

IN BRIEF

CM inquiries about condition of Dajinagar Govt. school in Adilabad dist

Hyderabad, Feb 19 (UNI) : Responding to a news story on running a government school without proper amenities, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday night inquired about the condition of the Dajinagar Government School at Dubbaguda, Battisavaram Panchayat of Mavala Mandal in Adilabad District.

Concerned about the poor management of classrooms without minimum facilities, the CM instructed the concerned education department officials to open the school in a temporary building available locally without any inconvenience to the students immediately, a release from CMs office said here. The officials have also been asked get a detailed report in consultation with the District Collector.

The Chief Minister also ordered the officials to take measures for permanent arrangements to run the Dubbaguda school after the MLC election code ends.

NIA raid in fake currency and links with terrorist groups

Patna, Feb 19 (UNI) : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) team conducted raids in Bhagalpur and Bhojpur districts of Bihar in connection with the case of nexus with terrorists on Wednesday morning. A team conducted a raid on Nazre Saddam's residence in Ishaqchak, Barhapura for links with terror groups based out of Kashmir and Pakistan, NIA team interrogated his relatives for several hours. Meanwhile, official sources said that the team recovered lakhs of rupees and 6 mobile phones during the raid.

The currencies recovered were being examined. The raid resulted in the recovery of documents related to counterfeit currency trade and the interrogation of Saddam's father, Muhammad Masiuzzama, and other family members. As it is, Nazre Saddam and several other accused were arrested by Motihari police along with fake currencies in huge quantities from the Nepal border in September last year.

Kharge flays PM Modi for "failing" to defend Indian interest during US visit



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge with LoP in the Lok Sabha and party leader Rahul Gandhi and party leader KCVenugopal arrives for a meeting of the party's general secretaries and state in-charges, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

New Delhi, Feb 19 (UNI) : Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "failing" to defend India's trade and business interests during his recent visit to the United States.

In his opening remarks at a meeting of AICC general secretaries and in-charges here, Kharge said, "He (the PM) had failed to protect India's trade and business interests. The PM did not protest the imposition of tariffs by the US on Indian goods".

"They are forcing a loss-making deal on us, which our government is silently accepting. This is clearly an insult to India and its people", he said, while adding, "America is hurting us deeply even in economic matters". Kharge said despite Modi's visit, America was sending back Indian citizens handcuffed as before. Alleging that vegetarian passengers were

given non-veg food, Kharge said, "Our government also failed to protest this insult properly". Referring to his party, Kharge said those in-charge of different states will be accountable for the organisation and the electoral performances in their respective states.

"I would like to tell you one very important thing about accountability. All of you will be accountable for the organisation and the future election results of the states under your charge", he told the general secretaries and in-charges.

Referring to the new challenge of alleged "voter list manipulation", he claimed that it was happening on a large scale in elections, and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi had also raised the issue in the Lok Sabha.

Asserting that this "rigging" has to be stopped at all cost, he pointed out how the names of Congress supporters were deleted

from the voter list or the names were removed and added in a different polling booth at the last moment.

He accused the BJP of adding fresh names just before the elections.

During the meeting, the Congress president also referred to the manipulation of the selection process of the Chief Election Commissioner by the government by excluding the Chief Justice of India from the selection committee.

He said the Chief Justice of India was also included in the selection committee of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) by the order of the Supreme Court, but Modi removed him.

"The government does not even trust the impartiality of the Chief Justice of the country", he added, while referring to Rahul Gandhi questioning the purpose of the committee, where the government was trying to

use the Leader of the Opposition merely for "certification".

Talking about the "Save Constitution Campaign", he said, it will continue for the next one year. As part of the campaign, activities like 'padyatra', 'samvaad' (debates) and street corner meetings can be conducted.

"But the aim of every such programme should be strengthening of the organisation," he asserted.

The Congress President in a special mention about the party's performance in Delhi, said despite lack of resources, candidates, workers and leaders gave their best and created an atmosphere for change.

Emphasising the need to continue the momentum, he said, "Our endeavour for the next five years should be to emerge as the main Opposition by continuously fighting and leading mass movements on public issues. Only this will make us the first choice of the people".

Govt secures Central govt's assurance on state's water issues

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Feb 19 : Government on Wednesday secured a firm assurance from the Union government on the state's water issues.

Telangana's Irrigation Minister, Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, said that he secured an assurance from Union Minister for Jal Shakti C.R. Patil, that the Centre would intervene in addressing Telangana's water concerns and expedite approvals for key irrigation projects. During a meeting on the sidelines of the second All India State Water Ministers' Conference held in Udaipur, Reddy also held discussions with Debasish Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Sakhti, pressing for immediate action on water disputes and funding for critical projects.

During the meeting, the Irrigation Minister raised concerns over Andhra Pradesh allegedly drawing excess water illegally from the backwaters of the Srisailem Dam and the right



canal of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project during the ongoing Rabi season. He emphasised the urgent need for central intervention to protect the Rabi crop in the ayacut areas of Nagarjuna Sagar, particularly in the erstwhile Nalgonda and Khammam districts. In response, the Union Minister assured that the Government of India would take immediate steps to ensure fair water distribution and prevent unauthorised withdrawals. To enhance

transparency and prevent future disputes, Uttam advocated for the installation of telemetry systems at both Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar dams, at a total of 35 points on Krishna river water, including above. These systems would provide real-time data on water usage, ensuring adherence to allocated quotas. The Union Minister concurred, recognising the importance of accurate monitoring mechanisms. Stressing the

need for accelerated approvals and funding, the Telangana Minister urged the Centre to sanction key irrigation projects, including the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS), Sitarama Sagar Project, and Sammakka Sagar Project. He also demanded that PRLIS be granted national project status and receive full central funding. Secretary Mukherjee assured that the Centre would explore the possibility of providing

BRS to return power certainly in state: KCR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Feb 19 : Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Supremo and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR) on Wednesday exuded confidence that his party would return to power certainly whenever elections are held in the state.

Addressing a crucial extended executive body meeting of the party at Telangana Bhavan here, KCR called for a renewed movement to safeguard the state from the clutches of the Congress party, which is dragging Telangana state into crisis.

He asked the party cadre to gear up for another people's movement in a battle for Telangana's survival.

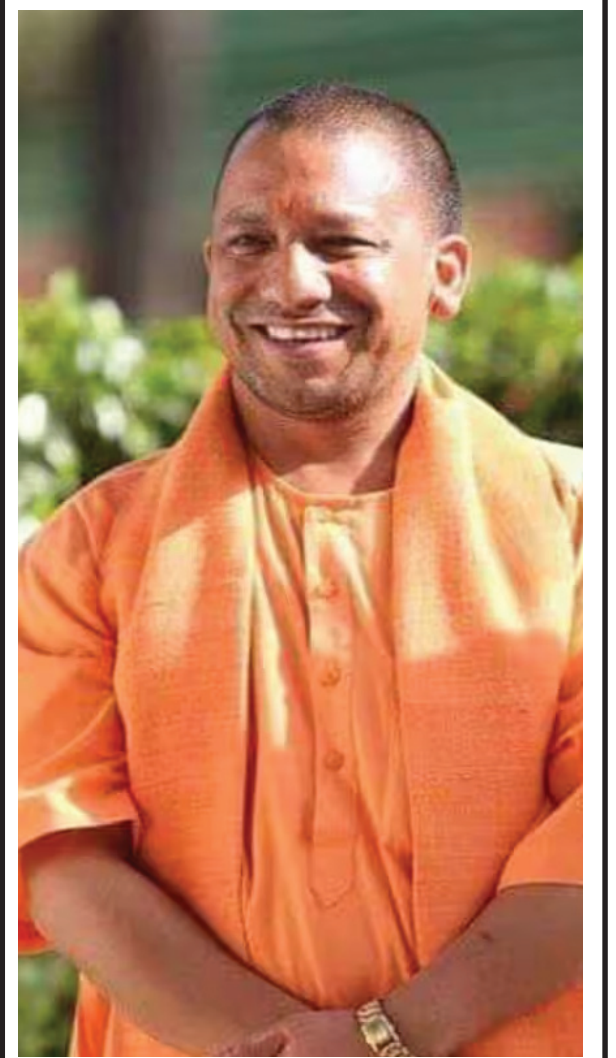
"Bye-elections are inevitable in 10 Assembly constituencies where BRS MLAs defected to the Congress," he said. The Apex Court will not tolerate the Congress government's actions in this regard.

People have realised the true colours of the Congress and are eagerly waiting to elect the BRS whenever elections are held," he said.

Finding fault with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's remarks against civil servants, KCR stated that to cover up his inefficiency to rule the state, the CM is blaming his ministers and IAS and IPS officers.

Promising to strengthen the party from the grassroots level, the party chief called on the party cadre for a renewed movement to safeguard Telangana.

Announcing a year-long celebration of BRS' silver jubilee, marking the commencement of the 25th year of the party's inception, he said the party plenary and a massive public meeting to commemorate the Silver Jubilee will be held on April 27.



Opposition should not defame Sanatan and India for ...

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday accused the opposition parties of spreading false rumours regarding Maha Kumbh and appealed that it should not defame the ancient Sanatan culture and India for political gains. On the second day of the budget session of the Assembly, the CM said, "Why are you defaming India? I regret that while fighting with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), you started fighting with India." Describing SP President Akhilesh Yadav's statement that the country can never become a developed India as unfortunate, he said that a political party has so much ill will towards its country.

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India, Malaysia agree to enhance cooperation in



The 13th Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee (MIDCOM) meeting took place in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday, where both sides identified ways to deepen existing collaboration, particularly in the defence industry, maritime security, and multilateral engagements.

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IOC president Bach issues ...



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach expressed his expectations for the younger generations during his visit to Beijing Sports University. Bach Tuesday emphasized the IOC's effort to bridge esports with traditional sports, highlighting the importance of maintaining Olympic values throughout this process.

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Nitish announces development of industrial area in Dehri



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced to develop the industrial area of Dehri in Rohtas district. Kumar visited Rohtas on Wednesday during his ongoing Pragati Yatra, where while announcing to develop an industrial area in Dehri he said it would open new vistas for the people.

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Samajwadi Party leader Atul Pradhan carrying a bunch of sugarcane and a photo of former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh arrives to attend the Budget Session of UP Assembly at Vidhan Bhawan, in Lucknow on Wednesday.

Pandemonium in Odisha Assembly, House adjourned for day without much business

Bhubaneswar, Feb 19 (UNI) : The Odisha Assembly witnessed chaos as Opposition BJD and Congress members disrupted proceedings, forcing Speaker Surama Padhi to adjourn the house thrice during the day, eventually adjourning it for the day without transacting much business.

The house was first adjourned at 10:31 AM, just a minute after it convened for the day to take up the Question Hour, until 4 PM without transacting any business. This came as BJD and Congress members stormed into the well of the house, shouting slogans against the government.

While BJD members, holding placards, rushed to the podium and raised slogans opposing the state government's move to

restructure the Executive Committee of Mission Shakti, Congress members protested against the rising cases of atrocities against women under the current BJP dispensation.

After the house was adjourned, agitated BJD members, holding placards in their hands, marched in a procession to the Mahatma Gandhi statue inside the Assembly premises and staged a protest, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the notice for restructuring the Executive Committee of Mission Shakti. BJD leaders Rajendra Pratap Swain and Arun Sahu accused the BJP government of attempting to saffronize Mission Shakti and restructuring it against the wishes of lakhs of women who have been serving the program for the

past two decades. They highlighted that these women have been staging an indefinite protest in front of the Assembly for the last six days, opposing the government's move.

The BJD members argued that there was no justification for restructuring Mission Shakti and alleged that the BJP government was deliberately pursuing the move for political gain.

