

## IN BRIEF

### Woman teacher killed, 2 injured in road accident in Nashik

Nashik, Feb 16 (UNI) A 38-year-old woman teacher was killed and two other people, including a woman, were injured after a speeding car rammed a food-on-wheel cart here on Sunday.

According to police, the deceased teacher, identified as Gayatri Sandeep Thakur (38, resident of Anushree Apartment, Indiranagar, Nashik), had stopped at a food stall near Manohar Garden to drink sugarcane juice with her fellow teachers.

At that time, the car heading towards City Centre Mall from Indiranagar tunnel came at speed and crashed into the food cart and pedestrians on the road. In this accident Gayatri Thakur and two other persons were injured and they were admitted to a private hospital in Govindnagar area for treatment, where doctors declared Gayatri dead on admission.

The driver of the car Saurabh Bhope, who was responsible for the accident, has been taken into custody by the Mumbai Naka Police and a case has been registered against him, sources added.

### 4.72 kg hashish, cash seized in drug bust; 1 arrested

Nahan, Feb 16 (UNI) In a major anti-drug operation, the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of the district police seized 4.72 kg of hashish and Rs 19,700 in cash from an alleged peddler at Dhunga Ghat, Sarahan. Acting on a tip-off, the SIU apprehended the accused, Rakesh alias Rahul of village Bhujod, Tehsil Nohradhar, late on February 8 while he was in a rain shelter. A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police (ASP) Yogesh Rolta confirmed the contraband and cash were recovered, suspected to be proceeds from illegal drug sales. A case has been registered under the Narcotics Drugs & P s y c h o t r o p i c Substances (NDPS) Act, and the accused remains in custody. Authorities suspect the seized hashish was meant for distribution in local markets. Investigations are underway to trace the supply chain and potential accomplices.

## New Delhi station stampede toll rises to 18, Railways announce compensation



A rope is seen tied at a platform of the New Delhi Railway Station where a stampede occurred late Saturday night, in New Delhi.

New Delhi, Feb 16 (UNI) : The toll in the stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station has gone up to 18, with 12 others sustaining various degree of injuries, a hospital official said on Sunday. Five children and 11 women are among the dead, said the Chief Casualty Medical Officer at LNJP

Hospital. "The death count is 18. It includes five children and 11 women. Twelve others have varied degrees of injuries," the official said. Railways have announced compensation of Rs 10 lakh each to the next of kin of the people who lost their lives. Those sustaining serious injuries will get

compensation of Rs 2.5 lakh each, while those with minor injuries will receive Rs 1 lakh.

CPRO, Northern Railway, Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay said a high-level investigation was on into the Saturday night stampede. The situation was now normal.

"At the time of the

incident, Patna-bound Magadh Express was standing on platform 14 and Jammu-bound Uttar Sampark kranti Express was standing on platform 15," he said

Himanshu said the incident occurred when a few passengers slipped on the stairs leading from the foot overbridge to the platform, and the passengers following them got caught in the stampede.

The situation was triggered by a huge rush of passengers arriving at the station to board special trains for the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his distress over the incident on X. He stated, "Distressed by the stampede at New Delhi Railway Station. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured have a speedy recovery. The authorities are assisting all those who have been affected by this stampede."

### BJP chief asks workers to achieve set target of 1.5 crore registered members

Kolhapur, Feb 16 (UNI) Revenue Minister and BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Sunday instructed the party workers to achieve the set target of 1.5 crore registered members early for the grand victory of the party in upcoming elections to local self-government bodies in the state.

While addressing a divisional organisation workshop at Maha Sainik Darbar Hall this evening, he said that the grand victory in local bodies election will be third biggest victory for BJP in the state after Lok Sabha and assembly elections.

He said that those workers who will remain active after completion of the member registration drive in the state, will be given the responsibility of a special executive officer.

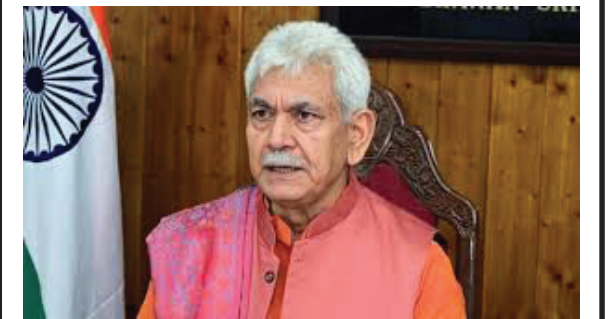
The state government will soon fulfil its electoral promise by raising instalment of Ladki Bahin scheme from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,100, added Bawankule.



### One who puts his heart and soul into taking party forward will ...

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati on Sunday said that in her lifetime only that person who is continuously working with full heart and soul to take the party and the movement forward will become her successor. In a series of posts on social media, Mayawati said, "BSP is the party and movement established by Shri Kanshi Ram ji by sacrificing everything to take the caravan of humanistic self-respect and self-esteem of Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar to power in the country, in which selfishness, relations etc. are unimportant, that is, the interest of the Bahujan is paramount." (See on page 2)

### LG says aarti of Raghunath temple to be major attraction ...



Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday attended Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Jammu Aarti, at Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Chowk, here. The Lieutenant Governor commended the efforts of Shree Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council for bringing this sacred and divine ceremony to Jammu, which has been going on at Ganga Ghats of Varanasi and Haridwar. (See on page 3)

### 2nd US army plane lands at Amritsar airport

Amritsar, Feb 16 (UNI) : Second USA army plane carrying 116 illegal immigrants landed at Amritsar airport late Saturday night.

The plane landed at 11:30 PM. Out of 116 people, 65 belonged to Punjab and 33 belonged to Haryana.

Eight persons were from Gujarat. Two each from UP, Goa, Maharashtra and Rajasthan and one each from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu Kashmir.

### Over 1.5 cr take holy dip in Sangam during Maka Kumbh

Prayagraj, Feb 16 (UNI) A staggering number of around 1.5 crore devotees took a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam on Sunday with the wish of salvation during the ongoing Maha Kumbh here. The sequence of bathing and meditation continued uninterrupted even late at night in the Sangam area.

More than 1.25 crore devotees took a holy dip at the Triveni of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati on Saturday as well.

Apart from UP Governor Anandiben Patel, Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Dharmendra Pradhan were also among the VIPs who took a bath in Sangam on Sunday.

Leaving behind the government's estimates, almost 53 crore devotees have taken a dip in the Sangam in the last 33 days in the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh.

Despite this, there is no decrease in the number of devotees visiting the pilgrimage site from all over the country and the world. A sea of devotees can be

seen day and night on the roads of Prayagraj. Due to the crowd, the holiday in the schools up to class 8 in the city has been extended by four more days. Now the schools will remain closed till February 20.

The Railway administration has operated hundreds of special trains for the convenience of the devotees, while the UP State Transport Corporation has deployed thousands of buses for the pilgrimage. Despite this, the trains are arriving and going packed to the brim.

The 45-day-long Maha Kumbh will conclude on February 26 with the last bathing festival on the occasion of Maha Shivratri. Earlier, it was being estimated that the number of people bathing would decrease after Magh Purnima, but on this great festival falling after 144 years, people are moving towards Prayagraj with the intention of bathing once. In such a situation, there is no possibility of the crowd decreasing till the last day of Maha Kumbh.

### Take up issue of resumption of cotton procurement with Centre: CM



(Standard Post Bureau)

Jalgaon, Feb 16 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis assured on Sunday that he will hold talks with the central minister to resume procurement of cotton from farmers in the district, which was stopped by the Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI).

Speaking at the farmers' meeting organised on occasion of the Amrit

Mahotsav (75 years) of The Shendurni Secondary Cooperative Society, the Amrit Granth publication and the foundation laying ceremony of the new building here, he said that the state government will ensure that the produce of farmers does not remain at home under any circumstances.

The state government will provide all necessary

cooperation to change the picture of this area, he asserted.

The Chief Minister expressed that the state government has accorded priority to solve the problems of farmers such as electricity and water.

Farmers who have paid for solar pumps will be given connections within next 15 days and every farmer will be given connections within two months, he assured.

The work of solar feeders is going on rapidly to provide daytime electricity to farmers by 2026, he added.

Fadnavis inaugurated the sewage project and road work under the Urban Upliftment Scheme of Shendurni Nagar Panchayat.

### Textile exports target Rs 9 lakh crore by 2030: PM

New Delhi, Feb 16 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India's annual textile exports have reached Rs 3 lakh crore, and the target now was to increase it to Rs 9 lakh crore by 2030. Addressing the "Bharat Tex 2025" at Bharat Mandapam here, Modi said, "India saw a 7% increase in textile and apparel exports last year, and now ranks as the sixth-largest exporter of textiles and apparel in the world". Emphasising that the success in the textile sector was the result of a decade of consistent efforts and policies, the Prime Minister highlighted that foreign investment in the

textile sector has doubled over the last decade. "The textile industry is one of the largest providers of employment opportunities in the country, contributing 11% to India's manufacturing sector" he added. During the event, Modi went around the exhibition. He added that the event gave a glimpse of India's rich heritage as well as the prospects of Viksit Bharat, which was a matter of pride for the country.

"Bharat Tex is now becoming a mega global textile event", remarked Modi. Highlighting that last year he discussed five factors for the textile industry: farm, fibre, fabric,

fashion, and foreign, Modi remarked that the vision is becoming a mission for India, opening new growth avenues for farmers, weavers, designers and traders. Bharat Tex 2025, a mega global event, being held from February 14-17, is unique because it brings together the entire textile value chain from raw materials to finished products including accessories under one single roof. The vent is expected to attract policymakers and global CEOs, over 5000 exhibitors and 6000 international buyers from over 120 countries among various other visitors.

