

PM inaugurates Navi Mumbai Airport, Metro line-3

(By Rajesh Undi)
Mumbai, Oct 8 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Phase-1 of the Navi Mumbai International Airport today and launched the final phase of the fully underground Mumbai Metro Line-3 (Aqua Line) railway. He also launched 'Mumbai One', which is India's first integrated common mobility app for 11 public transport operators.

After reaching Navi Mumbai this afternoon at 3 pm, PM Modi took a walk through tour of the newly-built Adani-owned Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) which is likely to be called as Loknete D B Patil Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA).

He inaugurated the NMIA by placing his hand on an electronic glass panel lighting up the entire airport after which he said, "In 2014,



I had said it was my dream that even people wearing hawai chappals (slippers) should be able to travel by air. To fulfil this, it was important to set up new airports across the country. In 2014, India had 74 airports. Now we have more than 160 airports."

"The inauguration of the

new airport in Mumbai is an example of Viksit Bharat. The airport's lotus-shaped structure reflects our heritage and culture. It will boost trade with other countries and enhance access to the global market. The new airports and the UDAN scheme for affordable air travel have

made air travel easier in the country," Modi said. "Now, Mumbai has a new airport (NMIA), which will be Asia's largest connectivity hub. Mumbai's long wait has come to an end with the inauguration of this airport. Today, the city also has a fully underground metro to facilitate easy travel

across Mumbai. Launching an underground metro rail, with such careful construction in a city like Mumbai is a significant achievement," he said. PM Modi also met specially-abled children during the inauguration of Phase 1 of the Navi Mumbai International Airport

(NMIA). The inauguration of Phase 1 of Navi Mumbai International Airport and other connectivity projects is expected to strengthen Mumbai's position as a global hub of growth and opportunity.

The airport, designed to be among the most efficient in the world with 1,160 hectare area, will eventually handle 90 million passengers annually (MPPA) and 3.25 million metric tonnes of cargo.

"The NMIA will ease the capacity constraints in the Mumbai region, strengthen connectivity and bring even greater economic and social benefits to the Indian economy, global airlines' grouping," IATA said in an official statement.

The NMIA is expected to begin commercial operations in December though ticket sales are likely to start by the end of October.

Built at a cost of Rs 19,650 crore under a public-private partnership between Adani Airports and CIDCO, the NMIA has an annual passenger handling capacity of 9 crore passengers and an annual cargo handling capacity of 3.25 MMT.

This second international airport for the (Contd on page 3)

'Jhund' actor stabbed to death in Nagpur

Nagpur, Oct 8 (UNI) : Priyanshu Kshatriya alias Babu Chhatr, who had acted in the Amitabh Bachchan-starrer film Jhund, was brutally stabbed to death by his associate in Nagpur, police said today.

According to police, the accused, identified as Dhruv Lalbahadur Sahu, was arrested within hours of the crime by Jaripatka police.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Priyanshu, a resident of Mekosabag and Dhruv, from Nara, had gone to an under-construction house in Om Sai Nagari-2 late last night, where they reportedly consumed alcohol and ganja.

An argument broke out between the two, during which Dhruv allegedly snatched a knife from Priyanshu and stabbed him multiple times, resulting in his death on the spot.

Police said local residents alerted them after hearing loud shouts. Priyanshu was found lying in a pool of blood with a plastic wire coiled around his body and was rushed to Mayo Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

On a complaint filed by the victim's sister, a case of murder has been registered against Dhruv Sahu under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Police said Priyanshu had over 15 cases registered against him, including theft and assault, while Dhruv faced five criminal cases.

Further investigation is underway to ascertain the exact motive behind the killing, they added.



Mamata hits out at ECI's SIR exercise, says it is ill-timed

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today strongly criticised the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise of electoral rolls, saying it was ill-timed as the state is currently dealing with natural calamities and the ongoing festive season. An ECI team, headed by Deputy Election Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, who arrived last night, began reviewing the preparedness for the SIR at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in Kolkata today. (See on page 4)

Ecuador reports assassination attempt on President Noboa



The Ecuadorian government said Tuesday it had filed a criminal complaint over an alleged assassination attempt on President Daniel Noboa during a visit to the southern province of Canar.

(See on page 5)

Djokovic enters quarters at Shanghai Masters



Novak Djokovic overcame pain in his left ankle, the Shanghai humidity and the challenge of Jaume Munar to reach the quarter-finals at the Shanghai Masters for the 11th time. The Serbian received multiple medical timeouts for a leg issue during the two hours and 40 minutes clash and frequently placed an ice towel over his head during changeovers, (See on page 7)

PDP to introduce Anti-Land Eviction Bill in upcoming ...



PDP President Mehbooba Mufti today announced that the Party has submitted "The Jammu and Kashmir Land Rights and Regularisation Bill, 2025" also known as the Anti-Bulldozer Bill in the forthcoming session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

(See on page 8)

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Solapur Division of Central Railway records impressive growth of 86.21% in Goods Loading during Sept 2025

(Standard Post Bureau)

Solapur, Oct 8 : The Solapur Division of Central Railway has registered remarkable progress in freight loading performance during the month of September 2025, showcasing a strong upward trajectory in both loading volume and revenue generation.

The Solapur Division operates freight with

- Goods Sheds: Arag, Bale, Bhigvan, Dharashiv, Kurduvadi, Latur, Pandharpur, Solapur, Taj Sultanpur, Tilati and Wadi

- Sidings: ACC Cement/ Wadi, Ultratech Cement/ Hotgi, Chettinad Cement/ Tilati, Zuari Cement/Tilati, NTPC/Hotgi, and IOCL (Petroleum) locations at Hirenanduru and Pakni

- Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal: BPCL GCT (Petroleum) at Hirenanduru

During September 2025, the Division achieved 540000 metric tonnes of goods loading as compared to 290000 metric tonnes during the corresponding period last year, marking a phenomenal growth of 86.21%. The freight earnings also rose

Earns Revenue of Rs 200.55 Crore in First Half of FY 2025-26



impressively to Rs 35.99 crore, up by 70.89% over last year, reaffirming the Division’s operational efficiency and customer-centric approach.

Commodity-wise performance (September 2025)

- Cement: 284000 metric tonnes loaded across 96 rakes, up by 27.53% with freight earnings of Rs 16.81 crore, an increase of 42.06%.

- Clinker: 119000 metric tonnes loaded across 30 rakes, achieving 100% increase in both weight and earnings of Rs 6.60 crore.

- Petroleum, Oil & Lubricants: Newly added traffic with 31 rakes, contributing Rs 4.28 crore.

- Jaggery: Showed significant growth, up by 51.42% in weight and 50.69% in freight.

- Ballast: Registered 19.28% higher earnings.

These achievements have contributed to a consistent positive trend in the Division’s year-to-date performance.

April to September 2025 (Cumulative Performance)

In the first half of Financial Year 2025-26,

during the period April to September 2025, Solapur Division loaded 2.91 MT (Million Tonnes) of goods, reflecting a 15.94% increase over last year’s April to September 2024 period 2.51 MT (Million Tonnes) with an earning of ₹200.55 crore. This growth has been driven by focused efforts to capture new traffic streams, efficient handling, and improved customer coordination. The Division handled 1,010 rakes during April–September 2025 compared to 892 rakes last year,

marking a 13.23% increase in rake handling efficiency. The overall increase in loading volume underscores the Division’s operational resilience and steady demand in its freight segment.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Sr DCM) Shri Yogesh Patil has appealed industries, factories and traders in the districts of Solapur, Kalaburagi, Latur, Dharashiv, Sangli and Pune especially the Sugar mills and farm producers of Solapur to utilise the facilities of freight transport provided by the railways to expand their trade to different parts of the country.

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“The life of Prophet Muhammad is a message of love” : Prof. Ram Puniyani



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Oct 8 : “The life of Prophet Muhammad is itself a message of love. Hatred should not be spread against people today based on what the kings did in the past.” These views were expressed by renowned intellectual and eminent historian Prof. Ram Puniyani today at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU). He was delivering a keynote address at the inaugural of the two-day international conference “Peace and Harmony: A Religious Perspective,” organized by the Department of Islamic Studies, MANUU in collaboration with the Henry Martyn Institute, Hyderabad. Prof. Syed

Ainul Hasan, Vice Chancellor, MANUU presided over the inaugural session. Large number of distinguished scholars, experts on religion and civilization, professors and researchers from various universities both from within the country and abroad attended the inaugural session.

Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan in his presidential address said that we should strive to understand truth and reality and reach the correct conclusion. Today, it is necessary to set aside sectarian and religious differences and promote academic unity and intellectual harmony so that dialogue and research are based on knowledge rather than prejudice, he

added. Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, President, All India Muslim Personal Law Board and General Secretary of Islamic Fiqh Academy, India in his inaugural speech, said that Islam considers every human being worthy of respect and honors the dignity, property, and resources of all individuals. Establishing better relations based on shared moral values between Hindus and Muslims is the greatest demand of the time. Prof. Muhammad Habib, Head, Department of Islamic Studies and Seminar Director delivered the welcome speech. He highlighted that in the current global scenario, the need for religious tolerance, dialogue, and social harmony has increased more than ever before. Dr. Packiam T. Samuel, Director of the Henry Martyn Institute, stated that such academic gatherings play a practical role in promoting social harmony. He raised certain questions for deliberations.

The inaugural session was moderated by the conference coordinator Dr. Atif Imran, Assistant Professor and Ms. Zeeshan Sarah, Assistant Professor proposed the vote of thanks.

Railways Extends Route of Solapur-Dharmavaram Weekly Specials up to Anakapalle on Passengers' Demand

(Standard Post Bureau)

Solapur, Oct 8 : On demand of passengers, Railways have extended the route of Solapur-Dharmavaram (earlier up to Tirupati) weekly specials up to Anakapalle and will run additional 8 weekly special trains between Solapur and Anakapalle.

