

IN BRIEF

27 red sander logs seized, one smuggler arrested

Kadapa Feb 18 (UNI) : The Red Sanders Anti Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) team seized 27 red sander logs and arrested one red sander smuggler at Uddimadugu forest area in the district.

DSP G Balireddy told the media that on the directions of the RSASTF chief L Subba Rayudu, a task force team led by RSI Muralidhar, forest officers P Indira and G Kishore, conducted combing in the forest area. The team spotted some red sander smugglers were carrying red sander logs in the jamoil plantation in the Bhakarapet forest section.

When the task force personnel were approaching them, they noticed the task force team personnel and fled from the place.

However, the task force personnel chased and apprehended one smuggler. The police seized 27 red sander logs and one motorcycle. A search was launched to arrest the escaped smugglers. The seized red sander logs were shifted to the task force police station in Tirupati.

TTD Eo takes part in Srinivasa Kalyanam held at Varanasi

Tirumala, Feb 18 (UNI) : Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) organised Srinivasa Kalyanam in Varanasi on Tuesday at the Birla Mandir of the Benares Hindu University as a part of its religious festivities in the ongoing Maha Kumbhmela, and TTD EO J Syamala Rao participated in the divine event.

Initially, the priests brought Sridevi and Bhudevi along with Sri Swamivaru to the Kalyanam venue.

After that, amidst the chanting of Vedic mantras, a series of rituals including Sri Vishwakshena Aradhana, Punyahavachanam Maha Sankalpam, Mangalya Puja, and Mangala Sutradharana were held.

Finally, the Kalyanam concluded successfully with Nakshatra Harati and Mangala Harati being offered to the Utsava deities. Devotees who witnessed the celestial wedding were thrilled with devotion.

Aqua sector should be growth engine for AP: CM Naidu

(Standard Post Bureau)

Vijayawada, Feb 18 : Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu, on Tuesday felt that outstanding results can be achieved in the aqua sector through technology.

Addressing the three-day Aquatech-2.0 conclave on Tuesday, organised by the Global Forum for Sustainable Transformation (GFST), a non-profitable organisation, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that the aqua sector will certainly be a growth engine for strengthening the financial status of the state. He felt that a 30 percent growth rate is possible in this sector by utilising technology and by adopting modern methods.

The Chief Minister opined that there will be a great demand across the globe for the aqua products if organic methods are adopted, as excellent results are being achieved through organic farming. He also felt the need to bring in radical changes in the feed in



aquaculture.

The farmers can earn better revenue if the farm products are value-added, the Chief Minister noted. Now aquaculture is on in about four lakh acres, and this should reach 10 lakh acres by 2029-30, he said, but he felt the need that the aquaculture should be pollution-free.

Stating that pollution is the major problem in aquaculture, he noted that there are several solutions for controlling pollution, and this should be followed by

the farmers and others related to this sector. Everyone should strictly follow the guidelines and register the details of aquaculture, the Chief Minister said and made it clear that stringnet methods will be followed with regard to controlling pollution.

The three-day conclave that concluded on Tuesday discussed at length the changes being adopted in the sector, opportunities available, issues being faced, and the policies being adopted in aquaculture

much lower than the nation, such countries are much ahead in valuation, he added. Stating that there is every need to promote technology, the Chief Minister felt that Artificial Intelligence (AI) should be used in aquaculture to the maximum extent possible to reduce the expenditure and to improve quality. AI can be used to analyse what kind of diseases are likely to hit and how to prevent them, he added. The Chief Minister acknowledged that the food habits of the people are changing by the day, and the farmers too should follow suit to meet the growing demand. Livestock is very useful for the economic activity of the common man, he said, and he felt that the day is not too far when the details on which food product is being produced are available online.

If the farmers can update themselves, keeping in view the opportunities that will be available in the coming days, better results can easily be achieved, the Chief Minister maintained.

Labour Minister fires ESIC hospital doctors, staff for negligence

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kakinada, Feb 18 : Minister for Labour Vasamsetti Subhash was impatient on seeing that the duty doctors and staff were absent during his surprise visit to the ESIC hospital at Rajahmundry on Monday and ordered disciplinary action against the erring staff. As a prompt follow-up action, the AP insurance medical services director has issued orders on Tuesday placing under suspension five doctors and four office staff with immediate effect.

The minister found that the doctors and staff were negligent in duties and leaving the hospital after signing the attendance register. The minister was furious over the situation and issued instructions then and there itself for stringent action against the erring staff.

The ESIC Director informed the minister's office of the action taken, making it clear that further detailed inquiry would be conducted against these suspended doctors and staff.

Midnight selection of new CEC is disrespectful, discourteous: Rahul

New Delhi, Feb 18 (UNI) Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday slammed the government's "midnight decision" to select Gyanesh Kumar as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and called it "disrespectful and discourteous".

On his social media handle X, Rahul Gandhi said, "By violating the Supreme Court order and removing the Chief Justice of India from the committee, the (Narendra) Modi Government has exacerbated the concerns of hundreds of millions of voters over the integrity of our electoral process". He further said that he had presented his "dissent note" to Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah during the meeting of the committee to select the next Election Commissioner. In the dissent note, Gandhi stated, "The most fundamental aspect of an independent Election Commission free from executive interference is the process of choosing the Election Commissioner and Chief Election Commissioner".

"As the LoP it is my duty to uphold the ideals of Babasaheb Ambedkar and the founding leaders of our nation and hold the government to account. It is both disrespectful and discourteous for the PM and HM to have made a midnight decision to select the new CEC, when the very composition of the committee and the process is being challenged in the Supreme Court and is due to be heard in less than forty-eight hours," he said.

HSL completes refit of Indian Coast Guard Ship Vajra on time

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Feb 18 : Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) on Tuesday said it has completed the refit of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Vajra on time on Monday, with the vessel successfully proving all machinery during its first sea trials, marking another significant milestone.

The refit involved a 35 percent growth in work scope without any time overrun the company said in a release here. A

A key highlight of this refit was the successful completion of the entire underwater work package in just 32 days, significantly ahead of the scheduled dry dock period of 45 days.

One of the most challenging tasks during the refit was the repair of the port fin stabiliser, which involved the complex renewal of the inflatable seal in situ through an innovative method.

Additionally, repairs on both stabiliser control systems were executed efficiently.

The refit process also encountered and overcame multiple challenges, including the renewal of shaft line bearings, gearbox routines, and stabiliser control systems, as well as the import of critical spares from Germany. This achievement underscores HSL's commitment to operational excellence, timely delivery, and continuous innovation in its operations.

Qatar to invest USD10 bn in India, trade and investment focus of talks between PM, Qatar Amir

New Delhi, Feb 18 (UNI) : Qatar committed to invest USD10 billion in India, and both sides agreed to double the bilateral trade by 2030, as both countries agreed to elevate their ties to a Strategic Partnership with focus on trade, energy and investments, following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani here today.

PM Modi said in posts on X that he had a very productive meeting with the Qatar Amir, and that trade featured prominently in the talks.

"Had a very productive meeting with my brother, Amir of Qatar H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, earlier today. Under his leadership, Qatar has scaled new heights of progress.

He is also committed to a strong India-Qatar friendship. This visit is even more special because we have elevated our ties to a Strategic Partnership.

"Trade featured prominently in our talks. We want to increase and diversify India-Qatar trade linkages. Our nations can also work closely in sectors like energy, technology, healthcare, food processing, pharma and green hydrogen," the PM said.

The list of outcomes included:

*Elevation of India-Qatar bilateral relationship to Strategic Partnership

*The two sides are to set up Two Joint Ministerial Commissions at the level of Foreign Ministers and Ministers of Commerce and Industry

In the field of trade and investment:

*Qatar side is exploring opportunities to increase investments in India in infrastructure, technology, manufacturing, food security, logistics, hospitality, and areas of mutual interest. In this regard, Qatar committed to invest USD 10 billion in India.

*?Decision of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) to open an office in India.

*Both sides set the target to double bilateral trade by 2030.

*?Both sides agreed to explore an India-Qatar Free Trade Agreement

*?Operationalization of India's UPI at Qatar National Bank (QNB) Point of Sales in Qatar.

*?Expansion of Qatar National Bank presence in India by setting up an office in the GIFT City.

In the field of Energy partnership:

*Both sides agreed on deepening the India-Qatar energy partnership, including through trade and mutual



President Droupadi Murmu hosts banquet in honour of

President Droupadi Murmu hosted a banquet in honour of the Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani on Tuesday evening, during which she recalled the deep and historic ties between India and Qatar and expressed satisfaction at the deepening of bilateral relations. In a post on X, the President's House said: "A warm welcome for a special friend!" President Droupadi Murmu received His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar at Rashtrapati Bhavan. In a special gesture,

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Supreme Court slams Allahabadia for using



The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed its angst with the language used by YouTuber Ranveer Allahabadi during an episode of the online show India's Got Latent, calling it "dirty" and "perverted." and barred him and his associates from airing any shows till further orders.

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J&K UT Wushu Championship: Jammu District wins overall



The District Jammu on Tuesday won an overall trophy on the closing day of the four-day-long Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Wushu Championship held here at Indoor Hall, Bhagwati Nagar. Around 1200 players from 19 districts, six Khelo India Centres and J&K Police participated in the championship.

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Dalit society will never be misled by Cong: Mayawati



Countering the controversial statement of senior Congress leader and former MP Udit Raj, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati on Tuesday said that Congress, which has scorned humanitarian struggle of Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar at every level,

(See on page 8)

Former UK PM Rishi Sunak visits Parliament House with family

New Delhi, Feb 18 (UNI) Former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak visited Parliament House with his wife Akshata Murty and daughters Krishna and Anoushka today.

They were accompanied by Sudha Murthy, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha.

Secretary General, Lok Sabha Upal Kumar Singh welcomed the former UK PM Sunak and his family. Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, PC Mody was also present on the occasion, a statement said.

During their visit, the Sunak family explored the Parliament House Complex, admiring its architectural grandeur. They visited notable sites like the Galleries, Chambers, Constitution Hall, and Samvidhan Sadan.

This visit is part of Rishi Sunak's recent engagements in India. He visited the Taj Mahal with his family on February 15.

SILF and CII announce knowledge paper on legal frameworks

New Delhi, Feb 18 (UNI) The Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) National Committee on Legal Services successfully hosted the first-ever SILF-CII ESG & Climate Law Day on Tuesday (February 18), marking the beginning of an annual global initiative.

The virtual conference, titled "Climate Change: A Global Push is the Need of the Hour," brought together leading legal experts, policymakers, and industry leaders to explore the role of law in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) compliance.

Attorney General of India R. Venkataramani, the keynote speaker, underscored the urgency of climate action and called for a universal legal framework to address environmental challenges.

Venkataramani highlighted the need for a fundamental shift in how societies approach climate governance. "We stand at a civilizational crossroads, where sustainability must be integrated into our policies, institutions, and daily lives. Climate change is not an abstract or elite discussion—it must be embedded in governance, economic policies, and individual responsibility," he stated. He emphasised that global efforts should move beyond summits and pledges to grassroots movements, individual action and binding legal commitments. "We cannot afford to treat climate action as a matter of convenience. It is a moral imperative requiring equal participation and shared responsibility," he added.

Conference Chair Dr. Lalit Bhasin, President of SILF and Chairman of the CII National Committee on Legal Services, cited alarming statistics from the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report.



Samajwadi Party leaders protest during the joint sitting of both Houses addressed by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, marking the beginning of the state Assembly budget session, in Lucknow.

TERI to organise World Sustainable Development Summit on March 5

New Delhi, Feb 18 (UNI) The 24th edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) will be held from March 5-7, 2025, in New Delhi. Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav will inaugurate the summit, which will highlight the need for collaborative efforts to address global climate challenges and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The summit is being organized annually by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), a leading global event dedicated to advancing sustainable

development and climate solutions.

"TERI's flagship summit will unite global leaders to accelerate climate action, advance partnerships, drive innovation, and deliver solutions for a resilient and sustainable future," said the official statement.

The submit will focus on the theme 'Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions', highlighting the need for collaborative efforts to address global climate challenges and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"With the world off-

track in meeting SDGs and facing an urgent need to reduce emissions, the summit will focus on the power of partnerships to drive action," it said.

