

IN BRIEF

971st Avatarotsavam of Saint Sri Anantalwar to be observed in Tirumala on Feb 23

Tirumala, Feb 19 (UNI) The 971st Avatarotsavam of the great Sri Vaishnava Saint Sri Anantalwar will be observed in here on February 23.

Tirumal Tirupati Devasthanams in a release on Wednesday said It is an ancient tradition to observe the Avatarotsavam of Sri Anantalwar in the Purusaivari Tota under the aegis of Alwar Divya Prabandha Project of TTD which begins on that day from 9.30 am onwards.

On the occasion, the successors of Sri Anantalwar settled all over the country gather together in Purusaivari Tota (Anantalwar Tota) here to perform special pujas, recitation of Divya Prabandha Pasurams and spiritual programs.

As per sacred texts, Anantalwar was believed to be the incarnation of Sri Adishesha, the holy serpent king and pioneered Pushpa Kainkaryam in Tirumala.

Central govt approves Rs 1554 cr of additional assistance to 5 states

New Delhi, Feb 19 (UNI) A high-level committee, under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday approved Rs 1554.99 crore of additional central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to five states, affected by flood, flash flood, landslides, cyclonic storm during the year 2024. The HLC approved central assistance of Rs 1554.99 crore to five States from NDRF, subject to an adjustment of 50 percent of the opening balance for the year available in the SDRF, a Home Ministry statement said. Out of the total amount of Rs 1554.99 crore, Rs 608.08 crore has been approved for Andhra Pradesh; Rs 170.99 crore for Nagaland; Rs 255.24 crore for Odisha; Rs 231.75 crore for Telangana and Rs 288.93 crore for Tripura. This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the centre to the states in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at the disposal of the states.

Rekha Gupta to be next CM of Delhi Govt committed to make AP illicit-liquor free State: Excise Minister



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.

EX-CM Jagan demands Govt to provide remunerative prices to chilli produce

(Standard Post Bureau)

Guntur, Feb 19 : Former Chief Minister and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy voiced his concern at the declining price of chilli produce, putting the farmers in lurch, and demanded Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to take steps to provide remunerative prices to the chilli produce.

Reddy visited the mirchi yard and interacted with farmers here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, he observed that since the coalition government came to power, farmers had been deprived of MSP. Moreover, there are no buyers to purchase the chilli produce.

The prices of chilli have drastically fallen from Rs 27,000 to Rs 8,000 per quintal and yield per acre has also fallen down drastically when compared to the previous

year. Above this, the input costs have gone up and the tenant farmers are bearing the brunt.

"The situation is the same in Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla, Prakasam, Kurnool and Anantapur districts as well. Despite such a grave situation, there is no review from the government side. The Chief Minister and the Agriculture Minister have no concern resulting in the farmers left in the lurch," the former Chief Minister alleged.

Naidu and his coalition government have done nothing to the farmers. But at the same time, the government stopped implementing revolutionary reforms brought by him, Jagan alleged.

"During YSRCP regime, we had given MSP not only to chillis, turmeric and

(Standard Post Bureau)

Ongole, Feb 19 : Minister for Excise and Minor Kollu Ravindra has asserted the Government's commitment to make Andhra Pradesh as illicit-liquor-free State.

Addressing a program held in the police parade ground here on Wednesday, Minister Kollu Ravindra said that the government has taken up the 'Navodayam-2.0' program especially to eradicate the brewing of country-made liquor and its consumption in the state.

"In 2016, the country-made liquor menace was eliminated in 10 districts under the 'Navodayam' program. The Navodayam program is being implemented once again now with the aim of ensuring that the poor do not suffer financially and also health-wise by being addicted to the illicit liquor," the minister observed.

Minister Kollu Ravindra called on the youth to be vigilant about ganja, drugs, and illicit liquor. He made it clear that old brands have been revived, and steps are being taken to ensure that liquor is transported to shops only after conducting

12 types of tests by keeping a special eye on the manufacturing of liquor.

The minister highlighted that 'Eagle Teams' have been formed to check the illegal transportation of illicit liquor, and the teams would also sensitise people about the ill effects of ganja and drugs. The Excise Minister appealed to the people to call 14405 and 1972 to provide information wherever cannabis or drugs are found or being sold.

"The government is working sincerely to make Andhra Pradesh a 'Ganja-free State' in six months. A program will be taken up to create awareness among people in the rural areas about the ill effects of illicit liquor," the minister observed.

