

IN BRIEF

Deputy CM Pawar cancels all his programmes due to ill health

Pune, Feb 17 (UNI) : Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar cancelled all his scheduled programmes for Monday due to ill health. It has come to know through party sources that he has a throat infection.

Due to increasing cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) in Pune, Pawar made an appeal to people on Sunday to avoid eating undercooked chicken.

Rs 624 Cr approved for flyovers project

Kolhapur, Feb 17 (UNI) Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, on Monday gave an in-principle approval for the proposed Rs 624 crore project of flyovers in the city and the Basket bridge on the national highway. Presiding over a review meeting of national highways development works in the district at Kolhapur airport in Ujalaiwadi of the district, Gadkari gave an in-principle approval for proposed flyover and Basket bridge project approximately worth Rs 624 crore.

He also ordered to submit the designs of the flyover and the Basket bridge immediately.

Earthquake of 4.0 magnitude jolts Delhi-NCR

New Delhi, Feb 17 (UNI) The National Capital Region (NCR) woke up to strong tremors it was hit by a 4.0 magnitude earthquake early on Monday.

The epicenter was near Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education in south Delhi's Dhauila Kuan. The earthquake struck at a depth of five kilometers at 5.36 am, the National Centre for Seismology tweeted.

The official said a loud sound was heard when the earthquake hit Delhi-NCR. The strong tremors caused residents of high-rise buildings in Delhi, Noida, Greater Noida, and Ghaziabad to rush out of their homes.

There were no immediate reports of any damage or injuries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi urges the residents of Delhi to stay "calm" and said authorities are keeping a close watch on the situation.

CM offers prayers in Tiruchanoor temple



Tirupati, Feb 17 (UNI) Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis visited Sri Padmavati Devi temple at Tiruchanoor near here on Monday and offered prayers.

On reaching the temple entrance, Fadnavis was welcomed by temple Deputy Executive Officer Govinda Rajan.

Later, the CM was offered theertha Prasadams

after the darshan of goddess Padmavati Ammavaru.

TTD board members Bhanu Prakash Reddy and Saurabh H. Bora were also present.

In special gesture, PM Modi receives Qatar Amir at airport

New Delhi, Feb 17 (UNI): In a special gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani at the airport on Monday evening, and the two leaders exchanged warm hugs.

The MEA spokesperson said in a post on X:

"A special gesture for a special friend! "PM @narendramodi welcomed HH Sheikh @TamimbinHamadAlThani, Amir of the State of Qatar, at the airport, as he arrived in New Delhi on his second State visit to India.

"The visit will further strengthen the bonds of India-Qatar partnership."

Qatari Ambassador in New Delhi Mohammed bin Hassan Al Jaber and Indian Ambassador in Doha Vipul were also present at the airport.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is to call on the Qatar Amir at the Hotel Leela Palace later in the evening.

On Tuesday morning, the Qatar Amir will be accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The Qatar Amir and PM Modi will hold bilateral talks at Hyderabad House at noon, which will be followed by the exchange of MoUs.

In the evening, there will be a meeting between the Qatar Amir and President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

He departs later at night.

The Amir of Qatar is on a two-day State Visit to India from February 17-18 at the invitation of Prime Minister Modi. He is accompanied by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani and an official delegation.

This is his second visit to India. He had earlier come to India on a State Visit in March 2015.

SS(UBT) slams Nitesh Rane, seeks his resignation for statement over selective govt funding

Mumbai, Feb 17 (IANS) Shiv Sena (UBT) on Monday launched a blistering attack against Maharashtra Cabinet Minister Nitesh Rane for his recent statement that funds from the district planning committee or from the state government will be allocated on a priority basis to the villages where workers were largely associated with the ruling MahaYuti.

"Where there is no BJPMP, MLA, or Sarpanch, will they deprive those areas of funds for development works? Aren't the people of those regions the citizens of India? Fadnavis must answer" asked the Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut.

An editorial published in the Shiv Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana', questioned BJP leader Nitesh Rane's alleged announcement that "If you want government funds, come to BJP, and if there are sarpanches of Maha Vikas Aghadi, then you will not get a single rupee." "Does the Chief Minister, who has returned from the Kumbh Mela, accept this stance of his minister?" Raut asked in the editorial in 'Saamana' on Monday. "This is completely against the oath taken by the minister according to the Constitution. The governor administers the oath to the ministers. The governor is

the watchdog of the Constitution. What can be said about a minister in Maharashtra publicly violating that oath. "A minister belongs to the entire state. He is not a member of a party or a faction within a party. However, for the last four years, the politics of hatred has reached its peak in Maharashtra," reads the editorial. Targeting former Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, it further adds, "The then Chief Minister of the extra-constitutional government followed a policy of providing ample funds only to the MLAs and MPs of his own faction.

Contract workers in Navi Mumbai civic body salary issue to be resolved soon: Fundkar

Mumbai, Feb 17 (UNI) : The issue of wages of contract workers in Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation will be resolved soon, said Maharashtra Labour minister Akash Fundkar on Monday.

The Navi Mumbai Municipal commissioner should take action in this regard and resolve the issue of contract workers at the earliest, he further said.

He was speaking at a meeting organized in the Ministry of Labour's office regarding the salaries of 8,000 contractual sanitation workers and 1,008 workers working on a daily wage basis in NMMC.

Former MP and Labour Union president Sanjeev Naik, Principal Secretary of the Labour Department I.A. Kundan, NMMC commissioner Kailash Shinde, officials of the Labour Department and representatives of various labour unions were present in the meeting. A committee has been formed at the level of the Municipal commissioner regarding the salaries of employees of NMMC. The report of this committee will be submitted to the Municipal Corporation soon.

After the report of this committee, the issue of salaries of contract workers will be resolved permanently, said Fundkar.

Third plane load of deported Indians from US arrives in Amritsar

Amritsar/New Delhi, Feb 17 (UNI) : Another US military aircraft carrying a third batch of 112 undocumented Indians who were deported from the US arrived in Amritsar on Sunday night.

The US Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft touched down at Amritsar International Airport around 10 pm, according to reports.

This is the third such batch of Indians deported from the US in the last 10 days as part of the Trump administration's crackdown on illegal immigrants.

Of the 112 deported Indians, 44 are from Haryana, 33 from Gujarat, 31 from Punjab, two from Uttar Pradesh, and one each from Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, reports said.

Earlier, on Saturday night, a second US military flight carrying 116 deported Indians landed at Amritsar airport.

Of the 116 deportees, 65 were from Punjab, 33 from Haryana, eight from Gujarat, and two each from Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Maharashtra,

and Rajasthan, with one each from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

According to sources, the women were not shackled. However, the men were brought in shackles, as per the US standard operating procedure with regard to deportation of illegal immigrants.

On February 13, during the press conference with President Donald Trump in Washington DC, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, when asked about the issue of illegal migration of Indians, had said the issue does not just concern India but is a global issue.

"We are of the view that people who illegally enter other countries, those people do not have any legal basis to live there.

"With regard to India and the US we have always said that the Indians who are verified to be Indian nationals, if they are found to be living illegally, we are ready to accept them back.

"But the issue does not stop there. These are people from ordinary families, and

are shown big dreams and are led astray and brought here. "And that is why we should wage war on the whole ecosystem of human trafficking and uproot it totally. And I have faith that President Trump will support India in ending this entire ecosystem," the PM said. On February 6, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had told Parliament that the deportation of Indians from the US was done "under standard deportation procedure which provides for the use of restraints", following uproar over the deportation of the first batch of 104 Indians bound in shackles on a US aircraft.

EAM told the Rajya Sabha that the deportation is done by the US Immigration and Customs Department, and the process has been effective from 2012. "The process of deportation is not a new one, I repeat not a new one, and has been ongoing for several years," he said, and cited details of deportation from the United States since 2009.

Mumbai doctor's body found in housing society, police suspect suicide

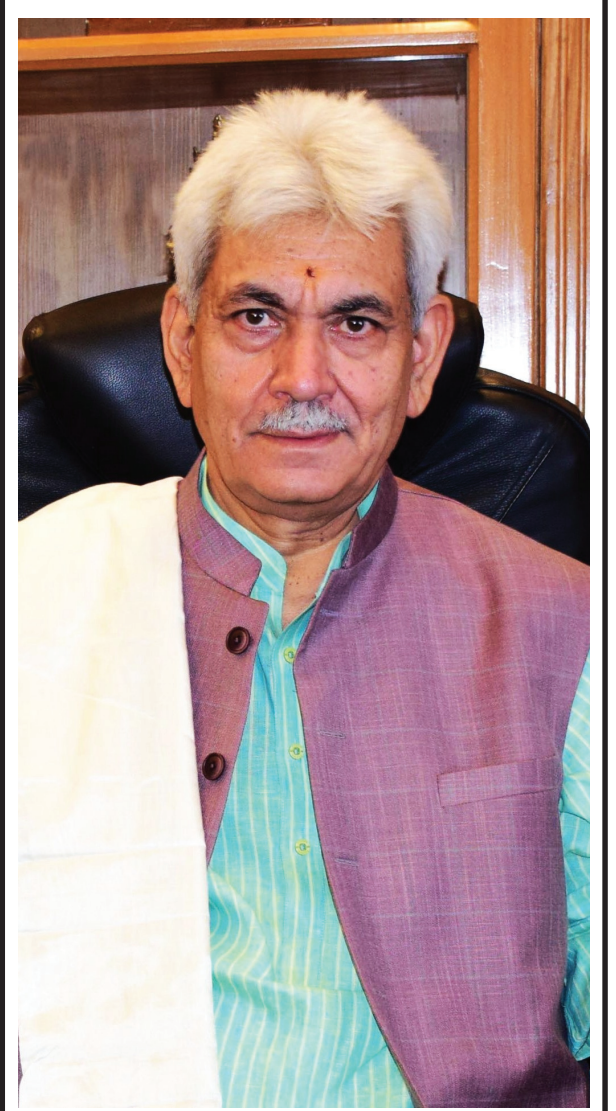
Mumbai, Feb 17 (UNI) A 65-year-old doctor allegedly jumped to his death from the 25th floor of his residence in the Nagpada area of South Mumbai, police said on Monday. An accidental death report (ADR) has been registered, the police said.

According to details, the body of Dr Farook Zaveri, an MBBS doctor, was found in the garden area of the housing society on Sunday. He had apparently committed by jumping from the 25th floor of the high rise building in the Nagpada area.

Dr Zaveri was running a dispensary in the Dongri area but had stopped going to his clinic six months ago. He was under depression, sources close to the family said.

"We were informed around 3 pm on Sunday that he was found in the garden area of the society.

We rushed him to JJ Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. After the post-mortem, the body was handed to the family" said the police officer.



J&K working for inclusive growth for socio-economic

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir is working for inclusive growth, which means socio-economic growth of all sections of society. "Today, Jammu and Kashmir is working for inclusive growth, which means socio-economic growth of all sections of society. Such initiatives hold the key to equitable growth and socio-economic change," Sinha said, addressing the gathering after inaugurating the first edition of the Sikh Cricket Premier League in Jammu.

(See on page 2)

BJP govt focused on publicity instead of preparing for



Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said that instead of making proper preparations for the Maha Kumbh, the Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh invited big faces through event management companies for its publicity.

(See on page 4)

Indian Men's Hockey Team prepares to lock horns with



After a mixed start to their FIH Pro League 2024-25 campaign, the Indian Men's Hockey Team, led by Captain Harmanpreet Singh, is ready to take on Germany in its upcoming matches at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium here.

(See on page 7)

Opposition will get wiped out for ignoring positives for



Union Minister and enior BJP leader Bhopendra Yadav on Monday predicted that the opposition was all set to get wiped out in the coming Bihar Assembly elections for "ignoring measures for the state in the latest Union Budget.

(See on page 8)

5000 Teachers Trained in AI: A Revolutionary Initiative by Red & White Skill Education



(Standard Post Bureau) Surat, Feb 17: Gujarat's renowned Red & White Skill Education has successfully trained 5000+ teachers in AI (Artificial Intelligence) through 20+

programs in over 10 cities in the past three months. This training empowers teachers to leverage AI for simplifying daily tasks and adopt innovative teaching methods to enhance

student learning.

