

## IN BRIEF

### Three of family electrocuted in Nizamabad district

Nizamabad, Feb 20 (UNI) : Three members of a family were electrocuted in Satapur village, Renjal Mandal, Nizamabad district, on Thursday.

According to police, the deceased have been identified as Gangaram (45), his wife Balamani (40), and their son Kishan (22). The victims had gone to the outskirts of Pegadapalli in Bodhan Mandal for agricultural work.

On Wednesday night, hunters had installed electric wires in the field to trap wild boars. Unaware of the danger, the victims accidentally came into contact with the live wires and were electrocuted, dying on the spot.

Upon receiving information from villagers, Bodhan Rural Police rushed to the scene. A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway.

### Police crackdown on illegal sand transportation: 26 cases registered

Hyderabad, Feb 20 (UNI) : The Government has intensified its crackdown on illegal sand mining and transportation across the state. Acting on the directives of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the Hyderabad City Police, under the supervision of C V Anand, DG, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City, conducted a special operation from February 14 to February 19, targeting unauthorised sand transportation.

During this period, the Hyderabad City Police registered 26 cases related to illegal sand extraction and transportation across the city. As part of the operation, authorities seized eight vehicles, arrested 57 individuals, and confiscated 1,196 tonnes of illegally transported sand, a police statement said.

The Hyderabad City Police reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining law and order, vowing to take strict action against illegal activities, including unauthorised sand transportation. Authorities have urged citizens to report any suspicious activities to the nearest police station or the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City.

## UGC guidelines restrict states' autonomy in education: Dy CM Bhatti Vikramarka



Hyderabad / Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 20 (UNI) : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has criticized the University Grants Commission's (UGC) new guidelines, comparing them to a scenario where "you must pay the bill but can't order your food."

Speaking at the National Convention on Higher Education organized in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday, Bhatti Vikramarka conveyed greetings on behalf of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the people of Telangana.

Though Revanth Reddy could not attend the convention hosted by the Kerala State government, Vikramarka stated that he had been deputed to express Telangana's firm stance on granting autonomy to States in shaping their own education policies, an official statement here said. Addressing the gathering, Vikramarka highlighted the impact of the UGC draft guidelines, the importance of State autonomy in education, and the steps taken in Telangana's

education sector. His presentation included a detailed PowerPoint showcasing these aspects.

He criticized the Centre's approach of expecting States to provide funds and manage universities while simultaneously stripping them of any role in appointing Vice-Chancellors and controlling admissions. If this trend continues, he warned, States would be reduced to mere participants in inauguration ceremonies rather than active stakeholders in the education sector.

Vikramarka emphasized that education falls under the concurrent list and is not the exclusive domain of the Central government. States must have the flexibility to build educational institutions and systems suited to their unique demographics and social structures. He asserted that no two States are alike, and a uniform approach to education would hinder progress.

Without autonomy, States cannot provide quality education, he argued, urging all States to take a firm stand and voice their concerns beyond mere

discussions.

He further stated that when States unite for a common cause, the Centre must listen. States are not just administrative entities but the lifelines of national progress. Only a State truly understands the aspirations of its students, the challenges they face, and the reforms required to address them. Attempting to control education from Delhi through a centralized approach is impractical, he added. The Centre should frame policies in collaboration with States, ensuring they reflect regional needs.

Clarifying that cooperation should not be equated with coercion, Mr. Vikramarka said that if the Centre truly upholds the spirit of federalism, it must engage in meaningful discussions with States to understand their perspectives. States are not asking for favors but are firmly asserting their role in the education system. He noted that when States speak in unison, their demands resonate across the country, as history has repeatedly demonstrated.