### India lose to Spain in FIH Pro ...



The Indian men's hockey team began its FIH Pro League 2024-25 campaign with a 1-3 defeat to Spain at the Kalinga Stadium here on Saturday. Sukhjeet Singh netted the lone goal for world No. 5 India, while Borja Lacalle (28'), Ignacio Cobos (38') and Bruno Avila (56') found the target for the eighth-ranked Spanish outfit. (See on page 7)

### Uplifting marginalized communities our duty: J&K CM



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday emphasized that uplifting marginalized communities like Gujjar-Bakerwal is not an act of favour but a fundamental duty of his government. (See on page 8)

## Murmu witnesses inaugural new format Change of Guard Ceremony

New Delhi, Feb 16 (UNI) President Draupadi Murmu on Sunday witnessed the inaugural show of the Change of Guard Ceremony in a new format at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

The ceremony will be open to a larger number of visitors from next Saturday i.e. February 22, in which people can witness a dynamic visual and musical performance, with the backdrop of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, an official statement said.

Military drills by troops and horses of the President's Bodyguard, and troops of the Ceremonial Guard Battalion, along with Ceremonial Military Brass Band, spread over a larger area are part of the new format.

## Congress MP demands answer from Govt over treatment of Indian economic migrants

Chandigarh, Feb 16 (UNI) Enraged over the kind of treatment being meted out to Indian deportees by the US, Congress MP from Chandigarh Manish Tewari on Sunday sought an answer from the Union government as to why it could not send its own commercial flights to bring back economic migrants.

As second US Army plane carrying immigrants landed at Amritsar on Saturday night, Tewari took to X (earlier Twitter) to condemn the treatment meted out to Indians.

He wrote that if despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to USA and meeting with US President Donald Trump, Indians were still being deported back shackled and probably handcuffed like galley slaves in ancient times there could be nothing more shameful for India and Indians. "Till the time NDA/BJP government is getting schadenfreude from the humiliation, ignominy and denial of basic human rights being inflicted on our people," he wrote.

Tewari said that what was even more troublesome was the continuing use of US military aircraft as if an attempt was being made to create a new normal with regard to eventual basing rights for the US military in India.



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari offers prayers with wife at Sangam after taking a holy dip during the ongoing 'Maha Kumbh Mela' festival, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

## EAM meets Israeli FM, Fijian PM, Mongolian counterpart at Munich Security Conference

Munich/New Delhi, Feb 16 (UNI) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, Fiji's PM and FM Sitiveni Rabuka, Fatih Birol, Executive Director of IAEA, and Battsetseg Batmunkh, the Foreign Minister of Mongolia, on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference.

In posts on X, the EAM said that he and the Israeli FM discussed the situation in Middle East:

"Great to meet FM @gidonsaar of Israel on sidelines of #MSC2025. "Exchanged views on the current situation in West Asia/Middle East. Underlined the strength and significance of our bilateral partnership."

On his meeting with the Fijian PM and FM Rabuka, he posted:

"An honour to meet PM & FM @slrabuka of Fiji this evening.

"Always nice to hear his recollections, views and insights."

He also met with Johann Wadepuhl, Deputy Chairman, Jürgen Hardt MdB and Thomas Erndl of the CDU-CSU of Germany.

"A pleasure interacting with Deputy Chairman @JoWadepuhl, @juergenhardt Jürgen Hardt MdB and @TERndl Thomas Erndl of @cdusubt CDU-CSU.

"Underlined mutually beneficial opportunities in a stronger India - Germany and India - EU partnership."

The CDU (Christian Democratic Union) and CSU (Christian Social Union) are sister parties. Together they form the CDU/CSU block of

the German Parliament

On his meeting with the IAEA executive director, he posted:

"Nice to see @fbir01 Fatih Birol, Executive Director of @IEA on the sideline of #MSC2025."

Fatih Birol in a post said:

"Pleasure to see India's External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar in Munich & discuss the strong India-@IEA relationship, including the recent affirmation of firm U.S. support for India to become a full IEA member highlighted at the meeting of President Trump & Prime Minister Modi."

The EAM also met with the Mongolian FM Battsetseg Batmunkh.

"A warm conversation with FM @BattsetsegBatm2 of Mongolia today.

## CM Fadnavis expresses grief over Delhi stampede

Mumbai Feb 16 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday expressed grief over the stampede at New Delhi railway station that claimed 18 lives., leaving over a dozen injured..

Fadnavis called the incident "disturbing and sad" and extended his condolences to the families of the deceased.

In a post on X Fadnavis said "The news of the stampede at New Delhi railway station is disturbing and sad. Our thoughts are with the families who lost their loved ones.

My condolences to them. Wishing a speedy recovery to the injured,

## One who puts his heart and soul into taking party forward will be successor: Mayawati

Lucknow, Feb 16 (UNI) : Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati on Sunday said that in her lifetime only that person who is continuously working with full heart and soul to take the party and the movement forward will become her successor.

In a series of posts on social media, Mayawati said, "BSP is the party and movement established by Shri Kanshi Ram ji by sacrificing everything to take the caravan of humanistic self-respect and self-esteem of Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar to power in the country, in which selfishness, relations etc. are unimportant, that is, the interest of the Bahujan is paramount."

She said, "In the same sequence, being the disciple and successor of Shri Kanshi Ram. I will also continue the struggle by making every sacrifice till my last breath, following in his footsteps, so that the people of Bahujan Samaj can stand on their own feet by getting free from the life of political slavery and social helplessness."

The BSP supremo said, "Like Shri Kanshi Ram, any real successor of the party and movement during my lifetime can only be there if

he too, like a disciple of Shri Kanshi Ram ji, till his last breath, bears every pain and suffering and works with all his heart and soul to take the party and movement forward. Along with this, it is necessary for all the big and small office bearers and workers of BSP across the country to work with full dedication and honesty towards the instructions, discipline and responsibility set by the party chief and work with full dedication, mind and money." She said, "Along with this responsibility, especially on the strength of the cadre, along with strengthening the party organisation at the grassroots level and increasing the support base in the entire society, we have to work with full vigour in the future as well so that BSP, the only ray of hope of the Bahujan Samaj, can get the expected and awaited success." It may be noted that last year Mayawati had declared her nephew Akash Anand as the party's successor, but after a month she expressed her intention of not making him the successor due to irresponsible statements, though later she once again declared her nephew as the successor.

## Waqf Bill disregards sentiments of Muslim community: Mirwaiz

Srinagar, Feb 16 (UNI) The Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference and Kashmir's Chief Cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Sunday expressed concern that the proposed Waqf Bill disregards the sentiments of the Muslim community and threatens the autonomy of religious institutions.

"The concerns of Muslims were overlooked in the Waqf Bill", Mirwaiz told mediapersons in Budgam on the sidelines of an interfaith dialogue.

He emphasised that no meaningful consultation was conducted with key stakeholders before presenting the bill in Parliament and that it was being implemented without due discussion.

He cautioned that this move would place mosques, Darazgahs, Imam Bara'a, and other Waqf properties under government control.

Mirwaiz strongly criticised the statements of the NC spokesperson advocating for the sale of liquor in Jammu and Kashmir for tourism and revenue purposes.

He asserted that J&K

has always been a renowned tourist destination and does not require alcohol sales to boost tourism.

He described this approach of NC as highly irresponsible.

Referring to states in India where alcohol is prohibited, Mirwaiz urged the government to adopt similar models instead of encouraging liquor consumption, which has already caused significant social harm.

He pointed out that the unrestricted availability of alcohol has contributed to rising substance abuse, particularly among the youth. "If the NC Govt can't provide any benefit to the society they should at least not inflict damage to its socio-religious character", Mirwaiz stressed.

On the issue of Kashmiri Pandits, Mirwaiz stressed that their return should be guided by inclusivity and mutual understanding.

He emphasised the need for intra-community dialogues involving scholars, civil society, and political leaders to facilitate their safe and dignified return.

## Being Hindu means ensuring safety of all: CM

Prayagraj, Feb 16 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Sunday that the meaning of being a Hindu is not limited to the welfare of human beings only, but it also guarantees the protection of the entire inanimate world. While participating in a discourse by renowned storyteller Pandit Pradeep Mishra in Prayagraj, the CM spoke about the significance of Maha Kumbh and the glory of Sanatan Dharma.

"Maha Kumbh is not just a religious event but a festival that conveys the message of unity. Our unity is the foundation of the country's integrity. Only when India remains united and secure our religious sites, festivals, monasteries, temples, daughters and sisters will be safe," he said.

Expressing his pride in Sanatan Dharma, he urged people to embrace their religious heritage confidently. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, he said, "Say with pride that we are Hindus." Yogi explained that being a Hindu is not just about the welfare of humankind but also about ensuring the safety of all living and non-living beings. "Maha Kumbh reinforces this very message," he said. Highlighting the unprecedented turnout at Maha Kumbh, he said that between January 13 and February 16, approximately 52 crore devotees had taken a holy dip in the sacred Triveni.

## New Delhi rly station stampede: Congress demands Ashwini Vaishnav's resignation

New Delhi, Feb 16 (UNI) The Congress on Sunday described as a "massacre" the stampede at the New Delhi Railway station that claimed 18 lives and accused Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav of "hiding the death toll" and demanded his resignation.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC office here, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinat said, "Instead of resigning, the Railway Minister is hiding the death figures and has engaged the entire department for whitewashing everything".

"Instead of taking responsibility, the Railway Minister of this country has resorted to shamelessness

and is writing 'everything is fine'. Ashwini Vaishnav has no moral right to continue in his position. He should resign or the government should dismiss him," she said. She further said, "The shamelessness of the Railway Minister was not new, he has been doing the same again and again. Whenever there is any train accident, he calls it a small incident".

She also alleged that to "hide the truth, phones of some reporters were confiscated and they were asked to delete the footage and also ID of a female reporter was snatched".