This initiative marks a significant step towards a technological revolution in Gujarat's education sector, equipping the next generation to be AI Ready.

J&K working for inclusive growth for socio-economic growth of society: LG

Jammu, Feb 17 (UNI) : Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir is working for inclusive growth, which means socio-economic growth of all sections of society.

"Today, Jammu and Kashmir is working for inclusive growth, which means socio-economic growth of all sections of society. Such initiatives hold the key to equitable growth and socio-economic change," Sinha said, addressing the gathering after inaugurating the first edition of the Sikh Cricket Premier League in Jammu. "It is not just a sporting event but a cultural and social initiative that reflects the commitment to holistic community development and aims to build a brighter future for the youth of the Sikh community in J&K," said Sinha.

He added that through such innovative programs, the All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee continues to play a pivotal role in empowering the Sikh community and preserving its rich heritage while fostering a sense of pride and responsibility towards the society and the nation among its youth.

Maha Kumbh unique example of service and dedication: SPS Baghel

Prayagraj, Feb 17 (UNI) : Union Minister of State SP Singh Baghel on Monday shared his profound experience after taking a holy dip in the Maha Kumbh and praised the remarkable service efforts by ISKCON and the Adani Group.

After performing the rituals, the Union Minister said, "Today, I consider myself truly fortunate to have had the opportunity to take a holy dip in the Mahakumbh. It is God's grace and a defining moment in my life."

He said that the Maha Kumbh is not merely a spiritual event but a living testament to the values of

service, cooperation, and dedication. "The faith-driven and service-oriented tradition, embraced by millions of devotees, beautifully showcases the grandeur of Indian culture," he said.

In response to opposition claims of mismanagement during Maha Kumbh, Baghel said, "I want to tell the opposition that when 200-300 guests attend a wedding, the hosts get nervous and their hearts race. Now, consider that 50 crore people have come to this Kumbh. This is a monumental success, a historic event under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. This Kumbh has surpassed all previous records."

Lauding the service efforts of ISKCON and the Adani Group, he said, "Thanks to the cooperation of the Adani Group, ISKCON is providing Maha Prasad to one lakh people every day. This service underscores the sanctity of the Kumbh."

The Minister said, "We call it Maha Prasad because, in India, 80 crore people are given 5 kg of wheat and rice-free every month. This is a living reflection of India's rich tradition of service and commitment."

'Namaste Yojana' to benefit rag pickers in UP as well

Prayagraj, Feb 17 (UNI) : Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment BL Verma on Monday participated in the 'PPE Kit Distribution and Facilitation Program' at the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's camp in Maha Kumbh Nagar.

During the event, the Union Minister interacted with devotees and sanitation workers, providing insights into various government schemes. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasised

that Maha Kumbh, the world's largest spiritual gathering, attracts millions of devotees who come to bathe at the Sangam. "Managing cleanliness and health services in such a vast congregation is a significant challenge, which the government is addressing through a well-structured plan," he said.

He reiterated the government's commitment to the safety and dignity of sanitation workers, stressing that no worker should be forced to

undertake hazardous tasks.

Verma announced that from the financial year 2024-25, waste pickers will also be covered under the 'Namaste Yojana,' which will provide them with legal protection, access to social security schemes, and a secure livelihood. He urged citizens to incorporate waste segregation into their daily routines and actively contribute to the cleanliness drive. Highlighting the government's efforts, he shared that 65,060 sewer and septic tank workers have been profiled so far, while PPE kits have been distributed to 32,734 workers.

EAM Jaishankar calls on visiting Qatar Amir Tamim Bin Hamad al Thani

New Delhi, Feb 17 (UNI) : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on visiting Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani on Monday evening, and voiced confidence that the talks between the Amir and PM Narendra Modi tomorrow will deepen the bonds of friendship.

In a post on X, the EAM said: "Honoured to call on H.H. @TamimBinHamad, Amir of Qatar on his arrival in New Delhi for a State Visit. "Value his guidance on advancing our cooperation in many domains. Confident that his talks with PM @narendramodi tomorrow will deepen our close bonds of friendship."

According to the Qatari readout, during the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation relations between the two countries, in addition to the

latest regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani and a number of senior members of the accompanying official delegation.

Earlier, Prime Minister Modi in a special gesture received Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani at the airport, and the two leaders exchanged warm hugs.

Qatari Ambassador in New Delhi Mohammed bin Hassan Al Jaber and Indian Ambassador in Doha Vipul were also present at the airport, besides EAM Jaishankar.

On Tuesday morning, the Qatar Amir will be accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

TRAI must regulate telemarketers, OTTs to curb spam calls, messages effectively

New Delhi, Feb 17 (UNI) : The leading telecom service providers have expressed disappointment on the recent notification issued by telecom regulatory TRAI to curb spam calls and messages without regulating the telemarketers and OTT players. The apex association of TSPs, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has issued a statement opposing the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) saying a more comprehensive approach is required to resolve the issue of spam communication effectively and the operators have given their detailed recommendations in this regards but unfortunately the TRAI has gone ahead without considering them.

"COAI is disappointed to notice that the TRAI's amendment of the Telecom C o m m e r c i a l Communications Customer Preference Regulations (TCCPR), 2018 to strengthen consumer protection against Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC), has been issued without addressing all relevant issues. One of the most important demand of the TSPs was that this amendment should be released only after the delivery telemarketers (TMs) are brought under regulation to manage unlawful communication."

COAI would like to add here that it is in public knowledge that the DoT has already sought TRAI's

inputs on the authorization of TMs. "We had submitted to TRAI that the only feasible and optimal approach to handling UCC can be by bringing the Telemarketers under the licensing regime. Moreover, it would also establish that the Government and the Authority have legal control over entities responsible for sending such communications, in compliance with TCCPR-2018. It should be noted that the DoT has already sought TRAI's inputs on the authorization of TMs and we have made our recommendations for the same."

Further elaborating on the issue, COAI DG Lt. Gen. Dr. S.P. Kochhar said "We believe that a more comprehensive approach is required to tackle the issue effectively. In the current digital landscape, both OTT communication providers and telemarketers (TMs) have become major stakeholders in messaging, and thus, it would be critical to establish a regulatory framework to ensure accountability from all stakeholders in the ecosystem, including OTT Platforms and Telemarketers/Principal Entities."

COAI expressed concerns that the Second Amendment does not bring OTT Communication Service Providers under the ambit of this Regulation, nor does it address the UCC issues at its source.

CENTRAL RAILWAY REPAIRING WORK

Assistant Divisional Electrical Engineer EMU POH, Sanpada, Central Railway, Navi Mumbai, E-Tender Notice No. KR/PR/SNPD/260/24-25/36R1, Date: 14.02.2025. Name of Work: Overhauling and Repairing of defective 3 phase Siemens Traction Motor type ITB2022-0TA03 for two years. Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 91461800.92. Earnest Money: Rs. 607300. Cost of Tender Form: NIL. Completion period: 24 Months. Date and time of closing of tender submission: 08.03.2025 upto 12:30 hrs. Bidding start date: 22.02.2025. Tenders shall be accepted only in E-tendering format through the website www.ireps.gov.in. Tender document is available on the website. AK-785. Unsafe and unauthorized work near the railway line is a punishable offence.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E- TENDER NOTICE NO. 78 FOR 2024-2025

Online E- Tenders in B-1 Form For the Following Work are invited by the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, PWD, 2nd floor Bandhakam Bhavan, 25 Murzban Road, Fort, Mumbai-400 001 (Tel. No-22016975/22016977) from Major Sahakari Sanstha in appropriate class of the Public Works Department. Right to reject/accept of all or one tender is reserved by the undersigned.

| Sr No | Name Of Work | Amt. |
|-------|--|-------|
| 1 | Repairs and Renovation of throwing Window and Granite trammng on 1 st Floor at Govt Sydenham College, 'B' Road, Chruchgata Mumbai | 49.77 |
| 2 | External Plaster, Painting and weather shed at A Block Front Side at CP Compound, Lokmanya Tilak Marg, Mumbai. | 39.15 |
| 3 | Renovation of Principal cabin at 2 nd Floor Govt Sydenham College, 'B' Road Churchgate Mumbai. | 21.57 |
| 4 | Polishing and painting to Chamber & Court rooms and offices, passages etc. in High Court Main Bldg. at High Court, Mumbai. | 19.85 |

Issue Date :- 17.2.2025 to 24.2.2025

Opening Date :- 25.2.2025

All the corrigendum/Changes pertain to notice will not published in newspapers that will published in E-tendering process.

All the detail Information is available on following websites


- 1) www.mahapwd.com
- 2) www.mahatenders.gov.in

No.PD/TC/ 1599

Office of the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, P.W.D., 2nd floor, Bandhakam Bhavan, 25, Murzban Road, Presidency Division, Mumbai. Fort, Mumbai 400 001

Email : presidency.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

Date : 11/2/2025


(V. A. Pataskar)
Executive Engineer
Presidency Division Mumbai.

DGIPR/2024-25/6509

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

TREE AUTHORITY

- PUBLIC NOTICE -

In accordance with the provision under section 8 (3) (C) of the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection & Preservation of Trees Act 1975 (As modified upto January 2018) 01 proposal from "R/North' Ward 02 proposals 'R/Central' Ward & 01 proposal from 'R/South' Ward i.e. Total 04 in proposals in Zone - VII are received requesting approval of Maharashtra State Tree Authority/Tree Authority/Municipal Commissioner, Chairman, Tree Authority (BMC) for removal of trees.

The information of the trees for cutting/ Transplanting in above mentioned proposals is available on BMC website → <https://portal.mcgm.gov.in> → About us → Wards / Department → Department manuals → Gardens & Tree Authority → Tree Authority → Advt. 7 days - below 25 - W.S.-Z-VII-64.

Objections / suggestions from citizens for aforesaid proposals, if any are invited in prescribed format within 7 days from the date of published of this notice in the office of Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer.

You can also submit your suggestions / objections in prescribed format on dysg.ta@mcgm.gov.in this email-ID. Your suggestions/Objections in prescribed format received in stipulated time will be noted. Emails or written suggestions / Objections received after the said date will not be entertained. Hearing for objections/ suggestions obtained will be given on 28-02-2025 at 04.30 p.m. to 05.00 p.m. at the office of Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer. Those who find it necessary to attend this hearing can remain present with a copy of their e-mail, suggestions/ objections.

Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer
Office of Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer,
2nd Floor, Humboldt Penguin Building,
Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan & Zoo
Sant. Savta Mali Marg,
Byculla (East), Mumbai - 400 027.

Tel No : 23742162

Email : dysg.ta@mcgm.gov.in

PRO/2573/ADV/2024 - 25

Avoid self medication.

Sd/-
Supdt. of Gardens
& Tree Officer

Double engine govt take plight of farmers in State : IAC chief

(Standard Post Bureau)

Pune, Feb 17 : Despite many initiatives taken by the BJP-led central and state governments to bring farmers into mainstream of development, some farmers in Maharashtra are still deprived of government benefits due to lack of documentation, hence the Agriculture Department look into this and provide benefits to such farmers, demanded Hemant Patil, national president of India Against Corruption and OBC leader, on Monday.

government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has undertaken the task of bringing farmers who has always been deprived of the mainstream of development, to the fore. Along with the Centre, farmers are getting support from the state government, the 'double engine' government is proving to be a savior for food donors, said Patil in a release here.

He said that more than 20 lakh beneficiary farmers in the state are getting Rs 6,000 every year under the PM Kisan Samman Yojana

while the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, is providing financial assistance of Rs 6,000 to farmers through the 'Namo Shetkari' Yojana.

Thus, every year, Rs 12,000 is being transferred directly to the farmers' accounts through central and state government schemes, said Patil.

The impact of the schemes launched to strengthen the 'energy workers' financially and boost the rural economy is starting to be seen, he added.

