

IN BRIEF

Medical college student hangs self in hostel room

Kakinada, Feb 11 (UNI) : A student of local Rangaraya Medical College has reportedly committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling fan in the college boys' hostel room early Tuesday.

The hostel students, who noticed him hanging in the morning, rushed him to the nearest hospital but doctors declared the victim dead.

The police have registered a case.

Pending further investigation the body was shifted to GGH for postmortem, police said.

Attacks in the name of Lord Rama will not be tolerated: Minister

Hyderabad, Feb 11 (UNI) : IT and Industries Minister Sridhar Babu has issued a strong warning that anarchy in the name of Rama Rajyam will not be tolerated, condemning the recent attack on Chilkur Balaji temple chief priest CS Rangarajan as inhuman.

On Tuesday, Minister Sridhar Babu, along with Government Chief Whip Dr Patnam Mahender Reddy, MLA Kale Yadayya, and senior Congress leader V Hanumantha Rao, visited the temple priest to express their solidarity. The leaders also inquired about the health condition of Soundarya Rajan and gathered details about the attack.

Speaking to the media, Sridhar Babu assured that the state government has taken the incident seriously and has directed the police to increase security at the Chilkur Balaji Temple. He further stated that several accused individuals have already been arrested, emphasising that any attacks in the name of Lord Rama will be dealt with strictly. Government Chief Whip Dr Patnam Mahender Reddy also condemned the attack, calling it unfortunate and unacceptable. He assured that the state government will ensure strict punishment for the accused and take all necessary steps to prevent such incidents.



French President Emmanuel Macron, center left, poses with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Grand Palais during the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday.

India ready to share its experience with the world: PM Modi at AI Summit in Paris

Paris/New Delhi, Feb 11 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today shared India's experience and success in developing AI applications for the public good and offered to share its experience and expertise with the world.

Addressing the AI Action Summit, attended by many heads of government and heads of tech giants at the Grand Palais in Paris, PM Modi also said that loss of jobs is AI's most feared disruption. "But history has shown that work does not disappear due to technology. Its nature changes and new types of jobs are created," he added.

To overcome this, the world needs to invest in

skilling and re-skilling of the people "for an AI-driven future".

"AI is developing at an unprecedented scale and speed and being adapted and deployed even faster. There is also a deep interdependence across borders. Therefore, there is a need for collective global efforts to establish governance and standards that uphold our shared values, address risks, and build trust," he said, at the Summit that India is co-chairing with France.

"AI is already reshaping our polity our economy our security and even our society. AI is writing the code for humanity in this century. AI can help

transform millions of lives by improving health, education, agriculture and so much more. It can help create a world in which the journey to Sustainable Development Goals becomes easier and faster. To do this we must pool together resources and talent. "We must develop open source systems that enhance trust and transparency," he said, and called for building quality data sets, free from biases and to democratise technology and create people centric applications." PM Modi said there is need to address concerns related to cyber security, disinformation and deep fakes.

Woman and her son electrocuted while watering agricultural field

Kadapa, AP, Feb 11 (UNI) : A woman and his son were electrocuted when they came in contact with high-tension electric wire at their agriculture field at Guntapallai village in B Koduru Mandal on Tuesday.

Police said that the deceased Kuraku Guramma (60) and her son K Jayaram (48) went to their agriculture field located near the Telugu Ganga canal on the outskirts of the village. When they were watering the crop, the electric motor stopped running. Jayaram tried to carry out some repairs to the electric motor, and in the process, he came in contact with a high-tension wire and was electrocuted. Guramma went to the

rescue of her son and she was also electrocuted.

The B Koduru police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH for postmortem. A pall of gloom descended on the Guntupalli village with the death of a woman and her son. Meanwhile, Minister for Energy Gottipati Ravi Kumar expressed shock and grief over the death of the mother and son duo. He assured of extending support to the bereaved family. He advised the farmers to be cautious at hanging wires at the agriculture fields. He instructed the officials to identify the high tension wires hanging low at the agricultural lands and take steps to rectify the problem.

Rupee stable, capex up in Budget 2025-26: Sitharaman

New Delhi, Feb 11 (UNI) : Stating that Indian rupee has remained stable while dollar has been strengthening, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said that social sector spending for the next fiscal is projected to rise and inflation management remains the government's key priority.

Replying to the general discussion on Union Budget 2025-26 in Lok Sabha, the Minister said that various domestic and global factors influence the exchange rate of Indian rupee such as the movement of dollar index, trend in capital flow, level of interest rates, movement in crude prices and current account deficits, among others. "Currency volatility across major countries is really extensive. The US dollar index rose 6.5% during October 2024 to January 2025. Major Asian currencies such as South Korean Won, Indonesian Rupiah, Malaysian Ringgit

CM underscores importance of Industrial and IT sector development for progress of state

(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, Feb 11 : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has underscored the importance of industrial and IT sector development for the overall progress of the state.

At a meeting with the officials here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that Industrial development will propel the state forward on the path of progress. "All sectors must grow together. The industrial sector's growth rate must increase from 6.57% to 16%, the environment sector to 18%, and the construction sector to 10%" he stressed.

Naidu added that during the previous YSRCP government's tenure, industrial growth in Andhra Pradesh had completely stagnated. Since the coalition government took charge, efforts have been made to achieve better results through Speed of Doing Business reforms.

"That is why significant incentives are being provided for industrial development. The establishment of industries will lead to employment opportunities and economic growth for the state. Through the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub, V i s a k h a p a t n a m, Rajahmundry, Anantapur, and Tirupati are being developed into major industrial hubs," he said.

With the guidance of experienced professionals, industrial development in the state is being enhanced. Everyone must embrace new ideas and foster an

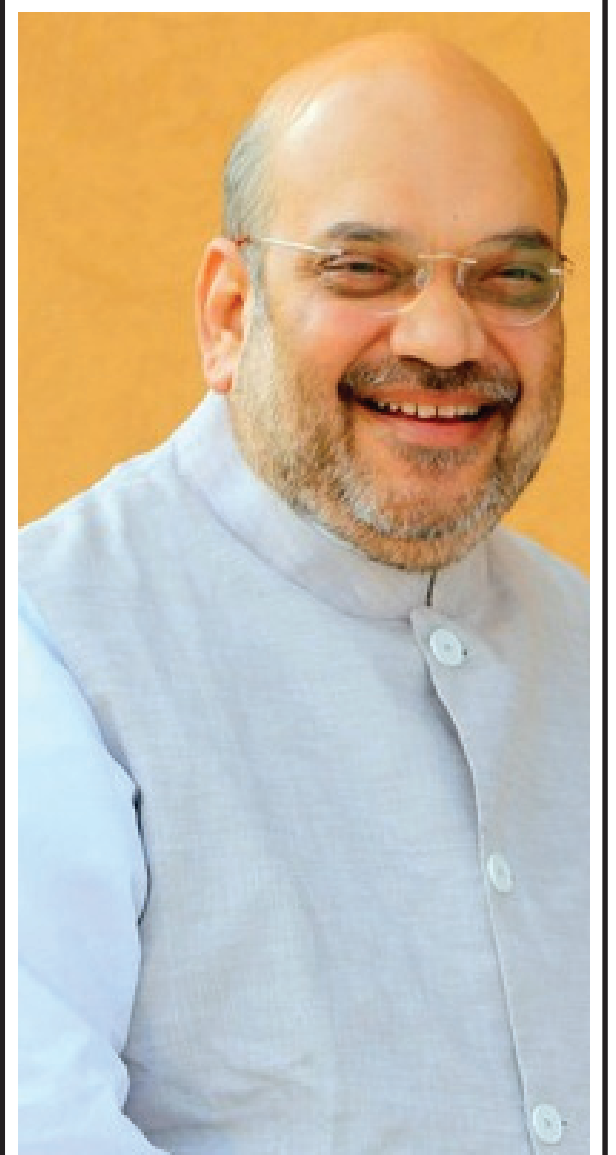
innovation-driven culture. Andhra Pradesh must evolve into an 'Andhra Valley,' similar to Silicon Valley, the Chief Minister said.

Calling for every election promise to be fulfilled, Chandrababu said that efforts are being made to uplift the economically weaker sections. Andhra Pradesh was poised to become the best logistics hub, with a Logistics Corporation being set up to develop ports and airports, Naidu said.

He said that road repairs are being undertaken to fix potholes. "The previous government's actions caused significant harm to the state, but with new policies, all sectors are taking steps toward development. Efforts must be intensified to establish more industrial parks across the state," the Chief Minister pointed out.

IT, Electronics, and Communications Secretary Katamaneni Bhaskar highlighted the state's ambitious plans to reshape the IT sector through the "4 Policy" framework. Aiming to train 10,000 students in advanced technology, the government is also making strides in setting up 4G towers under the Digital India Fund Scheme.

An MoU with HDFC has been signed to support startups, and plans are in place to attract Rs 40,000 crore in investments and generate lakhs of jobs by 2029. Special provisions have been made to empower SC and ST entrepreneurs, he added.



Amit Shah chairs high-level meetings to review security scenario in J&K

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday chaired high-level meetings here to review security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir. These meetings were in continuation of the high-level meetings with Indian Army and J&K Police held on February 4 and 5. Shah said that the central government is committed for 'Terror-free Jammu & Kashmir', a Home Ministry statement said.

(See on page 2)

Allocation for Education and Health sectors in Budget is



Claiming that the Modi government's delivery mechanism in the last 10 years has been both slow and inconsistent, Rajya Sabha member Kapil Sibal on Tuesday said that India needs to achieve a growth rate of 8% annually.

(See on page 4)

Trump raises aluminum tariffs to 25 pc, ends exemptions on ...



U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday signed proclamations to raise tariffs on aluminum from 10 percent to 25 percent and ended duty-free quotas, exemptions and exclusions for steel and aluminum tariffs.

(See on page 5)

Kelly left out of England's Nations League squad



Chloe Kelly has been left out of England's squad for the Women's Nations League matches against Portugal and Spain this month. The forward moved to Arsenal from Women's Super League rivals Manchester City on transfer deadline day in January after falling out of favour at Joie Stadium, according to a BBC report.

(See on page 7)

Amit Shah chairs high-level meetings to review security scenario in J&K

New Delhi, Feb 11 (UNI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday chaired high-level meetings here to review security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

These meetings were in continuation of the high-level meetings with Indian Army and J&K Police held on February 4 and 5.

Shah said that the central government is committed for 'Terror-free Jammu & Kashmir', a Home Ministry statement said.

He emphasised the role of paramilitary to achieve the target of terror-free J&K. Shah directed the BSF to ensure zero infiltration from the international borders by adopting strong vigil, strengthening the border grid and use of advanced technologies for surveillance and border guarding.

The Home Minister directed CRPF to continue with the synergy with Indian Army and J&K Police. He reviewed the winter action plan of CRPF and directed to ensure there are no gaps in area domination. He also instructed to focus on Jammu region and dominate the heights.

Moreover, Shah also reviewed the intelligence apparatus working in the Union Territory and directed them to increase coverage and penetration to generate quality intelligence.

He reiterated the importance of technology in intelligence generation, saying that monitoring of terror-financing, tightening grip over narco-terror cases and dismantling entire terror ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir are priority of Modi government.

He said that strong steps are being taken for 'Zero Terror Plan' in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah also directed to focus on countering the negative propaganda by the anti-national elements so as to place the correct picture in public domain. He instructed to continue with the synergy amongst the agencies and guided for adopting technology and increase intelligence.

Harpreet Sandhu, Pooja Gupta take oath as Punjab Information Commissioners

Chandigarh, Feb 11 (UNI) : Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria today administered the oath of office to Adv. Harpreet Sandhu and Pooja Gupta as State Information Commissioners at the Punjab Raj Bhavan here.

Sandhu, a prominent lawyer, previously served as the Additional Advocate General for Punjab. He is also the former Chairman of Punjab Infotech and has made significant contributions in the field of legal studies.

Pooja Gupta is a distinguished social worker and educationist. Her academic excellence and dedication to societal betterment have earned her immense respect across the region.



Devotees perform rituals at Sangam after taking a holy dip on the eve of 'Maghi Purnima' bath festival during ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela, in Prayagraj.

SP MP Akhilesh Yadav slams Budget, says it primarily serves interests of big industrialists

New Delhi, Feb 11 (UNI) Samajwadi Party MP Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday slammed the Union Budget 2025-26 in the Lok Sabha calling it a plan designed to serve the interests of big industrialists and fails to address the problems faced by the common people.

