

TVK postpones mass outreach for a fortnight

Chennai, Oct 1 (UNI) With the Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) frontline leaders on the run and party president and actor Vijay confined to his home, the TVK has put off for a fortnight its mass outreach campaign in the aftermath of the killer stampede at Karur on September 27. While the rattled TVK is yet to recover from the shock of the horrendous tragedy at Vijay's Karur rally, which claimed 41 lives, the party has been facing flak from the ruling DMK and its allies, as well as the State government.

"At a time when we are in deep sorrow and agony, having lost our dear ones, our party president's mass outreach campaign has been postponed for two weeks. Further information on the resumption of the campaign will be announced later," read a message posted on the TVK headquarters' 'X' handle today. This announcement comes in the wake of the state police launching a manhunt for TVK general secretary Bussy N Anand following the registration of an FIR against him and

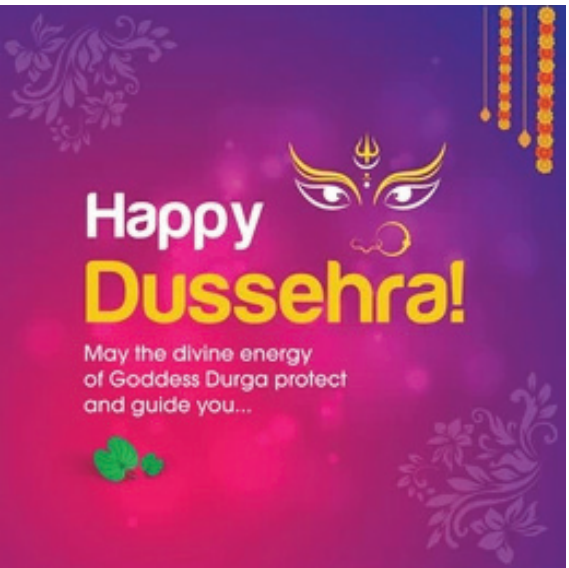
deputy general secretary CTR Nirmal Kumar. Already, the police have arrested TVK Karur district secretary Mathiyalagan and another functionary, Paunraj, and they have been remanded to judicial custody. Both Anand and Kumar have moved the Madras High Court seeking anticipatory bail. The Court is yet to give relief. Vijay, who remains incommunicado since September 27, broke his silence and dared the Chief Minister to take revenge on him but spare the TVK

functionaries and cadre. Countering the criticism against him and the TVK for the ghastly tragedy, the actor asked, "Why and how did this happen in Karur while in all other previous places it has passed off incident-free and peacefully?" "The truth will come out soon," he asserted, lending credence to the conspiracy theory for the tragic incident. Meanwhile, former DMK Minister and party Karur District Secretary V. Senthil Balaji refuted conspiracy theories and squarely blamed Vijay and

the unruly TVK cadres for the tragedy. "Vijay and TVK should introspect instead of blaming others. True, it was a massive rally, but an unruly, infantile one," he told the media in Karur. "Footwear was hurled at Vijay by a TVK cadre so that he stopped his address, as some in the crowd, waiting for long hours, had swooned and fallen down. The crowd crashed into the generator shed as well. Had Vijay arrived on time, this would not have happened in Karur," he reasoned.

3 pc DA hike for Central Govt employees

New Delhi, Oct 1 (UNI) : The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi today approved release of an additional instalment of three per cent Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief to pensioners with effect from July. "The union Cabinet has approved the release of an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) for Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners, effective from 01.07.2025.



Extends Warm Greetings to our Readers on the Occasion of Dussehra.



FM will launch nationwide awareness campaign

Department of Financial Services (DFS) in coordination with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), (See on page 8)

Vance blames Democrats for White House shutdown



US Vice President JD Vance placed the blame for the government shutdown squarely on the shoulder of Democrats, accusing them of "hostage taking" over health care demands in his first public remarks since the shutdown began at midnight. (See on page 3)

Usain Bolt dazzles in football



The city came alive with a spectacular celebration of Indian football as legendary sprinter Usain Bolt swapped his track spikes for football boots in a 5v5 all-star exhibition match at Mukesh Mills, organized by PUMA India. The event brought together players from Mumbai City FC and Bengaluru FC, (See on page 7)

India-Russia Strategic Partnership continues to



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov today said the Strategic Partnership between India and Russia continues to develop dynamically across the board with trade, economics, scientific and technological collaboration and cultural and humanitarian exchanges between the two countries on the rise. (See on page 4)

Nation pays tribute to

Gandhi ji and Shastri ji

on their Birth Anniversary

Swadeshi is the foundation of Aatmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat. Buying products made by the hard work of our own people is the true tribute to Gandhi ji and Shastri ji.

“ I say with confidence that our Nation will become self-reliant. Every citizen of this country will be a carrier of 'Vocal for Local.' Every citizen will live by the mantra of Swadeshi. - Narendra Modi ”

CBC 01401/13/0001/2526

Solapur Division of Central Railway Undertakes Various Activities under Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 Campaign



(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, Oct 1 : The Solapur Division of Central Railway has been actively conducting a series of impactful activities under the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025 Campaign, reaffirming its dedication towards cleanliness, hygiene and passenger well-being.
Mass Shramdaan
On the occasion of Pandit Deendayal

Upadhyay Jayanti on 25th September 2025, a mass-level Shramdaan was organised under the theme “Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath”. At Solapur Railway Station, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM) Shri Ansumali Kumar administered the Swachhata Shapath to about 200 volunteers, followed by cleanliness drives. Around 500 meters

of area was cleaned and 800 kg of garbage collected, later handed over to local bodies. Officers including Sr.DME, Sr.DCM, CMS along with staff, supervisors, passengers and depots across the division, with 1.5 tonnes of garbage collected by 550

volunteers.
Swachha Food & Pest Control Drive
A special drive for pest and rodent control was carried out in coaching depots, trains and station areas at Solapur, Wadi, Pandharpur and Kalaburagi on 26th September 2025. Anti-mosquito spraying, rat traps and cockroach control measures were implemented in coaches, platforms, pit lines and sheds. Under the Swachha Food Initiative, pantry cars, food plazas, restaurants and stalls were inspected by the Chief Health Inspector across stations. At Solapur, food quality checks were carried out in trains, and samples including milk were collected for testing.
Swachha Bharat Cultural Fest
To spread awareness on cleanliness among the younger generation, drawing, painting, dance and cultural competitions were held at Dr. Kotnis Memorial Railway Hospital and Bal Vikas Mandir, Solapur on 27th September 2025. A total of 186 children participated, promoting the message of Swachhata through their creativity. All

participants received small gifts and refreshments, while parents were sensitised on waste segregation and colony cleanliness.
Cleaning & Upgradation of Toilets
The Division undertook intensive cleaning and upgradation of public toilets at Solapur, Kalaburagi, Pandharpur, Wadi and other stations, including Divyang-friendly facilities on 28th September 2025. Coaches, enroute trains, pit lines and platforms were also covered under this drive, ensuring hygienic sanitation for passengers. These activities were coordinated by a team comprising of Shri Jitendra Waghmare, Shri Vijayakumar Khamgaonkar, Shri B S Birajdar, Shri Kapil Ingole, Shri Bhimsha Maske and others. Through these sustained efforts under SHS 2025, Solapur Division has once again demonstrated its commitment towards a cleaner and healthier railway environment, with active participation from officers, staff, passengers and the community at large.

Congress slams PM for backing Trump’s Gaza plan, accuses him of ignoring Palestinian rights

New Delhi, Oct 1 (UNI) : The Congress today hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for supporting US President Donald Trump’s newly unveiled 20-point plan for Gaza, accusing the PM of sidelining crucial issues and displaying “moral cowardice”.
In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that Modi’s support appears aimed at appeasing his “good friend” Trump and in solidarity with Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while ignoring the fundamental rights and voices of the Palestinian people.
“To appease his good friend President Trump and in solidarity with his other good friend Bibi Netanyahu, Prime Minister Modi has welcomed President Trump’s new 20-point plan for Gaza. But fundamental and disturbing

questions on the plan remain,” Jairam Ramesh said.Highlighting flaws in the plan, Ramesh posed questions to the PM. “Where are the people of Gaza themselves in the system of governance proposed? Where is the roadmap for a full-fledged Palestinian state to come into being? How much longer will the US and Israel continue to ignore Palestinian statehood, which has already been recognised by 157 member-countries of the UN, with India having led the way in November 1988? Where is the accountability for the genocide that has been carried out in Gaza over the past twenty months?”
Condemning Modi’s “silence on atrocities on civilians of Gaza”, the Rajya Sabha MP said, “The PM has maintained a complete silence on the horrific atrocities that have

led to the killing of tens of thousands of civilians in Gaza. This is extreme moral cowardice and a total betrayal of all that India has stood for”.
Notably, Prime Minister Modi had welcomed President Trump’s announcement of a comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict, saying that the "plan provides a viable pathway to long-term and sustainable peace, security and development for the Palestinian and Israeli people, as well as for the larger West Asian region".On Monday, at the White House, US President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a 20-point plan in Washington to end the Gaza war, secure the release of hostages within 72 hours, disarm Hamas, and establish a transitional governing body for the Strip.

State Women's Commission committed to protection of women: Rupali Chakankar

Kolhapur, Oct 1 (UNI) : The Maharashtra State Women’s Commission is committed to uplifting the status of women in society and fighting against injustice towards them,” Commission Chairperson Rupali Chakankar said today.
Addressing a training session on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (POSH) Act, 2013 here she

stressed the need for a change in men’s mindset and urged women to show courage in coming forward to file complaints. Despite strict provisions made by the government for women’s safety, many women still hesitate to register complaints, she regretted. The event was jointly organised by the State Women’s Commission, the District Women and Child

Welfare Department, Kolhapur, and the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), Kolhapur.
Chakankar stressed that the POSH Act applies to every workplace and called for establishment of grievance redressal committees in all government, private establishments, and organisations.

