GA’s face was the result of “internal pressure and political coercion” among the alliance partners.
“Everyone in Bihar knows that the Grand Alliance accepted Tejaswi’s candidature reluctantly after days of internal tussle. But in a democracy, it is the people who decide the Chief Minister, and the people of Bihar trust the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar,” Rai said.
The senior BJP leader further stated that Nitish Kumar’s governance over the last 20 years has been widely appreciated by the people.
For two decades, the people of Bihar have supported Nitish Kumar’s leadership and the double-engine government and will continue to do so, he said adding that the NDA will once again form the government in Bihar with a clear majority.
Rai launched a fierce

personal attack on Tejaswi Yadav, alleging his involvement in multiple corruption cases.
“Tejaswi should be ready for action against himself, as both he and his family are deeply involved in corruption.”
Rai said that if Yadav truly believes that even his shadow should not be spared if it commits corruption, then he should start by punishing himself and his family first.
He accused the RJD leadership of being responsible for a series of scandals, including the fodder scam, the bitumen scam, the uniform scam and the land-for-jobs scam.
Warning of a return to “jungle raj” if the RJD-led

Himachal govt to prepare online portal for registration of Home Stay units

Shimla, Oct 23 (UNI) : Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, while presiding over a meeting to review tourism projects in the state today directed the preparation of an online portal for registration of Home Stay units within ten days.
He also directed the issuing of tenders for hiring competent software firms for preparation of user friendly online portals across all departments.
The Chief Minister said that it should be ensured that payments in all the HPTDC hotels, GAD guesthouses and rest houses of various departments, including food bills payments, be made online.
He issued directions for empanelling professional architects both for preparation of projects designs for ADB and Tourism Development Board Projects and said that the same should be advertised within ten days as well.
"I want to ensure that there should be no administrative limitations as far as promotion of the tourism industry is concerned and the procedures to be made more simplified for ease of doing business," stated the Chief Minister. Sukhu also suggested making few changes in proposed rules of the Tourism Investment Promotion Council (TIPC), which was discussed at length.
alliance came to power, Rai said that if by any mistake Tejaswi’s government is formed, Bihar will once again see daylight murders, looting, rapes and extortion.
The state will go back to the dark days of 1990 to 2005, when fear and crime ruled the streets, he quipped.
Rai urged the people of Bihar to remain vigilant against the GA and support the NDA’s vision for a prosperous Bihar.
Bihar is moving forward on the path of development under the double-engine government, he claimed asserting that the people believe in Modi’s resolve to make Bihar developed, progressive and prosperous.

Operation Red Hunt creates fear among criminals in Simdega, 104 red warrants executed in two months

Ranchi, Oct 23 (UNI) The ongoing special drive “Operation Red Hunt” in state’s border district of Simdega has dealt a blow to criminal networks, instilling fear among offenders and fugitives.
Over the past two months, police have successfully executed 104 pending red warrants, marking a major achievement for the district police.
The operation was launched to apprehend long-absconding criminals against whom permanent warrants had been issued by various courts.
Conducted in 11 phases, the campaign involved multiple police teams carrying out consistent raids across the district. According to official data, 51 accused were arrested during the operation, while 6 others voluntarily surrendered before the court.
Police also confirmed that 19 red warrant holders were deceased, with necessary documents submitted to the court. Additionally, four warrants were returned as some accused were already in custody or had been granted bail earlier. Police officials said the campaign has enhanced

transparency and demonstrated proactive law enforcement.
The operation has created a visible deterrent among criminals, as several absconders have started surrendering voluntarily at local police stations. Even family members of some fugitives have begun cooperating with the police by sharing information about their whereabouts.
Before the operation, Simdega had a total of 309 pending red warrants. The number has now reduced to less than 205, reflecting the increasing efficiency and momentum of the district police in curbing criminal activity.
Simdega Superintendent of Police S. Arshi stated that the next target is to execute all remaining warrants by December.
He emphasized that no criminal, regardless of their location whether hiding in remote forests or outside the district will be able to evade the law. The success of Operation Red Hunt has strengthened public confidence in the police and reaffirmed the administration’s commitment to establishing a crime-free Simdega.

STANDARD POST

Yamuna cleaning to get a shot in the arm with deployment of advanced equipment

The ongoing process of cleaning Yamuna in the national capital is soon going to get a shot in the arm with the procurement and deployment of state-of-the art machinery from abroad, which is going to substantially boost the efficiency of the efforts. Starting from January, 2026 the Irrigation and Flood Control Department will be deploying the Amphibious Classic 4 Watermaster, an advanced dredger machine, initially on the critical stretches of the river.

Afterwards, the machinery will be deployed for cleaning operations on the Sahibi River basin (also known as Najafgarh Drain). This advanced machine is being procured from Finland, in a bid to undertake large scale dredging, desilting, and cleaning works in the Yamuna and Sahibi rivers, officials said. It is said that due to the machines' ability to handle multiple functions efficiently, the dredger will play a vital role in maintaining the city's water bodies and strengthening the national capital's resilience against flooding and pollution.

The officials of the I & FC department emphasized that this acquisition aligns with Delhi’s long-term vision to integrate modern technology into urban environmental management, setting new standards for sustainability and efficiency. Capable of operating on both land and water, the machine combines Finnish engineering with high-efficiency hydraulic systems and modular attachments that can perform multiple operations including dredging, backhoe excavation, raking, solid waste removal, and weed extraction with high precision, officials said.

The cost at which the advanced dredger is being procured is approximately Rs 8 crore, which comprises shipment, one-year warranty, six months of company-operated performance support, and 5 per cent GST. It is scheduled to arrive in India before December, while the operations on the Yamuna River will commence from January. The key features of the equipment include, dredging depth up to 6 meters, cutter pump discharge capacity of 600 cubic meters per hour, a hydraulically driven propulsion system for smooth navigation and control, quick-change modular tools such as suction dredging pump, backhoe bucket, and raker, and a fully amphibious design for both land and water operations.

This advanced equipment is expected to enhance I & FC department’s capacity to clean, desilt, and rejuvenate river channels while strengthening Delhi’s flood control and drainage systems. The design and the configuration of the machine allows continuous year-round work, be it pre-monsoon desilting, flood mitigation and post-monsoon restoration, officials said. According to the I & FC minister Parvesh Verma, who was in Finland, “This New Year will mark a new beginning for the Yamuna. The arrival of the Amphibious Classic 4 dredger is a major milestone in our mission to rejuvenate Delhi’s rivers and strengthen our flood management system."He has called the procurement of these machines by the state government, a conscious investment in advanced technology and environmental responsibility.

The Digital Revolution in Radiation therapy

(Standard Post Bureau)
Radiation therapy is one of the cornerstones of cancer treatment alongside surgery and chemotherapy. This modality has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past few decades. The digital revolution has affected every aspect of radiotherapy, from imaging and treatment planning to delivery, verification, and patient follow-up - enhancing precision, personalization, safety, and outcomes.

The digital revolution began in earnest in the late 20th century with the advent of computed tomography (CT) and digital imaging, enabling three-dimensional (3D) visualization of tumors and surrounding anatomy.