Participating in the discussion, Yadav stated that the budget was crafted with a focus on 2025-26. He further remarked that it primarily serves the interests of big businessmen and industrialists.

Yadav said there is no clear focus on development in this budget. Although the government aims to make the country a developed nation by 2047, it fails to take any concrete steps toward realizing that goal. A successful budget should not be designed to benefit only a select few, instead, it should encompass the welfare of everyone. The SP MP

stated that the budget lacks a clear roadmap for doubling farmers' income. Despite numerous farmers losing their lives in the struggle, there is still no guarantee of a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for them.

He said that the government makes claims about implementing the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission, but it fails to put them into action. This budget provides no provisions for fruits and vegetables, research in the agricultural sector. The government has heavily promoted the crop insurance scheme, but when it comes to settling claims, farmers receive little to no support.

While the government writes off loans for large industrialists, farmers are denied the same benefit. He further emphasised that essential goods for farmers should be exempted from GST.

Yadav stated that

people are facing difficulties at the Mahakumbh, with everyone stuck in traffic while the entire administration is struggling to manage the congestion. The government talks about reaching the moon, but what is the use if it fails to address issues on the ground? While there is much discussion about a "Digital Kumbh," the actual number of casualties from the stampede remains undisclosed.

Raising concern about digital arrest, Yadav said that incidents of digital arrests are continuously rising, yet the government remains focused solely on promoting Digital India.

The SP leader stated that the government has made no provisions for MSMEs in the budget, despite the sector providing employment to 11 crore people. This sector generates the highest employment in the country, yet no provisions have been made for these

workers in the budget.

Meanwhile, BJP MP Hema Malini praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his efforts in women's empowerment and highlighted that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is presenting her eighth budget. The Finance Minister emphasized the need to increase women's participation in the country's economic development.

Highlighting the importance of broadband connectivity in all government schools, she praised the government's efforts in the healthcare sector.

Hema Malini said that the government has declared the biggest income tax cut to date, significantly benefiting the middle class.

She expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the successful organization of the Mahakumbh.

Himalayan Heli Services orders two Airbus H125 copters

New Delhi, Feb 11 (UNI) Airbus Helicopters on Tuesday said that Himalayan Heli Services has ordered two Airbus H125 helicopters to expand its fleet.

This latest order will expand Himalayan Heli's fleet to eight H125 helicopters. The helicopters will be deployed for commercial air transport and aerial work missions in northern India.

"The H125 has proven to be a safe, very versatile and most suitable helicopter for high altitude passenger flying as well as airborne geophysical survey across varied terrains. A prompt technical support by Airbus gives us much required confidence while serving in remote regions," said T. Wangchuk Shamsu, Managing Director, Himalayan Heli Services Limited.

Sunny Guglani, Head of Airbus Helicopters in India and South Asia said, "The H125 is known for its versatility and performance in high-altitude terrains. We are certain that these helicopters will be valuable assets that will enable Himalayan Heli to expand their growing network of services in the country."

Airbus in a press release said that H125 is the world's best-selling single-engine helicopter that outclasses other helicopters in its category.

"This high-performing versatile helicopter is a member of Airbus' Ecureuil family, which has accumulated more than 40 million flight hours worldwide. It can operate in high-and-hot and extreme environments and can be easily reconfigured for various missions, including aerial work, firefighting.

BJP MP demands Ram, Krishna, Netaji photos back on Constitution copy

New Delhi, Feb 11 (UNI) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Radha Mohan Das Agarwal on Tuesday demanded inclusion of 22 illustrations including those of Lord Ram, Lord Krishna, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and King Vikramaditya in the copy of the Constitution.

Raising the issue during zero hour in the Rajya Sabha, the BJP MP claimed that important portions of the Constitution were removed in an unconstitutional manner.

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Rajya Sabha and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge termed the move as an attempt to create unnecessary controversy.

"Today, if an Indian citizen, even a law student, when he goes to buy a copy of the Constitution as signed on January 26, 1949 by the founding fathers of the Constitution he cannot buy it from the market. Some important parts of the Constitution were removed from the Constitution in an unconstitutional manner for some unknown reasons," the BJP lawmaker said in the Upper House. Agarwal said at the time of drafting the Constitution of India, the Samvidhan Sabha had invited famed painter Nandalal Bose and directed him to make some illustrations to reflect the spirit of the Constitution and make them part of the Constitution. Agarwal said Bose made 22 illustrations which included pictures of Lord Ram returning to Ayodhya, Lord Krishna giving sermon in the battlefield, King Vikramaditya and Lord Mahavira, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Rani Lakshmi Bai.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar endorsed the demands made by the BJP MP and remarked, "I have no doubt and I am categorical. The Constitution signed by the founding fathers of the Constitution carrying 22 miniatures is the only authentic one and can include amendments by the Parliament. If there is any change effected by judiciary or any institution it is not acceptable to this House." I appeal to the Leader of the House that in the country only authentic version of the Indian Constitution is promulgated. Any violation of this should be taken quite seriously by the government and severe action taken," he further said.

Comprehensive arrangements in place for Magh Purnima in Prayagraj

Prayagraj, Feb 11 (UNI) The Uttar Pradesh government has made fool-proof arrangements for the successful organisation of the fourth bathing festival, Magh Purnima, as part of Maha Kumbh on Wednesday. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued clear directives to ensure that no devotee, Kalpvasi, or ordinary citizen faces any inconvenience in the Maha Kumbh Mela area or across Prayagraj city. In line with this, the local administration and police department are working with full readiness, focusing on traffic management, smooth vehicular movement, parking, security, surveillance and overall monitoring.

Prayagraj Police Commissioner Tarun Gaba said that the UP government and Police are committed to offering devotees a seamless and hassle-free experience at the Maha Kumbh. He highlighted that traffic management plans were formulated months in advance and are being successfully implemented.

He said, "Despite the surge in vehicles towards the weekend and intermittent high-traffic periods, the administration and police force have efficiently managed challenges through tireless efforts. As a result, traffic remains smooth on all routes leading to the fair area and within Prayagraj, ensuring no congestion in the city."

Gaba said, "The police and administration have urged all devotees to utilise designated parking areas along their route and avoid attempting to reach Sangam directly, as specific arrangements have been made for different routes." He reiterated that the administration works round the clock to ensure a hassle-free experience for devotees while maintaining smooth traffic flow.

He appealed to visitors to park only in designated areas to facilitate orderly movement.

FIR registered after video of firing at wedding function goes viral

Hoshiarpur, Feb 11 (UNI) : An FIR has been registered at Garhdiwala police station after a video went viral on social media, showing several men openly firing shots during a wedding function, an officer said on Tuesday.

The police said the incident took place on the night of February 8, in Khurda village. The celebratory firing occurred during a function related to the wedding of Gurpreet

Singh's younger brother.

In the video, some men can be seen brandishing firearms, including a gun and a pistol, and recklessly firing bullets into the air.

SI Gursahib Singh said that an FIR has been registered against Gurpreet Singh Gopi and three unidentified persons under Section Arms Act. Police have also seized a pump-action gun and a pistol used in the firing. Further investigations are underway, he added.

Husband can be held liable for wife's stock trading losses: SC

New Delhi, Feb 11 (UNI) The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that a husband can be held jointly and severally liable for the debit balance in his wife's stock trading account based on an oral agreement and the nature of their financial dealings.

A bench comprising Justice PS Narasimha and Justice Sandeep Mehta held that an arbitral tribunal can exercise jurisdiction over the husband in such cases under Bye-law 248(a) of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Byelaws, 1957.

"Under Bye-law 248(a) (BSE), the arbitral tribunal could have exercised jurisdiction over respondent no. 1 (husband) based on an oral contract that he would be jointly and severally liable for the transactions undertaken in respondent no. 2's (wife) account. Such oral contract

would not amount to a 'private' transaction that falls outside the scope of arbitration," the Court ruled. The central issue in the appeal was whether the husband of a woman could be made a party to an arbitration initiated by a registered stockbroker to recover a debit balance in the wife's trading account.

The dispute arose when the wife's trading account, which was operated jointly with her husband, showed a significant debit balance. The respondents had opened separate trading accounts with the appellant stockbroker in 1999. The broker claimed that the couple had orally agreed to operate their accounts jointly and share liability for any losses.

By early 2001, the wife's account had incurred substantial losses, while the husband's account

maintained a credit balance. On oral instructions from the husband, the broker transferred funds from his account to the wife's account to offset the losses. However, due to a stock market crash, the debit balance further escalated, prompting the broker to seek recovery from both respondents through arbitration. The husband contested the claim, arguing that he was wrongly included in the arbitration proceedings and that the fund transfer lacked written authorisation under SEBI guidelines. The arbitral tribunal ruled in favour of the broker, holding both respondents jointly and severally liable for the losses. It relied on evidence showing the husband's active involvement in the transactions and his agreement to cover the

shortfall. The tribunal acknowledged SEBI guidelines requiring written authorisation for fund transfers but justified its decision based on the couple's financial relationship and past dealings. However, when the respondents challenged this decision under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, a single judge of the Bombay High Court dismissed their applications.

On appeal under Section 37, a Division Bench of the High Court overturned the tribunal's ruling against the husband. The High Court held that the husband's alleged liability stemmed from a private understanding, separate from the BSE rules and that oral agreements could not override official trading records and SEBI guidelines. The Supreme

Court overturned the High Court's decision, holding that the arbitral tribunal had jurisdiction over the husband under BSE Bye-law 248(a). The Court found that the oral agreement establishing joint and several liability was incidental to the transactions conducted on the stock exchange. The Court emphasised that the husband's involvement in managing both accounts and the financial dealings between the parties supported the tribunal's jurisdiction. "Once the arbitral tribunal arrived at a finding that respondent no. 1 is jointly and severally liable for the debit balance in respondent no. 2's account, which we have upheld above, Bye-law 247A permits the withdrawal of the credit balance from respondent no. 1's account," the court stated.

Interests of Bihar ignored in union budget : Congress

Patna, Feb 11 (UNI) : Congress on Tuesday alleged that interests of Bihar were grossly ignored in Union budget for the fiscal 2025-26, presented in Parliament.

Chairman of media cell of Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee (BPCC) Rajesh Rathore told media persons here that interests of the state were ignored in union budget. A false impression

was being created by BJP that Bihar got handsome deal in the budget, which was an attempt to befool people of the state, he added.

"During the budget 2024-25, a total allocation of Rs 58,900 crores was made for Bihar which was increased to Rs 59,900 crores in fiscal 2025-26, a marginal jump over the previous year", Rathore

said, adding that it was less than Bihar's share in central taxes. Much publicity was being given to proposed Makhana board but nothing was visible for Banana board and Litchi board, which is so much needed for the state.

Rail budget had been included in union budget which resulted in not launching of 12 railway projects in Bihar, the media

cell Chairman pointed out.

"Promises made in successive budgets for the Bihar proved to be gimmicks as it was special package announced for Bihar by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015", the Congress leader said adding that no industry was established in Bihar and state was made the centre for only producing labourers.

Proposal to increase seats in IIT Patna had been made but 36 percent students who passed from prestigious institute IIT Mumbai, did not get jobs last year, he pointed out. Most ambitious petroleum and gas pipeline projects of the Centre were partially visible in Patna while it remained non-existent in other parts of the state, he alleged.

CM, Naidu emphasizes strategic planning, and innovative governance to achieve targets for 2047

Vijayawada, Feb 11 (UNI) : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu set the stage for transformative governance at the Ministers and Secretaries Conference, emphasizing the need for integrated leadership, strategic planning, and innovative governance to drive Andhra Pradesh towards its ambitious targets for 2047.

In his opening remarks, the Chief Minister underscored the session as a "brainstorming workshop" designed to streamline government services and enhance public welfare. Stressing the responsibility of integrating various departments, he called for a comprehensive review to ensure cohesion in administration.

Reflecting on his return to office eight months ago, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu acknowledged the historic mandate that brought him back to power, highlighting an impressive 93 percent voter turnout. He noted that the people had decisively rejected the previous five years of governance and placed new hopes in the current administration.

Addressing the state's challenges, the Chief Minister pointed to the deteriorated morale of officials, defunct departments, and derailed projects.

He revealed that nearly 90 centrally sponsored schemes had become non-functional due to mismanagement and fund diversions. In response, the government is now prioritizing the optimal implementation of central schemes and ensuring the right people are placed

in key positions.

