

## IN BRIEF

### Tuition teacher gets 3 yrs jail for sexually harassing minor girl student

Mumbai, Feb 19 (UNI) : A special court under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act awarded three years sentence to a 56-year-old tuition teacher, Sanjay Ghadigaokar, who was found guilty of sexually harassing a girl student in 2020 when she was 13 years old.

Court also imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 on him.

As per the girl's testimony, on February 22, 2020, she sat on the first bench and the teacher touched her thighs and then asked her if she liked his touch.

Later, the girl narrated the incident to her mother who lodged a complaint and the accused was arrested.

### 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.

## Governor garlands statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji on his 395th birth anniversary



(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Feb 19 : Governor C P Radhakrishnan garlanded the equestrian statue of Founder of Maratha Empire Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at CSM park here on the occasion of his 395th birth anniversary on Wednesday.

Minister of Skills and Employment Mangal Prabhat Lodha, MP Anil Desai, MLC Sunil Shinde, MLA Mahesh Sawant, Municipal Commissioner and Administrator of BMC Bhusan Gagrani, Secretary to the Governor Dr Prashant Narnaware, Additional Municipal Commissioner Dr. Ashwini Joshi and office bearers of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Smarak Samiti were present. The Governor later participated in the Shiv Jayanti celebrations organised by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation at Krida Bhavan.

Patriotic songs on the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj were presented by the Sangeet Kala Academy comprising music teachers of BMC on the occasion.

## Gyanesh Kumar takes charge as CEC



New Delhi, Feb 19 (UNI) : Former bureaucrat Gyanesh Kumar on Wednesday took charge as India's 26th Chief Election Commissioner, succeeding Rajiv Kumar who served in the post for over two years.

In his first address as CEC, he said, "The first step for nation building is voting."

"Therefore, every citizen of India who has completed 18 years of age should become an elector and should always vote. In accordance with the Constitution of India, electoral laws, rules and instructions issued therein, the Election Commission of

being developed, he informed.

It has been decided to remove encroachments on the forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and vigilance is being observed to ensure that the forts remain free from encroachments of any kind, said the Chief Minister.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 12 forts of Shivaji Maharaj in the state have been selected for nomination, he said.

These forts are a good example of architecture,

water conservation and ecology, and a presentation will be made in this regard at a programme to be held in Paris next week, he informed.

He said that these forts will become the world heritage sites and tourists from all over the world will come to see them.

Extending greetings to citizens on occasion of Shiv Janmotsav, the Chief Minister said that Shivaji Maharaj was a great administrator besides being a warrior. He was a guru of various management

## Rekha Gupta will fulfil Modi's resolve to make Delhi top capital of world: Shah

New Delhi, Feb 19 (UNI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday congratulated Rekha Gupta for being elected as the new Chief Minister of Delhi and said she will fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to make Delhi one of the top capitals of the world.

On social media handle X, Shah said, "I extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Rekha Gupta ji on being elected the leader of the BJP Legislative Party."

## Rekha Gupta to be next CM of Delhi

New Delhi, Feb 19 (UNI) : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader and Shalimar Bagh MLA Rekha Gupta will be the new Chief Minister of Delhi.

Meanwhile, New Delhi MLA Parvesh Verma has been named as the Deputy Chief Minister.

The announcement came after the BJP legislature party meeting, which was held at the party's Delhi unit office on Wednesday evening. 50-year-old Gupta, an MLA from the Shalimar Bagh constituency, defeated Aam Aadmi Party's leader Bandana Kumari in the recently held Assembly election.

Rekha Gupta is a prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, whose life is dedicated to social service and politics.

She began her political journey through the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) at Daulat Ram College, Delhi University, in 1992.

In 1996-97, she became

the President of the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU), where she actively raised student issues.

After being elected as a councillor from North Pitampura in 2007, she worked on developing basic facilities in the area, such as libraries, parks, and swimming pools.

For the welfare of women and children, she launched initiatives like the "Sumedha Yojana," which supported economically weaker female students in pursuing higher education.

As the head of the Women Welfare and Child Development Committee, she led empowerment campaigns for women.

The BJP returned to power in Delhi after 27 years, having won a clear majority of 48 out of 70 seats in the Assembly election, the results of which were declared on February 8. The swearing-in ceremony for the new chief minister is scheduled for February 20 at Ramlila Maidan.

## Fort conservation work on on behalf of Govt: CM

(Standard Post Bureau) Pune, Feb 19 : The forts associated with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj are bigger than temples for the people and their preservation and conservation work is being done by the Maharashtra government, said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday.

Speaking at the Shiv Janmotsav celebration organised at Shivneri Fort in this district, he said that various development works are underway at Raigad Fort, the capital of Swarajya.

Similarly, Shivneri is also

being developed, he informed.

It has been decided to remove encroachments on the forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and vigilance is being observed to ensure that the forts remain free from encroachments of any kind, said the Chief Minister.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 12 forts of Shivaji Maharaj in the state have been selected for nomination, he said.