The details are as under:- Solapur-Anakapalle Weekly Specials (8 Trips)

- 01437 weekly specials will depart Solapur at 23:20 hrs every Thursday from 09.10.2025 to 27.11.2025 and arrive Anakapalle at 13:00 hrs the third day. (4 trips)

- 01438 weekly specials will depart Anakapalle at 17:35 hrs every Saturday from 11.10.2025 to 29.11.2025 and arrive Solapur at 10:30 hrs on the third day. (4 trips).

Stoppages: Kurduvadi, Barsi Town, Dharashiv, Latur, Latur Road, Kalaburagi, Wadi, Yadgir, Krishna, Raichur, Mantralayam Road, Adoni, Guntakal, Anantapur,

Dharmavaram, Kadiri, Madanpalle Road, Piler, Pakala, Tirupati, Renigunta, Sri Kalahasti, Gudur, Nellore, Ongole, Chirala, Tenali, Vijaywada, Eluru, Tadepalligudem, Nidadavolu, Rajamundry, Samalkot, Annavaram and Elamanchili.

Composition: 1 AC-II Tier, 1 AC-III Tier, 11 Sleeper Class, 4 General Second Class and 2 Luggage Cum Brake Vans. (19 Coaches)

Reservation & Booking : Reservations for continued trips of special trains 01437/01438 on special charges are open at all computerised reservation centres and on website www.irctc.co.in.

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

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

Odisha lawyers observe ‘pen down’ protest over advocate Pitabas Panda’s murder

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8 (UNI) Lawyers across Odisha staged a “pen down” protest today against the murder of senior advocate and BJP leader Pitabas Panda, who was shot dead by unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants in Berhampur city. The attack has triggered widespread outrage amid growing concerns over the state’s law and order situation.

Members of the State and District Bar Councils abstained from their daily work, expressing deep concern over the killing and the failure of the police to apprehend the culprits 36 hours after the incident.

“Police ought to arrest the killers within 48 hours and ascertain the motive of the murder. The State Government should order a judicial inquiry into the crime without further delay as the incident has laid bare the fact that each law-

Assam police nabs DSP Sandipan Garg in connection with singer Zubeen Garg's death

Guwahati, Oct 8 (UNI) The Special Investigation Team of the CID probing the death of Zubeen Garg, today arrested DSP Sandipan Garg, a cousin of the deceased singer.

Sandipan, an Assam Police Service (APS) officer, was present on the yacht in Singapore on the fateful day when Zubeen Garg died.

SIT chief Munna Prasad Gupta told this to media on Wednesday morning.

“We have arrested Sandipan Garg and we are going to produce him before the court today. We are going to seek his remand from the court,” said Gupta while talking to

media. It may be mentioned here that the SIT probing the death of iconic singer Zubeen Garg has already arrested chief organizer of the North East India Festival, Shyamkanu Mahanta, Zubeen's manager Siddharth Sharma, and band members including Sekharjyoti Goswami and Amritprabha Mahanta.

Sandipan Garg was a cousin of Zubeen Garg and he has accompanied Zubeen on the Singapore trip.

Sandipan was also present on the yacht where Zubeen reportedly died after a swim near an island.

It may be mentioned here that the SIT has

summoned Sandipan Garg for questioning several times

in last few days. He was summoned to the CID headquarters in Guwahati on Wednesday for questioning and arrested after that.

“At this moment I can only say that investigation is on and we have decided to arrest him,” Gupta said.

He also added that the process is on to bring the members of the Assam Association Singapore, who were present on the yacht on that day with Zubeen Garg, for questioning. “As they live in a foreign country, the process needs to be followed,” he added.

Kiren Rijiju urges flood mapping in North Bengal

Kolkata, Oct 8 (UNI) : Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who is on a two-day visit to the flood affected areas of Darjeeling and Mirik, called on the West Bengal government to urgently conduct disaster mapping in North Bengal to enable effective relief, rehabilitation, and long-term reconstruction after devastating floods and landslides swept through the region.

Rijiju, accompanied by Darjeeling MP Raju Bista and MLA Neeraj Zimba, visited the severely affected areas including Bijanbari, Thaneline, and Pulbazar, where torrential rains caused the collapse of the Chhota Rangeet bridge and washed away several roads.

“The local administration, MLA, and MP are doing commendable work on the ground. But for a long-term solution, the state government must take the lead in mapping the extent of the disaster,” Rijiju told reporters.

“Only with proper planning can we rebuild houses, bridges, and roads. The Centre is fully prepared to provide financial support, but it depends on the state submitting a Detailed Project Report (DPR),” he said.

He specifically pointed to the collapse of the Chhota Rangeet bridge at Pulbazar, urging the state to prepare a DPR without delay so that the Centre could expedite assistance.

Calling the destruction “unprecedented”, Rijiju said, “I have visited Darjeeling many times, but never seen such devastation. Beyond political differences, there must be unity between the state and Centre to rebuild infrastructure and ensure long-term rehabilitation.”

He added that he would submit a detailed report to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after returning to Delhi.

Darjeeling MP Raju Bista, describing the situation as “heart-breaking”, said the floods had claimed several lives, including that of a young man named Upendra, whose body was recovered three days after being swept away by the swollen Chhota Rangeet river.

“People are still struggling to grasp the scale of this tragedy,” Bista said. He demanded that the West Bengal government officially declare the calamity a disaster, stressing that joint action by the state and Centre was vital for relief and recovery.

Both Rijiju and Bista paid tribute to Upendra and met the bereaved families. “We assured them that we stand by them beyond politics, and every possible help will be extended,” Bista said.

According to administrative figures, the Darjeeling Hills alone have witnessed 406 landslides, destruction of 546 houses, damage to 67 roads, collapse of 10 bridges, and disruption of 59 water connections since the onset of heavy rains. At least 15 households have been completely destroyed, forcing displaced families to take shelter with relatives or neighbours.

Security forces arrest insurgent cadres, drug peddlers in separate operations in Manipur

Imphal, Oct 8 (UNI) Security forces and Manipur Police have intensified their operations against insurgent elements and drug traffickers across the state, leading to multiple arrests yesterday.

Security forces arrested an active member of a proscribed group from Kongpal Khaidem Leikai under Porompat Police

Station, Imphal East district. The individual was apprehended along with a mobile phone was seized from his possession.

In a separate operation, Manipur Police arrested another active member of a banned outfit involved in extortion activities from his residence at Kwakeithel Kongjeng Leikai under

Singjamei Police Station, Imphal West district. A mobile phone and an Aadhaar card were recovered from him.

On the same day, police teams also arrested two individuals along with 26.470 kilograms of contraband ganja from the Awang Sekmai area under Sekmai Police Station, Imphal West district.

headway in identifying the assailants. A senior police official however refusing to divulge details said “police are investigating into the professional and political rivalry angle of the murder. We are hopeful of cracking the case shortly”. Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik criticised the BJP government in Odisha, accusing it of pushing the state into a spiral of fear, lawlessness, and corruption.

Mumbai to become Global Financial Powerhouse: Modi

The Prime Minister emphasized that both the NDA government at the

PM inaugurates Navi Mumbai Airport

The Aqua Line will provide direct Metro access to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) from South Mumbai, which would be a major relief for air travellers.

Under the PM SVANidhi scheme, 90 lakh small vendors have received loans, including 13 lakh in Maharashtra. This has increased their monthly income by at least 2,000.

SC to hear Thackeray's plea on Nov 12 against ECI order recognising Eknath Shinde faction

Thackeray's camp has argued that the Election Commission failed to assess the true majority within the party's organisational structure, and instead gave undue importance to the numerical strength of MLAs supporting Shinde. While issuing notice in the matter, the Supreme Court allowed the Uddhav faction to continue using the name "Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray)" and the symbol "flaming torch" as per paragraph 133(IV) of the ECI order, until the case is finally decided.

PM Modi receives unusual gift from Dy CMs

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several prominent leaders and dignitaries, including Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, Governor Acharya Devvrat, industrialist Gautam Adani, union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, and Maharashtra Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol. Prime Minister Modi arrived at the newly constructed airport to a grand welcome before commencing the inauguration event.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis interacts with United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer on latter's arrival at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, in Mumbai. State Governor Acharya Devvrat looks on.

Severe teacher shortage in ashram schools, parents pull out students

Mumbai, Oct 8 (UNI) : Government ashram schools across Maharashtra are facing a severe teacher shortage, with hundreds of institutions functioning without adequate staff since June 2025, disrupting education of tribal students. The crisis currently affects 497 government-run and 556 government-aided ashram schools, collectively serving nearly 2.5 lakh tribal students, in violation of the Right to Education Act's provisions for quality education. The situation has worsened to the point where parents in Kalwan and Surgana talukas have locked down schools and taken their children home, citing the complete absence of teachers and support staff. Sources said a total of

The crisis escalated in July when MLA Nitin Pawar led massive demonstrations at the Kalwan central administrative

Students' half-yearly exams have begun without curriculum completion, leaving many unprepared and raising concerns about learning outcomes. In response, the Tribal Development Department approved a proposal worth Rs 84.74 crore to recruit 1,79 contract teachers through private agencies via the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, a major policy

shift from traditional hiring practices. However, the initiative has largely failed, with very few teachers joining duty, leaving several classes without instructors. Official data shows 229 higher secondary, 455 secondary, 120 graduate primary, 178 English primary, and 809 Marathi primary teaching posts have remained vacant since 2022 or earlier. After schools reopened on June 16, 2025, parents locked several institutions in Bapkheda, Desgaon, Katharedigar (Kalwan taluka), and Khuntvihar, Dolhare, Mani, Bubli, and Salbhoye (Surgana taluka) in protest.

