

IN BRIEF

Waqf JPC report: Oppn walks out of Lok Sabha alleging dissent notes not included

New Delhi, Feb 13 (UNI) The Opposition on Thursday created a ruckus and walked out of the Lok Sabha, alleging that dissent notes have not been included in the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf Amendment Bill, that was tabled in the house.

As soon as the JPC Chairman Jagdambika Pal tabled the panel's report on the table of the house, the Opposition members created a ruckus. Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Some Opposition members have raised concern that their views have not been included completely in the report. I want to say on behalf of my party that taking into consideration the concerns of the Opposition, I request you to add whatever disputes there are, as per the appropriate form of parliamentary functioning. My party has no objection to this". On this, Speaker Om Birla said that some members of the Opposition had met him and expressed their objections and their disagreements have been placed in the annexure of the report. The Opposition was not satisfied with this and continued creating ruckus. Later they walked out of the house.

BRS to hold State party executive meeting on Feb 19

Hyderabad, Feb 13 (UNI) : The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) party is to organise a state executive meeting chaired by party Chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) at Telangana Bhavan here on February 19.

The meeting will be attended by party leaders at all levels, including the State executive committee, district party Presidents, present and former MPs, legislative council members, MLAs, corporation chairpersons, district parishad Chairpersons, DCCB and DCMS Presidents, and party constituency in-charges, according to party sources here.

Google announces collaboration with govt to set up AI Accelerator in Hyd



(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Feb 13 : Google on Thursday announced it has entered into a strategic collaboration with the Telangana government to set up an AI Accelerator in Hyderabad that aims to support AI startups and accelerate development of AI solutions across sectors including agriculture, mobility,

education, sustainability and governance. An MoU was signed at T-Hub in the presence of Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, IT & Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu and Google representatives, an official release said here. Under this MoU, Google will partner with the Telangana government to

develop AI-powered agricultural solutions to empower farmers and improve mobility via transit data integration and road information sharing. The partnership will also focus on AI skilling and upskilling programmes, supporting digital learning ecosystems through Google for education, and launching an Open

Agriculture Network to connect farmers with essential resources. The collaboration aims to enhance open data access through Google's Data Commons platform, accelerate solar adoption using Google's Solar API and foster the startup ecosystem through accelerator programmes. Congratulating Google

on the occasion, the CM stated, "This collaboration with Google strengthens our vision for an AI-enabled Telangana. By integrating cutting-edge AI technologies, we aim to revolutionize key sectors, ensuring better governance, economic progress, and enhanced public services. This partnership marks a significant step in our digital journey."

Google India Country Manager Preeti Lobana said, "This collaboration with Telangana reinforces Google's commitment to India's digital future. We're excited to combine our AI expertise with the state's vision to cultivate an AI-ready workforce, foster startup innovation, and address key areas like agriculture, education, and sustainability.

AI is uniquely poised to unleash huge value in these key economic areas, and we're excited to collaborate with Telangana to translate these possibilities..."

Imposition of President's Rule admission of BJP's inability to govern Manipur: Rahul Gandhi

Imphal, Feb 14 (IANS) Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said that the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur is a belated admission by the BJP of their complete inability to govern in Manipur.

Rahul Gandhi in a post on X, said: "Now, PM Modi can no longer deny his direct responsibility for Manipur. Has he finally made up his mind to visit the state, and explain to the people of Manipur and India his plan to restore peace and normalcy?"

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh in a separate post on the X said: "On the 10th of February, the Congress was bringing a no-confidence motion. They knew the chief minister had lost the confidence of his own BJP and NDA colleagues."

Consequently, the Chief Minister was forced to resign on February 9, said Ramesh, also a member of Parliament.

He said that the requirement to convene the next session within six months of the previous one was violated on February 12. "And today, they've announced the President's Rule. We will consult our party colleagues and hold internal meetings to discuss whether to demand midterm polls in Manipur. However, our immediate demand is for the Prime Minister to visit Manipur," the Rajya Sabha member said on Monday.

Meanwhile, Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), an apex body of Kuki-Zo tribals in Manipur supported the imposition of President's rule in the trouble-torn state.

ITLF spokesman Ginza Vualzong said that the president's rule is more preferable than a change of Chief Minister. "The Kuki-Zo do not trust Meitei anymore, so a new Meitei Chief Minister is still far from comforting. President's Rule will give a ray of hope to the Kuki-Zo, and we believe that it will be one step closer to our political solution," Vualzong said.

President's rule imposed in Manipur, Assembly under suspended animation

Imphal, Feb 13 (UNI) :The Central government on Thursday imposed President's rule in trouble-torn Manipur by keeping the northeastern state's Assembly under suspended animation, four days after N. Biren Singh resigned as chief minister.

A notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs said the President of India, Draupadi Murmu, has received a report from the state Governor and after considering the report and other information received, she was satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the Government of that state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the country's Constitution.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 356 of the Constitution, and of all other powers, the President proclaimed that all functions of the Government of the State of Manipur and all powers vested in or exercisable by the Governor of that State, powers of the Legislature of the said State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of

Parliament, said the notification. "The President of India will act to such extent as she thinks fit through the Governor of the said state," it said. The operation of the provisions of the Constitution in relation to that state was suspended and the list of the provisions was given in the order. "The Manipur Legislative Assembly will be under suspended animation," the state government said in a press note. Biren Singh on Sunday submitted his resignation letter to Manipur Governor A K Bhalla immediately after arriving from New Delhi. He had arrived at Imphal along with BJP leader Sambit Patra and some other MLAs.

Biren has in the letter expressed gratitude to the Central government for timely actions, interventions, developmental work and implementation of various projects for safeguarding the interest of every single Manipuri. He requested the Central government to continue with the same. He also asked the centre

to maintain the territorial integrity of Manipur which has a rich and diverse civilisational history of over thousands of years.

The Governor had then asked the CM to continue serving as the caretaker Chief Minister. Sambit Patra held talks with the BJP MLAs to chalk out a strategy to elect a new leader. However, so far there was no consensus among the leaders. The present Assembly's tenure ends in 2027. However, Manipur is also passing through a Constitutional crisis as the state Assembly session scheduled on Feb 10 was also suspended. There cannot be a gap of six months between two Assembly sessions and the last Assembly session concluded on Aug 12, 2024.

With the imposition of President's rule in the backdrop of the conflict which began on May 3, 2023 the Governor, A K Bhalla - a former Union Home Secretary - will now be responsible for restoring normalcy and managing the affairs of the state.

SC grants pre-arrest bail to actor Mohan Babu

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI) : The Supreme Court on Thursday granted anticipatory bail to Telugu actor Mohan Babu in an alleged case of assault of a journalist. A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahsanuddin Amanullah directed Babu to cooperate with the ongoing investigation.

Babu had moved the top court against the

December 23 2024 Telangana High Court order which dismissed his anticipatory bail application. "Custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not required. Hence, the order dated January 9, 2025, granting interim protection to the petitioner should be made absolute," it said.

The bench went on, "Therefore, we grant

anticipatory bail to the petitioner. Accordingly, in the event of the arrest of the petitioner, the petitioner is directed to be released on bail forthwith on the usual terms and conditions to be decided by the court concerned." On January 9, the apex court granted interim protection to Babu.

On December 12, 2024, an attempt to murder

charge was added to the case filed against the actor by the 35-year-old journalist. The journalist has alleged Babu was aggressive towards him and other journalists during a visit to the actor's Jalpally home on December 10, 2024, to cover an ongoing dispute between the actor and his younger son Manoj. The differences within the Babu family

became public on December 9 after the actor filed a police complaint, alleging his son Manoj and his wife had "orchestrated" a plan to take possession of his Jalpally home through intimidation and force. Manoj claimed his fight was not for a "share of the property" but for "self-respect and the safety of his wife and children".



Bawankule on 3-day tour of State

As part of BJP's 'Sangthan Parv' campaign, state BJP president and Revenue Minister Chandrasekhar Bawankule is on a three-day visit of Maharashtra from February 13. According to an official media statement issued on Wednesday, party's working president Ravindra Chavan will accompany him on this journey and will interact with office-bearers and activists of various constituencies in the state.

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SC denies bail to accused in 2020 Bengaluru Riots Case



The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to grant bail to Shabbar Khan, who has been chargesheeted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, in connection with the riots that took place in Bengaluru on August 11, 2020. The violence was reportedly triggered by a Facebook post allegedly containing derogatory remarks about Prophet Muhammad.

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Yuvraj Sandhu shoots a steady 68, holds on to the lead



Yuvraj Sandhu of Chandigarh hung on to a one-shot lead courtesy his steady two-under 68 on day three often referred to as 'moving day' in golf here on Thursday. Yuvraj (63-61-68), a winner at Tollygunge Club in the past,

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'Lok Sabha registered 112 pc of productivity in first phase of



Lok Sabha has registered 112 percent of productivity in the first phase of the Budget session, which concluded on Thursday, despite disruption from the opposition members on various issues, Speaker Om Birla said. The lower house of Parliament was adjourned by the Speaker till March 10.

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In this image released by @SachinPilot via X, Congress Leader Sachin Pilot prays after taking a holy dip at Sangam during Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, in Prayagraj.

Bathing in Sangam is like attaining salvation: Jyotiraditya Scindia

Prayagraj, Feb 13 (UNI) Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia took a dip in the Sangam during ongoing Maha Kumbh on Thursday and prayed for public welfare as part of this sacred tradition. Expressing his gratitude, Scindia said that immersing in the holy waters of the Sangam is akin to attaining salvation. He considered himself fortunate to be part of this divine occasion. On behalf of the state government, Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi welcomed Scindia with a Kumbh Kalash, marking the moment with reverence.

The Union Minister thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for organising such a magnificent and divine event. He said that generations have long awaited a spectacle of this scale, where people worldwide gather to take a dip of faith in the Sangam. He described the participation of over 50 crore devotees as an extraordinary experience and lauded the impeccable arrangements at the Mahakumbh. Reflecting on his ancestral connection with Prayagraj, Scindia noted that his forefathers played a pivotal role in freeing this region from Mughal rule and restoring its spiritual.

Punjab govt's bonanza to six lakh employees and pensioners

Chandigarh, Feb 13 (UNI) In a bonanza to six lakh employees and pensioners of the state government, the Punjab Cabinet on Thursday accorded consent to disburse pending arrears worth Rs 14,000 crore to them.

A decision to this effect was taken in the meeting of the Council of Ministers held here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann

A Chief Minister's Office (CMO) spokesperson said the Cabinet gave the nod to release arrears of revised pay/ pensions and leave encashment from January 2016 to June 2022 and DA/ DR from

July 2021 to March 2024 for pensioners and employees.

The sum worth Rs 14,000 crore will be released in stages and give much-needed relief to the employees and pensioners. Three lakh employees and three lakh pensioners of the state government will be directly benefitted by this move.

In an endeavour to provide houses to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) of the society, the Cabinet green-lighted a policy for "optimum utilisation of land reserved for EWS".

As per the new policy, scattered land pockets in various colonies will be monetised and the funds received from such sale will be utilised for the benefit of EWS.

Around 1,500 acres of land will be acquired across the state as part of the scheme.