These forts are a good example of architecture,

water conservation and ecology, and a presentation will be made in this regard at a programme to be held in Paris next week, he informed.

He said that these forts will become the world heritage sites and tourists from all over the world will come to see them.

Extending greetings to citizens on occasion of Shiv Janmotsav, the Chief Minister said that Shivaji Maharaj was a great administrator besides being a warrior. He was a guru of various management

techniques." Shivaji Maharaj dedicated his entire life to the work of people, so we remember him as an ideal king, a knowledgeable king and a wealthy yogi," he said.

During the Mughal Empire, when there were various kings and palaces, and atrocities were rampant in the Marathi land, Mother Jijau encouraged young Shivaji to stand up against this and establish his own Swarajya.

Accordingly, Shivaji Maharaj gathered 18 people from the Pagad caste and

formed an army of Mavalas. Through this, the battle of God, country and religion was started, and the self-respect of India was awakened in the true sense by establishing Swarajya, he said in a long speech.

The inspiration behind today's self-respecting India with a population of 140 crores is Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who is adored as a deity, he said.

"In next five years, we will celebrate the 400th birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj," added Fadnavis.

## Sanjay Raut criticises Mahayuti govt

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Feb 19 : Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Wednesday took a jibe at the BJP alliance government in the state, saying that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj never did politics of revenge, which is currently ongoing in Maharashtra.

He further said that Shivaji Maharaj did politics, but he never did politics of revenge. He took everyone along and established Hindavi Swarajya, he said.

There was democracy during Shivji Maharaj's time, which is referred to as 'Shivshahi', he noted. Even though there were no elections, no Home Minister or no Election Commission, there was democracy," he observed.

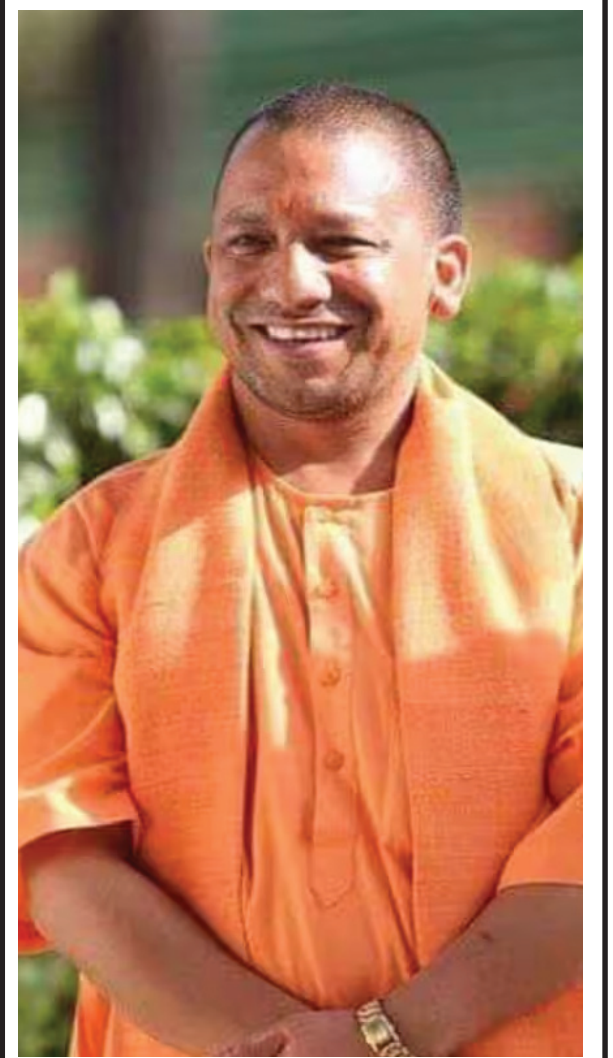
While emphasising the need of understanding Maharaj's history, the Sena (UBT) leader said, "When elections come, we will follow Chhatrapati's

path." He said that under Chhatrapati's sway, murderer and rapists were severely punished while citing the example of Beed district where crimes are increasing.

Corruption and bank robbers are safe in the state while people's money was looted openly, he said while targeting the government.

Criticising the BJP government further, Raut said that Shivaji Maharaj is not a deity of the government, but he is the deity and inspiration of the country and Maharashtra.

"Today is the day to remember Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Our Shiv Sena party was established under the inspiration of Maharaj. Shiv Sena started celebrating Shiv Jayanti across Maharashtra. After Lokmanya Tilak, Bal Thackeray started celebrating the Shiv Jayanti at every branch and mandal on a large scale," he added.



## 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.

(See on page 2)

## 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.

(See on page 3)

## 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.

(See on page 8)





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.

## Union FM Nirmala Sitharaman takes holy dip in Triveni Sangam

Prayagraj, Feb 19 (UNI) Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday experienced the sanctity of the Maha Kumbh by taking a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, in Prayagraj.