When the house reassembled at 4 PM after the adjournment to take up the Private Members' Bill, the situation remained unchanged. Both BJD and Congress members continued shouting slogans inside the well of the house, disrupting proceedings and forcing the Speaker to adjourn the house twice, finally

adjourning it at 5:15 PM for the day.

Before the Speaker adjourned the house until 10:30 AM on Thursday due to the continued ruckus, agitated BJD and Congress members staged a noisy walkout.

During the day BJD member Renendra Paratap Swain accused the BJP government of trying to bring changes and amend the Constitution which was countered by Law Minister Prithiv Raj Harichandan.

The Speaker, however, took strong exception to the actions of the Opposition members for stalling the business of the house and not cooperating with the debate. She warned that she would be forced to take action against them if they continued to disrupt Assembly proceedings.

Opposition should not defame Sanatan and India for political gains: Yogi

Lucknow, Feb 19 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday accused the opposition parties of spreading false rumours regarding Maha Kumbh and appealed that it should not defame the ancient Sanatan culture and India for political gains.

On the second day of the budget session of the Assembly, the CM said, "Why are you defaming India? I regret that while fighting with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), you started fighting with India." Describing SP President Akhilesh Yadav's statement that the country can never become a developed India as unfortunate, he said that a political party has so much ill will towards its country.

He said, "Now even people have started saying that Rahul Gandhi's presence in the country and Akhilesh Yadav's presence in UP is a guarantee of BJP's victory. This guarantee has been given by the by-elections."

Yogi said that there should be no politics on Maha Kumbh. "Express your views with decency and dignity, but do not call living people dead. People used to go to pilgrimages with devotion. How can anyone stop faith, do not defame them," he said.

He made a heartfelt appeal to the opposition parties and said, "Do not defame Sanatan and India for political gains. Question the government, but not the Maha Kumbh and faith. First you said that the numbers are being exaggerated. The SP chief himself reached there to see whether the crowd was actually gathering or not," he said.

The CM said, "Now he (Akhilesh) is saying that the crowd is too much, people are not getting a chance to bathe; extend the date. This is their double character. First they oppose, then they say extend the date. Chachu (Shivpal Yadav) was also saying the same thing, but we did not decide the date. This event is to be held from Paush Purnima to Shivratri. The date of Shivratri is fixed. It will be according to classical astrological calculations. It cannot be extended beyond this."

He took a jibe at Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav and said, "Name has an impact. There is not much difference between Pappu and Tappu. Chachu has not named them without reason. Chachu is quiet right now but will show his true colours when the time comes."

Yogi said that this is the Maha Kumbh of unity. "The feeling of unity has worked to connect us and the world in the thread of unity," he said.

Two get lifer for gang rape in Barabanki

Barabanki (UP), Feb 19 (UNI) : Two persons were sentenced to life imprisonment along with a penalty of Rs 2.30 lakh in a gang rape case by a special court in Barabanki district here in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday, a prosecution officer said here.

Special Public Prosecutor Luv Tripathi said that the incident took place in a village under Satrikh police station area where the complainant's daughter had gone to the field on the night of January 20, 2017.

"When she did not return for a long time, the family started searching for her and found out that Shibbu Yadav and Kunni Yadav of the village had lured and taken her away," he said.

He said that six witnesses were produced by the prosecution during the trial in the court. "After hearing the statements of the witnesses and arguments of both sides, Special Additional Sessions Judge (Pocso Act) Gyan Prakash Shukla sentenced the two accused to life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 2.3 lakh each," he said.

EAM to visit Johannesburg for G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting

New Delhi, Feb 19 (UNI) External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is paying a two-day visit to Johannesburg, South Africa, on February 20-21 to participate in the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM). His visit is at the invitation of the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa Ronald Lamola. EAM's participation in the G20 FMM will strengthen India's engagement with G20 countries and bolster the voice of the Global South in this important forum, a statement said.

EAM is expected to hold a few bilateral meetings on the margins of the FMM.

Fill vacancies to address the staff constraints on health facilities: Sakina Itoo

Srinagar, Feb 19 (UNI) : Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Wednesday called upon the officers of the health department to fill the vacancies of paramedics and doctors to address the staff constraints.

The minister said this while chairing a meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to review the performance and functioning of Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education departments in Baramulla district.

Sakeena Itoo stressed the importance of strengthening healthcare

services, ensuring adequate medical staff, and expediting work on ongoing projects to enhance patient care.

She called upon the officers of the health department to fill the vacancies of paramedics and doctors to address the staff constraints on health facilities.

"Address gaps in rural healthcare accessibility and ensure timely availability of life-saving drugs as well as other healthcare facilities to the public," the minister said.

The minister directed the officers of the health department to conduct drug audits of all the medical and

chemist shops to control malpractices, if any.

She asked them to ensure that the establishments are complying with regulations like the installation of CCTV cameras, the implementation of computerised billing systems, and the maintenance of psychotropic drug records.

While reviewing the performance of the Social Welfare department in the district, the minister assessed the implementation of various beneficiary-orientated schemes for senior citizens, differently-abled individuals, and women.

Embrace strategic thinking to meet future security challenges: CDS to RIMC cadets

New Delhi, Feb 19 (UNI) : Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Wednesday urged the cadets of Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) to embrace technological advancements, strategic thinking, and adaptability to meet future security challenges.

Gen Chauhan visited the Rashtriya Indian Military College, reaffirming the institution's pivotal role in shaping the future leadership of the Indian

Armed Forces, a Defence Ministry statement said.

In his address, Gen Chauhan lauded RIMC's legacy of producing distinguished military leaders and emphasised the values of discipline, integrity, and service to the nation.

The CDS appreciated the institution's commitment to integrating modern education with military traditions, ensuring that cadets are well-equipped for future

challenges.

Highlighting the evolving nature of warfare, he urged cadets to embrace technological advancements, strategic thinking, and adaptability to meet future security challenges.

During his visit, he interacted with cadets and faculty, gaining insights into the carefully structured training, academic curriculum, and leadership development programs at the institution. Gen

Chauhan also visited the Somnath Resource Centre and Museum, which showcases RIMC's rich history and the contributions of its illustrious alumni to the nation.

The CDS took keen interest in the exhibits, reflecting on the role of RIMC-trained officers in various military operations. As a mark of commitment to growth and resilience, Gen Chauhan planted a tree on campus.

CBI dismantles a virtual asset supported transnational cyber crime network

Kolkata, Feb 19 (UNI) : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as a part of its ongoing Operation Chakra-IV has successfully dismantled a sophisticated virtual asset-supported cybercrime network that has been targeting German nationals since 2021.

"This operation was executed in close coordination with the German authorities," the federal Indian investigation agency said.

The International Operations Division of CBI registered a case on February 12, 2025, against Rahul Shaw, Shubham Sharma, Rajeev Budhiraja and unknown others, under section 120-B read with sections 420, 467, 468 and 471 of the Indian Penal Code as well as section 66D of the Information Technology Act 2000 and launched the investigation.

During 2021-2022, the accused persons allegedly conspired to target the German nationals by gaining unauthorized remote access to the victim's computer systems

and bank accounts, under the pretext of offering tech support services.

"They falsely informed the German-based victims that their bank accounts had been compromised. Claiming that their funds were at risk, the accused, allegedly, manipulated the victims into transferring Euro 646,032 to cryptocurrency wallets controlled by them," the CBI continued.

Following registration of the case, CBI began extensive searches at multiple locations associated/linked to the accused persons, yielding substantial incriminating evidence.

Searches conducted at six locations across Delhi, Kolkata and Siliguri from

February 14-17 last revealed that this transnational cyber-enabled financial crime network was channelling the proceeds of crime through virtual assets.

They then arrested Rahul Shaw from Siliguri (West Bengal), a key accused in the case and he

was being produced before the Ld. Court of the Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate-06, Rouse Avenue District Courts, New Delhi.

During a search conducted at his residential premises, 7 mobile phones, a laptop and incriminating documents about the crime were recovered.

The CBI also unearthed an illegal Call Centre being operated by the accused Rahul Shaw and other accused persons at Webel IT Park, Matigara, Darjeeling, West Bengal and dismantled the same.

During the search, 24 hard disks of computer systems used by the accused persons, containing incriminating digital evidence, were recovered from the said illegal Call Centre. Further operations are ongoing to identify the proceeds of crime. The CBI said the investigation into the broader network and international leads are ongoing in close coordination with foreign law enforcement agencies.

NC govt will make people partners in ensuring peace instead of intimidating them: Tanvir

Srinagar, Feb 19 (UNI) : National Conference leader and Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Tanvir Sadiq on Wednesday said the Omar Abdullah Government will play its role in ensuring peace by making people partners instead of intimidating and threatening them.

Sadiq who is also Chief Spokesperson of NC said this, while addressing a public meeting in Srinagar.

He said the Government will ensure peace by making people partners.

The NC leader said providing relief from the hardships, sufferings, bullying and oppression, the people have had to go through since 2015, is the main manifesto of NC.

"The Government has started providing relief to the people as soon as it came into existence and with the cooperation of the people, the government will fulfill all the promises made before the elections", he asserted.

Sadiq said the NC government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will present the budget for the first time and the way he held meetings with all the stakeholders including public representatives on the budget is commendable.

The NC MLA hoped that the budget would be "people friendly and youth oriented".

Manipur Governor discusses issues with NPP leader

Imphal, Feb 19 (UNI) : A delegation of the National People's Party (NPP), Manipur, led by Y Joykumar Singh, State President, met Governor AB Bhalla at Raj Bhawan on Wednesday to discuss the issues the state is facing. The NPP had pulled off support for the N. Biren Singh-led government earlier; however, it decided to support the BJP-led

government immediately after N Biren Singh resigned as Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, S. Radhakrishnan, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India (SBI), Guwahati Circle, along with other officials, called on the Governor of Manipur. The officials briefed the governor on the various initiatives undertaken by the bank to reach even the far-flung

areas of the state.

Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Director General, CRPF, also called on the governor of Manipur, and he gave a comprehensive briefing on the deployment and operational activities of the CRPF in the region. He also informed the governor that the force is well prepared to control any situation at any point in time.

TPCC slams BJP's hypocrisy over govt order allowing Muslim staff to leave early during Ramzan

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Feb 19 : Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Official Spokesperson Syed Nizamuddin on Wednesday tore into the BJP's selective outrage over the order of the state government allowing its employees to leave at 4 pm during Ramzan, calling it a classic case of hypocrisy and communal opportunism.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan here, Nizamuddin exposed the BJP's double standards, pointing out that the same party, which is part of the ruling alliance in Andhra Pradesh, had no objections when a similar order was issued there.

Both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh governments have permitted their Muslim employees to leave office at 4 pm during the month of holy Ramzan. "The BJP's hypocrisy knows no bounds. In Andhra Pradesh,

they sit quietly in the ruling alliance while the same Ramzan order is issued. But in Telangana, they scream 'appeasement.' Why is BJP MLA Raja Singh silent there? Why isn't BJP's IT Cell head Amit Malviya attacking the Andhra government? Because BJP doesn't care about governance or consistency - it thrives on spreading communal poison wherever it suits its political agenda," he said. Calling the BJP a "sinking ship" in Telangana, the TPCC official spokesperson said the party was in complete disarray, riddled with internal conflicts and leaderless. "Raja Singh is openly threatening to quit because no one listens to him. The BJP hasn't even been able to appoint a new state president. With no leadership, no strategy, and no credibility, they are desperately trying to stir communal hatred to stay relevant," he said.

Dismissing BJP's

claims, Nizamuddin reminded that the order permitting Muslims to leave early during Ramzan has been in place for nearly five decades in both Telangana and undivided Andhra Pradesh. "Since the 1980s, two orders are issued every Ramzan - one allowing Muslim employees to leave at 4 pm, another permitting shops to remain open late.