Modern radiotherapy is built upon advanced digital imaging technologies that allow clinicians to visualize tumors with sub-millimeter accuracy. The integration of CT, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET), and hybrid modalities (such as PET-CT and PET-MRI) has

revolutionized tumor delineation and target definition. This includes image fusion of various modalities, 4D imaging and digital imaging tools.

Advanced Treatment Planning: From Manual Calculation to AI-Driven Optimization

Treatment planning, once a manual process involving geometric estimation and simple dose calculations, has now been revolutionized by digital technology. Modern treatment planning systems (TPS) use sophisticated algorithms, powerful processors, and cloud-based computation to generate highly conformal dose distributions tailored to each patient’s anatomy and tumor biology.

This has further helped the cause of advanced techniques such as 3D-CRT, IMRT and VMAT (rapid arc)

More recently, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are transforming planning workflows. AI-based contouring tools automatically delineate organs at risk and target volumes, significantly reducing planning time and inter-observer



Dr. Anusheel Munshi,
Principal Director and Head - Radiation Oncology,
BLK-MAX Super Speciality Hospital, New Delhi.

variability. Adaptive planning algorithms can learn from previous cases to suggest optimized dose distributions, further personalizing treatment.

Digital Precision in Treatment Delivery: Image Guidance and Automation

Modern linear accelerators are highly computerized, capable of delivering complex treatments with sub-millimeter accuracy. Image-guided radiotherapy (IGRT) is a prime example of digital integration, using onboard imaging (such as

cone-beam CT or kV X-rays) to verify patient positioning immediately before and during treatment.

Real-time tracking systems monitor tumor movement caused by respiration or patient motion and adjust beam delivery dynamically.

Surface-guided radiotherapy (SGRT) uses 3D surface imaging to ensure reproducible patient positioning without additional radiation exposure.

Automated setup and couch adjustments,

guided by digital imaging and robotic positioning systems, enhance workflow efficiency and reduce human error.

For tumors subject to motion, respiratory gating and motion-adaptive radiotherapy rely on continuous digital feedback to synchronize beam delivery with the patient’s breathing cycle, ensuring the dose remains tightly focused on the tumor.

Data Integration, AI, and Big Data Analytics
Radiotherapy is inherently data-rich, generating vast amounts of information from imaging, treatment planning, delivery, and outcomes.

The digital revolution has enabled integration and analysis of these datasets through cloud computing, big data platforms, and AI.

Predictive analytics can forecast patient outcomes, toxicity risks, and treatment responses, supporting more informed clinical decisions.

Radiomics, which extracts quantitative features from medical images, combined with AI, can reveal patterns invisible to the human

eye, improving tumor characterization and treatment adaptation.

Knowledge-based planning (KBP) uses data from past treatments to guide new plans, improving quality and consistency across institutions.

These advances are also promoting precision radiation oncology, where treatment is tailored not only to anatomy but also to tumor genetics, biomarkers, and the patient’s overall biology.

Future Directions: AI-Driven Autonomy and Biological Targeting
Looking ahead, the digital revolution is poised to push radiotherapy into new frontiers.

Autonomous planning systems, powered by AI, may soon generate high-quality treatment plans with minimal human intervention. In conclusion the digital revolution has fundamentally transformed radiotherapy from a largely manual, anatomically focused discipline into a sophisticated, data-driven, and highly personalized branch of modern cancer care.

India is committed to the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence: Anurag Singh Thakur

Shimla/Geneva, Oct 23 (UNI) :Anurag Singh Thakur, former union Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament from Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel, presented India's position on the topic "Upholding Humanitarian Standards and Supporting Humanitarian Action in Times of Crisis" at the General Debate of the 151st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary union (IPU) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Anurag Singh Thakur represented India's parliamentary voice before parliamentarians from over 170 countries and reiterated India's civilizational commitment to global humanitarian action. Reaffirming India's principled stance, Anurag Singh Thakur underlined that India's humanitarian engagement is guided by sovereignty, non-

interference, and moral responsibility, and that India remains committed to the core humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence. He urged all parliamentarians to rise above partisan and geopolitical divisions, unite for the dignity of all human beings, and strengthen collective action to protect the vulnerable.

Against the backdrop of increasing conflicts, disasters, and pressure on the international humanitarian framework, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur warned of a decline in multilateral cooperation and a decrease in humanitarian funding. He called for comprehensive reforms to make multilateral institutions more inclusive and representative, especially of the Global South, and appealed to governments, international agencies, and private stakeholders to increase support for the UN

humanitarian assistance system to ensure timely, adequate, and principled assistance.

Anurag Singh Thakur recalled India's long-standing contribution to international peace and security, with over 200,000 Indian personnel serving in 49 UN peacekeeping missions, and India's leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, when it supplied over 301 million vaccine doses to over 100 countries and UN entities under Vaccine Maitri. He described India's technical cooperation and capacity building through targeted humanitarian operations such as Operation Brahma (Myanmar, March 2025) and Operation Sadbhav (West Asia), underscoring India's readiness to deploy resources in times of urgent need.

On the domestic front, Thakur highlighted India's strong legal, institutional, and financial framework for disaster preparedness and

response. He mentioned the Disaster Management Act (2005) and recent amendments that strengthen state and municipal disaster management institutions; He highlighted the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), with over 16,000 trained personnel, which has saved 159,293 lives and evacuated 864,316 people since its inception; and pointed to funding mechanisms such as the National and State Disaster Risk Management Funds, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions, and partnerships with civil society, which collectively underline India's resilience.

Anurag Singh Thakur affirmed that India's participation in the 151st IPU Assembly reflects its contemporary commitment to its civilizational values and global solidarity, embodying the vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas."

Om Prakash Rajbhar party to contests 42 seats in Bihar, to campaign from Nov 1

Lucknow, Oct 23 (UNI) : Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) national president and Uttar Pradesh Panchayati Raj minister Om Prakash Rajbhar has said that his party is contesting 42 seats in the Bihar Assembly elections."We had filded 53 candidates but several nominations were rejected and now contesting 42 seats with the "stick" election symbol," he said while adding that he will personally campaign in

Bihar from November 1.

Talking to media here today, Om Prakash Rajbhar launched a scathing attack on the Samajwadi Party, saying, "SBSP is contesting elections in Bihar, but some SP supporters in Uttar Pradesh are crying (like puppies) about how we are contesting there."Rajbhar didn't stop there, saying that some "people living on the payroll" of the Samajwadi Party (SP) were making baseless comments.

"They don't have the right to speak in front of their leader. Those who are speaking nonsense will have their bail forfeited."

Rajbhar said that the SBSP has been continuously demanding a debate on the Social Justice Committee's report, but neither the ruling party nor the opposition parties have yet clarified their views on extending reservation benefits to the most backward classes.He said, "The 27 percent

reservation should be divided into 7, 9, and 11 percent, so that every category benefits."

Supporting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's statement on Halal certificates, Rajbhar said, "What the Chief Minister said is correct. The opposition always understands things late. Even during the NRC and CAA, these same people spread the misinformation that Muslims would be stripped of their citizenship.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Launches the Urban Cruiser Hyryder Aero Edition

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today unveiled the Urban Cruiser Hyryder Aero Edition, a Limited-Edition styling package that brings an added dimension of prestige and premium appeal to Toyota’s popular SUV. Designed to elevate Hyryder’s on road presence, the Aero Edition blends bold aesthetics with refined detailing to meet the aspirations of customers who seek sophistication, individuality, and modern comfort.