Expressing her joy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman described the experience as a 'profound moment' in the Sanatan tradition.

She was welcomed in Prayagraj by Uttar Pradesh Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi,' who extended his greetings on her arrival. Accompanied by her family, she participated in the sacred ritual at the Sangam.

Highlighting the global significance of Maha Kumbh, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Tejasvi Surya said, "Today, I had the privilege of taking a dip in the Sangam along with hundreds of BJYM workers. No event of this scale has ever been organised anywhere in the world.

The greatest aspect of Maha Kumbh is its spirit of unity, bringing together people from across the country and beyond."

## 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.

### GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E- TENDER NOTICE NO. 83 FOR 2024-2025

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

Sr. No.	Name Of Work	Amt Rs. (in Lakhs)
1.	Repairs and renovation to toilet at Hirkani Kaksh at 1st floor and toilet of chamber to court No.35 & 36 at 3rd floor at Old secretariat Main Bldg, Mumbai.	19.99
2	Annual Maintenance to Bandmans Qtrs. at N.D. Road, Mumbai. (Supplying of Sanitary, Plumbing Fittings & Hardware Material & Supplying of Labour) (6 Months)	13.57
3	Providing and Erecting corrugated Sheet roofing shed on the Terrace at "C" Block Police Constable Quarters, CP office Compound, Lokmanya tilak marg Mumbai.	9.89
4	Providing and fixing aluminium grill to Elphinstone College window & N.C.C. Bldg. window on 5 <sup>th</sup> floor, Mumbai.	42.80
5	Renovation Structural Strengthening Entrance Right side of Annex Building at ETH Campus Mumbai.	19.47
6	Repairs and fixing, Supplying of furniture & Door, Windows, partition to Court room and Hon'ble Judges Chamber Furniture in High Court Main & Annex Bldg. Bldg. at High Court Mumbai.	19.78
7	Renovation of ACS (GAD) cabin & staff area Room No. 102 at Mantralaya Annexe Building, Mumbai.	22.82
8	Providing and Fixing Windows and Acrylic sheets at Backside of Institute of Science Building, Mumbai.	19.66
9	Renovation and Upgradation of Ground Floor D.T.P. Workshop of Annex bldg. at E.T.H. Campus.	20.18
10	Providing and fixing Invisible grill passage, Varandha on 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Elphinstone College Mumbai.	17.58
11	Repairs Chain Fencing Copmpound and Gate at Chief Magistrate Court Building Mahapalika Marg Mumbai.	19.58
12	Renovation off lift partition and stamp concrete in passager of mathematic Bldg in Institute of Science College Bldg, Mumbai.	12.43
13	Providing and fixing alluminium partition and miscellances work in Chemistry Laboratory in Elphinstone College Bldg. window Mumbai.	12.37
14	Repairs to weather shed & Providing & fixing full height storage, partition at Bombay High Court, Mumbai.	17.49
15	Renovation Structural Strengthening Road side of Annex Building at ETH Campus Mumbai.	35.40
16	Renovation of class Room No. 303, 304, 305 at 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor SIMSREE Institute a Sydenham College, Churchgate Mumbai.	22.94
17	Construction of Security Gaurd Chowky at Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Mahapalika Marg, Mumbai.	24.00
18	Repairs to Damaged existing Cabin and Office of 5th to 20th Floor to New Administrative Building, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai.	21.06
19	Renovation of alluminium partition in front of room no. 224 passage on 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor in Elphinstone College Bldg., Mumbai.	14.73
20	Repainting & Re-polishing in Chamber No. 12, 41, 63 & 22 and Court Room No. 43 High Court Main Building at High Court Mumbai.	19.59
21	Repairs and renovation to Plaster, Flooring & Dado, Doors & Windows, Toilet Block, Seating arrangement to Staff, MT Roof and Repainting to South Side Office at Ground Floor of Old Custom House at Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Mumbai.	49.47
22	Renovation of Lab Ziology Dept and miscellances work of 5 <sup>th</sup> floor on N.C.C. Building, Mumbai.	8.64
23	Renovation of Cabin of Principal Secretary, Transport & Ports, Room No. 618 at Mantralaya Annexe Building Mumbai.	41.43
24	Renovation Structural Strengthening Entrance Left side of Annex Building at ETH Campus Mumbai.	18.11
25	Construction of Repairs & Renovations to External Plaster, Polymer Mortar & Repainting with 5 Coat Paint to RHS & Back Side of A-Wing Building, Karwar Street Police Line Qtrs at Fort, Mumbai.	24.35

Issue Date :- 18.2.2025 To 25.2.2025  
Opening Date :- 27.2.2025

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

All the detail Information is available on following websites

- 1) [www.mahapwd.com](http://www.mahapwd.com)
- 2) [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in)

No.PD/ TC/ 1855  
Office of the Executive Engineer,  
Presidency Division, P.W.D., 2nd floor,  
Bandhakam Bhavan, 25, Murzban Road,  
Presidency Division, Mumbai.  
Fort, Mumbai 400 001  
Email : [presidency.ee@mahapwd.gov.in](mailto:presidency.ee@mahapwd.gov.in)  
Date : 14/2/2025

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

DGIPR/2024-25/6546



## Minister Rane lays foundation for new statue of Shivaji Maharaj in Sindhudurg

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kolhapur / Sindhudurg, Feb 19 : Guardian Minister of Sindhudurg district, Nitesh Rane, laid foundation for installation of a new 60-foot statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot fort in Malvan tehsil town of Sindhudurg district on occasion of Shivaji's birth anniversary on Wednesday.