Addressing the media, Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI, remarked, "Partnerships are the cornerstone of transformative climate action.

At WSDS 2025, we aim to inspire collective efforts that transcend borders, advancing innovation and driving ambitious solutions for a sustainable future. WSDS 2025 will serve as a vital platform to forge these alliances and drive

impactful change."

Ajay Shankar, Distinguished Fellow, TERI, added, "With the world off-track on key sustainability goals, WSDS 2025 will serve as a catalyst for collaboration, bringing together diverse voices to co-create actionable pathways for a resilient planet."

"The Summit is taking place in a year which will mark a decade since the adoption of sustainable development goals and the Paris Climate Agreement. The Summit will also see over 24 thematic tracks," said the official statement.

President Droupadi Murmu hosts banquet in honour of Qatar Amir

New Delhi, Feb 18 (UNI) President Droupadi Murmu hosted a banquet in honour of the Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani on Tuesday evening, during which she recalled the deep and historic ties between India and Qatar and expressed satisfaction at the deepening of bilateral relations.

In a post on X, the President's House said: "A warm welcome for a special friend!

"President Droupadi Murmu received His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar at Rashtrapati Bhavan. In a special gesture, President Murmu welcomed and greeted him in front of the iconic Rampurva Bull at the

steps of the Rashtrapati Bhavan forecourt. The President also hosted a banquet in his honour.

"The Vice President, Prime Minister and other dignitaries, including members of the high level delegation from Qatar attended the banquet.

"Speaking on the occasion, the President recalled the deep and historic ties between India and Qatar and expressed satisfaction at the deepening of bilateral relations and establishment of strategic partnership between the two countries."

A statement said: "Welcoming the Qatar Amir Al Thani on his second State Visit to India, the President said that India's

relations with Qatar are steeped in history, spanning centuries. Qatar has been an integral part of West Asia's linkages of commerce and culture with India.

"The President said that multi-faceted engagement and cooperation between India and Qatar are marked by a deep sense of comfort and time-tested goodwill. The two countries are reliable partners in the areas of trade, investment, food security, health, culture and energy. She said that we should also take advantage of the respective strengths of both countries to broaden our cooperation in the areas of innovation, technology and start-ups.

"The President said that said that both countries

should work together for peace, progress and prosperity of not only our peoples but for all people of the world.

"Both leaders agreed that the elevation of the India-Qatar relationship to the level of 'strategic partnership' would establish a roadmap for even closer engagement."

Earlier, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar called on the Qatar Amir. The Vice President "gratefully recalled the warm reception accorded to him during his visit to Qatar for FIFA 2022. Discussions between the two leaders highlighted various aspects of bilateral relations between the two nations, including energy, trade, investment, culture and people-to-people ties."

SC grants bail to Christian Michel in AgustaWestland case

New Delhi, Feb 18 (UNI) The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to British arms consultant, Christian James Michel, in the case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the AgustaWestland chopper scam.

Michel had filed a Special Leave Petition challenging the Delhi High Court's September 25, 2024, order that denied him bail.

A bench, comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, granted bail on the condition that Michel must renew his passport and subsequently surrender it.

During the hearing, the matter was initially taken up in the morning but was deferred as the CBI's counsel sought additional time. When the Court expressed its inclination to grant bail, the CBI contended that Michel's plea was based on medical grounds. The Court postponed the hearing until after lunch, at which point it questioned the prolonged delay in trial proceedings.

Justice Nath asked the CBI counsel, "Why do you want him in custody after six years? You have filed a

chargesheet, and the investigation is complete."

The central agency responded that Michel was extradited to India, to which Justice Nath remarked, "What about the trial? You haven't even started the trial." Justice Mehta further stated, "It is your duty as the prosecutor. Who stopped you for the past six years?"

Michel's counsel, Advocate Aljo K Joseph, argued that the investigation was still incomplete and that the authorities continued to rely on international documents while placing the burden of delay on the accused.

The CBI requested the matter be heard on Friday to seek instructions on the status of the investigation and whether it intended to continue. However, the Court clarified that Michel would be granted bail, and the CBI could proceed with its investigation independently. Justice Mehta observed, "At this rate, you won't be able to conclude the trial even in the next 25 years."

In its order, the Court noted, "Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, particularly that the petitioner was

extradited in 2018 and has been in custody for more than six years, and that the CBI has filed three chargesheets and two supplementary chargesheets while the investigation remains ongoing, we are inclined to grant bail on conditions determined by the trial court. The CBI may request the trial court to impose necessary conditions before his release."

Michel was arrested in December 2018 following his extradition from Dubai. He is accused of acting as a middleman in alleged illegal transactions related to the VVIP chopper scam.

The CBI has alleged that the deal, signed on February eight, 2010, for the procurement of VVIP helicopters worth \$556.262 million, caused an estimated loss of \$398.21 million (approximately Rs 2,666 crore) to the Indian exchequer. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had filed a chargesheet against Michel in June 2016, alleging that he received \$30 million (around Rs 225 crore) from AgustaWestland.

Advocates Sreeram Parakkat and M S Vishnu Shankar also represented the petitioner in the case.

Navika Sagar Parikrama II: INS Tarini reaches Port Stanley

New Delhi, Feb 18 (UNI) : The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini entered Port Stanley on Tuesday, completing the third and most challenging phase of Navika Sagar Parikrama II, a pioneering expedition showcasing the resilience, courage, and skill of the Indian Navy's women officers. This marks a significant milestone in the vessel's journey of circumnavigating the globe. During the phase, the vessel experienced three cyclones, while passing through Point Nemo, known as the Oceanic Pole of Inaccessibility, an Indian

Navy statement said. They also passed through the treacherous waters of Drake Passage before crossing Cape Horn.

The Navika Sagar Parikrama initiative underscores the Indian Navy's commitment to gender empowerment and maritime excellence. The expedition, crewed by two women officers, aims to promote ocean sailing, self-reliance, and India's rich maritime heritage. Their experiences serve as an inspiration for young aspirants, encouraging greater participation of women in maritime and defence sectors. INSV

Tarini embarked on its ambitious journey from Goa, navigating challenging sea conditions across the Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans. The vessel's safe arrival at Port Stanley is a demonstration of India's growing maritime reach and commitment to fostering global goodwill through Naval diplomacy.

The team is expected to interact with the local community, sharing insights about their voyage and India's Naval traditions. Following its stop in Port Stanley, INSV Tarini will continue its expedition, sailing through to Cape Town before returning to India.

Muslims condemn Waqf Board order on century-old Mumbai Minara Masjid

Mumbai, Feb 18 (UNI) : Days after the Maharashtra Board of Waqf approved the appointment of a new board of trustees to take over the management of century-old Minara Masjid, one of the most important mosques in the city, the Muslim community and political parties, including Samajwadi Party, have condemned the decision.

The iconic Minara Masjid at Mohammed Ali Road is a prominent landmark of the financial capital of the country.

The community as well as political outfits have slammed Junaid Sayed, the chief executive officer of the Waqf Board, for his unlawful and arbitrary step which can be template to involve other mosques in similar controversies.

The development comes at a time when the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 introduced by the BJP-led NDA government at the

Centre, is still to become an Act. Samajwadi Party state president and MLA, Abu Asim Azmi, flagged the issue and is expected to raise the issue during the forthcoming budget session of the Maharashtra legislature and also move the Bombay High Court.

"It is an illegal order appointing new non-Memon community trustee in the more than a century-old Minara Masjid in Mumbai and violates the trust deed," Azmi said.

It is a complete arbitrary order as it has come without hearing the present trustees and non-Memons can't be appointed in the trust. The Minara Masjid Trust is a trust established under a scheme framed by the Bombay High Court in the year 1879. Thereafter, the Trust was transferred to the Bombay Charity Commissioner after the enactment of the Maharashtra Public Trust

Act, 1950, bearing registration number B-331. Since then, the Trust is being governed as per the Maharashtra Public Trust Act, 1950 and is in the nature of English Trust and hence the State Waqf Board does not have any jurisdiction to pass such an order. The allegation against the present trustees is that they have sold 83 properties unlawfully and illegally is totally false and frivolous. The trustees have taken consent from their 83 tenants of their chawl and are desirous of developing the said chawl after obtaining required no-objection certificate (NOC) from competent authorities.

Azmi said that he will personally visit the Minara Masjid shortly and will discuss the issue with prominent religious scholars such as Hazrat Khalid Ashraf, Hazrat Moinmiyan, Maulana Zahiruddin Khan Saheb and Saeed Noorie and decide the course of action.

NGT Flags rising faecal bacteria levels in Ganga at Prayagraj during Maha Kumbh

New Delhi, Feb 18 (UNI) : The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has expressed serious concerns over increasing faecal bacteria levels in the Ganga at Prayagraj, particularly during the Maha Kumbh Mela. The findings were highlighted in a recent report submitted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The key findings submitted by the CPCB report indicate that a significant rise in faecal coliform bacteria was observed during the Maha Kumbh Mela. According to the report, the river water quality failed to meet bathing standards

concerning Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) during tests conducted on January 12-13. The water quality also did not conform to primary bathing standards regarding faecal coliform at multiple monitoring points.

The surge in faecal contamination was directly linked to the massive influx of pilgrims, especially on auspicious bathing days.

Despite the operational status of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), contamination levels spiked sharply during the Shahi Snans and other major rituals. The report emphasised that the

sudden and overwhelming number of devotees taking a holy dip overloaded the existing waste management infrastructure, leading to an exponential rise in bacteria levels. Inadequate sewage disposal mechanisms and improper waste handling were also cited as contributing factors to the declining water quality.

In response to the alarming pollution levels, the NGT, led by Justice Prakash Shrivastava (former Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court), has summoned officials from the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) to explain the measures taken

to control water pollution.

The tribunal had earlier directed the UPPCB to submit a detailed compliance report, but the board only provided water quality test results, which confirmed high faecal contamination. Dissatisfied with the partial response, the NGT has granted additional time for submission of a comprehensive report and mandated the presence of key UPPCB officials in the next hearing scheduled for February 19. The monitoring of water quality and sewage treatment at Prayagraj has been under strict NGT oversight since December 2024.

Singhania Schools signs MoU with Govt.

Vijayawada, Feb 18 (UNI) : In an endeavour to facilitate educational transformation across 14 government schools in Andhra Pradesh, a MoU was signed on behalf of Singhania Schools in the presence of HRD Minister Nara Lokesh and Gautam Hari Singhania, Chairman & Managing Director Raymond Group and Chairman Sulochanadevi Singhania School Trust.

This pioneering initiative will positively impact students studying these schools situated in Tirupati and Chandragiri districts.

Speaking on the occasion, Gautam Hari Singhania, said: "At Singhania Schools, we are deeply committed to fostering academic excellence and holistic development for over 1 lakh children in the next 5 years. This partnership with Andhra Pradesh Government is a significant step in nation building and aims in bridging learning gaps and equipping students with requisite skills that will prepare them for a brighter future. By integrating technology and strengthening teacher capabilities, we aim to create a more effective and

Every Sanatani is one in terms of religion: Pawan Kalyan

Prayagraj, Feb 18 (UNI) :Deputy Chief Minister and renowned South Indian film star Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday took a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam, embracing the spiritual significance of the Maha Kumbh. Describing the grand religious gathering as a profound symbol of human unity, Kalyan emphasised the shared essence of faith. "We may differ in language and culture, but our religion is one. We are Sanatanis, and for every Sanatani, Maha Kumbh is the most significant moment," he said.

Janasena Party chief Pawan Kalyan called it 'a blessed experience.' He praised the Uttar Pradesh government for the excellent arrangements at Maha Kumbh and extended his best wishes to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Recalling his long-standing fascination with the grand event, he said, "I once read a Yogi's autobiography when I was 16 or 17, and since then, I have been drawn to the Kumbh. Although I have visited Kumbh earlier also, taking a dip during the Maha Kumbh has been my

Special Action Plan for Swift Resolution of Land Disputes Between Govt Departments

Revenue Department Special Chief Secretary R.P. Sisodia



biggest wish for decades, and today, it has finally come true."