Even during Chandrababu Naidu's rule, the practice continued. Was the BJP in a coma all these years? Or do they only wake up when it suits their political propaganda?" he asked.

Challenging the BJP's 'equal rights' narrative, the Congress leader highlighted that Telangana government already grants full holidays for Hindu festivals like Dasara and Navratri, as well as Christian and Sikh festivals. "The Congress government in Telangana upholds true secularism by respecting all religions

equally. Can the BJP say the same about its governance? In BJP-ruled states, minorities are forced to live in fear, facing systematic discrimination. Who is the BJP to lecture us on equality?" he asked.

Nizamuddin asserted that Telangana had never accepted the BJP's divisive politics and never would. "BJP doesn't stand for Hindus, Muslims, or any community. It stands only for chaos, hatred, and political opportunism. Telangana will not drink BJP's poison. We will continue to stand for inclusivity, progress, and real development," he declared.

"Before questioning Telangana's inclusive policies, BJP must answer for its hypocrisy, its failures, and its communal agenda. Telangana's people reject BJP's politics of hate, division, and distraction. We will not let them destroy our social fabric," the spokesperson added.

MID-Career Interaction Program at College of Air Warfare concludes

Hyderabad, Feb 19 (UNI) : The three-day Mid-Career Interaction Programme (MCIP) concluded at the College of Air Warfare (CAW) here on Wednesday. The interaction was themed at 'Space as a New Frontier for National Security and Development' and was attended by 15 officers from Indian Armed Forces and 10 from civil services, a Defence release said here.

The Government and Military level interactive programme was aimed to enhance understanding of space as a critical domain in the nation's Aerospace development programs.

In consonance with the objective of the programme, speakers of national & international repute addressed the participants and covered various important topics including operational, technical and legal issues related to space domain.

BioAsia 2025 to showcase startup innovation

Hyderabad, Feb 19 (UNI) : The BioAsia 2025, Asia's largest life-sciences and healthcare conference, to be held here from Feb 25 to 26, is set to provide a global platform for innovation and entrepreneurship and showcase startups as catalysts of future change.

As Asia's premier life sciences event, BioAsia, hosted by the Government of Telangana, is poised to transform the entrepreneurial journey for startups within the healthcare and life sciences sectors by providing the right environment and ecosystem for growth.

The 'Innovation Zone' at BioAsia 2025 will be a dynamic hub showcasing the Startup Pavilion and the Incubator Pavilion, igniting innovation and unlocking investment opportunities.

In line with BioAsia's ethos of fostering

innovation, a select group of about 80 startups have earned coveted spots in the 22nd edition of this global conference to showcase their innovative solutions that have potential to transform healthcare globally.

The event has attracted interest from both national and international corporations, indicating a strong desire to engage with the latest innovations and developments in the life sciences and healthcare sectors.

Telangana IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu said, "Bio Asia is rightly poised as a global platform fostering innovation and collaboration within the life sciences and healthcare sectors. It is a great booster to the start-up ecosystem, with promising ventures showcasing their solutions to a global audience."

Telangana Special Chief Secretary (IT and Industries) Jayesh Ranjan stated, "The Life sciences space in Telangana has grown at a rapid pace and we are experiencing a massive interest in the opportunities prevalent in the state. To fuel this momentum, Bio Asia 2025 has enabled an Incubator Pavilion and Innovation Zone which will aim at fostering innovation and business growth for startups who are creating revolutionary solutions in healthcare and life sciences."

Mr Shakthi Nagappan, CEO, Telangana Life Sciences, Government of Telangana, said, "BioAsia 2025 with the theme, 'Catalysts of Change', presents an unparalleled opportunity to forge partnerships and drive impactful collaborations in an ever-evolving environment."

Two-day SHIELD 2025 concludes with vision for Cyber-Resilient Future

Hyderabad, Feb 19 (UNI) : The two-day SHIELD 2025, Telangana's premier cybersecurity conclave, successfully concluded here on Wednesday, reinforcing the state's commitment to strengthening cybersecurity infrastructure and fostering global collaboration.

Hosted by the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB), Cyberabad Police, and the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), the conclave brought together law enforcement agencies, industry leaders,

policymakers, and academia to address emerging cyber threats and innovative security solutions.

The day opened with a keynote address by Rajesh Kumar, CEO, I4C, who outlined India's evolving approach to cybercrime prevention through the Indian Cyber Crime

Coordination Centre (I4C).

He highlighted I4C's role in supporting law enforcement coordination and its initiatives like the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCERT) and the 1930 cybercrime

helpline, which have helped identify over 6,000 victims of online frauds such as fake video calls, sextortion, and digital arrests.

Lien marking technology has significantly improved fraud detection and fund-freezing mechanisms, with banks now handling over 67,000 dispute-related calls per day to prevent financial fraud, he said. India's cyber defence strategy is expanding to counter threats involving cryptocurrency-based crimes, and a suspect registry has been created,

leading to the prevention of ₹2,600 crore worth of fraudulent transactions.

As cyber threats evolve, stronger legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms are crucial.

Discussions throughout the conclave reinforced the need for state-level cyber response units, mandatory cybersecurity training in educational institutions, and nationwide awareness programs to equip citizens and organisations with the knowledge to protect them.

Experts also stressed the importance of regulating AI misuse, implementing strict data protection policies, and enforcing accountability for digital platforms.

A significant legal measure discussed was the "Sahyog" portal, which facilitates the swift removal of harmful online content, with nodal officers from each state managing takedown requests to ensure a more secure digital space.

Later in the day, Dr. Lalith Mohan, CPO, Seprite, and Dr. B. Sriram, CEO, DSCL, presented a crucial talk on the Telangana Cyber Threat Report.

New Delhi, Feb 19 (UNI) : All India Mahila Congress president Aka Lamba and Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav on Wednesday congratulated Rekha Gupta on being appointed as the chief minister of Delhi. In a post on X, Yadav said, "Congratulation to Mrs Rekha Gupta ji on being appointed the Chief Minister of Delhi."

"I hope you will work above party politics, solve the problems of Delhi, an fulfill the promises you have made to the people of Delhi," he said. Meanwhile, Alka Lamba, while sharing a photo of her's with Rekha Gupta during their college days on X, said, "This

memorable photo from 1995 when Rekha Gupta and I took oath together." "I won the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU)

president's post from NSUI, and Rekha won the general secretary post from ABVP.

Major NDPL Supply Chain Busted in Andhra Pradesh

(By Ravi Kumar Boppana) Vijayawada, Feb 19 A significant Non-Duty Paid Liquor (NDPL) supply chain has been dismantled across multiple districts in Andhra Pradesh, leading to numerous arrests and the seizure of a substantial quantity of illicit liquor. The State Task Force (STF) spearheaded the investigation, uncovering an extensive network that operated through private transport services and digital transactions. Authorities have identified Chennai-based supplier S. Prabhu as the central figure behind the operation, linking him to multiple illegal liquor distributions throughout the state.

The initial breakthrough occurred in East Godavari District on December 27, 2024, when Rajahmundry (North) police registered FIR No. 378/2024 under Section 34(a)(1) of the Excise Amendment Act 2020. A total of 112 bottles of various premium brands, including Johnnie Walker, Glenmorangie, Chivas Regal, and Jack Daniels, were seized. Two individuals, Burla Balakrishna and Muppana Ravikumara from Rajahmundry, were arrested. Discrepancies in bottle quality and cap types raised suspicions that the seized liquor was not merely Non-Duty Paid but also counterfeit. Further investigation confirmed that the liquor was sourced from S. Prabhu in Chennai,



identified as the main supplier to various illegal vendors in Andhra Pradesh.

Building on this lead, the STF uncovered another NDPL case in West Godavari District on January 8, 2025. Registered under FIR No. 09/2025 by Bhimavaram police, the operation resulted in the seizure of a Maruti Swift Dzire car containing 25 bottles of premium liquor. Five individuals, including Kommisetty Venkateswarlu, a key dealer in Bhimavaram, were arrested. Investigators discovered that the liquor supply was routed through a well-organized network, with Prabhu's involvement becoming increasingly evident.

The investigation extended to NTR District (Vijayawada), where another NDPL case was detected on January 12, 2025. Police seized 12 bottles of NDPL liquor, including Chivas Regal and Johnnie Walker Gold Label Reserve, and registered FIR

No. 4/2025. Two transport drivers linked to Venkataramana Transport were arrested. Further inquiries revealed that liquor shipments were being smuggled from Chennai using private transport networks. Several suspects, including former and current managers of Venkataramana Transport, remain at large, indicating a well-coordinated smuggling operation.

In Nellore District, a significant development occurred on January 13, 2025, with the detection of an NDPL case registered under FIR No. 12/2025 of the A.P. Prohibition Act 1995. Authorities seized 25 liquor bottles and arrested Muniswamy Nagaraju, a repeat offender operating for eight years. Nagaraju had previously been arrested in a similar case in 2017 but was acquitted. Investigators determined that the liquor had been sourced from Chennai

through private transport services, confirming the involvement of a broader network.

Authorities identified S. Prabhu from Chennai and Manikyam from Vyasarpadi as the two primary suppliers in the NDPL network. Their modus operandi involved receiving liquor orders via phone calls or voice messages, packaging the stock, and dispatching it through private transport services such as Venkataramana Transport and SRKALT Transport. Payments were processed digitally via platforms like PhonePe and Google Pay, with transactions meticulously documented as evidence. To minimize detection risk, the accused avoided maintaining large inventories, opting instead to stock and distribute liquor based on demand.

The investigation linked multiple FIRs to Prabhu's illicit operations, including FIR No. 378/2024 in

Rajahmundry (112 bottles supplied), FIR No. 09/2025 in Bhimavaram (25 bottles supplied), FIR No. 4/2025 in Vijayawada (12 bottles supplied), and FIR No. 12/2025 in Nellore (25 bottles supplied to repeat offender Muniswamy Nagaraju).

A pivotal moment in the case occurred when Chennai Police arrested S. Prabhu on January 28, 2025, while he was attempting to supply NDPL in Chennai. He was booked under FIR No. 6/2025 at PEW Madhavaram Police Station and subsequently remanded to Puzhal Central Prison, Chennai. Following his arrest, Andhra Pradesh authorities obtained a PT warrant from the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Nellore, and dispatched a team from Nellore-1 Town P&E Station to Chennai for further investigation.