Exclusive Styling Features that are - Available across all Hyryder grades:

- Front Spoiler – The addition of the new front spoiler elevates the SUV’s bold character, giving it a sharper and more aggressive stance.
- Rear Spoiler – Sculpted for both style and function, the new rear spoiler enhances the sporty appeal while contributing to aerodynamic efficiency.
- Side Skirts – The newly designed side skirts add flowing lines that create a dynamic, low-slung profile, further amplifying the SUV’s premium and performance-inspired look.

Exclusive Styling Package accessories are available at an additional cost of Rs.31,999/- and will be offered across all Toyota dealerships nationwide.

Since its launch in 2022, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder has rapidly gained popularity among Indian SUV buyers, recently surpassing the 168,000-unit sales milestone. Building on Toyota’s renowned global SUV legacy, the Hyryder combines bold and sophisticated styling with advanced technology, making it a preferred choice for discerning customers. With the addition of the new thoughtfully crafted accessories, the exclusive edition further enhances the SUV’s signature elegance, making it truly distinctive on the road. The Aero Edition comes in four colour options – White, Silver, Black, and Red.

The Urban Cruiser Hyryder is attractively priced from Rs.10.94 lakh onwards (ex-showroom).

Redefining Excellence in the B-SUV Category
As one of Toyota’s sustainable mobility offerings, The Urban Cruiser Hyryder has set a new standard in the B-SUV segment with its pioneering self-charging strong hybrid electric powertrain. This intelligent system seamlessly integrates petrol and electric power, delivering outstanding fuel efficiency alongside smooth and silent performance. Available in two powertrains- Self-charging Strong Hybrid Electric powertrain & Neo Drive, the Self-Charging Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicle is powered by an e-drive transmission and runs 40% of the distance and 60% of the time on electric power, with engine shut-off, offering a fuel efficiency of 27.97km/l. Additionally, the Neo Drive comes with a 1.5-liter K-series engine, a five-speed manual transmission, and a six-speed automatic transmission with 2WD and 4WD options. The Hyryder’s exterior showcases a striking Crystal Acrylic Grille, signature twin LED DRLs, sculpted lines, and stylish 17-inch alloy wheels. Inside the cabin, comfort and convenience take center stage with ventilated leather seats, a panoramic sunroof, a 9-inch touchscreen supporting wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, wireless charging, ambient lighting, and a 360-degree camera.

Death toll up to 9 from explosion in Russia's Chelyabinsk

Moscow, Oct. 23 (UNI)The death toll has risen to nine from a factory explosion in Russia's Chelyabinsk region, with five others injured, the regional governor said Thursday.

Aleksei Teksler, governor of the Chelyabinsk region, said on Telegram that the blast occurred at a plant and that there was no confirmation at this stage that a drone attack was involved.

Preliminary investigations indicated that the explosion was caused by a violation of safety regulations, according to local authorities.

Season's 1st bird flu outbreak in Japan confirmed in Hokkaido

Tokyo, Oct. 23 (UNI) : Authorities in the Japanese northern prefecture of Hokkaido have confirmed the first outbreak of avian influenza in the country this season, local media reported.

At a poultry farm in the town of Shiraoi, where the case was found, local authorities on Wednesday started to kill and dispose of some 459,000 chickens and placed a ban on the transportation of 620,000 hens at four other farms inside a ten-kilometer radius, public broadcaster NHK reported.

Workers at the farm in question found several dead chickens on Tuesday, with preliminary testing detecting the bird flu virus, the report said.

The prefectural government convened an emergency meeting on Wednesday morning. It was reported that genetic tests revealed the birds were infected with the highly pathogenic H5 strain of the bird flu virus.Hokkaido officials plan to complete the cull by Oct. 30 and the disinfection of the henhouses by Nov. 2, the report said.

A bird flu expert said an outbreak can happen anywhere, as migratory birds possibly carrying the virus use various routes to reach Japan, noting that people around the nation should be on alert.

U.S. military strikes another alleged drug boat in Pacific, killing 3

Washington, Oct. 23 (UNI) : The U.S. military on Wednesday struck one more suspected drug-trafficking vessel in international waters in the eastern Pacific, killing all three people aboard, U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said Wednesday night.

"Today ... the Department of War carried out yet another lethal kinetic strike on a vessel operated by a Designated Terrorist Organization (DTO). Yet again, the now-deceased terrorists were engaged in narco-trafficking in the Eastern Pacific," he wrote on social media platform X.Hegseth again accused the vessel of carrying narcotics, saying it was traveling along a known narco-trafficking transit route.

"These strikes will continue, day after day. These are not simply drug runners -- these are narco-terrorists bringing death and destruction to our cities ... We will find them and kill them, until the threat to the American people is extinguished," he said.

Colombian President Gustavo Petro slammed the U.S. strike as "murder".

"The attack on another boat in the Pacific, we don't know if it's Ecuadorean or Colombian, left some dead," Petro wrote on X. "It is still murder. Whether in the Caribbean or Pacific, the U.S. government strategy violates the norms of international law."Colombia's Foreign Ministry said in a separate statement that the United States must halt the attacks.The U.S. military previously carried out seven such operations in the Caribbean Sea from September, mainly against boats accused of trafficking drugs from Venezuela to the United States. The total death toll has risen to at least 37, including the deaths in the latest two strikes in the eastern Pacific, reportedly near Colombia's Pacific coast.

Lithuanian Defence Minister Dovile Sakaliene resigns

Vilnius, Oct 23 (UNI) : Lithuanian Defence Minister Dovile Sakaliene has resigned after a week-long dispute with Prime Minister Inga Ruginiene over the country's military budget, marking a rare public split within the Baltic nation's leadership.

The rift reportedly began after an off-the-record meeting on October 14, during which Defence Ministry officials urged journalists and social media influencers to pressure the government into increasing defence spending to 5 per cent of GDP - the target set by NATO.Prime Minister Ruginiene condemned the meeting as "sabotage" and said she had lost confidence in Sakaliene's leadership.

On Wednesday, Sakaliene announced her resignation on Facebook, citing "fundamentally different views" with the prime minister. "Just a month ago, I had hoped we could work together, but unfortunately, we cannot," she wrote.

Ruginiene later clarified that she was initiating the dismissal herself, not merely accepting the minister's resignation. "I cannot allow such misunderstandings and issues to occur in a field as important as defence," she said.Speaking to reporters, the outgoing minister defended her record, highlighting the government's growing defence budget, rising enlistment numbers, and what she called the "renewed trust" in Lithuania's armed forces. She expressed hope that her deputies would remain in their posts and that oversight of the defence industry would stay under the Defence Ministry's control.

The controversy centres on the informal meeting held earlier this month at the Defence Ministry, where attendees were reportedly told that Lithuania's 2026 defence budget would stand at 4.87% of GDP - below NATO's stated benchmark.

Indian Embassy presents books to Slovak radio and television library



Bratislava, Oct 23 (IANS) : The Indian Embassy in Slovakia on Thursday presented a collection of books to the Slovak Television and Radio Library in Bratislava for creating an 'India Corner'.