He performed the ritual ceremony at the same place where 35-foot statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had collapsed in August, just seven months after it was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi



on December four, 2023.

Rane said that the new statue would be installed soon without specifying the exact month. The state Public Works Department

(PWD) has floated a tender for construction of a new statue. Renowned sculptors Ram Sutar and Anil Sutar's firm, Ram Sutar Art Creations Pvt

Ltd, which built the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat, has been assigned the task of creating the new statue, he added.

## Congress chief pays tribute to Shivaji Maharaj on his birth anniversary

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 19 : Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president Harshavardhan Sapkal paid tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on occasion of his 395th birth anniversary on Wednesday at the party headquarters.

Talking to reporters after paying tribute, he said that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj established Swarajya with the support of warriors from various castes and communities. He fought against powerful enemies using guerrilla warfare tactics, which is a source of inspiration for people.

Shivaji Maharaj not only fought Aurangzeb, Nizam Shah and Adil Shah but also had to resist the prevailing religious

orthodoxy of his time.

In this struggle, he aligned with the ideologies of the Warkari sect, Chakradhar Swami and Mahatma Basaveshwar.

His teachings emphasised the welfare and happiness of the masses including the backward classes, and the same continue to guide them, he further said.

Sapkal further said that even during Shivaji Maharaj's time, several forces worked against him and even opposed his coronation, and the same kind of elements exist today.

He continued that Shivaji Maharaj's fight was not only against the political system but also against the economic structures of his time, just as today's governance is

being run for the benefit of a select few.

"Even in religious systems, a handful of people consider themselves supreme. We must fight against such forces. Our path will always be guided by Shivaji Maharaj's vision and his social philosophy," said Sapkal.

"The birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is a day to pledge allegiance to Maharashtra's ethos. It is a reminder that people from all castes and religions are one, which is our spirit and cultural heritage," he added.

On this occasion, the Congress state president demanded that the government make the film 'Chhava', based on the life of Swaraj Protector Sambhaji Maharaj, tax-free.

On being asked about the reopening of dance bars, Sapkal remarked that the current state government is like a system where they bow in Delhi but create chaos in their own streets.

When dance bars were shut down, extensive social background studies and case studies were conducted, he recalled, and highlighted that many families were devastated due to dance bars, with some even selling their farmland to splurge money in such places.

It was based on these observations that the then-Home Minister R R Patil took the bold decision to ban dance bars, he stressed. The Congress will not support the revival of such social distortions, he added.

## Maha Kumbh creating history with unprecedented women's participation

Prayagraj, Feb 19 (UNI) Maha Kumbh, the world's largest spiritual and cultural gathering, is becoming a testament to women's growing participation in religious and social spheres.

With over 55 crore attendees, increased women participation is marking an unprecedented shift in gender representation at the event. A research team from Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, led by Prof Badri Narayan and Associate Prof Dr Archana Singh, is analysing this social transformation.

The team members are present at various entry points and bathing ghats of Maha Kumbh, trying to understand the behaviour and thinking of the population coming to the event

by talking to them on various aspects.

Their preliminary findings indicate a significant rise in female participation, with over 40 percent of the attendees being women, especially from urban areas. A notable increase has been observed among women aged 18-35, highlighting changing social dynamics.

One of the most striking trends is the rise of women-only groups visiting the Maha Kumbh without male companions.

According to Dr Archana Singh, this reflects greater access to education, a sense of security, and evolving societal norms. "Unlike in the past, where women's religious involvement was mostly confined to household rituals, they are now actively engaging in spiritual exploration on a larger scale," she said.

She said, "The secure environment in UP has also contributed to this shift, encouraging women to travel independently and participate more freely. This newfound confidence and freedom are not only reshaping women's roles in religious traditions but also reinforcing their place in the broader social and cultural landscape."

## Imarticus Learning and SRMIST collaborate to launch Master's in FinTech programme

Mumbai, Feb 19 (UNI) Imarticus Learning on Wednesday announced its collaboration with SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) to launch an innovative Master's in FinTech Programme.

The programme is designed to equip students with a deep understanding of emerging financial technologies and strategies, a Imarticus Learning statement said.