"Instead of expressing condolences and apologising for such an

incident, the Railway Minister and the government were busy hiding the death figures which is even more gruesome," Shrinat alleged.

Shrinat claimed that hours before the accident, a "safety review meeting of the Railway Ministry was held" and wanted to know what was the conclusion of that meeting.

She said that first there was a stampede at the Mahakumbh on January 29 and yesterday a stampede at New Delhi Railway station. Seeing such incidents happening again and again as it seems that the life of a common man has no value, the Congress

spokesperson alleged.

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader Manish Tiwari termed the incident as "tragic and heartbreaking".

Taking to his X handle, Tiwari said, "So tragic and heartbreaking. Totally unnecessary loss of human lives. By tomorrow it would be forgotten yet another statistic while shattered families are left to pick up the pieces of their lives. Human life does not really matter in our country".

Notably, the toll in the stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station has gone up to 18, with 12 others sustaining various degree of injuries, a hospital official said on Sunday.

## Delhi incident heart rending, govt should compensate all alike: Akhilesh Yadav

Lucknow, Feb 16 (UNI) : Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday said the painful death of Maha Kumbh devotees in Delhi is "heart-rending".

In a statement issued here, Akhilesh said, "The people sitting in the government should think like a family member who has lost their parents,

siblings, children and relatives and not like politicians. Honest arrangements should be made to send the bodies of the dead to their families with respect and the best treatment should be provided to the injured. The BJP government should not commit the sin of hiding the deaths." He said the news of

accidents of buses and other vehicles full of Maha Kumbh devotees is increasing day by day which is very sad.

"The main reason behind this is that due to heavy traffic jams and chaos, the condition of the drivers is very bad. Neither their fatigue is getting over nor they are getting enough sleep. In

such a situation, they are driving in a semi-sleep state due to which accidents are happening," he said.

The SP chief said that along with this, there is also a challenge to save the pedestrians on the roads. "Therefore, deaths are happening as soon as the attention is diverted. The only solution to this

is good management, which only the government can do but it is not able to do," he said.

He said that all devotees who went on the Maha Kumbh Yatra and died at different places due to stampede, accident or suffocation should be treated equally and their families should be compensated for this.

## HPSEBL employees protest against suspension of Union leader

Shimla, Feb 16 (UNI) The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of HPSEBL Employees, Engineers and Pensioners has strongly condemned the HPSEBL management for its alleged vindictive action against a union office-bearer.

The committee

opposed the suspension of Nitish Kumar, Assistant Lineman, for advocating against the abolition of posts and in favour of the Old Pension System (OPS) in HPSEBL.

Nitish Kumar, who is currently working under the Electrical Division in Nadaun, serves as the Unit

President of the HPSEBL Employees Union in Nadaun and also holds the position of Vice President in the State Body.

According to sources on Sunday, his suspension was triggered by a speech he delivered at the Bijli Panchayat in Hamirpur on February 11, 2025.

## Auto driver arrested for stealing 18 autorickshaws

Mumbai, Feb 16 (UNI) An autorickshaw driver was arrested by neighbouring Navi Mumbai police for allegedly stealing 18 autorickshaws parked in different parts of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, police said on Sunday. Accused identified as Nisar Sattar Khan (36), hailing from Mehkar in Buldhana district and resident of Kacchi Mohalla in Panvel area of Navi Mumbai, was arrested by Panvel Town police based on a secret information.

During interrogation, he told the police that since last one year, he had stolen 18 autorickshaws in Panvel town, Kalamboli, Kamote police station limits and sold them in Buldhana, official said. A police team subsequently went to Buldhana and recovered all the 18 vehicles, official said. The accused had erased the chasis and engine number of one of the vehicles and it was not yet ascertained to whom it belonged, he added.

## Financial institutions play important role in devt.: CM



Chandrapur, Feb 16 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said on Sunday that financial institutions along with direct benefit transfer (DBT) play a significant role in development of the country and the common citizens. Speaking at a programme organised at Priyadarshan on occasion of the silver jubilee celebrations of Sanmitra Mahila Nagari Sahakari Bank here, he talked about how Prime Minister Narendra Modi has

strengthened the Indian economy where economic institutions thrive, and development abounds.

He said that Modi has connected every citizen of India with the banking sector, facilitating every citizen to have a bank account today. The Chief Minister further said that the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat have made very good progress in the cooperative sector, and this is evident from the way in which cooperative banks have been posing a

challenge to commercial banks. He appreciated the manner in which Sanmitra Bank has moved forward successfully in today's era of globalisation.

Today, Sanmitra Bank has not only adopted core banking and digital banking methods but also has taken up the issues of customer security, he said.

Interestingly, Sanmitra Bank is celebrating its silver jubilee this year, which has been declared as the Year of Cooperation by the United Nations, he added.

## Four from Maha killed, 13 injured in road accident in UP

Nanded, Feb 16 (UNI) Four devotees were killed, and 13 others were injured when their mini bus on way to Ayodhya from Maharashtra collided with a stationary bus on Purvanchal Expressway in Loniktra police station limits of Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh early on Sunday.

A release from the District Disaster Management department stated that the incident occurred early this morning when the mini bus collided with a bus parked on the side of road.

The accident was so severe that four of the devotees were killed on the spot and 13 others were injured.

The deceased have been identified as Sunil Digambar Wapade (50), Anusaya Digambar Wapade (80), Deepak Ganesh Godle Swamy (40), all three from Chhatrapati Chowk in Nanded) and Jayashree Kundalikrao Chavan (50, Adgaon Ranjebua of Hingoli).

All the injured have been admitted to hospital for treatment.

The injured persons are Chaitanya Rahul Swamy (16), Shiv Shakti Ganesh Godle (55), Bhakti Deepak Godle (30), Ranjana Ramesh Mathapati (55), Ganesh Godle (55), Anita Sunil Wapade (40), Veer Sunil Wapade (09), Sunita Madhavrao Kadam (60), Chhaya Shankar Kadam (60), Jyoti Pradeep Gaibdi (50), Arya Deepak Godle (05), Lokesh Godle (35) and Sridevi Bargale (60) (all hailing from Chhatrapati Chowk of Nanded), the release stated.

## Second FIR against arrested Ukrainian actor accused in Torres Ponzi scheme

Mumbai, Feb 16 (UNI) : In a major development in the Torres Ponzi scheme, the city police have registered a second FIR (first information report) against Ukrainian actor Armen Garun Atayin (48) for allegedly possessing fake Indian documents and making claim of being an Indian national during the probe of the case, officials said here on Sunday.

Ataian, who has

played minor roles in Indian films and web series, was arrested in Mumbai on January 28, for allegedly helping the Ukrainian nationals set up Platinum Hern, register the company and open jewellery stores across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). His name came up in the probe following the arrest and interrogation of Riyaz, alias John Carter, who claims to be a whistle-

blower. Recently, he moved a bail plea filed before the special MPID (Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors) court and denied all the charges levelled against him. The 48-year-old actor has claimed that his role was limited to arranging a meeting of some Ukrainian nationals with Tausif Riyaz, the chief executive officer of Platinum Hern Private Limited, Torres' parent company.

## I want J&K youth to be daring, adventurous, and strong: LG

Jammu, Feb 16 (UNI) : Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said that he wants the youth of this region to be daring, adventurous, and strong.

"I want the youth of J&K to be daring, adventurous, and strong. I want our youth to be unshakably strong in their morals and ideals," said Sinha speaking at the Annual Day Celebration of Guidance and Career Counselling (GCC), Gurha Slathia at Samba district.

"I firmly believe that our

youth must show the way to the world by carrying age-old traditional values in one hand and modern scientific tools in the other," he added. He said, "This unique youth organisation is a role model for the nation and its volunteers are doing superb work in imparting skill development and coaching with determined efforts to ensure their brighter future." The GCC has adopted a futuristic approach for the youth-centric initiatives to enhance the quality of their

pursuits and enable them to pursue their dreams, he said adding, "The focused effort to study, understand, develop and conserve cultural and intellectual heritage is truly inspiring."

"Society's speedy and inclusive development largely depends on the productivity of its youth. To realize the progress that we have envisaged for J&K," he added and said, "we need to secure the health of our youth at the local level. GCC is working with admin to achieve this goal through infrastructure and coaching."

## Maha Kumbh witnesses tsunami of Sanatan saints

Prayagraj, Feb 16 (UNI) : Saints, religious leaders and research institutions are offering profound insights into the deeper significance of extraordinary gathering in Maha Kumbh, describing it as a testament to the timeless philosophy of Sanatan Dharma.

The divine and magnificent Maha Kumbh, which started on January 13 in Sangam City, Prayagraj, has already etched its name in history. The event set a remarkable precedent even before its conclusion, with millions reaffirming their faith through the sacred Triveni Sangam.

Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Arun Giri of Shri Panch Dashnam Aavahan Akhara,

the oldest of the 13 Akharas upholding Sanatan Dharma, describes this surge of faith as a 'tsunami of Sanatan Dharma'.

Similarly, Mahant Ravindra Puri, President of the All India Akhara Parishad, declared this Maha Kumbh as the largest religious, cultural and social gathering in human history. This unprecedented participation underscores India's spiritual strength and cultural unity, making Maha Kumbh an event of global significance.

With around 52 crore devotees participating 12 days before the conclusion of Maha Kumbh, this monumental gathering has become the largest religious, cultural and social congregation in human

history. Various research institutions analyzing the event have conducted factual assessments to document this unprecedented participation.

Editor of Saraswati magazine and author of Prayag Gaurav Ravi Nandan Singh, who has been researching Maha Kumbh and pilgrimage traditions, emphasizes the deep interconnection between power and culture.

He said that Maha Kumbh has showcased the enduring influence of Sanatan Dharma, with its spiritual essence resonating strongly in the event. The divine, grand and digital Maha Kumbh placed Sanatan Dharma and youth at its core, bridging

tradition with modernity, he said.