"The Embassy of India presented a diverse collection of books to the Slovak Television & Radio Library in Bratislava to create an ‘India corner’, enriching its collection with volumes on Indian Architecture, Culture, Music, Politics etc," Indian Embassy in Slovakia posted on X.On Wednesday, members of Indian community participated in Diwali celebrations organised by Indian Embassy in Slovakia in collaboration with Mareena Organisation and the

Indian diaspora.

In a statement shared on X, Indian Embassy in Slovakia stated, "Embassy of India in collaboration with Mareena Organisation and the Indian diaspora organized Diwali celebrations in Kosice. The event brought together the community to celebrate the spirit of light, joy and unity."On October 21, Indian Embassy participated in the Asian Day celebrations held in Slovakia, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and diversity of India. While addressing the event, India's Ambassador to Slovakia, Apoorva Srivastava, highlighted the timeless legacy of Indian civilization and the strength of India's unity in diversity.During the event, a One District One Product

(ODOP) stall was set up to promote unique Indian handicrafts and traditional products from various parts of India.

While sharing glimpses from the event on X, Indian Embassy in Slovakia wrote, "Ambassador Apoorva Srivastava addressed the gathering, highlighting the timeless legacy of Indian civilization, the strength of India’s unity in diversity and the remarkable transformation taking place in India."

"An ODOP stall was set up to promote unique Indian handicrafts and traditional products from various regions of India. Indian food stall offering authentic flavours was also a major attraction, receiving an enthusiastic response from visitors," the embassy wrote in another post on X.

2 dead after being swept to sea by strong winds in southeast Melbourne

Melbourne, Oct. 23 (UNI) : Two men drowned after being swept into the ocean in southeast Melbourne amid severe winds that hit the Australian state of Victoria on Wednesday.

Police on Thursday said one of the two men was a British national who was surfing in extreme conditions, and the other was his friend who tried to rescue him.

Victoria Police said in a statement that emergency services were called to reports of two men in trouble in the water at Frankston Beach, 38 km southeast of central Melbourne, on Wednesday afternoon.

The two men were located unresponsive in the water by a police helicopter and winched back to shore, but could not be revived.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) on Wednesday morning issued a severe weather warning for destructive winds for almost the entirety of Victoria. Maximum wind speeds exceeded 120 km per hour in the state's southwest and 90 km per hour in Melbourne.The State Emergency Service said on Thursday that it responded to more than 1,400 requests for help on Wednesday, the majority of which related to trees that had fallen across roads and properties.

India will "sharply reduce" Russian oil imports by year-end: Donald Trump

Washington/ New Delhi , Oct 23 (UNI) : President Donald Trump has reiterated his claim that India will "sharply reduce" its imports of Russian oil by the end of this year, citing what he described as a personal assurance from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at the White House alongside NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, President Trump said India currently sources nearly 40 percent of its crude oil from Russia but plans to phase it out in the coming months.

"India, as you know, told me that they would stop. It is a process; you can't just stop it. But by the end of the year, they will be down to almost nothing. That's a big thing," the President said.

The President added that the reduction would be gradual to maintain global market stability. "India has been great. I spoke to Prime Minister Modi yesterday, and they have been absolutely great," he told reporters.

Trump's remarks come days after he claimed that Prime Minister Modi had assured him New Delhi would halt its purchases of Russian oil. He also linked potential US tariffs to India's energy policy, warning that high import duties on Indian goods would remain in place until

the country ceased buying oil from Moscow.

"If they want to say that, then they'll just continue to pay massive tariffs, and they don't want to do that," Trump said during an earlier interaction aboard Air Force One.

Trump's statement shows continued pressure on New Delhi to align more closely with US sanctions against Moscow.

However, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has denied that any such assurance was made, emphasising that India's energy policy is driven by national interest, prioritising stable prices and secure supplies.

India has repeatedly stressed that its energy policy was focused on ensuring stable domestic prices amid a growing population.

The US has already imposed 50 per cent tariffs on certain Indian imports, of which 25 per cent was due to New Delhi's Russian crude imports.

The US leader said he plans to discuss Beijing's Russian energy and oil trade with Jinping, aiming to pressure Moscow into negotiating a peace agreement.

Trump also criticized his predecessors, Joe Biden and Barack Obama, blaming their policies for driving China and Russia closer together.

US imposes sanctions on Russia's largest oil companies amid Ukraine conflict

Washington, Oct 23 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump announced new sanctions targeting Russia's two largest oil companies, Rosneft and Lukoil, aiming to pressure Moscow to end the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The announcement came after months of stalled diplomacy and increasing frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin's actions.

"Today is a very big day. Look, these are tremendous sanctions. These are very big. Those are against their two big oil companies... We hope that the war will be settled. We

just answered having to do with the various forms of missiles and everything else that we're looking at. But we don't think that's going to be necessary,"Trump said during a White House interaction with journalists while hosting NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte.The US Department of the Treasury also imposed sanctions that freeze the assets of Rosneft and Lukoil in the United States and bar American entities from financial dealings with them.

All subsidiaries owned 50 pc or more by these companies are also

blocked. Trump criticized the ongoing conflict's toll, noting, "We would like to see them just take the line that has been formed over quite a long period of time and go home. Last week they had almost 8,000 soldiers killed. Many Russians and Ukrainians were killed last week. We think it's ridiculous and we'd like to have it end... I think they both want peace at this point. it's almost four years... If I were president, it never would have started."When asked why sanctions were intensified now, Trump replied, "I just felt it was time. We've waited a long time." NATO

Secretary General Mark Rutte praised Trump's efforts to "break the deadlock" with Russia and work toward peace.

"The next big thing is Ukraine-Russia. NATO wants to help deliver your vision of peace in Ukraine. Thank you for all you're doing, including initiating dialogue with Putin."

The sanctions aim to cut off critical funding to Russia's war machine and weaken its economy.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent emphasized, "Now is the time to stop the killing and call for an immediate ceasefire. Given President Putin's refusal to

end this senseless war, Treasury is sanctioning Russia's two largest oil companies."Rosneft and Lukoil together export about 3.1 million barrels of oil per day, representing a significant source of revenue for Moscow.

The move follows similar sanctions imposed recently by the UK and is aligned with the European Union's latest 19th sanctions package against Russia.Trump has declined to provide Ukraine with Tomahawk missiles, citing the extensive training required, calling such assistance "too far out in the future."

Russia open to diplomacy for arms control with US: Deputy FM Sergey Ryabkov

Moscow, Oct 23 (UNI) : Russia remains open to political and diplomatic solutions in the field of arms control, despite its ever-growing tensions with the US and its allies in the NATO and the EU, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said on Wednesday.

"The clearest example is our withdrawal from the moratorium on deploying intermediate- and shorter-range ground-based missiles, given the ongoing US and Western efforts to position similar weapons in Europe and the Asia-Pacific," Ryabkov said at a meeting on the fundamentals of Russia's nuclear non-proliferation policy, reports state media.

"Nevertheless, we are keeping the door open for political and diplomatic solutions in the future."

Ryabkov warned that if Washington refuses Moscow's latest proposal regarding the New START Treaty, the result would be a "complete vacuum" in arms control and an "increased risk of nuclear escalation."

He noted, however, that no meaningful dialogue currently exists between the two sides on nuclear non-proliferation, nor is there any prospect of resuming data exchanges under the treaty.