## Police triumph at 68th All India Police Duty Meet, clinches overall championship

Hyderabad, Feb 20 (UNI) : Director General of Police (DGP) Dr Jitender honoured the winners of the 68th All India Police Duty Meet at a special felicitation ceremony held at the DGP office. The national-level competition took place in Ranchi, Jharkhand, from February 10 to 15, witnessing participation from police teams across the country. The Telangana Police team emerged as the 'Overall Team Champions', demonstrating outstanding skill, discipline, and commitment. The team secured a total of 18 medals, including 06 gold, 04 silver, and 08 bronze, across various categories such as Scientific Aids to Investigation, Anti-Sabotage Checks, Computer Awareness, and Dog Squad Competitions.

Speaking at the event, DGP Dr Jitender lauded the Telangana Police team for their exceptional performance and emphasized that their hard work and perseverance have brought great honour to the state.

The awards ceremony was attended by Telangana Police Duty Meet Nodal Officer Shikha Goyal, Sports IGP M. Ramesh, and other senior officials. Among those receiving awards were Telangana Police team manager CID SP B. Ram Reddy, coaches ISW, SPM M Ramakrishna, Genco Additional SP D. Pratap, and Secretariat Security ACP Poornachander, a police statement said on Thursday.

## K Reddy participates in Bhog Bhandari Homam during Sant Sevalal Jayanti celebrations

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Feb 20 : Union Minister and Telangana BJP President G Kishan Reddy participated in the Bhog Bhandari Homam as part of the 286th birth anniversary celebrations of Sant Sri Sevalal Maharaj held at Rabindra Bharati, here on Thursday.

Extending his greetings on this occasion, the Minister paid tribute to Sant Sevalal Maharaj, who dedicated his life to uplifting and awakening the tribal community.

"I am honored to be part of the Bhog Bhandari Homam, organised under the auspices of the Banjara Dharmika Upatu Mahasangh. Tribals have played a crucial role in

## DCA raids quack's clinic in Warangal, seizes illegal drugs

Hyderabad, Feb 20 (UNI) The Drugs Control Administration (DCA), Telangana, raided an unqualified practitioner's clinic in Warangal on Wednesday, seizing illegally stocked medicines intended for sale.

Since January 2024, the DCA has registered cases against 147 quacks for illegal drug stocking and sales.

According to a statement issued here on Thursday, DCA officials raided the premises of Gaddam Srinivas at D. No. 18-1-130/1, Urus Warangal, Warangal District, where he was conducting clinical practice without proper qualifications. Officials discovered 14 varieties of medicines, including antibiotics, steroids, and analgesics, stocked without a valid drug license, with the total value of the seized stock estimated at Rs 10,000.

Among the confiscated medicines were antibiotics like Gentamicin, raising concerns over Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) due to their indiscriminate sale.

Officials also recovered steroids such as

dexamethasone, which pose severe health risks, including immune suppression, hormonal imbalances, cardiovascular complications, and psychological effects.

The raid was conducted by M. Aravind Kumar, Drugs Inspector, Warangal, under the supervision of Dr G Rajyalakshmi, Assistant Director, Warangal. Samples of the seized medicines were collected for further analysis, and an ongoing investigation will ensure legal action against all offenders.

DCA has warned wholesalers and dealers against supplying medicines to unqualified practitioners, as doing so is a punishable offence under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. The administration reiterated that wholesalers and dealers must verify recipients' drug licenses before supplying medicines.

Stocking drugs for sale without a valid drug license is a punishable offense under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, and strict enforcement measures will continue, the statement added.

## Minister urges KRMB for equitable Krishna water distribution

Hyderabad, Feb 20 (UNI) : Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) Chairman Atul Jain met Capt Uttam Kumar Reddy, Minister for Irrigation, at Jal Soudha on Thursday.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasised the need for KRMB to take an active role in ensuring the equitable distribution of Krishna waters between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The Minister stressed the importance of securing sufficient Krishna water for Telangana farmers, particularly for the Rabi crop season.

He urged KRMB to intervene and guarantee fair allocation to prevent any shortfall in water supply that could impact agricultural productivity in the state, an official statement said.