National Lok Adalat to be held in Nashik district courts on March 22

Nashik, Feb 17 (UNI) A National Lok Adalat has been organised by the Nashik District Legal Services Authority on March 22 in all courts of the district. In this regard, the Chief District and Sessions Judge S. D. Jagmalani has appealed to the citizens to participate in this Lok Adalat and benefit from it to settle their pending cases and disputes, according to a government press release.



Students discuss after appearing in the class 12th board exam conducted by the CBSE, in New Delhi on Monday.

Second assembly line for electronic fuses inaugurated at BEL-Pune

Pune, Feb 17 (UNI) Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has achieved a significant milestone with inauguration of its second assembly line for electronic fuses for artillery ammunition at its Pune unit.

The new assembly line was inaugurated today at BEL-Pune by Lt Gen Amardeep Singh Aujla, Master General Sustenance (MGS), Indian Army, in the presence of Manoj Jain, CMD, BEL, and other distinguished dignitaries.

BEL-Pune has been at the forefront in advancing indigenous capabilities in defence manufacturing, in sync with the Government of India's 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, said a defence release here on Monday.

Nashik officials visit Prayagraj to learn about effective Maha Kumbh management

Prayagraj, Feb 17 (UNI) : As Maha Kumbh is setting a benchmark with its exemplary management, attracting attention from both domestic and international visitors eager to study its success, a team of senior officials from Nashik arrived in Prayagraj on Monday to prepare for the successful organisation of the Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Kumbh to be held in 2027.

The 20-member team will closely examine the management strategies implemented by the Yogi government during

Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, learn from them, and apply these insights to the planning of the 2027 Kumbh.

The team is led by Nashik Divisional Commissioner Praveen Gedam, who is accompanied by Collector and District Magistrate Jalaj Sharma (IAS) and Special IG Police, Nashik Range, Dattatraya Karale (IPS).

Over the next two days, they will visit various sites in Prayagraj, studying key aspects of the Maha Kumbh, including crowd

control, emergency response, traffic and transport management, ghats and river water management, health and medical facilities, tent city and housing, sanitation and waste management, drinking water and toilet services, coordination with akharas and mahants, along with security and protocol arrangements.

Divisional Commissioner Praveen Gedam said, "The management of Maha Kumbh is both unique and exemplary. We will incorporate these lessons

into the organisation of Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Kumbh 2027."

He emphasised that the study tour is invaluable, noting that effective coordination and service-orientated collaboration between various departments is crucial in an event as massive as the Kumbh.

"Ensuring security and maintaining peace among 50 crore devotees presents a significant challenge, and with the insights gained here, we will strengthen the security arrangements for the Nashik Kumbh," he said.

New MPCC president Harshvardhan Sapkal to take charge on today

Mumbai, Feb 17 (UNI) Newly appointed Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president Harshvardhan Sapkal will officially take charge from Nana Patole on Tuesday.

The ceremony will be attended by Congress' Maharashtra in-charge Ramesh Chennithala, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Mukul Wasnik, senior leader and Congress

Working Committee member Balasaheb Thorat and several other party workers, said a release here on Monday.

Patole successfully led the Maharashtra Congress for four years, guiding the party through elections, bye-elections and the Lok

Sabha polls, where Congress performed well in the state. Following the Maharashtra Assembly election, Patole resigned from the post and in his place, Harshvardhan Sapkal has now been appointed as the new state president, release added.

Drug found in girls hostel room of TISS, police register FIR

Mumbai, Feb 17 (UNI) Police registered an FIR against unknown persons after some drug was found in a room of a girls hostel at the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), a premier social sciences institute in India located in the Trombay area of the Mumbai suburb, an official said here on Monday.

The FIR was filed by a hostel official after drugs were found in one of the rooms of the girls' hostel on the campus.

The institute administration has expelled one of the two occupants of the hostel room where the drugs were found.

According to the FIR, the hostel warden, along with others, carried out a search of the said hostel room following a complaint by one of the two occupants of the room.

The search led to the discovery of drugs in a bag belonging to the other occupant of the room.

TISS's campus is home to six hostels, accommodating 976 students pursuing various higher education courses at the renowned social science institution.

TISS is a premier social sciences institute in India. It has campuses in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Guwahati and Tuljapur.

BJP's former Mumbai corporator attempts suicide in police station

Kolhapur, Raigad, Feb 17 (UNI) In a shocking incident, Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) former corporator in Mumbai Bharat Jadhav attempted to commit suicide by consuming poison in Karjat police station in Raigad district today.

According to the police, Jadhav, who had been in financial crisis for some time, had shared a video on Facebook alleging financial cheating. Then he reached Karjat police station and took poison.

After this incident was noticed, police immediately shifted him to Apollo Hospital in New Mumbai, where he is under treatment.

While sharing a post on Facebook, Jadhav alleged "I am taking this step as I am under a lot of stress. Trends like Valmik Karad have increased in society. I was harassed and threatened that my work would be stopped, even when I was doing my business honestly".

CENTRAL RAILWAY

REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS

Open e-tender notice No.CR-DRM(W)BB-2025-03 of 13.02.2025.

Sr.No.1. Name of the work: A) CLA Colony - Repairs & rehabilitation of building No.RB-II/107 and RB-II/111 at Kuria RAILWAY Colony under ADEN(Wks)BY. B) CLA Colony - Repairing of flooring, plastering, doors, windows, drainage line and ceiling of building No.RB-II/112, 114 and RB-III/87 (Total 46 quarters) at Kuria Colony under ADEN(W)Byculla. C) BY - Repairs to officer's rest house at Byculla under ADEN(W)BY. Approximate Value: Rs.551.82 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.425900. Completion period: 12 months.

Sr.No.2. Name of work: TNA - Cleaning of overhead and underground water tanks, underground drainage system and septic tank including manholes, weeding out wild growth, repairing manhole chambers etc. under SSE(Wks)TNA for 12 months. Approximate Value: Rs.134.79 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.217400. Completion period: 12 months.

Sr.No.3. Name of work: Repairs to Doors, Windows Toilets, Baths, Kitchen, and plaster etc. building No. RB/III/35, RB/III/36 & RB/III/27 at Mulund Colony. Approximate Value: Rs.282.51 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.291300. Completion period: 12 months.

Sr.No.4. Name of work: Supply of potable water through road tankers at various location of Byculla station, Mazgaon colony and Mazgaon Loco Yard under SSE(W)BY for 12 months. Approximate Value: Rs.48.29 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.96600. Completion period: 12 months.

Sr.No.5. Name of work: Replacement of existing wornout, low & overaged glued joint by in situ glued joint in Sr.DEN(HB) Section. Approximate Value: Rs.31.51 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.63000. Completion period: 6 months.

Sr.No.6. Name of work: A) TNA - Operation and maintenance of water supply valves in Pump Rooms, storage tanks and distribution of water supply for 24 months under jurisdiction of SSE(W)TNA under ADEN(Wks)KYN section. B) Operation and maintenance of water supply valves, Pump Rooms, storage tanks and distribution of water supply for jurisdiction of SSE(W)THK under ADEN(Wks)KYN section for 24 months. Approximate Value: Rs.115.60 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.207800. Completion period: 24 months.

Sr.No.7. Name of work: A) CSMT - Providing & fixing of roller blind to windows at 1st floor & 2nd floor of TMS building. B) CSMT - Renovation of PCSTE, CSTE (PL), ASTE (HQ), CSTE (Project) and staff seating area of DRM building at CSMT Mumbai. C) CSMT-Renovation and repairs of officer's ladies and gents toilet at NAB and repairs to shaft and down take pipe at NAB and replacement of Corroded GI pipe line on terrace at NAB under ADEN (Wks) CSMT. Approximate Value: Rs.157.69 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.228900. Completion period: 10 months.

Sr.No.8. Name of work: Miscellaneous repairs and annual maintenance work of quarter in lieu of zone under ADEN(Wks)KYN. Approximate Value: Rs.128.74 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.214400. Completion period: 12 months.

Sr.No.9. Name of work: A) Standardization of sand humps and Dead end of section under ADEN(T) BY. B) Standardization of sand humps and Dead end of section under ADEN(T) TNA in Sr. DEN(S). Approximate Value: Rs.66.81 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.133600. Completion period: 3 months.

Sr.No.10. Name of work: (A) Provision of retro reflective boards at bridge and tunnels and painting of tunnel face, Drain and culverts. (B) Provision of various boards like jurisdiction, turnout, SEJ, Curve, LWR etc. and painting of Km Post, Hectometer post, Gradient Post, Curve, turnout sleepers, SEJ, turnout, sleeper, rails etc. under Sr. DEN(S) CSMT. Approximate Value: Rs.171.59 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.235800. Completion period: 2 months.

Sr.No.11. Name of work: Removal of disposal of muck manually in between track and cess in CSMT-KYN section under Sr. DEN(S) CSMT. Approximate Value: Rs.249.41 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.274700. Completion period: 4 months.

I) Tender closing date & time of aforesaid tender: Up-to 11.00 hrs. of Sr.No.1,2,3,4,5 and 7 on 10.03.2025, Sr.No.6 and 8 on 12.03.2025, Sr.No.9 & 10 on 25.02.2025, Sr.No.11 on 13.03.2025, to be opened after 11.00 hrs. II) The prospective tenderers are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in for details of tenders & corrigendum, if any. III) Tenderer may participate in above e-tender electronically through website www.ireps.gov.in only & submission of manual offers against e-tender are not allowed. Manually, if submitted shall neither be opened nor considered. IV) The Bid Security shall be deposited either in cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. V) For further enquiry, may contact: Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Office, Central Railway on phone. 022-67455323. VI) This tender complies with Public Procurement Policy Order 2017 dated 16-9-2017. Complete details of tenders are available at the website "www.ireps.gov.in". The complete details of tenders are also available in the "Notice Board" of the Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Office, Mumbai CSMT. AK-787

Unsafe and unauthorized work near the railway line is a punishable offence

Sam Pitroda's views very much reflect Cong's stance on China, says BJP's Hitesh Jain

Mumbai, Feb 17 (IANS) : BJP Mumbai Vice President Hitesh Jain has asserted that Congress leader Sam Pitroda's remarks on China align with the broader stance of the grand old party, accusing it of historically taking a pro-China position.

Speaking to IANS, Jain said, "It is not just a personal or controversial statement -- it represents the official mindset of the Congress party. In the past, the party has repeatedly made statements that appear to favour China." Jain further criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he has promoted Chinese-made drones and has a history of engaging with China in ways that raise questions about his party's priorities.

"You know that Congress signed an MoU with China, which clearly reflects their affinity for the country. This is not about Sam Pitroda alone -- his comments are an extension of the Congress party's longstanding position," Jain told IANS.

According to Jain, Pitroda's remarks were not in the national interest and were instead motivated by political considerations to safeguard Congress' ties and ideological leanings. Jain reiterated that Congress has consistently taken positions that do not align with India's national interests. "The Congress party has a pattern of making statements that are sympathetic to China. They are not expressing independent views but are simply reiterating the party's broader pro-China stance," he claimed.

Pitroda, a veteran Congress leader and a close aide of Rahul Gandhi, has

suggested that the perceived threat from China is often exaggerated and argued for a recalibration of India's approach towards the neighboring country. In an exclusive interview with IANS, Pitroda stated that India should move beyond a confrontational outlook and adopt a more pragmatic approach towards China. He contended that fostering an adversarial relationship with China would only lead to further tensions and that India must acknowledge China's stature while maintaining diplomatic engagements. However, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh distanced the party from Pitroda's remarks, clarifying that they did not reflect the official position of the Congress. Jain also addressed allegations concerning foreign financial influences on the Congress party. He claimed that there have been discussions in the United States about American institutions funding certain entities in India to destabilise the current government. "This is not an accusation made by the BJP -- it has been mentioned in discussions abroad that American institutions have extended financial support to certain individuals in India and beyond. This matter deserves a thorough investigation," Jain told IANS.