The development authorities will be authorised to plan the scattered land pockets at their level to cater to the needs of the end user in such a way that reasonable revenue would be generated for the department by way of auctioning of these sites. The officials will also be authorised to identify and acquire separate chunks of land for making either plots or houses for the EWS so that the interest of this section of the society is taken care of by the government. The Cabinet also okayed a proposal to enhance the monthly honorarium of the rural chowkidars from the existing Rs 1250 to Rs 1500. U

Hearing in MCC violation case against Sanjay Singh

Sultanpur (UP), Jan 13 (UNI) No proceedings could be held in the model code of conduct violation case against Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh in an MP-MLA court here on Thursday. Special Public Prosecutor of Sultanpur civil court Vaibhav Pandey said that the MP's busy schedule in Rajya Sabha proceedings was cited to be the reason behind his absence. "The next hearing is scheduled for February 21," he said. He said that the case is related to a public meeting held in Hasnapur on April 13, 2021, during the three-tier Panchayat elections. "Thirteen people, including Sanjay Singh, are accused of holding a public meeting in favour of AAP's district Panchayat member candidate Salma Begum in violation of the election code of conduct and the Epidemic Act," he said.

Pandey said that all the accused are already on bail and now charges are to be framed in the case. "During hearing on Thursday, the MP's advocate informed about the absence citing his busy schedule in Rajya Sabha proceedings, after which the court has fixed the date of next hearing as February 21," he added.

Former Shiv Sena (UBT) legislator Rajan Salvi joins Shinde faction

Thane, Feb 13 (IANS) Shiv Sena (UBT) received yet another blow after a three-term legislator Rajan Salvi, who lost the 2024 Assembly elections from the Ratapur constituency in Konkan region, on Thursday joined the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.

Salvi, who was sulking over his neglect by the party especially after his defeat in the 2024 Assembly elections, resigned from the post of Shiv Sena (UBT) deputy

leader on Wednesday.

"I am Balasaheb Thackeray's beloved Shiv Sainik. I have done the work as he had intended to date and will carry forward his ideology," said Salvi.

Shiv Sena sources said that Salvi's move to quit the Thackeray faction and join the Eknath Shinde's camp was a part of 'Operation Tiger'.

The sources said Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders, workers and several sitting legislators are keen

to cross over.

Salvi joined Shiv Sena in the presence of party chief and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Industry Minister Uday Samant and a host of party leaders at Thane.

Salvi had met Eknath Shinde along with Uday Samant and Kiran Samant, who had defeated Salvi in the 2024 Assembly elections from the Rajapur seat.

Samant brothers assured Shinde to take Salvi along in the development of the Rajapur seat and he would be given due honour in the functioning of the party organisation. Shinde faction may consider nominating Salvi to the state Legislative Council under the Governor's quota.

By joining Shiv Sena, he has set at rest speculation about joining the BJP. Salvi announced that he would work under Eknath Shinde to further strengthen Shiv Sena in the Rajapur constituency and the

Thapan's death a suicide, upon which the bench directed the State to show the relevant portion of the CCTV footage to Devi's advocate.

In December last year, the court had observed that the 18-year-old's demise did not appear to be a custodial death. It also noted that police had no apparent reason to harm him, as he could have been helpful in their investigation.

Thapan was found hanging in the toilet of the Crime Branch lock-up at Crawford Market on May one, 2024. Police claimed he used a bedsheet to take the extreme step. A mandatory magisterial inquiry was

conducted, and a report was submitted to the HC.

The CID, which also investigated the case, submitted a separate report.

On April 14, 2024, two motorcycle-borne men allegedly opened fire outside Galaxy Apartments in suburban Bandra, where Khan resides with his family. The alleged shooters, Vicky Gupta and Sagar Pal, were later arrested from Gujarat. Thapan and an associate were apprehended in Punjab on April 26 for allegedly supplying firearms and ammunition for the shooting. Police claimed he had links to gangster Lawrence Bishnoi.

Bawankule on 3-day tour of State

Mumbai, Feb 13 (UNI) As part of BJP's 'Sangthan Parv' campaign, state BJP president and Revenue Minister Chandrasekhar Bawankule is on a three-day visit of Maharashtra from February 13. According to an official media statement issued on Wednesday, party's working president Ravindra Chavan will accompany him on this journey and will interact with office-bearers and activists of various constituencies in the state.

On February 13, a meeting with activists and office-bearers will be held at Akola and Nagpur. Next day, on February 14, another meeting will be held in Nanded and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. On February 15, he will hold meetings in Jalgaon and Nashik, the statement added.

Shab-e-Baraat prayers disallowed at Jamia, CM calls in "very unfortunate"

Srinagar, Feb 13 (UNI) : Anjuman Auqaf, the managing body of Jamia Masjid, Thursday said that authorities have disallowed the Shab-e-Baraat (Night of Salvation) congregation at the historic mosque in old Srinagar. J&K chief Minister Omar Abdullah termed the sealing of the mosque very unfortunate, stating that this reflects a lack of confidence in the people as well as in the law and order machinery. "It is very unfortunate that the security establishment has taken the decision to seal the historic Jamia Masjid, Srinagar on one of the holiest nights in the Islamic calendar - #shabebaraat. This decision betrays a lack in confidence in the people & a lack of confidence in the law & order machinery that calm won't prevail without extreme measures. The people of Srinagar deserved better," Abdullah said in a post on X.

Earlier, the Anjuman Auqaf said this is for the sixth consecutive year in a row that Shab-e-Baraat congregation has been disallowed at the Jamia mosque in Srinagar. There was no word from officials on disallowing the congregation prayers at Jamia. The Shab-e-Baraat is observed by Muslims on the intervening night of the 14th and 15th days of Sha'ban, the eighth month of the Islamic calendar. According to a tradition, though not believed by all Muslims, God determines the fate of all people for the coming year during the night of Shab-e-Baraat only. In a statement Anjuman Auqaf informed that following Asr prayers (late afternoon prayers), authorities abruptly closed the gates of Jamia Masjid Srinagar, while police personnel asked worshippers to vacate the mosque premises.

The Auqaf was further informed that the observance of Shab-e-Baraat would not be permitted at the Jama Masjid, the statement said.

Road rage incident leads to assault in Tangmarg; police initiate action

Srinagar, Feb 13 (UNI) : A road rage incident that began in Srinagar escalated into violence in Tangmarg area of Baramulla district on Thursday afternoon, when a group of miscreants attacked an XUV-300 vehicle carrying five occupants, police said.

The vehicle, bearing a Haryana registration number, was carrying three men from Haryana and two women from South Kashmir when it was intercepted and attacked by individuals trailing them from Srinagar. The incident occurred around 1:45 PM in the jurisdiction of Police Station Tangmarg. A police team rushed to the spot for rescue but was also assaulted, with one Head Constable sustaining a head injury. However, several local residents intervened to assist the police in rescuing the victims.

"Many locals in the area also rushed in to help the police in rescuing the 5 persons being assaulted. FIR in this regard has been registered in PS Tangmarg. The assailants are being identified and will be held accountable before law," a police statement said.

According to a preliminary investigation, the altercation stemmed from a road rage incident in Srinagar, leading to the attack in Tangmarg.

"When the trailing vehicles caught up with XUV-300 in Tangmarg, persons from the trailing vehicles came out and assaulted the 5 occupants," police said, adding that no illegal, immoral or unethical incident involving the occupants of the vehicles has come to light.

Police said they have taken serious note of misinformation and rumors being circulated on social media to incite unrest. "J&K Police has taken note of this and has begun profiling the individuals who are trying to spread fake discourse with the aim of disrupting peace and order. Legal action shall be taken against the individuals indulging in spreading fake news regarding the matter," the statement said.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.W. SPECIAL PROJECT DIVISION, AAREY, MUMBAI 400 065

E-mail: spaarey.ee@mahapwd.com. Tel No 022-29272447

Tender Notice No. 30 for 2024-2025

Online Tender (e-tender) in "B-1" Form for the following work is invited by the Executive Engineer, Works Special Project Division, Aarey, Goregaon(E), Mumbai 400 065 from the Class VA and above Registered Contractor under Public Works Department Government of Maharashtra through Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management System. Tender documents are available online on website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. The right to accept or reject the above said e-tender without assigning any reason rests with the competent authority Conditional tender shall not be accepted.

Sr No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost in Rupees
1.	REFURBISHMENT OF HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING LAB, ELECTRICAL HUB & IOT LAB AT 5TH FLOOR IN UMIT BLDG., MAKER SPACE (MECHAANICAL) AT GR FLOOR PVP BUILDING S.N.D.T.W.U. JUHU CAMPUS.	Rs.6969496.00

E-Tender Schedule:-

1	Period of downloading of tender	From Date 13/02/2025 @15:00 to Date 10/03/2025 @15:00
2	Bid Submission	From Date 13/02/2025 @15:00 to Date 10/03/2025 @15:00
3	Opening of Tender (Online)	Date 11/03/2025 @ 15:15. In the office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Special Project Division, Aarey, Goregaon, Mumbai 400065.

All information of e-tendering is available on the following websites:-

- <https://mahapwd.com>
- <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

(If any changes occurred in tender notice, the same shall be available on above websites)

Tender notice is available on the Notice board of office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Special Project Division, Aarey, Goregaon (E).

No.EE/PWSPD/Aarey/TC/ 324
Office of The Executive Engineer,
P.W.Special Project Division, Aarey,
Goregaon (E) Mumbai-400065

Date:- 11/02/2025

DGIPR/2024-25/6385

Executive Engineer,
P.W.Special Project Division, Aarey,
Goregaon (E), Mumbai-65

Microsoft opens its new campus in Hyd



(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Feb 13 : Tech Giant Microsoft opened its new campus here on Thursday.

The new campus was inaugurated by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy along with Minister for IT & Industries D Sridhar Babu. This state-of-the-art 1.1 million sq. ft. The LEED-certified building in Gachibowli will house 2,500 additional employees.

This is already Microsoft's largest R&D hub outside US Headquarters and the inauguration of the new campus further consolidates Hyderabad's position as the leading global IT powerhouse.

Microsoft employs over 20,000 professionals in India, over half of which work in Hyderabad. With

the launch of the new building, Microsoft plans to hire another 4,800 employees. On this occasion, Microsoft also announced another landmark initiative in partnership with the Government of Telangana to impart AI training to over 1.2 lakh persons in the state. Under the first program ADVANTA (I) GE TELANGANA, Microsoft is launching an AI Foundations Academy to introduce AI education to 500 government schools benefiting 50,000 students.

Additionally, the AI-Industry Pro program will upskill 20,000 industry professionals across Telangana. The third program AI-Govern initiative will further train 50,000 government officials in critical areas such as

digital productivity, Generative AI, and cybersecurity. Also, Microsoft will establish and operate an AICoE in collaboration with the Government of Telangana and other stakeholders.

This CoE will establish a cloud-based infrastructure for AI development, including a centralized AI Knowledge Hub. This repository would compile research, case studies, and best practices benefiting thousands of employees across the state. To support the growth of AI, Microsoft has further announced a doubling of its investments in hyperscale AI data centers in the state with an additional investment of INR 15,000 crore in the coming years. This will make Hyderabad region one of

the largest data hubs of Microsoft globally.