वसई विरार शहर महानगरपालिका
 मुख्यालय, विरार (प)
 ता. वसई, जि. पालघर,
 पिन - ४०१ ३०३.


 दाध्वनी : ०२५०-२५४१५०१/२५५०१०२
 ई-मेल : amca.vvmc@gov.in
 जा.क्र. : वविवशम/बांध/७३३/२०२५
 दिनांक : ०८/१०/२०२५

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निविदा सूचना क्र. ०१ (२०२५-२६)

वसई-विरार शहर महानगरपालिका विरार (प) वॉर्ड क्र. ३६ उमराळे मधील प्रभाग समिती (ए) विभागीय कार्यालय उमराळे येथे शेड बांधणे कामाची निविदा सूचना <https://vvmc.in> या महानगरपालिकेच्या अधिकृत संकेतस्थळावर दि. १/१०/२०२५ पासून उपलब्ध होणार आहे. कोरे निविदा फॉर्म दि. १/१०/२०२५ ते दि. १६/१०/२०२५ रोजी दरम्यान सार्व. बांधकाम विभाग, मुख्यालय येथे कार्यालयीन वेळेत रोखीने मिळतील.

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No.HO/8513/KBB dt. 06-10-2025

e- TENDER NOTICE

The Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) invites Bids /e-tender from eligible NGO's dealing in this line. e-Tender details are as under.

Sr. No.	Parameters	Details
1.	e-Tender/Bid No	2024_MCGM_1225592
2.	Department	Peripheral Hospitals.
3.	Subject of e-Tender	Providing and Installation of AC Pipeline PVC Covers for Indoor and Outdoor Units at Various Departmenet / Wards at K. B. Bhabha Hospital, Bandra (W).
4.	Contact Details	Medical Superintendent Tel : 022 2642275, Ext. 4505 Email : - bhabha.bandra@yahoo.com
5.	website	www.mahaetender.gov.in

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STANDARD POST

India's boardrooms still struggle to empower women directors

Indian companies have made measurable progress in appointing women to corporate boards as mandated under the Companies Act 2013. However, a new report finds that meaningful representation and influence remain limited.

According to the joint study by Khaitan & Co, Aon, and Ladies Who Lead, “Presence to Influence: Advancing Women in Indian Boardrooms”, about 98 percent of BSE-200 companies now include at least one woman director on their boards.

However, despite this progress, the report finds that women’s participation is often symbolic, with many directors lacking substantive roles in boardroom decision-making.

The report combines board composition data from BSE-200 companies (FY 2023–24) with interviews of 40 women independent directors, offering a dual-lens view of progress and challenges.

It concludes, “Having a seat at the table doesn’t guarantee a voice at the table,” highlighting that 77 percent of BSE 200 companies have only 1–2 women on their boards, limiting diversity of thought and meaningful participation, a trend that persists even on larger boards with 15 or more members.

Sukanya Hazarika, director, Khaitan & Co said, “India’s progress is undeniable with women making up nearly one-fifth of directors at leading companies. Regulatory mandates from India’s Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI helped kickstart diversity, yet sustaining diversity on boards will require us to go beyond compliance.”

Our research shows that companies need to build a stronger leadership pipeline for women, foster an inclusive work culture, and amplify women’s influence in decision-making.

“Our report proposes frameworks for organisations to build inclusive boards, and for women directors to strengthen their impact and lead effectively at the board level. Companies that embrace this shift are not just ticking the DEI box, they are unlocking stronger governance, innovation, and long-term competitive advantage.”

The report said symbolic representation and limited influence at the top, as only 11 percent of women directors in BSE 200 companies hold executive positions, compared to 65 percent of men. This stark disparity highlights the ongoing exclusion of women from key strategic and operational decision-making roles.

Further, the underrepresentation is even more pronounced at the chairperson level, with only 7 percent of BSE 200 and 5 percent of NIFTY- 500 board chairpersons being women.

These positions are crucial for guiding strategic decisions and driving board culture and the limited presence of women in these key positions, highlights the gap between representation and real influence.

Even on board committees, women remain underrepresented, holding 23 percent of NRC and CSR seats, but only 14 percent on Risk Management committees, down from nearly 30 percent in 2023.

Shilpa Khanna, Associate Partner, Talent Solutions at Aon said, “Boardrooms are powerful spaces where key decisions are made and people in the room have the power to influence change. While our report shows progress in increasing gender diversity on boards in India, true inclusion, through active participation and meaningful presence, is still lacking. To achieve genuine gender inclusion at the top, organizations must boldly rethink their strategies and focus on ways to build a critical mass of representation while also harnessing the power of inclusion to ensure women’s participation is substantive and impactful.”

Over-reliance on networks for boardroom entry: As per the findings, progress is constrained not only by numbers but by structures. With 97 percent of women directors relying on networks to secure their first board role, entry pathways remain narrow and exclusionary.

Persistent biases and microaggressions undermine women’s impact as over 1 in 3 women directors report dismissive attitudes, stereotyping and tokenism, ranging from trivialisation of their presence to subtle questioning of their qualifications and commitment.

The report highlights that women directors demonstrate remarkable resilience, often working harder than their male peers to overcome bias and contribute meaningfully to the board.

The report highlights a notable link between women CEOs and more gender-diverse boards. BSE 200 firms led by women CEOs have an average of 31 pc female board representation, nearly double the 17.7 pc seen in male-led firms.

Yet, women CEOs account for only 6 percent of leadership, highlighting the urgent need to accelerate the advancement of women in top executive roles.

Our research also indicates that companies with 4–6 women directors tend to report higher overall gender diversity and make sustained progress in equitable workplace policies.

Regular Eye Check-ups Hold the Key to Healthy Vision for All Ages

(Standard Post Bureau)

Every year, World Sight Day serves as a global reminder of the importance of eye health and the impact it has on our overall well-being. This year, observed on October 9th, the theme “Love Your Eyes” is not just a campaign slogan but a call to action for each of us to take proactive measures towards protecting and preserving our vision. Eyes are our windows to the world, yet they are often neglected until problems become unavoidable. Caring for them consistently is vital for maintaining a good quality of life.Cataract remains one of the most common causes of vision loss worldwide, particularly among individuals above the age of 50. It occurs when the natural lens of the eye becomes cloudy, causing blurred vision, glare, and difficulty in carrying out everyday tasks. If left untreated, cataracts can lead to complete vision impairment. However, advancements in eye care technology have made cataract surgery one of the safest and most precise medical procedures today.

The introduction of bladeless femtosecond

laser-assisted cataract surgery has transformed outcomes—offering unparalleled precision, minimal discomfort, and rapid recovery. The laser can fragment and remove the cataract with exceptional accuracy, often completing the critical laser step in as little as 10 seconds. Similarly, the latest generation of LASIK and laser vision correction technologies—powered by AI-driven eye-tracking systems and high-speed lasers—deliver unmatched precision and safety, ensuring clear vision and faster return to normal life. Together, these innovations represent the future of safe, effective, and personalized eye care.

Regular eye check-ups are one of the most effective ways to safeguard vision. Many eye diseases, including glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and age-related macular degeneration, develop silently without early symptoms. By the time patients experience noticeable vision loss, the damage may already be irreversible. A timely eye examination can detect these conditions at an early stage, allowing interventions that

World Sight Day – 9 Oct 2025 – Love your Eyes



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

preserve sight. For children, eye check-ups are crucial to detect refractive errors, lazy eye (amblyopia), or squint, which if untreated can affect not only vision but also their academic and social development. For adults, particularly those above the age of 40, regular screening is essential to monitor for presbyopia, cataracts, and other age-related conditions.

Lifestyle factors today—such as prolonged screen exposure, increasing digital device

dependency, and sedentary habits—have also contributed to a surge in vision-related complaints. Computer vision syndrome, dry eyes, and early-onset myopia in children are becoming increasingly common. In such scenarios, an annual eye exam serves as a preventive tool, helping individuals adapt corrective measures, lifestyle modifications, or treatment at the right time. Loving your eyes is not just about reacting to symptoms, but about preventing problems

Jharkhand demands better 108 ambulance service

Ranchi, Oct 8 (UNI) : Concerned over recurring reports of delays and mismanagement in the 108 ambulance service across Jharkhand, Additional Chief Secretary of Health, Medical Education & Family Welfare, Ajay Kumar Singh convened an emergency meeting today to review the situation. During the meeting, Singh reprimanded the service provider, Samman Foundation, for its poor performance and directed the agency to ensure immediate and visible improvement in service delivery. He expressed dissatisfaction over the frequent complaints highlighting delayed ambulance arrivals, particularly in remote areas, which have adversely affected the state’s image.

Singh emphasized that the quality of service must remain uncompromised and patients should not face any hardship in availing ambulance support.

before they escalate.

Equally important is the recognition that eye health is tied closely to systemic health. Diabetes and hypertension, two of the most prevalent lifestyle diseases, have a direct impact on eye health and can lead to sight-threatening complications if unchecked. A comprehensive eye check-up often acts as the first point where underlying health issues are flagged, making it a vital element of preventive healthcare.

At Centre for Sight, our mission has always been to provide world-class eye care through cutting-edge technologies and expert medical teams. Today, the field of ophthalmology has seen remarkable advancements, and we are proud to be at the forefront of offering these to patients. From bladeless LASIK surgery for vision correction to advanced cataract surgery using femtosecond lasers, patients can benefit from procedures that are safer, more precise, and deliver faster recovery. For retinal diseases, we offer state-of-the-art diagnostics and treatments including OCT (Optical Coherence Tomography), retinal lasers, and intravitreal injections, ensuring that

conditions like diabetic retinopathy or age-related macular degeneration are managed effectively.