Malaysia looks forward to Japanese role in semiconductor investment

Kuala Lumpur, Oct 23 (UNI) : Malaysia, as the current chairman of the ASEAN is looking forward to a greater role by Japan in advancing technology transfer and front-end semiconductor investment across the region, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Md Hasan.

"I think ASEAN's partnership with Japan has reached the level of a strategic comprehensive partnership.

We have no major issues with Japan, but we would like to see Tokyo take on a greater role in technology and artificial intelligence," the minister told reporters of the summit,

during a visit to the International Media Centre ahead of the 47th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Kuala Lumpur.

"In terms of trade between ASEAN and Japan, there are no concerns. What we want now is for Japan to contribute more in terms of technology transfer - especially as Malaysia chairs ASEAN this year,"he added.

The summits will also mark the diplomatic debut of Japan's first female prime minister, Sanae Takaichi, who recently assumed office in a historic moment in Japanese politics, following a coalition

agreement between her Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Japan Innovation Party (JIP).

Hasan said that ASEAN hopes for Tokyo to take a more active approach, and go beyond its current capacity as a supporting party in the regional supply chain, investing directly in front-end sectors, particularly semiconductor manufacturing.

"We (Malaysia) have strong bilateral ties with Japan, and ASEAN has its own multilateral framework. That's why we've upgraded our engagement with Japan to a Strategic Comprehensive Partnership," he said.



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Bengaluru Bulls crush Gujarat Giants 54–26 to seal top-four spot



New Delhi, Oct 23 (IANS) :The Bengaluru Bulls were at their dominant best as they crushed the Gujarat Giants with a massive 54–26 victory at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on ThursdayWith this comprehensive win, the Bulls not only secured two crucial points but also confirmed their place in the top four of the standings. The Bulls outclassed their opponents in every department - from raiding to defence - and never allowed the Giants to settle into the contest.

Bengaluru Bulls made a flying start against Gujarat Giants despite conceding the first point of the match. The Giants opened the scoring through a successful raid by Himanshu Singh, but the Bulls quickly bounced back. Alireza Mirzaian produced a brilliant two-point raid to turn the game

in the Bulls’ favour at 2–1, and Deepak Sankar followed it up with a strong tackle to extend their lead.

The Bulls continued their aggressive play and completely dominated the early exchanges. Within the first three minutes, they inflicted an all out, taking a massive 9-point lead - the fastest all out of the season for the Bulls and second fastest of the season.

Gujarat Giantspicked up a few points, but the Bengaluru Bulls were in total control. Their raiders and defenders worked in perfect coordination, keeping the Giants under pressure throughout. By the time the Strategic Time Out was called in the first half, the Bulls had built a commanding 17–4 lead, showing their all-round dominance.

The Bulls carried their momentum into the next phase of the match, starting the resumption with a

brilliant tackle that sent Aryavardhan Navale off the mat and added another point to their tally. Their defence looked sharp, and their coordination was spot-on.The Bulls continued to dominate every aspect of the game, and the highlight came soon after when they inflicted a second all out, extending their lead to 22–5. The team showed no signs of slowing down, maintaining relentless pressure on the Gujarat Giants.As the first half progressed, the Bulls’ raiders and defenders worked in perfect sync, not giving the Giants any room to recover. They went on to inflict a third all out of the half, stretching their lead to a massive 34–7. By the time the whistle blew for halftime, the Bengaluru Bulls were firmly in command with a 36–7 lead, showcasing complete dominance on both ends of the mat.

Pratika Rawal joins elite list with World Cup century

Navi Mumbai, Oct 23 (UNI) : Young opener Pratika Rawal struck her maiden World Cup century to etch her name in the record books, as India's opening duo produced a historic double hundred stand against New Zealand in their ICC Women’s World Cup clash at the DY Patil Stadium here.

Rawal reached her milestone in the 39th over, guiding a full delivery from New Zealand’s Rosemary Mair to point for a single in the ICC WWC match here today.

She removed her helmet, raised her bat in joy, and was warmly hugged by

partner Jemimah Rodrigues as head coach Amol Muzumdar stood applauding the landmark effort.

The hundred capped a composed and mature innings from the 22-year-old, who had earlier made promising starts in the tournament but finally converted one into a big score. Her effort came on the same day that senior opener Smriti Mandhana produced a record-breaking ton, making this only the third instance in Women’s ODI World Cup history where both openers have scored centuries in the same innings.The previous

pairs to achieve this rare feat were England’s Lynne Thomas and Enid Bakewell against International XI in 1973, and Australia’s Lindsay Reeler and Ruth Buckstein versus the Netherlands in 1988.

Pratika’s century was also the 41st individual WODI hundred of the year — well clear of the 29 recorded in 2024 — underscoring a prolific year for women’s cricket. India Women now lead the list for most individual hundreds by a team in a calendar year with 10 in 2025, ahead of New Zealand’s 8 in 2018 and South Africa’s 8 this year.

Meghalaya Karate Championship begins

Shillong, Oct 23 (UNI) : The 31st State Karate Championship 2025 began today at the JN Indoor Stadium here in Meghalaya with a flurry of action from the bright young talents of the martial art form.

Karatekas from eight districts have gathered in Shillong for the championship, which is being organised by the All Meghalaya Karate-Do Association (AMKA) with the support of the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs.

This year 512 karatekas have registered for the three-day event, All Meghalaya Karate-Do Association President Hunlang Lytan said, an increase on the 456 who participated last year.

A minute's silence was

observed during the opening ceremony to remember All Meghalaya Karate-Do Association founder Stephan Leong, whose death anniversary coincides with today's event.

He died on October 23, 2011 and his importance to the establishment and growth of karate in Meghalaya and the wider North East will never be forgotten.

Commissioner and Secretary Matsiewdor War Nongbri praised All Meghalaya Karate-Do Association for having held this championship for three decades.

"Karate has put down deep roots in our state. Many associations have yet to hold a state championship but All Meghalaya Karate-Do Association has been

doing it successfully 31 times now," Nongbri, a celebrated former archer and able sports administrator, said.

Drawing on her own experience, War Nongbri also advised the gathered karatekas on the importance of time management, their education and also in allowing themselves space to relax.

The hundreds of participating karatekas, many of whom are just starting out in the sport while others have already won medals for the state at regional and national events, have been divided up based on age and weight.

Both kumite (sparring) and kata (choreographed movement demonstration) events are being conducted.

Battle far from over in bowling dept: Harmanpreet Kaur

Navi Mumbai, Oct 24 (UNI) : In a display of grit, determination, and sheer team spirit, India Women's cricket squad roared back to form under the watchful leadership of captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who made it clear that the battle is far from over, especially in the bowling department.

"We have been doing really well while batting, but bowling is something we need to improve. We have one more game where we can address that, and hopefully, as a bowling unit, we'll come together and perform even better," Harmanpreet declared, setting the tone with characteristic candour and urgency.

The captain did not mince words about the scars of previous setbacks. "Even though the last three games didn't go our way, we knew this wasn't what we expected. Today was the right time, and everyone stood up and lifted each other. That showed our positive mindset," she said, her words ringing with the triumph of resilience.

Credit, however, was shared generously. Smriti Mandhana and Pratika Rawal, she said, were the bedrock of the innings. "Credit goes to Smriti and

Pratika. They took responsibility and played key innings for the team. We got a very good start when they both scored 200 runs," she observed, the sparkle in her voice betraying the joy of witnessing her teammates rise to the occasion.