Prime accused in New India Bank scam arrested, remanded to PC till Feb 21

Mumbai, Feb 17 (UNI) Dharmesh Paun, a city-based developer, who is a prime accused in New India Cooperative Bank scam worth Rs 122 crore was arrested by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the city police and was on Monday remanded by a local court to police custody till February 21. Paun is accused of allegedly assisting Hitesh Mehta, former general manager and head of accounts of the Bank. On Saturday, police arrested Mehta and raided his Dahisar residence after the bank's chief executive officer Devarshi Shishir Kumar Ghosh (48) filed a complaint against him.

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS WORKS

Sr.DEN (South), Western Railway, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400008. Invites E-tender Notice No.: BCT/24-25/285 dt. 13.02.2025. Work and location: Churchgate-Virar section:- Removal and disposal of muck, garbage, plastic, plastic bags, papers and other waste materials from the track under ADEN (T/S) PL section. Approx. Cost of work: ₹ 1,17,15,686.80. EMD: ₹ 2,08,600/-. Date & Time of Submission: Till 11.03.2025, 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening: On 11.03.2025 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in 1090

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MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI

L.T. M. G. HOSPITAL, SION, MUMBAI - 400022

No. LTH/7910/T Dt: 17/02/2025

E- TENDER NOTICE

This is an E-Tender Notice. The Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) invites e-tenders as given below in three Packet System. The e-Tender copy can be downloaded from mahatenders portal (<https://mahatenders.gov.in>) under "e-procurement" section.

The Name of the work : Semi Automated Biochemistry Analyzer (2 nos) for Biochemistry Dept of L.T.M.G. Hospital.

| Sr. No. | Description | E-Tender Price (Rs) | EMD (Rs.) | Start Date and Time of online Bid Downloading | End date and time of online Bid Submission |
|---------|--|---------------------------|------------|---|--|
| | Semi Automated Biochemistry Analyzer (2 nos) for Biochemistry Dept of L.T.M.G. Hospital for warranty of Eight years. | Rs.1320/- Plus GST @ 18 % | Rs.9,440/- | 18-02-2025 04.00 p.m. (16.00 Hrs) | 28-02-2025 04.00 p.m. (16.00 Hrs) |

The intending tenderer Shall visit mahatenders portal website at <https://mahatenders.gov.in> for further details of the tender. The tender documents will not be issued or received by post.

PRO/2564/ADV/2024-25

Fever? Act now, see you doctor for correct & complete treatment.

Sd/- Dean L.T.M. G. Hospital, Sion.

STANDARD POST

Pollution from car brake-wear more harmful for lungs than diesel exhaust

Exposure to pollution from car brake wear can prove to be more harmful to the lungs than diesel exhaust, according to a study.

The study, led by researchers from the University of Southampton in the UK, emphasised that focusing on particulate matter (PM) exhaust emissions alone may be inadequate to mitigate the health effects of vehicle-derived pollution.

Airborne PM_{2.5} is known to reach the alveolar regions of the lungs and is associated with more than 4 million premature deaths per year worldwide. While road traffic -- diesel exhaust emissions -- is a major source of PM in urban environments, non-exhaust emissions, especially from brake wear, represent an increasing component of traffic-related PM, about which there is a paucity of information. The researchers argued that car brake wear is also not on the target list in exhaust emission reduction measures.

In the paper, published in the journal *Particle and Fibre Toxicology*, the team found that brake-wear particulate matter from copper-enriched non-asbestos organic, and ceramic brake pads induced "the greatest oxidative stress, inflammation" on lungs.

It also affected a pathway implicated in diseases associated with air pollution exposure, including cancer, and pulmonary fibrosis, as well as causing perturbation of metabolism.

"We demonstrate here that brake-wear PM may perturb cellular homeostasis more than diesel exhaust PM. Our findings demonstrate the potential differences in effects, not only for non-exhaust vs exhaust PM but also amongst different sources of non-exhaust PM," said James G. H. Parkin, School of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, University of Southampton. The study demonstrated that copper-enriched brake-wear PM has a greater detrimental effect than diesel exhaust PM. The perturbations caused by copper-enriched PM have the potential to contribute to the development and progression of a range of diseases, negatively impacting healthy living and lifespan. "Our results suggest that current legislation, which focuses on PM exhaust emissions, may be inadequate to mitigate the health effects of vehicle-derived PM, and that regulations also need to target not only non-exhaust PM emissions but also specific components of PM," Parkin added.

The Power of a Single ECG: Identifying Multiple Heart Conditions



(Standard Post Bureau)

Heart attacks are becoming increasingly common among both men and women, even at a young age, leading to tragic fatalities. However, a simple Electrocardiogram (ECG), when analyzed by a qualified doctor, can help detect multiple heart conditions at an early stage. Unfortunately, many doctors, along with the general public, lack awareness about the importance of ECG interpretation.

To bridge this gap,

Aster Prime Hospital organized a one-day workshop titled "Basic and Beyond ECG" for about 160 young doctors, focusing on ECG analysis and interpretation. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. A. Sai Ravishankar, Senior Consultant Cardiologist and Head of Cardiology at Aster Prime Hospital. It saw participation from esteemed cardiologists, including:

Dr. C. Raghu, Senior Interventional Cardiologist, Yashoda Hospital
Dr. B. Hygriv Rao,

Cardiologist & Electrophysiologist, KIMS Hospital
Dr. Mukherjee,

Consultant Cardiologist, Super Specialty Hospital
Dr. A. Guru Prakash, Interventional Cardiologist, Yashoda Hospital

Dr. Y. Shiva Kumar, Consultant Cardiologist, Mahavir Hospital

Dr. MVN Suresh, Head of Emergency Medicine, Aster Prime Hospital

During the event, senior doctors emphasized that a correctly interpreted ECG can reveal crucial heart

conditions such as electrolyte imbalances, sudden increases in heart rate, and structural changes in the heart. Various case studies were presented, demonstrating how ECG can be used as a diagnostic tool in different medical scenarios.

The workshop also featured an interactive quiz to help young doctors reinforce their ECG knowledge. Participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn directly from experienced cardiologists.

TATA.ev to boost India's Charging Infrastructure to 400,000 Charge Points

(Standard Post Bureau)

TATA.ev, the leader of India's electric vehicle (EV) revolution, today announced a bold, groundbreaking initiative to transform the nation's charging infrastructure. Building on the success of surpassing 200,000 EV sales, TATA.ev boosted its commitment to make EVs more accessible and convenient by more than doubling the number of available charge points to 400,000 by 2027.

Since 2019, TATA.ev has been at the forefront of advancing India's EV charging infrastructure. First, by partnering with Tata Group companies to introduce seamless private/home charging solutions and then kick-starting public charging

infrastructure in and around cities with the fastest EV adoption, providing the crucial support and encouragement for early adopters to switch to EVs.

To drive the next phase of growth, TATA.ev launched its 'Open Collaboration' framework in 2023, forging strategic partnerships with Charge Point Operators (CPOs) and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). This collaboration focused on expanding charging infrastructure across key hotspots, particularly along highways, to ensure seamless long-distance mobility. As a result, the number of public charging points in India has more than doubled in just 15 months, surpassing 18,000 chargers. TATA.ev's

cumulative impact includes the installation of over 1.5 lakh private/home chargers, 2,500 community chargers, and 750 chargers at TATA dealerships across more than 200 cities.

And now, to fully unleash the exponential potential of EVs in India, charging infrastructure must grow manifold and at pace. With over 5 billion kilometers driven nationwide, TATA.ev has gained invaluable insights into the exact needs of EV users and where charging infrastructure is precisely needed.

Through 'Open Collaboration 2.0', TATA.ev is accelerating India's EV charging ecosystem with an ambitious goal: to more than double the number of

charging points to over 400,000 within the next two years.

To achieve this, TATA.ev is strengthening its collaboration with key Charging Point Operators (CPOs) to install 30,000 new public charging points. These charging stations will support all EV makes and brands, ensuring widespread accessibility, convenience and a mutually beneficial ecosystem for all EV users, charge point operators, and infrastructure planners. This expansive, seamless network of public, community, and private/home chargers will meet the rising demand for emission-free mobility, accelerate EV adoption and fast-track India's shift towards green, sustainable future.

MEAI Hyderabad Chapter Hosts National Conference on 'Mining the Marvels: Way Forward Towards Atmanirbhar Viksit Bharat 2047'

(Standard Post Bureau)

The Mining Engineers' Association of India (MEAI), Hyderabad Chapter successfully hosted the first day of a two-day National Conference on the theme "Mining the Marvels: Way Forward Towards Atmanirbhar Viksit Bharat 2047." The event brought together industry leaders, policymakers and experts to deliberate on the future of the mining sector and its role in India's journey towards self-reliance.

The inaugural session was graced by Shri Amitava Mukherjee, Chairman-Cum-Managing Director (Additional Charge), NMDC Ltd., as the Chief Guest. Other distinguished guests included Shri D.B. Sundara Ramam, Vice President - I, MEAI & Vice President, Tata Steel; Shri Dr. N.K. Nanda, Former CMD (Additional Charge)

& Director (Technical), NMDC Ltd.; Shri B. Veera Reddy, Former Director (Technical), CIL & Former CMD, CCL; G Dhananjaya Reddy, Vice President II, MEAI and Shri Joydeep Dasgupta, Director (Production), NMDC Ltd. The event was presided over by Shri Vinay Kumar, Director (Technical), NMDC Ltd. and Chairman, MEAI Hyderabad Chapter.

Delivering the keynote address on the theme of the seminar, Shri Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Addl. Charge), NMDC, said, "The role of mining in national development is crucial. He spoke about how the mining industry can bring social and economic impact in the communities. He emphasized the challenges of attracting young talent due to the remote nature of mining operations and urged MEAI to encourage students and professionals

to consider careers in mining. Shri Amitava Mukherjee also highlighted NMDC's commitment to Responsible Mining and spreading smiles through its community initiatives, setting industry standards as a leader in sustainable mining practices. He also resonated that it would be imperative to have a long term perspective to gain significant goals in the mining industry as it takes more than a decade, globally, to set up and generate thought-provoking revenues.

Shri Mukherjee addressed policy challenges including India's 100th ranking on the Fraser Index and the need for smoother policies to attract foreign direct investment. He stressed the importance of supporting local mining corporations to lower administrative costs and enhance resource utilization. Concluding his

speech, he praised GoI's ongoing efforts to improve exploration in critical minerals and technological advancements in mining, emphasizing the need for sustainability and innovation in the industry."

Shri Vinay Kumar, Director (Technical), NMDC Ltd. and Chairman, MEAI Hyderabad Chapter, in his inaugural address, set the tone for the conference by outlining the progress made in India's mining sector over the past decade. He provided insights into the current status of mining block allocations and how expedited processes are boosting productivity. He highlighted the role of AI-driven database management in improving exploration efficiency and discussed government initiatives aimed at fostering startups and private sector participation. Shri Vinay

BJP govt focused on publicity instead of preparing for Kumbh: Akhilesh

Lucknow, Feb 17 (UNI) : Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said that instead of making proper preparations for the Maha Kumbh, the Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh invited big faces through event management companies for its publicity.

In a statement issued here, Akhilesh said that the government claimed to have made arrangements for the bathing of 100 crore devotees but did not make proper preparations for the Kumbh.

"Documented history shows that Kumbh has been taking place since the time of Harshvardhan. It has been organised for centuries, but the BJP is saying that this Kumbh is being organised for the first time. Earlier Kumbh did not happen," he said.

He said, "Any scientist and astrologer who understands planets and constellations knows that Kumbh comes every 12 years, but the calculation of 144 years that BJP is telling, no one knows from which year it has been measured, for what reason it has been measured." The SP chief said that the public is innocent; it has faith, and it got convinced by their words. "The BJP government is under-reporting the number of devotees who came to Kumbh. It is deliberately hiding the count. So far, 65-70 crore people have taken baths in Kumbh. Elderly people have not been able to take bath in the grand event of Maha Kumbh. The time of the Kumbh should be extended further so that all people get a chance to take a bath," he said.