Our hospitals are also equipped with advanced technologies such as corneal cross-linking for keratoconus, minimally invasive glaucoma surgeries, and cutting-edge treatments for pediatric ophthalmology. The adoption of AI-driven diagnostic platforms further enhances our ability to detect diseases at their earliest stages. Through constant innovation and a patient-centric approach, Centre for Sight remains committed to making high-quality eye care accessible and affordable.

This World Sight Day, let us pledge to truly “Love Our Eyes.” By prioritising regular eye examinations, adopting healthy lifestyle habits, and leveraging the latest in medical science, we can ensure that vision is protected across all ages. Eye health is not a luxury—it is a necessity that allows us to live fully, work productively, and connect meaningfully with the world around us. At Centre for Sight, we stand with the global community in advocating for vision care for all, today and for generations to come.

Mamata hits out at ECI's SIR exercise, says it is ill-timed

Kolkata, Oct 8 (UNI) : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today strongly criticised the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise of electoral rolls, saying it was ill-timed as the state is currently dealing with natural calamities and the ongoing festive season.

An ECI team, headed by Deputy Election Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, who arrived last night, began reviewing the preparedness for the SIR at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in Kolkata today.

Returning from landslide-affected areas in North Bengal, Banerjee told reporters at the airport that, with the state battling natural disasters, the rainy season, and a month of major festivals, it is unreasonable to expect people to participate in the SIR exercise within only 15 days.

Following the completion of a similar exercise in Bihar, the ECI initiated the SIR in West Bengal and directed that all preparations be completed by October 15.

Criticising the move, Banerjee said even BJP leaders have claimed that lakhs of names will be deleted from the electoral rolls.

“What do they think? Does the Commission belong to the BJP? Has the Commission been set up

to serve citizens' rights, or is it just to serve civic rights?" asked the Chief Minister.

Banerjee also vehemently criticised the Centre, accusing the ruling party of discrimination and depriving Bengal of its fair share.

Citing examples, Banerjee pointed out that while airfare during the Chhath festival in Bihar was reduced, people fleeing the disaster in Siliguri had to pay more than double the regular fare.

“For coming to Kolkata from Bagdogra airport, one has to pay Rs 18,000 per passenger, and if via New Delhi, the charge was Rs. 42,000,” she stated.

“The BJP always plays electoral politics, and under its governance, the country is heading for the doomsday,” the Chief Minister said.

She alleged that everything is being done under the directive of Amit Shah, who, she claimed, is acting as the de facto Prime Minister.

“Sorry to say, the Prime Minister may be aware of this, but trusting Amit Shah too much would be disastrous. We request the Prime Minister not to trust Amit Shah blindly, or else the man would turn into a big Mir Jafar (former Bengal Nawab), as the morning shows the day,” Banerjee concluded.

NephroPlus Crosses 500 Dialysis Clinics Globally

(Standard Post Bureau)

NephroPlus, Asia’s largest dialysis service provider (Source: Frost & Sullivan Report, 2025), has achieved a historic milestone by crossing 500 centres globally, with the launch of a 2,000 sq. ft. brownfield dialysis centre in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with Amrit Hospital.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Rohit Singh, Group Chief Executive Officer, Nephrocare Health Services Limited, said: "Reaching 500 clinics is a proud milestone for all of us at NephroPlus.

This achievement belongs to our guests who trust us, our partners who support us, and our teammates who power us every day.

For us, 500 is not a finish line — it’s a launch pad. We are moving faster, reaching further, and aiming higher to redefine dialysis

care in India and across borders.”From a single clinic in Hyderabad in 2010 to more than 500 clinics today, NephroPlus’s journey is a testament to what Indian healthcare can achieve on the world stage.

Beyond India, it has extended its model overseas, with 43 international clinics spanning Nepal, the Philippines, and Uzbekistan, alongside partnerships in Saudi Arabia, replicating its playbook of hospital partnerships, public private partnerships (PPP), and cluster growth.

NephroPlus also continues to pursue growth through brownfield opportunities, which involves taking over and operating existing dialysis clinics run by hospitals, not-for-profits, or other private providers looking to outsource their dialysis operations.

This strategy enables rapid expansion with lower upfront capital investment and faster revenue realization. The brownfield strategy allows NephroPlus to expand in urban and semi-urban areas, leverage existing infrastructure and local staff, and achieve operational synergies across its network.

NephroPlus’ cluster-based approach has enabled it to successfully operate clinics in non-metro as well as tier II and tier III locations, improving accessibility in smaller towns and rural areas. As of March 31, 2025, it had 125 clinics in tier II cities and 218 clinics in tier III cities across India.

In Fiscal 2025 alone, the company generated 1,642 jobs in tier II and tier III cities and trained 132 dialysis technicians, reinforcing its commitment to both healthcare delivery and employment creation.

SEIL energy wins Prestigious golden peacock award for excellence in Corporate Governance

(Standard Post Bureau)

SEIL Energy India Limited, one of the largest independent power producers (IPP) in India, is thrilled to announce that it has been declared the Winner of the prestigious 'Golden Peacock Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance' for the year 2025. This esteemed award, declared by the Institute of Directors (IOD), recognizes SEIL Energy's commitment to upholding the highest standards of corporate

governance.The Golden Peacock Awards, instituted by the Institute of Directors (IOD), are a benchmark of excellence in corporate governance, sustainability, and business performance. This recognition is a testament to SEIL Energy's relentless pursuit of reliability, transparency, and stakeholder value.

On this occasion, Mr. Janmejaya Mahapatra, CEO - SEIL Energy India Limited, said; "We are honoured to receive this prestigious

award, which acknowledges our dedication to transparency, accountability, and responsible business practices. This recognition motivates us to continue pushing the boundaries of excellence in corporate governance and sustainability, ultimately contributing to the growth and prosperity of our stakeholders and the nation."The award will be presented to Mr. Janmejaya Mahapatra on 4th

November 2025, during the Golden Peacock Awards Presentation Ceremony at IOD India's 2025 Annual London Global Convention on Corporate Governance and Sustainability.

As one of India's leading independent power producers, SEIL Energy has consistently demonstrated its commitment to delivering reliable and sustainable energy solutions while maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance.

US Navy Destroyer USS Fitzgerald arrives in Bangladesh on 3-day 'goodwill' visit

Chattogram, Oct 8 (UNI) The US Navy destroyer, USS Fitzgerald (DDG-62), arrived in Bangladeshi waters, landing at Chattogram Port as part of three-day 'goodwill' visit.The vessel was greeted by the Bangladesh Navy ship, BNS Abu Ubaidah, upon arrival, with naval officials from both sides exchanging greetings.According to a report by the Inter-Services-Personal-Relations (ISPR) – the media wing of its armed forces – the visit is meant for strengthening bilateral defence relations by sharing knowledge, experience, expertise, reports Daily Star.

As per the ISPR, the two navies will partake in joint activities with direct observation of professional excellence being instrumental for enhancing mutual understanding and coordination between naval personnel of the two countries.

It added that the visit would provide an effective platform for skills sharing and help the Bangladesh Navy advance in line with modern naval technology.

Representatives of the US Embassy in Bangladesh were present during the visit. Earlier, the US Navy ship also visited Bangladesh on a goodwill visit in 2022.

The 'goodwill' visit is expected to further strengthen bilateral relations, as well as provide opportunities for professional exchange, future training and mutual cooperation between naval officers and sailors of the two countries, the ISPR added.

The ship will depart Bangladeshi waters on Oct 10.

1 killed, 4 injured in boat collision on Tokyo's canal

Tokyo, Oct. 8 (UNI) : One man was killed and four others were injured when two workboats collided on the Toyosu Canal in Tokyo's Koto Ward at around 6:40 a.m. local time Wednesday, local media reported.

According to the Tokyo Coast Guard Office, the vessels that collided were the Senbamaru No. 12 and the Senbamaru No. 80. The No. 80, which had been pushing a barge, struck the No. 12 while it was underway.All five victims, including the 58-year-old man who died and the four injured crew members, were aboard the Senbamaru No. 12.The site of the accident lies about 700 meters north of Toyosu Station on the Yurakucho subway line, surrounded by high-rise apartment buildings and company warehouses.

Ecuador reports assassination attempt on President Noboa

Quito, Oct. 8 (UNI) : The Ecuadorian government said Tuesday it had filed a criminal complaint over an alleged assassination attempt on President Daniel Noboa during a visit to the southern province of Canar.

Environment and Energy Minister Ines Manzano said Noboa's motorcade came under attack in the town of El Tambo on Tuesday when it was heading to a local stadium for the launch of new public works.

"About 500 people appeared and began throwing stones, and there are also bullet marks on the president's car," Manzano told reporters, adding that Noboa was unharmed.Police arrested five suspects who will face terrorism charges, and several vehicles in the convoy were damaged.The presidential office accused the attackers of trying to block the inauguration of a community project.

The incident occurred on the 16th day of nationwide protests led by indigenous communities against the government's decision to end diesel subsidies on Sept. 12 -- a move that sharply increased fuel prices and has triggered widespread unrest.

UN frees 410 children from armed groups in eastern DRC

United Nations, Oct 8 (UNI) : UN peacekeepers and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) worked together to free 410 children held by armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a UN spokesman said on Tuesday.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said the peacekeeping mission in DRC, known as MONUSCO, worked with UNICEF from January to September to release 344 boys and 66 girls held by armed groups in North Kivu and Ituri provinces. Dujarric said the freed children have been referred to services that will help them reintegrate into a normal life after their experience.