Covering critical subjects such as blockchain applications, digital currencies, financial modelling, machine learning, AI in FinTech, risk management, InsurTech, and RegTech, the programme aims to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

Nikhil Barshikar, Founder and CEO, Imarticus Learning said, "The Fintech sector is a major driver of India's economic transformation and is brimming with job opportunities. Our partnership with SRMIST is a significant step in creating future-ready leaders to further help thrive the industry and help India achieve its vision of becoming a global Fintech powerhouse of the world".

By combining SRMIST's academic excellence with our industry-driven approach, this programme will empower learners with the skills and insights required to excel in high-demand roles," he added.

Meanwhile, SRMIST's Pro Vice-Chancellor (SBL) A Vinay Kumar added, "This collaboration with Imarticus Learning reflects our shared commitment to fostering innovation and excellence in education. The Master's in FinTech Programme is tailored to address the evolving needs of the financial sector and to prepare students for leadership roles. By integrating academic rigor with industry relevance, we are committed to shaping the future of fintech education in India."

The programme includes master classes delivered by the FinTech leaders to provide real-world insights and experiential learning such as hands-on activities, simulations, and practical projects to deepen subject understanding.

## HC grants relief to BCCI quashes IT advisory

Mumbai, Feb 19 (UNI) The Bombay High Court has granted a relief to Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), while quashing the 2009 advisory issued by the Income Tax (IT), by which the latter denied tax exemption as a charitable institution promoting sports. However, amendments to its Memorandum of Association in June 2006 and August 2007 were not informed to tax authorities.

The court emphasised that such non-statutory communications cannot be the basis for denying tax exemptions or cancelling registration under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, an official said here on Wednesday.

The court emphasised that such non-statutory communications cannot be the basis for denying tax exemptions or cancelling registration under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act. A bench of Justices M S Sonak and Jitendra Jain held that the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) exceeded its jurisdiction by commenting on the merits of the 2009 advisory after ruling that BCCI's appeal against it was not

maintainable. The BCCI, registered as a society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, was granted tax exemption under Section 12A on February 12, 1996, as a charitable institution promoting sports. However, amendments to its Memorandum of Association in June 2006 and August 2007 were not informed to tax authorities.

On December 28, 2009, the Director of Income Tax (Exemptions) informed the BCCI that its registration under Section 12A "does not survive" after the amendments and suggested applying afresh under Section 12AA.

Aggrieved, the BCCI challenged this communication before the ITAT, arguing it effectively cancelled the Board's tax-exempt status without legal authority.

The High Court found that ITAT overstepped its

jurisdiction. "If, according to the ITAT, the appeal before it was not maintainable, then we fail to comprehend how the ITAT derived jurisdiction to make observations virtually approving the impugned communication," the court said. The judges further noted contradictions in the Revenue's stance.

"The Revenue cannot adopt such contradictory stances or blow hot and cold in the same breath," the bench remarked, pointing out that while the IT department called the advisory "non-statutory," it also used it as grounds for denying tax benefits.

The court held that such informal advisories could not be the sole basis for canceling tax exemptions.

"If a power is given to do a certain thing in a certain way, the thing must be done in that way or not at all," the bench observed.

## 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts convict Abu Salem moves court seeking premature release

Mumbai, Feb 19 (UNI) : Gangster Abu Salem, a convict in the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts case, has moved the Bombay High Court seeking remission of his sentence and premature release, his lawyer Farhan Shah said here on Wednesday.

The petition, filed before a division bench of Justices Sarang Kotwal and S M Modak, is listed for hearing on March 10.

Salem in his petition said that as per terms of the extradition treaty between India and Portugal, he has already completed 25 years in prison and hence, he should be released from prison.

His petition further contended that he has spent 11 years, nine months and 26 days as an undertrial from November 2005 to September 2017. As a convict in 2006 TADA case, he has spent nine years, 10 months and four days between February 2015 and December 2024.

In addition, he has earned three years and 16 days jail remission for good behaviour in the 2006 case and another one-month relaxation given by the apex court for the time he spent as an undertrial in Portugal.

If all these periods are added, he has already served

over 24 years and nine months in total, by the end of 2024, the court was informed.

Moreover, his plea has raised concerns about the breach of assurances made during his extradition from Portugal.

Salem was brought to India in 2005 following an extradition

treaty with Portugal. Terms included that his detention would not exceed over 25 years in line with the "principle of specialty".

The gangster had moved the court after his plea was rejected by the special Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (TADA) court on December 10, 2024.