The digital transformation of Maha Kumbh fostered a deeper connection between technology and the younger generation. Many youths who were previously indifferent or neutral towards Sanatan Dharma under the previous government attended Maha Kumbh out of curiosity, seeking to understand its essence firsthand.

Prof D P Dubey of the Pilgrim Society of India, an organisation specialising in pilgrimage studies, acknowledges that at the heart of this historic Maha Kumbh is the emergence of a strong and dynamic Sanatan leadership, deeply resonating with the youth.

## PM's younger brother Prahlad Modi offer prayers at Ram temple

Ayodhya (UP), Feb 16 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi's younger brother Prahlad Modi on Sunday visited the grand temple of Ram Lalla at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi and the famous Hanuman Garhi temple to offer prayers.

Talking to journalists, he said, "Our lives have been blessed by seeing Lord Ram. We are very happy. Whatever changes are taking place in

Ayodhya, it is creating a great employment environment for the youth of Ayodhya for the coming days." Modi said the Ram temple has been built in Ayodhya after five hundred years of sacrifice and dedication. "Those who have sacrificed themselves in the Ram temple movement have become immortal," he said.

Regarding the Maha Kumbh, Modi said that the

government's arrangements are very good. "I could not go due to my ill health, but I am hearing good things from people. The way sages and saints used to perform yagna earlier, in the same way, Maha Kumbh is also a yagna, in which people from all over the country and the world are coming. People are so excited to go there that the entire route is getting jammed," he said.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and said that according to the information he has received the arrangements there are really very good. "The place where crores of people are taking a dip in the Sangam at Prayag Maha Kumbh will also be amazing," he said. Taking a dig at those commenting on the Maha Kumbh, he said just as all external forces were engaged in disturbing the yagnas of sages and saints, the same kind of people are commenting on the Maha Kumbh.

On the statements of some political parties regarding the death toll during the stampede in the Maha Kumbh, he said if the figures have been hidden, then who told the number of thirty.

## Yogi urges all to support Maha Kumbh's traffic and cleanliness mgmt

Lucknow, Feb 16 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday urged all devotees attending Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj to cooperate actively to ensure smooth traffic management as well as maintenance of cleanliness.

Emphasising Maha Kumbh as a grand festival of faith that draws participants from across the country and the world, he said that collective efforts can significantly enhance the success of this sacred event. Stressing the importance of cleanliness, he reminded everyone that hygiene at Maha Kumbh is a shared responsibility. He encouraged devotees to uphold cleanliness and inspire others to do the same. Yogi requested devotees to avoid parking on roads and instead utilize designated parking areas, ensuring seamless movement for all and enabling an unhindered opportunity to take a holy dip in the sacred Triveni. Besides, he appealed to saints, ashrams, and religious and social institutions to continue the uninterrupted distribution of Bhandara and Prasad, allowing every devotee to partake in this sacred tradition.

**भिवंडी निजामपुर शहर महानगरपालिका भिवंडी, जि. ठाणे**  
बांधकाम विभाग प्र.स.क्र.०२

**फेर ई-निविदा सुचना क्र. १५३/२०२४-२५**

भिवंडी नि. शहर महानगरपालिकेच्या बांधकाम विभागा मार्फत खालील नमुद कामाचे निविदा फॉर्म [mahatenders.gov.in](http://mahatenders.gov.in) या संकेतस्थळावर दिनांक १७/०२/२०२५ ते दि. ०३/०३/२०२५ पर्यंत विक्रिस उपलब्ध आहे.

अ.क्र.	कामाचे नाव	अंदापत्रकिय रक्कम
१.	प्रभाग समिती क्र. २ च्या कार्यक्षेत्रात शेखर डोके प्लॉटच्या मार्गे ते हाजी मो. मटन शांप पर्यंत रस्ता दुरुस्ती करणे.	५७,७९,६६६/-

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Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of the country is inviting applications from qualified and experienced professionals for engagement as Resource Persons for conducting sessions as Faculty in Capacity Building Programmes designed for various State Government Departments. These programmes will be organized by National Institute of Training for Standardization, BIS and BIS' Branch Offices at various locations across the country.

For Resource Persons, BIS is seeking individuals having a minimum experience of 3 years in the relevant field who can be Member of concerned BIS Technical Committees; Retired Officer of the concerned government department like, CPWD, PWD, PHED, Distribution Utilities, Water Resources, Irrigation, etc; Faculty of the concerned discipline from Engineering/Science Colleges with preference to BIS' partner Institutes; Serving Industry personnel/consultant of the concerned field; and Member of the concerned professional bodies like Institution of Engineers (India), Indian Association of Structural Engineers, Indian Plumbing Association, Indian Water Works Association, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Minimum 3 years' experience in relevant areas. In addition, they shall have in-depth knowledge and experience in relevant areas and strong communication and interpersonal skills. Proven track record in training, capacity building, or related fields is desirable.

These Resource Persons are expected to deliver expert sessions and training as per the session transaction plans and using the course materials and powerpoint presentations to be provided by BIS. Guidelines for State Government Capacity Building Programmes and Engagement of Resource Persons and Session Transaction Plans for the programmes for the various state government departments can be accessed from the following link:

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Interested candidates can submit their applications along with duly filled in Annexure 1 of the above mentioned Guidelines to [nits@bis.gov.in](mailto:nits@bis.gov.in), latest by **28 February 2025**, and join BIS in its efforts towards national capacity building.

NOTE - BIS reserves the right to revise/reschedule/modify/cancel/suspend the process without assigning any reasons. The decision of BIS shall be final and no appeal shall be entertained in this regard.

**CBC 08103/12/0020/2425**

## STANDARD POST

## Study shows antidepressants can fight infections, sepsis

While antidepressants are commonly used to treat mental health disorders, new research showed their potential to prevent serious infections and life-threatening sepsis.

Scientists at the Salk Institute showed that antidepressants can regulate the immune system and defend against infectious disease. The findings, published in the journal *Science Advances*, may lead to a new generation of life-saving treatments and enhance global preparedness for future pandemics.

The team found that the antidepressant Prozac -- also known as fluoxetine -- can protect tissues and organs while killing bacteria or virus.

"It's essentially playing offense and defense, which is ideal and especially exciting to see in a drug that we already know is safe to use in humans," said Professor Janelle Ayres, from Howard Hughes Medical Institute. In the study, the researchers studied mice with bacterial infections and separated them into two categories: one pretreated with fluoxetine and the other not.

They found that the mice pretreated with fluoxetine were protected from sepsis, multi-organ damage, and death. In further tests, the number of bacteria was measured in each mouse population eight hours after infection. Treatment with fluoxetine led to fewer bacteria, signifying a less severe infection.

The findings demonstrated that fluoxetine had antimicrobial properties, which allowed it to limit bacterial growth. Next, the researchers measured the levels of different inflammatory molecules in each group. They saw more anti-inflammatory IL-10 in their pretreated populations and deduced that IL-10 prevented sepsis-induced hypertriglyceridemia -- a condition in which the blood contains too many fatty triglycerides. This enabled the heart to maintain the proper metabolic state, protecting the mice from infection-induced morbidity and mortality. The team found that fluoxetine can kill pathogens and also alleviate infection-induced damage to the body.

## BIREN SINGH'S FALL: A POLITICAL CHESS GAME IN MANIPUR

Imphal, Feb 16, (Waari Singbul Network) : The political tide in Manipur has turned dramatically. Once unthinkable, the resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has now reshaped the state's already fragile landscape. But was it a voluntary step down, or was he pushed into a corner by forces both within and outside his party?"

For months, Manipur has been in crisis, a state struggling to maintain order as ethnic tensions boiled over. And now, with the BJP unable to replace him, the President's Rule has been imposed—an outcome that raises more questions than answers. Singh's exit isn't just about a change in leadership; it's a signal of deeper political games at play, power struggles within the BJP, and an alarming shift in the Centre's handling of the Northeast's most volatile state.

True to his stand, Biren Singh made sure his departure came with a condition: Manipur's territorial integrity must remain intact. No division of the state. No separate administration for the Kuki-Zo communities. This demand laid bare the core of Manipur's crisis—the bitter divide between the



N Biren Singh, the BJP's fall guy

Meiteis and the Kuki-Zo, further complicated by Delhi's balancing act between communities."

The BJP, struggling to find a successor, had little choice but to take Singh's terms while simultaneously preparing for President's Rule. For many, this move was a calculated attempt to appease Kuki-Zo demands while trying to keep Meitei sentiments from erupting into further unrest.

Singh, however, had already lost real power long before his resignation. The

real control had quietly shifted to Delhi. Security decisions were being made by the Union Home Ministry, with Manipur's "United Command" reporting directly to the Centre. Singh was sidelined. He had no real say in how the crisis unfolded.

Yet, when things worsened, he was the one held responsible. A convenient fall guy. The BJP, caught between ethnic conflicts and electoral calculations, made a choice:



it was easier to sacrifice Singh than to risk deeper political fallout.

To many in Manipur, Singh's removal feels less like a necessary political decision and more like a punishment for doing what he believed was right. His administration took some hard, decisive steps, which included the crackdown on poppy cultivation/drug cartels, the clearing of encroachments in reserved forests, and a push for the National Register of Citizens (NRC) to curb illegal immigration from Myanmar. These decisions alienated the Kuki-Zo, a key voter base for the BJP, while solidifying his support among the Meitei and Nagas. His removal, many

believe, was a way to regain favor with this group.

With Singh out and no BJP leader ready to step up, the Centre had no option but to impose President's Rule. Kuki-Zo leaders welcomed it, seeing it as a step toward their demands for a separate administration. Meiteis, on the other hand, viewed it as a betrayal—a sign that the Centre was leaning towards conceding Kuki-Zo aspirations at their expense.