Constitution Satyagraha march enters Wardha, Congress ramps up attack on RSS

Mumbai, Oct 1 (UNI) : The Constitution has opened doors to every field by granting personal freedom, freedom of thought, and freedom of expression to people of all castes, religions, and to women.
But under the BJP regime, the Constitution is being trampled upon, said Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee President Harshvardhan Sapkal today.
“The BJP has created a system where the poor are made poorer while the rich become richer, and the root cause of this is the RSS. The Bahujan community is only being exploited. Their ideology is that both religious and political power should remain in the hands of a select few. We strongly condemn and denounce this ideology and the RSS’s dark and corrupt 100 years,” Sapkal said.
“Now that the RSS has completed a hundred years, just like Shishupal, they too have reached their limit. They must burn the Manusmriti and Bunch of Thoughts and dissolve the RSS,” he added.
The Constitution Satyagraha Padayatra entered Wardha district today. On its third day, the march began from Khadki and it will proceed through Lalwani to reach Wardha.
The march is receiving an overwhelming response from the people. On October 2, the march will arrive at Sevagram Ashram.
The padayatra, led in the presence of Mahatma Gandhi’s great-grandson Tushar Gandhi and Congress State President Harshvardhan Sapkal, saw participation from former minister Rajendra Mulak, Congress leader Charulata Tokas, Shekhar Shende, Wardha District Congress Committee President Manoj Chandurkar, Pradesh Congress General Secretary Anant Mohod, Rajendra Tidke, Sandesh Singhalakar, poet Gyanesh Wakudkar, Karale Guruji, Shailesh Agrawal, Feroz Mithiborwala, leaders of Shiv Sena (Uddhav faction), NCP (Sharad Pawar faction), and various social organizations.

Illegal constructions linked to gangster Andekar demolished in Pune

Pune, Oct 1 (UNI) The Pune Municipal Corporation’s encroachment department, under police protection, has demolished illegal structures linked to gangster Bandu Andekar and his family, said Deputy Commissioner of Police Krushikesh Rawale.
The houses, tin sheds, and toilets illegally built by Andekar and his family in front of and around his residence were razed during the operation.
In total, encroachments spread over 1,500 sq. ft. were removed.
Bandu Andekar, accused of murdering his own grandson Ayush Komkar to avenge the killing of former corporator Vanraj Andekar, has landed behind of his family behind bars.
Pune Police have vowed to uproot the Andekar gang entirely, squeezing their financial sources as well, he said.
The demolition drive was carried out as part of this larger crackdown, said Rawale.

Former Home Minister contests attack case cosure, alleges cops submitted wrong report

Mumbai, Oct 1 (UNI) :Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said at a press conference that he plans to produce a forensic report and use it to challenge the closure of a police case that looked into an attack on him in 2024, before the Maharashtra assembly elections."The forensic report has clearly stated that my (Anil Deshmukh's) car was hit by a stone, especially a large stone weighing ten kilograms. Since the road had a big curve, the speed of the car was very low. The stone broke the glass and injured my forehead, it said. I will produce this forensic report soon and take appropriate action based on it. I have seen the forensic report. I was the Home Minister of Maharashtra. I got to see that report from the police department," Anil Deshmukh told media persons.
Deshmukh alleged that BJP leader Parinay Fuke called the incident "fake" and the then superintendent of police gave a statement before the investigation was complete, due to political pressure.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis dismissed the incident as a "Salim-Javed screenplay," Deshmukh said.Deshmukh said Nagpur rural police should have investigated and arrested the two who allegedly threw stones, but instead submitted a 'B Summary' report and closed the case, calling it "a fabricated attack.""They should have submitted the 'A Summary' report since the accused were not found by the police, but instead, they submitted a 'B Summary' report and closed the case. Hence, we will take appropriate steps based on the forensic report which has come out," Anil Deshmukh said.
Former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh held a press conference today after Nagpur rural police closed the case and sought court permission to prosecute the complainant.

Pune, Oct 1 (UNI) : Mahatma Gandhi’s behavior reflected respect for the views of others. Today, when we talk of “Ram Rajya”, a different interpretation is projected. However, when Gandhi talked of "Ram Rajya" he used “Ram” only as a symbol; he never meant a “Hindu state”, what he envisioned was an ideal state, said former Supreme Court Justice Abhay Oka.
Adopting a scientific outlook is very important in the 21st century. Science today has permeated our everyday life. A scientific outlook arises from curiosity and a spirit of reform, said former Justice Oka here today, while inaugurating Gandhi week.Having a scientific approach does not mean opposing religion. Just as times have changed, religion too has seen reforms from time to time. A scientific outlook is essential for human welfare and for living a cultured life, said Oka.Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary on October 2 is celebrated as 'International Day of Non-Violence'. To mark the occasion, the Maharashtra Gandhi Smarak Nidhi and Yuvak Kranti Dal have jointly organized an eight-day ‘Gandhi Week’ at Gandhi Bhavan, Kothrud, from October 1 to October 8.Among the dignitaries present were Symbiosis founder-president Dr. Shantaram Balwant Mujumdar, president Dr. Kumar Saptarshi, senior litterateur Lakshmikant Deshmukh, trustees Anwar Rajan, Ulhas Pawar, Abhay Chhajed, M.S. Jadhav, Gopal Gunale, Buddhist monk Bhante Sudarshan, Muslim leader Isaq Sheikh, Jain representative Renuka Kankaria, Sikh leader Puneet Kaur, Christian priest Pradeep Chandekar, Jewish leader Yosef Nogavkar, and Hindu Guru Ghaisas.
In 1931, the Karachi Congress had passed a resolution against the death penalty. Having worked in the judiciary for years, I too believe there should be no death penalty, said former Justice Oka.
Fundamental duties in Article 51A of the Constitution are very important

because they call upon us to uphold the Constitution. The right to personal liberty and freedom of expression are enshrined in the Constitution. Expression through plays, cinema, and lectures is essential for meaningful freedom. But along with asserting one’s own freedom, one must respect the freedom of others, said Justice Oka.Gandhi emphasized harmony and brotherhood. Just as there is noise, air, and water pollution, there is also “thought pollution, he said. Last year we saw how river pollution occurred in the name of religion, though no religion teaches us to pollute rivers, he added.Dr. S.B. Mujumdar said, Many judges, after retirement, rest or travel. But Justice Oka has been engaging with people and understanding their feelings, which is noteworthy, he said.
Between 1920 and 1947, Gandhi was at the forefront of all major national events. By using truth, non-violence, fasting, and satyagraha as weapons, he secured freedom for the country. Gandhi was a visionary leader and skillfully “marketed” his ideas— by changing his attire, drinking goat’s milk, living in ashrams, spinning the charkha, and promoting Swadeshi, said Mazumdar.
Kumar Saptarshi said that Religion is what teaches a person to live for others; going against it is irreligion. Justice Oka is working to make the law understandable to the common man. Hinduism, at its core, stands for non-violence and love, but nationalism today is being distorted by blind devotion, he added.
Lakshmikant Deshmukh said after Gandhi’s assassination, national leaders decided to build Gandhi Bhavans across the country to spread his ideas. Pune’s Gandhi Bhavan has since become a cultural landmark.Today, Gandhi’s philosophy is being used to address contemporary issues. Sonam Wangchuk, a present-day leader working to spread Gandhian ideas, has been unlawfully arrested and should be released soon. Gandhi’s thoughts are eternal, and truth always triumphs, he said.

helping flood victims and raising funds.Both Shiv Senas have intensified their campaigning ahead of their respective Dussehra events. The Uddhav Thackery-led Shiv Sena has released teasers focusing on tradition and the undivided Shiv Sena's legacy, attempting to project the image of the "original Shiv Sena."
Shinde's Shiv Sena has also released a large number of posters and videos to demonstrate its strength.

Raj Thackeray likely to be invited to Sena's Dussehra rally

Mumbai, Oct 1 (UNI) : The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena will hold its annual Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park, Dadar West, on October 2 at 5pm, following in the footsteps of late Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray who began the tradition in 1966. According to Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena leaders, an invitation to the rally is likely to be extended to Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) founder Raj Thackeray.If Raj Thackeray

accepts the invitation, it could effectively signal the start of campaigning for the forthcoming local civic body polls in Maharashtra, and most significantly the battle to control the cash-rich Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Sena leaders said.
At the Dussehra rally, Uddhav is expected to blow the bugle for the upcoming local body elections, particularly the BMC polls expected to be held in January 2026. If Raj

Thackeray attends the Shiv Sena rally, it would indicate a Shiv Sena-MNS alliance taking on the BJP and the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.
Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Shinde announced that his Shiv Sena will hold its Dussehra rally at NESCO Centre, Goregaon, at 6 pm (after the Uddhav-led Sena's rally begins at 5 pm), instead of Azad Maidan, as declared earlier.Shinde said the event will be attended only

by people from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, while party workers from other areas have been directed to assist rain-affected farmers in the Marathwada region, Shinde-led Shiv Sena leaders said.
The Shinde Sena's strategy is to make this rally both a "show of strength" and a "public relations campaign." Senior party ministers and party workers will attend the rally. The Shinde Sena has also linked the Dussehra event to

Siddaramaiah brushes aside talk of leadership change

Bengaluru, Oct 1 (UNI) : In a statement that left little room for doubt, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah today declared that he intends to serve his full five-year term, brushing aside talk of a so-called "November revolution" within the state.

"I will be the Chief Minister for a full term of five years. I will be the Chief Minister for another two-and-half years," he told reporters, emphasising that opposition forecasts of his early exit would not materialise.

Siddaramaiah framed his tenure firmly within the discipline of the Congress high command. "Many people talk about a November revolution (change of guard in November) since it will be 2.5 years in November. What I have said is that I will follow whatever the high command says. Whatever the high command decides, we have to go by it," he said, leaving no ambiguity on where ultimate authority lies.

Turning to his political journey, Siddaramaiah recounted the predictions that once counted him out. "People had predicted that I would not be the Chief Minister for a second term, but I became Chief Minister again.

They said a bad omen, a crow sitting on my car, meant I would lose my post and won't be able to present the budget. I not only presented the budget but also completed my full five-year tenure from 2013 to 2018," he said, underscoring a narrative of resilience against political prognostications.

On performing the traditional "Pushap Archana" during the Dasara festival, he was measured: "I hope so. Till now I have been doing it." His remarks come amid a backdrop of persistent speculation within political circles regarding leadership shifts in November, but Siddaramaiah's stone left it clear: he intends to hold the reins for the entirety of his term.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath performs ‘Kanya Pujan’ on the occasion of Sharadiya Navratri’s Maha Navami, at Gorakhnath Temple, Gorakhpur.