"During the same period, 165 cases of child recruitment and use (by the armed groups) were verified by the United Nations, including 30 girls and 135 boys," he said. "Our colleagues tell us these numbers underscore the continued vulnerability of children in areas impacted by conflict and also highlight the urgent need for sustained protection measures, including prevention, accountability, and long-term reintegration support."Dujarric said that under the world body's children and armed conflict framework, peacekeeping missions work to prevent and respond to grave violations against children, including their recruitment and use by armed forces and groups.

He said that MONUSCO supports DRC's national authorities in implementing action plans, strengthening the capacity of security forces, and reporting violations through the UN's monitoring and reporting mechanism, with the aim of promoting accountability and increasing child protection. MONUSCO, which has the largest child protection service of any UN peacekeeping mission, said on its website that peacekeepers have helped release thousands of children associated with armed forces and groups. The mission also said it provides technical support for DRC legislative reforms to strengthen child protection systems.



United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrives at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, in Mumbai on Wednesday.

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Israeli Navy intercepts another flotilla mission, detains 150 activists

Tel Aviv, Oct 8 (UNI) : The Israeli Navy early Wednesday intercepted a new flotilla mission, which attempted to break its maritime blockade on the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip as part of a symbolic support for Palestinians, detaining an estimated 150 activists who were transferred to Israeli shores for interrogation and deportation, reports Times of Israel.

The Navy's interception of the flotilla comes a week after it stopped the 42-vessel Global Sumud Flotilla – the largest convoy to challenge Tel Aviv's blockade to date -- and deported a vast majority of the 479 activists who took part in that armada, including Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg and South African politician Mandla Mandela.

The IDF actions come after organisers rejected

Donald Trump says some furloughed workers might not get back pay

Washington, Oct 8 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump said Tuesday that some furloughed federal employees may not receive back pay once the government reopens, following earlier threats to lay off federal workers during shutdown.

"I would say it depends on who we're talking about. I can tell you this, the Democrats have put a lot of people in great risk and jeopardy, but it really depends on who you're talking about," Trump said at the White House Oval Office.

"But for the most part, we're going to take care of our people. There are some people who really don't deserve to be taken care of, and we will take care of them in a different way," he said.The US president did not provide further details on which furloughed federal employees might not receive back pay.

Earlier in the day, Axios reported that furloughed federal workers are not guaranteed compensation for their forced time off during the government shutdown, citing a draft White House memo.

As Trump continued to blame Democrats for the shutdown stalemate,

Democratic leaders blamed Republicans.

"The Republicans shut down the government instead of fixing health care for Americans across this country," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said on X.

After the previous government shutdown, which lasted 35 days and ended in January 2019, Trump signed a law guaranteeing back pay for federal employees affected by future shutdowns.

Before the law was passed, the US Congress routinely approved back pay for federal workers once a funding bill was approved to reopen the government.

Roughly 750,000 federal workers are expected to be furloughed during this shutdown, according to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office last week.

Federal workers deemed essential -- such as air traffic controllers and law enforcement officers -- will continue working without pay until the government reopens.US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said Monday that the government shutdown is adding pressure on already overworked air traffic controllers.

US DNI Tulsi Gabbard directs all intel agencies to review feasibility of random polygraph tests in stemming info leaks

Washington, Oct 8 (UNI) : US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard issued a memo back in September ordering all of the country's intelligence agencies to conduct a review of whether random polygraph examinations of their employees or contractors are feasible, in a bid to stem the wave of intel leaks in recent years.

As such, the directive also stresses on the need for tests to include questions about whether employees or potential applicants have leaked information to members of the press as part of the standard battery of questions during the security clearance adjudication process, reports CBS News.

While questions related to leaks have been commonplace for U.S. intelligence community employees and applicants, the Trump administration is intensifying its crackdown on all possible avenues for disclosing state secrets,

and cautioned members of the intelligence community that they'll face additional scrutiny over any leaks of sensitive information to media outlets.In many ways, Gabbard's directive echoes earlier hard-line stances undertaken by previous administrations to root out sources of revelations that were either potentially damaging to national security or politically embarrassing.

As per two sources of CBS News, the DNI's directive emphasises polygraph test questions related to topics like info leaks to media agencies, adding that these practices will be made more routine in conjunction with counterintelligence investigations.

An official in the Office of Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), stated that instead of establishing any new policies, the directive merely reinforces questions related to leaks to members of the press, and hardens all existing

regulations and legal statutes.The directive also does not direct organisations to begin random polygraph examinations, but instead asks US intelligence agencies to review the feasibility of conducting random polygraphs in conjunction with counterintelligence investigations.As per the ODNI official, the lack of polygraph tests within the intelligence community has emboldened all potential double agents within agencies to leak sensitive state secrets to hostile nations, though the official declined to give any additional details.

"Since the start of President Trump's second term, we have seen numerous unauthorised disclosures of classified information, which have the potential to damage US' strategic alliances and credibility and endanger sources and methods vital to intelligence gathering," DNI spokesperson Olivia Coleman told the media agency.

Afghanistan's modest economic growth threatened by rising poverty, population

Kabul, Oct 8 (UNI) Afghanistan's economy has grown modestly in the past four years and continues to rise, though increasing poverty, lack of infrastructure, weak governance, persistent displacement, and persistent security threats continue to hamper this trend, reported the World Bank.It further warned that these factors could overshadow the few strides the war-ravaged country has made in recent years.According to Khamma News, these findings were published as part of the World Bank's latest Economic update on West Asia, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan, titled 'Jobs and Women: Untapped Talent, Unrealised Growth'.Kabul's GDP is projected to grow by about 4.3 percent in fiscal years 2025–2026, driven largely by household and public consumption. However, this rise - expected to be around 8.6 percent, per capita income - is insufficient to keep with its increasing population, and is thus projected to decline by nearly 4 percent, keeping millions of Afghans in extreme poverty.



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This is an e-Tender notice. The Municipal Commissioner of Greater Mumbai invites Mahatender for the following works.

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs	Scrutiny Fee	Bid Start Date & Time Downloading	Bid End Date & Time Submission
1.	SITC of FULLY AUTOMATED BIOCHEMISTRY ANALYZER. (Bid No.2025_MCGM_1226185.)	13,500/-	3630/- + 18 % GST	09/10/2025 11.00 am	18/10/2025 11.00 am
2.	SITC of FULLY AUTOMATED 5 PART HEMATOLOGY ANALYZER. (Bid No.2025_MCGM_1226119.)	12,500/-	3630/- + 18 % GST	09/10/2025 11.00 am	18/10/2025 11.00 am

The bidder shall have to pay the "e-tender price" as mentioned in the above table through online payment gateway before downloading the tender documents

All the Bidders, including those registered in BMC pay the EMD and follow the guidelines issued online on Mahatender under Circular no. Dir/IT/505038 of 19.12.2023 to submit the bid.

Note:- a) Eligibility Criteria of above Tender refer from E-Tender Notice uploaded on
Mahatender website at <http://www.mahatenders.gov.in>
b) Bidder must upload documentary evidences regarding information specified in the Schedule of Pre-Qualification.
The intending tenderers shall visit the Mahatender website at <http://www.mahatenders.gov.in> for further details of the tender.
The tender documents will not be issued or received by post.

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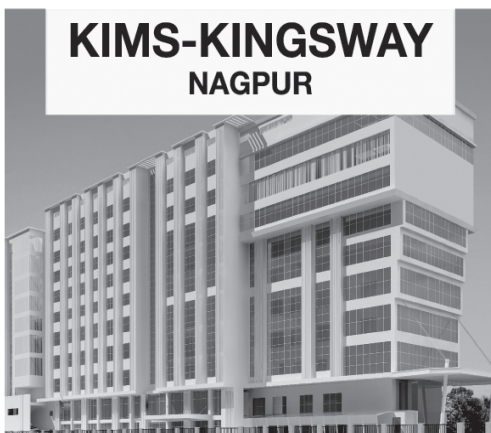
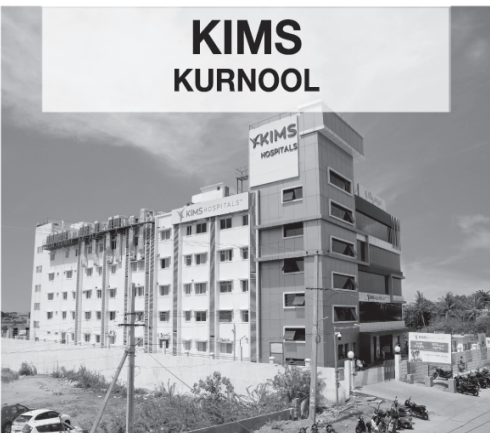
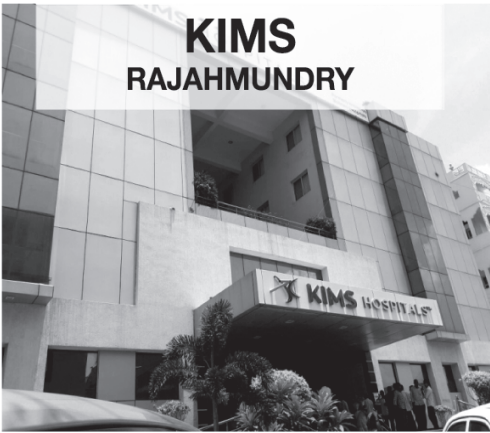
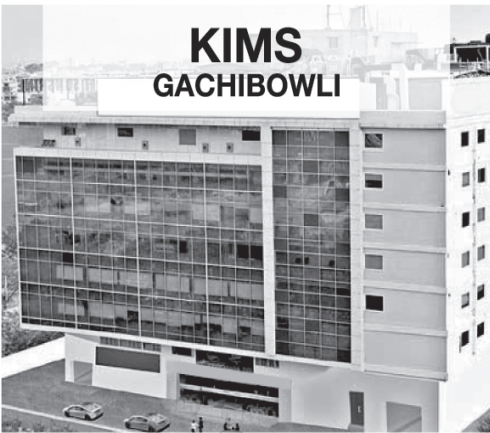
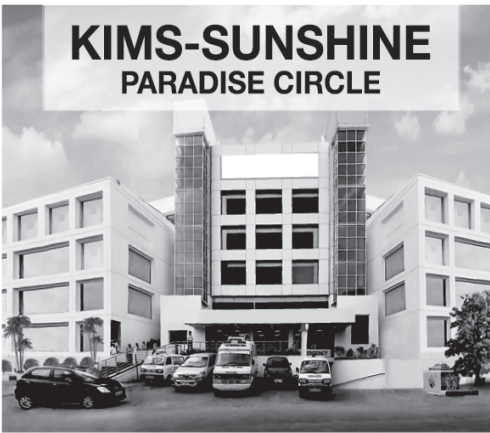
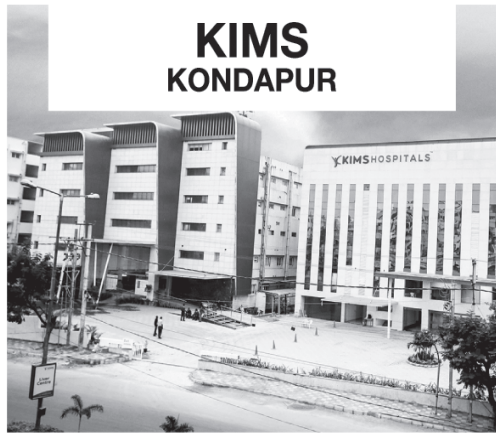
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India U23 men's head coach Naushad Moosa names