## PMSSY strengthening healthcare infrastructure, fostering indigenous innovation: Jitendra

The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) is aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure and fostering indigenous innovation, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Thursday. The minister noted that the PMSSY initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen India's healthcare infrastructure. "The scheme is designed to provide quality medical care while promoting indigenous innovation in health-related R&D,"

(See on page 2)

## BSF-BGB talks: India, Bangladesh agree to curb ...



The border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh agreed to bring down to minimum incidents of attacks on BSF personnel by Bangladesh-based trans-border criminals and reiterated the need for synergised efforts to uphold human rights and curb violence on the border.

(See on page 4)

## Pakistan penalised for slow ...



The hosts have been fined five percent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over rate during the Tournament's opening game in Karachi. Following their defeat in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 opener against Black Caps, Pakistan have been handed a slow over-rate fine,

(See on page 7)

## SC stays Lokpal Order on Jurisdiction over High Court ...



The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed a recent decision of the Lokpal of India that asserted jurisdiction over High Court judges, raising significant legal questions about the scope of the Lokpal Act.

(See on page 8)

## PMSSY strengthening healthcare infrastructure, fostering indigenous innovation: Jitendra

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 20 (IANS) :The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) is aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure and fostering indigenous innovation, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Thursday. The minister noted that the PMSSY initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen India's healthcare infrastructure.

"The scheme is designed to provide quality medical care while promoting indigenous innovation in health-related R&D," he said while inaugurating the PMSSY-driven upgraded super-specialty Neurosurgery and Cardiovascular Surgery Building Block at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) in Thiruvananthapuram.

He emphasised that the PM Narendra Modi government's new initiatives are aimed at making quality healthcare affordable, and accessible across sections of society. Praising SCTIMST for emerging as a centre of excellence in both healthcare as well as research and development, Dr Singh highlighted that the institute, functioning under the Department of Science and Technology, embodies the "whole-of-government" approach. He said the institute fosters collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Science and Technology. Stressing the need for integrating modern medical advancements with traditional healthcare approaches, Dr Singh underscored the importance of digital health initiatives, artificial intelligence in diagnostics, and genome-based therapies.

The minister also highlighted India's achievements in biotechnology, pointing out the success of the indigenous Covid-19 vaccine, the development of the HPV vaccine for cervical cancer, and breakthroughs in gene therapy.

"India has transitioned from being an importer to a leader in preventive healthcare, gaining global recognition in bio-manufacturing and medical research," he stated.

He further emphasised the need for continued investments in healthcare R&D, ensuring that India remains at the forefront of medical advancements. Dr Singh also encouraged scientists and medical professionals "to undertake collaborative research projects with global institutions to expand knowledge and expertise".

He stressed that while India has made remarkable progress in bridging the rural-urban divide in disease patterns, healthcare accessibility remains a challenge.

He reiterated the government's commitment to expanding medical services through new AIIMS institutions and upgraded medical colleges, ensuring affordable and high-quality treatment. He also called for leveraging telemedicine and mobile health units to extend healthcare services to remote regions, making quality healthcare accessible to all.



Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi offers prayers at Churuva Hanuman Temple during his visit to his parliamentary constituency Rae Bareilly.

## Delhi court dismisses defamation complaint against BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj

New Delhi, Feb 20 (UNI) A court here on Thursday dismissed a defamation complaint filed by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former MLA Satyendar Jain against Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) MP Bansuri Swaraj.

The complainant (Jain) has filed the present complaint under Section 210(1) and 223 BNSS for alleged commission of offence under Section 356 of BNS by the accused persons that is Bansuri Swaraj (sitting MP) and a news channel.

The complainant alleged that the accused

number 1 (Bansuri Swaraj) had made certain defamatory comments against him in an interview which was aired on October five, 2023, on a news channel (accused number 2) with intent to defame the complainant and gain undue political advantage.