Playing at home added its own flavour to the triumph. "Whenever you play at home, everyone expects a lot from you. The fans are always cheering, and this is the moment to enjoy, not just take pressure. Today was our day, and I'm really happy with how we executed ourselves," Harmanpreet said, capturing the pulse of a team that thrived under expectation.

What stands out is not just the runs scored or the wickets taken, but the unity, the undying spirit, and the unwavering focus on collective growth. Harmanpreet's reflections read like a manifesto: lessons learned, strengths recognised, and challenges embraced.

The India Women’s team, it seems, is not just playing cricket, they are scripting a saga of resilience, courage, and hope, game by game, moment by moment.

Sumit Sangwan’s High Five helps UP Yoddhas sign off with a win over U Mumba

Delhi, Oct 23 (UNI) : UP Yoddhas registered a close 35-32 win against U Mumba at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium in Delhi on Thursday. While the win wasn’t enough for the Yoddhas to secure a place in the top eight, U Mumba missed out on the opportunity to secure a top-four finish.

In a game where the defences were on top, Sumit Sangwan led the way for the Yoddhas with a High Five. Hitesh contributed with four tackle points, while Surender Gill was also effective on both ends of the mat. For U Mumba, Ajit Chouhan recorded a Super 10, and Rinku secured a High Five. However, that wasn’t enough for their

team to get the win.It was a cautious start by both teams before U Mumba imposed themselves to take an early lead. A tackle from Vijay Kumar opened their account, and Ajit followed it up with a couple of raid points. Sunil Kumar also made his presence felt at the start, giving his side a four-point lead despite Guman Singh getting on the board for the UP Yoddhas.

However, the Yoddhas got back on level terms courtesy Surender Gill’s Super Raid, levelling the score at 5-5. They soon got their noses in front as Ashu Singh registered his first tackle, but the lead lasted momentarily as Rinku bagged a couple of Super Tackles to help U Mumba

Afghanistan fined for slow over-rate against Zimbabwe

Dubai, Oct 23 (UNI) : Afghanistan have been fined 25 per cent of their match fee for slow over-rate in the one-off Test against Zimbabwe.

The sanction was imposed by Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees after Afghanistan were ruled to be five overs short of the target time allowances were taken into consideration.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

Not easy to make gritty comeback: Gill on Rohit's 73

Adelaide, Oct 23 (UNI) : India's Rohit Sharma made a gritty comeback, but missed opportunities proved costly as Australia sealed the second ODI, taking a 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

"We had just enough runs on the board, but dropping a couple of chances really hurt us," India captain Shubman Gill said.

"It's not easy to make a comeback after a long gap. Rohit played really well after coming back. The initial phase was challenging, but he fought hard, showed great temperament, and held the innings together. He battled through the tough overs, and I think he deserved a really big score today."

On the pitch conditions, Gill added, "In the first game, the toss was more crucial because of the rain. In this game,

FC Bengaluru United blank Bharat Bangalore FC 5-0

Bengaluru, Oct 23 (UNI) : FC Bengaluru United (FCBU) put on a commanding performance to secure a 5–0 win over Bharat Bangalore FC in the KSFA Super Division 2025–26. From start to finish, FCBU controlled the game with clinical finishing, sharp wing play, and a watertight defence that never let their opponents settle; an all-round effort with goals from Ribhav (10', 66'), Lijo (15'), Sherin (78') and Romario (90').FCBU took the lead early in the 10th minute when Vumlenlal Hangshing sent in a precise cross from the left, met perfectly by Ribhav's well-timed header into the net. Just five minutes later, Junain delivered another brilliant ball, this time from the right wing, which Lijo nodded home to double the advantage.Early in the second half, BBFC were reduced to ten men, further tilting the momentum in FCBU’s favour. The third goal arrived in the 66th minute when Ribhav showcased fine control inside the box, slipping the ball through a defender’s legs before coolly finishing into the bottom corner. FCBU kept pressing, and in the 78th minute, a corner caused chaos in the box before Sherin pounced on the loose ball to make it 4-0.

Ministry sets draft rules for Sports bodies, boards and tribunals

New Delhi, Oct 23 (UNI) : The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has drafted three sets of draft Rules, namely, Draft National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, Draft National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules, and Draft National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules.

These Rules have been formulated to facilitate the implementation of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.The National Sports Governance Act, 2025, was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 11, 2025 and Rajya Sabha on August 12, 2025, and received Presidential assent on August 18, 2025.

The Act aims to address the challenges and impediments in the governance of sports bodies and to establish a comprehensive framework for the governance and promotion of sports in India.

The Act seeks to ensure ethical practices, fair play across all levels of sport, safeguard the interests of sportspersons as the primary stakeholders, and create a robust ecosystem for sports in the country.

Draft National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules provide the framework for the inclusion of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit, composition of the General Body and Executive Committee, election procedures, and disqualification criteria for members of National Sports Bodies and Regional Sports Federations.

They also outline provisions for the National Sports Election Panel and specify procedures for registration and periodic updating of affiliate units with the National Sports Board.

Draft National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules prescribe the structure, functions and composition of the National Sports Board, including the constitution of the Search-cum-Selection Committee, manner of appointment of the Chairperson and Members, staffing arrangements (as per government procedure), and provision for relaxation by the Central Government where applicable.

Draft National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules define the institutional framework of the National Sports Tribunal, governing the appointment, tenure, and service conditions of the Chairperson, Members, and staff (as per government procedure).

same, as the two teams were tied 17-17 at halftime.

In a sedate start to the second half, the two teams were content to play at a slow tempo. Zafardanesh and Hitesh registered tackles to keep things level before Surender Gill secured a successful Do-Or-Die Raid and then registered his first tackle to give his side a two-point lead. Shivam Chaudhary also contributed with his Do-Or-Die Raid, before a tackle from Sumit helped the Yoddhas inflict ALL OUT.

They got themselves a seven-point advantage with the score at 27-20. With ten minutes to go in the game, U Mumba closed the gap to four points, courtesy a tackle from

Adam Zampa described the contest as always a good battle, praising both teams for adapting well to conditions.

He credited the pacers for controlling the powerplay and highlighted Xavier Bartlett and Nathan Ellis for their middle-overs contributions.

Zampa also commended Marsh’s leadership, saying, "The beauty of Mitch is that he’s chilled, relaxed, never too emotional. We run our own show out there with the ball."

Australia’s comprehensive win underlined their strength in both batting and bowling, while India’s dropped chances proved decisive.

The hosts now head into the final ODI with confidence, while India will aim to salvage pride in the series decider.

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Central Railway Diwali & Chhat Puja Festival Special Trains on today

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Oct 23 : The details are as under:

MUMBAI DIVISION- 25.10.2025

Details of trains departing from CSMT/ LTT/Panvel

1.Train no 01079 CSMT- Gorakhpur Special departing CSMT at 22.30 hrs

Halts: Dadar, Thane, Kalyan, Nashik Road, Manmad, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Bhopal, Bina, Virangana Lakshmbhai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti and Khalilabad

Composition : Three AC-3Tier, 10 Sleeper Class, 5 General Second Class and 2 General Second Class cum Guard's Brake Van.