New Delhi, Oct 8 (UNI) : India U23 men's team head coach Naushad Moosa named a 23-member squad for the friendlies against Indonesia U23 on October 10 and 13 in Jakarta during the FIFA International Match Window. After a brief training camp in Bengaluru, the Blue Colts landed in the Indonesian capital on the afternoon of Wednesday.

Both matches will be played at the Gelora Bung Karno Madya Stadium in Jakarta, and will kick off at 18:30 IST.

Goalkeepers: Dipesh Chauhan, Mohanraj K, Priyansh Dubey.

Defenders: Bikash Yumnam, Dippendu Biswas, Harsh Arun Palande, Muhammed Saheef AP, Ricky Meetei Haobam, Roshan Singh Thangjam, Sanatomba Singh Yanglem, Sumit Sharma Brahmachari.

Midfielders: Ayush Dev Chhetri, Bekey Oram, Danny Meitei Laishram, Lalrinliana Hnamte, Mohammed Aimen, Vibin Mohanan.

Forwards: Muhammed Suhail, Korou Singh Thingujam, Parthib Sundar Gogoi, Sreekuttan MS, Suhail Ahmad Bhat, Thoi Singh Huidrom.

Head coach: Naushad Moosa, Assistant coach: Noel Wilson



Students take part in a volleyball competition as part of Chief Minister’s Trophy Games 2025, in Tiruchirappalli.

Parthsarathi, Akansha & Riddhi sail into pre-quarters of Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship

New Delhi, Oct 8 (UNI) : Top seed Parthsarathi Arun Mundhe, Akansha Ghosh, and Riddhi Shinde continued their winning streak to reach the pre-quarterfinals of the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship in the Girls’ U-16 Singles category at the DLTA Complex in New Delhi today.

Parthsarathi faced a tough challenge at the beginning of the contest against Swanika Roy as the scores were levelled at 2-2 before the top seed rallied to win the next seven games with ferocious baseline

play and notched up the victory by 9-2 to move into the next round of the tournament.

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 continues to showcase India’s most promising junior talent.

Meanwhile, third seed Akansha Ghosh defeated Keertama Rangineni also by the scoreline of 9-2 to reach the round of 16. Akansha showcased her sublime skills against

Keertama, winning six straight games to establish a significant lead and securing a comfortable victory.

Riddhi Shinde caused an upset by defeating sixth seed Aashi Kashyap 9-4 to advance to the next round. Riddhi broke her opponent’s serve four times to take a commanding lead before sealing the victory.

In the Girls’ U-14 category, Aniha Gavinolla upset seventh seed Eshitha Sriyala 9-5, while top seed Padma Rameshkumar defeated Shubhi Sharma 9-

3 in the round-of-32 clash.

On the other hand, in the Boys U-16 Singles category, top seed Prakaash Saran beat Saksham Bhansal 9-8 (7-1) in straight sets. Eighth seed Tavish Pahwa got the better of Puneeth M 9-5 to move into the pre-quarterfinals

Besides the prestigious titles, the winners will be awarded kit allowance in the junior categories.

The winners and runners-up in the U-16 and U-14 singles events will also receive a tennis scholarship of Rs 25,000 each.

Djokovic enters quarters at Shanghai Masters

Shanghai, Oct 8 (UNI) : Novak Djokovic overcame pain in his left ankle, the Shanghai humidity and the challenge of Jaume Munar to reach the quarter-finals at the Shanghai Masters for the 11th time.

The Serbian received multiple medical timeouts for a leg issue during the two hours and 40 minutes clash and frequently placed an ice towel over his head during changeovers, with humidity levels exceeding 82 percent on Tuesday.

Djokovic threw up court-side on several occasions and collapsed to the floor after losing the second set before he received medical support.

However, despite the challenging conditions, the 38-year-old dug deep to grind down Munar 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 in one of the most physical matches of the season.

Djokovic has reached the quarter-finals in all 11 of his Shanghai appearances, lifting the trophy a record four times. The world No. 5 is the highest-ranked left player in the draw and he will next meet Belgian Zizou Bergs.

India Women set for a high-stakes with South Africa

Visakhapatnam, Oct 8 (UNI) : Cricket lovers are in for a treat tomorrow as India Women take on South Africa Women in a pivotal ICC Women’s World Cup clash at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium.

The game starts at 3 pm, and by the look of it, the drama will unfold long before the first ball is bowled. India’s hopes rest heavily on Smriti Mandhana, a batswoman who plays with an elegance that few can match. Averaging 54 against South Africa in ODIs, with three centuries and five half-centuries, Mandhana is not just in form—she is in command.

Pratika Rawal will partner her at the top, providing solidity, while Harleen Deol, who has been a consistent performer, will anchor the number three spot. The middle order of Harmanpreet Kaur, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, and Richa

Delhi Metro to run special, free services on Oct 12 for Vedanta Delhi half marathon participants

New Delhi, Oct 8 (UNI) : Delhi Metro rail Corporation (DMRC) will be running special and free services for the participations of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon scheduled for October 12 (Sunday). The DMRC will commence services on Sunday earlier, at 3: 15 am and they have issued 4000 QR codes for the participants so that they can reach the venue of the race- JLN stadium free of cost. Mohinder Yadav, General Manager, Corporate Communications, DMRC in an exclusive interaction with UNI shared the details regarding race day. “We will commence our services on Sunday at 3:15 am at the Red, Yellow and Blue lines- which are the most popular lines, aim is that the participants reach the JLN stadium seamlessly. From 3:15 am to 4 am, trains will be available every 15 minutes, from 4 am to 6 am they will run every 20 minutes, after 6 am we

will be running our usual services. We have tied up with the organisers Procam and provided 4000 QR codes which they will be distributing to the participants. The racers can just show it at the stations for entry and outward journey after the event.”

Yadav said that a network of volunteers will be deployed at four stations to assist the participants. Apart from this, four stations will have volunteers from Procam, they will be guiding the participants - there stations are Jorbagh, Jangpura, Janpath and JLN stadium.

The Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon will feature several races with the first race- half Marathon for Amateurs & Police Cup being flagged off at 5 am from Jawaharlal Nehru stadium. This year, which will be the 20th edition of the half marathon will see more than 40,000 participants, including runners from 22 other nations.

Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj attain career-best positions in ICC Men’s Test Player Rankings

Dubai, Oct 8 (UNI) : India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja’s standout performance in the first match of their ICC World Test Championship series against the West Indies in Ahmedabad has helped him reach a career-best 25th position in the ICC Men’s Test Batting Rankings.

The previous best for the 36-year-old, who scored 104 not out in India’s only innings, was the 29th position that he achieved in July this year. He is now at a career-high of 644 rating points. Jadeja’s four wickets in the second innings have also helped him extend his

lead at the top of the all-rounders’ table by a good 125 points over Bangladesh’s Mehidy Hasan. Fast bowler Mohammed Siraj continued his good work from the England tour, his figures of four for 40 and three for 31 lifting him three places to a career-best 12th position and above the 700-point mark for the first time in his career following India’s victory by an innings and 140 runs.

Other gainers from the Indian team include K.L. Rahul and Dhruv Jurel, who have both progressed in the batting rankings after notching centuries. Rahul

has moved up four places to 35th and Jurel is up 20 places to 65th after his maiden Test century.

Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav has gained seven places to reach 21st position after taking two cheap wickets in the match. There was little to cheer for the West Indies players though as no batter scored a half-century and no bowler took more than two wickets.

In the ICC Men’s T20I Player Rankings, Australia captain Mitchell Marsh has returned to the top 10 of the batting table for the first time since February 2024 after scoring 85 in the first

match and 103 not out in the third match of the series against New Zealand.

New Zealand’s Tim Robinson struck an unbeaten 106 in the first match of the series at Mount Maunganui which helped him advance 58 places to joint-22nd.

Bangladesh defeated Afghanistan 3-0 in their series in the United Arab Emirates, with Saif Hassan’s unbeaten 64 in the third match helping him into the top 20 batters for the first time. Tanzid Hasan has moved up from 43rd to 37th and Parvez Hossain from 71st to 53rd.