The arrest of Prabhu is considered a significant achievement in dismantling the NDPL network operating across Andhra Pradesh. Authorities anticipate that ongoing investigations will reveal additional connections and aid in curbing the smuggling of illegal liquor in the state. The crackdown was led by several key officers, including Sri S. Madhu (P&E.S, State Task Force, Mangalagiri), Sri Jagadeeswara Reddy (Assistant Prohibition & Excise Superintendent, Nellore), and other senior officials from excise and enforcement teams statewide.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) E-Tender Notice No. ET-SRDCM-CAT-VSKP-GMU-4, Dt.13.02.25 TENDER TITLE : PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES AT CATERING STALL GENERAL MINOR UNIT (GMU-4) AT VISAKHAPATNAM STATION ON PLATFORM-1. Tender Value for 1 year : ₹ 23,08,777/- EMD : ₹ 15,500/-
(2) E-Tender Notice No. ET-SRDCM-CAT-CHE-GMU-65, Dt.13.02.25 TENDER TITLE : PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES AT CATERING STALL GENERAL MINOR UNIT (GMU-65) AT SRIKAKULAM ROAD STATION ON PLATFORM-2. Tender Value for 1 year : ₹ 2,50,000/- EMD : ₹ 12,500/-
(3) E-Tender Notice No. ET-SRDCM-CAT-CHE-MB-24, Dt.13.02.25 TENDER TITLE : PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES ON MILK STALL UNIT NUMBER (M-8) AT SRIKAKULAM ROAD STATION ON PLATFORM-2. Tender Value for 1 year : ₹ 1,10,000/- EMD : ₹ 10,000/-
(4) E-Tender Notice No. ET-SRDCM-CAT-RGA-GMU-40, Dt.13.02.25 TENDER TITLE : PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES AT CATERING STALL GENERAL MINOR UNIT (GMU-33) AT RAYAGADA STATION ON PLATFORM-4 & 5. Tender Value for 1 year : ₹ 2,50,000/- EMD : ₹ 12,500/-
(5) E-Tender Notice No. ET-SRDCM-CAT-RGA-GMU-33, Dt.13.02.25 TENDER TITLE : PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES AT CATERING STALL GENERAL MINOR UNIT (GMU-33) AT RAYAGADA STATION ON PLATFORM-4 & 5. Tender Value for 1 year : ₹ 2,50,000/- EMD : ₹ 12,500/-
(6) E-Tender Notice No. ET-SRDCM-CAT-DVD-GMU-36, Dt.13.02.25 TENDER TITLE : PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES AT CATERING STALL GENERAL MINOR UNIT (GMU-36) AT DUVVADA STATION ON PLATFORM-4. Tender Value for 1 year : ₹ 3,21,989/- EMD : ₹ 16,500/-
(7) E-Tender Notice No. ET-SRDCM-CAT-DVD-GMU-38, Dt.13.02.25 TENDER TITLE : PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES AT CATERING STALL GENERAL MINOR UNIT (GMU-38) AT DUVVADA STATION ON PLATFORM-4. Tender Value for 1 year : ₹ 80,000/- EMD : ₹ 10,000/-
(8) E-Tender Notice No. ET-SRDCM-CAT-DVD-M13-24, Dt.13.02.25 TENDER TITLE : PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES ON MILK STALL UNIT NUMBER (M-13) AT DUVVADA STATION ON PLATFORM-4. Tender Value for 1 year : ₹ 95,000/- EMD : ₹ 10,000/-
(9) E-Tender Notice No. ET-SRDCM-CAT-SIM-GMU-40, Dt.13.02.25 TENDER TITLE : PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES AT CATERING STALL GENERAL MINOR UNIT (GMU-40) AT SIMACHALAM STATION ON PLATFORM-1. Tender Value for 1 year : ₹ 95,000/- EMD : ₹ 10,000/-

IN THE COURT OF THE SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT BASAVAKALYAN

M.V.C. No. 366/2022
Claimant : P. SHRUTHI
Vs
Respondents : A. VENKATANNA AND OTHERS

Sub: Petition Under Section 166 of MV Act.

To,
The Respondent,

- A. Venkatanna S/o A. Anjanappa, Age: Major. Occu: Private Service and owner of Bajaj Discover motorcycle bearing Reg. No. TS-09/EA-2160, R/o H.No. 8-2-269/15-526/A Indira Nagar, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500033.
- Banda Ramu @ Ramulu S/o Linganna, Age: 35 years, Occ: Ridor of Bajaj Discover motorcycle bearing Reg. No. TS-09/EA-2160, R/o Room No. 9, Block No. 17 phase-1 Indiramma Colony, Nizampet, KHPB, N/o Nagardoddi village, Dharoor Mandal, Gadwal, Ph. 8121904566.

Whereas the claimants through Sri. G.S.Kurkote, Advocate Basavakalyan had filed a claim petition U/Sec. 166 of M.V.Act before the Hon'ble court for grant of compensation in view of accidental injuries sustained by the claimant in motor vehicle accident. That, in the above case the claimant has filed the claim petition against the respondents No.1 and 2 the Hon'ble Court has issued the notice to the respondent No.1 and 2 through RPAD several times but the respondents No.1 & 2 are intentionally avoiding the court notices and RPAD notices, so this Hon'ble Court was pleased to issue order to the effect that service of summons notice etc., be served upon the Respondents No.1 & 2 as mentioned below by way of substitute services by paper publication.

Therefore, you are hereby notice to appear before this Hon'ble Court on 28-03-2025 at 11.00 a.m. either personally or through pleader duly instructed to give answer for such claim failing which the matter will be determined in your absence according to law.

Given under my hand and seal of the court, this the 21st day of January, 2025

(By Order of the Court)
Sd/-
Chief Ministerial Officer,
Senior Civil Judge & JMFC Court,
Basavakalyan.

STANDARD POST

Rekha Gupta – a non-controversial leader, loyal BJP soldier - set to helm Delhi govt

Fifty year old Rekha Gupta, a somewhat surprise choice by the BJP as the new Delhi Chief Minister, is a first time MLA and a non-controversial politician who has spent three decades serving the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in various capacities

While Gupta's choice over more prominent leaders like Parvesh Verma – who defeated AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal – Ashish Sood and Vijender Gupta, might seem a little surprising, it appears to be a part of the BJP's tactic to cement its base among the women – a section which has emerged as a major vote bank wooed by every party over the past few years. The BJP's manifesto ahead of the Delhi Assembly election also had many sops and announcements targeting women.

Gupta, an advocate, becomes the ninth CM overall and the fourth woman to helm the Delhi government after Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit and Atishi. AAP leader Atishi was Gupta's immediate predecessor and could be the face of the opposition in the legislature for the next five years after the defeat of Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia in the recent elections..

Another reason for the BJP's decision to opt for Gupta could be her Baniya community background, like Kejriwal. The Baniya community has been another strong support base of the saffron outfit, and Gupta's anointment in the cream post could help it further consolidate its support base among this section of voters.

Gupta, who has risen through the ranks, began her political journey as a student leader with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). She was elected as president of the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) in 1996-97

Gupta then moved into civic politics, becoming a three-time councillor, and also served as Mayor of South Delhi Municipal Corporation. She also contested against AAP's Shelly Oberoi for the Mayoral post of the MCD in 2022.

Gupta, who filed her candidature from the Shalimar Bag constituency for the recent Delhi Assembly polls, won with a margin of over 29,000 votes over Aam Aadmi Party's Bandana Kumari. Gupta in fact proved third time lucky, as she had lost to the same rival in the 2015 and 2020 Assembly polls

As an organisational leader, Gupta has been the General Secretary of the Delhi unit of the BJP and a national vice president of the party's women's wing – Mahila Morcha. Gupta, a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), is set to be sworn in on Thursday, as the BJP returns to power in the national capital after a long gap of 27 years.

Championing social justice : The role of the Railway Protection Force

(Standard Post Bureau)

The World Day of 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 of education, health care and all public services. This access must be fair i.e. 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 justice.

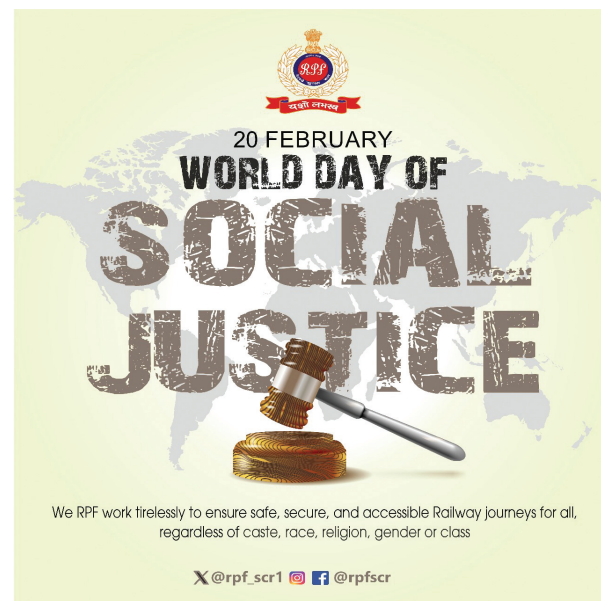
In the context of India, the Indian Railways which is one of the largest Railway networks in the world weaves an intricate matrix of connectivity across the length and breadth of the country. With its Railway lines reaching out to some of the remotest parts of the country, it provides the most accessible 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 daily attending 500 trains and are instrumental in providing a safer environment for female passengers. Similarly, RPF has undertaken an initiative called Operation Matri shakti to assist pregnant women who go into labour during train journeys. In the year 2024 alone, lady

RPF personnel have assisted in 174 child births.

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 labor 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 criminals' 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 2024, RPF has rescued 4,047 people through its Operation Dignity.

Thus RPF has been

proactive in safeguarding the rights of vulnerable communities and ensured that Indian Railways provides an equally accessible space to all the people irrespective of caste, race religion, gender or class. During the Covid pandemic, RPF provided food to thousands of laborer's who were stranded and ensured safe return to their homes following the due pandemic protocols. RPF proudly boasts of having the largest share of women personnel amongst all CAPFs today. The RPF's consistent efforts in providing safe journey to passengers coming from all strata of society without discrimination align with the broader global goal of social justice. 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.

Pen Cap Stuck in Lungs for 21 Years Successfully Removed by KIMS Doctors

(Standard Post Bureau)

A 26-year-old man from Karimnagar had unknowingly carried a pen cap in his lungs for 21 years after accidentally swallowing it at the age of five. Over the past month, he had been experiencing persistent cough and unexplained weight loss. His condition worsened significantly over the last ten days, making it difficult for him to sleep. Upon consulting doctors, a CT scan was conducted, revealing an infection in the lower left lung. He was then referred to KIMS Hospital, Kondapur, Hyderabad, where a further CT scan was performed. Consultant Clinical and Interventional Pulmonologist, Dr. Shubhakar Nadella, provided insights into the case.

When the patient arrived, we conducted a CT



scan, which showed a lump-like structure inside his lungs. We initially assumed it was an obstruction causing his persistent cough. However, during the procedure, we discovered that it was actually a pen cap lodged inside. Midway through the procedure, we called in his elder brother and asked if he had ever swallowed anything as a child. That's when he recalled that, at the age of five, he had accidentally swallowed a pen cap. At that time, he was taken to a doctor, who conducted an examination

but found nothing abnormal, assuming that the foreign object had naturally passed out of the body.

The procedure to remove the pen cap took nearly three hours. Using a flexible bronchoscopy, we first carefully removed the tissue buildup, lymph nodes, and muscle formations around the object. Once the surrounding area was cleared, we successfully extracted the pen cap. The prolonged presence of a foreign body had caused lung damage, but we

managed to restore the affected area with antibiotic treatment. The patient has now fully recovered," said Dr. Shubhakar Nadella.

Dr. Nadella emphasized the importance of timely medical intervention in such cases. "Leaving foreign objects inside the body for an extended period is extremely dangerous. If the patient had delayed further, the lung tissue would have been completely damaged, requiring surgical removal of the affected section. Fortunately, we identified the issue in time and treated it with medication. Parents must be vigilant when their children are playing and observe what they put in their mouths. If a child accidentally swallows any object, immediate medical attention is necessary to prevent severe complications," he cautioned.

India, Malaysia agree to enhance cooperation in defence industry, maritime security

New Delhi, Feb 19 (UNI) : The 13th Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee (MIDCOM) meeting took place in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday, where both sides identified ways to deepen existing collaboration, particularly in the defence industry, maritime security, and multilateral engagements.

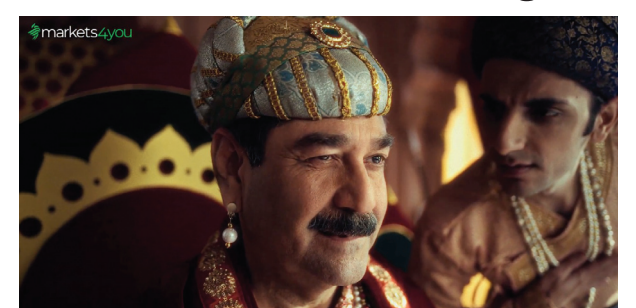
The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Secretary General of Ministry of Defence, Malaysia Lokman Hakim Bin Ali, a Defence Ministry statement said here.