He claimed that the state is progressing under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu and with the financial support of the central government. He acknowledged that the Centre had allocated huge funds for the Polavaram project construction.

The government has also taken steps to utilise water resources properly. "Chief Minister

Chandrababu Naidu is striving hard to bring investments to the state in a big way," he noted.

Minister for Social Welfare Dola Balaveeranjanya Swamy maintained that the Chief Minister and the Excise Minister are working with the aim of making Andhra Pradesh a state free from drugs and narcotics.

"As much as Rs 100 crore was allocated to the 'Eagle System' in the budget, which will check the brewing of country-made liquor, its transportation, and its sale," the minister added, stating that the government has taken all these steps with the objective of discouraging youth from becoming addicted to drugs.

Bala Veerajnaja Swamy suggested that the excise officials should also work at the field level to curb the illicit liquor menace. He lamented that during the last five years, there have been cases where drugs have been found even in colleges in remote areas. MLAs Damacharla Janardhan Rao, Kandula Narayana Reddy, and Collector A Thameem Ansariya also spoke.

Two-day Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet concludes at VSKP

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Feb 19 : The two-day Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet (RBSM), organized by the Andhra Pradesh MSME Development Corporation (APMSME DC) in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), concluded here on Wednesday. The event brought together over 25 international buyers from 18 countries and over 430 MSME exporters (amongst 196 were first time exporters), creating a dynamic platform for export opportunities.

The RBSM was inaugurated by Dr N Yuvraj, Secretary (Industries and Commerce), Government of Andhra Pradesh, who highlighted the critical role of MSMEs in driving AP's export growth and economic development.

The Secretary highlighted various trade promotion initiatives of AP Government and focus given for developing critical infrastructure with the aim to help industries to reduce logistics costs.

The event aimed to provide opportunities for MSMEs to access international markets.

Dr Yuvraj also explained on the various infrastructure projects being executed by Andhra Government for making exports competitive

in the international market.

APMSME DC Chief Executive Officer Vishwa M while addressing the participants in the validatoratory session said that the AP Government has introduced several policies and incentives to support MSMEs, including export promotion schemes, financial assistance, and ease of doing business initiatives.

Andhra Pradesh, with its strategic coastal location, robust infrastructure, and thriving industrial ecosystem, has emerged as a key player in India's export landscape.

The session generated prospective business of USD 70, 66,250. In this 38 MOUs were signed by the first-time exporters and business worth around USD 29, 28,000.

Gopalakrishnan, Regional Chairman FIEO South while welcoming the delegates and participants during the validatoratory session said that exports from Andhra Pradesh in the year 2023-24 was USD. 19.3 billion with 5 percent share in India's export.

He shared experience of FIEO in organising previous successful B2Bs across India and said Andhra Pradesh is having the potential to gain 10 percent of India's export basket within a short span of time.



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.

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IOC president Bach issues ...



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

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Nitish announces development of industrial area in Dehri



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

(See on page 8)

Man gets 20 years jail for raping minor-girl

Eluru, Feb 19 (UNI) : An accused in minor girl rape case was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment by POCSO court here on Wednesday.

According to the police, the Eluru district POCSO Sessions Court Judge Uma Sunanda sentenced Donga Chinna Brahmaiah (24) to 20 years rigorous imprisonment for sexual assault of a minor girl. The court also imposed a Rs 5000 fine on him. The Judge ordered to the Government to pay Rs 5 lakh compensation to the rape victim.

According to the police, the convict Donga China Brahmaiah introduced into

the house a minor girl on May 5, 2014, when the victim was alone in her house and sexually assaulted her. A case under crime number 110/2020 Under Sections 417, 420, 448, 376 IPC & Sec 5 (1) & 6 of POCSO Act 2012 by the Ganapavaram police.

When the victim complained of stomach pain, her parents took her to the doctor, who confirmed that she was pregnant. The accused, Chinna Brahmaiah, fled to Dubai. The then DSPs KGV Saritha and G Venkateswara Rao investigated the case, and the then DSP K Eeshwara Rao arrested the accused and filed the charge sheet.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

adjourning it at 5:15 PM for the day.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Two get lifer for gang rape in Barabanki

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

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

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

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

EAM to visit Johannesburg for G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

Sakeena Itoo stressed the importance of strengthening healthcare

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

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

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

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

chemist shops to control malpractices, if any.