Afghanistan leg-

spinning all-rounder Rashid Khan’s hauls of four for 18 and two for 29 in the first two matches have helped him claw back to number two in the bowling rankings, his highest position since June last year.

The bowling rankings also see Noor Ahmad (up eight places to 17th) and Mujeeb Ur Rahman (up six places to 23rd) of Afghanistan progress, while Bangladesh players Tanzim Hasan Sakib (up nine places to 33rd), Shoriful Islam (up 21 places to joint-49th) and Player of the Series Nasum Ahmed (up from 131st to 44th) have all advanced, an ICC media release said.

Botafogo defender Bastos to miss rest of season

Rio De Janeiro, Oct 8 (UNI) : Botafogo defender Bastos is set to miss the rest of the 2025 Brazilian top flight season due to complications from a knee injury. The 34-year-old Angolan underwent surgery on his left knee in July in the hope that he would resume training in October. But the center-back has yet to rejoin first-team training after aggravating the injury during his recuperation, Globo Esporte reported.

Bastos, capped 58 times for Angola, has made 60 appearances across all competitions for Botafogo following his 2023 move from Al-Ahli. He was part of the Rio club’s squad that won last year’s Copa Libertadores - South America’s top club trophy - and Brazilian Serie A title.

We are excited about opportunity to strengthen our squad: Bhupathi ahead of TPL auctions

Bengaluru, Oct 8 (UNI) : Ahead of the Tennis Premier League (TPL) 2025 auctions scheduled for October 9, SG Pipers are shaping up as one of the strongest teams this season.

The franchise has already made a statement by announcing that two-time Grand Slam champion and the oldest player to win both a Grand Slam and an ATP Masters 1000 title, Rohan Bopanna, will be part of the SG Pipers. The squad now turns its focus to securing new players to further strengthen the team ahead of what promises to be a highly competitive season.

Bopanna’s addition reflects SG Pipers’ approach of combining experience with emerging talent, a strategy designed

to mount a serious title challenge this season.

The team’s preparations come at a time when Indian tennis is experiencing a renewed wave of interest and investment.

Amid this momentum, the Tennis Premier League continues to emerge as a key platform to bring the sport closer to fans and provide players with valuable competitive exposure by showcasing some of the best talent from across the country and beyond.

Mahesh Bhupathi, one of India’s most decorated tennis players and CEO of S Gupta Sports, the company that owns SG Pipers, said, "Our focus has always been on building a team that reflects the highest standards of Indian

tennis, both in terms of performance and professionalism. We are absolutely thrilled to have Rohan Bopanna join SG Pipers. His wealth of experience, proven leadership, and winning mentality will be invaluable as we aim for the top. Having someone of his calibre reinforces our commitment to excellence.

As we approach the auctions, we are excited about the opportunity to strengthen our squad further."

Bhupathi, who has been closely involved with the sport’s evolution in India, believes the league is playing a pivotal role in shaping its future.

"Leagues like Tennis Premier League are essential to the sport’s growth in India. They

provide a platform for domestic talent to compete alongside established names. This not only guides young players but also helps build a stronger ecosystem around the game. The momentum we are seeing now can translate into a deeper talent pool and greater global competitiveness over the next decade," he added.

The auction is expected to attract significant attention as franchises compete for top Indian and international players.

With Bopanna already part of their line-up and a clear roadmap for the season ahead, SG Pipers are well-positioned to make a strong bid for the title in the upcoming edition.

Bhubaneswar gears up to host 28th Asian Table Tennis Championships from October 11

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8 (UNI) : The capital city of Odisha is coming alive with the arrival of Asia’s finest paddlers as the city gears up to host the 28th ITTF-ATTU Asian Table Tennis Championships from October 11 at the Kalinga Stadium Indoor Athletics Centre. The first wave of teams has already begun, bringing with it a quiet but intense air of preparation. Leading the arrivals was the 17-member Indian contingent, the first to check into its hotel yesterday evening.

Manav Thakkar spearheads India’s men’s squad, currently ranked No. 48 in the world in men’s singles, while the women’s team is anchored by Manika Batra, sitting inside the top 50 at No. 46 and eager to make an impact on home soil.

Soon after, the Japanese squad—a strong 27-member delegation—arrived in the city, headlined by their talisman Tomokazu

Harimoto, who remains one of the most feared names in global table tennis as the current world No. 4 in men’s singles. They were closely followed by the always-dangerous South Korean and Hong Kong teams, as well as a competitive unit from Iran.

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Central Railway conducts Seminar on CTE-Type Intensive Examinations Under Vigilance Campaign



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 8 : As part of the ongoing Central Vigilance Campaign themed “Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility”, the Vigilance Organization of Central Railway organized a seminar focused on CTE-

Type Intensive Examinations under the Capacity Building Program. The seminar, held on October 7, 2025, at Central Railway Head Quarter Office, Mumbai, aimed to enhance awareness and build competence among

officers in maintaining transparency and accountability in public procurement and infrastructure projects. Shri Neeraj Kumar Dohare, Senior Deputy General Manager (SDGM) and Chief Vigilance Officer,

Central Railway presided over the function.

A key highlight of the event was an insightful lecture delivered by Shri Subhash Kumar Singla, retired IRSE officer (Indian Railway Service of Engineers). Drawing from his vast experience, Shri Subhash Kumar Singla provided valuable perspectives on effective inspection techniques, common lapses, and best practices to uphold integrity in public works.

The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers across various departments of Central Railway.

This initiative forms part of a series of awareness programs and workshops are being conducted during the 3 month Vigilance Awareness Campaign (18th August 2025 to 17th November 2025).

Restoration of halts of few trains at Surat Staton from Oct 10 : Western Railway

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 8 : In view of the forthcoming festive season, such as Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath Puja, many festival Special Trains will originate/ terminate at Udhna station, which is expected to result in significant increase in passenger footfall at this station. A substantial surge in passenger traffic is anticipated and hence as a crowd control measure, the halt of few trains that were temporarily discontinued at Surat station is being restored back with effect from 10th October, 2025, till further advice.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the halts of some of the UP & DOWN trains that were temporarily skipped at Surat station in view of ongoing station redevelopment work, are being restored with effect from 10th October, 2025. The details of these trains are as under:

- UP Trains provided Halt at Surat station
1. Train No. 12655 Ahmedabad – Puratchi Thailaivar Dr. M.G.Ramachandran Central Navajeevan Express, Journey commencing on (J.C.O) 09th October, 2025
 2. Train No. 12833 Ahmedabad – Howrah SuperFast Express, J.C.O 10th October, 2025
 3. Train No. 19483 Ahmedabad – Saharsa Express, J.C.O 10th October, 2025
 4. Train No. 19435 Ahmedabad – Asansol Express, J.C.O 16th October, 2025
 5. Train No. 20824 Ajmer – Puri SuperFast, J.C.O 09th October, 2025
 6. Train No. 20820 Okha – Puri Weekly Express, J.C.O 15th October, 2025
 7. Train No. 22939 Okha – Bilaspur Express, J.C.O 11th October, 2025
 8. Train No. 12993 Gandhidham – Puri SuperFast Express, J.C.O 10th October, 2025
 9. Train No. 20804 Gandhidham – Visakhapatnam SuperFast Express, J.C.O 12th October, 2025
 10. Train No. 22664

- Jodhpur – Tambaram SuperFast Express, J.C.O 14th October, 2025
11. Train No. 22738 Hisar – Secunderabad SuperFast Express, J.C.O 10th October, 2025
 12. Train No. 22724 Sri Ganganagar – Hazur Sahib Nanded SuperFast Express, J.C.O 11th October, 2025
 13. Train No. 22967 Ahmedabad – Prayagraj SuperFast Express, J.C.O 16th October, 2025
 14. Train No. 12905 Porbandar – Shalimar SuperFast Express, J.C.O 15th October, 2025
 15. Train No. 22905 Okha – Shalimar SuperFast Express, J.C.O 12th October, 2025
 16. Train No. 12949 Porbandar – Santragachi Kaviguru Express, J.C.O 10th October, 2025
 17. Train No. 16734 Okha – Rameswaram Express, J.C.O 14th October, 2025
 18. Train No. 22138 Ahmedabad – Nagpur Prerana Express, J.C.O 12th October, 2025
 19. Train No. 20903 Ekta Nagar – Varanasi Mahamana Express, J.C.O 14th October, 2025
 20. Train No. 20905 Ekta Nagar – Rewa Mahamana Express, J.C.O 10th October, 2025
 21. Train No. 22937 Rajkot – Rewa SuperFast Express, J.C.O 12th October, 2025
 22. Train No. 12844 Ahmedabad – Puri SuperFast Express, J.C.O 11th October, 2025
 23. Train No. 20862 Ahmedabad – Puri Weekly Express, J.C.O 10th October, 2025
 24. Train No. 22689 Ahmedabad – Yesvantpur SuperFast Express, J.C.O 14th October, 2025
 25. Train No. 22973 Gandhidham – Puri SuperFast Express, J.C.O 15th October, 2025
- DOWN Trains provided Halt at Surat station
1. Train No. 12906 Shalimar – Porbandar SuperFast Express, Journey commencing on (J.C.O) 10th October, 2025
 2. Train No. 22906 Shalimar – Okha SuperFast Express, J.C.O 14th October, 2025
 3. Train No. 12843 Puri – Ahmedabad SuperFast Express, J.C.O