Describing the Maha Kumbh as an extraordinary event, he said, "Imagine, more than half of the country's Hindu population gathers here to take a holy dip. This is the unwavering faith of Sanatan Dharma that has kept this tradition alive for centuries. The greatness of our heritage and Sanatan culture lies in the fact that such a vast and peaceful event continues with immense devotion and grandeur, purely on the strength of people's faith."

Expressing his reverence for Maha Kumbh, the Janasena Party chief described it as one of the most significant moments in Sanatan Dharma. "This is a time when sages, yogis, and spiritual masters converge, creating an aura of positive energy. It is a moment where one can truly experience divine realisations, an experience that will remain etched in memory for a lifetime," he said. He said that Maha Kumbh serves as a meeting ground for people following different traditions, beliefs and spiritual practices, making it a deeply enriching and unifying experience.

"India has one soul, and the Maha Kumbh is a moment where one can truly feel its essence," he said. Kalyan also lauded the grand arrangements made for the event, commending CM Yogi Adityanath and the local administration for their efforts in ensuring a seamless and spiritually uplifting experience for the devotees.

(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, Feb 18 : The government is implementing a special action plan to resolve land disputes between departments without leading to legal complications, according to R.P. Sisodia, Special Chief Secretary for Revenue (Land Administration, Survey Settlement, Stamps & Registration, and Disaster Management) and Director General of the Andhra Pradesh Human Resource Development Institution. On Tuesday, Sisodia conducted a high-level review meeting at the State Disaster Management Authority office, focusing on resolving land disputes between the Forest and Revenue Departments. The meeting, attended by senior officials from the Revenue, Survey Settlement, Forest, and Maritime Board, was coordinated by Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA) Jayalakshmi. Sisodia emphasized that field visits by senior officials to assess the ground reality are crucial for resolving border disputes. He urged authorities to take swift decisions to settle land conflicts that are hindering government development projects.

Land Transfer for AP Maritime Board in Santabommali, Srikakulam

The meeting discussed the transfer of 408.67 acres of government land in Rajapuram village, Mulapeta, Santabommali Mandal, Srikakulam district, to the AP Maritime Board. The committee approved a proposal for constructing the Mulapeta Greenfield Port in Survey Nos. 299, 304, and 305. Sisodia instructed the CCLA to work towards resolving disputes between the Forest and Revenue Departments regarding this land. Since a portion of the requested land is categorized as forest land, alternative land allocation for the Forest Department needs special attention.

Land Ownership Dispute Between APIIC & Forest Department in Nellore

A dispute over 502.12 acres of land in Survey No. 303/1 in Amancherla, Nellore Rural Mandal between APIIC (Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation) and the Forest Department was also discussed. Given that the issue is linked to ongoing legal proceedings, the meeting concluded that further clarity and legal consultation were necessary before making a decision.

Border Dispute Over 365.66 Acres in Orvakal, Kurnool

A long-standing border dispute involving 365.66 acres in Brahmaanapalli and Shakunala villages, Orvakal Mandal, Kurnool district, was also reviewed. The boundary between a mining reserve forest and a proposed Green Energy Project site remains unclear. To resolve the issue, Sisodia ordered a joint re-survey by the Revenue and Forest Departments. He instructed district collectors to thoroughly study the records, conduct a field survey, and submit a report to the CCLA.

The meeting was attended by Ajay Kumar Naik, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden; Govind Rao, Additional Director, Survey Settlement; Ranjith Basha, Kurnool District Collector; Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar, Srikakulam District Collector; and K. Karthik, Joint Collector, Nellore District, along with other senior officials from the Revenue, Forest, and Maritime Board departments. The discussions aimed to establish clear land boundaries, resolve ownership disputes, and facilitate smooth implementation of development projects.

Qatar to invest USD10 bn in India, trade and investment

(Contd from page 1) investments. Among other outcomes: *Extension of Indian e-Visa facility for Qatari nationals. *India and Qatar agreed to celebrate Year of Culture, Friendship and Sports in near future. List of Agreements/ MoUs: Agreement on Establishment of Bilateral Strategic Partnership; *Revised Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income; *MoU on Financial and Economic Cooperation between Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Ministry of Finance, Government of the State of Qatar; *MoU for Cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports; *MoU for Cooperation in the field of Documents and Archives; *MoU for Cooperation between Invest India and Invest Qatar; *MoU between Confederation of Indian Industry and Qatari Businessmen Association. "The Amir's visit provided an excellent opportunity for the top leadership of the two countries to discuss and cement a strategic partnership for enhanced future cooperation as well as exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest," said Secretary CPV & OIA Arun Kumar Chatterjee at a media briefing.

A joint statement said: "The two sides noted that trade and commerce has been a strong pillar of bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries and emphasized on the potential for further growth and diversification in bilateral trade. They welcomed the elevation of the existing Joint Working Group on Trade and Commerce into a Joint Commission on Trade and Commerce. They welcomed the holding of the first meeting of the Joint Business Council on 13 February 2025. They agreed to explore the possibility of entering into a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Both sides set the target to double bilateral trade by 2030. The Indian side welcomed the decision of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) to open an office in India. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress made by the Joint Task Force on Investments during its first meeting in June 2024, where various avenues for investments in India were discussed. The Qatar side expressed interest to explore investment opportunities in different sectors, including infrastructure, technology, manufacturing, food security, logistics, hospitality, and other areas of mutual interest. In this regard, the Qatar side announced a commitment to invest USD 10 billion in India. The two sides welcomed convening of the Joint Business Forum inaugurated by the Ministers of Commerce and Industry of both countries on 18 February 2025. Both sides emphasized the importance of trade exhibitions as a strategic platform for promoting commercial partnerships. The two sides welcomed the operationalization of India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) in QNB's

Points of Sales in Qatar and looked forward to implement nation-wide roll-out of UPI acceptance in Qatar. They also agreed to explore settlement of bilateral trade in respective currencies. QNB's expansion is also welcomed in India through setting up of an office in GIFT City. The two sides shall work to further enhance bilateral energy cooperation, including through promotion of trade and mutual investments in energy infrastructure and regular meetings of the relevant stakeholders from both sides, including the Joint Task Force on Energy. The two leaders unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including cross-border terrorism and agreed to cooperate in combating this menace through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms. They agreed to enhance cooperation in information and intelligence sharing, developing and exchanging experiences, best practices and technologies, capacity building and to strengthen cooperation in law enforcement, anti-money laundering, drug-trafficking, Cybercrime and other transnational crimes. The two sides agreed to hold regular meetings of the Joint Working Group on Labour and Employment to address issues related to welfare of workers and matters of mutual interest. The two sides exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including the security situation in the Middle East. They emphasized the importance of dialogue and diplomacy for peaceful resolution of international disputes.

TTD is role model in temple administration in entire country: TTD Additional EO

(Standard Post Bureau) Tirumala, Feb 18 : The Hill Shrine Tirumala managed by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is a role model for all the temples across the country, advocated TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch Venkaiah Chowdary. Participating in a session on the second day of the ongoing three-day International Temple Convention Expo(ITCX) here on Tuesday evening, Chowdary given an entire picture of TTD, its history, Darshan Management, work force, various institutions being operated under its auspices, Trusts and other activities in his 35 minute empowering speech which impressed the invitees. Highlighting a few focal points that include average footfall to Tirumala in a year at 2.50 crore, he said a well-designed waiting and queue line system with 63 compartments as waiting halls that accommodates around 28 thousand pilgrims round the clock food and sanitation facilities. A major part of darshan time in a day is allotted for common pilgrims. He said on weekdays the general darshan time lasts for nearly 12-14 hours, while on Saturdays and Sundays it lasts over 15-17 hours. He said darshan plan changes based on the situation of pilgrim count to provide comfortable darshan to the pilgrims. Over 7600 rooms and PACs that accommodate around 60 thousand pilgrims, he said that on average 80 thousand pilgrims are provided Annaprashadam in Tirumala every day. Three kitchens to cater to the needs of pilgrims, he said ten varieties of Srivari Prasadams and 3.5 lakh laddu prasadams made available to pilgrims every day. The additional EO elaborated that besides manning the pilgrim crowd, TTD also carries out various Dharmic-socio-welfare activities. "TTD is not just confined to temple administration, but we are into multi-fold welfare activities," he maintained. In his concluding speech, the Additional EO asserted besides the various activities, TTD is marching ahead with the Digitization of all its services and in the coming 2-3 years would achieve 100% in its IT activities with an intention to provide transparent facilities to the scores of devotees amidst grand applause from the audience. Later, Giresh Vasudev Kulkarni, Founder-ITCX, Temple Connect, Prasad Lad, Chairman, ITCX 2025, and Chief Whip of Maharashtra Legislative Council, felicitated the TTD Additional EO with the laminated photo of Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

AUCTION NOTICE
Auction Catalogue No. CAT-WVM-25-01

Lot No. / Category: MSS-WAT-RGDA-WMM-62-25-3 (Misc-Static-Services-Water Vending Machines)

DESCRIPTION : INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FOUR (04) WATER VENDING MACHINES ON PLATFORM-1 AND PLATFORM-2&3 AT RAYAGADA RAILWAY STATION.

TRIPS/DAYS: 1826
LOT START DATE & TIME : 28.02.2025 at 11:00 Hrs., **LOT END DATE & TIME :** 28.02.2025 at 11:30 Hrs., **Min Incr (%) :** 0.2%

Complete information of the above e-Auction Notice is available in website: <https://www.ireps.gov.in>

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / PR-994/P/24-25 Waltair

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRRailwaysIndia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C.Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender No: M224-EPOXY-01-Dt 17-02-25

On behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer/ RYPS, South Central Railway, Wagon Workshop, Guntupalli - 521 241 invites e-tender.

1.Tender No: M224-EPOXY-01-Dt 17-02-25 Description: "Supply and Application of Epoxy Heavy duty, non-inflammable and water proof coating over the welded joints on all types of Eligible wagons" Qty-9600 Running Meters at Wagon Workshop, Guntupalli, South Central Railway for a period of 24 months. **Quantity:** 9,600 Running Meters **Period of Completion :** 24 Months. **Tender Value :** (₹) 49,25,962.92 (Rupees Forty-Nine Lakh Twenty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Two and paisa Ninety-Two Only). **Earnest Money to be deposited :** (₹) 98,500.00 (Rupees Ninety Eight Thousand Five Hundred only). **Cost of Tender document:** Free of Cost **Offer Validity:** 60 Days from the date of opening. **Type of tender:** Works **Tender governed by:** IRGC-2022. **System of Tendering:** Open Tender - Single Packet. **Time & Date of Bid Closing :** 15:00 Hrs. of Dt. 10-03-2025. **Tender document and Corrigendum:** Visit website "http://www.ireps.gov.in" **Postal Address for correspondence:** Chief Workshop Manager, Wagon Workshop, Guntupalli-521241

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, A0228 Wagon Workshop/Guntupalli

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Notice No. eT-North-WAT-03-2025 Dt. 11.02.2025

NAME OF THE WORK : THROUGH SLEEPER RENEWAL (P) OF 60KG PSC SLEEPERS WITH SPECIAL PSC SLEEPERS FOR 25 T AXLE LOAD FOR A LENGTH OF 36.432 TR. KMS (IN PATCHES) WITH TR AND FOR A LENGTH OF 10.594 TR. KM (IN PATCHES) WITH MANUAL BETWEEN THE RAIJUR (EX) AND DANKINAPURAM STATIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ RAYAGADA OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 7,13,72,996.95, **EMD :** ₹ 5,06,900/-

(2) Notice No. eT-North-WAT-04-2025 Dt. 11.02.2025

NAME OF THE WORK : PROVISION OF 6M WIDE FOOT OVER BRIDGES AT BOBBILI AND PARVATHIPURAM STATIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ RAYAGADA OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 12,82,48,015.11, **EMD :** ₹ 7,91,300/-

Completion Period of the Work : 12 (Twelve) Months (for both Sl. Nos).