Women pilgirm from AP sexually assaulted by two cops, triggersPO political outrage

Chennai, Oct 1 (UNI) : In a shocking incident, a woman pilgirm from Andhra Pradesh, who has come to offer prayers at the famous Lord Arunachaleswarar Temple at Tiruvannamalai, was sexually by two serving cops yesterday, triggering outrag by political parties.

Police sources said the two consables identified as Suresh Raj and Sundar, and attached to Tiruvannamalai East Police Station, were charged with raping the 19-year-old woman pilgirm, and were arrested and remanded in judicial custody.They were later placed under suspension.

After ofering prayers at the temple, the pilgirm, along with her relative was returning home in goods vehicle carrying vegetables, when the cops stopped the vehicle for routine checks and vehicle documents in the wee hours of yesterday on the outskirts of the city.

They then accosted the woman pilgrim to a secluded spot and raped her and fled the scne.

The victim, who manged to reach the main road, narrated her ordeal to the people of Endal village, who referred her to Tiruvannamalai Government Medical College hospital, where a medical examination

confirmed that she was sexually assaulted.

After a detailed probe by the senior police officials, including Vellore Range DIG G Dharmarajan and Tiruvannamalai District Superintendent of Police M.Sudhakar, who visited the spot.

After detailed investigtions, the two errant cops were arrested and produced before a local Court, which remanded them to judicial custody.

They were later lodged in Vellore Central prison, police said.The incident triggered strong condemnation from the Opposition parties and alleged that women were not safe under the police in the present DMK rule.

AIADMK General Secretary and Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami, in a hard hitting statement, questioned the silence of Chief Minister MK Stalin and demanded stringent action against the two constables for their horrendous act."A shocking case of sexual assault has emerged from Tiruvannamalai, triggering widespread outrage. Two policemen attached to the Tiruvannamalai East Police Station--identified as Suresh Raj and Sundar--allegedly abducted a young woman from Andhra

Pradesh who had come for darshan at the famous Arunachaleswarar Temple", he said.

The incident reportedly took place in the early hours of September 30 near the Endhal bypass road. The cops while on night patrol duty, stopped the vehicle in which the woman were travelling with her relative, forced them onto their motorcycles, and diverted them away from the main route, he said.The young woman was allegedly taken to a secluded spot and subjected to sexual assault and the survivor later managed to seek help and was admitted to the hospital for treatment.

Mr Palaniswami said the involvement of serving police personnel in such a heinous crime has caused shock and anger in Tiruvannamalai, a temple town that attracts lakhs of pilgrims each year.

"The shocking news that cops, Suresh Raj and Sundar, has subjected a young woman to sexual assault in front of her relative is nothing short of horrific", he charged. "This is the brutal pinnacle of the collapse of women's safety in Tamil Nadu", he said.

What answer does Chief Minister have for such an atrocity--committed not by criminals on the street, but by the

very police officers entrusted with protecting women?, the AIADMK leder asked.The ruling DMK government under Mr Stalin must hang its head in shame. Women today are forced to fear the very police force that should be their shield, Mr Palaniswami said and demanded that the government immediately ensure proper medical treatment for the survivor and take the strictest legal action against these police officers who have turned into predators.Meanwhile, PMK President Dr Anbumani Ramadoss also strongly condemned the sexual assault and termed it as a act of fence eating the crop.

It is shocking and painful that two policemen sexually assaulted a young woman in front of her mother near Enthal in Tiruvannamalai district. This is another painful example of how no one, from children to old women, is safe under the DMK regime, he said, in a statement.

It is condemnable that the DMK government has destroyed law and order and women's safety to this extent."A truck driver who was carrying bananas from Andhra Pradesh to the Tiruvannamalai market brought his sister and niece along with him who wanted

Shobha Gupta assumes charge as DG

New Delhi, Oct 1 (UNI) : Shobha Gupta, a 1990 batch Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES) officer, has assumed charge as Director General of Defence Estates (DGDE).Shobha Gupta, took charge yesterday, a Defence Ministry statement said here today.

During her distinguished career, she has served in several important appointments including Chief Executive Officer of various Cantonment Boards, Defence Estates Officer of different Circles, Director Defence Estates, Central Command, as well as Principal Director, Defence Estates, South-West Command and Western Command.

Palestinian Ambassador visits CPI(M) headquarters in Kerala, thanks for unwavering solidarity

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 1 (UNI) : Palestinian Ambassador to India, Abdullah Abu Shawesh, has paid a significant visit to the AKG Centre, the headquarters of Kerala's ruling CPI(M), expressing heartfelt gratitude for the party's long-standing support and solidarity with the people of Palestine.

In discussions with CPI(M) leaders, Ambassador Abu Shawesh highlighted the continuing denial of democratic rights to Palestinians, attributing the escalation to imperialist support for Israel, which, he said, has been contravening established international conventions.

The CPI(M) leadership reaffirmed its staunch support for Palestine's right to self-determination, a position echoed by Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in a separate meeting with the envoy. Chief Minister Vijayan declared Kerala's consistent solidarity with the Palestinian people, stating, "Kerala has always stood with Palestine, and we reiterate our support to our brothers and sisters in Gaza."

He further emphasised that, in accordance with UN resolutions, the realisation of a sovereign Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital is essential for peace in West Asia and called on the global community to act urgently. Ambassador Abu Shawesh, while explaining the hardships faced under Israeli occupation, described Kerala's support at this critical juncture as "a beacon of hope" for Palestinians.

He appealed for greater international solidarity and expressed hope that Kerala's example would inspire others. As part of the International Media Festival organised by the Kerala Media Academy, solidarity with Palestine took center stage. The Chief Minister, inaugurating the event yesterday evening,

urged society to unite in defense of press freedom, criticising increasing corporate control over media outlets and warning that independent journalism is under severe threat.

"Where independent journalism is lost, democracy ends," he asserted, noting the proliferation of fake news and the mounting challenges to critical thinking and constitutional values.

The Palestine Solidarity statement was formally handed over to Ambassador Abu Shawesh. In a vibrant show of support, dignitaries, including Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal, the Ambassador, and others, participated in flying kites and balloons inscribed "Kites Rise, So Will Palestine."

Addressing the audience, Ambassador Abu Shawesh spoke about the harsh propaganda war waged against Palestine by Israel and much of the Western media, which, he said, peddled dangerous myths and dehumanizing portrayals of Palestinians. While social media is also exploited for misinformation, it simultaneously serves as a crucial channel for sharing the stark realities from Gaza with the world.

He revealed that 252 journalists have lost their lives in Gaza due to honest journalism, highlighting the sacrifices made to uphold truth and democracy. Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal echoed these sentiments, noting Kerala's heartfelt solidarity with Palestine and emphasising the selfless sacrifices of journalists in conflict zones.

He remarked, "Nearly 300 journalists killed while reporting from Gaza gave their lives for democracy and humanity. Their sacrifices have brought to light the unparalleled suffering in Palestine."

Mysuru gears up for 416th Dasara finale

Mysuru, Oct 1 (UNI) The city is buzzing with excitement as preparations reach their peak for the grand finale of the 416th Dasara festival, scheduled for October 2. Streets are being adorned with vibrant decorations, floral garlands, and traditional torans, while the air resonates with the rhythmic beats of drums and the melodious strains of temple music.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the day with the time-honored Nandi Dwaja pooja at the north gate of Mysuru Palace, a ceremony steeped in centuries of devotion. Following the pooja, a floral tribute will be offered to Goddess Chamundeswari, symbolising reverence, prosperity, and the rich cultural legacy that Dasara embodies.

This year, the festival has been extended to eleven days, slightly longer than the customary ten,

highlighting the city's commitment to enhancing the grandeur of its celebrations.

The lead elephant, Abhimanyu, participating for the fifth and final time, will carry the golden howdah during the Jamboo Savari, the highlight of the festival. The parade will also feature 13 other elephants, including Hemavathi, making her debut in the procession, each adorned in vibrant fabrics and traditional ornaments, adding to the visual spectacle that has become synonymous with Mysuru Dasara. Preparations for the Jamboo Savari have been meticulous. The elephants, brought from various camps across Karnataka after a strict selection process, have undergone weeks of training, special dietary regimens, and health checkups to ensure their readiness for the procession.Abhimanyu, 59 years old, will lead the final

segment, accompanied by female elephants Kaveri and Roopa. Dhananjay will serve as the 'Nishane' elephant, followed by Gopi as the 'Noupath', while Mahendra, Srikanta, Lakshmi, Kanjan, Bhima, Ekalavya, Prashant, Sugriva, and Hemavathi complete the lineup, arranged in three groups.

Deputy Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), IB Prabhugowda, confirmed that the elephants are in peak condition, combining strength, poise, and grace, ready to perform safely around external and domestic uncertainties, including the impact of tariff hikes, GST cuts, and transmission of past interest rate reductions, said top economists. Experts expect a rate cut in December this year.

RBI decides to wait and watch, hits pause button on rate cut

Chennai, Oct 1 (UNI) : The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has hit the pause button on the repo rate cut to check the fall out of various other uncertainties like the US tariff, Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate cut and the transmission of past interest rate reductions, said top economists. Experts expect a rate cut in December this year.

"The MPC's decision to hold rates today (at 5.5%) largely hinges on them waiting for clouds to clear around external and domestic uncertainties, including the impact of tariff hikes, GST cuts, and transmission of past easing," said Madhavi Arora, Chief Economist, Emkay Global Financial Services.Pointing out the dissent by the two external members of MPC wanting an accommodative policy stance from the current neutral, Arora said this indicates some room for

rate easing ahead.

"Given the turbulent times, fiscal and monetary authorities need to keep eyes peeled on exports, particularly from sectors that are employment intensive and dominated by MSMEs," commented Dharmakirti Joshi, Chief Economist, Crisil Ltd.

The MPC has revised its inflation forecast downward by 50 basis points (bps) to 2.6%, while increasing the GDP forecast by 30 bps to 6.8%.

According to Joshi, the RBI perceives risks around its growth projections to be balanced, affording it the elbowroom to wait and watch, given incomplete transmission of the previous policy rate reductions and lingering global uncertainties.