Describing the deaths in the stampede at Prayagraj Maha Kumbh and New Delhi Railway Station as unfortunate, he said that the government is counting the number of people taking a dip in the

Sangam but has not been able to count the correct number of dead.

"Neither the correct number of dead has come nor the information about the missing people is available," he claimed.

Akhilesh said that a large number of lives have been lost in the stampede at the railway station.

"This is the failure of the government. No matter how much the BJP government tries to hide it, it will not be able to do so," he said. He reiterated that this is not a double engine government, but a double blunder government. "Neither the state government is able to handle the system nor the Delhi government is able to look after the system. The BJP government does not want to increase business. It is giving its market to other people," he alleged. He alleged that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is getting SP leaders arrested. "He is not paying attention to Kumbh. These days he is spending time on social media. It is heard that he is watching reels. People show him what is being written and say that the government is being maligned, while the truth is that Samajwadi people expose the failures of the government. The job of the opposition is to protest positively and give information," he said.

The SP chief said that the government is claiming to create a five trillion economy but could not make arrangements for the poor to travel, eat, and bathe. "This is the failure of the government. Religious events are not held for profit. The CM is saying that there will be a business of Rs 2 lakh crore from Maha Kumbh. But the traders there have gone into losses. Those who took shops suffered losses. There was no business. The BJP government used Kumbh to shine itself," he said.

D.B. Sundara Ramam, Vice President - I, MEAI & Vice President, Tata Steel commended NMDC CMD Excellence Award and spoke on the need for deep-sea exploration and self-reliance in critical minerals. He stressed the importance of policies that enhance domestic mining while encouraging low-carbon mining and increased scrap utilization for sustainability.

The conference also featured technical sessions with expert presentations from academia and industry, focusing on key advancements in mining technologies, policy frameworks, and sustainability initiatives. Additionally, an exhibition featuring leading mining and steel companies, including NMDC, AN/MS, JSW, and NMDC Steel was organized alongside the conference.

Israel strikes Hezbollah sites

Jerusalem, Feb. 17 (UNI) : Israel's military said on Sunday evening that its warplanes struck sites in Lebanon, claiming they were Hezbollah military positions containing rocket launchers and weapons, amid a fragile ceasefire between the two countries.

According to Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA), warplanes carried out two airstrikes on the outskirts of the town of Harbata and a third airstrike on the town of Halbata, both located in the northern Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon. Israeli warplanes also launched an airstrike on the Wadi al-Zayni, a town north of Sidon in southern Lebanon, said the NNA.

An Israeli military spokesperson said in a statement that "Hezbollah activity had been identified" in these sites, which contained rocket launchers and weapons. Militant activity at these sites "constitutes a violation of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon," the spokesperson said. The strikes were the latest in a series of Israeli military actions in Lebanon, fueling concerns over rising regional tensions. Israel has continued to carry out occasional strikes in southern and eastern Lebanon despite a ceasefire agreement that has been in effect since Nov. 27. Israel postponed the deadline for the full withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon to Feb. 18 after missing the first deadline, and Lebanon has rejected any further extension.

Russia, US to hold talks on Ukraine in Riyadh : Reports

Moscow, Feb 17 (UNI) : Russia and the United States will hold talks on Ukraine in Riyadh on Tuesday, Russian newspaper Kommersant reported.

The US delegation on the talks is expected to include Secretary of State Marco Rubio, National Security Advisor Mike Waltz and Special Envoy for the Middle East Steve Witkoff, the publication said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US leader Donald Trump had a phone conversation last Wednesday, which lasted almost an hour and a half, the leaders discussed issues related to the exchange of citizens of Russia and the United States, as well as the settlement of the situation in Ukraine. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov noted that Washington was Moscow's main counterpart in matters of settling the situation in Ukraine. Trump later announced plans to hold a meeting with Putin in Saudi Arabia, and the teams of the presidents of the United States and Russia would soon prepare for this summit.

Israel confirms killing Hamas military official in Lebanon

Jerusalem, Feb 17 (UNI) : Israeli forces killed a Hamas military official in an airstrike in Lebanon, Israeli security officials said on Monday.

In a joint statement, the Israeli military and Shin Bet domestic security agency said warplanes "struck and eliminated" Mohammad Shaheen in Sidon, a coastal city in southern Lebanon.

The statement identified Shaheen as "the head of Hamas' Operations Department in Lebanon" and accused him of recently planning attacks against Israeli civilians from Lebanon under Iranian direction and funding. It also described him as a "significant source of knowledge" for rocket attacks from Lebanon.

Al Mayadeen, a Lebanon-based pro-Hezbollah broadcaster, reported that an Israeli drone strike targeted a car at the entrance to Sidon. Video footage circulating on social media showed a vehicle on fire on a highway, with a black cloud of smoke rising from it.

The strike comes a day before Israel is scheduled to complete its full withdrawal of troops from Lebanon under a ceasefire agreement that ended 14 months of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah. The Feb. 18 deadline was set after Israel and Lebanon agreed to postpone the original late-January deadline. However, Israel now insists on maintaining troops in five positions in southern Lebanon beyond the new deadline.

Americans want Ukraine to repay their investments : US Security Adviser

Washington, Feb 17 (UNI) : Americans want Ukraine to return their investments in order to be comfortable with future spending, US National Security Adviser Michael Waltz has said. "I can't think of anything that would make the American people more comfortable with future investments than if we were able to be in a partnership and have the American people made whole," he told Fox News in an interview aired Sunday. Waltz argued that the European aid to Kiev came in the form of a loan backed by interest paid on Russian assets. He insisted that Americans, too, deserved to have "some type of payback" for the billions they had invested in Ukraine. Waltz promised that the Europeans' opinion on the conflict would be taken into account during negotiations on Ukraine, although he admitted they might not like everything that will be said or done. Now, they may not like some of the sequencing that is going on in these negotiations, but I have to push back on any notion that they aren't being consulted. They absolutely are," he said. Waltz said that the peace process will be led by US President Donald Trump, while long-term security guarantees should be provided by Europe.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump had a phone conversation on Wednesday, which lasted almost an hour and a half. They discussed issues related to the exchange of Russian and US citizens and the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Washington was Moscow's main counterpart in the talks on Ukraine. Trump suggested that he might meet with Putin face-to-face in Saudi Arabia.

Trump presidency will help Germany become more independent : AfD Lawmaker

Washington, Feb 17 (UNI) Lenka White - With Donald Trump being at the helm of the United States, Germany gets a chance to develop more independent policies and "grow up," lawmaker from the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, Kay Gottschalk, told RIA Novosti.

"I think it will accelerate the process to become more independent, in a way, from the protection of the United States," Gottschalk said when asked about Trump's reelection. "That doesn't mean we aren't friends anymore, or we will stop our friendship. No, the friendship will be very, very close, but I would compare it with children growing up." After 70 years, it is time for Germany to be more independent and speak up for own interests in front of countries such as Russia and others, the politician stated.

"Another one is to become also ... more independent from China," Gottschalk added, noting that this process was also started by Trump during his first term.

AfD is going against the current German mainstream, with anti-immigration policies and a stance that military aid to Ukraine should be ended and parties should nail down a diplomatic solution. Germans will vote in a snap federal election on February 23. The latest INSA poll put the CDU/CSU bloc at 29%, AfD at 22%, and Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats at 17%.

Israeli govt approves appointment of new military chief

Jerusalem, Feb 17 (UNI) : Israel's government on Sunday approved Eyal Zamir as the country's new military chief, following the resignation of his predecessor Herzl Halevi in January over his failure to prevent the Hamas attack on October 2023.

A government statement said Zamir's appointment was unanimously approved.

Zamir, 59, has served as director general of the Defense Ministry for the past two years and will officially assume his new role in early March.

During his 38-year career in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Zamir has held several senior positions, including IDF deputy chief of staff, commander of IDF Southern Command, and military secretary to the prime minister.

Halevi resigned on January 21, two days after a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas took effect in the Gaza Strip following more than 15 months of fighting.

Under the truce deal, 24 hostages held by Hamas and other Palestinian factions in the strip have been released so far in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners freed from Israeli jails.

9 dead as severe flooding, storms pummel Mideast US



Chicago, Feb 17 (UNI) : Flood and storms induced by the latest round of harsh weather have lashed the mideastern parts of the United States, claiming at

least nine lives, including eight in Kentucky, Governor Andy Beshear said on Sunday.

Since the storms began on Saturday, more than

1,000 rescues have been carried out and about 39,000 homes are facing power outages, a scenario that could worsen due to harsh winds, Beshear

warned.

The governor considered it "one of the most serious weather events we've dealt with in at least a decade," cautioning that residents stay away from roadways.

He preemptively declared a state of emergency in the state ahead of the storms, saying that President Donald Trump had approved his request for disaster relief efforts.

Meanwhile, much of the United States is under a new round of bad winter weather. While the Northern Plains faced life-threatening cold, severe storms swept through parts of Florida and Georgia, according to the National Weather Service.

Police chief in Australian state resigns following no confidence vote

Sydney, Feb 17 (UNI) : The police commissioner in Australia's second-most populous state has resigned following a vote of no confidence by officers.

Shane Patton on Sunday night said he would immediately stand down as the chief commissioner of Victoria Police "to allow fresh leadership in the role."

It comes after members of the police officers' union on Friday overwhelmingly passed a vote of no confidence in Patton's

leadership. Over 87 percent of the more than 12,000 officers surveyed by The Police Association of Victoria (TPAV) said they were not confident in Patton's ability to lead and manage Victoria Police in the future amid a long-running pay dispute with the state government.

Speaking at a late-night press conference with Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan, Patton said he had made the decision to resign "with a heavy heart."

"To have been given

the opportunity to lead a police organization such as Victoria Police is an absolute privilege and one very few people have. I was fortunate to have done so and for that I am very thankful," he said.

Patton's first five-year term as head of the force was due to end in June.

Allan, who was expected to announce a decision on a second term for Patton on Monday, thanked him for his work since joining Victoria Police as a cadet in 1978 and

singled out his leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic for praise.

The state government and Victoria Police have been engaged in a pay dispute for over 18 months.

The force in January said it had accepted a wage proposal that would secure frontline officers a 5-percent annual pay rise for four years and 4.5 percent increases for other members.

The deal will be taken to an official union member vote before being finalized.

Presidential election in Ukraine to be held on Oct 26 : Poroshenko

Kyiv, Feb 17 (UNI) : The presidential election in Ukraine will be held on October 26, 2025, former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said on Sunday. "Write it down: October 26 this year," Poroshenko told Ukrainian news outlet Censor.Net when asked to outline a possible timeline for the presidential election in Ukraine.

The former president cited several sources, including representatives of the office of incumbent President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, law enforcement agencies, the Ukrainian Central Election Commission and a Ukrainian printing plant, which is allegedly already counting the number of ballots required for the election.

The news outlet said that Ukrainian schools had also allegedly received instructions to "find ballot boxes" for the upcoming election.

Poroshenko stressed that he personally opposed holding a presidential election this year, arguing that the very existence of Ukraine is currently under threat. He claimed that Zelenskyy intended to hold presidential, parliamentary and local elections simultaneously and remain in power, purging the opposition. Earlier this week, Zelenskyy imposed permanent sanctions on Poroshenko as well as Ukrainian oligarchs Ihor Kolomoisky (added to Russia's list of terrorists and extremists), Gennadiy Bogolyubov, Kostyantyn Zhevago and politician Viktor Medvedchuk. The sanctions include revocation of state awards, asset freezes, restrictions on foreign financial transfers, and the termination of trade agreements and operations.

11 killed, 7 injured in road accidents in Pakistan's Punjab

Islamabad, Feb 17 (UNI) : Eleven people were killed and seven others injured in two separate road accidents in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province on Sunday, local media and police said.

One of the accidents occurred in the Multan district in a traffic pile-up involving a passenger van, a car, and a motorbike, resulting in six deaths and

seven injuries, police sources from the district told Xinhua.

Rescue teams swiftly arrived and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital.

In the other incident, four people, including three brothers, lost their lives when a concrete-laden tractor-trolley overturned after colliding with a truck in Layyah district, local media reported.