Both sides expressed happiness at the growing bilateral defence cooperation with regular engagements between the two Armed Forces in recent years.

The two sides held wide-ranging discussions on effective and practical initiatives to further expand bilateral defence engagements and regional and global issues and also identified steps to further enhance cooperation in emerging areas such as cyber security and AI.

Moreover, they agreed to form a joint focus group to address non-traditional maritime security threats.

Markets4You Unveils Innovative Campaign



(Standard Post Bureau)

Markets4You, a leading global multi-asset trading platform, is excited to announce the launch of its latest advertising campaign "Think Gold, Think Markets4you" emphasizing the ease and accessibility of gold trading on its platform. The ad film, set in a historical context, creatively illustrates how Markets4you has transformed gold trading, making it accessible to everyone.

The advertisement presents a compelling storyline where a royal figure cleverly secures his wealth not by hoarding gold but by trading it on Markets4You. This creative narrative reinforces the idea that anyone can trade gold effortlessly with a secure and user-friendly experience. The creative narrative drives home a playful and witty message: "Smart King ka Gold Locker mahi Trading Account hotahain". - The narrative unfolds in a royal court where a thief is apprehended for attempting to steal the king's gold. Upon interrogation, the thief reveals that, despite his efforts, he couldn't locate any physical treasures in the treasury. The king then discloses his secret: to mitigate risks, he doesn't hoard physical gold but instead trades digital gold on Markets4you. This revelation underscores the message that in today's world, anyone can trade gold effortlessly through Markets4you's modern platform.

"We're thrilled to launch our 'Think Gold, Think Markets4You' campaign in India. The people of India are at the heart of our vision, and we're constantly inspired by their rich culture, heritage, and financial acumen. As part of our growth strategy, we want to make gold trading accessible to everyone—from seasoned investors to first-time traders. Our goal is to create a seamless and trustworthy trading experience that aligns with each individual's financial journey." – Mrs. Marina Strauss, CEO of Markets4You. Markets4you ensures that trading is accessible to all by offering a user-friendly web platform, as well as Android and iOS applications. This multi-platform approach allows traders to engage with the markets at their convenience, anytime and anywhere

No good news for Ukrainians in coming days : Ex-Foreign Minister

Moscow/Kyiv, Feb 19 (UNI) : Ukrainians should not expect any positive news in the coming days as the country faces a hard period, ex-Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has said.

"Do not look for light in the news in the coming days ... and remember that everything will be good in the end, and if everything is not good, then it is not yet the end," Kuleba said on social media on Tuesday.

On Saturday, Kuleba said that it is impossible to put an end to the Ukraine conflict in current conditions, as Kiev believes that it has enough resources to last till mid-summer and till the next batch of European aid.

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.

2 dead in Sydney house fire

Sydney, Feb. 19 (UNI) : Two people have died and four more have been hospitalized after a house fire in western Sydney in Australia's state of New South Wales (NSW). Emergency services were called to the fire in the suburb of Heckenberg, about 30 kilometers west of central Sydney, at about 12:40 a.m. local time on Wednesday.

MSW Police said that the blaze was extinguished and officers and fire crews entered the property where they found a 46-year-old woman and a six-year-old girl deceased. Eight other occupants of the house escaped the fire and were treated at the scene by ambulance paramedics.

Four were taken to nearby hospitals, including a girl and a man being in a critical condition.

The fire caused extensive damage to the house.

Addressing reporters at the scene later on Wednesday morning, NSW Fire and Rescue Superintendent Adam Dewberry described the fire as "horrific and confronting" with flames coming out of every window. He said that police and firefighters have commenced an investigation into the cause of the fire.

Spain's far-right Vox party opposes sending Spanish troops to Ukraine

Madrid, Feb 19 (UNI) : The Spanish far-right Vox party does not support the idea of sending Spanish troops to participate in a peacekeeping mission in Ukraine, party spokesperson Pepa Millan said.

"We do not support sending troops anywhere. We believe that our forces, the state security forces and the army should first and foremost defend Spain and protect the Spaniards from the main problems that we are currently facing, including illegal migration," Millan said at a press conference on Tuesday.

At the same time, the party advocates increasing spending on the kingdom's defense, as this is an investment in the "security of all Spaniards."

Millan added that the informal meeting of European leaders held in Paris on Monday only showed a "true picture" of Europe's "inability" to take steps to ensure a "diplomatic solution to the Russian invasion."

The Washington Post reported on Monday, citing officials, that European countries are considering deploying a total of 25,000-30,000 military personnel to Ukraine, but not directly on the contact line.

On Tuesday, Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera reported that EU countries voiced different positions on the issue of deploying peacekeeping forces to Ukraine at the recent informal summit in Paris. In particular, Spain, Poland, Germany and Italy reportedly opposed the idea, while France, the Scandinavian countries and the Baltic states, as well as the United Kingdom, declared their readiness to participate in the initiative.

5 automakers in SKorea to recall some 76k vehicles

Seoul, Feb. 19 (UNI) : Five domestic and foreign automakers in South Korea will voluntarily recall some 76,000 vehicles for manufacturing defects, the transport ministry said Wednesday.

Kia Corp. will recall 35,571 units of two different models, including Niro electric vehicle (EV) for faulty airbag systems, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

BMW Korea will recall 24,371 units of 28 models, such as the 528i sedan, for problems in the cooling pump wire connector that pose a fire risk.

Software errors in transformer and hybrid control system prompted a recall in 8,056 units of two models, including Arkana hybrid sport utility vehicle (SUV) from Renault Korea Motors.

Tesla Korea will repair the electric power assist steering (EPAS) system's software errors in 7,781 units of Model Y. Jaguar Land Rover Korea will take corrective actions on 603 units of four models, including the Defender 110 P300 SUV, due to software efforts in the touch screen. Vehicle owners can visit repair and service centers to replace the faulty parts free of charge.

Over 200 people killed in rapid support forces' attacks in Sudan

Budapest, Feb 19 (UNI) : More than 200 people, including children and women, have been killed and hundreds of others have been injured in attacks by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan over the past three days, the Al-Araby Al-Jadeed news portal reported.

Two villages in White Nile State were attacked, the report said on Tuesday, adding that the region was previously completely free of any military action.

No point in changing Panama Canal toll system : Vice President

Panama City, Feb 19 (UNI) : The system of collecting toll from ships in the Panama Canal has proven its effectiveness for 25 years of work, and there is no point in changing it now, Boris Moreno, vice president for operations at the Panama Canal, told Sputnik. "We see no need in changing the system because it has been working well for 25 years," Moreno said.

The system of setting a price for passing through the canal based on a vessel's load capacities is confirmed by its authorities and the Panamanian government after a public hearing, he said, adding that



all potential clients may attend the hearing and express their worries and disagreements, which "are being taken into account."

Only two countries have the benefit of free transit through the Panama Canal. Apart from the US, Colombian military vessels

also have a right of free passage, the executive also said, adding that "apart from those two exemptions, all countries pay the same."

Italian police seize 788 kg of cocaine in major drug bust

Rome, Feb. 19 (UNI) : Italian finance police seized a record 788 kg of cocaine in a large-scale anti-drug operation on Tuesday, marking one of the largest drug hauls ever intercepted by the country's authorities. The operation, conducted by the Guardia di Finanza in collaboration with Italy's National Customs Agency, took place at the southern port of Gioia Tauro in the Calabria region, police confirmed in a statement.

The cocaine was concealed in three shipping containers arriving from South America, destined for various ports in Italy and Spain. Investigators found the drugs hidden

inside hundreds of pallet bags and in the engine compartment of a container carrying frozen fish.

According to officials, the seized cocaine had an estimated street value of approximately 126 million euros (131.6 million U.S. dollars).

Gioia Tauro, covering a total area of 440 hectares, is Italy's largest transshipment port and ranks as the ninth-largest container port in Europe. It is considered a major gateway for international drug trafficking, particularly cocaine.

In a separate operation on Saturday, finance police confiscated an additional 110 kg of cocaine at the

same port, with an estimated market value of 20 million euros (20.8 million U.S. dollars). Cocaine smuggled into Europe is primarily transported by sea from South America, entering either through major northern European ports in Belgium and the Netherlands or, via the Strait of Gibraltar, through southern ports such as Gioia Tauro. From there, the drugs are distributed overland to central and northern Europe.

According to Italy's Anti-Drug Agency, 30.56 percent of all cocaine seized nationwide in 2023, approximately 5.3 tonnes, was discovered in containers at Gioia Tauro.

Trump cuts target next generation of scientists, public health leaders: report

New York, Feb. 19 (UNI) U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to shrink the size of the federal work force dealt blows to thousands of civil servants in the past few days, but the cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services, coming on the heels of the coronavirus pandemic, the worst public health crisis in a century, have been especially jarring, reported The New York Times on Tuesday.

"Experts say the firings threaten to leave the country exposed to further shortages of health workers, putting Americans at risk if another crisis

erupts," noted the report. "The firings have also excised the next generation of leaders at the CDC (the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the NIH (the National Institutes of Health), the Food and Drug Administration, and other agencies that the department oversees."

The dismissals have also rattled graduate students eyeing careers in public health and the biomedical sciences, it said, adding that the cuts came as Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the prominent vaccine skeptic and newly confirmed health secretary,

is starting in his job. Officials at the NIH are especially concerned that he might target more senior employees by asking for their resignations.

"The cuts over the weekend have touched all manner of health workers. They are not only scientists and disease hunters but also administrators who oversee grant proposals, analysts figuring out new ways to cut health care costs and computer specialists who try to improve the government's antiquated systems for tracking health information," added the report.

1 killed, 2 injured in Israeli attacks on South Lebanon

Beirut, Feb 19 (UNI) An Israeli airstrike on a vehicle in the southern Lebanese village of Aita al-Shaab killed one person on Wednesday, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported.

Lebanese broadcaster Al-Jadeed said the deceased was a member of Hezbollah.

Separately, NNA reported that two people were wounded by Israeli gunfire in the village of Al-Wazzani.

The incidents follow the expiration early Tuesday of

the deadline for Israel's full withdrawal from southern Lebanon under a ceasefire agreement that took effect on Nov. 27, 2024. While Israel has withdrawn from most areas, it maintains positions at five strategic locations.

Israeli military spokesperson Nadav Shoshani said the army would maintain a presence at the five hilltop locations for observation and to protect communities in northern Israel, calling it a "temporary measure"

approved by the U.S.-led body monitoring the ceasefire.

Lebanon's presidency said on Tuesday that any remaining Israeli presence on its territory would be considered an "occupation," reserving the right "to employ all means" to ensure a full withdrawal.

Lebanese authorities have also accused Israeli forces of continuing airstrikes in southern Lebanon, causing casualties, despite the ceasefire.

Brazilian prosecution accuses Bolsonaro of attempted coup : Reports

Buenos Aires, Feb 19 (UNI) : Brazil's Office of the Prosecutor General has accused Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro of an attempted coup over rots of 2022, the G1 news portal reported on Wednesday.

The former president also stands accused of the violent abolition of the democratic rule of law and participating in a criminal organization, the portal added.

If the accusations are accepted by the Brazilian Supreme Court, Bolsonaro will become a plaintiff in a criminal case.

Despite being barred from running for office, Bolsonaro reportedly plans to run in Brazil's 2026 presidential election. He expects Trump to pressure Brazilian judges to delay enforcement of his political ban. The ex-leader suggested that Trump could impose economic sanctions on the government of current Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, which could help his political comeback. In January 2023, Bolsonaro supporters, who had been protesting the results of the presidential election since late 2022, seized government buildings in the capital of Brazil, including the Congress, the presidential palace, and the Supreme Court.