Apart from monitoring transmission, it is keeping an eye on the ongoing cash reserve ratio cuts, Joshi added. According to him, several factors remain conducive for further

monetary policy facilitation."India's gross domestic product growth is projected to slow in the latter half of this fiscal as the impact of higher US tariffs manifests, and a global economic slowdown becomes evident. This is despite the support to consumption from direct and indirect tax cuts. If the US continues with the higher tariff levels, India's exports will face challenges in the second half," Joshi said.Inflation is expected to remain low this fiscal, with the Consumer Price Index based gauge averaging 2.4% and the Wholesale Price Index based print at 0.1% in the first five months of this fiscal. The MPC has brought down its inflation forecast for this fiscal to 2.6% and trimmed for the first quarter next fiscal, Joshi remarked.

China's excess capacity and low prices are contributing to disinflation in other economies, a trend likely to continue in the

near term. Crude oil prices, too, are projected to remain soft.The US Federal Reserve's decision in September to lower its funds rate by 25 bps, and the expectation of further such moves, lends the MPC greater flexibility to consider further reduction in the repo rate, Joshi said. According to Arora, given repeated undershoots versus forecasts, the focus on one-year-ahead expected inflation looks increasingly misplaced in a fast-changing environment—particularly as Asia's macro backdrop shifts toward a disinflationary bias.

Reacting to MPC's decision Umang Jindal, CEO, Homeland Group said: "The RBI's decision to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.50% brings stability at a time when the festive season usually drives strong housing demand, not just in metros but increasingly in Tier-2 cities as well. Maintaining the

current rate keeps borrowing costs predictable, encouraging buyers across emerging markets to invest in homes during this auspicious period.""The RBI's decision to maintain the repo rate and keep policy rates unchanged is a positive step," said Kushagr Ansal, Director of Ansal Housing.

"This action provides much needed stability to the real estate market, especially during the festive season when homebuying is predicted to increase. Prospective purchasers will feel more comfortable taking out home loans and making prompt investment decisions since EMIs are expected to stay constant," Ansal said.Sneha Pandey, Fund Manager Fixed Income, Quantum AMC is of the view that RBI's 'wait and watch' approach is prudent as previous rate cuts have already been front-loaded and their impact is still playing out.

STANDARD POST

Shift jobs linked to higher risk of kidney stones, study finds

Individuals engaged in shift-based jobs—particularly younger workers and those in less physically demanding roles—may face an elevated risk of developing kidney stones, according to new research published in Mayo Clinic Proceedings.

The study, which analysed data from over 220,000 individuals, found that shift workers are 15% more likely to experience kidney stone events, with lifestyle factors such as body mass index (BMI), hydration levels, and sleep patterns playing a mediating role.

The research, conducted by a team from Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China, sheds light on a largely overlooked health concern within the growing population of shift workers. It is the first large-scale, population-based cohort study to assess how different patterns of shift work—including night shifts, irregular schedules, and extended durations—are associated with the risk of kidney stones.

“Shift work disrupts circadian rhythms, alters hormone secretion, and is known to adversely affect metabolism and overall lifestyle. Our findings indicate a clear association between shift work and higher kidney stone risk, partially explained by behavioural and physiological changes,” said Dr. Yin Yang, lead author of the study.

Using data from the UK Biobank Study, the researchers tracked participants over a median period of 13.7 years. They found that individuals working night shifts or irregular hours had higher incidence rates of kidney stones compared to those working standard daytime hours. Interestingly, participants with a longer history of shift work appeared to have a slightly reduced risk—possibly reflecting the "healthy worker effect," wherein only those who can physiologically adapt remain in such roles long term.

Kidney stone disease, though preventable, continues to pose a significant public health burden. With global prevalence rates ranging between 1% and 13%, the condition is associated with severe pain, recurrent hospitalisations, and long-term complications including chronic kidney disease and cardiovascular problems.

Dr. Yang highlighted the urgency of proactive measures. “Supporting healthier lifestyle behaviours among shift workers—such as maintaining a healthy BMI, increasing fluid intake, avoiding smoking, and improving sleep quality—could significantly reduce their risk of developing kidney stones,” she said. With shift work becoming increasingly common across sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, transport, and IT, experts believe these findings call for renewed focus on occupational health frameworks

FatakPay’s subsidiary FatakSecure Receives IRDAI License, Enabling Expansion of Insurance Services

(Standard Post Bureau) FatakSecure, a subsidiary of FatakPay, has officially received approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for its composite Corporate Agent License. This regulatory milestone enables FatakPay to formally operate and expand its insurance vertical through FatakSecure; a significant step in bringing financial protection to underserved communities across India. FatakSecure is now authorized to offer motor, health, accident, life, corporate and consumable insurance to millions of

customers, including gig workers, blue collar staff, and other underserved communities who have traditionally been outside the formal insurance system. With this license, FatakPay is positioned to bridge the gap in insurance access, providing transparent, affordable, and easily accessible coverage to those who need it most. “India is at a pivotal point in its digital financial journey,” said Bikash Choudhary, CEO of FatakSecure. “Millions of hardworking individuals remain without the safety net of insurance. This license allows us to extend meaningful



protection, long-term savings and peace of mind to these communities, turning financial security from a distant goal into a practical reality.” This is the first one step towards

supporting the Government’s vision of “Insurance for All” “This is more than regulatory approval. It represents a key step toward financial inclusion with tangible social impact,” added Abhishek Gandhi, Co-founder of FatakPay. “In a time when regulators have become more stringent and selective in granting licenses, securing this approval reflects FatakPay’s commitment, operational strength, and the trust we have built with both our users and the regulator. Whether it’s a ₹20,000 emergency loan, a ₹500 gold investment, or ₹10 lakh insurance

coverage, our mission is to empower households, safeguard livelihoods, and build a financially resilient Bharat.” With this license, FatakPay has evolved into a comprehensive financial wellness platform, offering a holistic financial ecosystem across all key pillars. Lending, which includes micro and personal loans; investments such as digital gold; and protection through insurance offerings such as accidental cover, cancer cover; financial literacy content and credit improvement plans, and a job board via Humara Jobs.

The Hartford Opens Technology Center In Hyderabad To Accelerate AI Innovation



(Standard Post Bureau) The Hartford, a leading U.S.-based insurance company, announces the grand opening of its new India Technology Center today in Hyderabad’s Financial District. This strategic expansion reinforces the company’s commitment to advancing artificial intelligence and digital innovation. The Hartford will operate its cutting-edge technology center from the top two floors of Kalyani Trident, a facility designed to ignite innovation and energize teams. The office features dynamic collaboration areas to foster teamwork and creativity, state-of-the-art workstations, and training facilities to support

continual learning and professional growth. The new office also features a history wall celebrating The Hartford’s more-than-200-year legacy. “The true strength of The Hartford has always been its people,” said The Hartford’s Chief Information Officer Shekar Pannala. “By building on our world-class workforce with this technology center in Hyderabad, we are not only creating new digital and AI capabilities but also shaping the future of insurance technology. This center will be a magnet for talent in India – a place where engineering excellence and unified purpose drive innovation at scale.” Hyderabad, like The Hartford, is a place where

heritage meets innovation. The city was selected because of its thriving ecosystem, diverse and skilled technology workforce, and reputation as a global innovation center. The Hyderabad office is part of The Hartford’s forward-looking approach to develop a global technology team that accelerates engineering capabilities and scales development centers across key locations. It will complement The Hartford’s existing U.S. technology centers in Hartford, Connecticut; Chicago, Illinois; and Charlotte, North Carolina, and support the company’s broader innovation agenda. “The team we are hiring in Hyderabad will apply

advancements in data, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies to elevate and expand The Hartford’s capabilities while upholding the high standards of ethics and integrity for which we are known,” said The Hartford’s Chief Data, AI and Operations Officer Jeff Hawkins. “We are eager for the Hyderabad workforce to share in our bold, imaginative work.” Founded in 1810, The Hartford is a Fortune 200 company with more than 19,000 employees internationally and headquartered in Hartford, Connecticut. The company serves millions of businesses of all sizes and tens of millions of individuals and their families, helping them to thrive with confidence by anticipating challenges and reducing risks. Backed by two centuries of underwriting, actuarial and risk management expertise — and a decade of sustained investment in digital modernization — The Hartford is deploying AI and advanced analytics to enhance decision making and unlock new value.

India-Russia Strategic Partnership continues to develop dynamically across the board : Sergey Lavrov

New Delhi/Moscow, Oct 1 (UNI) Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov today said the Strategic Partnership between India and Russia continues to develop dynamically across the board with trade, economic ties, scientific and technological collaboration and cultural and humanitarian exchanges between the two countries on the rise. Welcoming the organisers and participants of the first Tatarstan-India Mutual Efficiency (TIME) business forum to be hosted in the city of Kazan, Lavrov said that this year, both countries mark the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on India-Russia Strategic Partnership. “A decade after its signing, our bilateral relations were elevated to a special and privileged strategic partnership,” he said. He said Kazan has a proven track record of successfully hosting high-profile international events, most recently the 16th BRICS summit in October 2024, which featured a high-level Indian delegation headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “I am delighted to see that the forum’s substantive programme reflects the multifaceted nature of Russian-Indian cooperation,” he said. He expressed confidence that the Kazan discussions will contribute to expanding practical cooperation between the two countries further strengthening the bonds of friendship, trust and mutual understanding between the people of the two countries. On October 8-9 the city of Kazan will host the TIME Business Forum. India and the Russian Republic of Tatarstan are strengthening business ties, opening up new horizons for cooperation and the implementation of mutually beneficial projects. The focus of the event is on building a strategic partnership between Russian regions and Indian states.