It is further stated that accused no 1, a practising lawyer and an MP from the New Delhi Lok Sabha constituency, had made the following defamatory statements against the complainant in context of the raid made by Enforcement Directorate at his house and recovered

## EAM Jaishankar calls on South African President Ramaphosa, meets Ethiopian FM in Johannesburg

Johannesburg/New Delhi, Feb 20 (UNI) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and conveyed India's support for South Africa's G20 priorities, on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Johannesburg today.

The EAM also met with his Ethiopian counterpart Gedion Timotheos, and interacted as part of a group with his counterparts from other countries, including Australia's Penny Wong, Russian FM Sergey Lavrov and China's Wang Yi.

In posts on X, he wrote: "Honored to call on President @CyrilRamaphosa of South Africa on the sidelines of the G20 FMM in Johannesburg. "Conveyed the warm greetings of Prime Minister @narendramodi. Assured India's support for South Africa's G20 priorities."

On his meeting with the Ethiopian FM Gedion Timotheos, he wrote: "Good to meet Ethiopian FM Gedion Timotheos of Ethiopia. "Congratulated him on his appointment. And agreed to work together to strengthen our longstanding partnership."

"Congratulated him on his appointment. And agreed to work together to strengthen our longstanding partnership."

## Indian nationals deported from US began arriving in Costa Rica, Panama

New Delhi, Feb 20 (UNI) Undocumented Indians deported by the US as part of the Trump administration's strict immigration policy began arriving in the Central American nations of Panama and Costa Rica, with the Indian mission there gaining consular access to the Indian nationals.

The Indian mission in Panama said in a post on X: "Panamanian authorities have informed us that a group of Indians have reached Panama from US

"They are safe and secure at a Hotel with all essential facilities

"Embassy team has obtained consular access

"We are working closely with the host Government to ensure their wellbeing."

Indian nationals have also been deported by the US to Costa Rica after the San Jose government said it will take migrants from the US. The first deportation flight to San Jose arrived this week, carrying 200 migrants from Central Asia and India. This follows three flights sent to Panama last week, carrying migrants from Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

The strategy is part of the Trump administration's move for handling migrants. The US administration has sought partnerships with other nations to facilitate deportations and reduce pressure on US detention centers.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio secured agreements from Panama and Costa Rica to work

with the United States on migration control.

Costa Rica clarified that its territory will "serve as a bridge" for migrants' eventual return to their countries of origin. The US government is funding the entire repatriation process, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a United Nations agency, is overseeing the migrants' care.

The first group of deported migrants arrived in Costa Rica on a commercial flight on Wednesday afternoon at Juan Santamaría International Airport. The deportees were transferred to the Center for Temporary Attention of Migrants (CATEM) in the Corredores region, near the southern border.

In Panama City, nearly 300 Asian migrants, including from India, were deported by the US in recent days and are being held at the Decapolis hotel in the Panamanian capital.

Panama's Minister of Public Security, Frank Ábrego, told a press conference, "It was agreed to receive 299 people who came from the United States to be repatriated to their respective countries of origin" and that "171 of them have agreed to return voluntarily".

"We provide them with all necessary medical care and comfort, and we will continue to do so until the last of them leaves our country, which is what was agreed with the United States government," Ábrego stated.

According to Ábrego, among the deportees sent to Panama "there are people from China, India, Iran, Vietnam". He indicated that this week "around 20 to 25 people" will be voluntarily repatriated, and added that those who do not accept to return voluntarily to their countries will be transferred to a shelter in the Darién jungle, bordering Colombia, waiting for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to relocate them to another country.

In Costa Rica, the Foreign Minister Arnoldo André said his country will receive a group of deported migrants from the US, and outlined the government's plan for their processing and repatriation.

André said that after landing, the group will be taken to the Center for Temporary Attention of Migrants (CATEM), where their biometric data will be recorded. Following this, authorities will initiate the repatriation process to their home countries.

He said that the length of their stay in Costa Rica will depend on procedures with the receiving countries. Most repatriations will be voluntary, while others will require legal proceedings.

According to the Costa Rican government, deportees can stay for a maximum of 30 days in the country. The permit can be extended, but only to complete exit procedures.