Israeli forces kill Palestinian teenager in South Gaza

Gaza, Feb 19 (UNI) : The Israeli military forces opened fire on Wednesday on a group of Palestinians near the airport area in Rafah, the southern Gaza Strip, killing a 16-year-old Palestinian teenager, according to local sources and witnesses.

Palestinian medics confirmed that Mahmoud Abu Zakar succumbed to his injuries after being struck by Israeli fire. His body was later transported to a nearby hospital for medical examination.

The Israeli army said in a statement that soldiers opened fire after spotting a suspect near their position

in southern Gaza, claiming the suspect continued advancing despite warnings and posed an immediate threat.

The army reiterated its calls for Gaza residents to comply with its instructions, avoid approaching Israeli positions, and use designated inspection routes.

In the wake of this incident, the Central Emergency Committee in Rafah reported that more than 20 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the city since the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas was signed on

January 19. The committee condemned the ongoing military incursions into the city with Israeli vehicles continuing to penetrate its borders, calling on international mediators to pressure Israel to uphold the ceasefire terms and stop the violations.

It also emphasised the extensive destruction caused by the Israeli military in the city, which has been under occupation for nearly nine months.

The destruction has led to the collapse of infrastructure, homes, and public institutions, leaving the city needing reconstruction.

Policeman killed in attack on anti-polio team in NW Pakistan

Islamabad, Feb 19 (UNI) : A policeman was killed in firing by unknown gunmen in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, police officials said on Wednesday.

According to the police officials, some unknown armed persons attacked the polio vaccination team in the Bajaur district of the province.

Police added that the team was engaged in a door-to-door vaccination campaign to give polio drops to children when the attack happened.

The assailants fled the scene after carrying out the attack, and a search operation is underway to arrest the culprits, said the police.

Following the incident, a heavy contingent of police reached the area. Security forces cordoned off the area and launched an investigation into the attack.

Earlier this month, a policeman assigned to ensure security of polio workers was shot dead in Jamrud district of KP province.

According to government officials, 74 polio cases were reported in the country in 2024, while this year only two new cases have been reported so far.

Musk says will bring Starliner astronauts back in 4 weeks

Washington, Feb 19 (UNI) : The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) head billionaire Elon Musk announced that he plans to bring back the astronauts who came to the International Space Station (ISS) on the ill-fated Boeing Starliner in about a month.

"I think it's about four weeks to bring them back," Musk said when asked by President Donald Trump during their joint interview on Fox News when he plans to launch.

Trump pointed out that Musk's team now has a go-ahead from him to fly the astronauts back to the earth.

"At the president's instruction, we are accelerating the return of the astronauts, which was postponed, kind of to a ridiculous degree," Musk said. "They're left up there for political reasons, which is not good"

The Starliner was launched on June 5 and docked to the ISS the next day. US astronauts Barry Wilmore and Sunita Williams were expected to stay in orbit for eight days and return to Earth on the same spacecraft. However, the undocking of the Starliner has been delayed several times due to problems with thrusters and the discovery of helium leaks. This has raised safety concerns, forcing Wilmore and Williams to remain on the ISS.

Trump says to exclude Musk from space-related gov't decisions

Washington, Feb 19 (UNI) U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk will be excluded in space-related decision-making.

Trump made this remark at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida in reply to a question about Musk's potential conflicts of interest amid his efforts to cut government spending, according to media reports.

"So anything to do with possibly even space, we won't let Elon partake in that," he told reporters.

The White House has said Musk would recuse himself from any conflicts of interest between his business interests and efforts to reduce government spending via the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

On Monday, regarding Musk's role in the Trump administration, the White House said he is a White House employee and senior adviser to the president. Musk is not an employee of DOGE, it said, adding that he has no decision-making authority. Trump said Tuesday that Musk could be called an "employee" or "consultant."

Travel

Driving down the Romantic Road in

Germany

If in the olden times, all roads in Europe led to Rome, in the modern (at least for us Indians) they lead to Switzerland, Bollywood being its unofficial brand ambassador. When compared to the Alpine extravaganza of crisp mountain air, idyllic towns, placid lakes and panoramic views that Switzerland has to offer, its lesser explored immediate neighbours, namely, northern Italy, north eastern France and Belgium and southern Germany offer an additional abundance of history and heritage, art and architecture for the discerning traveller. South Germany, with its fairytale castles, grand palaces and timeless medieval towns, exudes the kind of rustic charm that would take one's breath away.

Situated literally within the geographic centre or the 'heart' of Europe, as is true of any heart, the region of south Germany has been wooed and won, as well as ripped open and trampled upon by many a ruler. This is reflected by a colourful mix of its region's culture, cuisine, customs and constructions, dating as far back as the time of the Romans. Such is the architectural diversity of south Germany that, for example, if one happens

to pass by an ancient Roman amphitheatre, the next turn would have a Renaissance-style town hall flanked by a Gothic church overlooking a Baroque-style residential palace with a Rococo-style facade.

Frankfurt or Munich could serve as a good base from where one can plan an onward journey. The old town centres of Frankfurt and Munich provide spectacular viewing. The recommended tourist destinations around these major cities have been principally divided into two regions: the Rhine Valley and The Romantic Road.

The Rhine valley
The stretch of the Rhine valley between Rudesheim and Koblenz has more castles per

square kilometre perched on hill tops and looming over the meandering Rhine than anywhere else in Europe, while idyllic towns ornament every bend of the Rhine. The chair lift at Asmshausen leading to walking trails along the vineyard studded Rhine gorge, river cruises from Bingen to Koblenz and then onto Cologne, castle converted hotel accommodations such as that in schloss Schoenburg with panoramic views are some options one would be tempted to try more than once. The architectural diversity of the heritage buildings of the town of Trier on the Moselle tributary is inspiring.

The Altstadt or the old town of Heidelberg on river Neckar with its imposing Renaissance-style castle looking over an intricate network of cobblestone streets takes you down the history lane. So does the walk along the Altebrücke or the old bridge at Wurzburg. A guided tour of the UNESCO-protected Residenz palace at Wurzburg that boasts of an exquisitely painted ceiling bigger in area than the Sistine Chapel including the room of mirrors is a complete

revelation.

For the holidayer looking for that perfect leisurely getaway, the Black Forest region typically has 'the woods lovely, dark and deep, albeit with no promises to keep.' The birthplace of cuckoo clocks, it is ironical to know that time seems to stand so still in a place where keeping time is everything.

Alpine vistas abound in this region, offering one many hiking trails and picturesque drives in the summers and extreme skiing in the winters. I am also tempted to include the heritage city of Strasbourg in France and the Rhine falls located at the Swiss-German border town of Schaffhausen in the Black Forest region due to their proximity to the same. Strasbourg has Venice-like canals dissecting its old town. One can marvel at the potpourri of its architectural wonders from the vantage point of a boat along the canal.

The romantic road

Aptly called the Romantic Road, the route connecting Wurzburg in the north to Fussen in the south has fairytale towns all along its path, Rothenberg ob der Tauber being the prototype. The magnificence of the three 'dreamier than ever' masterpieces commissioned by the eccentric king Ludwig of Bavaria, namely castle Neuschwanstein (the same castle that inspired the Walt Disney logo), Linderhof palace with its shockingly lavish interiors and excellently landscaped gardens including a manmade

underground lake and grotto, and palace Herrenchiemsee (the Versailles of Germany) situated on an island in the middle of the lake Chiemsee cannot simply be described in words. Though Germany, like most of Europe, boasts of an extensive rail network with train timings precise by the millisecond, a self-driven four-wheeler would do great for navigation, even for shoe-string budgeteers if they are more than four people traveling together. One can do better justice to the region in terms of time convenience and accessibility to monuments on a self-driven tour. One can also obviously book with the tour companies like the many you will find on flipping through the pages of this very newspaper. But then again, not many Indian tour operators have this region covered on their itinerary and Bollywood song and dance sequences have yet to fully endorse this hidden treasure of Europe. Dr Saumil Sheth is a practising retina specialist and eye surgeon at Envision eye hospital and Ojas eye care.

Fast facts

Climate: With summers not as hot as the Mediterranean, winters not as cold as the Alps, it's just perfect for some of the best wine in the world to be produced here.

Best time to visit: April to September. Most of the sites of tourist interest remain practically shut in the winter, unless one has serious skiing plans. Most castles and palaces are open all year round, but guided tours in English are frequent only during the summers. Castle converted hotel accommodations aren't very heavy on the pockets, but they are open in the summers only and get sold out rather quickly.



New Zealand

A potpourri of experiences

New Zealand may be an island nation on the far end of the world, but it can boast one of the most untarnished landscapes you will ever have the pleasure of seeing. The incomparable natural beauty alongside the vast number of outdoor activities that one can indulge in make New Zealand a tourist's paradise. Walking through the countryside is popular among locals and tourists alike. This involves backpacking through lush forests or over magnificent mountains. A number of biking trails that take you through a whole different array of stunning visuals are also available.

The Waitomo Caves in the southern Waikato region of the North Island is a key tourist attraction. The caves, considered to be thousands of years old, are home to a huge number of glowworms that provide the only light to a section of the caves that is hidden away from natural light. The caves are also renowned for certain areas which exhibit stalactites and stalagmites. A cave system close to the Waitomo Caves, known as Gardener's Gut, holds the tallest stalagmite in New Zealand, the 'Birthday Candle.'

Milford Sound, a fjord in the Fiordland National Park on New Zealand's South Island is the most visited tourist destination in New Zealand. Day-long or overnight cruises are organized that will display the phenomenal natural splendour. The brilliant scenery, which was made possible by a

huge glacier in the last ice age, includes great cliffs and waterfalls, as well as marine and bird life. There is an underwater tourist observatory, which allows visitors to view black coral, which is otherwise not found so close to the surface of the water.

One of the more fascinating tourist experiences that you can explore is the Maori Hangi Dinner. Tours are set up to take you to one of the Maori villages in the Rotorua region of the North Island, where you will be treated to jaw-dropping displays of Maori weaponry, the graceful poi dance and the haka dance, that has been made famous by the New Zealand rugby team. This accompanied by a meal cooked in the traditional hangi style, where the food is cooked in underground pit ovens, leads to a truly unforgettable indigenous experience.

Adrenaline junkies are in for a field day as well. Queenstown, a resort town on the South Island, is known as the 'Adventure Capital of the World'. Jet

New Zealand is a destination

that caters to a variety of travellers.

Aaditya

Dave takes you on a journey

boating, white water rafting, bungee jumping and mountain biking are extremely popular here. If you happen to visit the town during the ski season, you will find that Queenstown is a major snow sport destination. Besides the sports that you can enjoy during the day, Queenstown also has a lively nightlife, as well as the reputation of being a food and wine hub of New Zealand. From 2010 onwards, Queenstown has also played host to the International Jazz Festival, with an assortment of musicians from around the world displaying their sublime skills.

Forts of Bhangarh, Rajasthan

Mighty forts of Bhangarh arouse a strange sceptical feeling in the atmosphere and cause restlessness and anxiety among visitors on their tour to this fort. If rumours are to be taken seriously then people here have even went missing! These folklores have added immensely to the popularity of cheap flights to India with many wanting to check out the most haunted place in India. With an utmost enigma to be unfolded, Bhangarh Forts promise to thrill tourists who travel to this haunted destination.

Brij Raj Bhavan Heritage Hotel, Kota

The 178-year-old Brij Raj Bhavan Palace in Kota, Rajasthan, which was converted into a heritage hotel in the 1980s, has a resident ghost! The gentleman ghost of Major Burton is said to be harmless.