These initiatives are in line with the CM's priority to make Hyderabad an AI Hub in the country and complement the state's initiative AI city and AI roadmap.

An MoU encompassing all the above initiatives was signed between the company and the ITE&C department and exchanged in the presence of the CM and IT Minister, and this is a direct outcome of the recent meeting between CM and Satya Nadella in January 2025, where they agreed to work closely to modernize government IT and cloud infrastructure and fast track the development and adoption of AI solutions. Congratulating Microsoft on the occasion, the CM

remarked, "Hyderabad and Microsoft have grown together, and as a proud representative of this state, I can say with certainty this is just the beginning. The world looks at Hyderabad today as a technology powerhouse, a city that nurtures innovation and attracts global talent. And with partners like Microsoft, the future is even brighter."

Addressing the gathering, the IT Minister said "The new campus and the several AI related initiatives launched by Microsoft reflects their commitment to sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation in the state." Rajiv Kumar, Managing Director and President, Microsoft India Development Centre, who was also present at the occasion remarked, "The new building at the Microsoft India Development Center (IDC) in Hyderabad underscores our commitment to Telangana's innovation ecosystem and India's vision of becoming an AI-first nation. This expansion will provide state-of-the-art infrastructure to our teams, enabling them to innovate and develop next-generation AI products". We are grateful to CM Revanth Reddy and IT Minister Sridhar Babu, for gracing today's event with their presence. We look forward to our partnership to accelerate digital transformation and AI skilling opportunities across the state, he added.

Revenue Inspector in ACB net

Hyderabad, Feb 13 (UNI) : The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested the

Revenue Inspector (RI) of Dubbaka Tahsildar office in Siddipet District, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹ 1,00,000.

The arrest followed a complaint from a resident of Dubbaka mandal in Siddipet District.

In a release here, the ACB said the accused, Manyam Narsimha demanded the bribe to process the succession of patta land in the name of Kumbham Sujatha from Raji Reddy at Appanapalli village of Dubbak Mandal. The accused officer was arrested and produced before the Ist Additional Special Judge for SPE and ACB cases Court, Nampally, Hyderabad.

Traffic moves smoothly in Prayagraj

Prayagraj, Feb 13 (UNI) ; The traffic system of Prayagraj is now running smoothly amidst the huge crowd of devotees on the bathing festival of Magh Purnima in Maha Kumbh, official sources said here on Thursday. Sources said that Prayagraj's traffic remains smooth despite the massive Magh Purnima rush, as effective administrative arrangements ensure a hassle-free pilgrimage to the Sangam. "Traffic is moving smoothly on all major routes, including Malak Harhar (Lucknow), Mirzapur Road, Rewa Road, Sahson (Jaunpur), Phaphamau (Lucknow), Andawa (Varanasi route) and Kaushambi," they said. Given Maha Kumbh, security forces and traffic police have been strategically deployed on all major routes to ensure devotees do not face any inconvenience. The traffic department has urged devotees to adhere to the instructions issued by the administration and avoid unnecessary halts on any route.

GSI Training Institute conducts Ni-Kshay Shivr Screening camp in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Feb 13 (UNI) : GSI Training Institute conducted Ni-Kshay Shivr Screening Camp in collaboration with TB Cell, Telangana at its Bandlaguda-Nagole Office here on Thursday.

The Screening Camp is part of 100-day Intensified Campaign to eradicate TB by 2025. This campaign aims to enhance awareness, improve detection, and ensure effective treatment and prevention measures in the office premises, the institute said in a release here. The camp provided free TB screenings/ counselling, ensuring the early diagnosis and intervention.

The Screening Camp was inaugurated by Dr. S. Ravi, Deputy Director General and Head Mission-V, in the presence of doctors, supporting staff and the entire team of Telangana TB Cell, Officers, Trainee Officers and Employees of the

GSITI. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ravi highlighted the role of various Government bodies and Institutions like GSI Training Institute in achieving this ambitious goal of eradicating TB by 2025. The Deputy DG appraised the doctors and supporting team from State TB Cell and Rangareddy District TB Cell for conducting this kind of campaign and screening camps.

The Medical officers of the TB Cell were given an awareness on TB stigma and urged the employees to take advantage of the Ni-Kshay Shivr Screening Camp, which offers free TB screening, diagnosis, and consultation, ensuring early detection and care.

Dr. Malleesh Ganji, Senior Geologist & Nodal Officer, TB, GSITI informed that a total of 120 members of Officers, Trainees, Staff of GSITI were screened during the camp.

MKBAC to be inaugurated at NALSAR University in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Feb 13 (UNI) : The Milon K. Banerji Arbitration Centre (MKBAC) will be inaugurated at NALSAR University of Law here on Saturday.

The Centre is envisioned as a premier research, training, and teaching hub dedicated to advancing arbitration law and practice, the University said in a release here on Thursday.

The Centre aims to foster collaboration among students, legal scholars, practitioners, and policymakers, providing a platform for academic discourse and professional development.

Established through a generous endowment by Senior Advocate Gourab Banerji, the Centre is named in honor of the late Milon K. Banerji, an esteemed jurist who served as Attorney General for India from (1992-1996, 2004-2009).

Through cutting-edge research and engagement with global trends, the Centre aspires to contribute meaningfully to the evolution of arbitration in India.

The inauguration of the MKBAC will feature a keynote address by Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman (former Judge Supreme Court of India) and Chair, MKBAC, NALSAR University of Law, Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya, Judge, High Court for the State of Telangana will address the gathering as a distinguished guest.

Senior Advocate Ritin Rai, Co- Chair, MKBAC, NALSAR University of Law will give a vision statement.

JPC report on Waqf bill: Chairman has power to remove note that casts aspersion on panel: Rijiju

New Delhi, Feb 13 (UNI) Parliamentary and Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday slammed the Opposition for calling the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report on the Waqf Amendment Bill as "illegal and unconstitutional" and said that Chairman Jagdambika Pal has the authority to remove a note "that casts aspersion on the Committee". Addressing the media at the Parliament House here, Rijiju defended the Chairman of the panel and said, "It should be clear that Pal has the authority to remove a note that casts aspersion on the Committee.

The JPC Chairman has the power to delete a portion. It is also mentioned in the rule, and everything happened as per rule."

Objecting to the Opposition members calling the "JPC report as illegal and unconstitutional", he said, ". The JPC was formed by all the parties and it is not of one party. This is not just an NDA report. This is Parliament's Joint Parliamentary Committee so calling the JPC report as illegal and unconstitutional is not correct".

Rijiju said that the JPC report has an importance and if the Opposition were speaking against this report then they were "dismissing their own report".

As far as the report is concerned there can be differences in the opinion within the JPC, the Minister added. "There are basically two opinions - one is those who are in the government, they might have separate opinion than those in the opposition. Even the opposition's views have been put in the annexure. It is wrong to say that the opposition's dissent notes are not included in the JPC.

Every view whether those considered by the majority or rejected by the majority have been included in the JPC report which was tabled in the RS today and which would be tabled in Lok Sabha," he said.

Rijiju said that the JPC report has been tabled on the floor of the House, now it will come to the government and then the report will be considered by the Cabinet. And after the consideration of the Cabinet then whatever the amended version will be, it will then be presented in the Parliament.

The Minister said that the Opposition was already opposing the Bill which is not good and appealed to all the opposition parties to let the house consider this report as the "JPC has done a great length of consideration, hearing, debate and discussion.

Notably, the Upper House witnessed chaotic scenes leading to a brief adjournment of the house as Opposition members protested over the 'deletion' of dissent notes from the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report on the Waqf Amendment Bill.

10 more arrested for attack on Chilkur Balaji temple priest

Hyderabad, Feb 13 (IANS) : The Cyberabad police have arrested 10 more accused in connection with the attack on Chilkur Balaji Temple head priest C. S. Rangarajan.

Those arrested were from Srikakulam and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh and Bhadrachalam town of Telangana. Andhra Pradesh real estate With this, the number of accused arrested in the case has gone up to 16. The police are on the lookout for more accused who are absconding.

Those arrested earlier include founder of Rama Rajyam organisation and main accused, Kovvuri Veer Raghava Reddy.

A resident of Manikonda in Hyderabad, Raghava Reddy is a native of East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. He and the other accused have been remanded to judicial custody.

Police arrested him on February 10 after the priest lodged a complaint.

According to police, 20-25 people clad in black uniforms trespassed into the residence of Rangarajan at Chilkur near Hyderabad on February 7 and assaulted him. They wanted him to support their organisation financially as well as to recruit people into the "Rama Rajyam Army". The matter came to light on February 8 after Rangarajan lodged a complaint.

Police said Veer Raghava Reddy, started "Rama Rajyam" in 2022 on social media platforms, including Facebook, and operated a YouTube channel.

He posted Bhagavad Gita slokas and motivated people to join the Army to protect Hindu Dharma. He also announced that individuals registering between September 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024 would be recruited into the "Rama Rajyam Army" with a salary of Rs 20,000.

In response to this post, 25 members first met the accused on January 24,

2025 at Tanuku.

After four days of stay, they traveled to Kotappakonda, where they contributed Rs 2,000 each and had uniforms stitched by a local tailor. On February 6, after receiving the uniforms, they gathered in an independent house in Yapral, Hyderabad, and took photos and videos in uniform with the organisation's backdrop. The next day they traveled to Chilkur in three vehicles and assaulted Rangarajan. Andhra Pradesh real estate

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy spoke to Rangarajan over phone and consoled him on February 10. A couple of ministers also called on the priest.

The Chief Minister warned that such attacks on priests will not be tolerated and ordered police officials to take stringent action against the assailants involved in the attack on the famous temple's chief priest.

Lalu feeling uneasy over BJP sweeping the Delhi election : Dy CM, Samrat

Patna, Feb 13 (UNI) : Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary on Thursday said RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav is feeling uneasy over BJP sweeping the Delhi assembly election.

Chaudhary, also the senior BJP leader, said that Prasad was disturbed and feeling uneasy after his party registered impressive victory in Delhi assembly

election. In desperation, the RJD supremo was making statement that BJP would not be in a position to form the government in the next assembly election in the state while the ground reality is quite different, he added.

"After 2024 Lok Sabha election, BJP has won assembly elections in Haryana, Maharashtra and

Delhi and this trend will continue in Bihar assembly election as well ", the Deputy CM said, adding that Nitish led NDA government comprising JD(U), BJP and HAM as its constituents had performed well.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, NDA would bag 225 seats in 2025 Bihar assembly election, he claimed.

Cleanliness drive continues throughout night after Magh Purnima bath

Prayagraj, Feb 13 (UNI) As a part of its unwavering commitment to cleanliness, the Maha Kumbh administration once again proved its efficiency by swiftly restoring the Sangam Ghats after the Magh Purnima bathing festival.

As soon as the sacred snan concluded, a dedicated team of cleaners launched a large-scale cleaning drive by the Wednesday evening itself. Their prompt and tireless efforts ensured that, by night, the Sangam Ghats were once again pristine and beautiful, ready to welcome the next influx of devotees.

On the occasion of Magh Purnima, more than 2 crore devotees took a holy dip in Sangam on Wednesday. As part of the ritual offerings, a large number of devotees left flowers, garlands, clothes, and food at the ghats and

the extensive use of public toilets was observed.