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 15:00 Hrs. of 11.03.2025 (for both Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-987/P/24-25 Waltair

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Notice No. eT-Central-WAT-07-2025 Dt.: 13.02.2025

NAME OF THE WORK : CONSTRUCTION OF TWO LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAYS, (1) IN LIEU OF MANNEE LEVEL CROSSING NO. KK-24 AT KM. 103/33-34 IN BETWEEN SHIMILIGUDA & ARAKU STATIONS AND (2) AT A TRESPASSING LOCATION KM. 88/1-2 NEAR BONDAM VILLAGE BETWEEN KARAKAVALLASA-SHIMILIGUDA STATIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ ARAKU ON KK LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 6,01,82,945.46, **EMD :** ₹ 4,50,900/-

Completion Period of the Work : 12 (Twelve) Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 15:00 Hrs. of 11.03.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-995/P/24-25 Waltair

Shallow to moderate fog likely in South AP in next 4 days: Met

Amaravati, Feb 18 (UND) Shallow to moderate fog is likely to occur at Isolated places in the morning in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh during the next three days and in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam on Wednesday, the Meteorological Centre said on Tuesday.

A daily weather report here said that the maximum temperatures are likely to be above normal by 2-4 degrees Celsius in Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and Rayalaseema during the next four days. Dry weather is likely to prevail in Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and Rayalaseema during the next seven days.

STANDARD POST

Indian graduates show strong aptitude for AI, ML roles

Indian graduates are demonstrating a strong aptitude for roles in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), according to a report.

The report by talent assessment firm Mercer Mettl showed that Indian graduates had a 46.1 per cent employability rate in the fields of AI and ML -- the highest among all technical roles.

The report, encompassing data from more than 2700 campuses and over 1 million learners, reveals a complex landscape of both promising adaptability and persistent skill gaps.

It also found that 50 per cent of graduates in India possess soft skills needed for AI/GenAI collaboration, but they needed improvement in creativity (44.3 per cent employability).

Communication skills (55.1 per cent), critical thinking (54.6 per cent), and leadership skills (54.2 per cent) were found to be strong areas. With a 46 per cent employability rate, learning agility is vital for navigating the evolving tech landscape.

Further, the report showed that Tier 1 college graduates are the lead in employability (48.4 per cent), followed by Tier 2 (46.1 per cent) and Tier 3 (43.4 per cent) institutions, but the potential exists across all tiers, especially in specialised tech areas. Tier 2 college graduates were found to excel in UI/UX developer roles (58.3 per cent employability).

Delhi showed the highest employability (53.4 per cent), followed by Himachal Pradesh and Punjab (51.1 per cent). Uttarakhand and Jharkhand also performed well (50 per cent and 49.6 per cent respectively).

Notably, the report found equal employability for male and female graduates in AI and ML sectors as well as in data science, but disparities were seen in software testing.

"In 2025, the employability rate for Indian graduates stands at 42.6 per cent, reflecting a slight decline from 44.3 per cent in 2023, primarily due to evolving industry expectations.

However, there has been significant progress in employability for technical roles as colleges and students increasingly focus on developing skills that meet market demands," said Siddhartha Gupta, President of Mercer India. "On the other hand, the development of certain non-technical and soft skills presents a more complex learning curve, often requiring additional time to cultivate. This data clearly underscores these trends," he added.

Indian Railways Facilitating the Grandest Spiritual Gathering On Earth

(Standard Post Bureau)

Introduction
Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj has already witnessed an astonishing 53 crore sacred baths (8 M), making it the largest religious gathering in the world. With millions of devotees arriving daily, the Indian Railways is playing a pivotal role in managing the seamless transportation of pilgrims.

A massive logistical effort with 5,000 Cr work done in the last 3 years for Maha Kumbh area has been undertaken to ensure a smooth experience for all travelers. This includes among other things, upgraded railway stations, over 13,000 trains scheduled to be run, and advanced crowd management systems. Have a look at how the Indian Railways is facilitating this grand spiritual spectacle:

1. Massive Railway Operations for Maha Kumbh 2025

Train Diversions for Seamless Travel
All goods trains have been diverted in the **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)** to prioritize passenger movement.

200 rakes with train sets or engines on both sides are deployed to avoid shunting operations.

Unprecedented number of Train Services

13,000 trains were planned till 26th February 2025, out of which 12,583 had already run by 16th

Maha Kumbh 2025

February 2025.

IR handling the Peak Passenger Flow:

Since 13th January 2025, 3.09 crore pilgrims have been handled by IR in the Prayagraj Kumbh area.

On 17th 18.60 lakhs passenger and 16th February 2025, 18.48 lakh passengers handling, **one of the highest passenger movements** in last two days.

Other significant peak dates:

15th February: 14.76 lakh passengers

12th February: 17 lakh passengers

10th & 11 January : More than 14 lakh passengers

30th January: 17.57 lakh passengers

29th January: 27 lakh passengers

28th January: 14.15 lakhs passengers

14th January: 13.87 lakh passengers

2. Passenger Facilities at Railway Stations

To accommodate the massive influx of devotees, Indian Railways has ensured the following:

Improved Infrastructure
9 railway stations with second entries to manage crowd flow.

48 platforms (PF) & 21 Foot Over Bridges (FoB) for smooth passenger movement.

Indian Railways has

installed 1,186 CCTV cameras across nine stations in the Prayagraj Mela region as part of a **comprehensive surveillance system**.

23 permanent holding areas to manage waiting passengers.

Announcements in 12 languages at major stations:

Prayagraj, Naini, Cheoki, and Subedarganj

Ticketing Enhancements

554 ticketing arrangements, including 151 mobile UTS ticketing points, to streamline the ticketing process.

3. Major Railway Infrastructure Upgrades

The Indian Railways has invested heavily in infrastructure to ensure seamless travel:

3,700 crore investment for major railway infrastructure projects, including:

Banaras-Prayagraj rail doubling, including a new Ganga Bridge.

Phaphamau-Janghai rail doubling to increase train capacity.

21 new Road Over Bridges (ROB) and Road Under Bridges (RUB) to enhance road and rail mobility.

Color-Coded System for Easy Passenger Navigation
Colour coding of Yatri Ashryas, holding

areas and tickets has done for easy identification and direction-wise segregation of passengers:

Red: Lucknow, Ayodhya and Varanasi

Blue: DDU, Sasaram, Patna

Yellow: Manikpur, Jhansi, Satna, Katni (Madhya Pradesh area)

Green: Kanpur, Agra, Delhi

4. Robust Security & Crowd Management

Given the high volume of travelers, railway authorities have implemented extensive security measures:

Control Centers established at multiple levels:

Station level, Division level, Zonal level, and Railway Board level.

Security Deployment
13,000 Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel.

10,000 Government Railway Police (GRP) & paramilitary staff stationed at key locations.

3,000+ running staff assigned to ensure smooth train operations.

With 53 crore snans already performed at Maha Kumbh 2025, the Indian Railways is ensuring that millions of devotees can travel safely and comfortably. From special trains to advanced crowd control measures, the railway network is efficiently handling the world's largest religious gathering.

Championing social justice : The role of the railway protection force

(Standard Post Bureau)

The World Day or Social Justice is celebrated every year on the 20th February. It has been started by the UN to create awareness that even today, there are many people who are unable to get an equal opportunity to lead a better life. The aim of the event is to promote fairness. Fairness means equal access to the same standards or education, health care and all public services. This access must be fair ie no person should be denied access merely by reason of caste, race, religion, gender or class. Social justice refers to the equitable distribution of resources, opportunities, and privileges within a society. Every year this day is celebrated with a view to raise awareness and promote practical solutions to address the issues of poverty, exclusion, gender inequality and social injustice.

In the context of India, the Indian Railways which is one of the largest railway networks in the world weaves an intricate matrix of connectivity across the length and breadth of the country.

With its railway lines reaching out to some of the remotest parts of the country, it provides the most accessible and inexpensive method of travel to many people. This tangled web of railway lines unites all Indians into one single thread. In the vast expanse of its trains and stations, millions of Indians irrespective of caste, race, religion, gender or class meet, intermingle and bond. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety

and security of all these passengers.

The very essence of social justice lies in ensuring that all individuals have equal access to rights, resources, opportunities and protection. It encourages fairness, inclusivity and the dismantling of barriers that hinder the right to equal opportunity. Social justice is not just legal fairness, it also involves access to social goods such as health, education, employment and above all, security. Within this broad framework, the role of various institutions, including law enforcement agencies is vital in ensuring that no individual is denied equal access to these services. In this context, the role of agencies like the Railway Protection Force is crucial in maintaining not just security of railway property and passengers but also in upholding the social justice that is the basic right of every individual.

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is an armed force of the Union entrusted with the responsibility of securing the country's vast railway network.

Beyond the enforcement of law, the RPF plays a crucial role in the broader concept of social justice by ensuring that the rights of vulnerable populations are respected, protected, and upheld within its specific sphere of influence.

The Indian railway system serves millions daily, with a significant portion being women, children, senior citizens, and individuals from marginalized communities.

The RPF stands as a shield for these vulnerable passengers, protecting them from crimes such as theft, harassment, and even violence. By ensuring their safety, RPF works towards a more equitable and just society, where all individuals can travel without fear.

The RPF has been proactive in safeguarding the rights of every passenger during travel on the railways. This includes ensuring equal treatment for people with disabilities. The RPF has been conducting relentless drives in coaches reserved for persons with disabilities and prosecuting regular passengers who encroach upon the facilities provided for them. In the year 2024, RPF, has prosecuted 95,175 such people.

Another vulnerable group of passengers traveling on Indian Railways are women passengers. By proactive deployment in coaches reserved for ladies, RPF has ensured the safety of female passengers, especially when traveling at odd hours. To make women passengers feel safer, RPF regularly prosecutes men traveling in coaches reserved for women. In the year 2024, RPF has prosecuted 1,02,130 such male passengers. RPF has launched the "Meri Saheli Initiative" with its focus on women passengers traveling alone.

There are more than 250 Meri Saheli teams who are instrumental in providing a safer environment for female passengers.

Similarly, RPF has

undertaken an initiative called Operation MatriShakti to assist pregnant women who go into labour during train journeys. In the year 2024 alone, lady RPF personnel have assisted in 174 childbirths.

RPF has launched Operation AAHT to ensure that women and children do not fall prey to human trafficking. RPF personnel actively collaborate with other law enforcement agencies to rescue trafficked individuals, especially those who are being exploited for forced labour or prostitution. In the year 2024, RPF has rescued 826 persons from the clutches of traffickers through Operation AAHT.

There are several lost or abandoned children in contact with railways who are in need of care and protection.

If such children are not rescued or rehabilitated there is a high probability that they will fall prey to drug peddlers and criminal gangs.

Through Operation Nanhe Farishtey, RPF rescues such children and ensures their rehabilitation in collaboration with Ministry of Women and Child Development. RPF has rescued 14,756 children through Operation Nanhe Farishtey in the year 2024.

RPF lady personnel also play a crucial role in rescuing adults, including women, in need of care and protection.

These individuals may be runaways, abandoned elderly, drug addicts, destitute, or needing medical assistance. RPF rescues such individuals and hands them over to NGO's for rehabilitation. In

Supreme Court slams Allahabadia for using

New Delhi, Feb 18 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed its angst with the language used by YouTuber Ranveer Allahabadia during an episode of the online show India's Got Latent, calling it "dirty" and "perverted." and barred him and his associates from airing any shows till further orders.

The top court, however, granted Allahabadia - popularly known as Beer Biceps - interim protection from arrest in connection with multiple FIRs filed in Mumbai, Guwahati, and Jaipur over the alleged obscene remarks made by him during the particular episode of the YouTube show. A division bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh instructed Allahabadia to surrender his passport as part of the conditions of relief.

The court issued the interim order while seeking a response from the authorities on Allahabadia's petition challenging the multiple FIRs.

The court also directed that no further FIRs be registered concerning the same YouTube show. However, the relief is conditional upon Allahabadia - popularly known as Beer Biceps = cooperating with the investigation. Additionally, the bench granted him the liberty to seek police protection in case of threats.

The court ordered that Allahabadia and his associates refrain from airing any shows until further orders.

Despite granting interim relief, the apex judiciary harshly criticised Allahabadia's language, calling it "dirty" and "perverted", and said "there is something dirty in his mind".