For the Meitei community, the worst part isn't just losing Singh. It's the failure of their own elected representatives to rally behind a new leader. Instead of uniting, Manipur's political class has been consumed by

infighting, leaving the state rudderless at a time when strong leadership is most needed.

Biren Singh's resignation isn't the end of Manipur's troubles. If anything, it marks a new chapter in an already volatile crisis. The state remains deeply fractured, with trust in governance at an all-time low. Biren Singh's fall wasn't just about one man stepping down. It was about a power play in a state caught between ethnic conflict, external interference, and political expediency. His resignation might have been controversial, but the real question remains: who stands to gain from his removal, and what will Manipur pay for this change in leadership?

## Deep ideological brainstorming on various aspects of New Education Policy in National Seminar of Maharashtra State Hindi Sahitya Academy

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 16 :A one-day national seminar on the contemporary topic of "New Education Policy: Mutual Coordination of Regional Language and Official Language" was successfully organized under the joint aegis of Maharashtra State Hindi Sahitya Academy, Mumbai and Bank of Maharashtra, Convener of City Official Language Implementation Committee of Mumbai Metropolitan Banks, in which deep ideological brainstorming was done on various aspects of this important topic.

This seminar started in the auditorium of Indian Merchant Chambers at Churchgate, Mumbai on Friday, 14 February, 2025 with garlanding of the picture of Mother Saraswati and lighting of lamps by Dr. Sheela Prasad Dubey, Executive President of Maharashtra State Hindi Sahitya Academy and other guests. First of all, the Maharashtra state song was presented and all the guests seated on the stage were welcomed by draping shawls on them and presenting them the historical book "Maharashtra-Balidanon Ki Dharti" published by the Academy.

The coordination between the official language and the regional language in the new education policy was analysed well by Dr.



Sheetla Prasad Dubey, Executive Chairman of Maharashtra State Hindi Sahitya Academy as he presided over in this dignified seminar and Girish Mohanrao Thorat, Chairman of Bank Narakas, Mumbai and General Manager of Bank of Maharashtra as the co-chairman of Seminar. Dr.

Dubey, while describing this event as very relevant, said that the roots of regional languages are very important in the promotion of Indian culture. Therefore, their preservation is very necessary.

Mr. Thorat, General Manager, Bank of Maharashtra said that the

Bank Nagar Official Language Implementation Committee of Mumbai is playing an active role in promoting the official language as well as regional languages. As the chief guest, Dr. Sushmita Bhattacharya, retired Joint Director of Official Language Implementation in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, made people aware of the important aspects of the new education policy.

As the main speakers, Rajendra Verma, Deputy Director, Hindi Shikshan Sanstha, Ministry of Home

elegant style.

In these discussion sessions, the main topic was also well connected from the literary point of view and technical point of view by various speakers. Chief Guest Dr. Sushmita Bhattacharya appreciated the remarkable work being done by Maharashtra State Hindi Sahitya Academy and Bank Nagar Official Language Implementation Committee in the promotion of languages and called the organization of this seminar a very important step in this direction. In various

Language Officers and Executives of the member offices of Bank Nagar Official Language Implementation Committee Mumbai, Executive Members of Maharashtra State Hindi Sahitya Academy Gajanan Mahatpurkar & Prof. Markandey Tripathi and Co-Director Sachin Nimbalkar were also present in this seminar, who were felicitated on the stage.

The successful conduct of the seminar and vote of thanks was done by Chief Official Language

Affairs, Government of India, Dr. Vandana Sharma, Head of Hindi Department of SNTD College and Dr. Rajendra Srivastava, a famous story writer and retired Deputy General Manager of Bank of Maharashtra, gave useful information about the important issues of the new education policy in an

discussion sessions, Official Language Manager of Indian Overseas Bank Santosh Pathak, Assistant General Manager (Official Language) of SIDBI Mrs. Sunita Murali and Chief Official Language Manager of Exim Bank Padmakar Mishra also expressed their views as topic promoters. Apart from the Official

Manager of Bank of Maharashtra and Member Secretary of Bank Narakas Mumbai Hitendranath Ghotkar. In this national seminar, various literary figures including "senior journalist Prof. Ajit Rai, Ashwani Rai and Usha Dubey and students from various colleges also participated in large numbers.

## LG says aarti of Raghunath temple to be major attraction for tourists

Jammu, Feb 16 (UNI) : Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday attended Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Jammu Aarti, at Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Chowk, here. The Lieutenant Governor commended the efforts of Shree Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council for bringing this sacred and divine ceremony to Jammu, which has been going on at Ganga Ghats of Varanasi and Haridwar. Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Jammu Aarti will be a major attraction for tourists, seekers and definitely bolster the local economy, he said. The Lieutenant Governor said,

"Jammu is not only a city of temples, but it is also the axis of our eternal culture. Jammu is a symbol of our faith in Sanatan Sanskriti.

Jammu is a pilgrimage for seekers. It is the divinity and self-confidence of India. It is the centre of our heritage and the soul of our traditional values. The sanctity of Jammu is attached to the soul of every Indian. Therefore, I believe that the initiative of Shree Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council will bring a huge change in Jammu and usher joy and happiness in the lives of common citizen". The

Lieutenant Governor reiterated that all-round development of Jammu and the progress of its business class, shopkeepers, workers, entrepreneurs and transporters is the top priority of administration. "The last five years have been the golden period of Jammu. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are working with a long-term vision for the rejuvenation of Jammu and prosperity of its people," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the key initiatives of the government including beautification of

# Tech & Career

No matter where your career takes you in the future, the memory of your first job will live with you for the rest of your life. Your first job, which represents your transition from college to the corporate world, must be replete with learning opportunities and provide a strong platform for building a solid foundation that can ensure that your career is on the growth track.

## Profile first

The work you do is very important. A very crucial parameter in choosing your first job is the profile on offer. Choose a job that exactly fits your interests, does justice to your educational qualifications and career aspirations and is something you are passionate about.

Explains Nishant Kantawala, founder and CEO, IndieMix, "Many freshers make the error of ranking salary as the most important criteria while evaluating job offers. Always remember that money is not always important. You have the rest of your career to grow your earnings. Instead, focus on the quality of work you pursue."

Considering the fact that most companies are branching out to multiple locations today, both in India and abroad, freshers must also be open to exploring locations beyond their home city. To veto an interesting opportunity just because it involves re location may be a decision you will later regret;

working in varied locations will enrich your personality and add value to your profile.

## Learning is the key

Since your first job is all about learning and development, ensure that you imbibe crucial skills that are integral in building your career.

"You should work in an organisation

which supports and facilitates learning to the best of its ability. For example, an organisation with an extensive training and development programme for workers would be highly beneficial. Planned training programmes will give structure and rigour to your training," believes Prabha Shankar, recruitment consultant, Shell Consulting India.

Agrees Srishti Roy, creative head, Orange Vistas, "I was recruited from campus as a trainee at my first job with a leading creative agency. It was an extremely well planned, hands-on experience, exposing me to all aspects and workings of the business. This gave me a very grounded, yet holistic view of the industry and helped me perform well at work."

## Corporates vs start-ups

There is no right or wrong answer to

the debate between working at an established corporate or a start up.

A first job with an established corporate will add weight to your CV and give you the opportunity to learn coveted business practices. However, life at a start-up will be dynamic and provide you a range of hands-on experiences across different profiles. While both start-ups and corporates have their merits and demerits, remember that the industry you choose to work in matters more.

"My advice would be to enter a booming or upcoming sector or industry. There is no point joining a sector which is incurring losses, as this limits your growth, learning, opportunities and the buzz of activity within the sector" opines Kantawala.

## Lasting impression

It's all too easy to get misguided while choosing your first job. People around you will always have an opinion on the matter --whether family relatives or peers. Additionally, companies and hiring agent will make their own pitches to you. Spend time doing thorough research on the company, its policies,



# How to get your first Job right

*Securing the right job is vital as it sets the tone for the rest of your professional life. here are a few tips on how to go about it*

the industry, etc, to craft your own point of view.

Don't hesitate to ask your recruiter questions. Many freshers hesitate to seek clarifications to their doubts as they are unsure about how their questions will be received. Obtain absolute clarity about the job before you take a binding decision.

Don't make the error of looking at your first professional stint as just another job; rather, value it as the building blocks of your career.

## Mesh networks may become the 'New web'



At a time when web users in India are fighting for an open internet, an alternate technology that provides connectivity without internet or mobile coverage is gaining ground.

Called mesh networks, the technology allows smartphones to connect to one another via Bluetooth and peer-to-peer Wi-Fi. The more the number of users, the stronger the networks, which is why these are sometimes called self-healing networks. A number of Indian firms — AirJaldi Networks and Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), among them — are using this technology to provide internet connectivity in rural areas. US-based startup Open Garden Technologies, a pioneer in this technology, is also active in India through its messaging app Firechat.

"When we started the company, we always wanted to advocate net neutrality, access to information. What you want is to preserve the integrity and the level of innovation happening on the internet," said Micha Benoliel, CEO of Open Garden. Jayant Kolla, analyst at research firm Convergence Catalyst, said it is easy to leverage mesh networks for simple applications like messaging, either between people

or devices. Firechat came to use in Kashmir at the end of March when the state experienced relentless rainfall, invoking memories of last year's flood. "During these days, we saw how Firechat is useful by enabling crowd-sourcing of information at the hyper local level, and instant dissemination at the global level," said Benoliel, whose app has been used around the world during crises as well as in civil disobedience movements such as Hong Kong's Umbrella Revolution.

DEF, a non-profit, has provided connectivity to 30 rural schools and more than 50 village councils in Madhya Pradesh through mesh networking. Himachal Pradesh-based AirJaldi provides wireless connectivity in six states in the country. Providing full-scale wireless connectivity with mesh networks is a different game altogether, said Kolla. To establish connectivity through mesh networks, an operator would need small cell towers that in turn would talk to a base station and finally to an internet service provider, which makes this a difficult business to scale, he said. "But the advantages they provide for a geography like India, with little connectivity and penetration, is undeniable," said Kolla.