Following the decrease in crowd density, the Mela administration launched an intensive cleaning drive, restoring the ghats to their pristine condition by Thursday morning. To ensure prompt cleanliness, all sector magistrates were instructed to initiate a large-scale sanitation campaign as soon as the crowd dispersed. In response, the administration swiftly disposed of solid waste left behind during the bathing festival. Special cleaning vehicles were deployed to collect garbage from the ghats and the fairgrounds, while cesspool operations were carried out to maintain hygiene in public toilets.

Sanitation in-charge of the fair Anand Kumar Singh said that under the cleanliness drive, sanitation workers thoroughly swept and cleaned all roads.

"Dustbins and liner bags placed throughout the fair area were emptied using tippers and compactors. The administration has been running these cleaning initiatives daily to uphold the vision of a Clean Maha Kumbh. However, on major bathing days, the campaign is intensified to ensure that pilgrims arriving the next day experience a holy and hygienic environment," he said.

The swift action of the fair administration left both devotees and locals highly impressed. Expressing their appreciation, many acknowledged the efforts of the Yogi government in ensuring a well-organized and spotless Maha Kumbh.

One devotee remarked that the administration's commitment to cleanliness has reaffirmed its dedication to making the Maha Kumbh a model of order and sanitation.

STANDARD POST

Alzheimer's cases in 8 major markets to reach 22.51 million in 2033

The prevalent cases of Alzheimer's disease (AD) in the eight major markets globally are set to register an annual growth rate (AGR) of 4.08 per cent from 15.99 million in 2023 to 22.51 million in 2033, according to a report.

China will have the highest number of total prevalent cases of AD (by DSM-IV criteria) at 10.4 million cases, whereas Spain will have the lowest number at 0.62 million cases in 2033, according to the report by GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

"In 2023, women were more affected than men, accounting for approximately 73 per cent of the total prevalent cases," said Antara Bhattacharya, associate project manager, epidemiology team.

Older adults in ages 75 years and above accounted for almost 79 per cent of the total prevalent cases of AD in the eight major markets in 2023, while comparatively younger adults in ages 65-74 years accounted for approximately 21 per cent of the cases.

The report estimated that in 2023, approximately 55 per cent of total prevalent cases of AD were mild, whereas only 16 per cent of total prevalent cases of AD were severe.

"Mortality remains a significant concern for individuals living with AD and their families. Efforts to prevent or delay the disease are expected to have a profound impact on long-term outcomes, as the value of treatment will largely depend on a therapy's effectiveness in reducing morbidity and extending life expectancy," said Bhattacharya.

Extensive research can improve our understanding of the crucial relationship between AD and mortality. "Moreover, the treatment for AD requires a multifaceted approach that integrates medical interventions, lifestyle modifications, ongoing support, along with clinical trials, and follow-up care," said the report.

Liver Transplants for Adults and Children

(Standard Post Bureau)

Guwahati : When someone's liver is not working well, a liver transplant may be the best option to help them recover. This type of surgery is needed when the liver can no longer do its job—helping with digestion, storing energy, and clearing out toxins. Liver transplants aren't just for adults; children sometimes need them too says Dr. Vikram Kumar, Principal Consultant, Paediatric Liver Transplantation, Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Max Hospital, Saket.

Why Do People Need a Liver Transplant?

Liver failure can happen for different reasons. In adults, it's often caused by long-term alcohol use or chronic diseases. For children, it's usually due to genetic problems or infections. When the liver isn't working well and there's no other way to treat the problem, a transplant can be a lifesaver.

A liver transplant replaces the damaged liver with a healthy one. Sometimes, the whole liver is replaced, but other times only a part of it is used. In



either case, the transplant helps restore the liver's functions and can improve the person's health.

How Does a Liver Transplant Work?

There are two main types of liver transplants: Whole Liver Transplant: This is when the entire liver is taken from a recently deceased donor and transplanted into the patient.

Living Donor Liver Transplant: In some cases, a living person donates a portion of their liver. This works because the liver is unique—it can grow back over time. So, both the donor and recipient end up

with full-sized livers after a while. A smaller liver portion from a living donor can often work just fine for children, as their bodies need less liver tissue than adults.

What is Involved in the Process?

Getting a liver transplant isn't a quick process. First, doctors check to make sure the person really needs a new liver and is healthy enough for surgery. If so, they are put on a waiting list, which can take time since there aren't always enough donors available.

When a donor's liver is found, surgery can begin.

The operation itself takes several hours. After the surgery, the patient will spend a few weeks in the hospital. During this time, they are closely monitored to make sure everything is working well with the new liver.

Recovery and Life After Surgery

Even after being discharged from the hospital, recovery continues at home. It may take several months to fully recover and adjust. Patients will also need to take medicines for the rest of their lives to prevent their body from rejecting the new liver.

For children, liver transplants often mean they can go back to enjoying activities and just being kids. Adults can also look forward to returning to their routines, although recovery can be different for each person.

The Risks and Benefits

Liver transplants, like any major surgery, have risks. These can include infection, bleeding, or rejection of the new liver. But many people find that a successful transplant gives them back their health and freedom.

SC denies bail to accused in 2020 Bengaluru Riots Case

New Delhi, Feb 13 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to grant bail to Shabbar Khan, who has been chargesheeted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, in connection with the riots that took place in Bengaluru on August 11, 2020.

The violence was reportedly triggered by a Facebook post allegedly containing derogatory remarks about Prophet Muhammad.

The prosecution alleged that the petitioner, along with a mob, was responsible for burning motorcycles. 198 individuals were named in the FIR, out of which 138 have been chargesheeted. Of these, 25 individuals face charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has stated that members of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), the political wing of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), were involved in the riots,

including Shabbar Khan. According to reports, these members allegedly conspired to mobilize a large crowd that attacked police personnel and vandalized police station vehicles at D.J. Halli and K.G. Halli police stations on the night of August 11.

Shabbar Khan was not initially named in the FIR filed by the state police. However, when the NIA took over the investigation, his name was included.

On January 31, a bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma asked the NIA that how much time it would take for the trial court to frame charges and commence trial against the accused in the 2020 Bengaluru riots case. This query arose after Senior Advocate P. Vishwanath Shetty, appearing for Shabbar Khan, highlighted that Karnataka has only one designated NIA Court.

Shetty further submitted that his client has already undergone four years and one month of incarceration without the trial court framing charges.

He pointed out that 254 witnesses are yet to be examined. Citing judgments in Sheikh Javed Iqbal @ Ashfaq Ansari @ Javed Ansari v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2024) and 2021 KA Najeeb, he argued that bail should be granted when there has been prolonged incarceration with no likelihood of an expeditious trial.

When Shetty referred to the evidence against the petitioner, Justice Nagarathna remarked, "We cannot have a mini-trial here." Opposing the bail plea, Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju argued that the petitioner himself was responsible for the delay. However, the Court did not make any observation on that aspect.

While the Court refused to interfere with the Karnataka High Court's August 30, 2024, order denying bail to Shabbar Khan, it issued significant directions regarding the trial process. The Court took note of the fact that 254 witnesses had been listed for the trial before the Special NIA Court. It also

acknowledged submissions that the Karnataka High Court, in Shoheb Ali @ Shajid Ali vs. The State By Karnataka (2023), had recorded that 31 NIA cases were pending before the Special NIA Court, apart from 53 sessions cases and two criminal miscellaneous matters.

Considering the backlog and the slow pace of trial, the Supreme Court directed the Karnataka Government to comply with Section 11 of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

The Court noted that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had issued a communication on October 7, 2024, seeking the Karnataka Government's and the High Court's consent for establishing an exclusive NIA Court in Bengaluru. However, the State Government had not yet acted upon a previous order from April 2, 2023, directing the establishment of Special Courts for UAPA cases in Mysore, Belagavi, and Kalaburagi divisions within six months.

Matter of removal of HC judges lies with Parliament'

New Delhi, Feb 13 (UNI) : The Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday ruled that the matter seeking removal of Allahabad High Court judge Justice Shekhar Yadav from his post is a matter of the "Chairman's jurisdiction and in an eventuality with the Parliament and President".

Dhankhar instructed the Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha to send this

information to the Registrar General of the Supreme Court. Soon after the Question Hour, the Chairman, while mentioning the notice received from some members last December regarding the removal of the judge from the post, said, "I am seized of an undated notice for motion received on 13 December 2024, bearing 55 purported signatures of the members

of the Rajya Sabha seeking removal from office of Justice Shekhar Yadav of Allahabad High Court under Article 124(4) of the Constitution".

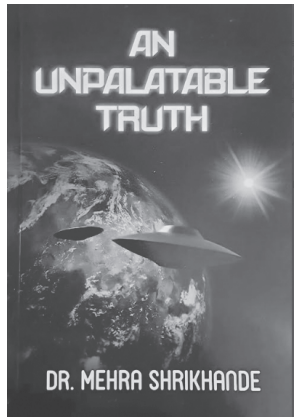
The Chairman ruled, "The jurisdiction for the stated subject matter constitutionally lies in exclusivity with the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and in an eventuality with the Parliament and Hon'ble President". While directing

the Rajya Sabha Secretary General to convey the information about this announcement made in the House to the Supreme Court, Dhankhar said, "Taking note of public domain information and inputs available, it is expedient that the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha shares this for information with the Secretary General, Supreme Court of India". U

An Unpalatable Truth is a worldview

(Standard Post Bureau)

A complete picture of the universe is now available to us through a book 'An Unpalatable Truth'. Because since the creation of our universe, we have been wondering if there is anyone else with us. To understand it, 'An Unpalatable Truth' is a book written by Dr. Mehra Shrikhande.



Many scholarly articles, these have been written by researchers to unravel the mysteries and secrets of space. While studying it, they have understood each of those thoughts, between their lines or what is hidden behind them, what is the exact meaning being inspired by it, they have understood. Significance of Sirius Star, History of UFOs, Mysteries in South America, Crop Circles, Zechariah Sitchin's Study, Orion Rising, Canary Islands, SETI can be understood by reading some of her chapters in this book. Apart from the book so far on the subject, her distinction has been preserved due to his varied studies at many levels. It has gained more importance. She has shown a way to the practitioners and researchers. According to her, many

people will get guidance to do more research on that topic in future. Space or many things in this universe have always remained a curiosity and mystery to us. That is why many theories have been told around the world through different mediums. To unravel the secrets of the universe, an unconvincing truth emerged from all these studies. It is believed that Mehra Shrikhande's book will definitely help in quenching the curiosity of the readers. This book is a curiosity about various phenomena in the space universe. This space is a wonder for us. That is why we always like to read or understand about him. That is possible because of this book. From this we understand the essence of the information of various scholars from all over the world.

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PM likely to visit Tripura next month to launch a slew of projects and flag off Vande Bharat Express

Agartala, Feb 13 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Tripura next month to launch a slew of projects including flagging off Vande Bharat Express between Agartala and Guwahati from here.

The state government has already approached PMO seeking his availability after Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) issued a green signal for starting India's fastest train Vande Bharat connecting two important cities of Northeast daily.