2.Train no 01143 LTT- Danapur Special departing LTT at 10.30 hrs

Halts: Thane, Kalyan, Nashik Road, Bhusaval, Khandwa, -Itarsi, Jabalpur, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar and Ara.

Composition : Three AC-3Tier, 10 Sleeper Class, 5 General Second Class and 2 General Second Class cum Guard's Brake Van.

3.Train no 01017 LTT- Danapur Special departing LTT at 12.15 hrs

Halts: Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri. Nashik Road, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Bhopal, Bina, Virangana Lakshmbhai Jhansi, Orai, Govindpuri Jn, Fatehpur, Subedarganj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn,

Buxar and Ara. Composition : Two AC 2-Tier, Eight AC 3-Tier, 4 Sleeper Class, 6 General Second Class, 1 General Second class cum Guard's Brake Van & 1 Generator Car.

4.Train no 01159 P a n v e l - C h i p l u n Unreserved Special departing Panvel at 16.40 hrs

Halts: Somatane, Apta, Jite, Pen, Kasu, Nagothane, Roha, Kolad, Indapur, Mangaon, Goregaon Road, Veer, Sape Wamne, Karanjadi, Vinehere, D i w a n k h a v a t i , KalambaniBudruk, Khed and Anjani

Composition: 08 CAR MEMU
PUNE DIVISION- 25.10.2025

Details of trains departing from Pune/ Khadki/Daund

5.Train no 01415 Pune-Gorakhpur Special departing Pune at 06.50 hrs

Halts: Daund Chord Line, Ahilyanagar, Kopargaoon, Manmad, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Bhopal, Bina, Virangana Lakshmbhai Jhansi, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda and Basti.

Composition : Four AC-3Tier, 6 Sleeper Class, 6 General Second Class and 2 General Second Class cum Guard's Brake Van.

6.Train no 01449 Pune- Danapur Special departing Pune at 15.30 hrs

Halts: Daund Chord Line, Ahilyanagar,

Kopargaon, Manmad, Bhusaval, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Satna, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt.Deendayal Upadhyay Junction, Buxar and Ara

Composition : Four AC 3-Tier, 6 Sleeper Class, 6 General Second Class, 2 General Second class cum Guard's Brake Van.

7.Train no 01483 Pune- Hazrat Nizamuddin Special departing Pune at 17.30 hrs

Halts: Lonavala, Kalyan, Bhiwandi Road, Vasai Road, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Udhna, Vadodara Jn, Ratlam, Bhawani Mandi, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Bharatpur Jn and Mathura.

Composition: Four AC 3-Tier, 6 Sleeper Class, 6 General Second Class, 2 General Second class cum Guard's Brake Van.

8.Train no 01407 Khadki-Sanganer Special departing Khadki at 09.45 hrs

Halts: Lonavala, Kalyan, Bhiwandi Road, Vasai Road, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Ankleshwar jn, Vadodara, Godhra, Ratlam, Bhawani Mandi, Kota and Sawai Madhopur.

Composition : Four AC 3-Tier, 6 Sleeper Class, 6 General Second Class, 2 General Second class cum Guard's Brake Van.

9.Train no 01421 Daund- Kalaburagi Unreserved Special departing Daund at 05.00 hrs

Halts: Bhigwan, Parewadi, Jeur, Kem, Kurduwadi, Madha, Mohol, Solapur, Tikekarwadi,

Hotgi, Akalkot Road, Boroti, Dudhani and Ganagapur

Composition : 10 General Second Class and 2 Second Class-cum- Luggage-cum Guard's Coach .

10.Train no 01451 Kolhapur-Kalaburagi Special departing Kolhapur at 06.10 hrs

Halts: Hatkanangale, Jaysingpur, Miraj, Arag, Belanki, Salagre, Kavathe Mahankal, Langarpeth, Dhalgaon, Jath Road, MhasobaDongargaon, Javale, Wasud, Sangola, Pandharpur, Modlimb, Kurduwadi, Madha, Mohol, Solapur, Akalkot Road, Dudhani and Gangapur Road.

Composition : Four AC 3-Tier, 6 Sleeper Class, 6 General Second Class, 2 General Second class cum Guard's Brake Van.

SOLAPUR DIVISION- 25.10.2025

Details of trains departing from Kalaburagi

11.Train no 01422 Kalaburagi – Daund Unreserved Special departing Kalaburagi at 16.10 hrs

Halts: Ganagapur, Dudhani, Boroti, Akalkot Road, Hotgi, Tikekarwadi, Solapur, Mohol, Madha, Kurduwadi, Kem, Jeur, Parewadi & Bhigwan

Composition : 10 General Second Class and 2 Second Class-cum- Luggage-cum Guard's Coach.

12. Train no 01452 Kalaburagi – Kolhapur Special departing

Kalaburagi at 18.10 hrs

Halts: Ganagapur, Dudhani, Akalkot Road, Solapur, Mohol, Madha, Kurduwadi, Pandharpur, Sangola, Wasud, Javale, Mhasobadongargaon, Jath Road, Dhalgaon, Langarpeth, Kavathe Mahankal, Salagre, Belanki, Arag, Miraj, Jaysingpur and Hatkanangale

Composition : Four AC 3-Tier, 6 Sleeper Class, 6 General Second Class, 2 General Second class cum Guard's Brake Van.

NAGPUR DIVISION- 25.10.2025

Details of trains departing from Nagpur

13.Train no 01209 Nagpur- Hadapsar Special departing Nagpur at 19.40 hrs

Halts: Wardha, Dhamangaon, Badnera, Akola, Shegaon, Malkapur, Bhusaval, Jalgaon, Manmad, Kopargaon, Belapur, Ahilyanagar and Daund Chord Line

Composition: Four AC 3-Tier, 6 Sleeper class, 6 General Second Class and 2 General Second Class cum Guard's brake van.

Bookings for above Special trains already open at all computerised reservation centres and on website www.irctc.co.in

For detailed timings at halts of this special train please visit http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App

Passengers are requested to avail the special train services and travel with valid tickets to avoid inconvenience.

Western Railway’s Mumbai Central Division achieves historic 100% punctuality

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 23 : Western Railway’s Mumbai Central Division has achieved a remarkable milestone by recording 100% Mail-Express train punctuality on 22nd October 2025. This o u t s t a n d i n g accomplishment reflects the Division’s unwavering focus on operational excellence, punctuality and passenger satisfaction.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of

Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, this exceptional achievement is particularly noteworthy in view of the large number of Diwali– Chhath Festival Special trains presently operating over the Division’s saturated network. Despite these operational challenges, meticulous planning, seamless coordination and dedicated teamwork ensured flawless punctuality performance. Mumbai Central Division manages one of the densest and most complex passenger

operations in the country, operating over 1400 Suburban train services and around 150 Mail/ Express trains daily, across a network exceeding 600 route kilometres.

Western Railway reiterates its unwavering commitment to providing safe, efficient, and reliable services to all passengers. This milestone stands as a proud testament to the collective efforts, professionalism and dedication of Western Railway’s committed staff.

Central Railway streamlines crowd management with provision of holding areas at major stations to manage the festive rush

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 23 : Indian Railways is running a total of 12011 Special Trains for the benefit of passengers travelling on account of Diwali / Chhath Puja festival. These Festival Specials are expected to facilitate travel for over 1 crore passengers providing convenient travel options to destinations across the country.