N THE COURT OF SMALL CAUSES AT MUMBAI  
Execution application No. 348 of 2024 In  
R.A.E. SUIT NO: 17 of 2023

1. Mr. Abdul Razzak s/o Abdul Kayyum Fitwalla	] Age: 45 years, Occupation: Landlord,
2. Mrs. Khatoon wd/o Abdul Hai Fitwalla	] Age: 77 years, Occupation: Housewife,
3. Mr. Abdullah s/o Abdul Hai Fitwalla	] Age: 50 years, Occupation: Landlord,
4. Mr. Obaidullah s/o Abdul Hai Fitwalla	] Age: 47 years, Occupation: Landlord,
5. Mr. Obaidur Rahman Abdul Hai Fitwalla	] Age: 46 years, Occupation: Landlord,
6. Ms. Tahera D/o Abdul Hai Fitwalla	] Age: 49 years, Occupation: Housewife,
7. Ms. Saira D/o Abdul Hai Fitwalla	] Age: 48 years, Occupation: Housewife,
8. Mrs. Zohra wd/o Abdul Kayyum Fitwalla	] Age: 76 years, Occupation: Housewife,
9. Mr. Abdul Jabbar s/o Abdul Kayyum Fitwalla	] Age: 55 years, Occupation: Landlord,
10. Ms. Rabia D/o Abdul Kayyum Fitwalla	] Age: 51 years, Occupation: Housewife,
11. Ms. Zubeda D/o Abdul Kayyum Fitwalla	] Age: 47 years, Occupation: Housewife,
12. Naheed D/o Abdul Kayyum Fitwalla	] Age: 44 years, Occupation: Housewife,
All Residing at Room No. 1 & 2,	] 17, Fitwalla House, Fitwalla Road,
Elphinstone/Prabhadevi west,	] Mumbai-400013 ].....Plaintiffs

Versus	
1. Mrs. Zohra w/o Umar Shaikh	] An Adult, Age: Not known, Occup: Not known ]
2. Ms. Tahseen d/o Umar Shaikh, Alias Mona	] An Adult, Age: Not known, Occup: Not known ]
3. Ms. Nasreen d/o Umar Shaikh	] An Adult, Age: Not known, Occup: Not known ]
All Residing at: Room No. 401, 4th Floor,	] Transit Building No.1,
Dharmshala Road (Imamwada),	] Near J. R. Secondary Municipal school,
Mumbai-400009	] ].....Defendants
4. Shabana Ali Ahmed Shaikh	] An Adult, Indian inhabitant,
Age: Not known, Occupation: Not known	] Residing at: Room No. 31, First Floor,
19/C Fitwalla Building, Jairaj Bhai Street,	] R. S. Nimkar Marg, Mumbai-400008 ]

To, The Defendant no. 1 to 4 abovenamed, WHEREAS, the Plaintiff abovenamed has instituted the above suit against the Defendants praying therein that the Defendants be order and decreed to handover quit peaceful and vacant possession of the suit premises Viz. Room No. 31, First Floor, 19/C Fitwalla Building, Jairaj Bhai Street, R. S. Nimkar Marg, Mumbai - 400008. The Defendants be ordered and decreed to pay the mesne profits from date of filing of suit till they hand over vacant and peaceful possession of the suit premises u/s 20 Rule 12 of C.P.C in enquire to be held for mense profitto the plaintiffs, and for such other and further reliefs, as prayed in the Plaintiff.

YOU ARE hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Judge presiding in the Court Room No. 22, 3rd Floor, New Building, Small Causes Court L. T. Marg, Mumbai-400002, in person or by a Pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material question relating to the suit, or who shall be accompanied by some person, able to answer all such question, on the 27th February, 2025 at 2:45 O' clock in the afternoon, to answer the claim; and as the fixed for your appearance is appointed for the final disposal of the suit, you must be prepared to produce on that day all the witness upon whose evidence and all the documents upon which you intended to reply in support of your defense.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance of the day before mention, the suit will be heard and determine in your absence. YOU may obtain the copy of the said Plaintiff from the Court Room No.22 of this Court.

Given under Seal of the Court,  
This 03rdday of February, 2025  
Registrar

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

E-Auction Notice No.: BZA-Catg-05-2024, BZA-WVM-2-2024, BZA-MPS-06-2024 & BZA-MPS-0-2024. Dt: 17/02/2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Vijayawada Division, South Central Railway invites the food and catering service providers for "Provision of Catering Services" for E-Auction through 'E-Auction Leasing' module of IREPS: www.ireps.gov.in for installation and operation of General Minor units (GMUs), Special Minor Units (SMUs) and Multipurpose Stalls, Water Vending Machines (WVMs) at various stations over Vijayawada Division.

The E-auction schedule is detailed here under. Details of the assets offered in auction may be viewed in IREPS website.