Iran roundly rejects "baseless" accusations by G7

Tehran, Feb 17 (UNI) : Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei on Sunday completely rejected recent

"baseless and irresponsible" accusations by the Group of Seven (G7) against Iran.

On Saturday, G7 foreign ministers and the EU high representative issued a statement following a meeting held on the margins of the Munich Security Conference, in which they accused Iran of carrying out "destabilizing actions, including its rapid advancement of uranium enrichment without credible civil justification, facilitation of terrorism organizations and armed

groups across the Middle East and the Red Sea and violation of fundamental human rights."

They also denounced Iran's "proliferation of ballistic missiles and drones" in the statement.

The G7 countries' arms and financial support for Israel and their military and political interference in West Asia are the real "destabilizing" actions in the region, Baghaei said in a statement, urging those countries to stop their "meddlesome" policies so as to restore regional stability and security.

The Iranian government has "legitimate right and legal responsibility" to defend

China congratulates Youssef on election as African Union Commission chairperson

Beijing, Feb 17 (UNI) : China on Monday congratulated Djibouti's Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Mahamoud Ali Youssef on his election as the new African Union Commission chairperson.

Youssef, elected for the 2025-2028 term, will succeed Moussa Faki Mahamat, the outgoing chairperson and former Chadian prime minister, who has completed his two-term, eight-year tenure leading the 55-member bloc.

The African Union (AU) is a banner of strength through unity for Africa and an important platform for international cooperation, said Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun at a regular press briefing.

Guo said that China views its relationship with the AU from a strategic and long-term perspective. Chinese President Xi Jinping has sent congratulatory messages to the AU Summit for 13 consecutive years and met with the then AU leader during the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, which fully speak to the high level of China-AU relations.

Currently, peace and development in Africa faces new opportunities and challenges, said Guo.

British PM says "ready" to put troops on ground in Ukraine British PM says

London, Feb. 17 (UNI) : British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Sunday that he is "ready and willing" to put British troops on the ground in Ukraine if necessary.

Writing in the Daily Telegraph, Starmer said Britain was "ready to play a leading role" in Ukraine's defense and security, including the commitment of 3 billion pounds (about 3.8 billion U.S. dollars) a year until 2030.

Along with military aid to the country, "it also means being ready and willing to contribute to security guarantees to Ukraine by putting our own troops on the ground if

necessary," said Starmer.

"I do not say that lightly. I feel very deeply the responsibility that comes with potentially putting British servicemen and women in harm's way," he said.

It was the first time Starmer had explicitly said he was considering deploying British peacekeepers to Ukraine. He has previously said that Britain was willing to help play a part in any peace deal that is negotiated.

"We are facing a once-in-a-generation moment for the collective security of our continent. This is not only a question about the future of Ukraine. It is

existential for Europe as a whole," he wrote.

Starmer is expected to join French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and other European leaders in Paris on Monday for an emergency summit on Ukraine. As U.S. President Donald Trump said last week that negotiations to end the nearly three-year Ukraine war will start "immediately" after holding a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Europe fears that it may be sidelined in potential negotiations on the Ukraine crisis.

Health

Feeling tired?

These could be the Reasons



Water is one of the most essential component of our body and we should have enough water to not get dehydrated. And if your body lacks enough water, then it will lead to feeling devoid of energy any time of the day. So make sure you drink enough water and other fluids like juices.

Lack of proper sleep

Not getting a good night sleep can be a big reason behind feeling jaded the day round. So make sure you are having a sound sleep. Have a proper daily routine, eat protein rich diet, end your day smartly and don't let stress pull you down and you will surely get a sound sleep.

Too much caffeine

Most of us drink coffee to energize ourselves. But apart from caffeine giving us an energy boost, it can also bring our energy levels down. So make sure you have 200-300 mgs of caffeine per day.



If you feel tired all the day long, then take notice, you might be doing something wrong

Does it happen with you that you start feeling devoid of physical energy in the middle of the day? Or even worse, you don't feel energized even in the morning? Then there are chances you are doing something wrong for which your body feels devoid of energy. So here are the reasons behind your lack of energy:

Lack of fluids

Lack of physical exercise

Everyone of us should be doing some form of exercise, in whatever form. And if you are not doing any kind of physical exercise, then your body will have low levels of energy hampering your daily life. And we can't emphasize the importance of daily exercise enough.

Health benefits of blue-coloured foods

The fifth colour of Navratri is blue or purple. This colour denotes trust, loyalty, wisdom, confidence, intelligence, faith, truth, and heaven. So let us explore the health and nutritional benefits of blue coloured foods.

Shilpa Mittal - Nutritionist, Diet Consultant and Founder of Nutrilife Health Management, Mumbai, shares with us, the health benefits of adding blue coloured foods to our meals.

What they contain:

According to various studies, the colour blue is considered to be peaceful and calming. Food is blue in colour because of its richness in health-boosting phytochemicals known as anthocyanins and resveratrol.

Health Benefits:

1. Anthocyanins

This antioxidant possesses great anti-inflammatory and anti-carcinogenic property. It helps in lowering the risk of cardiovascular diseases, obesity

and diabetes.

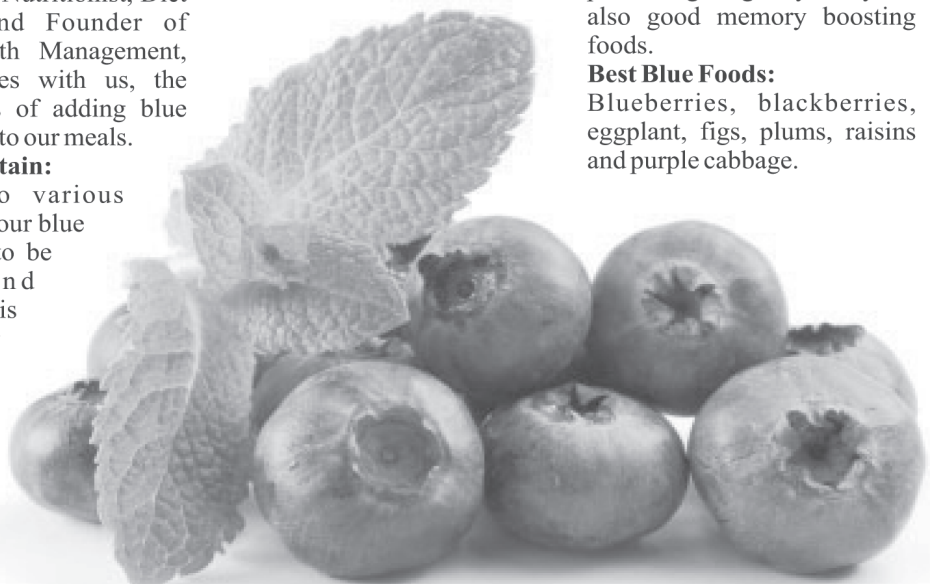
2. Resveratrol

This antioxidant has anti-ageing and disease preventing properties. It is very good for heart health, because it helps to reduce inflammation and bad cholesterol. Besides, it also helps to prevent cancer and Alzheimer's.

Overall, blue colour foods help in boosting overall health, by preventing diseases and promoting longevity. They are also good memory boosting foods.

Best Blue Foods:

Blueberries, blackberries, eggplant, figs, plums, raisins and purple cabbage.



Mushrooms superior than Vitamin D

Vitamin D intake is crucial to the process of calcium absorption and maintaining healthy bones.

Vitamin D helps the body in maintaining bone density thus reducing the risk of fracture, osteomalacia, osteoarthritis and osteoporosis. The nutrient also plays an integral role in modulating the immune system to help fight infections like the flu and reduces the risk of many common diseases including cancer, cardiovascular disease, depression and diabetes.

For the study, researchers from Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) studied the data obtained from 30 healthy adult participants who were asked to take vitamin D supplements or vitamin D2 mushroom powder. The participants were randomly selected to take either vitamin D2, vitamin D3 or the mushroom powder for 12 weeks. At the end of the study, there was no difference in the amount of vitamin D found among the



participants.

"These results provide evidence that ingesting mushrooms which have been exposed to ultraviolet light and contain vitamin D2, are a good source of vitamin D that can improve the vitamin D status of healthy adults. Furthermore we found ingesting mushrooms containing vitamin D2 was as effective in raising

and maintaining a healthy adult's vitamin D status as ingesting a supplement that contained either vitamin D2 or vitamin D3," said Michael F. Holick, PhD, MD, the principal investigator of the abstract.

According to Holick and his coauthors, ingesting mushrooms containing vitamin D2 can be an effective strategy to enhance a persons' vitamin D status. "The observation that some mushrooms when exposed to UVB light also produce vitamin D3 and vitamin D4 can also provide the consumer with at least two additional vitamin Ds," he added.

In a second poster presentation, the researchers were able to determine how mushrooms make vitamin D2 and found that the process is similar to what occurs in human skin after sun exposure. They were also able to show that mushrooms not only produce vitamin D2, but can produce vitamin D3 and vitamin D4.

"Although it has been previously reported that mushrooms have the ability to produce both vitamin D2 and vitamin D4, through our own research we were able to detect several types of vitamin Ds and provitamin Ds in mushroom samples including vitamin D3 which is also made in human skin," added Holick.

The study will be presented at the American Society for Biochemistry and Microbiology annual meeting in Boston.

Health benefits of rice

essential amino acid methionine found predominantly in rice helps mobilize fat from the liver. As India is dominantly vegetarian, getting proteins from rice, especially the essential amino acid methionine and the conditionally essential amino acid tyrosine is crucial for us. Diabetics should also eat rice since they need these proteins.

Know that rice is not a bad thing. The bad thing is when we mindlessly

decide if one thing is good for us and that if we do it a lot, it becomes only better. We do that with rice so often now. A humble dalchawal meal is so satiating that it makes you eat slower and improves your chances of eating the right amount (the cornerstones of fat loss or accelerated metabolism, good digestion and health itself).

Rice is auspicious in both China and India: the dead are offered rice to wish them good health for life outside their physical selves. It is sad then, that in India, even when we are still in our bodies, we make fads out of rice.

rice or hand-polished rice) is absorbed much better by your body than in brown rice. It is also way easier to cook and digest as compared to brown rice. It is easy to digest, easy to absorb, easy to assimilate proteins from and easier on your excretory system too. This is exactly how the farming community of India eats its rice.

In fact, Ayurveda uses ricebased diets in treating various imbalances in the body. Dal-chawal is a nutritious meal, possessing the entire spectrum of amino acids, vitamins and minerals. It also accelerates fat burning. In fact, the



Regular rice is much maligned and is fast being dropped in favour of its unpolished avatar. But are the charges valid? Sports nutritionist separates the grain from the husk

The Chinese eat rice with every meal, breakfast included, and the average Chinese on the street is thin, if not skinny. In our country, however, we are getting

skeptical about rice and yes, we are all getting fatter. We either give up rice or replace it with wheat or 'brown' rice. What is wrong with this approach?

Replacing rice with wheat is not a good idea since it means reducing your intake of amino acids (protein's building blocks) and Vitamin B. As for brown rice, it has the outer

layer (husk and bran) intact thereby making it high in fibre. Now of course we want fibre but if your rice has more fibre than you can digest, brown rice will only cause indigestion. On the other hand, rice that emits blinding whiteness may not be the best source of nutrients either.

Thus, to get the best of

both worlds, polish your rice to the extent that helps it retain its nutrients (proteins, Vitamin B and fibre) and looks brownish or reddish. Remove the outer bran but allow the rice grain to show off its brown/red strains. Don't worry, this won't compromise the taste and yes, you can eat basmati rice with the brown/red strains as well.

The protein in this rice (red-

Tottenham beat Manchester United 1-0 in Premier League

London, Feb 17 (UNI) : James Maddison scored the winner on his return from injury as Tottenham beat fellow Premier League strugglers Manchester United.

Maddison, who has missed nearly four weeks with a calf injury, was the only player following in after United keeper Andre Onana parried Lucas Bergvall's shot and completed an easy tap-in in the 13th minute, the BBC reported.