Justice Kant confronted Allahabadia's counsel, Advocate Abhinav Chandrachud, questioning, "Are you defending this kind of language?"

In response, Chandrachud admitted that he found the remarks "disgusting" but argued that the issue at hand was whether they amounted to a criminal offence. He cited the Apoorva Arora judgment, which held that profanity alone does not constitute obscenity.

However, Justice Kant remained unconvinced, stating, "If this is not obscenity, then what is? Does the Apoorva Arora judgment give a licence to say anything?"

The bench also engaged in a discussion over the multiple FIRs lodged against Allahabadia. When Chandrachud argued that multiple FIRs for the same offence were legally untenable, citing the TT Antony case, Justice Kant countered that the nature of the complaints differed, with one FIR specifically concerning alleged derogatory remarks about Arunachal Pradesh. The court expressed serious disapproval of the YouTuber's statements, stating, "There is something very dirty in his mind, which has been vomited in this programme... He is insulting his parents. Why should courts favour him?"

2 IEDs detected & destroyed in south Kashmir

Srinagar, Feb 18 (UNI) : Security forces on Tuesday averted major tragedies by detecting and destroying two improvised explosive devices (IED) in south Kashmir, officials said.

The two IEDs were found in Pulwama and its neighboring district.

A suspicious object was found at at Kashiwa Road, Chitragam, Shopian by a joint team of Army and police.

The object later turned out to be an IED, which was destroyed by the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS).

Army said the detection of IED averted a major terror incident.

"Chinar Warriors and @JmuKmrPolice averted a major terror incident today by recovering and destroying an IED at Kashiwa Road, Chitragam, Shopian. Indian Army remains resolute in its commitment to keep Kashmir terror-free," Army Srinagar based Chinar Corps said. Another IED was found at Nagbari, Pulwama during a search operation that was launched following a specific input. "Based on specific intelligence input, joint search operation was launched by Indian Army and @JmuKmrPolice. During the search, an IED was recovered and destroyed in-situ at Nagbari, Pulwama. Indian Army remains resolute in its commitment to keep Kashmir terror-free," Army said. Last week J&KLt Governor Manoj Sinha chaired back-to-back security review meetings in Srinagar and Jammu to devise more effective security measures to tackle the militancy in the union territory.

From tackling petty crimes to protecting passengers from terrorism, RPF's commitment to the cause of social justice is unwavering. The RPF exemplifies how law enforcement agencies can not only uphold the law but also contribute to building a more just society by reaching out to the most vulnerable classes, preventing discrimination and extending a helping hand to the weaker sections of the society.

A sustained effort towards achieving these goals will be essential as India and Indian Railways in, particular navigates through a socially diverse landscape ensuring that the benefits of development and security reach all citizens uniformly.

U.S., Russia agree to appoint negotiating teams for further consultations on Ukraine

Riyadh, Feb 18 (UNI) Talks between Russian and U.S. delegations led by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, respectively, concluded in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Tuesday. Yuri Ushakov, the Kremlin's foreign affairs adviser, described the Riyadh talks as "positive." He said, "It was a serious conversation on all issues," noting the two sides agreed to take into account each other's interests.

Both sides agreed to appoint high-level negotiating teams to work towards a settlement to the conflict in Ukraine "as soon as possible in a way that is enduring, sustainable, and acceptable to all sides," according to a statement by the U.S. Department of State.

Besides, they agreed to establish a consultation mechanism to address irritants to the bilateral relationship to finally normalize the operation of the two countries' respective diplomatic missions, and to lay the groundwork for "future cooperation" between the two sides, said the U.S. statement.

China welcomes Russia-US talks in Riyadh : Foreign Ministry

Beijing, Feb 18 (UNI) : Beijing welcomes all efforts to achieve peace, including the current negotiations between Russia and the United States in Riyadh, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said on Tuesday. High-level delegations from Russia and the United States started negotiations in Riyadh earlier in the day. The negotiations are taking place at one of the Saudi royal family's palaces, the Diriyah Palace. "We welcome all efforts aimed at achieving peace, including the consensus on peace talks reached by the United States and Russia," Guo told reporters. China expects that all parties concerned will be involved in Ukraine peace talks in a timely manner, the diplomat added.

Russian FM says U.S. can help resolve Ukraine conflict

Moscow, Feb. 18 (UNI) : Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Monday that the United States could help resolve the Ukrainian conflict, citing its "central role" since the fighting began nearly three years ago.

Lavrov's remarks came ahead of his meeting with U.S. representatives, set for Tuesday in Saudi Arabia. The Kremlin said the two sides are expected to hold talks on negotiating an end to the conflict, which would pave the way for a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Lavrov said that he does not expect the Europeans to have a seat at the negotiating table, accusing them of seeking to use a potential ceasefire to enable Ukraine to continue the conflict.

He added that Moscow rejects any discussions on territorial concessions to Ukraine during potential negotiations. The United States had previously urged both Russia and Ukraine to make concessions for peace. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Monday that Kiev will not attend the upcoming U.S.-Russia negotiations, refusing to accept any result that excludes Ukraine.

Netanyahu orders immediate implementation of law banning UNRWA

Jerusalem, Feb 18 (UNI) : Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered immediate implementation of a law banning the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the prime minister's office said.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has directed that the UNRWA law, which was passed by the Knesset with broad support, be enforced immediately. There are no restrictions on the implementation of the Prime Minister's directive," the office said on X on Monday.

In late October, the Israeli parliament passed bills aimed at banning UNRWA activities in Israel and the territories it controls after accusing some UNRWA staff of involvement in the October 2023 Hamas attack. The UN says Israel has not provided any evidence to substantiate its allegations.

On January 29, Israeli government spokesman David Mentzer said that UNRWA offices were to be closed within 48 hours and that all contacts with the UN aid agency would be suspended. On January 30, the law banning UNRWA activities came into force.

Chinese military warns off Philippine aircraft from territorial airspace over Huangyan Dao

Guangzhou, Feb 18 (UNI) : Naval and air forces of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Southern Theater Command on Tuesday tracked, monitored and warned off a Philippine C-208 aircraft from the territorial airspace over China's Huangyan Dao in accordance with the law and regulations, a Chinese military spokesperson said. "Without the approval of the Chinese government, the Philippine aircraft illegally intruded into Chinese airspace," according to Tian Junli, spokesperson for the theater command, who added that the Philippine side had also spread false narratives. The acts of the Philippine side severely violated China's sovereignty as well as international law and Chinese law, Tian noted. Huangyan Dao is China's inherent territory, and the Philippines' attempts to assert illegal territorial claims through military provocations and mislead international understandings through agitation and hyping will ultimately prove futile, according to the spokesperson.

Russia terminates agreement with Ukraine on navigation safety in Azov Sea

Moscow, Feb. 18 (UNI) : Russia has officially terminated an agreement with Ukraine on ensuring navigation safety in the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait, according to an official document published Monday on the country's legal information portal.

The decision was formalized through an order signed by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin. "In accordance with Paragraph 1 of Article 37 of the Federal Law on International Treaties of the Russian Federation, the agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on measures to ensure the safety of navigation in the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait, signed in Moscow on March 20, 2012, is hereby terminated," the document reads. The Russian Foreign Ministry has been instructed to notify Ukraine of the termination.

3 found dead on snow in mountains in northeast Japan

Tokyo, Feb. 18 (UNI) : Three people were confirmed dead after being found collapsed on the snow in the mountains of Fukushima City in northeast Japan on Tuesday.

According to local authorities, at around 8:30 p.m. local time on Monday, a hotel employee at Takayu Onsen in Fukushima City, reported that "three employees who went into the mountains have not returned."

The three men, hotel employees in their 50s and 60s, entered the mountains at around 2 p.m. local time on Monday to manage the hot spring source, but had not returned by nightfall.

Police and firefighters began their search on Tuesday morning, and the three men were found collapsed on the snow by noon. A doctor who accompanied them confirmed the deaths of all three at the scene, according to the fire department. There is a high concentration of hydrogen sulfide near the site, and it is possible that the three had inhaled the gas, local media reported.

The police are currently investigating the incident.

Over 30 people die after bus falls into chasm in Bolivia

Buenos Aires, Feb 18 (UNI) : Thirty-one people have died as a result of a bus falling into a chasm in the department of Potosi in southern Bolivia, Bolivian media reported.

In addition, 15 people have been injured as a result of the accident, La Razon newspaper reported on Monday.

The report added that the bus fell into a chasm 800 meters (0.5 miles) deep. Among the injured are two children, who are in serious condition.



Pearson International Airport firefighters work on an upside down Delta Air Lines plane, which was heading from Minneapolis to Toronto when it crashed on the runway, in Toronto.

EU wants to create new fund for military aid to Ukraine : Reports

Warsaw, Feb 18 (UNI) : The European Union wants to create a new fund for military aid to Ukraine, Polish website money.pl reported.

The creation of the fund will be discussed by ambassadors of EU member states on Tuesday, the fund may be established this year, the publication said. It is noted that the main goal of creating this fund is "to meet Ukraine's most pressing defense needs, such as artillery ammunition, air defense systems and support for the Ukrainian defense industry."

According to the publication, the fund should be filled from two

sources: contributions from member states, which will be proportional to their national income, that is, taken into account on the same principle as contributions to the EU budget, as well as profits from frozen Russian assets, estimated to be up to 900 million euros this year.

It is noted that the new initiative provides for a "flexible approach to spending funds" aimed at "respecting the status of some EU countries, for example, those that maintain neutrality in military matters."

Among the priority areas of the fund's activities are the supply of large-caliber artillery ammunition

(at least 1.5 million shells), the supply of air defense systems and long-range missiles, training and equipping the Ukrainian army. It is emphasized that participation in the initiative should be voluntary, since past experience shows that otherwise some EU states, such as Hungary, could veto it. After the start of the Russian special operation in Ukraine, the EU and the G7 countries froze almost half of Russia's foreign exchange reserves, approximately 300 billion euros. More than 200 billion euros are in the EU, mostly in the accounts of the Belgium's Euroclear, one of the world's largest

clearing and settlement systems.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has repeatedly called the freezing of Russian assets in Europe theft, noting that the EU is targeting not just private funds, but also Russian state assets. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that Moscow would respond to the confiscation of frozen Russian assets by the West and also had the opportunity not to return the funds that Western countries kept in Russia.

Russia believes that arms supplies to Ukraine hinder the settlement, directly involving NATO countries in the conflict.

Musk unveils latest AI model Grok 3

San Francisco, Feb 18 (UNI) U.S. billionaire Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company, xAI, officially released its latest flagship AI model, Grok 3, on Monday night. Grok 3, claimed by Musk as the "smartest AI on Earth," can analyze images and respond to questions like OpenAI's GPT-4o and Google's Gemini, and serves as the core AI model powering various features on his social media platform X.

According to Musk, Grok 3 was trained at a massive data center in Memphis, Tennessee, which houses approximately 200,000 graphics processing units, and was developed with 10 times the computing power of its predecessor, Grok 2. It is a "maximally truth-seeking AI," said Musk during a live-streamed presentation.

AI claims that Grok 3 outperforms OpenAI's GPT-4o across math and science problem-solving benchmarks, such as AIME and GPQA.

Additionally, xAI has introduced two specialized models, Grok 3 Reasoning and Grok 3 mini Reasoning,

designed for complex problem-solving. These models function similarly to "reasoning" models like OpenAI's o3-mini and DeepSeek's R1.

To prevent distillation, a technique to extract knowledge from an existing model, Musk mentioned that certain aspects of Grok's reasoning process are intentionally obscured.

In addition, xAI introduced DeepSearch, a feature designed to perform comprehensive internet and X-based research to generate informative summaries. This functionality resembles OpenAI's deep research tool.

Grok will gain a "voice mode" as soon as about a week from now, Musk said. "When Grok 3 is mature and stable, which is probably within a few months, then we'll open-source Grok 2," he added.

Musk introduced Grok, a family of AI models developed by xAI, nearly two years ago, positioning it as an edgy and unfiltered model capable of addressing controversial topics that other AI systems might avoid.