A new research done on email usage has found that nearly 90 percent of users reply to their emails within a day and majority of them reply within just two minutes.

Many of us reply to our

# E-mails in just 2 mins

Researches of Yahoo Labs in California and Spain analyzed the email habits of 2 million users who exchanged 16 billion emails in 7 months and observed that emails that were replied within just 2 minutes were as short as between 5 and 43 words, ABC News reported.

The research later discovered that the frequency of reply as well as the

length of the email was increased as the email exchanges or conversation progressed, but at the end, e-mailers lost steam possibly because there was nothing left to say.

The researchers also observed that

emails sent on the weekend or overnight got slower and shorter, and the ones sent in the morning had faster and longer replies.

On the other hand research showed that teens and youngsters answered their emails faster than any other group whereas ones over 51 years of age took an average of 47 minutes to send an email.

Also people who were bombarded with 100 emails or more per day only bothered answering about 5 percent of them, compared to a 25 percent average email response rate for people who had less amount of mails to manage.



## Hyderabad Runners hosts Club Run 2025 at Hyderabad Central University

Hyderabad, Feb 16 (UNI): The 16th edition of the annual Club Run 2025, organized by Hyderabad Runners, was held on Sunday at the Hyderabad Central University Campus, Gachibowli.

The event featured 10K and Half Marathon (21.1 km) races, attracting enthusiastic participation from runners across the city. As a part of the event, the Couch25K training program was conducted at 26 locations, where 626 participants underwent an eight-week training regimen before completing their 5K graduation run. The event aimed to encourage fitness

and long-distance running among enthusiasts of all levels.

The run was flagged off by Vijay Raju, Director of Anvita Group, Atul Sharma, COO of Shriram Life, and Dr G Vineet, DCP Madhapur Law & Order.

Approximately 3,000 runners from the twin cities took part in the race, including a significant number of students and staff from Hyderabad Central University.

As a qualifying race for the Hyderabad Marathon, participants gave their best efforts to clock personal record timings. Apollo Spectra Hospitals provided

emergency medical support for the event, ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants.

In the Half Marathon (21.1 km) category, Avik Pal won the Men's Race with a timing of 1 hour 18 minutes 57 seconds, while Neliswe Magongo secured first place in the Women's Race with a time of 1 hour 38 minutes 39 seconds.

In the 10K Race, Chaudhary Balmiki emerged victorious in the Men's Category with a time of 38 minutes 05 seconds, while Kitu Sheoran won the Women's Category in 49 minutes 32 seconds.

The top three runners in

each category were felicitated by Vijay Raju, Atul Sharma, and Rishitha Reddy Basireddy, an ITF-ranked tennis player with a World Rank of 188 and a National Rank of 3. She has won 7 singles titles and 4 doubles titles in junior tournaments.

Dignitaries present at the felicitation ceremony included Ram Katikineni (Executive Member, Hyderabad Runners), Arun Kumar Kaliappan (Secretary, Hyderabad Runners), Raghu Peetambaran (Treasurer, Hyderabad Runners), and Ajit Mishra (Race Director, Club Run 2025).

## Real and Atletico Madrid both slip up in LaLiga

Madrid, Feb. 16 (UNI): FC Barcelona has the chance to go to the top of LaLiga if it beat Rayo Vallecano on Monday after Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid were both held to draws on Saturday.

Real Madrid dropped two points as it was held to a 1-1 draw away to Osasuna in a game Carlo Ancelotti's side had to play for over 50 minutes with 10 men after Jude Bellingham was sent off for swearing at referee Jose Luis Munuera Martinez.

Kylian Mbappe had put Madrid ahead with a powerful finish after 15 minutes after Fede Valverde's low cross, but Ante Budimir equalized for Osasuna in the 58th minute from the penalty spot after he had been caught late by Eduardo Camavinga.

Both sides looked for a winning goal, but Madrid went closest in the closing moments with Osasuna goalkeeper Sergio Herrera producing a reflex save to deny Mbappe.

Real Madrid's draw meant that a home win for Atletico Madrid against Celta Vigo would take it to the top of the table, but Diego Simeone's side got off to the worst

possible start when Pablo Barrios was sent off for a dangerous challenge after only seven minutes.

Atletico didn't have a shot on target in the first half and fell behind when Iago Aspas scored from the penalty spot after a foul on Borja Iglesias, but Alexander Sorloth saved a point for Atletico when he bullied his way past the Celta defense to score an excellent individual goal nine minutes from time.

Valencia helped its cause of avoiding relegation with a 1-1 draw away to fifth place Villarreal, who is now three places behind Athletic Club.

Umar Sadiq began to justify his January signing with a powerful 83rd minute header to save a point for Valencia after Pape Gueye had put Villarreal ahead in the 31st minute with a spectacular left-foot shot.

Leganes and Alaves shared six goals in a thrilling game between two sides battling to avoid relegation.

Getafe continued its unbeaten start to 2025 with a 2-1 win away to Girona on Friday.

## Everton's Alcaraz late goal give high burden to Crystal Palace

London, Feb 16 (UNI): Carlos Alcaraz scored the winner on his first Premier League start for Everton as the Toffees beat Crystal Palace to continue their fine form under David Moyes.

Alcaraz, who joined on loan from Flamengo in January, side-footed home from a close-range with 10 minutes remaining, after Will Hughes had diverted Ashley Young's low drive into his path, the BBC reported. In-form Beto had given the Toffees a first-half lead with a composed finish from Alcaraz's pass, barely a minute after Ismaila Sarr had struck the underside of the crossbar for Palace.

But the hosts were back on level terms early in the second half, with the video assistant referee (VAR) eventually awarding Jean-Philippe Mateta's close-range finish after a lengthy check for offside against the Frenchman. Oliver

Glaser's team were the better side before half-time and briefly thought they had gone in front when Jefferson Lerma sent a header past Jordan Pickford, but Justin Devenny's corner was ruled to have gone out of play before reaching the midfielder. Dean Henderson produced a fine one-handed save to keep out Jesper Lindstrom's effort not long after Mateta's equaliser, before Beto shot straight at the Palace goalkeeper as Everton sought to regain their advantage.

The visitors finally got the goal they deserved for their second-half display when Alcaraz slotted home to earn Moyes' side a fourth win in five league matches.

The victory puts Everton level on points with Palace, who remain in 12th because of their superior goal difference.

## Ipswich 10 men's play draw game with Aston Villa

Birmingham, Feb 16 (UNI): Struggling Ipswich Town delivered a battling performance to hold Aston Villa to a Premier League draw at Villa Park, despite playing nearly an hour with 10 men.

A largely uneventful first-half was brought to life when Ipswich's Axel Tuanzebe brought down Jacob Ramsey on the edge of the penalty area, earning the former Villa defender a second yellow card, the BBC reported.

The visitors had defended well up to that point and had to survive heavy pressure early in the second-half, but they stunned Villa Park when Liam Delap beat Axel Disasi to Omari Hutchinson's low cross and steered the ball into the far corner. Amid growing exasperation among the Villa supporters, Ollie Watkins equalised from close range after half-time substitute Marcus Rashford had rattled the crossbar from a free-kick. Fellow February arrival, Marco Asensio blazed over the bar from an excellent position before forcing Ipswich goalkeeper Alex Palmer into a superb one-handed save, as Villa pushed for a winner.

## India lose to Spain in FIH Pro League opener

Bhubaneswar, Feb 16 (UNI): The Indian men's hockey team began its FIH Pro League 2024-25 campaign with a 1-3 defeat to Spain at the Kalinga Stadium here on Saturday.

Sukhjeet Singh netted the lone goal for world No. 5 India, while Borja Lacalle (28'), Ignacio Cobos (38') and Bruno Avila (56') found the target for the eighth-ranked Spanish outfit.

India started aggressively and earned an early penalty corner in the third minute, but Jugraj Singh's drag-flick

## Tripura to host 73rd B N Mullik Memorial All India Police Football

Agartala, Feb 16 (UNI): Tripura is set to host the prestigious 73rd B N Mullik Memorial All India Police Football Championship from February 24 with 43 teams including 9 women groups participating in five grounds in different parts of the state up to March 7.

Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Tinku Roy said that the department has undertaken all preparations for the success of the tournament and to ensure a memorable stay in Tripura for visiting football teams. The teams of BSF, CRPF, RPF, and CISF along with different state police forces will participate in the events. As many as 34 men football teams and 9 women teams of police will play matches at Umakanta mini stadium of Agartala, Tulabagan stadium of Mohanpur, Sachindra Colony ground, and Jampujala football ground in Jirania and Chandrapur ground in Udaipur.

was well intercepted by Spain's first rusher.

The hosts had another chance to take the lead in the 14th minute when a well-directed pass by Abhishek found Lalit Upadhyay, who made a skilful run but failed to convert. Goalkeeper Suraj Karkera replaced Krishan Pathak in the second quarter, as India pressed forward. Abhishek and Sukhjeet Singh spearheaded the attack, creating multiple chances. The breakthrough came in the 25th minute when Sukhjeet latched onto a

## Fierce rivalries set to ignite in national TT championship

Indore, Feb 16 (UNI): The UTT 31st Masters National Championships, set to begin here on Monday, promises to showcase the intense rivalries of seasoned veterans battling for supremacy across five men's categories (80, 75, 70, 65, 60) and two women's categories (66, 60), in addition to the singles and mixed doubles events in the first couple of days. The stage is set for displaying their skill, experience, and unwavering passion for table tennis. Unlike the previous edition, where logistical chaos threatened to overshadow the competition, this year's event is set to run with precision. The competition department, in collaboration with the veterans and technical committees, has ensured the presence of a larger contingent of outstation umpires for the operation of the event. With an extra day factored into the schedule, the championships will

## GG restrict UP Warriorz to lowest WPL-3 total

Vadodra, Feb 16 (UNI):

A clinical bowling performance from Gujarat Giants saw UP Warriorz being restricted to the lowest total of the third season of the Women's Premier League (WPL), as they were bowled out for 143 in their innings here on Friday. Despite an encouraging start from Kiran Navgire, who played a few fluent strokes, the Warriorz lost momentum after she was trapped leg-before-wicket by Deandra Dottin.