The NFR has also almost completed the railway line electrification work in Tripura and South Assam to ensure super-fast train service from Tripura. Presently, premiere trains like Tejash Express to Delhi and Humsafar to Bengaluru have been operating from Agartala by Diesel engine, besides a few more express trains connecting important cities.

The proposed Vande Bharat Express is scheduled to complete a 571 km journey between Agartala and Guwahati in seven and a half hours stopping at Ambassa, Dharmanagar of Tripura, and New Karimganj, Badarpur Junction, and Hojai of Assam. The train will start at 6 AM every day and reach Guwahati at 1.30 PM and the return journey will start from Guwahati at 2 PM

and reach Agartala at 9.30 PM, sources said.

"At present trains take at least 12 hours to reach Guwahati from Agartala by diesel engine. The journey through hill sections of South Assam up to Lumding from Badarpur takes six hours to cover around 160 kilometers distance. After putting trains into electric lines the time coverage will be reduced to half, which will boost the business of Northeastern states with Tripura instead of concentrating on Guwahati," Transport officials said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha said that the state government has planned to inaugurate the new infrastructure installed in Tripura Sundari temple under the centrally sponsored schemes in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The construction works are complete. The agencies engaged in the work are giving the finishing touches to the projects. We are eager to have Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the inauguration ceremony," Dr Saha said, adding that under PM's guidance, Tripura tourism has reached a new height and many more new opportunities are coming to add tourist attractions.



Farmers during their Mahapanchayat at Shambhu border, in Patiala on Thursday.

Focus should be on complete wipe-out of terrorism from Jammu Division: LG Sinha

Jammu, Feb 13 (UNI) : Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting and reviewed the security scenario in Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by DGP J&K and other top brass of Police, Army and Intelligence officers.

At the outset, the DGP J&K and IGP Jammu briefed the chair on the future action plan and the proposed measures to tackle the security challenges to ensure a safe and secure environment for the common citizen.

The IGP Railways gave a detailed presentation on the security architecture of railways, and the roadmap put in place to strengthen the security of stations and the tracks. The Lieutenant

Governor said that our focus should be on complete wipe-out of terrorism from Jammu Division.

"We should not even have remnant of terrorism in Jammu region. Take effective steps to wipe-out terrorism and ensure complete dismantling of the infrastructure and local support of terrorism," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor directed the J&K Police officials to take strongest possible action against those providing logistical and financial support to terrorism.

"Make sure that acts of individuals or groups trying to create fear in the society are termed as terrorist action and they should be punished as per the law," the Lieutenant

Governor directed the police officials. The Lieutenant Governor also discussed roadmap for technology driven policing, area domination plan, inter-agency coordination, action against narco-terrorism, capacity building of police force and innovative strategies to improve cyber patrolling and monitoring capabilities. He stressed on credible intelligence gathering, sharing of real time operational intelligence and anti-terror operations based on precise inputs.

"Every perpetrator and supporter of terrorism must pay the price. We need to equip ourselves with credible intelligence and act more effectively to neutralise the terrorists and ensure the security of

citizens. We must be prepared for conventional as well as non-conventional threats," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor directed for stronger measures to protect our borders.

"We must strengthen border security against asymmetric threats due to porous border with riverines and difficult mountain range and all the security agencies must work together to provide necessary back-up support," the Lieutenant Governor observed.

The Lieutenant Governor also called for strengthening the legal framework to deal with terror propagandists and strengthening of police establishment at local level for modern and efficient policing.

Workers of "Jan Suraaj" will decide party candidates for assembly polls: Prashant

Patna, Feb 13 (UNI) Founder of "Jan Suraaj" Prashant Kishor on Thursday declared that workers and office bearers of the party would select candidates for the next Assembly elections in Bihar. Kishor said that it was a new idea being implemented by any political party in the distribution of its tickets for elections. As per practice prevalent in the country, top leaders of the party had been selecting candidates for elections and there was no role of workers in the distribution of party tickets, he pointed out. "Jan Suraaj" leader said that, unlike other parties, his party would give total freedom to its workers in the selection of candidates for elections. In the next assembly elections in Bihar, workers and office bearers of Jan Suraaj would have the responsibility to distribute tickets, he stated. There would not be any committee or a group of leaders for the distribution of tickets among candidates, he pointed out.

Kishor said that in BJP only Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had the freedom to distribute tickets for candidates in elections. Similarly in Congress, Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi enjoyed the freedom to select candidates of their party in elections, he added. Jan Suraaj leader said that RJD supreme Lalu Prasad had full authority to distribute tickets in his party and it was known to all, the criteria being adopted by Prasad for distribution of tickets, he remarked.

BJD team calls for strict action against perpetrators of gang rape of minor tribal girl

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13 (UNI) A high-level BJD fact-finding team on Thursday strongly condemned the heinous act of gangrape of a minor tribal girl and called for immediate and strict action against the perpetrators.

The team visited Laxmipur, Koraput, on Thursday to assess the shocking incident of alleged gangrape involving a minor tribal girl.

The delegation, including senior leaders like Snehangini Chhuria, Padmini Dian, Kausalya Hikaka, Sasmita Meleka, met the victim's family, local authorities, and community members to gather firsthand information.

Now poor and middle-class can access five star facilities for events: Yogi

Gorakhpur, Feb 13 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said that programmes for the poor and economically weaker sections, as well as the middle-income group, will now have access to five-star facilities through Kalyan Mandapams.

Speaking at the inauguration and foundation stone-laying ceremony organised by the Municipal Corporation in Khorabar township, where he dedicated development projects worth Rs 103 crore, the CM said, "Today marks the inauguration of Gorakhpur's first Kalyan Mandapam and within the next few months, seven more will be completed."

Notably, he has allocated funds from his MLA fund for the construction of five of these Kalyan Mandapams. He also directed the Municipal Corporation to offer Kalyan Mandapam bookings to its employees

and sanitation workers for just Rs 11,000.

Alongside inaugurating the city's first Kalyan Mandapam, built at a cost of Rs 4.71 crore in the newly created Khorabar ward, Yogi also inaugurated a gas-based animal crematorium worth Rs 4.55 crore, the drain

construction project from Mahadevpuram to Phase 2 (pumping station) in Ramgarh Tal at Rs 2.46 crore, a road project from Ekla Dam to the Animal Crematorium (Carcass Plant) at Rs 68 lakh, and the shed construction at Kanha Gaushala in Mahewa for Rs 97 lakh.

With a total of Rs 26.31 crore allocated for these completed projects, he also laid the foundation stone for additional development projects worth Rs 76.40 crore.

Highlighting the significance of Kalyan Mandapam, the CM emphasised that its inauguration marks a new

era in civic amenities. He said that while those with financial means can organise events in hotels and grand lawns, economically weaker sections often lack suitable venues.

He said, "To address this, Municipal Corporations and Development Authorities were directed to set up Kalyan Mandapams, dedicated spaces where weddings and auspicious ceremonies for the poor, lower, and middle-income groups can be held with ease."

Yogi said that the Kalyan Mandapam features a spacious auditorium, dormitory, six rooms, a kitchen and a well-maintained lawn. He described it as a permanent asset for economically weaker sections, ensuring five-star facilities for their special occasions.

Highlighting the extensive development initiatives being introduced

for Gorakhpur Municipal Corporation and other urban bodies, he said, "Among these, one of the most significant projects is the animal crematorium, which will effectively address the issue of animal body disposal and provide relief from foul odours."

He said that beautification efforts for the iconic clock tower are underway while preserving Gorakhpur's historical identity. "Simultaneously, multi-level parking is being constructed at Shaheed Bandhu Singh Park, adjacent to Ghantaghar, to ease traffic congestion. Work is also progressing rapidly on park development, road widening and drainage projects. Once the Godhhoiya Nala project is completed, the city will be free from the recurring problem of water logging," he said.

The CM also highlighted an innovative

Acharya Satyendra Das given 'Jal Samadhi' in Saryu

Ayodhya (UP), Feb 13 (UNI) : Chief priest of Shri Ramjanmabhoomi temple Acharya Satyendra Das was given Jal Samadhi in the Saryu river on Thursday. The last procession of Acharya Das was taken out with pomp and show from his Satyagopal Dham temple at Ramghat. It passed through the roads of the city of Lord Ram and reached the cremation ground on the banks of the Saryu river where Satyendra Das was given Jal Samadhi.

The procession was taken out from Ram Mandir Gate to Hanuman Garhi, Lata Mangeshkar Chowk, in which the people of Ayodhya, along with saints and sages, Minister Satish Sharma, Mayor Mahant Girishpati Tripathi, Jagatguru Ramanandacharya Swami Ramdineshcharya, former MP Ramvilas Das Vedanti, Shrimahant Dharmadas, Mahant Gaurishankar Das, Naka Hanumangarhi Mahant Ramdas, Ayodhya MLA Vedprakash Gupta, Mahant Raghvesh Das Vedanti and Mahant

Bhushan Das, thousands of saints and Ram devotees participated. The last rites were performed by his disciple priest Pradeep Das. The Chief Priest died on Wednesday during treatment at PGI Hospital in Lucknow.

He was admitted to PGI on 3 February after a brain stroke where he breathed his last during treatment on 12 February. His death spread a wave of mourning in the entire Ramnagari. Everyone was saddened by his death.

There was a stream of people expressing condolences at the priest's ashram. From saints-mahants to politicians, and common citizens, everyone paid their tributes and bid him a final farewell. Priest Satyendra Das' life was dedicated to Ram Lalla.

He served Ramlala for about 32 years from 1992 till now. His contribution towards Shri Ram Janmabhoomi can never be forgotten. It will always be unforgettable. The saints of Ayodhya Dham have demanded the government to give him Padma Vibhushan.

Cabinet sanctions Rs 17,266 Cr for 11,251 roads

Patna, Feb 13 (UNI) : The Bihar Cabinet, under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, on Thursday gave its approval for construction of 11,251 roads at an expenditure of Rs 17,266 crore. The Cabinet in its meeting held here sanctioned the construction of 19,867-km-long roads under Rural Works Department. It also approved an amount of Rs 17,266 crore for it. With this, all damaged roads in 38 districts of the state will be managed and monitored for a long period of seven years.

initiative where contaminated water flowing into the Rapti river is being purified using indigenous methods, making it suitable for agricultural use.

Urging citizens to actively participate in Vikas Yatra and adopt a strong commitment to cleanliness, he referenced the Swachhata Comic, launched on the occasion. He reminded the audience that for four decades, eastern UP, including Gorakhpur, had suffered significant loss of life due to poor sanitation.

He pointed out that garbage accumulation, pond encroachments and clogged drains had contributed to large-scale deaths from encephalitis. "However, due to the Swachh Bharat Mission, public awareness, and the efforts of the double-engine government, encephalitis has now been completely eradicated," he said.

Yogi urged people to continue prioritising

cleanliness and take a pledge to eliminate single-use plastic. He emphasised that affordable housing for every income group is becoming a reality through the Medicity/Township project in Khorabar, where EWS (Economically Weaker Sections), LIG (Low Income Group), MIG (Middle Income Group) and HIG (High Income Group) houses are being developed.