Type of Contract	No. of Lots offered in the auction	Auction schedule Date and opening time
Water Vending Machines (WVMs)	WVMs under clusters of RJY and NLR at various Railway station over BZA division	05/03/2025 at 11:00 Hrs
Multipurpose stalls	MPS at RJY, SLO, NS, ANV, BZA and TUNI Railway stations	05/03/2025 at 12:00 Hrs
Catering	1. General Minor Units (GMUs) at NZD, NLS, PVD and AKVD Railway stations (4 GMUs) 2. Special Minor Units (SMUs) at NDO and GDR Railway stations (3 SMUs)	05/03/2025 at 15:00 Hrs
Multipurpose stalls	MPS at BZA Railway station	06/03/2025 at 11:00 Hrs

1. It is the responsibility of the bidder to obtain digital signature for participating in E-Auctions.  
2. The bidder should have Current Account in SBI and it should be linked with E-Auction leasing module in IREPS.  
3. One time online self registration is compulsory to participate in E-Auction, thereby no geographical restrictions for participation in any auction of any Division of Indian Railways.  
4. The time slots on the E-Auctions Dates mentioned above are available in E-Auction leasing module in IREPS application www.ireps.gov.in. Please note and participate in Auction accordingly.

Railway Administration cannot be held responsible for any hindrance caused in the IREPS portal during E-Auction. Bidders are advised to go through the user manual through the Learning Center link available in the left navigation bar of homepage of IREPS application www.ireps.gov.in. to understand E-Auction procedure and participate.

A0237 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Vijayawada

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/70/2025  
Dated : 13-02-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru Division - Construction of 2 lane ROB in lieu of LC No. 46 (Manned) at Km:78/340 with 1x36m Composite Girder in Mallasandra Yard and Construction of Limited Height Subway of size 5.5x2.5m between Tumakuru - Mallasandra Stations. (Composite Work) (Tender Ref. No.: ASK-TK-ROB-LC-46R)	Rs. 30,40,69,590/-

Last date for submission of bids:  
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 11-03-2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment  
PUB/798/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25  
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender No. SANDT-CAMC-CIB-TIB\_CHE

NAME OF WORK : COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR COACH GUIDANCE DISPLAY BOARDS, SINGLE LINE TIB, MULTI LINE TIB and AGDB AT SRIKAKULAM ROAD STATION OF WALTAIR DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 02 (TWO) YEARS.

Advertised Value (₹) : 10,41,468.00  
EMD (₹) : 20,800.00, Tender Document Cost (₹) : 2,360/-, Period of Completion : 24 Months.

Bidding Start Date : 20.02.2025  
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 06.03.2025

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer / Waltair  
PR-999/P/24-25



## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

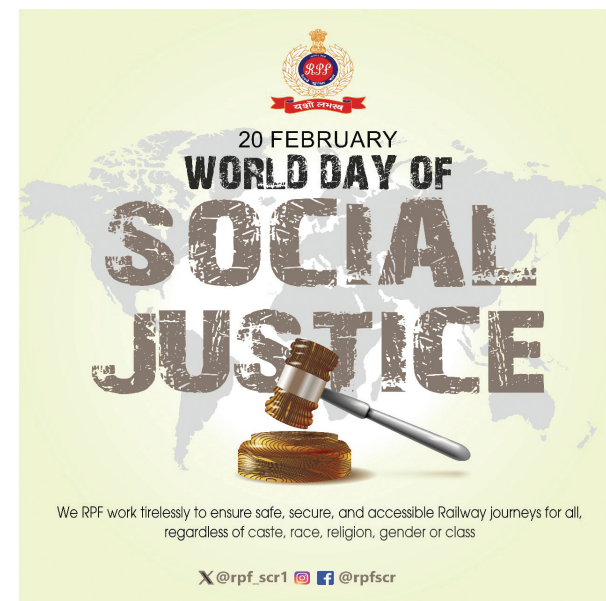
In the context of India, the Indian Railways which is one of the largest Railway networks in the world weaves an intricate matrix of connectivity across the length and breadth of the country. With its Railway lines reaching out to some of the remotest parts of the country, it provides the most accessible 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.

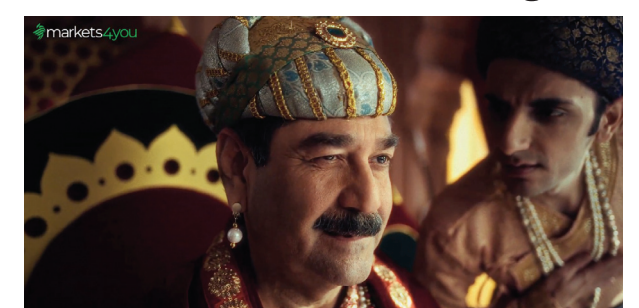
The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Secretary General of Ministry of Defence, Malaysia Lokman Hakim Bin Ali, a Defence Ministry statement said here.

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 Asmanshausen 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.

## Saudi Arabia, Iraq reach AFC U20 Asian Cup quarterfinal

Shenzhen (China), Feb 19 (UNI) : Saudi Arabia secured a spot in the AFC U20 Asian Cup quarterfinals after coming from behind to beat DPR Korea 2-1 in its final Group B match here on Wednesday.

Han Jae Yong's goal gifted DPR Korea a lead in the 28th minute. Saudi Arabia staged a second-half show as Saad Haqawi grabbed the equalizer in the 51st minute before substitute Thamer Al Khaibri hit the winner in the 85th minute.