Turkey informs US of readiness to host talks on Ukraine

Ankara, Feb 18 (UNI) : Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told US Special Presidential Envoy for Russia and Ukraine Keith Kellogg and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference that Ankara was ready to host peace talks on Ukraine, the

Turkiye daily reported on Tuesday.

Fidan also met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff Andriy Yermak and Defense Minister Rustem Umerov. He told the Ukrainians that Turkey wanted to be part of the peace process. The top Turkish

diplomat reportedly argued that Ankara could contribute more to the talks than other actors because of its close relationship with both sides of the conflict.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump spoke over the phone for nearly an hour and a half

last week. They discussed issues related to the exchange of Russian and US citizens, as well as the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine.

The call was followed up by in-person talks between senior Russian and US officials in the Saudi capital of Riyadh on Tuesday.

Sudanese govt says 433 killed in attacks by paramilitary forces

Khartoum, Feb 18 (UNI) : Sudan's government on Tuesday said that 433 civilians were killed in attacks by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on villages in White Nile State. "After the RSF militia realized its crushing defeat and its inability to face (fight against) the armed forces, it resorted to its usual method of revenge against unarmed civilians in villages and small towns," Sudan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"In the past few days, the militia carried out a horrific massacre in the villages around the al-Gitaina area in White Nile State, with the death toll currently standing at 433, including infants," the ministry added.

It called on the international community to take a firm stance against the RSF's "crimes" against civilians,

nothing, "This massacre reaffirms that the militia's war is against the entire Sudanese people." While the RSF has not yet commented on the incidents, the Sudanese Emergency Lawyers, a non-governmental organization, reported multiple attacks over the past three days in three villages, including Al-Kadaris, Al-Khalwat, and Wad Bilal, all located near al-Gitaina, about 100 km south of Khartoum.

"These attacks have resulted in the deaths of over 200 people, including women and children, with hundreds injured and missing," the group said in a statement. Sudan has been gripped by a devastating conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the RSF since mid-April 2023, which claimed more than 29,680 lives, according to the latest estimates by international organizations.

IAEA chief Grossi to start 3-day visit to Japan

Tokyo, Feb 18 (UNI) : International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi will travel to Japan with a working visit from February 18-20 as a guest of the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Grossi will visit several nuclear facilities in Japan, including Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and Interim Storage Facility in Fukushima Prefecture, as well as TEPCO's Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPP in Niigata Prefecture.

In addition, Grossi will hold talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Iwaya Takeshi, and other Japanese government officials.

Israel confirms killing Hamas military official in Lebanon

Jerusalem, Feb. 18 (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.

Iran, Sudan aim to promote bilateral

Tehran, Feb. 18 (UNI) : Iran and Sudan on Monday signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs), aiming to enhance cooperation at both bilateral and regional levels, the official news agency IRNA reported.

The MoUs were signed by Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and his Sudanese counterpart Ali Youssef Ahmed.

Relationships



Employee tips Enhance your employability

HONE YOUR PERSONALITY

With institutes churning out graduates in large numbers, the emphasis today is on soft skills. These skills, which include one's business and cultural etiquette, dressing sense, body language and coordination skills, make a huge difference during a job interview. Concur Sushma Rana, talent director, MSL group, "Organisations evaluate prospective candidates not only for their professional skills, but also behavioural traits. This is very often done by subjecting them to real-life situations that bring out a person's interpersonal and team management skills along with their ability to handle stress. As the selection process involves overall personality evaluation, pursuing a programme on personality development can be of much help."

Adds Swapnil Kamat, founder, CEO and chief trainer, Work Better, "What employers actually mean when they say, "Engineer required, MBA preferred," is that they are looking for candidates with a certain set of skills, character traits and attitudes. These include organisational skills, ability to follow instructions and meet deadlines, critical thinking skills, writing and communication skills, research skills, and so forth."

PURSUE AN INTERNSHIP

Internships are an important stepping stone in the process of enhancing one's credentials as they provide one an opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge gained during a degree programme to real-life industry situations. They are a platform for students to gain a realistic view of personal growth objectives and understand their strengths and weaknesses in an organisational context. Agrees Kamat, "Potential employers look at your experience before your qualifications to assess your employability. Hence, pursuing a summer internship during a degree course can hugely increase your employability prospects."

LEARN A NEW



LANGUAGE

Employment mobility has increased as opportunities have expanded across the globe. Thus, it is not uncommon to come across people who do not mind moving cities and even countries in search of a better job. Keeping this in mind, learning a new language can give the much needed boost to your profile. Additionally, with companies continuously trying to increase the diversity of their teams, working knowledge of a foreign language is considered an asset by hiring managers.

CREATE A GOOD ONLINE IMAGE

Employers these days very often use your public profiles as a tool to assess your personality. Thus, it is crucial to create and maintain a positive image on social media. Advises Rana, "Appropriately frame and add relevant details which you want the employers to focus on, on websites that require you to put up your professional profile. Testimonials from your current as well as ex-colleagues also matter. Your presence on social media by means of an interactive resume also helps. Also, joining the right groups and associations too can

It is well known that merely a good degree cannot ensure one employment. To land a job in today's competitive market, you need various technical as well as soft skills that can give you an edge above the rest. Here is what you need to do to enhance your portfolio and increase your chances of bagging that dream job:

improve your chances of employability."

KEEP LEARNING

Continuous education is important in today's job market. Training and education show potential employers that you take your professional life seriously. Opt for weekend courses, enrol for a distance learning, online programme or a MOOC (massive open online course) to expand your knowledge base and increase your employability.

VOLUNTEER

Get involved in extra circular activities that offer the platform to develop various skills and that add to your CV. Learn to work as a team and help the community. As a student, one can be part of the student council or volunteer with NGOs and clubs. This will not only highlight your compassionate nature, but also instil a positive attitude and self confidence within you.

BE WILLING TO MOVE As businesses expand, mobility is an important factor for companies. So be open to shifting to another city for a good job. While most people do not want to move out of their comfort zone, taking a chance on relocation can lead to unthought-of career growth and new opportunities.

Flexible working hours make workers happy



The study found that people who become overworked are less satisfied with their lives and experience lower levels of psychological well-being.

The key factor to happiness, according to the study, was whether the hours people work reflect the hours they want to work.

The study, published in the journal Human Relations, examined the working time patterns and well-being levels of 20,000 individuals over an 18-year period.

The researchers found that more than 55 percent of workers who regularly work 50 or more hours a week would like to work less, as would around 40 percent of workers who work between 40 and 49

hours a week. "When workers are overworked - working more hours a week than they would like -- life satisfaction and psychological well-being deteriorate," said lead researcher professor Andy Charlwood.

"Thankfully, most workers who experience overwork are able to rearrange their lives so that the hours they work and the hours they want to work come back into balance."

But around one in eight workers who become overworked are in the same situation two years later, and this appears to be a significant source of worry and unhappiness.

"To help protect our well-being levels, government and employer policies need to give workers greater flexibility to choose the hours that they work," Charlwood explained.

Mom alone and proud of it

More and more women are opting for single motherhood. TOI explores the trend

she added.

After Anindita's story was highlighted by the media, her doctor Biju Singh started receiving cases every month. This growing demand for IVF was corroborated by gynaecologist Dr Gautam Khastgir. "People from all strata of society are coming in for IVF, especially after knowing that it is an easy procedure. Society, too, has accepted it wholeheartedly. I get approximately two patients every month," he said.

Dr Khastgir said most of his patients were women who hadn't found the right man yet or wanted a child after divorce or lesbian couples desiring babies.

Government employee Kalidasi Halder, 55, who had a daughter through IVF last December, said, "I am unmarried, but wanted to become a mother. Though I dilly-dallied for two-three years fearing societal reactions, after giving birth, I realized that there were two types of people — those who looked away, and those who welcomed us with open arms. My colleagues not only took me to the hospital, but also got me discharged and looked after us. Yes, support was less, but it wasn't non-existent."

"I think it's very important for girls to be financially independent to take such a step," Kalidasi added. City schools, too, are equally open to accepting children of single mothers. Ranu Biswas, headmistress of the primary section of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, said, "We still haven't received any application for admission of a child of a single mother. But if I do, such children would be treated on a par with other students." Sunita Sen, principal of The BSS School, added, "We welcome children of single parents. A child is a child, whether he has one parent or both. Our only concern is quality parenthood — whether the mother can give the child proper attention."

Revealing that her four-five-year stay in Europe had brought her in contact with a lot of single mothers, sowing the seed of an idea to become one herself, Anindita said her attempts to conceive started when she was 35, but it took her two-and-a-half years to get there. "I was scared of anonymous donors. My only priority was high IQ, as that's the only thing in a man that attracts me,"



A parent's

guide to dealing with a teen

While you've lived through your kid's 'terrible twos' that involved him/her crying for hours in the night, dealing with a teenager can lead to anxious times for many parents. This is the time when your child goes through hormonal changes, leading to physical as well as behavioural changes. This is also a time when peers take over a more important role in your child's life leaving you feeling neglected. Says child psychologist Niru Chheda, "Teenage is a very sensitive period and parenting a teenager is very difficult, especially in today's times where the kids are exposed to the world through technology." Here's your guide to dealing with your kid's teen years.

Start early

There's no point telling your daughter about menstruation once she gets her first period. This would only make her press the panic button. Instead, start earlier. Answer the early questions that your kid has about his/her body, the difference between boys and girls or where

do babies come from. This will also stop your kid from surfing the internet trying to find answers.

Listen to your kid

According to Dr Pavan Sonar, the most common mistake parents make is that they often judge their kids. They expect their child



to act like an adult at this age and ridicule him/her for the smallest mistake. Dr Sonar says, "Parents should listen to what their kid has to say."

Don't pressurise

"Parents set standards for their child by talking about the things they used to do when they were of their kid's age. This is likely to add additional pressure on your child. Instead, it is important that you understand today's generation and set realistic expectations," says Chheda.

Empathise

If you are unable to understand your kid's situation as a parent, put yourself in his/her shoes. Understand that your teen is going through emotional stress and accept the fact that what may not be a big deal to you could be an issue for your child.

Communicate

A free, two-way communication between parents and kid is most important. Engage in activities that involve bonding with your child, be it going for movies or dinners together. Working parents, especially, find it difficult to spend sufficient time with their kid and this may lead to lack of communication. "A friendly environment will encourage your kid to share his/her worries with you. A parent's job is to show the right path in those situations, in non-authoritarian way," says Dr Sonar.

Respect privacy

While it is important to monitor what your child is upto, it is equally essential to know when

Being a teenager can not only turn out to be stressful for your kid, but even for you.

to back off and respect his/her privacy. Giving your kid his/her space will ensure that he/she turns into an independent adult.

Be a friend more than a parent

At this age, your kid is looking more for a friend in you rather than a strict parent. "Often, parents have tears in their eyes when they come to me seeking help because their child is not talking to them. You need to be patient. Take interest in your kid's friends and if you are objecting to any particular behaviour of your kid, give a reason," says Chheda.

Dos and don'ts when dealing with a teen

Dos

- Listen to your kid
- Encourage sharing
- Share your experiences to guide them
- Keep a non-threatening atmosphere at home
- Take interest in his/her friends
- Bond with your child by doing things he/she likes
- Be patient
- Set a good example

Don'ts

- Preach your kid
- Snap at them
- Ridicule or judge them
- Be a neglecting parent
- Hate them for their mistakes

Ugandan president applauds Kiplimo for breaking world half marathon record

Kampala, Feb 18 (UNI) President of Uganda Yoweri Museveni has applauded Jacob Kiplimo for breaking the world half marathon record.

Kiplimo smashed the world half marathon record with a blistering time of 56 minutes and 42 seconds in eDreams Mitja Marato Barcelona by Brooks on Sunday, shaving 48 seconds off the previous record.

"Heartly congratulations to Jacob Kiplimo, who broke the world half marathon record in Barcelona with a time of 56 minutes and 42 seconds," wrote the Uganda president on Sunday in his post on the social media platform X.

The 24-year-old, two-time cross-country world champion also used the race to prepare ahead of his debut in the 2025 London Marathon. Dominic Otchet, President of the Uganda Athletics Federation (UAF) on Monday said that they expected a good performance from Kiplimo.