He informed that a two-bedroom house with a dining hall, kitchen, and bathroom costs Rs 28 lakh, while a LIG house is priced around Rs 16 lakh, and similar price reductions will be applied to EWS houses, making them even more accessible. During the programme, Yogi felicitated sanitation workers for their outstanding contributions by presenting them with certificates and gifts. He also extended financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh to the father of a deceased sanitation worker.

Odisha Assembly condoles demise of former PM Manmohan Singh, Two Ex-MLAs

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13 (UNI) : The Odisha Assembly on Thursday condoled the demise of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and former MLAs Bijaya Kumar Mohanty and Sadan Nayak, who passed away during the period between the last session and the current session of the House.

Soon after Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati completed his address on the opening day of the Budget session of the Assembly, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, also the Leader of the House, moved an obituary reference. Majhi expressed his condolences on the passing of former Prime

Minister Manmohan Singh and the two former MLAs, requesting Speaker Surama Padhi to convey the Assembly's sympathies to the bereaved families.

Leader of the Opposition Naveen Patnaik, Congress Legislature Party leader Ram Chandra Kadam, CPI(M) leader Laxman Munda, and Speaker

Surama Padhi later joined the Leader of the House in offering their condolences.

The Assembly observed a one-minute silence as a mark of respect for the departed souls. Following the obituary reference, the Speaker adjourned the House until 10:30 AM on Friday as a mark of respect for the deceased.

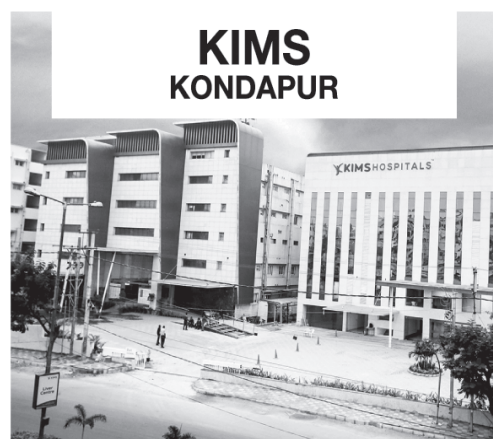
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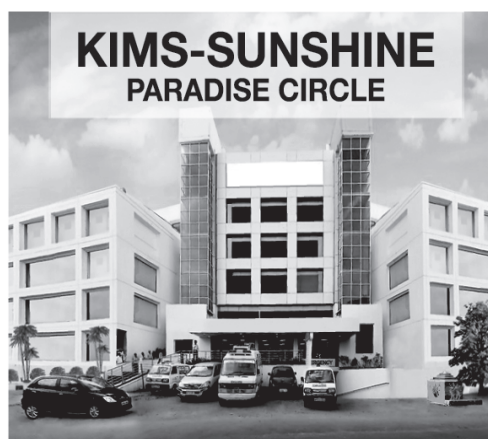
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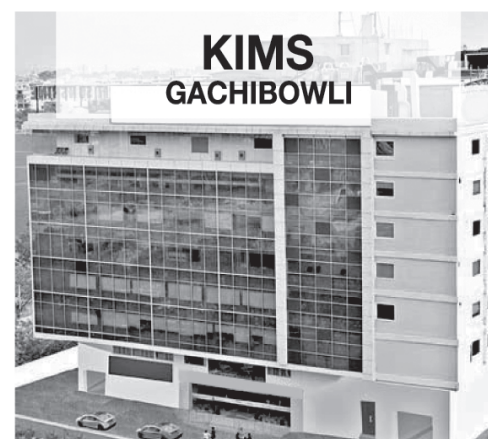
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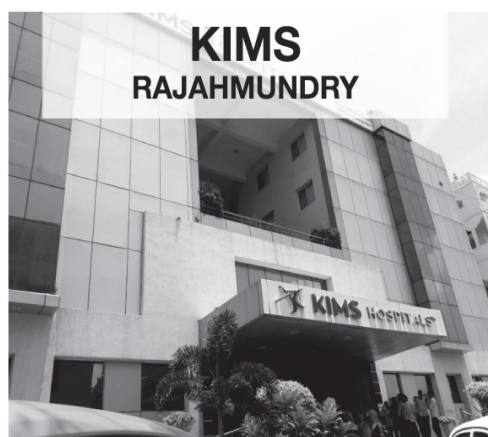
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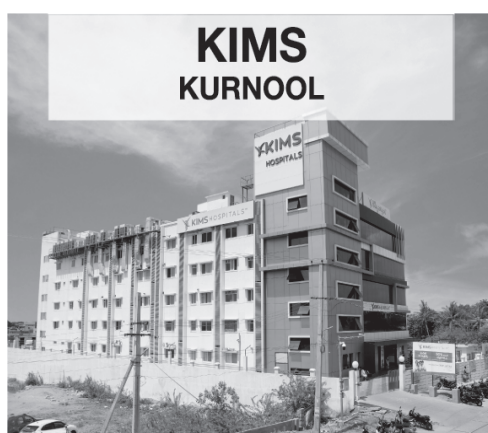
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China wins women biathlon relay gold at Winter Asiad



Harbin, Feb 13 (UNI) : Meng Fanqi delivered a stunning final leg to secure victory for China in the biathlon women's 4x6km relay at the Harbin Asian Winter Games on Thursday.

China's quartet, consisting of Tang Jialin, Wen Ying, Chu Yuanmeng and Meng, had struggled in the early stages and sat

third at the final exchange.

However, Meng rose to the occasion, making up ground and securing the win in a time of one hour, 29 minutes and 6.3 seconds.

"I was under a lot of pressure in the final leg, but no matter the outcome, I just wanted to give it my all," Meng said. "Both my skiing and

shooting were beyond my usual level today, and I think luck was really on our side."

South Korea finished 21 seconds behind to take the silver, while Kazakhstan claimed the bronze. In the men's 4x7.5km relay, Japan and China were neck and neck until the final leg, where China's Gu Cang faltered

with multiple shooting errors.

Japan capitalized on the mistakes, pulling ahead to win gold in one hour, 24 minutes and 20.3 seconds.

Kazakhstan also surged past China to secure the silver in 1:25:18.7, leaving China with the bronze in 1:25:32.7

South Korea bags figure skating singles golds at Winter Asiad

Harbin, Feb 13 (UNI) : South Korea's Cha Jun-hwan and Kim Chae-yeon took gold in the men's and women's singles events, respectively, at the Asian Winter Games here on Thursday.

Despite leading by nearly 10 points in the short program, Japan's Yuma Kagiyama slipped three times on Thursday, handing the gold medal to Cha, South Korea's national champion, who posted an impressive score of 281.69 points. Kazakhstan's Mikhail Shaidorov claimed the bronze. Amid cheers from the home crowd, China's Dai Dawei landed two quadruple jumps to finish fourth with 238.83 points, while his compatriot Chen Yudong ranked seventh with 203.32 points.

"I performed better than I expected. It's a comfort to have skated a relatively clean program today," said Dai. Although he missed the podium by just one spot, he expressed no regrets. "Certainly, every athlete wants to stand on the podium, but I know I still need to improve my skills."

In the women's free skating, 2024 World Figure Skating Championships bronze medallist Kim delivered a near-flawless performance to score 147.56 points. With a total of 219.44 points, she edged out Beijing Winter Olympics bronze medallist Kaori Sakamoto by 7.54 points, after Sakamoto slipped on a triple jump. Hana Yoshida of Japan took home the bronze medal. "I initially thought just skating through my program would be good enough, but now I realize - I should have won the gold," the 18-year-old Kim said. "At first, I couldn't believe it, but it's slowly sinking in." She added, "Kaori is such a strong competitor. I've always wanted to beat her, but I never expected to do it here at the Winter Asiad."

Reflecting on her performance, Kim noted, "When I finished my free skate, I told myself - finally, I did it!" Although she admitted to feeling more nervous than the day before, she was proud to have delivered a clean performance, particularly in her jump combinations.

Yuvraj Sandhu shoots a steady 68, holds on to the lead, Jamal tails

Kolkata, Feb 13 (UNI) : Yuvraj Sandhu of Chandigarh hung on to a one-shot lead courtesy his steady two-under 68 on day three often referred to as 'moving day' in golf here on Thursday.

Yuvraj (63-61-68), a winner at Tollygunge Club in the past, has a three-day total of 18-under 192 as he continued in the lead for the third consecutive day at TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship 2025.

Bangladesh's Jamal Hossain (65-62-66), fresh from a standout season on the PGTI last year, narrowed down the gap with the leader after he returned a 66 in round three. Jamal's total reads

17-under 193 as he is just one shot behind the

leader.

Rahil Gangjee (63-67-66) of Bengaluru, playing at a course where he spent most of his childhood, struck a 66 in round three to be placed third at a total of 14-under 196.

The legendary SSP Chawrasia (71) was the highest-placed among the Kolkata-based professionals as he ended the day in tied 14th at nine-under 201.

Kolkata's Anshul Mishra, the only amateur to make the cut, carded a 69 to be tied 20th at seven-under 203. Yuvraj Sandhu, the overnight leader by three shots, endured a horrid start on Thursday after he dropped bogeys on the first two holes. Yuvraj, who holds the record for the

lowest winning total at Tollygunge Club, then got his round back on track thanks to his consistent hitting and a couple of good up and downs that earned him four birdies.

The putts didn't roll in for the 27-year-old Sandhu on Thursday as he missed multiple birdie conversions from within four to eight feet.

Jamal Hossain, also a former winner at Tollygunge, came up with five birdies and a bogey on Thursday to keep himself on the leader's tail and in the hunt. Jamal missed a chip-in for birdie on the last hole by a whisker.

Last year's champion Manu Gandas (65) closed the day in tied 20th at seven-under 203.

Haryana gymnasts win 7 medals in Uttarakhand National Games

Chandigarh, Feb 13 (UNI) : Haryana gymnasts bagged seven medals - two silver and five bronze - in the gymnastics competition of the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand.

Haryana's Sports Minister Gaurav Gautam congratulated the medal winners and said they are getting a lot of benefits from the state's sports policy. "Our players are bringing laurels to the country and the state by winning medals in Olympics, World Championships, Asian, Commonwealth and National Games.

Haryana has become the hub of sports. Other states of the country are also following Haryana's sports policy," he said.

The Sports Minister praised the excellent performance of Haryana's gymnasts in the National Games and said their achievement is not only the result of the hard work of the players, but is also a proof of the encouragement being given to sports by the state government.

The state's medal winners in gymnastics are Yogeshwar Singh, Sagar, Jatinder, Saransh Dev and Sahil Yadav, who won the bronze in Artistic Gymnastics (Team Event). Similarly, the team of Life Adlakha, Dhruv Chaudhary, Janhvi, Varsha clinched the bronze in Rhythmic Gymnastics.

In the individual competition, Yogeshwar Singh claimed the silver with the title of All-Around Second Best Gymnast. He won silver in floor exercise and bronze in side horse. Similarly, Life Adlakha won bronze in hoop event.

Rickelton excited for Champions Trophy challenge after multi-format success

Cape Town, Feb 13 (UNI) : In a cricketing landscape where excelling across all formats has become increasingly rare, South Africa's Ryan Rickelton is determined to defy the odds.