Saudi Arabia advanced to the final eight as group winner while Iraq, who finished a goalless draw with Jordan secured the second place.

Saudi Arabia will meet host China in the quarterfinal while Iraq will play Australia.

## Freemans joins Punjab Kings as their official tools partner for IPL 2025

Ludhiana, Feb 19 (UNI) : Freemans, the pioneer and largest manufacturer of measuring tools in the Indian subcontinent, is proud to announce its partnership with Punjab Kings as their 'Official Tools Partner' for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025.

This collaboration reflects Freemans' commitment to supporting sporting excellence in the region while contributing to Punjab Kings' preparations for the upcoming IPL season. Commenting on the partnership, Sahil Nayar, Executive Director at FMI Limited (Freemans), said, "We are proud to be the Official Tools Partner of Punjab Kings for the IPL 2025 season."

Satish Menon, Punjab Kings CEO, said, "On

behalf of the entire Punjab Kings family, I welcome on board Freemans Tools as our partners for IPL 2025. We look forward to having a great partnership with them that runs for a long time and is accompanied with success and trust."

FMI Limited is the pioneer and the largest manufacturer of measuring tools in the Indian subcontinent. Its product portfolio is marketed under the brand Freemans and includes an extensive selection of hand tools and power tools. Founded in Ludhiana, Punjab in 1950, Freemans celebrates its 75th anniversary in the manufacturing sector this year. The company also has a history of successful sports sponsorships across various disciplines.

## India beat Germany 1-0 in FIH Hockey Pro League

Bhubaneswar, Feb 19 (UNI) : India won their second match in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25 (Men) season on Wednesday after beating World Champions Germany 1-0 at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium here.

Gurjant Singh scored the only goal of the match as India climbed to seventh in the standings.

It was a good response from India after they had succumbed to a 4-1 loss to Germany on Tuesday.

The Indian defence, marshalled by Captain Harmanpreet Singh, put in a solid display to secure an important win. After a bright start, India took the lead four minutes into the match as Gurjant Singh scored in back-to-back matches. Rajinder Singh sent the ball into the circle hoping for Mandeep Singh

to put it into goal. Mandeep's effort was saved by Alexander Stadler but the German goalkeeper did not clear the loose ball away. An unmarked Gurjant dove in to sweep the ball into the empty goal.

India deployed a half-court press as they looked to protect their lead and pounce on any German mistakes. Germany nearly got the equaliser as Thies Prinz showcased his incredible 3D skills to beat his markers. Krishan Bahadur Pathak stood tall and swatted away Prinz's attempt before Florian Sperling scooped the loose ball over the goal. Germany won the first penalty corner of the match with 46 seconds left in the quarter but Gonzalo Peillat's drag-flick flew wide of the goal as the first quarter ended 1-0 in India's favour.

India resorted to sitting deeper in their half and forcing the Germans to try and find ways to penetrate the circle. Suraj Karkera, who replaced Pathak in the Indian goal in the second quarter, was rarely called into action. It was India who

had the better chances from counter attacks as Shilanand Lakra, Nilam Sanjeep Xess and Raj Kumar Pal tested Stadler. India won three penalty corners in the final minute but the German defence made sure they went into the break trailing only by the solitary goal.

Germany began the third quarter with more urgency and it needed an instinctive save from Pathak to deny Prinz a goal in the 32nd minute. Pathak was called into action a couple of minutes later as he denied Peillat a penalty corner with a superb save with his foot.

India had a big chance to double their advantage towards the end of a cagey third quarter. However, Stadler pulled off an incredible double save to deny Sukhjeet Singh and Vivek Sagar Prasad.

The Indian defence was tested early in the fourth quarter as Germany won a penalty corner in the 46th minute. Karkera did well to save Peillat's drag-flick. India won a penalty corner two minutes later but Amit Rohidas sent his drag-flick wide.

## 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.

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# 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.

# 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., 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Mudkhed to 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.

# 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 Baiyyappanahalli and KSR Bengaluru. It will short-terminate at Baiyyappanahalli.

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, Baiyyappanahalli, 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, 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

February 23 & 26, 2025, will be diverted to run via Gauribidanur, Yelahanka, Lottgollahalli, Yesvantpur, Hebbal, Banaswadi, Karmelaram, and Hosur. The train will skip its regular scheduled stoppages at Bengaluru East, Bengaluru Cantonment, KSR Bengaluru and Bengaluru Cantonment.

**Rescheduling of Trains:**

1. Train No. 12658 KSR Bengaluru-Dr. MGR Chennai Central Daily Express, journey commencing on February 24 & 27, 2025, will be rescheduled by 45 minutes from KSR Bengaluru.

2. Train No. 16593 KSR Bengaluru-Nanded Daily Express, journey commencing on February 24 & 27, 2025, will be rescheduled by 75 minutes from KSR Bengaluru.

# 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.

# 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.