The visitors did have chances to level, with Alejandro Garnacho lofting an effort over the bar when through on goal in the first half - but this was ultimately another uninspired United display.

Tottenham earned their first win in three games - after cup losses to Liverpool and Aston Villa - and victory will ease some of the pressure on manager Ange Postecoglou. They are now 12th in the table, moving above United.

Ruben Amorim's injury-hit Red Devils, meanwhile, have lost three of their past four league games and drop to 15th - 12 points clear of the relegation zone. Before the match more than 1,000 Tottenham supporters attended a protest against the club's ownership and chairman Daniel Levy.



Vidarbha's Dhruv Shorey plays a shot on the first day of a Ranji Trophy semi-final cricket match between Mumbai and Vidarbha, at VCA stadium in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Vidarbha make solid start against Mumbai

Nagpur, Feb 17 (UNI) : Vidarbha made a strong start to their Ranji Trophy semifinal against Mumbai, reaching 308 for 5 at stumps on the opening day at the VCA Stadium here on Saturday.

Danish Malewar and Dhruv Shorey struck half-centuries, while Shivam Dube and Shams Mulani claimed two wickets apiece for Mumbai.

Opting to bat first, Vidarbha got off to a steady start with Shorey leading the charge in the first hour. However, left-arm pacer Royston Dias provided Mumbai with the

breakthrough, dismissing opener Atharva Taide early in the innings. Parth Rekhade, coming in at No. 3, joined Shorey to steady the innings. The duo built a crucial partnership, with Rekhade registering a well-compiled half-century. However, Shivam Dube struck at a crucial juncture, inducing an edge from Rekhade to Suryakumar Yadav at second slip.

Shorey and Malewar then stitched together another significant partnership, consolidating Vidarbha's position. The stand was eventually broken by Mulani, who

dismissed Shorey for a fluent 74 off 109 balls.

Karun Nair's arrival further bolstered Vidarbha's innings as he put on a valuable 78-run stand with Malewar. The latter, who top-scored with 79, became Mulani's second victim of the day. Despite the setbacks, Yash Rathod (40*) and Nair (40) ensured that Vidarbha finished the day on a strong note, taking the team past the 300-run mark.

****Brief Scores:****
Vidarbha 308/5 (Danish Malewar 79, Dhruv Shorey 74, Shivam Dube 2-35, Shams Mulani 2-44) vs Mumbai.

Raducanu beats Sakkari in Dubai to end losing run

Dubai, Feb 17 (UNI) : Britain's Emma Raducanu ended her losing run with a straight-set victory over Greece's Maria Sakkari in the first round of the Dubai Tennis Championships.

The 22-year-old went into the tournament having lost her previous four matches - the worst run of her career - but needed just one hour and 20 minutes to seal a 6-4 6-2 win against the world number 29.

The 2021 US Open champion had not won since beating American Amanda Anisimova in the Australian Open second round on January 16, the BBC reported. The British number two broke serve in the first game of both sets, and on the two occasions she lost her own serve she immediately broke back in the next game. "There were some momentum shifts throughout the match and when I got broke twice early in the sets I regrouped really well and managed to break back both times," said Raducanu. "I was really pleased with the way I fought and competed against Maria. She is a top player and has been as high as three in the world. I'm really proud of my performance."

Raducanu will play Karolina Muchova in the second round after the Czech 14th seed beat Dutch opponent Suzan Lamens 6-2 6-2.

Crispin Chettri names 23-member squad for Pink Ladies Cup in UAE

New Delhi, Feb 17 (UNI) : The Indian senior women's team coach Crispin Chettri, on Monday, named a 23-member squad for the Pink Ladies Cup, a friendly tournament to be held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, from February 20 to 26, during the FIFA International Match Window.

India will face Jordan (February 20), Russia (February 23) and Korea Republic (February 26). All matches will take place at the Al Hamriya Sports Club Stadium in Sharjah, UAE.

The Blue Tigresses had been training in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, after the conclusion of Round 6 of the Indian Women's League on February 7.

India are using these friendly matches to prepare for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers which will take place in May-June, 2025.

Crispin Chettri said, "I think the Pink Ladies Cup will be an eye opener for many of our players because they will get to know the standard. I think Korea Republic are completely different from Russia. I watched their videos. Russia have a different kind of playing style. But when it comes to Korea, they are quick in transitions. So I think we have to adapt to two different kinds of playing styles. Playing against different sorts of teams like

Jordan, Korea Republic and Russia will give us a clearer picture of creating a pool of players for playing against different teams."

India will depart for Sharjah on Tuesday.

India's 23-member squad for the Pink Ladies Cup in Sharjah, UAE:

Goalkeepers: Elangbam Panthoi Chanu, Payal Basude, Shreya Hooda.

Defenders: Aruna Bag, Kiran Pisda, Martina Thokchom, Nirmala Devi Phanjoubam, Purnima Kumari, Sanju, Shilky Devi Hemam, Sweetly Devi Ngangbam.

Midfielders: Babina Devi Lisham, Grace Dangmei, Mousumi Murmu, Priyadarshini Selladurai, Priyangka Devi Naorem, Ratanbala Devi Nongmaithem.

Forwards: Karishma Purushottam Shirvoikar, Lynda Kom Serto, Manisha, Renu, Sandhya Ranganathan, Soumya Guguloh.

Head Coach: Crispin Chettri

Assistant Coach: Priya PV

Goalkeeping Coach: Dipankar Choudhury

India's fixtures in the Pink Ladies Cup:

16:30 IST, February 19: Jordan vs India

20:30 IST, February 22: Russia vs India

12:30 IST, February 25: India vs Korea Republic

Venue: Al Hamriya Sports Club Stadium, Sharjah

New Zealand skipper Devine to remain on sidelines for Sri Lanka series

Wellington, Feb 17 (UNI) : New Zealand have confirmed Sophie Devine will not play in the upcoming white-ball series against Sri Lanka.

It's been revealed Devine will continue to prioritize her wellbeing.

The news comes after the White Ferns captain opted to withdraw from the Dream 11 Super Smash and 2025 Women's Premier League last month, off the back of receiving professional advice.

"We are fully supportive of Sophie's decision to not take part in the upcoming series," Head of Women's High Performance Liz Green said in a release from New Zealand Cricket.

"Player wellbeing is our highest priority and it's important Sophie feels fit and well before returning to professional cricket."

The White Ferns' series with Sri Lanka starts on March 4, featuring three One-Day Internationals and then two T20Is - all in New Zealand, an ICC report said.

NZC will announce their squad for the white-ball series later this month.

As captain, Sophie Devine played a key role in helping the White Ferns win last year's ICC Women's T20 World Cup in the UAE in October.

The all-rounder is on the cusp of a milestone, having amassed 3990 runs in Women's ODIs, averaging 31.66 with the bat in international 50-over cricket.

Indian Men's Hockey Team prepares to lock horns with Germany in FIH Pro League

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17 (UNI) : After a mixed start to their FIH Pro League 2024-25 campaign, the Indian Men's Hockey Team, led by Captain Harmanpreet Singh, is ready to take on Germany in its upcoming matches at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium here.

Having bounced back from a 3-1 loss to Spain in their opener with a commanding 2-0 win in the second game, India are eager to continue their winning momentum against the German side.

With three points from two games, India currently sit in eighth place in the standings and will be

looking to climb higher.

One key area of focus for the team is improving their penalty corner conversion rate. Despite winning seven penalty corners across their two games against Spain, India failed to convert any of these opportunities into goals.

The hosts will aim to sharpen their execution in set-pieces as they prepare for the challenge ahead.

Dilpreet Singh, Mandeep Singh, and Sukhjeet Singh have each netted a goal for the Men in Blue so far in the tournament and will be looking to add to their tally against Germany.

Germany, which will be playing their first match of the India leg, are placed just above India in seventh place with four points from four games and they will be determined to turn their fortunes around.

Although they have won only one match in the tournament so far, their attack has been spearheaded by Raphael Hartkopf, Gonzalo Peillat, and Thies Prinz, who have each scored two goals. Germany will aim to turn around its struggling campaign and secure vital points in this closely contested fixture.

The two sides last met during a two-match Test

series in New Delhi in October 2024, where Germany won the first game 2-0, but India bounced back in the second with a thrilling 5-3 victory. However, Germany went on to claim the series through a shootout win, adding extra intensity to this latest matchup in the FIH Pro League. Speaking on the upcoming matches, India Captain Harmanpreet Singh stated, "We are looking forward to our games against Germany. They are a quality team, and we know we need to bring our best performance to the field." "After the positive result against Spain, our confidence is high, but we

know there's still work to be done. One of our main focuses is improving our penalty corner conversion, as it's crucial to make the most of those opportunities in tight matches," he said.

"The team is motivated and ready to build on the momentum from our last game. We've learned from both the win and the loss, and we're determined to bring our best performance to the field. Playing at home is always special, and we want to deliver for our fans," Harmanpreet concluded.

India will take on Germany on February 18 at 7:30 PM IST and on February 19 at 5:15 PM IST.

Khelo India Winter Games postponed due to insufficient snowfall: J&K Sports Council

Jammu, Feb 17 (UNI) : The much-awaited fifth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games scheduled to begin on February 22 at renowned ski resort Gulmarg has been postponed due to insufficient snowfall, informed Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council.

"The fifth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games, initially set for February 22-25, 2025, has been postponed due to insufficient snowfall," Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council posted on X.

"A new assessment will be conducted once snow conditions improve, and the revised update will be announced accordingly," it

further posted. Rauf Trambo, President of, Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir when contacted told UNI, "The snow was not sufficient to smoothly go with the event." A meeting was held on Monday in which officials from all the stakeholders participated and it was unanimously decided to postpone the Games as of now," Trambo, who is also competition Manager of the event, said. He said, "Athletes are disappointed but we are quite hopeful of successfully hosting the prestigious event for the fifth time in a row given the forecast of good snowfall in coming days with an announcement of fresh dates."

Pakistan opens Champions Trophy with low-key ceremony

Lahore, Feb 17 (UNI) : With participating teams absent, some members of Pakistan's victorious 2017 squad provided the star power as the opening ceremony of this year's ICC Champions Trophy was held at the Deewan-e-Aam of the historical Lahore Fort on Sunday. Hosts Pakistan go into the February 19 to March 9 tournament as defending champions after the International Cricket Council had decided to do away with the tournament before finding a space for it back in the calendar, the Dawn reported.

"I hope the team can defend the title on home soil," Sarfraz Ahmed, the captain of Pakistan's 2017 side said during a panel discussion alongside former South Africa batter J.P. Duminy and ex-New Zealand pacer Tim

Southee. "Those were unforgettable moments for us after lifting the trophy," added Sarfraz with other members of that history-making side including Azhar Ali, Mohammad Hafeez, Wahab Riaz, Haris Sohail, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Amir, Hasan Ali, Junaid Khan and Shadab Khan among the audience. During the discussion, hosted by former West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop, Duminy predicted that Afghanistan "could be a dark horse" for the semi-finals.

Afghanistan are in Group 'B' alongside South Africa, Australia and England. Pakistan and New Zealand, who clash in the tournament opener on Wednesday, are in Group 'A' alongside India and Bangladesh.

Afghanistan, New

Zealand and South Africa are already in Karachi for their opening matches next week; the latter two having featured in a tri-series against the hosts which concluded on Friday.

Having seen his former team-mates coast to the tri-series title, Southee was looking forward for more.

"We're in for some very entertaining cricket in the next few days," he said.

The tournament marks the first ICC tournament on Pakistan soil since it co-hosted the 1996 ODI World Cup and ICC's chief executive Geoff Allardice hopes it will be memorable. "The Pakistani nation has great passion for cricket," he said, appreciating the work put in by the Pakistan Cricket Board to renovate the three stadia in Rawalpindi, Karachi and Lahore for the tournament.

Team MRF Tyres enters British Rally championship

Chennai, Feb 17 (UNI) : MRF, India's No 1 Tyre manufacturer, announced their participation in the prestigious and highly competitive British Rally Championship 2025 and inclusion as official tyre suppliers for the 2025 season.