As part of his long-term vision, Naidu outlined the "Swarandhra 2047" roadmap, aligning with the national vision of Vikas Bharat. The strategy focuses on achieving a sustained 15 percent growth rate and ensuring fiscal responsibility by effectively managing and repaying loans. He highlighted comparative growth figures, pointing out that Gujarat has grown 15 times while West Bengal has expanded four times, despite possessing more resources.

Enlisting key principles driving the administration's agenda he stressed the need to strengthen family welfare services, ensuring streetlights, roads, drainage, garbage collection, and a circular economy model to build a healthier and wealthier society. "Accelerating revenue growth, streamlining bureaucratic processes, and fostering a culture of innovation is the need of the hour," he added. He said that the government is collaborating with Karma Yogi to build capacity and enhance governance efficiency.

He wanted the officials to leverage the "first mover advantage" to secure central funds under the newly announced Union Budget schemes. The Chief Minister highlighted the importance of integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into governance, similar to how Information Technology (IT) was a game-changer in 1995. Additionally, he stressed the urgency of addressing key infrastructure gaps, particularly in providing potable water to every household in Andhra Pradesh.

Unauthorized Liquor Sale Racket Busted



(By Ravi Kumar Boppana)

Eluru, Feb 11 : Eluru: Under the supervision of Rahul Dev Sharma, Director of Enforcement, a Special Task Force (STF) team, along with the Station House Officer (SHO) of

Jangareddygudem Excise Station, conducted a raid in Kukunoor Mandal, Eluru District, to curb unauthorized liquor sales.

During the operation, officials identified and busted two unauthorized

liquor outlets that were being supplied liquor through a van (AP 39 TV 2190). Based on the confession of the accused, the enforcement team seized the vehicle and implicated Upperu Wine

Shop in the case. "A case has been registered under Crime Numbers 32/25 and 33/25. Authorities arrested two individuals, seizing 22 liquor bottles (180 ml each) along with the vehicle. Investigations are ongoing.

Govt partners with CRISP for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development reforms

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Feb 11 : Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Women and Child Welfare Minister Dr Danasari Anasuya Seethakka met with Centre for Research in Schemes & Policies (CRISP) Member Secretary and former Government of India Secretary, retired IAS officer R. Subramaniam at the Secretariat on Tuesday to discuss key areas of rural governance and development. The discussions focused on strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions, improving rural education and healthcare systems, and enhancing women's empowerment. CRISP, which collaborates with state governments in 14

states, has offered to extend its expertise and services to Telangana free of cost. Minister Seethakka emphasised the need for an actionable strategy to organise village councils, make gram panchayats self-sufficient, and introduce reforms in local governance. She urged CRISP to finalise this action plan before the completion of local elections and the formation of new governing bodies. As part of this collaboration, CRISP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Telangana government. The agreement was formally exchanged between CRISP Member Secretary R. Subramaniam

and the Director of the Centre for Rural Development (CRD) in the presence of Minister Seethakka.

This partnership aims to drive comprehensive rural development and poverty eradication initiatives in the state, reinforcing Telangana's commitment to grassroots governance and sustainable progress, an official statement said.

CRISP Member Secretary Subramaniam also presented an overview of the organisation's activities to Minister Seethakka through a PowerPoint presentation.

He explained the reforms implemented in various sectors across

different states and highlighted the progress achieved as a result. CRISP operates under the chairmanship of former Kerala Chief Secretary Vijayanand and is guided by a team of 10 senior retired IAS officers.

Vijayanand, known for his contributions to strengthening Gram Panchayats in Kerala, has played a key role in rural governance reforms.

Drawing from his experience, Minister Seethakka and the Telangana government are exploring ways to strengthen Gram Panchayats in Telangana and introduce reforms for village development. The

BAI welcomes beer price hike in Telangana

Hyderabad, Feb 11 (UNI) : The Brewers Association of India (BAI) has welcomed the Telangana government's decision to allow an increase in beer prices, aligning with the recommendations of the Price Fixation Committee formed last July.

The association also urged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to address the long-pending outstanding dues of the beer industry.

"We have noted the Telangana government's circular approving a supplier price increase for beer. While the hike is lower than the rise in production costs and below industry expectations, we appreciate the government's recognition of the industry's concerns regarding business viability," said Vinod Giri, Director General, BAI, in a statement on Tuesday.

Giri emphasised the need for a market-driven pricing system, similar to policies in investment-friendly states like Maharashtra and Karnataka, where companies have the flexibility to set their prices. "A system led by market forces is the most efficient, benefiting all stakeholders. We will continue to engage with the government to push for this reform," he added. The BAI also pressed for the resolution of old outstanding payments for beer supplies made between February and August last year, expressing confidence in Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership to settle the issue promptly.

Senior Excise Officials Conduct Inspections in Prakasam District



(Standard Post Bureau)

Vijayawada, Feb 11 : Prakasam: Nishant Kumar, Commissioner of Prohibition & Excise, along with Rahul Dev Sharma, Director of Enforcement, conducted an inspection of the Prohibition & Excise office in Prakasam district, reviewing crime-related records. Following this, the officials visited the

Addanki Excise Station, where they examined station records.

They also inspected Urvasi Wine Shop in Addanki to check for MRP violations. Instructions were issued to ensure the proper display of MRP rates for customers.

The officials directed the Circle Inspector to take action against customers consuming alcohol in public places. Later, the

team visited the Ongole Depot to verify stock records as part of their ongoing enforcement measures. Also officials Nishant Kumar and Rahul Dev Sharma visited Prakasam District Police Office and Parade grounds. On 15th February, a rally is being planned there to create awareness about Navodayam 2.0 program and make Andhra Pradesh free from illicit distilled liquor

Devotees should not face problems while traveling to Srisailem through forest: CM

Vijayawada, Feb 11 (UNI) : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed the Forest Department officials to ensure that devotees traveling to the Srisailem temple via the forest route do not face any difficulties. He also instructed the department to fully cooperate in road repairs within forest areas.

During a review meeting with Ministers and Secretaries at the state secretariat on Tuesday, Special Chief Secretary of the Forest Department, G. Ananta Ramu, presented a report on the department's progress till January this financial year and the action plan for the remaining two months.

Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy brought to the CM's attention that many Shiva pilgrimage sites are located within forest areas and that devotees traveling to these temples are facing inconveniences due to

Forest Department regulations. Taking serious note of the issue, the Chief Minister ordered immediate instructions to field-level officials to prevent any disruptions for devotees.

The Chief Minister also emphasised the need for expanding greenery to transform Andhra Pradesh into a pollution-free state. He urged the Municipal and Urban Development Departments to adopt the best practices implemented by other states for pollution control.

He further instructed the Forest Department to utilize NREGA funds for large-scale contour trench construction in forest areas. The Chief Minister noted that Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan is actively working on bringing Kumki elephants from Karnataka to address the elephant menace in certain parts of the state.

He directed officials to expedite this process with full cooperation.

Shallow fog likely in Coastal AP & Yanam in next 3 days: Met

Amaravati, Feb 11 (UNI) Shallow fog is likely to occur at isolated places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam in the morning during the next three days, Meteorological Centre said on Tuesday.

In a daily weather report here, it said that the maximum temperatures are likely to be above normal by 2-3 degrees Celsius in Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam during the next five days and in Rayalaseema on February 13, 14 and 15.

Dry weather is likely to prevail in Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and Rayalaseema during the next seven days.

Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and Rayalaseema during the last 24 hours.

The lowest minimum temperature of 15.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Aroyavaram in Rayalaseema on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, the report added.

Union Minister expresses shock over Jabalpur accident

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Feb 11 : Union Minister for Coal and Mines and BJP Telangana State President G Kishan Reddy expressed deep shock over the tragic road accident near Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, which claimed the lives of seven people from Telangana on Tuesday morning.

Upon receiving information about the incident, the Union Minister immediately spoke to Madhya Pradesh

government officials and directed them to provide all necessary assistance to the families of the deceased.

He also instructed officials to ensure that the two injured victims receive proper medical treatment.

Kishan Reddy further coordinated with the Collectors of Rangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts, urging them to extend necessary support to the affected families.

Additionally, he

personally reached out to the bereaved families over the phone and conveyed his condolences, expressing deep sorrow over the tragic accident, a statement here said.

In another statement, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar expressed shock over the tragic death of seven people in a road accident near Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

All the deceased have been identified as

residents of Nacharam in Uppal constituency.

Following the incident, Bandi Sanjay Kumar spoke to the Jabalpur Superintendent of Police (SP) and Collector to gather details about the accident. Police officials confirmed that seven people lost their lives, while two others sustained severe injuries. Officials informed the Minister that one of the injured had slipped into a coma, while the condition of the other remains

critical.

It was revealed that the victims were returning from the Kumbh Mela when the bus they were travelling in met with an accident. Bandi Sanjay Kumar directed authorities to ensure all possible medical assistance is provided to the injured.

He also requested that the panchnama process be expedited and arrangements be made to transport the bodies to their respective families at the earliest.

Punjab CM Mann dismisses Congress leader Bajwa's claim

Chandigarh/ New Delhi, Feb 11 (UNI) : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday dismissed Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa's claim that after the Aam Aadmi Party's defeat in the Delhi assembly election, many of its MLAs were in touch

with the Congress party and Mann would join the BJP. Mann was speaking to the media after attending AAP meeting at Delhi's Kapurthala house. Replying to a question he said it was Congress' culture, not theirs'. The Chief Minister also dismissed the

speculation that Arvind Kejriwal could become Punjab CM, saying that the Opposition could say whatever they want. Mann claimed that the law and order situation in his state was better than other states and that was the reason investors were coming to Punjab.

STANDARD POST

Pariksha Pe Charcha initiative big encouragement for children

Pariksha Pe Charcha initiative comes as a big encouragement for children, as they feel important and included, said Shonali Sabherwal, a celebrity nutritionist.

Sabherwal was one of the 12 experts chosen from different fields to speak with children during the eighth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha -- with participation from 36 students from each state and union territory.

"The Prime Minister's message that you can overcome everything and his tagline that be a warrior, not a worrier makes the children feel important and included. The children feel that the PM has asked them, he's involved with us and now we should work hard," Sabherwal told.

Pariksha Pe Charcha focused on stress management, time management, and addressing students' queries.

Sabherwal noted that she advised children not to stay awake during the night-time, but to study during the day hours. The noted gut health expert also advised the kids on "how to maintain a healthy gut, which can boost their brain health".

Amid rising stress levels related to exams, and pressure to score more, Sabherwal recommended reducing intake of sugary beverages which can boost their brain functions and help them perform well.

"Nowadays the intake of sugar has increased. This can lead to imbalances in the brain," and affect the performance of students, said Sabherwal.

Studies have shown that excess glucose consumption is linked to memory and cognitive deficiencies.

Further, the expert advised children and parents to include millets like jowar, bajra, and ragi in their diets.

"Children are nowadays eating food more from outside than from home. Their foods which majorly include pizza, burgers, and chocolates significantly increase the sugar levels in the body," Sabherwal told.

"High intake of these foods can be detrimental not only for physical health but also for mental health. Increased sugar levels can negatively affect your mood and cause brain imbalances," she said.

The health expert suggested eating foods with natural sugars, such as sweet potatoes, beetroot, and carrots. These foods with natural sugars can "keep your mental state in a good condition".

Government Launches Land Regularization Scheme Through MeeSeva



Ravi Kumar Boppana

(By Ravi Kumar Boppana)

The Andhra Pradesh government has introduced a new initiative to regularize encroached government lands, providing significant relief to economically weaker sections. Through the Land Regularization Scheme 2025, eligible applicants can now apply via MeeSeva centers without the need to visit multiple government offices. This move aims to bring transparency and ease to the regularization process while ensuring that land ownership rights are granted to deserving beneficiaries.