- 09th October, 2025
4. Train No. 20861 Puri – Ahmedabad SuperFast Express, J.C.O 08th October, 2025
 5. Train No. 12994 Puri – Gandhidham SuperFast Express, J.C.O 13th October, 2025
 6. Train No. 12950 Santragachi – Porbandar Kaviguru SuperFast Express, J.C.O 12th October, 2025
 7. Train No. 20904 Varanasi – Ekta Nagar Mahamana Express, J.C.O 09th October, 2025
 8. Train No. 20823 Puri – Ajmer SuperFast Express, J.C.O 09th October, 2025
 9. Train No. 22940 Bilaspur – Okha SuperFast Express, J.C.O 13th October, 2025
 10. Train No. 12834 Howrah – Ahmedabad SuperFast Express, J.C.O 08th October, 2025
 11. Train No. 19484 Saharsa – Ahmedabad Express, J.C.O 08th October, 2025
 12. Train No. 19436 Asansol – Ahmedabad Express, J.C.O 11th October, 2025
 13. Train No. 12656 Puratchi Thailaivar Dr. M.G.Ramachandran Central – Ahmedabad Navajeevan Express, J.C.O 09th October, 2025
 14. Train No. 22938 Rewa – Rajkot SuperFast Express, J.C.O 13th October, 2025
 15. Train No. 20906 Rewa – Ekta Nagar Mahamana Express, J.C.O 11th October, 2025
 16. Train No. 22968 Prayagraj – Ahmedabad SuperFast Express, J.C.O 10th October, 2025
 17. Train No. 22663 Tambaram – Jodhpur SuperFast Express, J.C.O 11th October, 2025
 18. Train No. 22737 Secunderabad – Hisar SuperFast Express, J.C.O 14th October, 2025
 19. Train No. 22137 Nagpur – Ahmedabad Prerana Express, J.C.O 11th October, 2025
 20. Train No. 20819 Puri – Okha SuperFast Express, J.C.O 12th October, 2025
 21. Train No. 20803 Visakhapatnam – Gandhidham SuperFast Express, J.C.O 09th October, 2025

22. Train No. 22723 Hazur Sahib Nanded – Sri Ganganagar SuperFast Express, J.C.O 16th October, 2025
 23. Train No. 22974 Puri – Gandhidham SuperFast Express, J.C.O 11th October, 2025
 24. Train No. 16733 Rameswaram – Okha Express, J.C.O 10th October, 2025
 25. Train No. 22690 Yesvantpur – Ahmedabad SuperFast Express, J.C.O 12th October, 2025
- Trains to originate from Surat station instead of Udhna station
1. Train No. 22828 Surat – Puri SuperFast Express, Journey commencing on (J.C.O) 14th October, 2025
 2. Train No. 09065 Surat – Chhapra Clone Special, J.C.O 13th October, 2025
 3. Train No. 20925 Surat – Amravati SuperFast Express, J.C.O 10th October, 2025
 4. Train No. 13426 Surat – Malda Town Express, J.C.O 13th October, 2025
 5. Train No. 09117 Udhna – Subedarganj Special, J.C.O 10th October, 2025
 6. Train No. 05018 Udhna - Mau Festival Special, J.C.O 28th September, 2025
- Trains to Terminate at Surat station instead of Udhna station
1. Train No. 22827 Puri – Surat SuperFast Express, Journey commencing on (J.C.O) 12th October, 2025
 2. Train No. 13425 Malda Town – Surat Weekly Express, J.C.O 11th October, 2025
 3. Train No. 09066 Chhapra – Surat Clone Special, J.C.O 15th October, 2025
 4. Train No. 20926 Amravati – Surat SuperFast Express, J.C.O 10th October, 2025
 5. Train No. 09118 Subedarganj – Udhna Special, J.C.O 11th October, 2025
 6. Train No. 05017 Mau – Udhna Festival Special, J.C.O 27th September, 2025
- For detailed information regarding the timings, halts & composition of the above trains, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Central Railway to run Additional Special Trains during Diwali & Chhath Festival

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 8 : To increase for passengers during the upcoming Diwali & Chhath festival season, Central Railways have decided to run additional special trains between various destinations as per the details below:

- 1) Khadki - Hazrat Nizamuddin - Khadki Bi - Weekly Special (8 trips) 01427 Khadki – Hazrat Nizamuddin Bi - Weekly Special will leave Khadki at 16.45 hrs every Wednesday & Sunday from 15.10.2025 to 26.10.2025 (4 trips) and will arrive Hazrat Nizamuddin at 20.00 hrs next day. 01428 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Khadki Bi Weekly Special will leave Hazrat Nizamuddin at 21.25 hrs every Thursday & Monday from 16.10.2025 to 27.10.2025 (4 trips) and will arrive Khadki at 23.55 hrs next day.

Halts: Lonavala, Kalyan, Bhiwandi Road, Vasai Road, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Vadodra Junction, Godhra Junction (only for 01428), Ratlam, Shamgarh, Bhawani Mandi, Ramganj Mandi Junction, Kota Junction, Sawai Madhopur Junction, Gangapur city Junction, Bharatpur Junction, Mathura.

Composition: Sixteen AC 3-Tier & 2 Luggage / Generator cum Guard’s brake van.

Bookings for train no 01427 will open from 09.10.2025* at all computerized reservation centres and on website www.irctc.co.in.

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

Passengers are requested to avail the facility of special trains during the festive season.

Additional stoppage provided to Bandra Terminus - Barhni special at Balarampur station

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 8 : For the convenience of passengers, Western Railway has provided an additional stoppage at Balrampur station to Train No. 09043/09044 Bandra Terminus – Barhni Special.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details are as under:

Train No. 09043 Bandra Terminus – Barhni Special will halt at Balrampur station for journey commencing from Bandra Terminus on 12th October, 2025. The train will arrive Balrampur station at 06:22 hrs and depart at 06:24 hrs. Similarly, Train No. 09044 Barhni – Bandra Terminus Special will halt at Balrampur station for journey commencing from Barhni on 13th October, 2025. The train will arrive Balrampur station at 14:40 hrs and depart at 14:42 hrs.

For detailed information regarding the timings, halts & composition of the above train, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

WR continues Swachhata Pakhwada 2025 with of focus on cleanliness of trains and tracks



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 8 : Western Railway is observing Swachhata Pakhwada 2025 from 1st to 15th October, 2025 to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and environmental awareness across stations, offices, workshops, and trains. Building on the launch and initial activities, the campaign progressed with focused initiatives on Swachh Trains, and Swachh Tracks & Yards during Days 6th and 7th.

According to press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, on the sixth day, 6th October, 2025, intensive cleaning and inspection of trains were carried out in primary base rakes and stabled rakes at the washing line with teams

of Supervisors and Officers. To encourage cleanliness, awards were declared for best performing contractual supervisors & staff based on zero passenger complaints, as well as best performance. 2 contractual staff were awarded for best performing contractual staff for best performance and zero passenger complaints.

On 7th October, the focus was on Swachh Tracks and Yards. Emphasis was on cleaning of tracks and adjacent area in block section and nearby stations. 80 stations areas were cleaned.

Also, cleaning of more than 70 drains alongside the tracks was done. Unwanted grass and bushes were removed along the tracks for maintaining hygiene and visibility. Urban Local Bodies, State Government

representatives, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), NSS and youth organisations participated and helped in Shramdaan activities and awareness drives to prevent open defecation near tracks.

More than 110 km of tracks were cleaned over Western Railway.

Western Railway’s dedicated commitment and efforts during the Swachhata Pakhwada reflects its strong resolve towards maintaining cleanliness and hygiene ensuring passengers experience in a clean, safe and hygienic environment not only within the station premises but also in the surrounding areas, contributing to overall public health and enhanced travel experience.

Record CAPEX utilisation by IR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Oct 8 : 56.5% CAPEX utilised till September 2025 in FY 2025-26

Overall Capex Utilization by IR: Total Budgetary Grants : ₹ 2,52,200 Cr Total utilized till September 2025 in FY 2025-26: ₹ 142,487 Cr i.e. 56.5% utilisation Highest ever CAPEX utilization till date Break-up of 56.5% Key sectors Safety Works: Includes KAVACH related works, track renewals, Road Over Bridges, bridges and Level crossings Budget: ₹ 139,456 crores; Utilization: ₹ 22,286 crores (56%) C a p a c i t y Augmentation: Includes New lines, doubling, gauge conversion, electrification, metropolitan transport Budget: ₹ 1,09,986 crores; Utilization: ₹ 49,001 Cr (45%)



Customer Amenities: Budget: ₹ 12,004 crores; Utilization: ₹ 5,863 crores (49%) Rolling Stock: Budget: ₹ 56,693 crores; Utilization: ₹ 25,948 crores (46%)

PDP to introduce Anti-Land Eviction Bill in upcoming J&K Assembly session: Mehbooba

Srinagar, Oct 8 (UNI) : PDP President Mehbooba Mufti today announced that the Party has submitted “The Jammu and Kashmir Land Rights and Regularisation Bill, 2025” also known as the Anti-Bulldozer Bill in the forthcoming session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

The proposed legislation aims to regularise land holdings of individuals, families, and institutions who have been in continuous possession of land for over 30 years, thereby securing ownership rights, preventing arbitrary

evictions, and ensuring social and economic stability across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly session in Srinagar will begin on October 23.

Highlighting the ongoing land and lease crisis in Gulmarg and other parts of Kashmir, Mehbooba in a statement said that the Land Grant Rules, 2022 have ended the renewal of old leases, putting dozens of hotels operating on expired leases at risk of eviction or government takeover through auction. Nearly 60

hotels in Gulmarg, including heritage establishments such as Nedous and Highlands Park, have received takeover notices from the Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA).

Hoteliers who have invested heavily now face severe financial distress, legal uncertainty, and threats to livelihoods. She further said that the absence of a clear government policy on lease renewal and land regularisation has created deep uncertainty, hurting tourism, local employment, and investor confidence in Kashmir’s hospitality sector.