Having dominated the European Rally Championships, Team MRF Tyres now seeks to extend their superiority in the UK.

Leading the MRF challenge will be drivers James Williams and Max Mcrae, a press release from MRF said here today.

The decision to participate in the BRC 2025 underscores MRF's commitment to showcase the capabilities of Indian engineering and manufacturing on the global stage.

With a rich heritage in the motorsport tyres and a reputation for producing high performance tyres, the company is poised to make a significant impact in the world of rallying.

"We are excited to take on this new challenge and represent India on the global motorsports platform," said Arun Mammen Vice Chairman & Managing Director of MRF.

"The British Rally Championship is a prestigious event that

attracts the best drivers and teams from around the world. Our participation in this event will not only demonstrate the quality of our products but also inspire Indian motorsports enthusiasts and foster a sense of national pride. We are confident that our tyres will perform exceptionally well in the BRC 2025", he said.

"Our engineers have been working closely with rally experts to develop the right products that can withstand the rigors of the sport and provide our drivers with the necessary grip and stability to compete at the highest level", he added.

The two professional drivers will leverage the company's extensive research and development capabilities to develop tyres that are specifically tailored for the demanding conditions in

the nine round event throughout the year in 2025. The first round of the 2025 season gets underway in Beverley-East Yorkshire UK, at the East Riding Stages Rally on 23 February

Team MRF Tyres are winners in the FIA European Rally Championship in 2022 and 2023.

Dominating the Italian Gravel Rally Championship for four years in a row, MRF tyres has also succeeded in Norway and Latvia IN January 2025 with the Snow Tyres.

Brand MRF is already a tyre of choice in Hi performance rallies in Australia, New Zealand and South America.

The company's commitment to developing high-performance tyres has been evident through its participation and successes in various national and international championships.

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Running of Special Trains Between Shivamogga Town and Banaras for Kumbh Mela : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Feb 17 : The Railway Board has decided to run special express trains between Shivamogga Town and Banaras for one trip in each direction to manage the extra rush of passengers during the ongoing Kumbh Mela.

1. Train No. 06223 Shivamogga Town - Banaras Express Special will depart from Shivamogga Town at 4:40 p.m. on February 22, 2025 and will reach Banaras at 3:00 p.m. on February 24, 2025.

2. In the return

direction, Train No. 06224 Banaras - Shivamogga Town Express Special will depart from Banaras at 1:30 a.m. on February 25, 2025 and will arrive at Shivamogga Town at 6:45 a.m. on February 27, 2025.

En route, the train will have stoppages at Bhadravati, Birur, Chikjajur, Chitradurga, Rayadurg, Ballari Cantt., Hosapete, Koppal, Gadag, Hole Alur, Badami, Bagalkot, Almatti, Basavana Bagewadi Road, Vijayapura, Indi Road, Solapur, Daund, Kopergaon, Manmad, Bhusaval, Itarsi, Pipariya,

Narsinghpur, Jabalpur, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheeki and Mirzapur stations in both directions.

The special trains will consist of eleven 2AC Three-Tier Coaches, four Sleeper Class Coaches, two General Second-Class Coaches and two Luggage/Generator/Brake Vans.

For additional information about train schedules and ticket bookings, passengers can visit the official Indian Railways website or call the helpline number 139.

Bidar cancer doctor Goyal to attend international conference



(Standard Post Bureau) Bidar, Feb 17 : Bidar cancer doctor Vipin Goyal will attend an international "health conference to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Feb. 20.

Vipin has been invited to the conference. He will present a topic on "Healthcare in India" at the conference on 'Building Bridges to Better Health; Tradition, Innovation and Collaboration'. Renowned doctors from various countries will participate in the conference. "Vipin is a senior consultant and laparoscopic surgeon in the surgical oncology department of Star Hospital, Hyderabad. With over 12 years of experience, he is one of the best oncologists.

He specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of many types of cancer "including head and neck cancer, stomach cancer, genital cancer, skin cancer, gynecological cancer, soft tissue sarcoma, breast oncology, "laparoscopic surgery for abdominal cancer, and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy. Vipin's father, Ramesh Goyal, is a renowned businessman from Bidar.

10 Days FDP Programme inaugurated in MANUU

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Feb 17: Two Weeks Faculty Development Program (FDP)/Professional Development Program (PDP) on organized by MANUU Polytechnic, Hyderabad, is inaugurated by Prof. Shuguftha Shaheen. The theme of the programme is "Application of Computational Intelligence in Civil Engineering". The program will run in online mode from 17th to 28th February 2025. It has over 50 participants from NIT, central universities and industries. The program will be addressed by distinguished speakers from International Universities, IIT, NIT, Central Universities and Multi-National Companies.

Prof. Shuguftha Shaheen addressed the inaugural session of the programme congratulated Civil Engineering department of MANUU Polytechnic, Hyderabad to organise such an important online programme for the development and growth of faculty, professionals from Industry and research scholars. She has also highlighted the importance of computational intelligence in civil engineering to make lives better for mankind.

Dr Mohammed Yousuf Khan delivered the welcome address. Dr Yousuf has said that along with faculty, professionals from the industry will also be benefited through this online programme of ten days.

Valuables worth approx 16 lakhs found and handed over to rightful owner

WR's railway protection force returns left behind bag with valuables

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 17 : Western Railway's Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel during his duty made a significant recovery at Bandra Terminus on 16 February, 2025. A left behind bag containing valuables was found and after due verification was returned to the rightful owner. On Duty Sub Inspector, Shri Yogesh Kumar Jani and Constable Shri Hanuman Prasad Chaudhary found an unattended bag under the seat of an AC coach in Train No. 12479, Jodhpur - Bandra Terminus Suryanagari Superfast Express.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the unattended bag was brought to the RPF post and opened in the presence



of other staff revealing a mobile phone, clothes, and a polythene bag containing valuable jewelry. The RPF personnel brought the bag

to the post, documented its contents and informed the concerned RPF officials at Bandra Terminus. A person, Shri Shailesh Ganesh Mali,

resident of Colaba came inquiring about his lost bag. He provided his travel details, i.e. that he had traveled from Jodhpur to Bandra Terminus in Train No. 12479 alongwith his 2 children and multiple bags. He realized one of his bag was missing after reaching home. Shri Mali contacted 139 to report the missing bag.

The passenger, Shri Shailesh Ganesh Mali, identified his bag, which was opened and inspected in his presence, revealing valuable items including a mobile phone, children's clothes, gold jewelry (Mangalsutra, bangles, armlets, earring, ring, and nose pin) worth a total of Rs. 15.83 lakhs. The bag and all items were safely returned to Mali, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to RPF Bandra Terminus and the helpline for their exceptional service.

Arun Kumar Jain, GM, SCR conducts Surprise Inspection of Secunderabad Railway Station



(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Feb 17: Mr Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway conducted a surprise inspection of Secunderabad Railway Station today to check on passenger amenities and facilities provided to rail travelers in view of the ongoing large-scale station redevelopment works.

He made a review of the redevelopment works at Secunderabad Railway Station, the comprehensive measures undertaken by

the Secunderabad Division officials to ensure the smooth movement of passengers while maintaining the highest standards of safety and security. He instructed the officials that in view of redevelopment work involving significant infrastructural modifications requires effective crowd management, security enhancements and passenger assistance initiatives. Deployment of additional RPF personnel

and implementation of several key measures including provision proper signages to facilitate hassle-free travel for passengers. He also directed for round the clock monitoring by officials to avoid any kind of inconvenience to the passengers.

He was accompanied by Shri Bartesh Kumar Jain, Divisional Railway Manager, Secunderabad Division and other senior Railway officials throughout the inspection.

Opposition will get wiped out for ignoring positives for Bihar in budget: Bhupendra

Patna, Feb 17 (UNI) Union Minister and senior BJP leader Bhupendra Yadav on Monday predicted that the opposition was all set to get wiped out in the coming Bihar Assembly elections for "ignoring" measures for the state in the latest Union Budget. Yadav told media persons here that provisions for Bihar in the Union Budget for 2025-26 were "ignored" by opposition parties and they were all set to get wiped out in the state Assembly elections scheduled for October-November this year.

It appeared that people of Bihar would not forgive the opposition for its sin of ignoring the Budget, and they would slip into the black hole in the next electoral battle of Bihar this year, he predicted.

"Union budget presented for the

financial year 2025-26 was historic for Bihar as proposals made for the state would change the scenario of all sectors including Health, Agriculture Education and Infrastructure", the Union Minister said adding that the budget presented this year would prove to be the stepping stone for India to become a developed nation by the year 2047. Under Kisan Anna Yojana, focus would be on such districts where agro yields were below the national average, he added. "Health care facilities would also be improved remarkably after implementation of the budget proposals", Yadav said adding that Day Care cancer hospitals would be opened in 200 districts and later it would be replicated in all districts of the country.

GM, ECoR Parmeshwar Funkal conducted intensive safety inspection of Rayagada - Vizianagaram section

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Feb 17 : General Manager of East Coast Railway, Mr Parmeshwar Funkwal, along with the Divisional Railway Managers of Waltair, Mr Manoj Kumar Sahoo, and Rayagada, Mr Amitabh Singhal, along with Principal Heads of Department and senior officers from both the Zonal Headquarters and the Division, conducting a comprehensive safety inspection of the Rayagada-Vizianagaram section today.

The inspection commenced with primarily focus on assessing the safety standards, amenities, and infrastructure improvements at Rayagada station.

Mr Parmeshwar Funkwal, GM, along with the DRMs and other senior officials, visited the Railway Colony in Rayagada, where they interacted with the residents to understand their needs and evaluate the available amenities. They also reviewed the newly developed park in the colony, appreciating the efforts of the Civil Engineering, Electrical, and Environment & Health Management departments for maintaining the colony area.

The inspection continued with an in-depth evaluation of various critical facilities, including circulating areas, retiring rooms, crew lobby, RRI cabin, relay room, waiting halls, food courts, booking and parcel offices, Running Room, Traction Depot, Accident Relief Trains & Medical Equipment Vans, Carriage Depot, Traction Substation, and overall improvements at Rayagada station.

Mr Parmeshwar Funkwal engaged directly with staff to assess their competency, maintenance practices, and concerns, ensuring that safety protocols were being followed and exploring opportunities to enhance passenger amenities and infrastructure. During the



inspection, GM ECoR inaugurated the Emergency Medical Room, ensuring round-the-clock availability of paramedics and a doctor from 08:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs, to provide emergency treatment for all bonafide passengers. Additionally, Shri Funkwal inspected the under construction temporary Divisional Railway Manager's Office for the Rayagada Division. He reviewed the station developmental activities with the officials.

Continuing his inspection, a speed trial was conducted from Jimidipeta to Parvathipuram. Upon reaching Parvathipuram, GM ECoR Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, accompanied by DRMs and PHODs, reviewed the station's developmental activities, including the waiting halls,

railway offices, retiring rooms, and the relay room. Later, the GM inspected the Railway colony, engaging with the residents to understand their well-being, grievances, and needs. He also reviewed the newly constructed park within the colony. During this time, he interacted with the media, emphasizing the significance of his inspection.

Additionally, GM ECoR Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal conducted safety inspection with the gang at Parvathipuram station, assessing their safety skills, proper use of safety equipment, and overall work performance. He inquired about their well-being and addressed any grievances, urging them to remain alert, cautious, and diligent in adhering to safety protocols.

During the inspection, MLA Parvathipuram, Shri Bonela Vijayachandra, met with the GM and submitted a memorandum requesting various developmental activities and additional train stoppages. Continuing with his tour, the GM also inspected curve No.168 between Sitanagaram and Bobbili. He received representations from passenger associations and local representatives, patiently listening to their concerns, which will be addressed in due course.

Further, safety audit was conducted at Level Crossing Gates in the Jimidipeta-Gajapathi Nagaram-Komatipalli section. GM interacted with gatemen, Gangmen and staff to assess their knowledge and adherence to safety protocols.