Delhi Cantt, New Delhi

India's capital city of New Delhi has its own share of ghosts and ghost stories! Delhi is well connected with other parts of the country via road-links, rail networks and airways. Therefore travellers do not face many hassles in an effort to meet Delhi's most famous ghost or more appropriately 'ghostess'! The area around Delhi Cantt is said to be haunted by a vengeful spirit of a lady, clad in white dress, who asks motorists for lift and then suddenly disappears!

Dumas Beach, Gujarat

The Dumas in Gujarat is a haunted cremation site where many locals have complained to have heard weird voices. Especially at night people have heard strange whispers warning of the danger around the proximity of this beach. It is believed that this Hindu crematorium is lurking full with spirits of dead people!

Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad

A big ticket draw for ghost hunters and 'ghost lovers', Ramoji Film City is said to be haunted by notorious ghosts of dead soldiers. This film city is built on the war grounds of Nizams and if locals are to be believed then this place is haunted big time!

Rajeev Gandhi International airport

The rumour that has been doing rounds is

Spookiest places in India

that Rajeev Gandhi International Airport located in Hyderabad is haunted by the spirits of those who were killed during the airport's construction. No wonder, anyone with even a mild interest in the paranormal can be seen haggling hard for cheap flights to India that land up in Hyderabad.

Taj Mahal Hotel, Mumbai

This top Indian hotel has welcomed almost every major global celebrity who has taken flights to India. But the luxurious environ and top of the line services do not devoid the hotel of its spookiness! The hotel is said to be



haunted by the ghost of its architect.

Shaniwarwada Fort, Pune

A mighty fort built by the rulers of Peshwa Dynasty contains many bone-chilling stories within its walls. None is as heartbreaking as what happened hundreds of years back at this mighty fort. A prince, heir to the royal throne, was killed on his close relative's orders. It is said that visitors taking a trip to the fort after nightfall can still hear his cries for help.

The Savoy, Mussoorie

This holiday hotel dates back to 1902. It is said that the corridors of this hotel are haunted by the ghost of Lady Garnet Orme, who was found dead in mysterious circumstances.

Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman picks up injury in Champions Trophy opener



Karachi, Feb 19 (UNI) A pall of gloom was casted on Pakistan's Champions Trophy title defence as reputed opener Fakhar Zaman pulled up injured on the second delivery of their first game against New Zealand.

Making a diving attempt while fielding in the deep, Zaman was seen in discomfort and was tended

to by the physio before he was forced off the field.

"Fakhar Zaman is being assessed and examined for a muscular sprain and further updates will be provided in due course," the PCB said in a statement.

Zaman had been a prolific feature of the Pakistan squad when they won their first-ever Champions Trophy title in

2017, an ICC report said.

The southpaw opener bashed a sensational hundred in the summit clash against India to inspire a 180-run win.

Pakistan's title defence at home had already been dealt when Saim Ayub was ruled out of the tournament after he twisted his ankle during the Test series in South Africa.

Bad moment for Atletico captain Koke to suffer muscle injury

Madrid, Feb 19 (UNI) : Atletico Madrid has lost club captain Koke to a muscle injury at almost the worst possible moment of the season.

The club informed on its website that Koke "ended the game last Saturday against RC Celta experiencing some discomforts," and adding that "the midfielder underwent some tests following the match, and the medical tests conducted by the medical staff confirmed that the captain has suffered an injury to right leg."

Atletico explained that he will "undergo physiotherapy session and recovery work in the gym," although the club doesn't say when he will recover,

the Spanish sporting press indicated the injury is "not unimportant," meaning Koke could be out of action for several weeks.

The injury came a week before Atletico's visit to FC Barcelona in the first leg of its Copa del Rey semi-final tie and a fortnight ahead of the first leg of the knockout stage of the Champions League, where they could possibly face Bayern Munich or local rival, Real Madrid.

Atletico also has some vital games in La Liga coming up as it looks to make up its one-point deficit with FC Barcelona and Real Madrid, with a visit to an improving Valencia next Saturday and a home game against fourth place Athletic Club Bilbao in the following weekend.

IOC president Bach issues rallying cry to youth

Beijing, Feb 19 (UNI) : International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach expressed his expectations for the younger generations during his visit to Beijing Sports University.

Bach Tuesday emphasized the IOC's effort to bridge esports with traditional sports, highlighting the importance of maintaining Olympic values throughout this process.

He said the fact that esports has already become a phenomenon among youngsters has raised concerns, such as those over fair play and gender equality. "From the very beginning there is a very clear red line what we would not engage with are the games which are not

aligned with the Olympic values. We need the young generation who knows how to communicate, and they must seize the opportunities and take the responsibilities."

Bach also expressed his concern on advancing Olympic education and underscored the need to foster global cooperation and mutual respect to bridge cultures and promote peace worldwide.

"I think solidarity is going beyond respect. It doesn't only mean I respect you, but also means I'm ready to help you and accept help from you."

Asked how artificial intelligence might transform the Olympic movement, Bach noted that the IOC is working to adapt and foster the integration of

AI and the Olympic movement, including initiatives like the "Olympic AI Agenda."

Bach stressed that AI will assist athletes in training more effectively by shaping "every fiber of your muscles", but it is crucial to maintain Olympic values amid technological advancements.

Bach reiterated solidarity, saying, "the gap between nations is already big, we have to close the gap. Every athlete can benefit from a personalized training program and wherever the coach is working can benefit from these programs. The young generation's challenge and the opportunity is to find the potential and always respect the dignity of the athlete. I wish you good luck."

Bangladesh captain looking at Nahid Rana to challenge India

Dubai, Feb 19 (UNI) : Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto expects Nahid Rana and the rest of the pace bowling unit to be fit and raring to go against India on Thursday, their opening match of the Champions Trophy.

Facing the media in Dubai on Wednesday ahead of their opening match, Shanto had to quench the thirst of the reporters – both Bangladeshi and foreign –

regarding pace sensation Rana and Bangladesh's evolving fast-bowling unit.

Shanto feels Bangladesh have come a long way from being a spin-dominated attack in recent years, thanks to the emergence of a variety of pacers, according to The Daily Star report. "We always struggled with (against) pace but last couple of years we have got quite a few fast bowlers. We have got

Nahid Rana and Takin (Ahmed) – the way they are bowling, I think it helps the team," the Bangladesh captain said, adding that they still have a good spin-bowling unit to complement the pacers. The 15-member Bangladesh squad features five pacers and there are two travelling reserves with the team, just in case, in the form of Hasan Mahmud and Khaled Ahmed. However, most of the focus on the bowling

front was on Rana, who can clock upwards of 140 kph, even reaching 150 kph at times. Shanto said that is good for the whole team's morale. "Last few matches, he bowled really well and bowled fast. When we see him bowling like that, it motivates us and see how we can give the opposition team a challenge," said the captain. The Bangladesh skipper, meanwhile, said that the issues that had surfaced about Rana's

burn-out have been taken good care of.

"There will obviously be more focus on him. But he's doing his job quietly, training normally. I believe he will give his best if picked tomorrow."

"Obviously he played quite a few matches on the trot in the BPL. But he has been taken good care off by the physio and trainer. So if he gets picked tomorrow, I believe he will be fresh," Shanto concluded.

Yuvraj Sandhu & Manu Gandas enjoy two-shot advantage at halfway stage

Ahmedabad, Feb 19 (UNI) : Chandigarh's Yuvraj Sandhu, winner of the PGTI season-opener last week, and Manu Gandas of Gurugram enjoyed a two-shot advantage at the halfway stage at Gujarat Open 2025 being played at the Glade One Golf Resort & Club here on Wednesday.

Yuvraj (32-34) and Manu (31-35), a former winner at Glade One, were placed atop the leaderboard with identical totals of six-under 66 as they carded second-round scores of 34 and 35 respectively.

Saptak Talwar (34-34) of Greater Noida posted a second straight 34 to be placed third at four-under 68.

Defending champion Abhinav Lohan (36) and Ahmedabad's Varun Parikh (34)

were both placed tied 10th at two-under 70. The first two rounds of the event consisted of nine holes each. After the completion of 18 holes on Wednesday, the cut was applied at even-par 72. Fifty-two professionals made the cut.

The third and fourth rounds will now consist of 18 holes each. The tournament will be played over a total of 54 holes.

The par for the course in the first two rounds was 36. The par for the course in the third and fourth rounds will be 72.

Yuvraj Sandhu produced two birdies on day two to rise one spot into the joint lead. Overnight leader Manu Gandas continued on top of the pack as joint leader as a result of his two birdies and one bogey on Wednesday.

New Zealand defeat Pakistan by 60 runs

Karachi, Feb 19 (UNI) : New Zealand continued their dominance over Pakistan, securing a comprehensive 60-run victory in the Champions Trophy clash at the National Stadium on Wednesday.

The Black Caps posted an imposing 320/5 in 50 overs before restricting the hosts to 260 in 47.2 overs.

Pakistan's chase faltered from the outset, with Fakhar Zaman (24) unavailable to bat initially due to injury. Babar Azam (64) and Saud Shakeel (6) opened the innings but struggled against the early swing. Shakeel departed cheaply, and Mohammad Rizwan's (3) innings was cut short by a stunning catch from Glenn Phillips at backward point.

Babar, playing cautiously, reached a half-century off 81 balls, while Fakhar, despite re-entering the fray, was unable to make a significant impact. Pakistan's sluggish start in the powerplay left them with a daunting asking rate, exacerbated by New Zealand's disciplined bowling. The spinners extracted double the turn compared to Pakistan's slow bowlers, tightening the screws further.

Tom Latham (118*) and Will Young (107) were the architects of New Zealand's innings, guiding their team past 300 after early setbacks. Glenn Phillips provided late fireworks, accelerating the scoring in the final 10 overs, where New Zealand amassed 113 runs.

Pakistan's bowlers had kept things tight in the initial 40 overs but lost control at the death. Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah were particularly expensive in the slog overs, as New Zealand capitalised on the lack of variation. With this win, New Zealand extended their dominance over Pakistan, having now beaten them thrice in quick succession.

Gujarat 60+ men win a thrilling final for team title in National TT

Indore, Feb 19 (UNI) : Gujarat's 60+ men's team showcased resilience and tactical brilliance to overcome a formidable West Bengal side 3-2 in a thrilling final at the UTT 31st Masters National Championships, held at the Abhay Prashal Indoor Hall here. The nearly three-and-a-half-hour showdown kept spectators on their seat edges last evening as teams fought tooth and nail for the coveted title.

The decisive moment came when Parag Shah delivered a stellar performance against Bengal's Debasis Saha in

the final match. Parag dominated the first two closely contested games but faced a strong comeback from Debasis, who levelled the match at 2-2. With Gujarat's bench cheering him on, Parag altered his strategy, taking an aggressive approach to surge ahead in the decider.

Despite a late fightback from Debasis, Parag held his nerve to seal the victory, securing Gujarat's team gold.

However, Bengal took the lead with Vivek Kumar Arora defeating Parag 3-2 in the opening tie. Gujarat quickly responded as

Laxmanrao Thakre levelled the contest with a solid win over Debasis.

The crucial third rubber saw Sanjay Tayal edge out Abir Basak in a thrilling five-game battle, giving Gujarat a 2-1 lead. However, Bengal struck back as Arora comfortably defeated Laxmanrao, setting the stage for a dramatic final clash, where Parag rose to the occasion to guide his team to victory.

The championships also saw a remarkable display of skill in the 75+ men's singles category, where Balbir Singh Virdi of Chandigarh clinched the

gold medal with a hard-fought victory over Maharashtra's Satish B. Kulkarni. Virdi started strong, winning the first game with ease.

However, Satish, known for his defensive prowess, bounced back and nearly stole the second game before Virdi edged past him 14-12. The third game was equally intense, but Virdi maintained his composure to secure the title. Satish had to settle for silver despite a valiant effort.