"We are very happy that Kiplimo has broken the World Half Marathon record. He has been working really hard, and it is no surprise that he performed well," added Otchet.

World 10,000m champion and Olympic gold medalist Joshua Cheptegei also congratulated Kiplimo for the achievement. "Bravo Jacob. What a great moment to be alive in this era," said Cheptegei.

Speaking to the media, Kiplimo who bagged a 10,000m bronze medal at Tokyo 2020 said that he was determined to perform well.

Indonesia aims for gold at All England 2025 badminton tournament

Jakarta, Feb 18 (UNI) The Badminton Association of Indonesia (PBSI) has set its sights on gold at the HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000 All England 2025 in Birmingham, United Kingdom, an official announced on Tuesday.

Head of PBST's Development and Achievement Division, Eng Hian, emphasized Indonesia's strong track record in the prestigious tournament, having secured at least one title in each of the past three editions.

The All England 2025, scheduled for March 11-16 at Utilita Arena, is one of four BWF World Tour Super 1000 events, making it a key priority for Indonesia's national team.

"With the level of competition in this tournament, it's only natural for us to aim for gold. I hope our players can deliver consistent and high-level performances throughout the European tour," Eng Hian said.



Mumbai's Shivam Dube displays the ball after taking a five-wicket haul during the second day of the Ranji Trophy semi-final cricket match between Mumbai and Vidarbha, in Nagpur on Tuesday.

J&K UT Wushu Championship: Jammu District wins overall trophy

Jammu, Feb 18 (UNI) : The District Jammu on Tuesday won an overall trophy on the closing day of the four-day-long Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Wushu Championship held here at Indoor Hall, Bhagwati Nagar. Around 1200 players from 19 districts, six Khelo India Centres and J&K Police participated in the championship.

J&K Sports Minister Satish Shama was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

He lauded the Wushu Association of Jammu and Kashmir for giving a platform to the young

budding wushu players and reaching every nook and corner of the UT J&K to make this sport more prominent. He said that sports is the priority for the government that is determined to make UT J&K a hub centre for sports in the coming years.

He advised parents to encourage their wards towards sports, resulting in them being mentally and physically strong.

He congratulated all the medalists of Wushu in the recently held 38th National Games at Uttarakhand and assured that soon, the government will establish a

Wushu Academy in Jammu and Kashmir for better results in the forthcoming international and national events. Jammu remained the overall champion, whereas District Srinagar remained the runner-up, and KIC Jammu remained the second runner-up in the event.

Kuldeep Handoo (Dronacharya Awardee), presented a welcome address and thanked the minister for his presence.

He briefed the achievements of Wushu and the support to Wushu Sports extended by the J&K Sports Council.

EIL hosts PSPB Inter Unit Badminton Tournament; Leading shuttlers to participate

New Delhi, Feb 18 (UNI) : Navratna PSU Engineers India Limited (EIL) will host Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) Inter Unit Badminton Tournament here from Wednesday, an event that will witness participation from top players representing Oil and Gas companies including ONGC, IOCL, GAIL, BPCL, Oil India, HPCL, EIL, IGL, Petronet LNG and NRL.

This is 43rd PSPB Inter Unit Badminton Tournament and will be played at Thyagraj Stadium here, the PSU said in a release. The event is set to feature an impressive lineup of national and

international badminton stars who will represent PSPB member organisations. Renowned players such as Lakshya Sen, Ashwini Ponappa, H S Prannoy, Aditya Joshi, Guru Saidut, Ruthvika Gadde, Saurav Verma, and K Sathish will take centre stage, showcasing their exceptional skills and making the tournament a thrilling experience for badminton enthusiasts.

As one of the most prestigious sporting events in the petroleum sector, the PSPB Inter Unit Badminton Tournament serves as a significant platform for talented shuttlers from PSPB member

organisations to compete at an elite level.

The competition not only fosters sportsmanship and camaraderie among industry professionals but also underscores the commitment of the Oil and Gas sector to promoting excellence in sports, it added. With intense matches and an electrifying atmosphere anticipated, the tournament promises to be a spectacular display of skill, determination, and competitive spirit.

EIL is honoured to host this esteemed event and looks forward to welcoming players, officials, and spectators to witness world-class badminton action.

Namibia names squad for Rugby WC 2027 prep match against South African team

Windhoek, Feb 18 (UNI) : Namibia's Rugby Union (NRU) Tuesday announced its 30-man squad that will face the Boland Cavaliers, a South African rugby union team, here on Saturday.

The match is part of Namibia's preparations for the 2027 Rugby World Cup, and Danco Burger will captain the side, with Jason Benade serving as vice-captain. The country's rugby governing body confirmed that the game will be played behind closed doors as the nation continues to mourn its founding president, Sam Nujoma, whose state funeral is scheduled for March 1.

"In the world of sports, and more specifically in rugby, Dr. Nujoma's legacy reminds us of the transformative power

of teamwork and community. Rugby is a sport deeply intertwined with our national identity, fostering camaraderie and mutual respect among players and supporters alike," the NRU said in a tribute statement Tuesday. Meanwhile, in January, the NRU outlined the national team's preparations for the Africa Cup in July, a crucial step towards qualifying for the 2027 Rugby World Cup.

One of the key warm-up matches will be the match against the South African regional side Boland on February 22 in Windhoek, followed by two matches against the Blue Bulls, a South African professional rugby union team, the first on June 17 at a coastal venue to be announced and the second on June 21 in Windhoek.

Real Madrid favorite to reach Champions League last 16

Madrid, Feb 18 (UNI) : Real Madrid entertains Manchester City in the second leg of its Champions League play-off for a place in the last 16 at the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday night, after the defending champion won away in the first leg. Madrid has a 3-2 lead in the first leg after two late goals a week ago saw it take advantage of some chaotic defending from its rival, who had twice led thanks to goals from Erling Haaland. Manchester City appeared to return to form at the weekend with a 4-0 win at home to Newcastle United, with recent signings Nico Gonzalez and Omar Marmoush giving some new life to Pep Guardiola's side. Marmoush scored a first-half hat-trick, while Gonzalez helped bring the balance to the City's midfield that has been missing since Rodri suffered his cruciate knee ligament injury.

Guardiola was keen to stop any over-enthusiasm after the match, saying his team had just a "one percent" chance to overturn last weekend's defeat, and he will be without injured Manuel Akanji for the game, while Jack Grealish and Nathan Ake are also doubts after being forced out of last week's defeat due to injury.

Real Madrid goes into the game after a 1-1 draw against Osasuna which has seen the club yet again complain about refereeing decisions going against it, after Jude Bellingham was sent off for allegedly swearing at the referee.

The good news for Carlo Ancelotti is that his injury crisis in defense looks to be easing, with Antonio Rudiger and David Alaba both in with a chance of taking part on Wednesday.

Aurelien Tchouameni and Raul Asencio have both performed well in defense in recent games and could continue, while in attack, Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Jr and Rodrygo will be ready to pounce on any errors from the City midfield and attack at pace.

Last week both sides showed they are able to score goals, but in the end Manchester City's leaky defense was the decisive factor, if Nico Gonzalez can give City more stability in midfield, the visitors have a slight chance of overturning Madrid's lead, but Real Madrid is clear favorite to reach the last 16.

Spain defeat India 4-3 in FIH Hockey Pro League

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18 (UNI) : Spain secured a 4-3 victory over India in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 (Women) at the Kalinga Stadium here on Tuesday.

Baljeet Kaur (19'), Sakshi Rana (38'), and Rutaja Dadaso Pisal (45') scored for India, while Estel Petchame (25', 49'), Sofia Rogoski (21'), and Captain Lucia Jimenez (52') netted goals for Spain.

Sakshi Rana and Jyoti Singh received their maiden senior international caps in the match, with the former scoring an impressive goal on her debut.

The first quarter was tightly contested. India had an early chance when Rutaja passed the ball to Sharmila Devi from the left, but her shot narrowly missed the post. Spain attempted to play their signature free-flowing hockey but struggled against India's defensive press. In the ninth minute, India earned the first penalty corner of the evening, but the opportunity was squandered as the ball struck Sushila Chanu's foot while she was receiving it. Towards the end of the

quarter, Spain had a significant chance when Florencia Amundson unleashed a powerful shot, but Indian goalkeeper Savita made a fine save to keep the score level.

The match opened up in the second quarter, with three goals scored in a span of six minutes. In the 21st minute, Deepika drifted wide and fired a reverse hit from the left, which was perfectly deflected into the goal by an unmarked Baljeet, marking her first senior international goal.

Two minutes later, Spain equalized as Rogoski's powerful reverse shot from close range slipped past Savita and found the net. Spain then took the lead in the 25th minute when they earned their first penalty corner, which was successfully converted by Petchame. Just before half-time, Spain received another penalty corner, but Captain Lucia Jimenez's shot went too high.

India dominated the third quarter, reclaiming the lead. In the 38th minute, debutant Sakshi Rana won the ball from Jimenez near the circle, created an opportunity for herself, and fired a shot on target to

equalize.

In the final minute of the quarter, Deepika made an impressive solo run down the left flank, dribbling past defenders and beating the goalkeeper before passing the ball to Rutaja, who finished confidently restoring India's lead.

Spain applied pressure early in the fourth quarter, winning a penalty corner in the opening seconds, but Constanza Amundson's shot went wide. Moments later, in the 49th minute, Spain won another penalty corner. Amundson's initial shot was blocked by an Indian defender, but the ball fell to Petchame, who struck it past an outstretched Savita to score her second goal of the evening.

Spain reclaimed the lead for the second time in the 52nd minute when Captain Jimenez fired a backhand shot from inside the edge of the circle, placing it perfectly into the bottom right corner.

In a desperate attempt to find an equalizer, India played without their goalkeeper for the last four minutes of the match. However, Spain held their defensive shape and secured a narrow victory.

Maharashtra men dominate, Karnataka joins party in National TT

Indore, Feb 18 (UNI) : Maharashtra reigned supreme in the team events at the UTT 31st Masters National Championships here on Tuesday at the Abhay Prashal Indoor Hall, claiming multiple gold medals and showcasing their depth of talent across various age categories on the second day.

However, Karnataka A emerged victorious after Maharashtra withdrew from the round-robin league of the Men's 80+ division. Delhi A, which suffered its only defeat against Karnataka, secured the silver medal, while Telangana and Gujarat A climbed the podium to share the bronze. Maharashtra's absence from this category cleared the way for the remaining teams to battle it out, with Karnataka ultimately standing tall.

In the Men's 75+ final, Maharashtra A delivered a commanding performance, defeating Chandigarh A 3-0 to clinch the gold. The duo of Satish B. Kulkarni and Sampat Pinakin outclassed their opponents, Patanjali Kumar and Balbir Singh Virdi, in straight games in the singles rubbers, setting the stage for an equally dominant doubles victory. The Maharashtra pair then teamed up to secure another clean 3-0 win in the doubles match, underlining their superior skill and coordination. Earlier in the semifinals, Maharashtra faced a stern challenge from Gujarat, edging past them 3-2 in a tense contest, while Chandigarh eased to a 3-1 win over Tamil Nadu to set up the final clash. Maharashtra's winning

streak continued in the Men's 70+ category, where they blanked Delhi A 3-0 to add another gold to their tally.

Jitendra Mavanai gave the team an early lead with a straight-game win over Vineet Chaudhry, delivering a composed and clinical performance.

Shivanand Kundaje then battled against Suresh Kumar in a gruelling five-game match, ultimately prevailing in the decider to put Maharashtra within touching distance of gold. The doubles pair of Percy Mehta and Jitendra sealed the victory, overcoming a slow start to take the next three games and complete a perfect sweep. Earlier, Maharashtra had outclassed Karnataka 3-0 in the semifinals, while Delhi had to dig deep to edge out Madhya Pradesh 3-2 in an intense encounter. The Men's 65+ team continued Maharashtra's dominance with another comprehensive 3-0 triumph over Delhi A in the final. Jayant Kulkarni opened proceedings with a strong 3-1 win, recovering from a tight opening deuce game to overpower Ashutosh with aggressive and controlled play. Avinash Joshi secured a 3-1 triumph over Anil Kumar, maintaining Maharashtra's momentum. In the third tie, Umesh Kumbhojkar faced stiff resistance from Narender Singh but managed to find his rhythm, taking control in the final stages to wrap up the contest. Maharashtra bested Tamil Nadu 3-1 in the semifinals, while Delhi secured their place in the final with a hard-fought 3-1 victory over West Bengal.