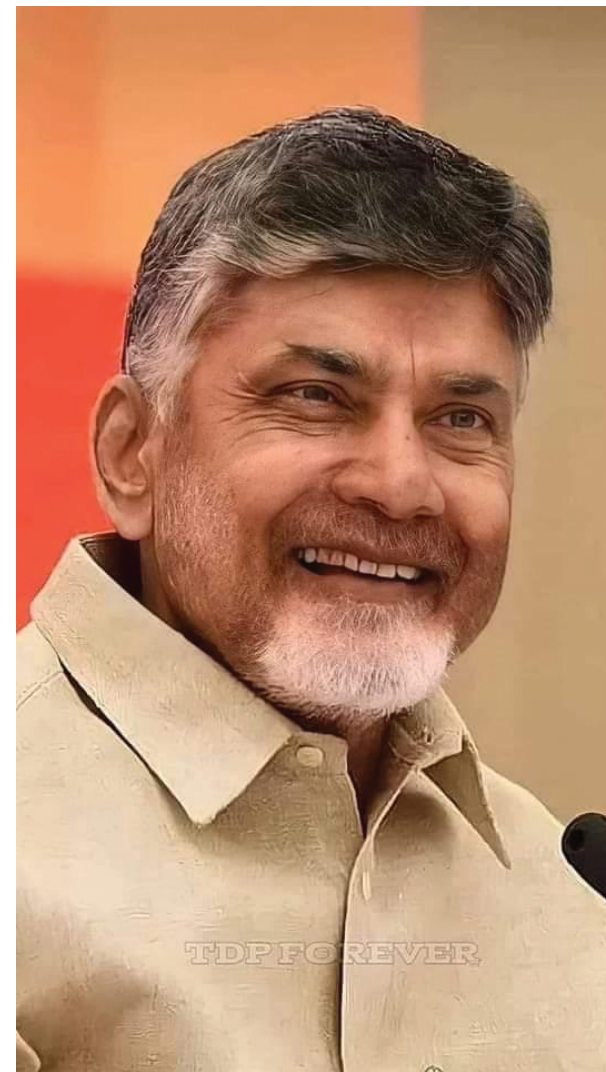
The state government has taken a crucial step to formalize encroached lands, ensuring rightful ownership for thousands of families. The scheme follows Government Order (GO.) No. 30 and is open for applications until December 31, 2025. Beneficiaries can submit their applications at their respective village and ward secretariats. As part of the initiative to empower women, land titles will be issued exclusively in their names. Encroachments that existed before October 15, 2019, will be eligible for regularization. Beneficiaries will receive land titles and conveyance deeds, with full ownership rights granted after two years. To streamline the process, all applications must be submitted through MeeSeva centers along with the necessary verification documents.

The government has ensured that the

application process is efficient and transparent. Applicants must upload all required documents through MeeSeva for verification. The authorities will then review and approve the requests based on eligibility criteria. The scheme offers free regularization for plots up to 150 square yards, with no registration fees. For plots between 151 and 300 square yards, beneficiaries below the poverty line must pay 15 percent of the basic value and 50 percent of the registration fee, whereas those above the poverty line must pay the full registration fee. For plots between 300 and 450 square yards, below-poverty-line families must pay the full basic value and 50 percent of the registration fee, while those above the poverty line are required to pay twice the basic value along with the full registration fee. Encroachments exceeding 450 square yards will require payment of five times the basic value and the full registration fee. Failure to comply with the payment requirements will result in the government reclaiming the land.

While the scheme is designed to benefit the poor, there are specific conditions to ensure that only deserving individuals receive assistance. Applicants must have a monthly income of no more than ₹10,000 in rural areas and ₹14,000 in urban areas. Additionally, their electricity consumption should not exceed ₹300 per month, and their total landholding should not exceed 10 acres of combined dry and wet land. Only structures with RCC or asbestos roofs and brick walls will be considered for regularization. Property tax receipts, electricity bills, and water bills will be used for verification. Certain areas, such as layouts, canals, riverbanks, master plan zones, and water bodies, are excluded from

regularization. Beneficiaries must not be income tax payers or own four-wheeler vehicles.



regularization. Beneficiaries must not be income tax payers or own four-wheeler vehicles.

To ensure fair implementation, the verification and approval process will be carried out step by step under government supervision. Pending applications will also be reviewed as part of this scheme.

Local officials, under the supervision of tahsildars, will inspect the encroached lands before publishing a preliminary list of eligible beneficiaries at village and ward offices. The public will be given an opportunity to raise objections before final approvals. Once objections are reviewed, the final beneficiary list will be submitted to sub-collectors and revenue divisional officers.

If applicants disagree with the decision, they have the right to appeal to the joint collector within 30 days. After the final list is

confirmed, tahsildars will forward ownership details to sub-registrars and district registrars for official documentation.

The government has urged eligible individuals to apply immediately rather than waiting until the last moment. This scheme has been widely welcomed, especially by economically weaker sections, who believe it will resolve long-standing land ownership disputes. By providing legal ownership rights to thousands of families, the initiative is expected to significantly improve financial security and stability for many.

(The author is a senior journalist and information analyst consultant, who previously served as the Chief Public Relations Officer to Hon'ble governor at the Andhra Pradesh Raj Bhavan and media liaison officer to Hon'ble speaker at the AP Legislative Assembly.)

Allocation for Education and Health sectors in Budget is insufficient: Sibal in Rajya Sabha

New Delhi, Feb 11 (UNI) Claiming that the Modi government's delivery mechanism in the last 10 years has been both slow and inconsistent, Rajya Sabha member Kapil Sibal on Tuesday said that India needs to achieve a growth rate of 8% annually.

Slamming the Union Budget, Sibal suggested that the allocation for the education and health sectors is insufficient.

He also termed the government's target of making India a 5 trillion dollar economy as misleading.

"When new government comes to power naturally people of India expect that government will give us a vision of what it intends to do in next five years. This government already had 10 years and the delivery mechanism has been both slow and inconsistent," Sibal said while participating in the discussion on Budget 2025-26.

Targeting the government, he further said, "Every day we talk about India becoming 5 trillion dollar economy, it will happen soon, it will happen in 2024 and now they (government) are saying it won't happen till 2027. But what does 5 trillion dollar economy mean? This is very misleading. India will become 5 trillion dollar economy in any case. And I assure the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman that even if she does nothing this country will grow at 6%.

It will grow at 6% even if she does nothing," the senior politician said.

Sibal stated that the country has been growing at 6.3%, 6.7% and it will continue to grow but it needs to clock a growth rate of 8%.

"What we need is double digit growth. What is the vision of this government to attain double-digit growth and attain 8% growth?" he asked.

Moreover, Trinamool Congress MP Saket Gokhale criticised the state of the economy and said that the economy's foundations have been weakened from within, much like termite-infested walls. While the Finance Minister has attempted to mask the damage with 27 layers of paint, this cosmetic approach cannot prevent its eventual collapse. Presenting his budget speech as a chargesheet against the government, Gokhale asserted that due to demonetisation, GST, Covid lockdown, lockdown have severely impacted the country, shutting down opportunities for investment and employment. The government has increased capital expenditure by leveraging tax revenue, leading to the development of some infrastructure. However, the overall state of the economy has deteriorated. He also alleged that the Finance Minister announces new schemes in every budget while previous ones are forgotten. The Trinamool Congress MP further claimed that under the Paid Internship Scheme, last year's budget promised internships for over 1.25 lakh youth, but the actual number did not exceed 10,000.

Congress MP Chandrakant Handore, while delivering his maiden speech in the House, criticised the budget provisions for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, calling them inadequate. Handore also demanded the enactment of a law to hold government officials accountable if funds allocated for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes remain unutilised. He suggested that the law should include a provision for a minimum of three years of imprisonment in such cases.

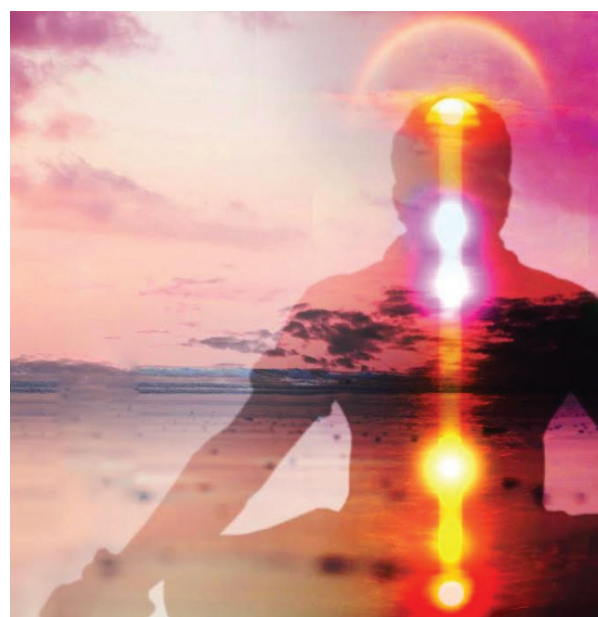
Nationalist Congress Party and former Union Minister Praful Patel, a member of the ruling coalition, while congratulating Finance Minister Sitharaman for presenting the budget for the eighth consecutive time, congratulated the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the transformative work of the government in the last ten years.

Clairvoyance - By Ashwini Guruji of Dhyaan Ashram

(Standard Post Bureau)

The world of the spirit begins when logic ends. In 2011, I was invited by the prestigious Indian Medical Association (IMA) Mumbai to demonstrate clairvoyance and the power of yoga. It would suffice to say that the doctors while respectful did not believe in the accuracy of this ancient science. They gave clairvoyants of Dhyaan Foundation randomly selected images of some sick and some healthy people. The clairvoyants in a matter of 10 minutes were able to not just identify the sick but also pinpoint the exact diseased area.

In the words of the IMA past-president Dr. Lele, "Your clairvoyant's predictions by looking at the pictures of the subjects, which were provided by the IMA, are 80% accurate, which is good enough." At the event there was also a yoga performance and the pulse of the practitioner was noted before and after



the asanas. The pulse dropped by 15 counts. In fact, regarding the dropping of the pulse rate the IMA has even given a written validation that the pulse rate of a practitioner dropped by 15 counts after 50 minutes of strenuous asanas. They said, "We have today changed for the positive, our opinion on Yoga and a Yogi." (The entire event is recorded and

is available for viewing.)

So what is clairvoyance? To understand this let us understand Creation.

Prana is 'the force' in the universe; there is nothing in Creation, which is devoid of prana. In fact, prana combines with the five elements (fire, air, water, ether, and earth) to give form to the entire Creation. Whatever has been,

whatever exists, and whatever lies in the future dimensions of the physical world is nothing else but these five elements with different pranic frequencies.

Prana vibrates in innumerable forms at innumerable dimensions.

At one dimension it is sound, and another is that of colours. There exist different colours with different shades and combinations. Some are pleasant, soothing, and some represent love, some Divinity, some stand for power, some for anger and some are dull and depressing. All are different and have different effects on the physical. A clairvoyant is a person who can see the colour pattern of prana around the physical.

Darker shades like dark reds, browns, and dark greys are the grosser colours while lighter pinks, violets, blues, greens, etc. are the subtler colours.

In fact, colour is the code by which the subtle body communicates with the physical body. It is by seeing the colours in the next layer that clairvoyants are able to foretell disease before it manifests in the physical. These colours are regulated at seven energy centres of the body or the seven major chakras. What the clairvoyant can see is the aura or chakra imbalances. Considerations like what shade is mixing with the natural colour, in what proportion, the positioning, the luminosity, etc. all determine the state of the being. You can hide your true face by applying make-up or you may hide your true body by wearing loose fitting clothes, you may even lie about your character and intention but it is impossible to hide your true self from the eyes of a clairvoyant. For he or she would see your aura, which is something you cannot hide. However, not all clairvoyants can see the

same thing. Some have a more developed sense of vision than the others. But since this is a subject on which clairvoyants, ostensibly don't meet at a club to share notes on, there may be a paucity of information on how they compare. Clairvoyants are often unaware of their gift or constraints thereof, if they are using it. A clairvoyant can only see the colours and needs a Guru to correctly interpret it. Through correct practice of yoga and Sanatan Kriya one can develop the ability of clairvoyance. This science is more accurate than any present diagnostic equipment available, because the equipment tells you what is happening now and that also when the problem is strong enough to come into the catching capacity of the machine, while a clairvoyant tells all what is happening and what will or is about to happen. Such is the power of this ancient science.

Russia targets Ukraine's gas infrastructure in overnight attack

Kiev, Feb 11 (UNI) : Russian forces struck Ukraine's energy system, including gas infrastructure, with drone and missile attacks overnight, Ukrainian authorities said Tuesday. "As of this morning, the energy sector remains under attack," Ukrainian Energy Minister German Galushchenko wrote on Facebook.

The Regional Military Administration reported that nine settlements in the central Poltava region were left without gas supplies following the strikes. Ukraine's state-run energy company Ukrenergo imposed power supply restrictions in the wake of the attack. According to the Ukrainian Air Force, Russia launched cruise and ballistic missiles, along with drones, at Ukraine overnight.

Australian research discovers brain swelling in long Covid

Sydney, Feb 11 (UNI) : Swelling in an area of the brain associated with memory and concentration has been identified in long COVID and chronic fatigue patients by Australian researchers.