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

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

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

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

Gen Chauhan visited the institution's commitment to integrating modern education with military traditions, ensuring that cadets are well-equipped for future

challenges. Armed Forces, a Defence Ministry statement said.

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

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

challenges.

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

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

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

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

CBI dismantles a virtual asset supported transnational cyber crime network

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Manipur Governor discusses issues with NPP leader

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

government immediately after N Biren Singh resigned as Chief Minister.

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

areas of the state.

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

STANDARD POST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Championing social justice : The role of the Railway Protection Force

(Standard Post Bureau)

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

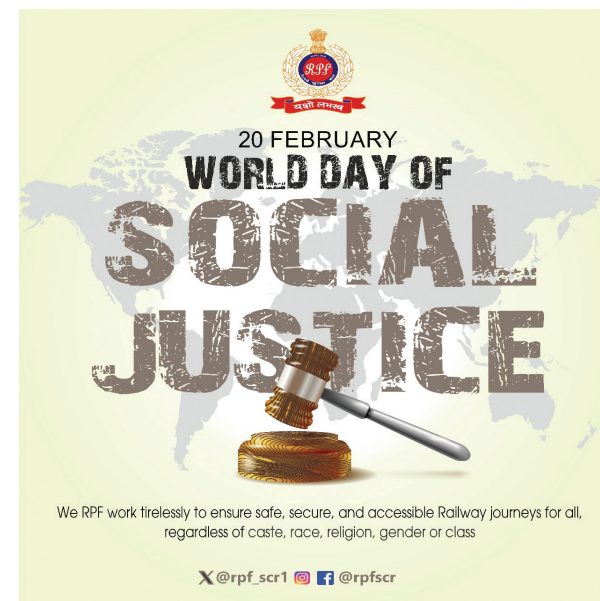
In the context of India, the Indian Railways which is one of the largest Railway networks in the world weaves an intricate matrix of connectivity across the length and breadth of the country. With its Railway lines reaching out to some of the remotest parts of the country, it provides the most accessible and inexpensive method of travel to many people. This tangled web of Railway lines unites all Indians into one single thread. In the vast expanse of its trains and stations, millions of Indians irrespective of caste, race, religion, gender

or class meet, intermingle and bond. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and security of all these passengers.

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

In this context, the role of agencies like the Railway Protection Force is crucial in maintaining not just security of Railway property and passengers but also in upholding the social justice that is the basic right of every individual.

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is an armed force of the Union entrusted with the responsibility of securing the country's vast Railway network. Beyond the enforcement of law, the RPF plays a crucial role in the broader concept of social justice by ensuring that the rights of vulnerable populations are respected, protected, and upheld



within its specific sphere of influence. The Indian Railway system serves millions daily, with a significant portion being women, children, senior citizens, and individuals from marginalized communities. The RPF stands as a shield for these vulnerable passengers, protecting them from crimes such as theft, harassment, and even violence. By ensuring their safety, RPF works towards a more equitable and just society, where all individuals can travel without fear.

The RPF has been proactive in safeguarding the rights of every passenger during travel on the Railways.

This includes ensuring equal treatment for people with disabilities. The RPF has been conducting relentless drives in coaches reserved for persons with disabilities and prosecuting regular passengers who encroach upon the facilities provided for them. In the year 2024, RPF has prosecuted 95,175

such people.

Another vulnerable group of passengers traveling on Indian Railways are women passengers. By proactive deployment in coaches reserved for ladies, RPF has ensured the safety of female passengers, especially when traveling at odd hours. To make women passengers feel safer, RPF regularly prosecutes men traveling in coaches reserved for women. In the year 2024, RPF has prosecuted 1,02,130 such male passengers. RPF has launched the "Meri Saheli initiative" with its focus on women passengers traveling alone. There are more than 250 Meri Saheli teams who are daily attending 500 trains and are instrumental in providing a safer environment for female passengers. Similarly, RPF has undertaken an initiative called Operation Matri shakti to assist pregnant women who go into labour during train journeys. In the year 2024 alone, lady

RPF personnel have assisted in 174 child births.

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

There are several lost or abandoned children in contact with Railways who are in need of care and protection. If such children are not rescued or rehabilitated there is a high probability that they will fall prey to drug peddlers and criminals' gangs. Through Operation Nanhe Farishtey, RPF rescues such children and ensures their rehabilitation in collaboration with Ministry of Women and Child Development. RPF has rescued 14,756 children through Operation Nanhe Farishtey in the year 2024.