Dhruv Kumar Gangashetty and Aryaa Dwivedi win Gamepoint Telangana State Closed Squash Championship 2025 titles

(Standard Post Bureau) Dhruv Kumar Gangashetty and Aryaa Dwivedi emerged as champions in the Men’s and Women’s categories at the Gamepoint Telangana State Closed Squash Championship 2025, which concluded in Hyderabad today. The tournament, organised by Gamepoint under the aegis of TSRA and SRFI, witnessed high-intensity matches across multiple categories, showcasing the passion and emerging talent in squash across the state. The finals were graced by Shri Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana, who attended as the Chief Guest. He felicitated the winners and encouraged participants to continue striving for excellence. In the Men’s final, Dhruv Kumar Gangashetty delivered a commanding performance to defeat Naseem Ali in straight games (12-10, 11-6, 11-6)



and secure the coveted title. The Women’s final turned out to be the highlight of the Gamepoint Telangana State Closed Squash Championship 2025, with sisters Aryaa and Amaa Dwivedi engaging in a thrilling five-game battle. Aryaa edged past Arnaa 11-5, 9-11, 5-11, 14-12, 11-9 in what was arguably the most electrifying match of the tournament. Other category winners included:

Boys Under 13 (BU13): Prabhaas Kondaparthi defeated Eshan Shaik (11-1, 11-3, 11-1) Girls Under 15 (GU15): Dhriti Ganji defeated Aanyaprashant Nichani (11-8, 11-8, 9-11, 8-11, 11-4) Boys Under 17 (BU17): Rohan Arigala defeated Vismay Prabhu (11-5, 11-7, 11-6) Men’s Over 35 (MO35): Survesh Chauhan defeated Sandeep Kondaparthi (11-4, 11-3, 11-7) Men’s Over 40 (MO40): Ramit Singh defeated Mayank Malhan (12-10, 11-8, 11-5) Men’s Over 45 (MO45): Bharath Danam defeated Priyatosh Dubey (11-8, 11-7, 11-4) Speaking at the closing ceremony, Shri Jayesh Ranjan praised the players, saying, “Squash is gaining ground among the younger generation, and it is heartening to see such talent emerging from

Telangana. With the right support and training, many of these players can make a mark at the national and international level.” Adding to this, Aditya Reddy, CEO of Gamepoint, said, “The Gamepoint Telangana State Closed Squash Championship 2025 is a celebration of talent, dedication, and the growing squash ecosystem in Telangana. Our aim is to provide players with world-class facilities and opportunities to excel, ensuring that the state becomes a strong hub for squash at both the national and international level.” The Gamepoint Telangana State Closed Squash Championship 2025 not only celebrated winners but also highlighted the sport’s rising popularity across age groups—from budding juniors to seasoned veterans.

At least 91 trapped after school building collapse in Indonesia

Jakarta, Oct 1 (UNI) : Indonesia's disaster management agency today said that at least 91 people were trapped after a school building collapsed on September 29 in the Sidoarjo district of East Java province.

Abdul Muhari, spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), said that as of last evening, the accident had left three people dead and more than 90 injured, with 26 still hospitalised.

Hundreds of rescuers from various agencies have been deployed to the site. Due to concerns that the use of heavy machinery could trigger further collapse, rescue workers have focused on manual excavation. They are delivering food and water to those trapped under the rubble.

Rescuers at the scene said signs of life have been detected in parts of the collapsed structure, and efforts are being concentrated there. Meanwhile, the BNPB is working with construction experts to draw up a safe debris-clearing plan so that heavy equipment can be used in later stages if necessary.

Qatar, Egypt, Turkey urge Hamas to accept Trump's Gaza plan: Reports

Moscow, Oct 1 (UNI/SPUTNIK) : Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey are urging Hamas to accept US President Donald Trump's plan to resolve the situation in the Gaza Strip, the Axios news portal reported, citing sources.On Monday, Trump unveiled a 20-point plan to resolve the Gaza conflict. The proposal calls, among other things, for an immediate ceasefire and the release of hostages within 72 hours. The plan also stipulates that Hamas and "other groups" must renounce their involvement in governing Gaza, both directly and indirectly.The enclave will be governed by a "technocratic, apolitical Palestinian committee" overseen by an international body headed by Trump.

On Monday night, Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and Egyptian intelligence chief Hassan Rashad presented Trump's plan to Hamas leaders in Doha, the report said on Tuesday. Al-Thani reportedly stated that Hamas would not get a better deal and expressed confidence that Trump truly intends to end the war.

On Tuesday, Al Thani and Rashad met again with Hamas members, this time along with Turkish intelligence chief Ebrahim Kalin, the report added.

Houthis confirm they attacked Minervagracht ship off Yemen

Sanaa, Oct 1 (UNI/SPUTNIK) : Yemen's Ansar Allah movement, also known as the Houthis, confirmed the attack on Dutch ship Minervagracht using a cruise missile for violating the ban on entering Israeli ports.

"The naval force of the Yemeni Armed Forces carried out a military operation targeting the ship (MINERVAGRACHT) owing to the violation of the entry ban to the ports of occupied Palestine by the company that owns the ship. The targeting operation took place in the Gulf of Aden with a cruise missile. The operation resulted in a direct hit on the ship, which caught fire and is now at risk of sinking," the movement said in a statement yesterday.

On Monday, the Dutch-flagged Minervagracht cargo ship was attacked off the coast of Yemen. The incident left two crew members injured.

The Houthis, who control northern Yemen and much of Yemen's Red Sea coast, declared support for Palestine in late 2023. They have launched hundreds of missiles and drones at Israel since the start of the conflict in the Gaza Strip in October 2023.

Most of these attacks were prevented by missile defense systems, but some hits on Israeli territory were recorded. In response, the IDF carried out several large-scale air operations against Houthi targets in Yemen, including ports, power plants, factories and the Sanaa airport.

US govt enters shutdown for first time in nearly 7 years

Washington, Oct 1 (UNI) : The US federal government entered a shutdown at the start of Wednesday as partisan divisions prevented Congress from passing a funding bill, which marks the first government shutdown in nearly seven years.

Hundreds of thousands of federal employees will be forced to take unpaid leave, with some public services potentially suspended or delayed, and the release of economic data possibly impacted as well.

The shutdown commenced hours after the US Senate failed to pass a short-term spending bill that would have temporarily kept the government running. The continuing resolution proposed by Senate Republicans was blocked by Democrats, falling short of the 60 votes required for passage.

In the latest negotiations, healthcare benefits have been one of the core sticking points between the two parties. Democrats are demanding stronger healthcare-related benefits, including an extension of the enhanced subsidies for Affordable Care Act set to expire at the end of the year, as well as restoring the act's coverage eligibility for certain immigrants who are legally present, including refugees and asylum seekers.Republicans, on the other hand, opposed these measures and have been pushing to temporarily maintain current government funding levels to allow more time for negotiations.

Earlier on Tuesday, Republicans and Democrats continued to trade blame, accusing each other of forcing the government into a "shutdown."

Vance blames Democrats for White House shutdown, accuses them of 'hostage takeover'

Washington, Oct 1 (UNI): US Vice President JD Vance placed the blame for the government shutdown squarely on the shoulder of Democrats, accusing them of "hostage taking" over health care demands in his first public remarks since the shutdown began at midnight.

In a Fox News interview Tuesday morning, Vance said Democrats had forced the shutdown to extract concessions on health care funding, a move he argued was reckless and unnecessary, reports CNN. "You don't take the government as a hostage because you want to engage in negotiation about health care costs," Vance said."Let's do that negotiation, but let's do it in the context of actually opening the government and ensuring those essential services are actually provided to the American people."

The VP singled out what he called a "far-left faction" of the Democratic Party, accusing it of holding up a short-term funding bill over Obamacare's premium support program. "What makes it extra preposterous is that the programme doesn't even expire until next year," Vance said. "So why are you shutting down the government on October 1?" Vance insisted the White House remains open to talks on health care costs, but only if Democrats agree to reopen the government first. "We obviously care a lot about lowering health care costs for Americans," he said. "But we're not going to engage in negotiations with hostage takers, which is exactly what the Democrats have done."

He also suggested Democratic leadership would not be able to withstand the political fallout of a prolonged shutdown. "You're going to see more and more Democrats come to the side of reason and reopen government," Vance said. Democrats have pushed back, accusing Republicans of failing to negotiate in good faith. They argue GOP leaders ignored their concerns

Munich's Oktoberfest opening delayed due to venue inspection after explosions

Munich, Oct 1 (UNI/SPUTNIK): The opening of the traditional German festival Oktoberfest in Munich was postponed today due to a venue inspection following explosions in the city, Munich police said. Earlier in the day, Munich police said they had launched a large-scale operation following a fire in a residential building deliberately set off amid a family dispute, resulting in one death and one person missing.Booby traps were also discovered at the scene. The Bild tabloid reported, citing sources,

Qatar, Turkey, Egypt urge Hamas leaders to accept US peace proposal amid Trump ultimatum

Ankara, Oct 1 (UNI) : Qatar, Egypt and Turkey have reportedly urged Hamas to quickly accept the 20-point proposal presented by US President Donald Trump to end the war in Gaza, as per Axios. The three countries – which have been the longest mediators between Israeli authorities and the terror outfit – have met several of the group's commanders in the past 24 hours.

Trump, on Monday unveiled his plan, and gave Hamas an ultimatum – giving them only "three to four days" to accept – or otherwise be destroyed. Speaking before a gathering of Pentagon generals and admirals in Quantico, Virginia, he warned "We have one signature that we need, and that signature will pay in hell if they don't sign. I hope they sign for their own good and create something

that a man had planted explosive devices in his parents' house. After that, he set it on fire and then committed suicide."We are currently investigating all leads. Possible connections to other locations in Munich are being examined, including Theresienwiese (festival venue). For this reason, the festival's opening is delayed," the police said on X.The police are conducting search operations at the Oktoberfest site and have asked all festival workers to leave the area, the statement added.The BR24

really great." Political-military officials in both Washington and Jerusalem have been cautiously optimistic, as they expect the headline group Hamas to agree, and most likely with reservations. While Trump was presenting the plan in Washington, Qatari Prime Minister Md bin Abdulrahman al-Thani and Egyptian intelligence chief Hassan Rashad were briefing Hamas leaders in Doha.

According to a source of the media platform, both had pressed Hamas's senior command to accept the proposal, with al-Thani telling the group the proposal was the best deal he could secure — and that Trump appeared personally committed to seeing it through. Hamas leaders had not immediately issued a response post the proposal,

about protecting health care subsidies for low-income families and instead allowed the government to close.The standoff marks the first shutdown since President Donald Trump's return to office in January, and it threatens to furlough hundreds of thousands of federal workers, disrupt military pay, and halt a wide range of government services.Both parties are betting the public will blame the other side — a familiar dynamic in Washington, but one with high political stakes.

For Vance, the crisis has become a high-profile test of his role as Trump's deputy and chief negotiator on Capitol Hill.His sharp rhetoric Tuesday reflected both the administration's confidence that Democrats will eventually fold and its determination not to give ground on the shutdown itself.

As the impasse enters its first day, neither party is showing any signs of a compromise, thus compounding fears of a prolonged shutdown with no immediate resolution in sight.

news portal reported, citing Munich Mayor Dieter Reiter, that the festival would open at no earlier than 17:00 local time (15:00 GMT), due to a letter from "the same perpetrator" and a bomb threat.