In a study published on Tuesday, researchers from Griffith University used an ultra high-field magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine to analyze how long COVID and myalgic encephalomyelitis -- also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) -- similarly impact brain structure. The team identified significantly larger hippocampus volume in long COVID and CFS patients compared to healthy individuals.

The hippocampus is a small but important part of the brain that helps with learning and converting short-term memories into long-term memories as well as verbal and spatial memory.

The research found that hippocampal volume was similar among long COVID and CFS patients and that hippocampal swelling was linked to symptom severity in both groups.

Kiran Thapaliya, lead author of the new study, said that the findings show that hippocampal impairment in long COVID and CFS patients "may play a significant role in cognitive difficulties such as memory problems, difficulty concentrating, and delayed responses to questions or conversations."

He said that the larger volume could be caused by neurogenesis -- the process by which new cells are formed in the brain -- or by a virus in the brain.

The research involved 17 long COVID patients, 29 CFS patients and 15 people with neither condition.

1 dead, 3 hospitalised after two jets collide on airport runway

Los Angeles, Feb 11 (UNI) : At least one person died and three others were hospitalised after two jets collided on a runway at the Scottsdale Airport in the southwestern U.S. state of Arizona, authorities and local media said on Monday.

"A Learjet 35A veered off the runway after landing and crashed into a Gulfstream 200 business jet on the ramp at Scottsdale Municipal Airport in Arizona," the U.S. Federal Aviation Association said in a statement.

The agency that is responsible for regulating civilian aviation in the country said it still did not know how many people were onboard.

Over 20 people rescued as severe storms cause Sydney flash flooding

Sydney, Feb 11 (UNI) : Over 20 people have been rescued from floodwaters after severe thunderstorms hit Australia's largest city Sydney, capital of the state of New South Wales.

The storms swept across western and central Sydney on Monday, bringing intense rainfall that caused flash flooding and disrupted roads and public transport. Rain was heaviest in the suburb of Horsley Park -- about 35 km west of central Sydney -- which received 77.6 millimeters in one hour.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday night, Stuart Fisher from the State Emergency Service (SES) in New South Wales said that authorities had rescued 21 who became trapped in their cars in floodwaters across the city.

He said it was "frustrating" that motorists had ignored warnings about avoiding floodwaters.

Overall the SES responded to over 500 reported storm and flood-related incidents.

Thousands of homes and businesses across Sydney were left without internet service on Monday night due to a power outage at a datacenter that was caused by the storms.

TPG Telecom, one of Australia's largest internet service providers, said in a statement late on Monday night that connectivity was being gradually restored.

Ukraine agrees not to attack

TurkStream as part of EU's Guarantees for Hungary: Szijarto

United Nations, Feb 11 (UNI) : Ukraine has committed to abstaining from attacks on TurkStream as part of the assurances provided by the European Commission for Hungary, Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto told RIA Novosti. "We have been given a list of guarantees for three issues. First, that Ukraine must not cut the oil deliveries through Ukraine, second, they would not attack the Turkish Stream infrastructure and third negotiations will be started very quickly about the reopening of the gas transit through Ukraine," Szijarto said in an interview. On January 27, Szijarto said that Hungary had obtained the necessary assurances regarding energy security from the European Commission, which had been a condition for the country to consider extending sanctions against Russia.

Trump raises aluminum tariffs to 25 pc, ends exemptions on steel and aluminum

Washington, Feb 11 (UNI) : U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday signed proclamations to raise tariffs on aluminum from 10 percent to 25 percent and ended duty-free quotas, exemptions and exclusions for steel and aluminum tariffs.

"This is a big deal. This is the beginning of making America rich again," Trump said when signing the proclamations in the Oval Office. "It's time for our great industries to come back to America."

The U.S. president added that there will be no exceptions for these tariffs.

While Trump claims that such measures will bring businesses and jobs back to the United States, economists said they would do the exact opposite.

"What this means is that U.S. steel and

aluminum prices will be substantially higher than world prices for the foreseeable future ... That spells harm for a large number of downstream industries that use steel and aluminum. Those downstream industries employ about 10 times as many workers as the steel and aluminum industries," Gary Clyde Hufbauer, a nonresident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, told Xinhua.

During his first term, Trump imposed tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum imports citing national security concerns. He later allowed certain trading partners, including Canada, Mexico and Brazil, to receive duty-free quotas.

Under former President Joe Biden, the United

States continued some tariff exemptions introduced under Trump and extended new quotas for the European Union, Britain and Japan.

A 2019 study published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York showed that Trump's 2018 widespread tariffs on steel and aluminum, as well as tariffs on Chinese goods, along with the countermeasures they triggered, led to a loss of manufacturing jobs in the United States.

"Obviously, some firms benefit, but a great many more lose out. I expect the same outcome, but worse, this time," said Hufbauer.

When signing the proclamations, Trump said his administration was weighing so-called "reciprocal tariffs" on products such as chips,

cars and pharmaceuticals.

He claimed that other countries had taken advantage of the United States in trade for many years and the United States needed to raise tariffs to the same level as these countries.

Since the beginning of his second term, Trump has quickly rolled out a series of protectionist measures, which have been widely opposed both domestically and internationally.

On Feb. 1, Trump signed executive orders to impose 25-percent additional tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico and a 10-percent tariff increase on imports from China, drawing widespread opposition and immediate retaliations. He later paused the tariffs on Canada and Mexico for one month to allow negotiations.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed on his arrival in Paris for a two-day visit to France.

South Korean oppn parties submit bill to investigate political corruption of Prez Yoon, wife

Seoul, Feb 11 (UNI) : South Korea's opposition parties on Tuesday submitted a bill to appoint a special counsel and investigate the alleged political corruption involving the impeached President Yoon Suk-yeol and his wife, Kim Keon-hee.

The main liberal opposition Democratic Party and five other minor parties proposed the bill to let the independent prosecutor look into the allegations that Yoon and Kim were implicated in illegal public opinion manipulation during the 2022 presidential election in which Yoon was elected president.

A self-proclaimed political broker, Myung Tae-kyun, was suspected of providing fake and free opinion polls in return for various interests, such as his interference in the nomination of a lawmaker candidate of the ruling People Power Party.

Yoon and Kim were believed to have illegally intervened in the ruling party's candidate nominations for local elections and by-elections in 2022 and parliamentary elections in 2024.

Palestinians won't have right to return once relocated: Trump

Washington, Feb 11 (UNI) : U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that he did not think the Palestinian people, whom he wanted to drive out of the Gaza Strip should return to the enclave once the reconstruction there has been completed.

Asked in an interview with Fox News if the Palestinians now residing in Gaza, who under Trump's proposal will face forced displacement to make way for the rebuilding of the enclave, would "have the right to return," Trump said,

"No, they wouldn't." The president's remarks clearly contradict those of his aides, including White House press secretary Karine Leavitt, who said last week that people in Gaza would only be "temporarily relocated."

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, too, told the press Thursday that "people are going to have to live somewhere else in the interim" while Gaza is being rebuilt. Further pressed in the Fox News interview on where the roughly 2 million Gazans would go, Trump said, "I

think I could make a deal with Jordan. I think I could make a deal with Egypt." Jordan and Egypt are two of Palestine's neighbouring countries that Trump has explicitly urged to take in Palestinians from Gaza. The president told reporters Monday in the Oval Office that he "would conceivably withhold aid" to the two countries if they refused his demand.

Leaders of both Jordan and Egypt have rejected Trump's demand that their countries, already home to a considerable number of Palestinian refugees, accommodate even more.

Jotham Napat elected new Prime Minister of Vanuatu

Suva, Feb 11 (UNI) : Jotham Napat, president of the Leaders Party of Vanuatu, was elected the country's new prime minister on Tuesday, Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation (VBTC) reported.

Napat was elected through a secret ballot in the parliament in Port Vila, capital of Vanuatu.

As the sole nominee in the election, Napat received 50 votes of support in the 52-seat parliament. The remaining two votes were void.

Addressing the parliament after his election, Napat expressed his deep appreciation for the support and highlighted the challenges ahead, particularly the country's reconstruction following the recent earthquake.

The Leaders Party secured nine seats, the most seats in the parliament, after the snap election on Jan. 16.

Napat will lead a coalition government made up of five political parties: Leaders Party, Vanua'aku Party, Graon Mo Jastis Party, Reunification Movement for Change, and the Iauko Group.

Later on Tuesday, he appointed Johnny Koanapo Rasou as deputy prime minister, who will also serve as minister of finance and economic management, VBTC reported.

Bushfires in Australian island state threatening lives: Authorities

Sydney, Feb 11 (UNI) Communities near two bushfires in the northwest of the Australian island state of Tasmania have been ordered to evacuate.

Authorities on Tuesday afternoon issued emergency warnings for residents of, and visitors to, the communities of Sandy Cape and Corinna due to threats posed by nearby out-of-control bushfires.

The TasAlert warnings for both communities said that the bushfires are "expected to put lives in danger."

"Fire conditions are expected to be uncontrollable,

Singapore to subsidise shingles vaccine starting in September

Singapore, Feb 11 (UNI) : Singapore will begin providing subsidies and allow individuals to use their personal medical savings for shingles vaccination, the Ministry of Health announced on Monday. Starting from September 2025, eligible Singaporeans and permanent residents will be able to receive means-tested subsidies of up to 75 percent for Shingrix, the only vaccine currently approved by the Health Sciences Authority for shingles prevention, the ministry said in a statement.

As part of this initiative, seniors from the Pioneer Generation and the Merdeka Generation, two programs aimed at recognizing the contributions of these older generations to Singapore's early development, will receive additional subsidies for outpatient vaccinations.

Following the subsidies, citizens will pay between 75 and 300 Singapore dollars (between 55.5 and 222 U.S. dollars) for a full course of Shingrix, which consists of two doses. Permanent residents will pay about 450

Singapore dollars per course. From 2026 onwards, MediSave, the country's personal medical savings scheme, can be used to cover the costs of the vaccine after subsidies. MediSave allows individuals to save a portion of their income in a mandatory account for future medical expenses.

Before the subsidies, the full cost of the vaccine is around 900 Singapore dollars. Health Minister Ong Ye Kung noted on Monday that this price was a concern for many seniors who had asked if the government could either subsidize the vaccine or allow them to use MediSave for the payment. Following discussions with the vaccine's manufacturer, GSK, the company has agreed to adjust the price, while the government will provide additional subsidies to make the vaccine more accessible.

Shingles affects an estimated 30,000 people annually in Singapore, with some individuals suffering from recurring outbreaks. Ong said the disease can be "painful and very long-lasting." (1 Singapore dollar equals 0.74 U.S. dollar).

Tesla battery Megafactory in Shanghai launches production

Shanghai, Feb 11 (UNI) : U.S. carmaker Tesla's new Megafactory in Shanghai, dedicated to manufacturing its energy-storage batteries, known as Megapacks, launched production on Tuesday, marking a significant expansion of the company's presence in China.

With an initial annual production capacity of 10,000 units, or roughly 40 gigawatt-hours of energy storage, this Megafactory is set to significantly contribute to Tesla's global energy storage goals. The company anticipates a year-on-year increase of 50 percent in energy storage deployments in 2025.

Covering an area of approximately 200,000 square meters, the new Shanghai plant represents a total investment of about 1.45 billion yuan (around 202 million U.S. dollars), according to the administration of the Lingang Special Area of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, where this Tesla facility is located.

Notably, mass production at the factory commenced just eight months after construction began, serving as a new example of "Tesla speed" in China, with the Shanghai Gigafactory, Tesla's first plant in the country's eastern financial hub, having been built and inaugurated within a year in 2019.

"We've witnessed the incredible speed of Shanghai and Tesla once again. I'm excited to have this factory kick off an exciting year for Tesla," said Mike Snyder, vice president of Tesla, at the launch ceremony on Tuesday, expressing confidence that the new factory will become a cornerstone of Tesla's global production network.

unpredictable and fast moving. There is expected to be thick smoke, and showers of embers which may cause fires all around you. Fires will move quickly and may come from many directions," TasAlert said.

People in Corinna -- a former gold mining settlement that is now a wilderness retreat -- have been told to immediately evacuate south.

The warning for Sandy Cape -- a beachside locality within a conservation area on the state's northwest coast -- advised people to "go to a safer location."

Fires have been

burning in the state's northwest for over a week.

Jeremy Smith, Tasmania's fire and emergency services commissioner, told reporters on Tuesday that authorities are expecting challenging fire weather in the next few days.

He said that more than 50 remote area firefighters and 32 aircraft have been deployed to the two fires.

Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff said that the next few days would be critical for the firefighting effort and urged people in the affected area to heed emergency warnings.

Relationships



School kids Growing up too fast?

Life was all rosy for 13-year-old Chitra studying in a reputed school in Mumbai until she laid eyes on a magazine brought in by her senior school-mate Aman who was 15-years-old. Excited and titillated by the explicit visual content - she soon developed a habit to drool over the magazine with her school friend on a daily basis. In no time, this habit took a physical turn and one fine day the two youngsters decided to experiment with sex out of sheer curiosity. Tragedy struck as Chitra got pregnant at the age of 13 and Aman could never come out of the guilt. This real-life instance shared by the principal of a reputed school from Mumbai on conditions of anonymity reveals the grave side effects associated with young school children indulging in reading pornography. Be it the curiosity to watch porn, getting a taste of alcohol or enjoying the ecstasy of drugs - modern school kids are choosing to live life in the fast lane...so unaware of the speed breakers and dead ends that lie ahead.

Dr. Samir Parikh, chief psychiatrist, Max Healthcare, who recently conducted a survey in Delhi reveals, "26 percent of the boys surveyed fell in the moderate category and 21 percent fell in the high category when it came to talks about visiting porn sites, being a common conversation in schools. Among girls, 24 percent fell in the

moderate category and 5 percent in the high category."

Though figures of drug addiction in schools were comparatively lower, but it was quite prominent as these young party animals often hit night clubs and pubs to enjoy themselves.

Moving away from the national Capital the scene was equally disappointing in other parts of the country as well. Pramod

Sharma, Principal of Mayo College, Ajmer reveals, "Being a residential school, Internet access is quite controlled and well monitored at our institution. Also, we have installed special software which blocks certain sites, but still on a number of occasions we have found kids receiving porn stuff on their E-mails."

Ritu Nanda, a clinical psychologist and

counselor, Delhi Public School, Bhopal, narrates a different saga of addiction, which is governed by the availability of addictive. "Fortunately, we have not received any complaints of drug addiction, but instances of alcohol addiction have come to our notice, since it is easily available in comparison to drugs."

Taking the availability clause further, Ritu adds, "The main aim of school kids is to experience a feeling of high and if they do not get access to drugs and alcohol, a lot of them resort to other readily available options like inhaling petrol and even thinner, which they get along with the white corrective fluid or in the form of nail polish remover. When inhaled in abundance, fumes from petrol or the thinner leaves them hallucinating and in a state of ecstasy."

Usha Reddy, principal, Meridian School, Hyderabad shares some confessions made by adolescent kids in a 'Closed Box Session', which is an adolescent counseling session that is held in the school. "One of the kids said, 'I have done it thrice with my friend and now I can't study for my exams'. Another one who came for help expressed his guilt saying, 'I am bad as I watch bad things on my computer, I don't want to see them, but I cannot control my urges,'" reveals Usha.

The biggest shock comes from the fact

revelation that these honest confessions were from kids who were all under 15 years of age. And the fact that some of them couldn't even put their actions into words was enough to reveal their maturity levels.

Even kids studying in government schools are displaying promiscuous behavior. On conditions

of anonymity, a teacher from a Delhi-based girl's government school reveals, "It was a shock to find a girl showing a sleazy MMS to her friends, especially when we knew that her parents barely managed a square meal a day for their family. On enquiring we got to know that it was gifted to her by her boyfriend. Not just this, girls as young as 11 and 12 proudly boast about their boyfriends to their classmates." The reasons for this forward behaviour in school children experts say can be blamed on an easy access

to technology like mobile phones as well as the Internet being readily used mainly to complete school projects, untapped access and lack of control over children's Internet-habits by their busy parents.

Also, excess exposure to an overwhelming party culture and availability of easy money opens the door for many bad habits. "They want to try something new, cool and happening and unfortunately these addictions act as magnet to their wants. Then comes peer pressure and the need of social recognition combined with little knowledge that ends up proving dangerous for them," explains Ritu.

Meghna Manchanda, mother to a 12-year-old Samir says, "My husband and I are not at all Internet savvy. Even for our requirements we depend upon our son. On one such day when he was opening a site many pornographic pictures started popping up and on being asking, my son told us that he has become an online member to one such site. Though we couldn't stop him from using the Internet, after that they we as parents became extra vigilant."

Experts tag such promiscuous behaviour as the 'Gang-age', when doing everything in groups and gangs is considered uber cool!

Usha explains, "More than displaying a cool quotient, it is about creating a comfort zone of their own. When one child goes to a porn site accidentally or intentionally, mixed feelings of excitement and guilt start groping their mind. Excitement makes them visit the sites again, while the feeling of guilt makes them spill the beans in their peer group proving that 'it's not just me but every one who's indulging in the same behaviour.'" In today's scenario, trying to shield a child from such addictions seems absolutely impossible to many parents. So what's the way to help them to keep off the porn addiction?

1. The right way is to counsel your child well in advance so that there's a proper time for everything and getting into such habits in their age will only defocus them," advises Reddy.

2. Most children maintain these habits in seclusion which bears testimony to the constant guilt that grows inside them. So inculcate a habit in them of not doing anything in the world that they feel ashamed of telling their parents. Open the doors of communication. "Yelling, scolding and public insult can spoil things further, instead counsel them by telling them the pros and cons of every little step they take in their life," advises Reddy.

3. "Cutting upon their pocket money is not the solution. Instead develop a mutual trust between you and your kid. Make him spend the pocket money as he likes and in return he should give you an account of every single rupee he's splurged," suggests Veena Venugopal, vice principal, Abhayasa Residential Pub School.

4. Keeping a constant check on kids is nearly impossible for parents in a modern context. But they should ensure that the computer is in a common room rather than in kids' room. Also, the time of accessing the Internet should be fixed and surprise visits into the room must be maintained so that the youngster is not indulging in net surfing without the fear of supervision.

5. Software that can bar certain sites (containing adult content) can also be installed on machines at home as well as in schools.

The influences that work on a young mind in today's modern context is not easy to monitor, but being cautious as parents helps to keep your child safe from harm.

Step-parenting tips

Being a step-parent is a tough ask. But, you can easily work your way around to having a happy family if you follow a few basic rules.

The first and the most important rule is to never put your wife/husband in an awkward situation, where they end up having to choose between you or the children. This will bring in immediate dislike from the children towards you, especially if your spouse ends up choosing you over them. Accept your step-children with all their shortcomings. Remember, they are looking for a mentor, a guiding light from you. They are having as tough a chance when it comes to accepting the new surroundings at home as you are. Give them reassurance and reinforcements. In the case of becoming a stepfather, remember that you need to be the strong supportive figure. They need to know that they can trust you. As for stepmothers, you will have to be their emotional anchor.

Is summer a 'fur'nace for your pets?

The summer sun is brutal for our furry and feathered companions too. Here are some pointers on what to do for your pets as the weather starts hotting up.

Did you know that dogs and cats don't sweat, but instead pant to release heat? Veterinary surgeon Dr Afzal H Mohamed says, "Dogs and cats have sweat glands, but they are poorly developed and are of no use in thermoregulation."

Outdoor vs indoor

Contrary to popular opinion, indoor pets don't need to be kept in an air conditioned environment all the time. This actually reduces their tolerance to heat. "Even long-haired breeds don't necessarily need an air conditioner on all the time," says Dr Afzal. "If they have

been bred for generations in a tropical climate, they are probably well-adapted to the heat. It depends on how the individual dog or cat is raised."

Moreover, dogs adapted to living outdoors will do fine outside as long as they have shady spots to sleep in and access to water at all times, he adds.

Shedding in summer

We look for thin, comfortable clothes to wear during summer. Imagine having a fur coat on all the time! No wonder our pets want to shed all that hair...

"Most breeds have a soft undercoat and a fairly coarse overcoat. The undercoat grows out during the cooler months — this is what is shed during summer," says veterinarian Dr Priyadarshini Govind. "A good 10 to 15 minutes of brushing every day helps to bring the shedding under control."

An ice cube a day

Dogs and cats go through some minor changes in their eating patterns. "They may prefer to eat during the cooler parts of the day, like in the early morning and late evening," says Dr Priya. "Ensure they have fresh water easily available - especially if you're giving them mainly dry food (kibbles)."

But what about pets that are poor water drinkers? "A bowl of chicken soup, chilled butter milk or tender coconut water is an alternative," she says. "You can also freeze these into ice cubes and offer these as a treat during the day."

Travelling by car

Sure, your dog loves to come along on a

drive! But summers mean you have to be extra careful about taking your pets out on that joyride. Dr Afzal warns, "Under NO circumstances should a dog or cat be left in an exposed parked car for even a short while. If parked in the shade, keep the air conditioner running and roll down the windows a couple of inches."

Be a Good Samaritan

- Constant panting
- Dry nose
- Glazed eyes
- Vomiting
- Fast heart rate
- Weakness progressing to depression
- Blindness
- Inco-ordination while walking
- Collapse

- Seizures

- Coma

If you suspect heat stress/heat stroke:

- Move your pet immediately to a cool environment (air conditioned)
- Wet it with room-temperature water
- Place under a fan to increase convective heat loss
- You may also need to hurry to your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Summer's also not a good time for you to consider mating your pet. Dr Priya says, "I generally discourage my clients from breeding in the summer due to the stress of the heat that makes it very difficult for both the mother and puppies. Pregnant dogs can go into abortion if they have the slightest of heat stress."

Tips:

- Walk your dog in the early morning or late evening, never in the afternoon
- Never leave your pet unattended in a car
- Ensure there is always plenty of fresh water available
- Ensure there is plenty of shade available



Kagiyama of Japan leads men figure skating at Asian Winter Games

Harbin, Feb 11 (UNI) : Beijing Winter Olympics silver medalist Yuma Kagiyama of Japan delivered a near-flawless performance to top the men's short program at the Harbin 2025 Asian Winter Games (AWG) on Tuesday. Skating to The Sound of Silence, the 21-year-old executed clean quadruple jumps and an Axel to earn 103.81 points, though his final footwork sequence appeared slightly tangled. "I'll focus on improving it with more training," Kagiyama said.

"In the free skate, I'll attempt a quadruple Axel this time, regardless of the outcome. At the very least, I want to take on the challenge," he added.

South Korea's Cha Jun-hwan completed one quadruple and three triple jumps to secure second place with 94.09 points, while China's Dai Dawei followed in third with 82.89 points.

"I performed at about 80 percent of my training level," Dai said.

"Although I landed my hardest jump today, I made mistakes on the triple Lutz and Axel. These have been recurring issues in training, and unfortunately, I didn't resolve them in time."

Looking ahead, he added, "I hope to skate to my full potential first, and only then will I think about rankings."

China's other competitor in men's figure skating, Chen Yudong, fell on his opening jump and finished seventh with 67.52 points.

Rahil Gangjee, Yuvraj Sandhu, Arjun Sharma tied for lead on Day 1

Kolkata, Feb 11 (UNI) : Bengaluru's Rahil Gangjee, Chandigarh golfer Yuvraj Sandhu and Arjun Sharma of Greater Noida fired scores of seven-under 63 to be in the joint three-way lead after

round one at TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship at Tollygunge Club here on Tuesday.

Local favourite SSP Chawrasia was in tied fourth place, one behind the lead, along with Karandeep Kochhar and Ankur Chadha.

Rahil Gangjee, who played most of his golf in

Kolkata before moving to Bengaluru a few years back, was on fire with the putter as he accumulated seven birdies over the first 10 holes.

He also played some good chips over this stretch. Gangjee, who won twice on the Asian Development Tour (ADT) last year and also finished second on the PGTI Order of Merit, added two more birdies and bogeys to his card on the last six holes.

Yuvraj Sandhu, a winner at Tollygunge in 2022, mixed an eagle and seven birdies with two bogeys, during his round of

63. Sandhu went four-under on the three par-5s with an eagle and two birdies. He played some great shots to recover from the rough on multiple occasions.

Arjun Sharma came up with a flawless 63 that featured four birdie conversions from a range of eight to 15 feet. Arjun's hitting picked up from the fifth hole and his putter got hot from the 11th.

Defending champion Manu Gandas shot a 69 to be tied 45th. Chikkarangappa made a hole-in-one on the sixth during his round of 70. He was placed tied 65th.

WB Clinches Double Gold in Table Tennis at 38th National Games

Dehradun, Feb 11 (UNI) : In an exciting display at the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand, West Bengal emerged victorious in both the men's and women's table tennis team events, securing gold medals in both categories.