A brief resistance came in the form of a partnership between Deepti Sharma (39) and Uma Chetry (24), but once that stand was broken, the batting side found itself in trouble.

The turning point came when Priya Mishra bowled a game-changing over, dismissing the key duo of Tahliha McGrath (0) and Grace Harris (4) to leave the Warriorz reeling at 78/5.

The lower order, led by Alana King (19\*) and Saima Thakor (15), managed to push the total to 143, offering a fighting chance, but the score still appeared below par on a surface that had aided strokemaking earlier in the tournament.

## Niki Prasad stars as DCW edge past MIW in thriller



Vadodara, Feb 15 (UNI): Niki Prasad emerged as the match-winner for Delhi Capitals Women (DCW), guiding her side to a thrilling two-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians Women (MIW) in their Women's Premier League (WPL) encounter here on Saturday.

Niki's composed 35 off 33 balls, combined with a crucial 33-run stand with Alice Capsey, proved vital in DCW's successful chase of 165.

Chasing what appeared to be a par total, DCW got off to a blazing start, compiling 60 runs in the powerplay. Shafali Verma single-handedly mauled the Mumbai bowlers during her explosive 18-ball 43, which included seven fours and two sixes.

However, her dismissal on the final ball of the

powerplay, followed by skipper Meg Lanning who scored 15 off 19, tilted the momentum in MIW's favour. The next two overs saw Delhi losing Jemimah Rodrigues (2) and Annabel Sutherland (13) cheaply, reducing them to 76/4. The sudden collapse saw DCW add only 23 runs for the loss of three wickets in the four overs after the powerplay.

With pressure mounting, Niki and Capsey steadied the innings with their crucial partnership, ensuring Delhi remained in the hunt. Sarah Bryce's quickfire 21 off 10 balls and Radha Yadav's late blitz of 9 off 4 balls added to the drama in the final overs, setting up a nerve-wracking finish. DCW ultimately got over the line with just two wickets in hand, sealing a remarkable victory.

Earlier, Nat Sciver-Brunt's fighting unbeaten 80 off 59 balls was the lone bright spot in an otherwise underwhelming batting display by MIW, who were bowled out for 164 in 19.1 overs.

Sciver-Brunt anchored the innings with 13 crisp boundaries, keeping MIW afloat as wickets tumbled around her. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's brisk 42 off 22 balls injected much-needed momentum, but her dismissal proved to be the turning point, as the lower order failed to capitalise on the platform.

DCW's bowlers seized control at the right moments, with Sutherland (3/34) recovering from an expensive start to claim key scalps, while the ever-reliable Shikha Pandey (2/14) applied the brakes with precision.

## BCCI announces schedule for Tata IPL 2025

Mumbai, Feb 16 (UNI): Defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will set the ball rolling in the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) as they host Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the tournament opener at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, on March 22, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Sunday.

Aa per the schedule released by the BCCI, the final is slated for May 25.

A total of 74 matches will be played across 13 venues during the tournament, including 12 double-headers. The afternoon fixtures will begin at 3-30 P.M. The evening matches begin at 7-30 p.m.

The season's first double-header will take place on March 23, featuring Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) taking on Rajasthan Royals (RR) in an afternoon fixture at Hyderabad, followed by a high-voltage encounter between five-time IPL champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Mumbai Indians (MI) at MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai, in the evening.

Delhi Capitals (DC) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) will open their campaign against each other in Visakhapatnam on March 24. Gujarat Titans (GT) will play their first home game at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, against Punjab Kings (PBKS) on March 25.

Three franchises will split their home games between two venues. Delhi Capitals will play their matches in Visakhapatnam and at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

Rajasthan Royals will host two games in Guwahati against KKR and CSK before moving to their primary home venue, Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur.

Punjab Kings will play four home matches at the New PCA Stadium in New Chandigarh, while the remaining three home fixtures—against LSG, DC, and MI—will be staged at Dharamsala's picturesque Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium.

Following the conclusion of the league stage, the playoffs will be held across Hyderabad and Kolkata.

Hyderabad will host Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator on May 20 and 21, respectively, while Kolkata will stage Qualifier 2 on May 23. The grand finale of the tournament is scheduled for May 25, bringing down the curtain on yet another edition of the premier T20 league. The venue for the final will be announced later.

Printed, Published and Owned by  
Mohammed Shafi

Printed at Modi Print & Co.,  
Gala No. : MFL-IF, Devidayal Industrial Estate,  
Near Britannia Factory, Darukhana, Reay Road (E),  
Mumbai - 400 010. Maharashtra and  
Published from # Room No:106, Ground Floor,  
Flat No.40, Malvani Gate, Near Collector Compound,  
Near Quadri Masjid, Malad (W), Mumbai-400 095

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## Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Railways, Reviews Ongoing and Proposed Railway Projects in Bengaluru



**(Standard Post Bureau)** Mumbai, Feb 16 : Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Railways, chaired a meeting today at the Divisional Railway Manager's office in Bengaluru to review the progress of various ongoing and proposed railway projects in the region. Shri Arvind Srivastava, General Manager/South Western Railway (GM/SWR); Shri Chandra Vir Raman, General Manager/Rail Wheel Factory (GM/RWF); Shri Ajay Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer, Construction; Shri Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Divisional Railway Manager, Bengaluru; along with senior railway officials and officers from K-RIDE, Metro, and RLDA participated in the meeting. During the meeting, Shri Vaishnav reviewed the status of several important railway projects, including

the proposed Circular Railway Project, Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project, procurement of rolling stocks for suburban rail, the doubling of the Baiyappanahalli-Hosur (48 km) and Yeshvantpur-Channasandra (21.7 km) sections. Additionally, the progress of Bengaluru Metro Rail Projects, the proposed Hubballi-Ankola Railway Line, and the performance of the Rail Wheel Factory at Yelahanka were also discussed in detail. Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways appreciated the unique methodology being adopted by KRIDE to eliminate 6 level crossing gates between Hebbal and Banaswadi by raising the railway track so as to provide Road under bridges at these locations. It was also informed that five additional subway will be also constructed to

facilitate Bengalurians easy access across the track which is not possible today. "He reviewed the proposed redevelopment of KSR Bengaluru Station, a project expected to significantly improve infrastructure and commuter facilities. "Shri Vaishnav stressed the need to expedite the completion of these projects to ensure timely delivery and operational efficiency. He emphasized the importance of these projects in decongesting the city's traffic. The Hon'ble Minister emphasized the importance of planning railway projects with long-term requirements in mind, ensuring they cater to the growing demands of the region. He also advised adopting advanced technologies for maintenance to further enhance operational efficiency and sustainability.

## Uplifting marginalized communities our duty: J&K CM

Jammu, Feb 16 (UNI) Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday emphasized that uplifting marginalized communities like Gujjar-Bakerwal is not an act of favour but a fundamental duty of his government. The Chief Minister said that despite the limitations in Ministerial appointments after last year's elections, he ensured representation for the Gujjar community by appointing Javed Ahmed Rana as a Minister in his cabinet. Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, who also addressed the event, was in attendance. Minister Satish Sharma, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Patron Chief GDCT Abdul Hamid Choudhary, and Chairman GDCT Arshid Ali Choudhary also spoke at the event. "After the election, we had to think about the cabinet Ministers. However, there was very little scope. I requested Javed Rana to join the cabinet. Not only would he serve Jammu and Kashmir, but he will also be responsible for representing the community, being your voice, and addressing all your issues," the Chief Minister stated at a felicitation ceremony held by Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust in his honor following his election as Chief Minister of J&K. Omar Abdullah further stated that by inducting Javed Rana into the cabinet, he aimed to ensure that the Gujjar community's concerns were heard and addressed within the

government. On the demand for a Tribal University, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that with the dedication of the trust and its people, this vision would become a reality soon. "You should prepare a project. You should prepare a plan. I will sit with your trust when your plan is ready. We will do our part," he assured. Reflecting on his previous visit to Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT) as Chief Minister, he acknowledged the changes over time—some positive, some challenging. "After a long time, I have again had the opportunity to attend a function of Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust. If my recollection is correct, perhaps when I came here for the last time, I was a Chief Minister. A lot has changed since then" he said. Paying tribute to Dr. Masood A. Choudhary, the visionary founder of GDCT, the Chief Minister praised his legacy and contributions. "But unfortunately, the person who planted this seed, whose dream was Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, who laid its foundation, is no longer with us. If I begin my speech without remembering Dr. Masood A. Choudhary, it would be an injustice," he remarked. The Chief Minister also expressed his emotional connection to the trust, recalling the close relationship his grandmother, Madre-Meharban, had with it.