"Due to an unspecified bomb threat, the festival grounds at Theresienwiese will remain closed until 17:00," the police partially confirmed the information.

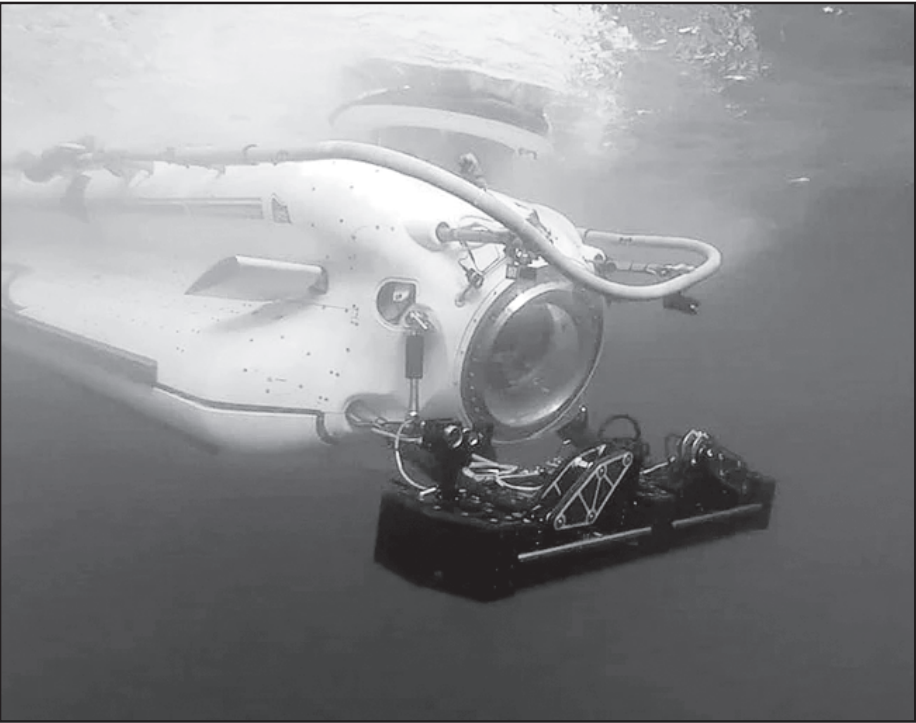
Oktoberfest is scheduled for September 20 to October 5. The festival draws over six million visitors annually to Munich, with attendance records exceeding seven million.

and later said that they would study the plan "in good faith."

A day later, al-Thani and Rashad returned for a second meeting in Doha, this time joined by Turkish intelligence director Ibrahim Kalin.

Ahead of that meeting, al-Thani told Qatari media Al Jazeera that he hoped "everyone looks at the plan constructively and seizes the chance to end the war."

He stressed that Hamas needed to coordinate with other Palestinian factions in Gaza before issuing a formal response, but stressed that Trump's framework "achieves the main goal of ending the war, though some issues in it need clarification and negotiation."Trump's 20-point proposal contains several major concessions to Hamas, including the release of 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and a sharp increase in humanitarian aid.



Indian Navy’s Submarine Rescue Unit (East) at Exercise Pacific Reach (XPR-25), hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

US govt goes dark as vast swathes of bureaucracy get laid off amid collapse of federal funding

Washington, Oct 1 (UNI) The US government has for the most part gone dark as much of the bureaucracy was laid off on Wednesday, after Congress failed to reach a deal to approve new funding.

The ruling Republicans had proposed extending government funding at current levels until Nov. 21 to allow for members to continue working on full-year appropriations bills.

Democrats had countered this with a shorter extension until the end of October, but tied their offer to health care provisions and new limits on President Donald Trump's ability to withhold funds — conditions Republicans rejected outright.Talks at the White House on Monday between congressional leaders and Trump failed to produce any compromise, leaving both sides entrenched and the government without money to operate, resulting in the shutdown, reports CNN.

A shutdown occurs when Congress fails to pass funding bills, leaving agencies unable to spend money not explicitly approved by lawmakers. Since 1980, there have been 14 such shutdowns, including the record 34-day standoff in 2018.

A shutdown has drastic effects on all but the most essential of federal services. Essential services like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid benefits remain intact, but a wide swathe of federal functions have ground to a halt.Air traffic controllers and TSA agents continue to work without pay, keeping flights operational. The National Weather Service, Veterans Affairs medical services, and passport and visa processing remain active, though strained.

The disruption comes against the backdrop of Trump's push earlier this year to shrink the federal workforce. In February, he signed an executive order directing agencies to draw up plans for large-scale staff reductions, citing costs to taxpayers and poor performance.

Some agencies cut deeply, others reversed course, and still others quietly asked laid-off workers to return.

Death toll in strong quake in Philippines rises to 69

Manila, Oct 1 (UNI) : The death toll in the 6.9-magnitude earthquake that struck Cebu province in the central Philippines last night climbed to 69, the Philippines' Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said today.

Assistant Secretary Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro, deputy administrator for the OCD, told a public briefing that 30 died in Bogo City, the epicenter of the earthquake, 10 in Medellin town, 22 in San Remigio town, five in Tabogon town, and one each in the municipalities of Sogod and Tabuelan.

He said the victims died after they were crushed by the collapsed walls of houses and buildings.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) initially reported that at least 147 people were injured.

Alejandro did not give the latest figures on injuries and the missing people.

The death toll is expected to climb as emergency workers continue search and rescue operations for survivors

trapped in the debris and collapsed buildings.

"We are waiting for our assessment team to complete their rapid assessment," Alejandro said in an earlier media briefing.The province of Cebu has declared a state of calamity, enabling the government, particularly local government units, to quickly access emergency funds (calamity funds) to provide relief and rehabilitation, as well as to impose measures such as price freezes on essential goods to protect affected residents.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology initially reported that a 6.7-magnitude offshore earthquake struck Cebu province at 9:59 pm local time yesterday. The institute later revised the magnitude to 6.9, adding that the quake struck at a depth of 5 km, approximately 19 km northeast of Bogo City.The tremor was also felt in many neighboring provinces in the central Philippines, as well as some regions in the southern Philippines.

Flotilla aid mission to Gaza rejects calls by Israel to stop

Jerusalem, Oct 1 (UNI) : The large flotilla aid mission to Gaza rejected all calls late Tuesday by Israeli authorities to halt its advance, as it sought to break through its naval blockade saying it was nearing a "critical zone" and bracing for an Israeli intervention.

The 47-boat 'Global Sumud Flotilla' is carrying more than 500 activists, including the Swedish campaigner Greta Thunberg, parliamentarians and lawyers.

The convoy is expected to reach the Strip this week, coinciding with Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, which begins Wednesday evening, reports Times of Israel.

Jerusalem – which had earlier slammed the mission calling it a needless 'publicity stunt – had recently accused some personnel among the flotilla of having direct links to Hamas terrorists and the Muslim Brotherhood, due to the mission being organised by the Hamas-affiliated outfit, the Palestinian Conference for Palestinians (PCPA).

The Israeli Navy was set to intercept the all incoming ships – having done so in the past to success – before they approached the shores of Gaza, and has preparing operations for interception, detention, and deportation of the activists, once they are brought to Ashdod Port.

As per Haaretz, security officials had recommended seeking an alternative option, earlier, recommending a more diplomatic approach to the matter by Jerusalem rather than direct military intervention. While some still believe that political leaders did not adequately explore this option, the organisers had likewise rejected all calls for halting, leading to direct naval interception.

Some flotilla members later took to social media and posted several posts on Telegram and X, claiming that there was increased drone activity over the boats and that several of its boats were approached by unidentified vessels, some navigating without lights.



EXPRESSWAY
SERVICES PVT. LTD.
HYDERABAD

Arjun Prasad leads TN Open 2025

Coimbatore, Oct 1 (UNI) : Delhi’s Arjun Prasad produced a steady two-under 70 to climb into the halfway lead in the Tamil Nadu Open 2025 being played at the Coimbatore Golf Club.Arjun (70-70), who was overnight third and one shot off the lead, emerged leader by one shot after the second round as he totaled four-under 140.

Bangladesh’s Jamal Hossain (69-72), the overnight joint leader, slipped to second position at three-under 141 as a result of his round of even-par 72 today.

On another tough day forscoring where the winds played havoc, Pune’s Pranav Mardikar carded the lowest score of 69 to move up 11 spots into tied third place at two-under 142 along with Ahmedabad’s Anshul Patel (71). Delhi’s Anshul Kabthiyal also matched the day’s lowest of 69 to be placed fifth at one-under 143. Gaurav Pratap Singh, the overnight joint leader along with Jamal, returned a 79 today to drop down to tied 20th place at four-over 148. Chennai’s S Prasanth (77-71) was the only Tamil Nadu-based professional to make the cut as he too was placed tied 20th.

The cut came down at eight-over 152. Fifty-two professionals made the cut. Arjun Prasad, currently ranked second in the 2025 PGTI Order of Merit and chasing his maiden title, began the day with a bogey on the first.

Arjun then added two birdies and another bogey on the front-nine to make the turn at level-par.

Tejaswani wins silver as India tops medal table

New Delhi, Oct 1 (UNI): India capped off a successful week at the ISSF Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun New Delhi 2025 as the leading nation on the medals table, adding a silver in the junior women's 25m pistol through Tejaswani Singh, who won gold at junior world cup, on final day of the competition, here at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range. Individual Neutral Athlete Aleksandra Tikhonova claimed the junior women's 25m pistol gold, while Czechia's Tereza Zaviskova and Tomas Nantl edged compatriots Lea Kucerova and Kamil Bednar to win the Trap mixed team junior gold.

Tikhonova was steady from the start in the 25m Pistol Women Junior final,



India's Sumit at the medal ceremony for Men’s Javelin Throw F64 final during the World Para Athletics Championships 2025, at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Usain Bolt dazzles in football exhibition

Mumbai, Oct 1 (UNI) : The city came alive with a spectacular celebration of Indian football as legendary sprinter Usain Bolt swapped his track spikes for football boots in a 5v5 all-star exhibition match at Mukesh Mills, organized by PUMA India. The event brought together players from Mumbai City FC and Bengaluru FC, alongside Bollywood celebrities, in an electrifying evening that highlighted the country’s growing football culture.