President Droupadi Murmu with the newly-appointed Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar during a meeting at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi.

## Mamata defends Bengal's own health insurance scheme

Kolkata, Feb 20 (IANS) West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday provided a 'detailed explanation' on why Swasthya Sathi, the state's own health insurance scheme, is unique in the country, adding that the greatest advantage of the scheme is its universal nature.

"We provide health insurance under the Swasthya Sathi scheme without any restriction like the income limit of that family. At the same time, the Swasthya Sathi card is registered in the name of a lady member of that family. These make the Swasthya Sathi scheme unique in the

country," the Chief Minister said at the foundation laying ceremony of Narayana Health City in the northern outskirts of Kolkata on Thursday afternoon.

The Chief Minister's explanations on why Swasthya Sathi is unique in the country comes in the wake of all-round criticism of allowing implementation of a similar health insurance scheme of the Union government christened Ayushman Bharat.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister also claimed that, like Swasthya Sathi, most of the developmental schemes of the state government are

universal in nature because of the absence of income restrictions for the beneficiaries.

According to her, around nine crore people in West Bengal are currently covered under the Swasthya Sathi scheme.

"My government has brought revolution in the health sector of the state. We provide treatment and medicines totally free of cost. We are really proud of that," the Chief Minister said. Speaking on the occasion, Mamata Banerjee also read out details of the achievements in the health sector during the current Trinamool Congress regime.

## Strong face of BJP from Janakpuri, Ashish Sood gets cabinet berth in govt

New Delhi, Feb 20 (UNI) BJP MLA Ashish Sood who won from Janakpuri constituency, took oath as a Cabinet minister alongside the Chief Minister of Rekha Gupta, on Thursday at Ramlila Maidan.

A long-time BJP member, Sood is well-acquainted with Delhi's political landscape.

Considered close to BJP national president J P Nadda and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, he secured a commanding win in Janakpuri constituency, defeating Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s Rajesh Rishi by 18,766 votes.

Veteran BJP leader Ashish Sood, who shares strong ties with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), has emerged as a leading contender for the position after the party's strong performance in the assembly elections.

He was general secretary of the BJP

youth wing, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), in 2003 before being elevated as its national vice president.

In 2008, he was appointed secretary of Delhi BJP and later general secretary, before being elected as a councillor in the then-SDMC.

Known for his organisational skills, Sood has held various significant roles within the party, including serving as a councillor, Leader of the House in the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), and more recently, as the party's Goa in-charge and co-in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir.

Sood, who has been a part of the BJP for several years, is no stranger to Delhi's political landscape.

Born on September two, 1966, Sood is considered as one of the most articulate voices of BJP and a strong local face in the Janakpuri constituency area.

## Pre-budget interactions help understand priorities of people: J&K CM, Omar

Jammu, Feb 20 (UNI) : Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday concluded the pre-budget consultations with public representatives, holding separate meetings with elected representatives from Kishtwar and Doda districts of Jammu division here at the Civil Secretariat.

Chairing the session for Kishtwar district, the Chief Minister engaged with public representatives, including Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma, who represents Padder-Nagseni in the J&K Assembly, the Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar and MLAs from the district.

The representatives presented their demands and issues, with the Chief Minister assuring them that their suggestions and inputs would be duly

considered in the budget formulation.

In his comments, Chief Minister Abdullah stated that the series of consultations with public representatives from all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir had concluded, providing valuable insights into the ground-level issues faced by the people.

"These interactions help us understand the priorities of the people. Since you are directly connected with the public, your inputs and suggestions are crucial for policy-making," the Chief Minister told the elected representatives.

Similarly, representatives from Doda district also discussed their development priorities and concerns with the Chief Minister.

Among key issues raised about twin districts,

staff shortages in educational institutions and healthcare centres, drinking water supply, road connectivity & widening, construction of tunnels, and improving mobile connectivity in remote areas were put forth.