Shri Vijay Kumar, General Manager, Central Railway informed that out of these Central Railway is operating 1998 Diwali Special trips (both Reserved and Unreserved), of which will help serve more than 30 lakh passengers providing convenient travel options to destinations such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh, among others.

Indian Railways has made extensive arrangements to cater to the surge in passenger demand during the ongoing festive season. Special holding areas have been developed / planned for effective crowd management at 76 major stations on 16 Zones of Indian Railways.

The General Manager emphasised that Central Railway has streamlined crowd management with provision of holding areas at 6 major stations viz: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus(CSMT), Lokmanya Tilak Terminus(LTT), Dadar, Pune, Nashik Road & Nagpur to accommodate the rush of passengers.

- At CSMT an area of 1200 Square Meters has been created,
- At LTT a total holding area of 10000 square meters has been created,
- At Pune station a holding area of 2000 Square meters has been created,
- At Nashik Road station a holding area of 1000 Square meters has been created

and

- At Nagpur station a holding area of 1500 Square meters has been created . These holding areas can accommodate approximately 20,000 passengers at a time. In addition to developing holding areas, following measures are being taken to ensure effective crowd management:
 - Provision of covered shed, adequate light, ventilation, drinking water, fans, toilets, charging points, food stalls and passenger address system have been done.
 - Platforms are being nominated well in advance and no change is being made in the platforms of the trains.
 - Two crowded trains on island platforms are being avoided to ensure unhindered passage
 - Regular announcements regarding timings of trains and other important information are being made
 - Queue formation for the boarding of the passengers under the watchful eyes of RPF personnel and Commercial staff is ensured.

- Real-time monitoring of ticket availability and passenger trends are being done with the help of AI and War rooms.
- Sufficient Commercial staff & Ticket checking staff have been deployed for passenger assistance.
- Coordination with RPF and GRP for safety and security at major stations is being maintained.

With the efficient arrangements, enhanced passenger services, and a commitment to convenience and care, Central Railway is ensuring that every passenger during his or her rail journey during the festive season is served well.

BJP’s slams Omar Abdullah-led govt for ‘betraying people’s trust’

Srinagar, Oct 23 (UNI) :

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary and J&K in-charge Tarun Chugh today launched a scathing attack on the Omar Abdullah-led government, accusing it of betraying the trust of the people and failing to fulfil a single promise made in its election manifesto.

Addressing a party rally at Alamdaar Colony in Mirgund, Budgam, held as part of the BJP’s ongoing election campaign for party candidate Aga Syed Mohsin, Chugh said, people still remember how Omar Abdullah abandoned them after winning from the constituency.

“Omar Abdullah had promised to retain the Budgam seat if elected, but later left it on God’s mercy, never returning to thank the voters who ensured his victory. He didn’t visit the constituency even once after the election. Such arrogance and detachment from the people will now face a democratic answer,”

Chugh said.The by-elections for the Budgam and Nagrota are scheduled to be held on November 11.

Chugh said the National Conference, from Sheikh Abdullah to Farooq Abdullah to Omar Abdullah, has only thrived on dynasty politics, and now preparations are underway to launch the next generation.“For decades, this family has treated Jammu and Kashmir like a personal estate. Every reign has been marked by betrayal, nepotism, and neglect,” he said.Chugh accused the Omar-led government of ignoring key sectors such as tourism, employment, and infrastructure.“Not a single promise has been fulfilled. When asked about tourism, Omar Abdullah talks about his trips to Mumbai and Delhi, but what about the people of Kashmir? Has he ever sat with them and listened to their struggles?” Chugh questioned.

Calling upon the people to support BJP candidate

Aga Mohsin, Chugh said, “This election is not just about one seat; it is about ending dynastic misrule and giving Budgam a leader who stands with the people. The BJP is committed to transparent governance, real development, and dignity for every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir.”

BJP J&K president Sat Sharma said that the party has gained tremendous ground in Jammu and Kashmir over the years through consistent hard work and people’s trust.

“The acceptance of BJP has grown across regions because the party represents every section and community. Today, people look to the BJP with hope because it stands for Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas. Under Prime Minister Modi, India has emerged as the world’s fourth-largest economy, driven by transparency, integrity, and inclusive growth,” he said.

General Manager, Western Railway, Vivek Kumar Gupta, visits Bandra terminus



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 23 : In view of the heavy passenger traffic during the ongoing festive season of Diwali and Chhath Puja, General Manager, Western Railway, Shri Vivek Kumar Gupta, visited Bandra Terminus Station on 21st October 2025 and conducted a detailed inspection of the passenger facilities, crowd management arrangements and special train operations to ensure smooth handling of the increased passenger traffic. He was accompanied by senior officers from Western Railway Headquarters and Mumbai Central Division. During the visit, the General Manager inspected various areas of Bandra Terminus including the concourse, holding areas, ticket counters, waiting halls and circulating area, and reviewed the preparedness of the station to handle the festive rush effectively.

Following the inspection, Shri Vivek Kumar Gupta addressed the media and briefed them regarding the extensive arrangements made by the

Railways' to manage the festive rush and provide comfortable travel to passengers.

According to a press release issued by Mr Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, during the press briefing the General Manager shared that Indian Railways is operating more than 12,000 trips of holiday special trains during the current festive season. Holding areas, extra ticket counters, drinking water facilities and other amenities are being provided at major stations across the country, while over 12 lakh railway employees are working round-the-clock to ensure smooth and safe travel for passengers during this period.

He further added that, Western Railway is running more than 2,400 trips with nearly 80 pairs of special trains to cater to the festive rush of Diwali and Chhath Puja, most of which are north-bound. Of these, 1,586 trips originate from Gujarat, 738 from Maharashtra and 90 from Madhya Pradesh. These

include almost 50 trips of unreserved special trains.

Mr Gupta said that, to provide ease of ticketing, a Mobile UTS facility has been introduced, through which booking staff directly approach passengers for issuing tickets. To manage the additional inflow of passengers, extra personnel from the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) have been deployed at stations to guide passengers and ensure safe, orderly movement in queues. Trains, including both regular and special services, are being escorted by RPF personnel for enhanced safety.

Mr Gupta stated that keeping in mind the safety of passengers, CCTV systems are being monitored 24x7 to avoid any untoward incident. War Rooms have been set up for crowd management at all sensitive stations and are manned round-the-clock by Western Railway officers and staff. He further added that, Free drinking water and adequate toilet facilities are being provided

at all major stations for the convenience of passengers.

At Bandra Terminus, specific measures have been implemented to handle the exceptionally high festive rush. During the period from 15th to 21st October 2025, approximately 70,000 passengers were able to travel to their destinations from Bandra Terminus. During this period to cater to passenger demand, 466 trips were run from Udhna/ Surat, 468 from Bandra Terminus, 254 from Mumbai Central and 72 from Valsad.

Mr Gupta further said that to ensure smooth crowd flow and passenger comfort, a temporary holding area of 350 square metres with a capacity of 450 passengers and a permanent holding area of 702 square metres with a capacity of 1,000 passengers have been created at Bandra Terminus. Both holding areas are equipped with adequate lighting, fans and a public announcement system to keep passengers informed about train movements. A total of 70 licensed