JN Stadium of Meghalaya 'one of the best football grounds in country': Gawali

Shillong, Feb 18 (UNI) Intensive behind-the-scenes preparations are being undertaken by the Meghalaya government and Meghalaya Football Association as Shillong gears up to host two international football matches featuring the Indian senior men's team in March.

On Tuesday, India's team Assistant Coach, Mahesh Gawali inspected the JN Stadium and practice ground at North-Eastern Hill University.

The All India Football Federation confirmed earlier this month that the JN

Stadium will host two India international matches next month – a FIFA friendly against Maldives on 19 March and an AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifier against Bangladesh on 25 March.

Gawali lavished praise on the renovated JN Stadium, calling it "one of the best football grounds" in the entire country as he examined the lush green pitch, stands, and changing rooms. Work is still going on to improve the practice ground and Gawali and the MFA, represented by its Vice-President Cliff Nongrum, discussed the possibility of installing

portable changing rooms, etc. Gawali opined that a practice ground with permanent facilities would make Shillong the complete package for football of

international standard. India has been drawn in Group C of the AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifiers' final round, alongside Hong Kong, Singapore, and Bangladesh.

Printed, Published and Owned by
Mohammed Shafi

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

Published from # 39-22-82/1/4,
Near Vuda Quarters, Kalinga Nagar,
Madhavadhara, Visakhapatnam - 530 007.

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

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WR celebrates centennial of Railway electrification of Indian Railways

GM, WR, Ashok Kumar Misra inaugurates Exhibition & Seminar as part of the celebrations



In the first photo, GM/WR Mr Ashok Kumar Misra along with Shri Sukhbir Singh, retired Member Electrical/Railway Board and Mr H.B. Singh, retired Principal Chief Electrical Engineer of Eastern Railway, can be seen inaugurating the exhibition at Churchgate station. In the second photo, a glimpse of GM/WR viewing the working model of electric traction at the exhibition.

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 18 : To mark the historic occasion of Indian Railways completing 100 Years of Railway Electrification, Western Railway organized an exhibition and seminar as part of the celebrations. On 3rd February 1925, India

Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, to commemorate this momentous event, on 18th February, 2025, General Manager of Western Railway, Shri Ashok Kumar Misra along with esteemed guests Shri Sukhbir Singh, retired Member Electrical/

railway electrical officers and representatives from various firms. The exhibition showcased models of locomotives, EMUs, MEMUs, etc. A theme song based on this historic event was also released. The exhibition featured displays of

and walks of life. The exhibition is being held for two days, i.e., 18th and 19th February, 2025.

A Technical Seminar was also organized at Western Railway Headquarters at Churchgate. Experienced retired senior railway



Glimpses of the Technical Seminar held at WR HQ.

witnessed a momentous event—the debut of its first electric train on the current Indian Railways network. This inaugural journey, connecting Victoria Terminus to Kurla Harbour, marked a defining milestone, offering a glimpse into the limitless future of our nation's lifeline.

According to a press release issued by Chief

Railway Board, Shri H.B. Singh, retired Principal Chief Electrical Engineer of Eastern Railway and

Mr Ranjan Srivastava, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, Western Railway inaugurated a two-day exhibition at Churchgate Station. The inaugural event was attended by officers from various railway units, retired senior

historically preserved OHE fittings, the journey of railways, the evolution of locomotives, EMUs (local trains), and OHE systems. Additionally, a VR-based simulation allowed visitors to experience train operations from the cab. The exhibition is an absolute hit among commuters across all ages

officers attended the seminar and shared their insights on the evolution of railway electrification and traction over the years. A technical booklet, table calendar, and souvenir coin were unveiled on this occasion by General Manager of Western Railway, retired senior railway officers, and other senior officers.

M. Asnikumar Singh Highlights Sangai and Loktak Conservation Efforts at ESRSPF Foundation Day

(By Asem Bhakta)

Khordak Village, Feb 18 : M. Asnikumar Singh, Chairman of the Loktak Development Authority (LDA), attended the 32nd Foundation Day of the Environmental Social Reformation & Sangai Protection Forum (ESRSPF) as the Chief Guest at Khordak Village. The event saw the participation of key officials, conservationists, and community leaders, including Shri Loijam Joykumar Singh, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife); Shri



with ESRSPF and commended the organisation for its 32 years of tireless efforts in advocating for the conservation of the endangered Sangai deer and Loktak Lake.

"The conservation of Loktak Lake and its unique ecosystem is not just an environmental responsibility but also a social and economic necessity. The Sangai, which is the pride of Manipur, is under severe threat due to habitat

degradation, largely caused by the ecological impact of the Ithai Barrage

. The rich flora and fauna of Loktak and Keibul Lamjao are declining rapidly, affecting both biodiversity and the livelihoods of those dependent on the lake," he said. "He further emphasised the urgent need for collective action to restore the ecological balance of Keibul Lamjao National Park and Loktak Lake, ensuring a safe and thriving habitat for the

Sangai. "The Loktak Development Authority, along with the Wildlife Wing, Forest Department, and Directorate of Environment & Climate Change, is actively working on habitat improvement and ecological restoration of the lake. However, this mission cannot succeed without the support and cooperation of the local communities.

We must come together to protect Loktak, our mother lake, and preserve it for future generations," he added.

Some trains affected due to Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj Division

(Standard Post Bureau)

Ratlam, Feb 18 : Due to Maha Kumbh Mela-2025 in North Central Railway Prayagraj Division, some trains passing through various stations of Ratlam Division will be affected. Details of the affected trains are as follows:-

1. Train number 14115 Dr. Ambedkar Nagar-Prayagraj Express departing from Dr. Ambedkar Nagar from 18 to 27 February 2025 will be short terminated at Khajuraho station and will remain cancelled between Khajuraho and Prayagraj.

2. Train number 14116 Prayagraj-Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Express departing from Prayagraj Junction from 19 to 28 February 2025 will be short originated from Khajuraho and will remain cancelled between Prayagraj and Khajuraho.

3. Train number 22911 Indore - Howrah Shipra Express running from Indore on 18 and 20 February 2025 will remain canceled.

4. Train number 22912 Howrah - Indore Shipra Express running from Howrah on 20 and 22 February 2025 will remain canceled.

For updated information about trains, passengers can visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Few Western Railway trains affected

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 18 : A few trains of Western Railway will be affected, the details of which are as under:-

Cancellation of Trains:

1. Train No. 19045 Surat - Chhapra Tapti Ganga Express journey commencing on 19.02.2025, 20.02.2025 & 21.02.2025

2. Train No. 19046 Chhapra - Surat Tapti Ganga Express journey commencing on 21.02.2025, 22.02.2025 & 23.02.2025

3. Train No. 19483 Ahmedabad - Barauni Express journey commencing on 19.02.2025 & 21.02.2025

4. Train No. 19484 Barauni - Ahmedabad Express journey commencing on 21.02.2025 & 23.02.2025

5. Train No. 22911 Indore - Howrah Shipra Express journey commencing on 18.02.2025 & 20.02.2025

6. Train No. 22912 Howrah - Indore Shipra Express journey commencing on 20.02.2025 & 22.02.2025

7. Train No. 19435 Ahmedabad - Asansol Express journey commencing on 20.02.2025

8. Train No. 19436 Asansol - Ahmedabad Express journey commencing on 22.02.2025

Short Termination/Originations of Trains:

1. Train No. 14115 Dr Ambedkar Nagar - Prayagraj Express, journey commencing from 18.02.2025 to 27.02.2025 will short terminate at Khajuraho station instead of Prayagraj.

2. Train No. 14116 Prayagraj - Dr Ambedkar Nagar Express, journey commencing from 19.02.2025 to 28.02.2025 will short originate from Khajuraho station instead of Prayagraj.

Central Railway's Medical Department organises CMNE programme recently



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 18 : Doctors Scientific Association of Central Railway's Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial Hospital Byculla (BAMH) and Divisional Railway Hospital Kalyan, organised The Continuing Medical Nutrition Education (CMNE) programme on the theme - "Rising High on The Customized Nutrition Habitude" at the CSMT auditorium on 15.2.2025.

Dr Shobha Jagannath, Principal Chief Medical Director, Central Railway, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Dietitians from all over Indian Railways and other Mumbai Dietitians, students participated in this one-day CMNE program.

Speaking on the

occasion, Dr Shobha Jagannath, complimented the Hospital team for organizing such a great event for the Railway Dietitians. She said that there is definitely a case for increasing the scope of nutrition services available to Railway beneficiaries, particularly in comorbidity diseases. Further, she highlighted the need for increase in the dietitian cadre in Railways and importance of School Nutrition Health Program particularly with BMC hospitals and especially for screening school children.

Dr Sushma Matey, Medical Director BAMH, Central Railway and President of Doctors Scientific Foundation during her speech praised the efforts of the dietitians to conduct the CMNE. She

thanked PCMD for having joined the CMNE inspite of her packed schedule.

Dr Mahendra Gangurde, Chief Medical Superintendent, Kalyan during his speech appreciated the work of the dietitians to conduct the CMNE. He thanked the delegates, officers of Central Railway and the associates for the grand success of the CMNE. Mr. Sureshkumar NT, Hospital Administrator gave all the support required for the CMNE.

Dt. Vijita Amol Gawane & Dt. Neelam Adesh Padwal organizing secretary thanked everyone for their support.

The conference not only provided a platform for knowledge exchange but also fostered lasting relationships among professionals.

Mumbai Passenger Reservation System Downtime : CR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 18 : Mumbai PRS will be shut down from 23.45 hrs of 18.02.2025 to 01.15 hrs of 19.02.2025 for Change of station code "THIRUVANANTHPURAM SOUTH & THIRUVANANTHPURAM NORTH".

Due to the shutdown, PRS, Coaching refund, charting activities, train firing, and other services like IVRS, Current Reservation, Chart Display, Touch Screen, Refund counters and Coaching refund terminal etc. will not be available. However, TDR

will be issued for refund as per extant refund rules. "Internet booking for Mumbai PRS trains will not be available during the above mentioned period.

Passengers/Rail users are requested to bear with the Railway Administration for this important work."

Western Railway to run Superfast special train between Bandra Terminus and Palitana

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 18 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand to clear extra rush of passengers, Western Railway has decided to run Superfast Special Train on Special Fare between Bandra Terminus and Palitana stations.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of the special train

is as under: Train No. 09093/09094 Bandra Terminus - Palitana Superfast Special (02 Trips) Train No. 09093 Bandra Terminus - Palitana Superfast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus on Monday, 10th March, 2025 at 17:30 hrs and will reach Palitana at 06:30 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09094 Palitana - Bandra Terminus Superfast Special will depart from Palitana on Wednesday, 12th March, 2025 at 17:10 hrs and arrive Bandra Terminus at 07:25 hrs, the

next day. Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Udhna, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Botad, Dhola and Sihor station in both directions. This train comprises of AC 3-Tier & AC Chair Car Coaches.

The Booking for Train Nos. 09093 & 09094 will open from 19th February, 2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Dalit society will never be misled by Cong: Mayawati

Lucknow, Feb 18 (UNI) Countering the controversial statement of senior Congress leader and former MP Udit Raj, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supreme Mayawati on Tuesday said that Congress, which has scorned humanitarian struggle of Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar at every level, cannot be trusted by

the exploited class and the Dalit community will never be misled by it. Taking to 'X', Mayawati wrote, "The Congress party, which has scorned Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's humanitarian struggle for self-respect and self-esteem for crores of exploited and oppressed Dalits/Bahujans at every level, can never be true and

trustworthy in their thinking and policies." She said, "No matter how many programmes Congress organises in the name of 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Mandal, Jai Samvidhan' for purely political and electoral gains, Baba Saheb's followers are not going to be misled by them. They are aware and vigilant and are struggling to stand on their own feet."