Bolt, globally celebrated for his track achievements, thrilled fans with his pace, flair, and infectious energy, taking turns on both sides during the match. Bollywood diva and PUMA brand ambassador Kareena Kapoor Khan conducted the toss, won by Bengaluru FC, and cheered from the sidelines throughout the game. “Football has been one

of my first loves after Track & Field, and playing in Mumbai alongside athletes, celebrities, and fans was electric,” Bolt said. “The passion, the noise, the atmosphere- this is the kind of high that stays with you long after the final whistle.”

India’s football stars showcased their talent with memorable performances. Sunil Chhetri’s precise passes, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu’s heroic saves, and Mumbai City FC’s Suresh Wangjam, Akash Mishra, and Phurba Lachenpa impressed the crowd. Bollywood celebrities, including Dino Morea and Aparshakti Khurana, added star power to the match.

Karthik Balagopalan, Managing Director, PUMA India, said, “Usain Bolt’s visit celebrates the joy of sport and creates experiences fans will remember forever. By bringing together icons from sport and

entertainment, and with support from Mumbai City FC and Bengaluru FC, we showcased football fandom in India in a unique way.”

The event highlighted PUMA India’s vision of sport as more than competition- emphasizing connection, culture, and fun. By putting Bolt on India’s football stage, the brand delivered an unforgettable experience that blended athletic excellence with entertainment.

PUMA, a global sports brand, designs, develops, and markets footwear, apparel, and accessories across multiple sports, including football, running, basketball, and motorsports. Headquartered in Herzogenaurach, Germany, the company operates in over 120 countries and employs around 20,000 people worldwide.

Monisha brace powers TN past Chhattisgarh

Narainpur, Oct 1 (UNI) : Tamil Nadu opened their campaign in the 30th Senior Women’s National Football Championship for the Rajmata Jijabai Trophy 2025-26 Final Round with a clinical 2-0 win over hosts Chhattisgarh at the Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama Ground on Wednesday.

Two-time champions Tamil Nadu secured the top spot in Group A with three points, courtesy of a brace from Monisha, while Goa and Bengal, who played out a goalless draw later in the day, settled for the second and third positions respectively. Odisha are yet to play their opening fixture, while Chhattisgarh remain at the bottom after the loss.

For Tamil Nadu, Monisha was the star of the evening, scoring in the 40th and 60th minutes. She first latched on to a precise through ball from Priyadharshini to beat the goalkeeper in a one-on-one situation. After the break, Monisha doubled the advantage with a looping header from Dhurga P’s corner that dipped under the crossbar.

The second match saw Goa and Bengal sharing the spoils in a tightly contested encounter. Both teams created opportunities, but the finishing touch was missing, and the game ended goalless.

With this, Tamil Nadu have set an early marker in Group A, while Goa and Bengal keep their campaigns alive with a point each.

Season 4 of Prime Volleyball League begins at Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Oct 1 (UNI) : The much-awaited fourth season of the RR Kabel Prime Volleyball League, powered by Scapia, was officially launched today, kicking off with an exciting opening clash between league rivals Calicut Heroes and Hyderabad Black Hawks, captained by Mohan Ukkrapandian and Paulo Lamounier respectively.

Kirti Kabra, Director of RR Global, said, "RR Kabel is extremely proud to partner with the Prime Volleyball League. This partnership goes beyond sponsorship; it is a commitment to powering the future of Indian sports. The league perfectly mirrors our core values - speed, agility, and precision- and we are excited to see the next generation of volleyball champions light up the courts this season."

Shishir Sharma, Chief Marketing Officer, RR Kabel, added, "PVL has truly captured the heart of the country, transforming a hidden sport into a

national-level movement. This season, we anticipate record-breaking viewership and unprecedented engagement from fans across all demographics. RR Kabel is thrilled to be at the forefront of this growth story."

Anil Goteti, Founder & CEO of Scapia, expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, saying, "Volleyball is a well-loved sport in India, and the rapid rise of the Prime Volleyball League reflects this passion. We are excited to support its growth and bring fans closer to the thrill of live matches and unique sporting adventures."

Tuhin Mishra of Baseline Ventures highlighted the league’s evolution: "The sustained growth and fan loyalty we’ve witnessed proves that professional volleyball has a future in India. Our strategy this season focuses on delivering exceptional value to our partners and teams, ensuring a sustainable, worldclass ecosystem for our athletes, and raising the

bar for sports entertainment in the country." PVL CEO Joy Bhattacharjya said, "Each season has seen teams evolve in terms of talent and strategy, and this season promises to be the most closely contested yet. Fans are in for a top-class viewing experience." Speaking ahead of the opening match, Calicut captain Mohan Ukkrapandian said, "We have a balanced squad, and our pre-season focus has been on mental toughness and strategic execution. Starting against the Black Hawks is the ultimate test, and we are ready to dominate the court." Hyderabad captain Paulo Lamounier added, "It’s a massive privilege to lead the Black Hawks. Our players are hungry for success, and opening night in front of our home crowd is our chance to show our intent in a relentless battle for every point." Season 4 of the Prime Volleyball League is set to commence on October 2, with ten teams competing for the coveted title.

Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship: Vishnu Vardhan, Nitin Kumar reach third round

New Delhi, Oct 1 (UNI) : Olympian and Former Asian Games medallist Vishnu Vardhan and top seed Nitin Kumar Sinha continued their winning run to reach the third round of the ongoing 30th Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship at the DLTA Complex in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The Telangana-based player showed no signs of slowing down, easing past Deepak A 6-1, 6-2 in the men’s singles category. Nitin Kumar Sinha of West Bengal also advanced to the third round after his opponent, Smit Patel, retired due to injury with the score at 6-3, 3-2 in the second set. Supported by DCM Shriram Ltd., and held under the aegis of the All India Tennis Association (AITA) and the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA), the Fenesta Open is India’s largest domestic tennis championship, drawing top contenders from across the country.

Meanwhile, Manish Sureshkumar of Tamil Nadu and Soha Sadiq of Karnataka also won their respective matches to reach the third round of the tournament.

The former champion showcased tremendous power and speed to get the better of Debasis Sahoo of Odisha 6-2, 6-1 in the men’s singles category.

On the other hand, Soha had to work hard for her victory in the second round of the women’s singles category against Aakruti N Sonkusare of Maharashtra.

The fourth seed started slowly, with Aakruti racing to a 3-1 lead, but Soha bounced back in style, winning five consecutive games to claim the first set.

Aakruti staged a sublime comeback in the second set, taking it 6-3 before Soha responded with her solid baseline play, edging the decider 6-4 to seal a hard-fought 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 victory in a gruelling contest.

Maharashtra’s Akanksha Nitture also continued her fine form in the tournament as the second seed defeated Sohini Sanjay Mohanty 6-1, 7-6 (2) in straight sets to reach the third round in the women’s singles category. Punjab’s Sahira Singh looked in complete control of her second-round match to beat Jeetesh Kumari 6-3, 6-2 in straight sets.

Besides the prestigious titles, the winners will be awarded with prize money with a total prize pool of over Rs 21.55 Lakh and Kit Allowance in the junior categories up for grabs. The winners and runners-up in the U16 and U14 singles events will also receive a Tennis scholarship of ₹25,000 each. The Boys and Girls Under-16; Under-14 category qualifying and main draw matches will be played from October 5 to October 11.

Australia clinch massive win against NZ in CWC25

Indore, Oct 1 (UNI) : Defending champions Australia began their ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2025 campaign with a commanding 89-run win over New Zealand, bowling them out for 237.

New Zealand never found momentum in the chase despite a valiant effort from Sophie Devine, who struck a fighting 112 off 112 balls. Once she departed, Australia’s bowlers wrapped things up quickly with Sophie Molineux (25-3) and Annabel Sutherland (26-3) sharing the last five wickets to seal a comprehensive victory while Alana King (44-2) also bagged crucial

wickets.Sutherland turned the tide decisively in Australia’s favour, claiming three wickets in a single over. Along with Devine, she also removed Jess Kerr and Eden Carson, leaving New Zealand with little resistance in the closing stages.New Zealand’s struggles deepened when Maddy Green was run out after another mix-up, the second such dismissal of the innings. The setback came soon after King had struck twice, removing Amelia Kerr and Brooke Halliday to break crucial partnerships, leaving Sophie Devine short of support at the other end. New Zealand’s chase of

327 began on a disastrous note as they lost two wickets inside the first two overs with Georgie Plimmer and Suzie Bates out for ducks.After winning the toss and opting to bat, Ashleigh Gardner (115 of 83 balls) steered Australia past the 300 mark after a shaky start against New Zealand with her second ODI ton which arrived at a crucial stage when wickets were tumbling regularly. The defending champions eventually closed their innings with 326 runs on the board.Earlier in the first innings, New Zealand had Australia reeling thanks to Leah Tahuhu (42-3). She dismissed Alyssa Healy

and Beth Mooney before removing Tahlia McGrath, breaking a 64-run partnership with Gardner. Amelia Kerr (54-2) added to the pressure, claiming the wickets of Annabel Sutherland and Phoebe Litchfield. Jess Kerr (59-3) claimed the last three wickets for New Zealand while Breearne struck with two wickets, including that of Gardner.Litchfield’s wicket was a milestone moment for Kerr, as it brought up her 100th in Women’s ODIs, making her only the third New Zealand bowler to reach the landmark.

Earlier, playing in her first Cricket World Cup,

Bree Illing removed Australia captain Alyssa Healy early on in New Zealand’s opening game of the tournament.

Looking to drive the ball through the covers against the left-arm pacer, Healy would find Suzie Bates inside the circle as the White Ferns opened their account in the powerplay.

Earlier, Healy had won the toss and elected to bat first. The two teams are squaring up for the first-ever international women’s cricket fixture at the Holkar Stadium in Indore. Defending champions Australia arrive into the competition as one of the prime contenders for the title.

Printed by R. Srinivasan,
Published and Owned by Mohammed Shafi

Printed at Global Graphics,
H.No.60, Thennan Salai Road,
Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Puducherry - 605013 and
Published from # H.No.156, First Floor,
Thiruvalluvar Salai, Pillaitthottam,
Puducherry - 605013.