The men's team defeated Maharashtra 3-0 in the final, while the women's team overcame Maharashtra 3-1 to claim the top podium finish. Women's Team Final:

The final kicked off with Sutirtha Mukherjee from West Bengal taking on Maharashtra's Swastika Ghosh. In a hard-fought battle, Mukherjee secured the first point for her team, winning with scores of 11-8, 6-11, 14-12, 2-11, and 11-5. In the second match, Maharashtra's Diya Parag Chitale quickly retaliated, defeating Ayhika Mukherjee of West Bengal.

Chitale dominated the match, winning decisively with scores of 12-10, 11-6, and 11-5, leveling the tie.

However, West Bengal regained momentum in the third match. Poymantee Baisya faced Maharashtra's Taneesha Sanjay Kotecha and emerged victorious after a closely contested match, winning with scores of 11-8, 11-7, 6-11, and 11-6.

The Women's Team final match saw Ayhika Mukherjee return to the table, this time against Swastika Ghosh. Mukherjee continued West Bengal's strong performance, sealing the victory for her team with scores of 11-8, 11-6, and 13-11. With this win, West Bengal claimed the gold medal in the Women's Team Table Tennis event, showcasing their skill and determination throughout

the competition. Maharashtra put up a strong fight but ultimately fell short in a nail-biting final.

Men's Team Final: The men's final saw West Bengal dominate Maharashtra 3-0 in a one-sided contest. In the first match, Anirban Ghosh defeated Jaish Amit Modi 11-7, 10-12, 6-11, 11-6, 11-4, giving West Bengal an early lead. Akash Pal extended the advantage by beating Regean Albuquerque 11-5, 11-8, 12-10.

The victory was sealed when Sourav Saha defeated Maharashtra's Chinmay Somaiya 11-7, 11-8, 8-11, 11-6, ensuring a clean sweep for West Bengal. With this win, West Bengal secured the gold, Maharashtra settled for silver, while Tamil Nadu and Telangana took home bronze medals.

Sandesh Sawant wins 'Maharashtra Shree' title

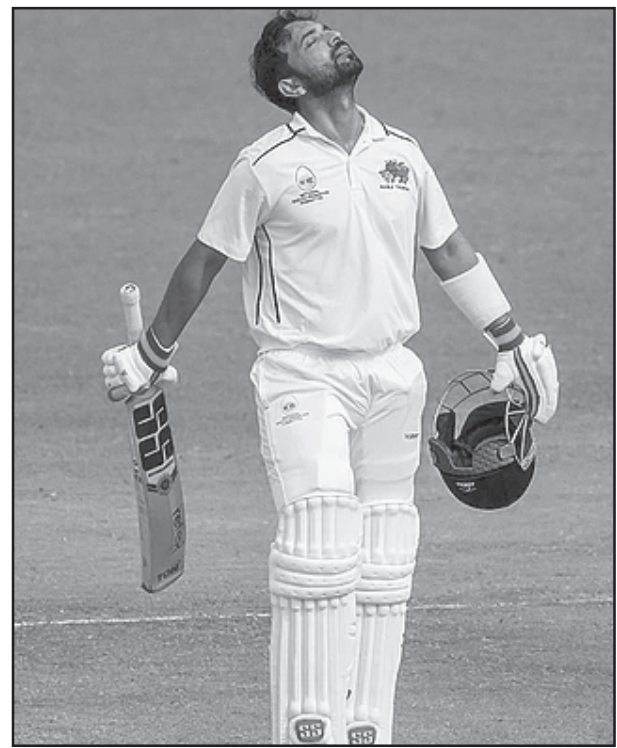
Kolhapur, Feb 11 (UNI) : Sandesh Sawant of Sindhudurg won "Maharashtra Shree" title in state-level body building competition held at Pavallion in Kasba Bavada area of the city.

In a press release issued here on Tuesday, Dr Ravindra More, president of KDABBA, said that the competition was held in four groups -- Maharashtra Shree, Maharashtra Shreeman, Maharashtra Junior and Maharashtra Men's, in which more than 300 competitors from Mumbai, Thane, Sindhudurg, Pune, Pimpri, Beed, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar and other districts participated.

He further said that Sandesh Sawant won "Maharashtra Shree" title, Swapnil Waghmare (Thane) became "Maharashtra Shreeman", Anil Waze (Thane) won "Maharashtra Men's" and Sagar Dharat (also of Thane) won "Maharashtra Junior" title.

All the winners will now represent Maharashtra in "Bharat Shree" body building competition to be held in Bangalore on February 18 and 19.

D Y Patil Group trustee Prithviraj Sanjay Patil honoured the winners with cash award and a cup.



Mumbai batter Ajinkya Rahane celebrates after scoring a century on the fourth day of the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal match between Haryana and Mumbai at Eden Gardens, in Kolkata on Tuesday

Chelsea star Sam Kerr cleared of racial harassment

London, Feb 11 (UNI) : Chelsea striker Sam Kerr has been found not guilty of causing racially aggravated harassment, after calling a Metropolitan Police officer "stupid and white". A jury at Kingston Crown Court cleared her in relation to an incident in Twickenham, south-west London, on January 30, 2023.

The 31-year-old said she was "antagonised" by officers after she was taken to a police station by a taxi driver following a dispute, according to a BBC report.

The Australian international, who made the comments to PC Stephen Lovell, did not deny using

the words "stupid and white" but denied it amounted to a racial offence.

Kerr and Ms Mewis had been out drinking when they were driven to Twickenham Police Station by a taxi driver who complained that they had refused to pay clean-up costs after one of them was sick and that one of them had smashed the vehicle's rear window.

Judge Peter Lodder KC said: "I take the view her own behaviour contributed significantly to the bringing of this allegation."

"I don't go behind the jury's verdict but that has a

significant bearing on the question of costs."

During the trial, Kerr said she regretted the way she expressed herself but added: "I feel the message was still relevant."

She denied using whiteness as an insult and claimed: "I believed it was him using his power and privilege over me because he was accusing me of being something I'm not."

"I was trying to express that due to the power and privilege they had, they would never have to understand what we had just gone through and the fear we were having for our lives." It can now be reported that Kerr's legal

team attempted to get the case thrown out at a preliminary hearing, arguing there had been an abuse of process by Crown prosecutors.

Kerr's lawyer Grace Forbes said the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had violated its own guidance, adding that a "loophole" in the victims' right of review scheme was used to justify prosecution proceedings a year after the alleged offence.

During the trial, it was put to PC Lovell that he only provided a statement alleging that Kerr's comments had caused "alarm or harassment" after that decision.

Kelly left out of England's Nations League squad

London, Feb 11 (UNI) : Chloe Kelly has been left out of England's squad for the Women's Nations League matches against Portugal and Spain this month.

The forward moved to Arsenal from Women's Super League rivals Manchester City on transfer deadline day in January after falling out of favour at Joie Stadium, according to a BBC report.

The 27-year-old, who scored England's winner in the final of Euro 2022, has not been selected by manager Sarina Wiegman for the opening Nations League games on 21 and 26 February.

Lauren James and Ella Toone return to the squad following injury, but Georgia Stanway has been ruled out.

Nikita Parris is also called into the senior England squad for the first time since November 2022, as the Brighton forward is rewarded for a strong start to the Women's Super League (WSL) season.

Injury-hit Australia gear up for Sri Lanka ODIs

Colombo, Feb 11 (UNI) : Australia star batter Steve Smith said Champions Trophy is at the forefront of his team's thoughts ahead of the two-ODI series against Sri Lanka.

The 35-year-old, who is likely to stand in as skipper for the series with Australia struggling with injuries, emphasised that Australia are focused on the Champions Trophy, but dismissed any suggestion that they are taking the upcoming clashes against Sri Lanka lightly.

"I'd be lying if I said the Champions Trophy wasn't at the forefront of our minds, it's a massive ICC tournament for us," said Smith ahead of the ODI series against Sri Lanka.

"While our focus is firmly on finishing this series on a strong note, there is no denying that the Champions Trophy is looming large. We want to make sure we carry good form into that competition," he said.

Smith credited the training camp in the United Arab Emirates as a key factor in Australia's success on their subcontinent tour, an ICC report said. The team secured a 2-0 Test series sweep against Sri Lanka, marking their first red-ball series win in the country in 14 years. Now, they aim to carry that momentum into the Champions Trophy. "It was a hugely beneficial camp for us, we were able to prepare wickets [on] that were really challenging," Smith said. "The batters found methods to succeed in these conditions, the spinners worked on varying their pace, and the seamers fine-tuned their reverse swing, and we hope to bring all that into this series and finish well," he said.



Athletes participate in the 10 km race walk during the 38th National Games at Maharana Pratap Sports College, in Dehradun on Tuesday.

Meghalaya to host 39th National Games in 2027

Shillong, Feb 11 (UNI) : Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha on Tuesday confirmed to Chief Minister Conrad Sangma that Meghalaya's proposal to host the 39th National Games in 2027 has been accepted, with the mega event scheduled for February-March of that year. The Chief Minister, Sports & Youth Affairs Minister Shaktiar Warjri and others will receive the National Games flag as next hosts at the closing ceremony of the 38th edition on Friday in Uttarakhand.

In a letter to Chief Minister Sangma, Usha said the decision to allocate the hosting rights of the 39th National Games to Meghalaya in recognition of "Meghalaya's commitment to promoting sports and its capability to host a prestigious multi-sport event of this scale."

Reacting to the IOA's announcement, Chief Minister Sangma said, "The National Games are a

symbol of the nation's drive to pursue excellence in sports. It creates role models and stories of perseverance that inspire. It is an honour for Meghalaya to host the event and have our youth take in the excitement of the Games!"

Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Warjri also shared his joy regarding the announcement, saying, "Meghalaya has seen significant developments in its sports ecosystem in recent times, and is ready to be considered amongst the sporting powerhouses of the nation. We look forward to welcoming athletes and fans alike to Meghalaya to experience all the State has to offer!"

Meghalaya, then under the Chief Ministership of Dr Mukul Manda Sangma, had signed an agreement with the IOA in 2018 to host the National Games, with the original target of 2022.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic and the delay in other states to hold the Games according to their turn meant that the date for

Meghalaya was pushed back, with the government now looking to hold them in two years' time.

The announcement also comes off Meghalaya's most successful National Games campaign, where five medals were won by Meghalaya athletes in Uttarakhand.

Meghalaya has already begun preparations for the event in collaboration with the MSOA, where nearly 40 sports have been identified for consideration. Further, the State shall host events in all three major cities of Meghalaya - Shillong, Tura, and Jowai.

It is estimated that nearly twelve thousand athletes shall participate in the Games. The marquee infrastructure of the J.N. Sports Complex, the P.A. Sangma Sports Complex, and the Wahiajer Stadium shall be used during the Games, along with other venues such as the Mawdiangdiang Sports Complex and the Integrated Hospitality and Sports Complex which shall also be ready.

Shohaly Akhter banned for five years under ICC anti-corruption code

Dubai, Feb 11 (UNI) : The International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned Bangladesh player Shohaly Akhter from all cricket for five years after she admitted breaching five provisions of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.

Shohaly admitted to being in breach of the following provisions of the Code:

Article 2.1.1: Fixing or contriving in any way or otherwise influencing improperly or being a party to any agreement or effort to fix or contrive in any way or otherwise influence improperly, the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any International Match, including (without limitation) by deliberately underperforming therein.

Article 2.1.3: Seeking, accepting, offering or agreeing to accept any bribe or other Reward to (a) fix or to contrive in any way or otherwise to influence improperly the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any International Match or (b) to ensure for Betting or other corrupt purposes the occurrence of a particular incident in an International Match.

Article 2.1.4: Directly

or indirectly soliciting, inducing, enticing, instructing, persuading, encouraging or intentionally facilitating any Participant to breach any of the foregoing provisions of this Article 2.1.

Article 2.4.4: Failing to disclose to the ACU (without unnecessary delay) full details of any approaches or invitations received by the Participant to engage in Corrupt Conduct under the Anti-Corruption Code.

Article 2.4.7: Obstructing or delaying any investigation that may be carried out by the ACU in relation to possible Corrupt Conduct under the Anti-Corruption Code (by any Participant),

including (without limitation) concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to that investigation and/or that may be evidence of or may lead to the discovery of evidence of Corrupt Conduct under the Anti-Corruption Code.

Having admitted the charges, Shohaly accepted a sanction of a five-year period of ineligibility starting February 10, 2025.

The charges relate to corrupt approaches made in relation to matches in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 held in South Africa, according to ICC media statement.