Rickelton started the year in a spectacular fashion, scoring a mammoth 259 against Pakistan in the second Test at Newlands, which South Africa won by 10 wickets.

He quickly followed that up with stellar performances in the SA20, where he scored 336 runs at an average of 48, striking at an incredible 178.72 as he helped MI Cape Town lift the trophy for the first time, further solidifying his reputation in the shortest format.

But as South Africa prepare for the Champions Trophy, Rickelton's focus is now firmly on the ODIs, where he looks to continue his rise. In his six games in the format thus far, Rickelton has 181 runs at a strike-rate close to 90. And

the batter has taken the help of a Protea great to finetune his game.

"I've worked a lot with Hashim Amla in the last few years, and he has been a phenomenal coach for me," Rickelton revealed in an exclusive chat with the ICC. "He was a master of off-side play and he says sometimes when I get a bit excited, I look too leg-side. He's always encouraging me to open up the off-side a bit more, so he always gets excited when he sees me cover drive."

South Africa, who won the inaugural edition of the tournament in 1998, will look to add another major ICC title to their collection.

"It's just about getting back into that mindset. I don't think it'll be too challenging. The wickets in Pakistan can be quite good to bat on, and they swing under lights and get skiddy. We'll have a chat, figure that out, and get locked in," Rickelton said. A significant opportunity has opened up for Rickelton

with the retirement of Quinton de Kock, and he is now vying for a spot at the top of the order, where he might potentially partner skipper Temba Bavuma.

"This ODI team has been a really difficult one to get into over the past couple of years," Rickelton acknowledged. "Quinny retiring has opened the door for me to hopefully get a few games as the rest of the order is pretty locked in." With an impressive domestic record in the SA20 and a stellar List A career averaging over 46, Rickelton is ready to make his mark on the global stage.

Having made his debut in 2022, Rickelton's confidence in international cricket is growing, and he is eager to showcase his talents in the 50-over format, as South Africa prepares for what promises to be an exciting and action-packed year of cricket. South Africa's Champions Trophy campaign begins on February 21 against Afghanistan.

Odisha FC eye seventh win against Hyderabad FC in ISL

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13 (UNI) : Odisha FC are set to host Hyderabad FC at the Kalinga Stadium here in the Indian Super League (ISL) match on Friday.

The Juggernauts have won each of the last four games in this fixture, and they have a chance to equal their longest victorious run against any opponent in the ISL, alongside East Bengal FC and NorthEast United FC.

Moreover, they have an impeccable record at home against Hyderabad FC, winning each of their last three ISL games against them in Bhubaneswar. Another triumph would make them only the second team after FC Goa (four wins against Odisha FC) to keep a 100% home run against a single team in ISL history (min. four games played).

Hyderabad FC have endured a struggling season, since they are at

the penultimate place in the points table with 16 points from 19 matches on the back of four wins and draws each. However, they have bagged encouraging outcomes in their last five matches, winning and drawing twice each, comprising two victories in their previous three encounters. Their recent form thus suggests that they have the potential of upsetting Odisha FC's playoff hopes, since the Sergio Lobera-coached side are currently lingering at the seventh spot with 26 points, just three off the sixth-positioned NorthEast United FC (29).

The Juggernauts will threaten Hyderabad FC with their attacking prowess, having netted 38 goals in their 20 matches, with Diego Mauricio leading the pack, courtesy of nine strikes to his name. Jerry Mawhimthanga

and Mourtada Fall have scored five and four goals respectively. Hyderabad FC, contrastingly, have kept the least clean sheets (2) in the league, conceding 38 goals thus far.

Odisha FC have also kept clean sheets in each of their last three matches against Hyderabad FC. If they manage to shutout once again, it will mark their outright most clean sheets against a single team in ISL history (previously achieved against Chennaiyin FC, Mohun Bagan Super Giant, and NorthEast United FC).

Odisha FC have trailed for only 24.6% of their total game time this season. Hyderabad FC have struggled to assert their gameplay, as they have spent 51.1% of their time on the pitch trailing, which is more than any other team in the current campaign of the competition.

Hyderabad FC secured a much-needed 3-1 victory against Mohammedan SC on February 8. However, the last time Hyderabad FC won back-to-back ISL matches was during a five-game stretch between December 2022 and January 2023, a run they will look to replicate soon.

The 23-year-old has been a revelation for Hyderabad FC, scoring once and assisting thrice this season. He has recorded 23 touches inside the opposition's box and produced 26 goal-scoring chances too. The two sides have squared off against each other 11 times in the ISL, with Odisha FC and Hyderabad FC winning six and four matches respectively. One match has produced a draw.

Odisha FC head coach Sergio Lobera has asked his team to bring about all their focus into the coming

fixture against Hyderabad FC. "It will be a mistake to think where we would end up in one month's time. The focus should be on

the game against Hyderabad FC, who have shown their potential against strong teams," he said. Hyderabad FC interim head coach Shameel Chembakath expressed that his side wants to sign off positively from the current season. "The team is very focused in training. They are confident and we want to finish the season on a positive note," he said.

Odisha FC's Diego Mauricio has seven goal contributions (four goals, three assists) in this fixture.

He has recorded multiple goal involvements in each of his last two meetings with Hyderabad FC, and would be raring to get on the scoresheet again to get the Juggernauts off to a flying start.

Jash Modi, Selena emerge singles champions in TT

Dehradun, Feb 13 (UNI) : Maharashtra's Jash Modi won the men's singles champion at the 38th National Games, following in the footsteps of fellow youngster Selena Deepthi Selvakumar from Tamil Nadu on the final day of the table tennis events at the Parade Ground Indoor Hall here on Thursday.

Jash showcased remarkable composure and endurance against seasoned national champion Sathiyam in a final that went down to the wire. Despite leading 3-2, the experienced paddler turned the match around by claiming the next games. But Jash sealed a thrilling 4-3 victory by claiming the last game. The contest was a spectacle of intense rallies and clinical finishes, but in the end, it was Jash Modi.

The Maharashtra boy rose to the occasion, clinching gold for Maharashtra.

Selena's unshakable composure, even in the tensest moments, was her greatest weapon in the gold medal match against second-seed Swastika Ghosh of Maharashtra. Trailing 1-5 in the decider, she expertly shifted the pace, unsettling a nervous Swastika and turning the tide in her favour.

With three golden points in her hand, Selena saw her

opponent save two before an unforced error handed her the victory. She acknowledged her triumph with a trademark smile and a sportsmanlike handshake.

Before that, Selena had surged to a 2-0 lead, only to let Swastika claw back and take control at 3-2. Her natural affinity for backhand play initially worked against her, as she stuck to fast-paced rallies that played into Swastika's strengths.

But just when the Maharashtra paddler seemed poised to dominate the decider, Selena's cool-headed tactical shift slowed the game down, disrupting Swastika's rhythm. The strategy paid off, forcing errors from her opponent and sealing a well-earned gold for the Tamil Nadu star.

The men's semifinals produced a thrilling spectacle, with G Sathiyam and Jash Modi battling through intense, high-stakes encounters to outlast P B Abhinand of Tamil Nadu and Payas Jain of Delhi. The matches were fiercely contested, with momentum swinging wildly, especially in the second semifinal, which went down to the wire.

In the all-Tamil Nadu clash, Sathiyam started strong, claiming the opening game. However, Abhinand, undeterred by his opponent's experience, mounted a spirited fightback. The second game turned into a war of attrition, with both players pushing each other to the limit before Abhinand edged it 20-18.

As the match progressed, the two continued to trade blows, each refusing to yield. With the scores locked at 2-2, Sathiyam displayed his composure under pressure, eking out a crucial fifth-game win by the narrowest of margins.

That proved the turning point, as he stormed through the sixth game with authority, closing out the match 4-2 to book his place in the final.

Meanwhile, in Table 3, Jash and Payas engaged in an electrifying duel, captivating spectators with their relentless rallies and attacking flair. Neither player gave an inch, and at 2-2, the outcome was anyone's guess.

Sensing an opportunity, Jash made a tactical adjustment, opting for more precise, calculated shots to disrupt Payas' rhythm. His strategy paid dividends, as he edged ahead 3-2. But Payas, known for his aggressive style, wasn't done yet. He came out firing in the sixth, levelling the match at 3-3 and setting up a dramatic decider.

With everything on the line, Jash kept his nerve, capitalizing on a few unforced errors from Payas to clinch the final game and seal his spot in the championship match.

In stark contrast, the women's semifinals lacked the drama of their male counterparts, with both matches proving one-sided. Tamil Nadu's Selena was in complete control against Maharashtra's Pritha Vartikar. Pritha started nicely by winning the first game but struggled to handle Selena's well-disguised variations.

The second game was a marathon, stretching to 16-14, but Selena's resilience saw her through. That win broke Pritha's momentum, and from there, Selena dominated, taking complete command of the match to register a 4-1 victory.

The second semifinal followed a similar script, as Maharashtra's No 2 seed Swastika Ghosh barely broke a sweat against unseeded Shriya Anand of Tamil Nadu.

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Indian Railways to operate Train no 20101/20102 Nagpur - Secunderabad–Nagpur Vande Bharat Express with 8 Coaches for Optimal Efficiency and Enhanced Service

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 13 : In a strategic move to optimize resources and enhance operational efficiency, Indian Railways has decided to operate Train no 20101/20102 Nagpur - Secunderabad –Nagpur Vande Bharat Express with 8 coaches instead of 20 coaches with effect from 19.02.2025.

This decision is based

on a detailed assessment of passenger trends, with an average occupancy of 34%, ensuring that services will be adequate to fulfil the demand of passengers. The media at large during the past few months has also shared a similar opinion.

The average occupancy for the last 5 months from Sept-2024 to Jan-2025 of Train no

2 0 1 0 1 N a g p u r - Secunderabad Vande Bharat Express has been 33.81 % and of Train no 20102 Secunderabad –Nagpur Vande Bharat Express has been 33.87%.

The reduction in the number of coaches will enhance service efficiency, improve turnaround time, and ensure optimal utilization of high-tech rolling stock, while

continuing to provide passengers with the premium Vande Bharat experience. This initiative is in line with Indian Railways' commitment to sustainable operations and judicious use of resources, ensuring that modern trainsets are deployed as per the need and utilisation.

The change will not impact the quality of service, and passengers

can continue to enjoy the same world-class features, including faster travel, superior comfort, and state-of-the-art onboard amenities.

Indian Railways remains committed to expanding and fine-tuning Vande Bharat services to meet evolving passenger needs and provide seamless connectivity across the network.

Ashutosh Kumar Srinvastava takes over as Principal Chief Materials Manager of WR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 13 : Ashutosh Kumar Srinvastava, an Indian Railways Stores Service (IRSS) officer from the 1988 batch, has taken over the charge of Principal Chief Materials Manager of Western Railway. He is a Civil Engineering Graduate from NIT Patna (formerly B.C.E Patna).

Mr Ashutosh Kumar Srinvastava has extensive knowledge and diverse experience in Supply Chain Management, Import Clearance, Scrap Disposal, Public Procurement, General Administration and Human Resource Affairs. He has been working with Railways since approx. 35 years. He has held various positions in Indian Railways, including Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Chief Materials



He has also been a recipient of Railway Board Award for scrap disposal.