RPF lady personnel also play a crucial role in rescuing adults, including women in need of care and protection. These individuals may be runaways, abandoned elderly, drug addicts, destitute, or needing medical assistance. RPF rescues such individuals and hands them over to NGO's for rehabilitation. In 2024, RPF has rescued 4,047 people through its Operation Dignity.

Thus RPF has been

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

The RPF exemplifies how law enforcement agencies can not only uphold the law but also contribute to building a more just society by reaching out to the most vulnerable classes, preventing discrimination and extending a helping hand to the weaker sections of the society.

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

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

(Standard Post Bureau)

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

When the patient arrived, we conducted a CT



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

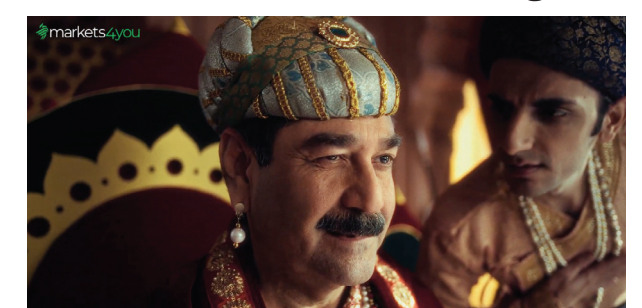
The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Secretary General of Ministry of Defence, Malaysia Lokman Hakim Bin Ali, a Defence Ministry statement said here.

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

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

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

Markets4You Unveils Innovative Campaign



(Standard Post Bureau)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump spoke over the phone for nearly an hour and a half last week. They discussed issues related to the exchange of Russian and US citizens, as well as the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine. The call was followed up by in-person talks between senior Russian and US officials in the Saudi capital of Riyadh on Tuesday.

2 dead in Sydney house fire

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

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

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

The fire caused extensive damage to the house.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 automakers in SKorea to recall some 76k vehicles

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No point in changing Panama Canal toll system : Vice President

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

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



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

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

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

Italian police seize 788 kg of cocaine in major drug bust

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 killed, 2 injured in Israeli attacks on South Lebanon

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

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

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

The incidents follow the expiration early Tuesday of

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

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

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

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

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

Brazilian prosecution accuses Bolsonaro of attempted coup : Reports

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

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

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

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

Israeli forces kill Palestinian teenager in South Gaza

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Musk says will bring Starliner astronauts back in 4 weeks

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Travel

Driving down the Romantic Road in

Germany

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

revelation.

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

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

The romantic road

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

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

Fast facts

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

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



New Zealand

A potpourri of experiences

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Zealand is a destination

that caters to a variety of travellers.

Aaditya

Dave takes you on a journey

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

Forts of Bhangarh, Rajasthan

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

Brij Raj Bhavan Heritage Hotel, Kota

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

Delhi Cantt, New Delhi

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

Dumas Beach, Gujarat

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

Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad

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

Rajeev Gandhi International airport

The rumour that has been doing rounds is

Spookiest places in India

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

Taj Mahal Hotel, Mumbai

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



haunted by the ghost of its architect.

Shaniwarwada Fort, Pune

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

The Savoy, Mussoorie

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

Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman picks up injury in Champions Trophy opener



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

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

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

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

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

2017, an ICC report said.

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

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

Bad moment for Atletico captain Koke to suffer muscle injury

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

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

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

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

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

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

IOC president Bach issues rallying cry to youth

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bangladesh captain looking at Nahid Rana to challenge India

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

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

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

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

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

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

burn-out have been taken good care of.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Zealand defeat Pakistan by 60 runs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Standard Post Bureau)

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

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

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



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

efforts are being made to manage overcrowding issues, safety and security of passengers. To ensure effective crowd management and

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

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

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

about Rs 46 lakhs towards fare & penalty.

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

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

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

(Standard Post Bureau)

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Central Railway Celebrates Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti

(Standard Post Bureau)

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Changes in Train Service Patterns : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau)

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

Partial Cancellation of Trains:

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

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

terminate at Yesvantpur.

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

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

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

Yesvantpur instead of KSR Bengaluru.

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

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

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

Banaswadi, Yesvantpur, and KSR Bengaluru stations.

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

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

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

Nitish announces development of industrial area in Dehri

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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