The doubles events witnessed high-intensity battles as teams from Delhi, Madhya Pradesh,

and Karnataka claimed gold in their respective categories. In the 65+ women's doubles, Delhi's Indu Sharma and Sunita Mudgil produced a stunning comeback to defeat Maharashtra's Manisha Vishwas Bodas and Veena Dhanajay Joshi 3-1. Despite losing the opening game, the Delhi duo regrouped and took control, winning the next three games convincingly.

Meanwhile, hosts Madhya Pradesh had plenty to cheer for as Rashmi Soni and Rubi Kuar staged an incredible fightback to defeat West Bengal's Mantu Murmu

and Karabi Maity in a pulsating five-game final. The MP pair, down 1-2, won a tight fourth game before decisively clinching the decider.

In the 80+ men's doubles, Delhi's veteran duo of B.N. Khazanchi and Anand Prakash displayed their vast experience to cruise past Karnataka's K. Satyanarayan and K.V. Krishnamurthy in straight games. The Delhi pair's superior coordination and tactical execution proved too strong for their southern counterparts, earning them the gold medal.

Printed, Published and Owned by
Mohammed Shafi

Printed at KR Graphics,
2-3-703/8, Tirumala Nagar Colony, Amberpet,
Hyderabad - 500 013 and
Published from # 2-3-645/8/1,
Back Side of CPL Church, Prem Nagar,
Amberpet, Hyderabad-500 013

Editor: Mohammed Shafi
R.N.I.No. : TELENG/2011/39668

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Special Ticket checking drives to ensure safe travel of passengers during Mahakumbh : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Feb 19 : In a concerted effort to enhance safety, security and passenger amenities over the Division, special drives have been launched by Waltair Division from 12th February to 28th February-2025.

These special drives focused on areas include crowd management, enhanced safety measures, smooth train operations, and improved passenger amenities.

Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair, Shri Manoj Kumar Sahoo, emphasized the objectives of these initiatives and advised to ensure



comfortable travel of passengers and pilgrims, enhance safety measures across all stations and in trains and punctual running of trains. Special

efforts are being made to manage overcrowding issues, safety and security of passengers.

To ensure effective crowd management and

smooth train operation, joint teams comprising Commercial Ticket Checking staff and Railway Protection Force have been formed for enabling smooth entry, queuing, conducting extensive checks at major stations.

These checks focus on preventing unauthorized entry into reserved and designated coaches for Divyangjan passengers and women travelers etc.

During this drive from 12th February to till date more than 9300 cases of ticketless travel, irregular travel, unbooked luggage etc were traced that resulted realizing a penalty of

about Rs 46 lakhs towards fare & penalty.

Passengers are advised to adhere to safe travel practices, carry valid tickets, stay vigilant regarding their belongings, report any unattended luggage to railway authorities, and cooperate with the railway staff for a better travel experience.

Appeal to passengers to maintain proper queues for convenient ticketing and to ease boarding/alighting of trains and using digital payments with QR enabled facilities, not to carry inflammable articles and show proper ID proof on demand by the Ticket Checking Authority.

General Manager, SCR, Arun Kumar Jain, Conducts Inspection of Hyd Division

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Feb 19 : Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway undertook inspection of Hyderabad Division today i.e., 19th February, 2025. He was accompanied by Shri Lokesh Vishnoi, Divisional Railway Manager, Hyderabad Division and other senior officials from both the Headquarters and



Division throughout the inspection. The General Manager carried out inspection from Mukhdeto Medchal and reviewed the safety aspects of tracks, signalling, newly installed electric traction systems, passenger amenities and further development plans.

He conducted a detailed inspection of Umri Railway station and reviewed the passenger amenities available. He also inspected the Station Master's office and examined the station records. Further, he inspected the maintenance of tracks and other safety equipment at the station. He interacted with the Track maintainers and enquired about their working conditions and safety practices being followed.

The General Manager inspected Basar Railway station, he reviewed the facilities and inspected the Station Master's Office, working of ATVM Machines, One Station One Products Stall (OSOP) and

circulating area of the station. He also reviewed the progress of on-going station redevelopment works at Basar undertaken as part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) with a cost of Rs. 11.33 crore. He advised the officials to further speed up the works so as to complete the project as targeted. He also inspected Godavari Railway Bridge and examined the maintenance and safety aspects.

Later, the General Manager conducted a detailed inspection of Nizamabad Railway station and reviewed the passenger amenities. He reviewed the redevelopment plans of Nizamabad Railway station which are being taken up with an expenditure of Rs. 53.3 crores.

He also inspected the Running room and crew booking lobby at the station and enquired with the staff members regarding the facilities available. He also inspected

the Accident Relief Train at the station. The General Manager and senior officials participated in a tree plantation program towards promotion of greener environment at the station.

Shri Arun Kumar Jain proceeded onto Kamareddy Railway station, where he inspected the station premises and OSOP stall. He also reviewed the redevelopment works undertaken at Kamareddy station with a cost of Rs. 39.9 crores as part of ABSS. He examined the safety procedures and guidelines being followed while carrying out construction works. He also inspected Gate No. 238 in Kamareddy section and interacted with the Gateman and track maintainers. Later, the General Manager conducted a detailed inspection of Manoharabad Railway station and inspected the station master's office, circulating area and station façade.

Honouring the Legacy of a Legendary Leader GM, Central Railway, Dharam Veer Meena pays

Central Railway Celebrates Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 19 : On the occasion of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti, Central Railway celebrated the enduring legacy of the visionary Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, whose leadership, military genius, and contributions to the region's cultural and historical heritage continue to inspire generations.

Mr Dharam Veer Meena, General Manager, Central Railway paid rich tributes to the Great King on his birth anniversary. The CSMT heritage building echoed with shouts of "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ki Jay" as the General Manager garlanded the bust of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the CSMT heritage building.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Meena said "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is one of the greatest national heroes of India. He laid the foundation of Hindavi Swaraj which was based on Justice, Morality and Tolerance. He was truly a Benevolent, Generous and Secular King. Renaming this heritage terminus as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, serves



as a tribute to his relentless commitment to safeguarding his people, creating a just and progressive kingdom, and his indomitable spirit of

leadership." A significant milestone in this ongoing tribute came in March 1996, when the iconic Victoria Terminus (VT) was officially renamed in honour of the

legendary king as Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, later in 2017 the station was renamed as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT).

This change reflected the heartfelt sentiments of the people of Maharashtra and recognized the monumental role of Shivaji Maharaj in shaping the region's identity. Later, on 7th April 2004, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This architectural marvel built in 1887, remains one of Mumbai's most recognizable landmarks. As a vital railway hub, it continues to serve millions of daily commuters and long-distance travellers. While the name has changed appropriately, the station's legacy as a central symbol of Mumbai's bustling railway network endures. "As we commemorate the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, let us reflect on his legacy and the impact of his leadership. His values of courage, resilience, and a deep sense of duty to people continues to guide us as we forge ahead into the future, honouring his contributions to our rich history.

Principal Head of Departments, Senior Officers and staff of Central Railway were also present during the occasion.

Changes in Train Service Patterns : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 19 : In view of safety measures and the ongoing Road Under Bridge works between Bengaluru East and Bengaluru Cantonment Stations, the following changes have been made to train services:

Partial Cancellation of Trains:

1. Train No. 16521 Bangarapet - KSR Bengaluru MEMU, journey commencing on February 24 & 27, 2025, will be partially cancelled between Baiyappanahalli and KSR Bengaluru. It will short-terminate at Baiyappanahalli.

2. Train No. 56520 Hosapete-KSR Bengaluru Daily Passenger, journey commencing on February 24 & 27, 2025, will be partially cancelled between Yesvantpur and KSR Bengaluru. It will short-

terminate at Yesvantpur.

3. Train No. 17391 KSR Bengaluru-SSS Hubballi Daily Express, journey commencing on February 25 & 28, 2025, will be partially cancelled between KSR Bengaluru and Yesvantpur. It will originate from Yesvantpur instead of KSR Bengaluru.

4. Train No. 07339 SSS Hubballi-KSR Bengaluru Daily Express Special, journey commencing on February 23 & 26, 2025, will be partially cancelled between Yesvantpur and KSR Bengaluru. It will short-terminate at Yesvantpur.

5. Train No. 07340 KSR Bengaluru-SSS Hubballi Daily Express Special, journey commencing on February 24 & 27, 2025, will be partially cancelled between KSR Bengaluru and Yesvantpur. The train will originate from

Yesvantpur instead of KSR Bengaluru.

Diversion of Trains:
1. Train No. 12658 KSR Bengaluru-Dr MGR Chennai Central Daily Superfast Express, journey commencing on February 24 & 27, 2025, will be diverted to run via KSR Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, Hebbal, Banaswadi, SMVT Bengaluru, Krishnarajapuram, and Bangarapet stations.

2. Train No. 16593 KSR Bengaluru-Nanded Daily Express, journey commencing on February 24 & 27, 2025, will be diverted to run via KSR Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, and Yelahanka stations.

3. Train No. 06270 SMVT Bengaluru-Mysuru Daily Passenger Special, journey commencing on February 24 & 27, 2025, will be diverted to run via SMVT Bengaluru,

Banaswadi, Yesvantpur, and KSR Bengaluru stations.

4. Train No. 16022 Mysuru-Dr MGR Chennai Central Daily Express, journey commencing on February 24 & 27, 2025, will be diverted to run via KSR Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, Lottgollahalli, Banaswadi, Baiyappanahalli, and Krishnarajapuram.

5. Train No. 06269 Mysuru-SMVT Bengaluru Daily Passenger Special, journey commencing on February 24 & 27, 2025, will be diverted to run via KSR Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, Banaswadi, and SMVT Bengaluru stations.

The trains (12658, 16593, 06270, 16022, and 06269) will skip their regular scheduled stoppage at Bengaluru Cant. 6. Train No. 11013 Lokmanya Tilak-Coimbatore Daily Express, journey commencing on

Nitish announces development of industrial area in Dehri

Patna/ Rohtas, Feb 19 (UNI) : Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced to develop the industrial area of Dehri in Rohtas district.

Kumar visited Rohtas on Wednesday during his ongoing Pragati Yatra, where while announcing to develop an industrial area in Dehri he said it would open new vistas for the people. In addition to this, he said keeping in mind the immense tourism potential of the local places, the government has decided to construct a tourism haat near Indrapuri dam.

He said that for the overall progress of Rohtas district, the road networks would be further improved, bridge will be constructed on river Kav at Vajidpur in Sanjgauli block and on Sone canal on Nokha nasriganj Road. Apart from this the existing roads, bridges and other infrastructures would be widened and strengthened as per requirement. He said the old bus

stand in Kochas would be expanded and a new bus stand would be constructed there.

The Chief Minister, while reviewing the ongoing schemes in the district said that several public representatives and other people have shared their viewpoints regarding development of the area. He said the development oriented demands of the people would be fulfilled.

Outlining the achievements of his government since he came to power in the state on November 24, 2005, Kumar reiterated that late Atal Bihari Vajpayee made him Chief Minister. His relations with the BJP were quite old and would continue in future also, he claimed.

Kumar said after coming to power his government concentrated on development of each and every sector including health education infrastructure and women empowerment. Emphasising

special priorities to law and order for establishing sushasan in the state, the police system was strengthened and was made well equipped following which the law and order condition improved and communal as well as social harmony was established, he mentioned.

Various schemes were launched including seven resolves mission part I and part II and agricultural road maps were initiated in the state, he said adding that his government was giving special emphasis on providing jobs and employment opportunities to the youth. He said the target set under seven resolves part II for providing 10 lakh government jobs has been enhanced to 12 lakh. As of now more than 9 lakh government jobs have been provided and the rest of the target will be achieved soon, he said. Till date employment opportunities have been provided to 24 lakh people.