Editor: Mohammed Shafi

RNI No.: PONENG/2017/77178

Cell : 9849881368

Email : standardpostpuducherry@gmail.com

SCR commences the operation of Reefer Container Special

(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, Oct 1 :The Hyderabad Division of South Central Railway has commenced the operation of a weekly scheduled Reefer Container Special from its Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal, M/s DP World multimodal logistics Hyderabad Pvt limited siding, Timmapur to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mumbai, every Wednesday. The second such Reefer rake was dispatched on 1st October from M/s DP World multimodal logistics Hyderabad Pvt limited siding, Timmapur.

This special Reefer container rake will complete the Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal, M/s DP World multimodal logistics Hyderabad Pvt limited siding, Timmapur to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mumbai, transit within a maximum of 72 hours. In fact, the inaugural service flagged off on 24th September reached Jawaharlal Nehru port trust Mumbai in a record 40 hours, demonstrating a



transit time even faster than road transport. This initiative is a significant boost to the pharmaceutical industry in the Hyderabad region, enabling exporters to move their consignments

to Jawaharlal Nehru port trust Mumbai in a safe, temperature-controlled, and reliable manner. The service also enhances railway freight earnings, as despite Hyderabad

accounting for over 25% of India's pharma exports, this segment has not been a major contributor to railway freight due to the need for specialised (temperature-controlled) containers and scheduled train movements. With this development, leading pharmaceutical companies such as Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Aurobindo Pharma, and Laurus Labs, among others, can now leverage railways for their exports in a faster and more dependable way

Bharat becoming a Big Exporter of Railway Equipment

(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, Oct 1 : Indian Railways is rapidly emerging as a global exporter of critical railway equipment, including bogies, coaches, locomotives, and propulsion systems, under the Make in India, Make for



the World vision. This growing export footprint is a reflection of India's commitment to Design, Develop, and Deliver from India to the World.

India's railway products are increasingly reaching international markets: metro coaches have been exported to Australia and Canada; bogies to the UK, Saudi Arabia, France, and Australia; propulsion systems to France, Mexico, Romania, Spain, Germany,

and Italy; passenger coaches to Mozambique, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka; and locomotives to Mozambique, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and the Republic of Guinea.

In June 2025, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi flagged off the first locomotive for export from the Marhowra Locomotive Manufacturing Plant in Bihar to the Republic of Guinea. Till

date, six locomotives manufactured at Marhowra have been successfully exported. Recently, these locomotives reached Republic of Guinea. The Marhowra Plant has secured a second strategic order for the export of Evolution Series locomotives, bringing the total to approximately 150 units for Africa. This locomotive, featuring a 4,500 HP Evolution Series engine, offers best-in-class

fuel efficiency and proven performance even in high-temperature environments. Also, it highlights India's engineering strength and capability to meet the demands of international markets. The success of the Marhowra plant in Bihar is a testament to the strategic public-private partnership, showcasing innovation, skill development, and India's ability to contribute effectively to the global railway supply chain.

Western Railway Champions Women Power in EMU and Traction Maintenance

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Oct 1 :

Breaking Stereotypes, Powering Progress!

100 female technicians and supervisors stationed



Hands That Keep the City Moving: Women team of Western Railway meticulously carry out critical maintenance of EMU rakes at the carsheds, reinforcing safety with precision and dedication.

Western Railway continues to redefine norms and foster inclusivity by empowering women in critical technical roles that keep Mumbai's suburban rail network running safely and efficiently. From maintaining cutting-edge EMU rakes to managing high-voltage traction systems, women technicians are stepping into roles once considered the domain of men, proving that expertise and dedication transcend gender. According to a

press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, EMU carsheds located at Mumbai Central, Kandivali and Virar form the backbone of maintenance for Mumbai's lifeline. These carsheds operate round the clock to ensure safe and reliable functioning of EMU rakes as per traffic demands, with both scheduled and unscheduled maintenance being carried out on 112 rakes. The state-of-the-art

3-phase AC (25 kV Alternating Current) technology rakes undergo two major maintenance schedules, IA and IC, at intervals of 60 and 240 days respectively. A total of 45 activities are undertaken during these schedules, out of which three key tasks include measurement of safety clearances, oiling, and battery checks. A notable highlight is the deployment of dedicated women's teams at these major hubs. Almost

across the EMU carsheds at Mumbai Central, Kandivali and Virar are entrusted with these crucial responsibilities. These teams ensure that all safety parameters are within the permissible limits prescribed by RDSO and that all lubrication and battery-related activities are carried out with precision and efficiency. Skilled, meticulous and committed to achieving zero failures, they exemplify Western Railway's pursuit of operational excellence.

ECoR, Waltair division organises walkaton under Swachhata Hi Seva Pakhwada

(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, Oct 1 : As part of the ongoing nationwide campaign Swachhata Hi Seva Pakhwada, Waltair Division of East Coast Railway, in association with the ECoR Sports Association-Waltair, organised a Walkathon to spread awareness on cleanliness among employees, passengers, and the general public.

The Walkathon, held under the leadership of Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair, Shri Lalit Bohra, commenced from the Railway Sports Stadium and passed through the DRM Office before culminating at Visakhapatnam Railway Station. A large number of officers, staff members, sportspersons, and



employees participated enthusiastically in the drive. Senior officials who joined the initiative included ADRM (Operations) Shri Manoj Kumar Sahoo, ADRM (Infrastructure) Shri E. Santharam, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer Shri Pravin

Bhati, Senior Divisional Finance Manager & Sports Officer Shri M. Haranadh, along with other senior officers of the division. On the occasion, DRM Shri Lalit Bohra administered the Swachhta Pledge to the gathering and actively

joined in the Walkathon. Emphasising the motto "Swachhata Hi Seva", Shri Bohra highlighted the initiatives undertaken by Waltair Division and remarked that cleanliness is not only about keeping surroundings neat, but also about adopting hygiene as a habit and value.

Visakhapatnam - Cherlapally-Visakhapatnam Dussehra Special Train : East Coast Railway

(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, Oct 1 : In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Dussehra, East Coast Railway decided to run special trains between Visakhapatnam to Cherlapally as detailed below

The train No. 08589 Visakhapatnam - Cherlapally Special train will leave Visakhapatnam on

03.10.2025 at 19.30 hrs which will reach Duvvada at 19.58hrs and departures at 20.00 hrs and reaches Cherlapalli at 10.00 hrs on the next day.

In return direction the Train No. 08590 Cherlapally - Visakhapatnam Special train will leave Cherlapalli on 04.10.2025 at 20.00 hrs which will reach

Duvvada on the next day at 11.10 hrs and departures at 11.12 hrs; reaches Visakhapatnam at 11.45hrs. Stoppages: Duvvada, Anakapalle, Elamanchili, Tuni, Annavam, Samalkot, Anaparthi, Rajahmundry, Nidadavolu, Bhimavaram Town, Akividu, Kaikaluru, Gudivada, Vijayawada, Guntur, Sattenapalli, Piduguralla, Nadikudi,

Miryalaguda, Nalgonda and Pagidipalli between Visakhapatnam and Cherlapalli stations. Coach Composition: 2AC-02, 3AC -04, 3AC Economy-3, Sleeper Class-8, General Second class -04, Second Class luggage cum Divyangjan coach-1, Generator Motor car-1. People are requested to make use of these special train services.

Vijay Kumar takes over as General Manager, Central Railway

Mr Vijay Kumar has spearheaded a historic achievement of production of 700 Locomotives as GGeneral Manager, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works during the Financial year 2024-25.

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Oct 1 : Mr Vijay Kumar has assumed the role of General Manager of Central Railway on 01.10.2025. He is an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME), 1988 batch. He succeeds Shri Dharam Veer Meena, who superannuated on 30th September, 2025.

Prior to taking over as General Manager, Central Railway, Shri Vijay Kumar served as General Manager, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), where he provided dynamic leadership in steering CLW to new heights. Under his able direction, CLW created history by achieving a record-breaking production of 700 locomotives with world-class features during the financial year 2024-25. In the current financial year of 2025-26 an enhanced and challenging target of 777 locomotive was given, against which 417 locomotives have already been dispatched in first 6 months itself by CLW. Throughout his illustrious career spanning over 35 years, he has held several crucial positions over Indian Railways and



Mr Vijay Kumar ,
General Manager , Central Railway

has made significant contributions in North Western Railway, Railway Board, Northern Railway and Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO). "During his tenure in Railway Board, he had piloted speed trials of Spanish-designed aluminium-coached Talgo Trains and was the nodal officer for all semi-high-speed corridors including Golden Quadrilateral. During his tenure in RDSO he was the Director I&L (inspection and liaisoning) for more than 6 years for the entire Northern part of India. He has made significant contributions during his

tenure as Executive Director/Rolling Stock and Director Rolling Stock for a period of 5 years in National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL). Shri Vijay Kumar has done his B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from Punjab Engineering College/Chandigarh. He has undergone trainings in Advanced Management programme from Singapore & Malaysia; Information Technology from CRIS/ New Delhi and Workshop on Strategic Management Issues from Indian School of Business/Hyderabad. He has also visited more than 20 countries in relation with work and contributed

significantly in the technological advancement of Indian Railways. Shri Vijay Kumar has been proud recipient of the Hon'ble Minister of Railways Award thrice - In 1995 for his efforts in bringing down loco failures at Alambagh Diesel Shed by 35% thereby increasing loco availability. In 1999 for his dedicated efforts in bringing about dramatic improvement in reliability of locomotives by 150% at the Ludhiana Diesel Shed, And again in 2011 for his significant contribution to Rajbhasha. He has also received award from Member Mechanical, Railway Board in 1992 for Commissioning of 2 tonne Bache Power Hammer with innovative ideas & inhouse talent and for increase in out-turn of Foundry Shop from 6000 to 15000 per month in a short span of first 6 months of first posting. He has also been awarded by the Director General, RDSO in 2006 for his contribution towards significant improvement in reducing consignee complaints by 150% at RDSO.

FM will launch nationwide awareness campaign

New Delhi, Oct 1 (UNI) Department of Financial Services (DFS) in coordination with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), will launch a three-month nationwide awareness campaign (October-December 2025) on unclaimed assets in the financial sector titled "Your Money, Your Right", an official statement said today. It will be inaugurated by Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman on October 4 from Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Unclaimed financial assets including insurance policy claims, bank deposits, dividends, shares and mutual fund proceeds often remain unclaimed due to lack of awareness or outdated account details. During this campaign, citizens will be provided on-the-spot guidance on how to search for their unclaimed assets, update records and complete claim procedures. Digital tools and step-by-step demonstrations will also be showcased.