WR's Health Unit at Badhwar Park Railway Colony, Mumbai Accredited with NABL certification

Western Railway Medical Department adds another Feather to its Cap

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 13 : It has gained the distinction of being the first ever HEALTH UNIT of Indian Railways to receive NABL certification for a LABORATORY

The Medical Department of Western Railway has achieved significant milestones in the field of healthcare, its commitment towards delivering high-quality diagnostic services and ensuring excellence in patient care. Moving ahead in this direction, Western Railway's Health Unit at Badhwar Park Railway Colony in Mumbai has achieved a remarkable milestone by receiving the prestigious National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL - MELT) certification. With this, it has gained the distinction of becoming the first-ever Medical Lab in Health Unit over Indian Railways to receive this accreditation.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, it is a matter of great pride that the Pathology Laboratory at Badhwar Park Health Unit of Mumbai Division has gained the distinction of receiving the FIRST EVER NABL certification from the Quality Council of India, for a LABORATORY being run



in a HEALTH UNIT of Indian Railways. This achievement underscores the laboratory's adherence to stringent quality standards and its dedication to reliable diagnostic services. The recognition is a testament to the organization's commitment to excellence in medical care. The NABL certification is valid for a period of three years and is based on satisfactory proficiency testing performance.

Mr Vineet further informed that Western Railway has achieved several significant milestones in the field of healthcare by securing National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation under the Medical Entry Level Testing (MELT) program for multiple

Pathology Laboratories across its zone. The Pathology Laboratory of Divisional Railway Hospital, Rajkot has set a benchmark by becoming the first Divisional Hospital's Clinical Laboratory in Indian Railways to receive accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL - MELT). This recognition has paved the way for other railway hospitals to strive for similar excellence.

Mr Vineet added that Sabarmati Railway Hospital's Pathology Laboratory (Ahmedabad Division) and Valsad Sub-Divisional Hospital's Pathology Laboratory (Mumbai Central Division) have also achieved the NABL (MELT) accreditation. Additionally,

the Pathology Laboratory of Divisional Hospital, Bhavnagar Division, and the Workshop Hospital at Dahod, are currently in the process of obtaining NABL accreditation, showcasing Western Railway's continuous efforts to enhance diagnostic quality across its healthcare facilities. With the highest number of NABL Accredited Pathology Laboratories among all Indian Railways, Western Railway stands as a pioneer in quality excellence, demonstrating its unwavering dedication to patient care and diagnostic reliability.

This remarkable achievement reflects Western Railway's commitment to adopting global best practices and ensuring superior healthcare services for railway employees and beneficiaries.

Kumbh Mela Special Express between Mysuru-Tundla : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 13 : To clear the extra rush of passengers to the ongoing Kumbh Mela, the Railway Board has approved the operation of special express trains (Train No. 06219/06220) between Mysuru and Tundla, Uttar Pradesh, for one trip in each direction.

Train No. 06219 Mysuru-Tundla Special Express will leave Mysuru at 9:40 PM on February 20, 2025 (Thursday) and reach Tundla at 9:30 AM on February 23, 2025 (Sunday).

In the return direction, Train No. 06220 Tundla-Mysuru Special Express will depart from Tundla at 11:30 AM on February 24, 2025 (Monday) and arrive Mysuru at 10:00 PM on February 26, 2025 (Wednesday).

The train will halt at Mandya, Ramanagaram, Kengeri, KSR Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, Tumakuru, Arsikere, Kadur, Chikjajur, Davangere, Harihar, Ranibennur, SMM Haveri, SSS Hubballi, Dharwad, Alnavar, Londa, Khanapur, Belagavi, Gokak Road, Ghatprabha, Raybag, Kudachi, Miraj, Pune, Daund Chord Line, Manmad, Bhusaval, Itarsi, Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Jabalpur, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj, Fatehpur, Govindpuri, Etawah stations in both direction.

A few trains will be affected due to block between Virar and Aitarna and Saphale and Kelve road

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 13 A Block will be taken on Sunday, 16th February, 2025 for launching of PSC slab and girder between Virar & Vaitarna and Saphale & Kelve Road. The block will be for five-hour thirty minutes i.e. from 01:40 hrs to 07:10 hrs between Virar & Vaitarna and for five-hour i.e. from 01:50 hrs to 06:50 hrs between Saphale & Kelve Road on 16th February, 2025. The blocks on 16th February, 2025 will be undertaken on UP & Down Line, due to which a few Western Railway trains will be affected.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of the trains which will be affected on 16th February, 2025 are as under:-

Cancellations of Trains of 16th February, 2025:-

1. Train No. 93001 Virar – Dahanu Road Local Departing Virar at 04:50 hrs.

2. Train No. 93006 Dahanu Road – Churchgate Local Departing Dahanu Road at 07:00 hrs.

3. Train No. 93003 Virar – Dahanu Road Local Departing Virar at 05:35 hrs.

4. Train No. 93008 Dahanu Road – Churchgate Local Departing Dahanu Road at 07:10 hrs.

5. Train No. 93005 Churchgate – Dahanu Road Local Departing Churchgate at 05:03 hrs.

6. Train No. 93010 Dahanu Road – Borivali Local Departing Dahanu Road at 08:35 hrs.

7. Train No. 69143 Virar – Sanjan Passenger.

8. Train No. 61001 Boisar – Vasai Road Passenger.

Short Termination/ Partially Cancellation of Trains:-

1. Train No. 69140 Surat – Virar Passenger of 15th February, 2025 will short terminate at Palghar

and partially cancelled between Palghar and Virar.

2. Train No. 19101 Virar – Bharuch Passenger of 16th February, 2025 will short originate ex Palghar and partially cancelled between Virar and Palghar.

3. Train No. 69164 Dahanu Road – Panvel of 16th February, 2025 will short originate from Vasai Road and partially cancelled between Dahanu Road and Vasai Road.

4. Train No. 61002 Dombivli – Boisar Passenger of 16th February, 2025 will short terminate at Vasai Road and partially cancelled between Vasai Road and Boisar.

Regulation/ Rescheduling of Trains:-

1. Train No. 22921 Bandra Terminus – Gorakhpur Antyodaya Express journey commencing on 16th February, 2025 ex Bandra Terminus will be rescheduled by 1 hour.

2. Train No. 22718 Secunderabad – Rajkot Superfast Express journey commencing on 15th February, 2025 ex Secunderabad will be regulated by 1 hour.

3. Train No. 22953 Mumbai Central – Ahmedabad Gujarat Superfast Express journey commencing on 16th February, 2025 ex Mumbai Central will be rescheduled by 40 minutes.

4. Train No. 20901 Mumbai Central – Gandhinagar Capital journey commencing on 16th February, 2025 ex Mumbai Central will be regulated by 30 minutes.

5. Train No. 12935 Bandra Terminus – Surat Superfast Express journey commencing on 16th February, 2025 ex Bandra Terminus will be regulated by 25 minutes.

6. Train No. 19038 Barauni – Bandra Terminus Avadh Express will be regulated by 1 hour.

7. Train No. 11087 Veraval - Pune

Express will be regulated by 55 minutes.

8. Train No. 22946 Okha – Mumbai Central Saurashtra Mail will be regulated by 50 minutes.

9. Train No. 22904 Bhub – Bandra Terminus AC Superfast Express will be regulated by 45 minutes.

10. Train No. 09052 Bhusaval – Dadar Special will be regulated by 40 minutes.

11. Train No. 22928 Ahmedabad – Bandra Terminus Lokshakti Express will be regulated by 40 minutes.

12. Train No. 19218 Veraval – Bandra Terminus Saurashtra Janta Express will be regulated by 40 minutes.

13. Train No. 12928 Ekta Nagar – Dadar Superfast Express will be regulated by 40 minutes.

14. Train No. 22944 Indore – Daund Express will be regulated by 40 Minutes.

15. Train No. 14701 Shri Ganganagar – Bandra Terminus Aravali Express will be regulated by 40 Minutes.

16. Train No. 12902 Ahmedabad – Dadar Gujarat Mail will be regulated by 40 minutes.

17. Train No. 12962 Indore – Mumbai Central Avantika Express will be regulated by 30 minutes.

18. Train No. 12956 Jaipur – Mumbai Central Superfast Express will be regulated by 25 minutes.

19. Train No. 93002 Dahanu Road – Churchgate Local Departing from Dahanu Road at 04:40 hrs will be regulated by 30 minutes.

20. Train No. 14707 Lalgarh – Dadar Ranakpur Express will be regulated by 25 minutes.

21. Train No. 69174 Dahanu Road – Borivali Passenger will be regulated by 25 minutes.

22. Train No. 12215 Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Bandra Terminus Garib Rath Express will be regulated by 20 minutes.

PM Modi meets US NSA Waltz, defence industrial cooperation, civil nuclear energy discussed

Washington/New Delhi, Feb 13 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today had a fruitful meeting with US National Security Advisor Michael Waltz in Blair House, during which they discussed defence industrial cooperation and civil nuclear energy cooperation with emphasis on small modular reactors.

In a post on X, the PM noted that there is strong potential for bilateral cooperation in sectors like AI, semiconductors and space.

“Had a fruitful meeting with NSA @michaelgwaltz.

“He has always been a great friend of India. Defence, technology and security are important aspects of India-USA ties and we had a wonderful discussion around these issues.

“There is strong potential for cooperation in sectors like AI, semiconductors, space and more.”

According to a readout: “The discussions touched upon ways to further deepen the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, with a focus on strategic technologies, as well as defense industrial cooperation and civil nuclear energy with an emphasis on small modular reactors, and counterterrorism.

“They also discussed international, and regional issues of mutual interest.”

The MEA spokesperson in a post on X said the two sides had a meaningful exchange of views on deepening bilateral strategic ties and

addressing global security challenges.

“PM @narendramodi met with U.S. National Security Advisor @michaelgwaltz at Blair House today in Washington D.C.

“They had a meaningful exchange of views on deepening India-US strategic ties & addressing global security challenges.”

The meeting was also attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra, which lasted for around 45 minutes.

The meeting comes ahead of PM Modi's meeting with US President Donald Trump on the evening on Thursday.

‘Lok Sabha registered 112 pc of productivity in first phase of Budget session’

New Delhi, Feb 13 (UNI) Lok Sabha has registered 112 percent of productivity in the first phase of the Budget session, which concluded on Thursday, despite disruption from the opposition members on various issues, Speaker Om Birla said.

The lower house of Parliament was adjourned by the Speaker till March 10.

In a statement, Birla said, “The general discussion on the budget was lasted for 16 hours and 13 minutes in which 170 members participated. With your support, our productivity in this session was about 112 percent”.

Praising members of the house, he said, today is the last day of the first phase of the Budget Session. ‘I am happy that we discussed in a good atmosphere during the session. I got your full support.’

“There was a meaningful discussion of 17 hours and 23 minutes on the motion of thanks to President's address. In this, 173 Hon'ble Members sat till late night and expressed their views” Birla further added.

The Speaker expressed hope that the house will continue to get the support of the members in the same way in future as well.

Meanwhile, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the new Income Tax bill in the house.

The new Income Tax Bill will replace the six-decade old Income Tax Act and will likely come into effect from April 1, 2026.