Printed, Published and Owned by
Mohammed Shafi

Printed at Haritha Printers
Plot No : 70, Opposite Petrol Pump, VUDA
Colony, Gopalapatnam, Visakhapatnam-530 027.

Published from # 39-22/1/4,
Near Vuda Quarters, Kalinga Nagar,
Madhavadhara, Visakhapatnam - 530 007.

Editor: Mohammed Shafi
R.N.I.No. : APENG/2013/52180

Cell : 9849881368, Tel : 040 - 23232705
Email : standardpostvizag@gmail.com

Mock Drill alert conducted at Waltair Division : ECoR



(Standard Post Bureau) Visakhapatnam, Feb 11 : In line with the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager, Shri Manoj Kumar Sahoo, Waltair Division successfully carried out a

mock drill this afternoon to assess the alertness, preparedness, and spontaneous response of staff during rescue operations. The scenario involved the derailment of Train

No. 08874, travelling from Sambalpur City to SMV Bengaluru, between Jimidipeta and Kureru at 16:31 hrs.

Upon receiving the alert, staff and officers promptly responded, with hooters signaling the commencement of the drill.

Control rooms were activated, and protocols for deploying Accident Relief Trains, Medical Emergency Trains, and other necessary resources were swiftly activated.

Help desks were also opened to disseminate information to the public.

The mock drill, organized by Senior Divisional Safety Officer Shri M.K. Sahoo, aimed to evaluate the efficiency of staff in executing rescue operations.

The exercise concluded at 17:00 hrs, confirming the division's preparedness for any emergency situation.

Solapur Divisions's Cohesive Teamwork Ensures Safe Recovery of Passenger's Belongings Fallen from Running Train at Martur Station



(Standard Post Bureau) Solapur, Feb 11 : The Solapur Division of Central Railway once again demonstrated its commitment to passenger service and safety through exemplary teamwork and readiness of its track maintenance staff. A commendable incident of quick response and coordinated efforts unfolded at Martur Station, showcasing the dedication and sensitivity of the railway staff in handling additional

responsibilities beyond their routine duties." On 10th February 2025, at 4:15 AM, the Dy SS (Deputy Station Superintendent), Kalaburagi relayed a distress message that a passenger's bag had fallen onto the tracks from Train No 17307 Basava Express near the Solapur-End platform of Martur station. Acting promptly, the Dy SS, Martur mobilised all available night patrolmen, mates and keymen to locate and retrieve the bag.

The extensive search efforts bore fruit when a vigilant keyman found the bag in the morning and promptly handed it over to the Dy SS, Martur at 9:30 AM. The passenger, who had travelled back to Martur by road later in the afternoon, was relieved to find his bag intact at the station. All his original documents and personal belongings were safely returned to him, reinforcing the efficiency and integrity of the railway personnel. The passenger expressed immense gratitude and appreciation for the railway staff, commending their sincerity and dedication.

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Solapur Division, Dr. Sujet Mishra appreciated the railway staff on cohesive team working and readiness of staff on track to take additional responsibilities with sensitivity."

This incident highlights the spirit of cohesive teamwork within the Solapur Division, where every railway personnel, from station staff to track maintenance teams, stand prepared to go beyond their call of duty to assist passengers with empathy and responsibility. The unwavering commitment of our railway workforce continues to enhance the trust and confidence of passengers in Indian Railways.

RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani, family take holy dip in Sangam

Prayagraj, Feb 11 (UNI) Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani participated in the grand Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Tuesday and took a holy dip at Triveni Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and mystic Saraswati rivers.

The Ambani family was deeply moved by the spiritual experience as they immersed themselves in the revered waters. Mukesh Ambani was accompanied by his sons Akash Ambani and Anant Ambani, Akash's wife Shloka Ambani, and their children Prithvi and Veda. Anant Ambani's wife, Radhika Merchant, also joined the family for the divine occasion. Besides, Kokilaben Ambani (Mukesh Ambani's mother), his sisters Nina Ambani and Dipti Ambani, as well as Nita Ambani's mother, Purnima Dalal and sister, Mamta Dalal, were present to partake in the sacred event.

GM's Safety Award for 11 Staff of Central Railway



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 11 : Dharam Veer Meena, General Manager, Central Railway felicitated 11 Central Railway staff i.e. 3 from Mumbai Division, 4 from Pune Division, 2 from Solapur Division, 1 from Bhusaval Division and 1 from Nagpur Division with Safety Award in a function held at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Mumbai on 11.02.2025.

The awards were presented in recognition of their alertness during duty, their contribution in averting untoward incidents and ensuring safety in train operations during the previous months. Each award consists of a medal, commendation certificate, a citation of exemplary safety work and cash prize of Rs 2000/-.

Mumbai Division

1. Shri Arun Kumar Pandit, Master Craftsman(MCM), Vashi, Mumbai, during a routine inspection on 14.01.2025 noticed a rail fracture at kms 28.21. He immediately stopped the train, removed the gas cylinder (which was filled with gas), informed all concerned and proceeded. His keen observation and quick thinking helped avert a potential mishap.

2. Shri Rajan Singh, Pointsman, PDP siding, Pen, Mumbai, on 04.01.2025 during work of load release at yard, noticed a rail fracture on main line at kms 113/8-9. He immediately informed the Station Master, PDP Siding. The Permanent Way Inspector was alerted and the problem was put right after observing safety rules. His presence of mind helped avert a possible mishap.

3. Shri Deepak Kumar, Electric Signal Maintainer, Dativali, Mumbai, during an

Instagram account of MP Suresh Mhatre hacked

Mumbai, Feb 11 (UNI) The city police on Tuesday registered an FIR (first information report) against an unknown person for allegedly hacking the Instagram account of Suresh Mhatre, alias Balya Mama, a member of Parliament from Bhiwandi in neighbouring Thane district. On behalf of NCP (SP) MP, a complaint was filed at Narpoli police station stating that Mhatre's Instagram and email accounts were hacked, and his mobile number and email address were changed without authorisation.

Police inspector Pramod Kumbhar said that a case has been registered against unidentified hacker under Sections 43 and 66 of the Information Technology Act.

inspection of track T314 on 07.01.2025 noticed a rail fracture at kms 46.65. He immediately informed all concerned after following safety rules and traffic on the section resumed after appropriate action was taken. His keen observation helped avert a potential mishap.

Pune Division

4. Shri R T Vani, Loco Pilot, Pune, while on duty on Train no 12026 Secunderabad-Pune Exp noticed a small gas cylinder placed on the track at kms 219/7-5 on the Uruli-Lonavala section. He immediately stopped the train, removed the gas cylinder (which was filled with gas), informed all concerned and proceeded. His keen observation and quick thinking helped avert a major untoward incident.

5. Shri Dharam Chand Meena, AC mechanic, Train Escorting staff, Pune, was on duty in Train no 11077 Pune-Jammu Tawi Jhelum exp. On 08.01.2025 when the train reached Visapur, passengers pulled the alarm chain when smoke was seen coming out of one of the General Coaches. The train was stopped and Shri Birbal Singh, reached the affected coach and put out the fire with the help of 5 fire extinguishers. Their immediate action has

helped avert a major mishap.

6. Shri Birbal Singh, AC mechanic, Train Escorting staff, Pune, was on duty in Train no 11077 Pune-Jammu Tawi Jhelum exp. On 08.01.2025 when the train reached Visapur, passengers pulled the alarm chain when smoke was seen coming out of one of the General Coaches. The train was stopped and Shri Birbal Singh along with Shri Meena, reached the affected coach and put out the fire with the help of 5 fire extinguishers. Their immediate action has helped avert a major mishap.

7. Shri Siddhanath Kumar, Electric Signal Maintainer, Kopargaon, Pune, was on duty on 14.01.2025 at Kopargaon Station. After Train no 11039 DN, Maharashtra Exp passed by the common loop line, on duty Station Master informed about failed track circuit no 218AT. An inspection revealed a weld fracture. Shri Siddhanath immediately informed the Station Master, the Permanent Way Inspector was informed and a possible mishap was averted.

Solapur Division

8. Shri Lekharam Meena, Travelling Ticket

Examiner, Solapur, was on duty on Train no 12115 C S M T - S o l a p u r Siddheshwar exp. When the train departed from Thane station, Shri Meena heard an unusual sound and experienced some vibrations in Coach S-4. On inspection it was found that there was a crack on the coupling between Coach S-4 and S-3 which was increasing. Shri Meena immediately informed the Commercial Control and other concerned departments and at Kalyan station, a team of staff from Coaching, Operating and Wagon depts immediately checked the train and the Coach was found to be unfit. The problem was solved and due to the immediate action of Shri Meena a major mishap was averted.

9. Shri Vishnu Bauri, Electric Signal Maintainer, Godgaon, Solapur, on 11.01.2025, was attending home signal S-2 which was not getting cleared along with the loop line. Additionally calling on signal was also not getting cleared with both lines. A detailed inspection revealed that C4 of VCOR Relay was disconnected with Jumper wire fuse no R1, A2.11 and OC-00 which was a serious issue. The matter was put right and the problem was solved and a

potential mishap was averted due to the efforts of Shri Bauri.

Nagpur Division

10. Shri Avinash Kumar, Pointsman, Borkhedhi, Nagpur, while on duty at Borkhedhi station, on 19.01.2025 during routine inspection of Goods train on line no 1, noticed the wheel flange of the front trolley of the 4th wagon in a raised position, which could cause derailment. He immediately informed the Train Manager and on duty Deputy Station Manager. The matter was put right and a potential mishap was averted.

Bhusaval Division

11. Shri Gajanan Patil, Track Maintainer, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, while on duty on 25.12.2024, noticed that as Train no 12833 Down Ahmedabad-Howrah exp, departed from Jalgaon station, one person hanging on to the door of an AC coach was being dragged and was in danger of coming under the train. Shri Patil quickly rushed and pulled the person to safety. His act of bravery and presence of mind has helped save a life.

Congratulating the awardees and complimenting them for their alertness and dedication towards their duties, the General Manager said that such acts of alertness and bravery will motivate others to sincerely work towards the safety of passengers and avert loss of life, freight and railway property. "Shri Prateek Goswami, Additional General Manager, Shri Chandra Kishore Prasad, Principal Chief Safety Officer, Other Principal Head of Departments and Senior Officers of Central Railway were present on the occasion.

Beware of fraudulent messages; Mahavitaran appeals

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kalyan/Bhandup, Feb 11 : Mahavitaran has appealed to electricity consumers not to fall prey to fraudulent messages regarding electricity bill payment from unknown numbers and to be wary of cyber scammers who are robbing them. Detailed information on how to prevent fraud through fake messages is available on Mahavitaran's website and mobile app.

Electricity supply will be disconnected tonight due to your electricity bill not being updated. For this, fake messages are being sent to citizens asking them to contact the mobile number provided immediately. If a consumer contacts, they are asked to download software by sending a fake link for online payment from their personal mobile

number to pay the electricity bill. If they respond to it, there is a high possibility of hacking the mobile or computer and losing the money in the bank account. Therefore, Mahavitaran has appealed to electricity consumers to completely ignore such fake messages."

Only the electricity consumers who have registered their mobile numbers are informed by the MSEDCL about scheduled maintenance and repairs, the possible time taken to restore the electricity supply in case of interruption due to technical or other reasons, as well as the amount of electricity bills per month, an appeal to the consumers to send meter readings on

their own, the date of meter reading and the total number of units used, the due date of the electricity bill, the formal notice of interruption of electricity supply, etc. through SMS. Also, the official message does not inform the electricity consumers or citizens about contacting any official of MSEDCL on their personal mobile.

Be careful; avoid fraud:

MSEDCL does not ask you to contact any person MSEDCL only sends SMS from SENDER IDs like VM-MSEDCL/VK-MSEDCL/AM-MSEDCL/JM-MSEDCL and SMS and WhatsApp messages, emails are not sent from any personal mobile number.

(First 2 letters of SENDER ID indicate the operator and location from

where the message is being sent and it ends at MSEDCL.)

Do not download links or any software for bill payment

Do not contact any personal mobile number mentioned in the message.

Do not share your mobile or desktop screen or the OTP you received under any circumstances while making online payments. The customer can lodge a complaint/FIR with the nearest cyber police station or register an online complaint on the National Cyber Crime Portal <https://cybercrime.gov.in> or on the Citizen Financial Fraud Portal at 1930.

For further information/queries, the customer can contact the official toll free numbers 1800-212-3435 or 1800-233-3435.