"I want this trust to grow stronger. My grandmother had a deep bond with it. Though she is no longer with us, her name is etched here. You have honored her memory by dedicating a library in her name. I consider it my responsibility to ensure that wherever possible, the government supports this trust in fulfilling its mission," he said. Assuring continued government support, Omar Abdullah pledged: "I assure you that on my behalf, on behalf of all ministers, advisor, and the government—wherever you need assistance, you will always find us standing with you." The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp by distinguished dignitaries

## Central Railway's Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial Hospital Byculla organises One day live operative Surgical workshop

**(Standard Post Bureau)** Mumbai, Feb 16 : Central Railway's Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial Hospital Byculla (BAMH) along with Mumbai Surgical Society (MSS) organised a One day Live Operative Workshop at the Operation Theatre Complex of the hospital on 15.2.2025. This was telecast live at the auditorium of the Hospital. A total of 7 cases including Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy, Appendectomy, Intraoperative Onlay Mesh Repair plus and Fundoplication were demonstrated respectively by Dr S Kanakakraya, Dr Harshwardhan Shirsat, Dr Sudatta Waghmare, Dr Nitin Borle and Dr Hemant Jain. Two Complex Perianal Fistulectomies were demonstrated by Dr Niranjana Aggrawal. The workshop was attended by 65 surgeons in and around Mumbai. "The Mumbai Surgical Society provided support by taking care of the back office work. "The Maharashtra Medical Council has given two credit points for the academic event. Dr Sushma Matey, Medical Director, BAMH was the chief guest for the function. She applauded the event for the selection of cases and highlighted the fact that the hospital is doing more than 300 laparoscopic surgeries a year and 5000 surgeries in all the departments per year. Dr Naresh Raw, Ex President MSS congratulated Dr Sushma Matey for successfully organising the event and appreciated the Operation Theatre and the workers in the Operation Theatre Complex. Dr Harshwardhan Shirsat, Sr Divisional Medical Officer and Co Ordinator of the workshop proposed the vote of thanks.

## Central Railway Ensures Special Arrangements for Comfortable and Hassle-Free Travel for Maha Kumbh-2025

**(Standard Post Bureau)** Mumbai, Feb 16 : Central Railway has introduced comprehensive arrangements, including special train services, enhanced passenger amenities, and extensive crowd management strategies across its network in a bid to ensure a seamless and convenient travel experience for devotees traveling to Prayagraj for Maha Kumbh-2025. Special Train Services

"To accommodate the surge in passengers, Central Railway has scheduled 42 special train services for Maha Kumbh-2025. These include:

- 14 trips of CSMT-Mau-CSMT specials
- 12 trips of Pune-Mau-Pune specials
- 12 trips of Nagpur-Danapur-Nagpur specials
- 4 trips of LTT-Banaras-LTT specials

Additionally, numerous special trains operated by other railways will pass through Central Railway stations, providing further convenience to pilgrims.

**Enhanced Passenger Facilities and Crowd Management Measures by Central Railway at following stations:**

Mumbai Division- CSMT, LTT, Thane, Kalyan

Pune Division-Pune, Daund, Ahmednagar, Miraj, Kolhapur,

Bhusaval Division-Bhusaval, Manmad, Nashik Road, Khandwa

Nagpur Division-Nagpur, Ballarshah, Chandrapur, Sewagram, Betul, Pandurna

Solapur Division-Solapur

**Measures at Stations**

- 'May I Help You' booths to assist passengers.
- Additional ticket counters.
- Dedicated holding areas at major stations for waiting passengers.
- Controlled access to escalators and lifts to prevent overcrowding.
- Unidirectional movement enforced on FOBs using dividers to streamline passenger flow.
- Real-time crowd management through coordinated CCTV monitoring and announcements.
- Strategic train placement to prevent

multiple crowded trains arriving at adjacent platforms.

- Queue management systems implemented at all major stations with additional RPF and ticket-checking personnel to ensure smooth boarding.
- **Measures Enroute and Emergency response protocol:**
  - If a train stops due to Alarm Chain Pulling (ACP) or other reasons, train staff will immediately deboard to inform passengers, prevent misinformation, and ensure safety.
  - Nearby stations and emergency control centers will be alerted to regulate other passing trains.
  - Visible presence of RPF and ticket checking staff at key locations to assist and guide passengers.
  - Drinking water and toilet facilities provided at designated holding areas.
- **Additional Measures - Mumbai Division**
  - Mumbai Division is running 3 daily trains from CSMT and 12 daily trains from LTT to Prayagraj, along with 2 special trains from Dadar (01025 & 01027).
  - Two Kumbh special trains (01033 & 01031) are operational.
  - One additional coach has been augmented in each of the two special trains (01025 & 01027) heading to Prayagraj.
  - Five additional UTS ticket counters have been opened at CSMT, LTT, Thane (TNA), and Kalyan (KYN).
  - Commercial Officers (3) and Commercial Inspectors (18) are deployed at key locations for rush monitoring.
  - 150 Ticket Checking (TC) personnel and 45 RPF staff are deputed in Prayagraj-bound trains for queue management and security.
  - Announcements are being closely monitored to provide real-time information to passengers.
  - Adequate availability of food and drinking water is ensured at all Mail/Express halting stations.
- **Additional Measures - Nagpur Division**
  - Currently, 39 trains operate towards Prayagraj from Nagpur

Division: 2 daily trains (12791 & 12295) and 37 weekly/biweekly trains, averaging 6 trains per day.

- Five special trains have been operated so far, with an additional train scheduled for February 23rd.
- UTS ticket sales are closely monitored, with increasing demand observed: 245 tickets sold on February 14th and 360 tickets on February 15th.
- Key stations for boarding and deboarding in the division include Balharshah (BPQ) and Nagpur (NGP).
- 5 ticket-checking staff at Ballarshah and 10 at Nagpur, along with RPF personnel, deployed to assist reserved passengers and prevent unauthorized entry into reserved coaches.
- Commercial Officers deployed in shifts to monitor passenger management.
- Advance coach position announcements displayed 15 minutes before train arrival.
- Continuous announcements over the PA system starting 30 minutes before arrival of trains.
- Ticket checking staff deployed on Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) to ensure smooth movement of passengers.
- C C T V surveillance at platforms and circulating areas for real-time crowd monitoring.
- Operating department instructed to avoid platform changes for North-bound trains.
- Additional Measures - Pune Division
  - Pune division is currently running 07 trains towards the Prayagraj area.
  - Train 12149 Pune to Danapur and rest 5 weekly (On average 1 per day)
  - Also, Pune division has run a special train to Prayagraj with 6trips (Train 01455 Pune to MAU with 110% Occupancy)
  - Passing through: 2 trains
  - UTS ticket sale at Pune is being monitored.
  - On 14/02/2025 total 932 persons purchased ticket from stations in Pune division to stations in Mahakumbh area.
  - On 15/02/2025 total 654 persons purchased tickets from

Pune division to stations in Mahakumbh area.

- Important stations where passengers are boarding/deboarding Prayagraj Trains over Pune division are: Pune, Daund, Ahmednagar, Miraj and Kolhapur
- 10 Station staff & squad batches along with RPF Personnel are deployed to attend the trains on platform and deboard the irregular travellers.
- Commercial Officers are present especially at the time of berthing until departure.
- Coach position are confirmed from rear station and displayed well in advance.
- Continuous announcement on PA system starts atleast 30 min before arrival of train.
- TC staff has been deployed on FOBs and sensitised to keep crowd moving. Accumulation of crowd at Station is to be avoided.
- Monitoring of PFs and Circulating areas by RPF through CCTV control room. Any crowding is informed to staff on ground for dispersal.
- Operating has been asked to avoid any change in PF. Specially so for originating trains and trains coming from/going towards North.
- Help Desk facility deployed on Pune station to help passengers
- Especially for Second Class Unreserved Coaches & Sleeper coaches RPF team of 2/3 each attends on both the ends of the platform
- Sectional CCI & DCTI are always available on platforms when such trains are berthing.
- Catering management has been done to see that unauthorized vending is not there as it reduces space available on platforms
- **Passengers are advised to arrive at the station well in advance to facilitate smoother boarding and a hassle-free journey.**
- For detailed information on special train services, passengers may visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in) or download the NTES App.
- Central Railway remains committed to providing a safe, comfortable, and efficient travel experience for all passengers journeying to Maha Kumbh-2025.

## Worship of the Formless Supreme Being through the Dance as a form : Nrutyopasana 2025

**(Standard Post Bureau)** Kalyan, Feb 16 : The much-awaited Nrutyopasana 2025, an annual dance offering by the students and teachers of Ninaad Sangeet Vidyalaya's Natashree Nrutyalaya, was successfully held on Sunday, 16th February, at Acharya Prahlad Keshav Atr Rangmandir, Kalyan (West). The event, which witnessed a total of 188 students participating, was a mesmerizing display of classical dance and devotion. The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp by distinguished dignitaries



Shri. Sahebrao Kawale, Smt. Bhuresing Mahajan, Smt. Pratibha Mahajan, and Smt. Bhakti Mahajan, marking the auspicious start of the event. This was followed by a soulful Ganesh Stuti, sung by the renowned vocalist Shri.

Omnakuttan Nair, setting the tone for the morning. The anchor of the program then took charge, guiding the audience through the sequence of performances. The dance recital began with \*Pushpanjali, followed by

\*\*Ganesh Kriti, \*\*Shlokam, and other classical items including \*\*Alarippu, \*\*Adavu-s, \*\*Nottuswaram, \*\*Shabdham, and \*\*Hari Narayana\*. These performances showcased the rich cultural heritage

and spiritual devotion through various classical dance forms. " After a brief interval, the second half of the program featured a beautiful performance of the Ardhnarishtwara Stotram performed by teacher Smt. Bhakti Mahajan, is a beautiful invocation of Lord Shiva in his dual form of Ardhnarishtwara, symbolizing the fusion of the masculine and feminine energies. This was followed by \*Shiva Keertanam, \*\*Tillana, and concluded with the auspicious \*\*Mangalam\*. The event, blending devotion, dance, and

music, was a spiritual and cultural celebration that captivated the audience and reflected the hard work and dedication of the students and teachers alike. Nrutyopasana 2025 was an resounding success, offering an unforgettable experience to all those who attended, and once again reaffirming the strong commitment of Ninaad Sangeet Vidyalaya's Natashree Nrutyalaya to preserving and promoting classical dance. It's was a wonderful occasion to experience classical dance in its full glory while celebrating Indian traditions and spirituality.