The Deputy Commissioners of Kishtwar and Doda, in their presentation, provided constituency-wise breakdown of demands prioritized by the MLAs.

The DDC chairpersons and MLAs expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for involving them in the budget formulation process, noting that it was the first time such consultations had taken place.

They urged that this participatory approach should continue as a regular feature.

## Lokayukta clears CM Siddaramaiah in MUDA case

Mysuru, Feb 20 (UNI) The Karnataka Lokayukta has given a clean chit to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife Parvathi, and two others in connection with the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment scam.

A notice was sent to complainant Snehamaiah Krishna, an RTI activist, on Wednesday, informing him that he may challenge the Lokayukta probe report within a week before the designated magistrate.

The notice stated that an investigation was conducted under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988, and the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act, 2011, against Siddaramaiah, Parvathi, Mallikarjuna Swamy (Parvathi's brother), and landowner Devaraj.

The inquiry concluded that the matter falls under civil dispute and found no sufficient proof to substantiate criminal charges against them.

The Lokayukta police stated that compensatory land allotments made by MUDA between 2016 and 2024 under its 50:50 scheme remain under investigation. A report will be submitted to the court under Section 173(8) of the CrPC upon completion of the probe.



People wait in a queue to cast their votes during Chhattisgarh local bodies election, in Bastar district.

## TGSCCODC ED caught red-handed by ACB for accepting Rs 1 lakh bribe

Hyderabad, Feb 20 (UNI) : The sleuths of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday caught red-handed Executive Director, Telangana Scheduled Castes Co-Operative Development Corporation (TGSCCODC), for accepting Rs 1 lakh bribe.

On Thursday, at about 1315 hours, the ED Boppuri Anand Kumar was caught red-handed by ACB, City Range-2 Unit at his office, when he demanded Rs. 1,33,000 and accepted an amount of Rs. 1 lakh as bribe from the complainant for doing official favour, -- "As a

reward for processing the sanctioned bill of Rs. 33,32,350 and also as an undue advantage for the forthcoming bills of the complainant", a ACB release said.

The tainted amount of Rs 1 lakh was recovered from the possession of Kumar at his instance. Right hand fingers of the ED and Contact portion--bottle in side upper drawer of office table of accused officer yielded positive result in a chemical test. Details of the complainant are withheld for security reasons. Boppuri Anand Kumar was being arrested

and produced before the Principal Special Judge for SPE and ACB Cases at Nampally, the release added.

In another case, the ACB officials caught red-handed a Mandal Agriculture Officer of Ashwapuram Mandal in Bhadradi Kothagudem district when he was accepting Rs 30,000 bribe.

On Thursday, at about 1225 hours, the Mandal Agriculture Officer D Shanthan Kumar was caught red-handed by ACB, Khammam Unit at his office, when he demanded and accepted an amount of Rs. 30,000 as

bribe from the complainant for doing official favour, -- "to issue coupons to complainant to sell his cotton crop cultivated in 10 Acres".

The tainted amount of Rs. 30,000 was recovered from the possession of Kumar at his instance. Contact portion of his laptop bag yielded a positive result in a chemical test. Details of the complainant are withheld for security reasons. Shanthan Kumar was being arrested and produced before the III Additional Special Judge for SPE and ACB Cases at Warangal, a ACB release said.

## CM assures medical aid for young man suffering from muscle disease

Hyderabad, Feb 20 (UNI) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed officials to provide immediate medical assistance to Rakesh, a young man suffering from pseudo-muscular dystrophy, a severe muscle disease.

Moved by Rakesh's plight, the Chief Minister also instructed officials to provide him with a charging vehicle for mobility.

Following the CM's instructions, CM OSD Vemula Srinivasulu contacted Rakesh's family and assured them that the government would extend all possible support, according to an official statement here on Thursday. Rakesh, a resident of Rangayya Palli village in Bhimadevarapalli Mandal, Hanumakonda district, has been battling the disease for a long time. Recently, his condition worsened, leaving him unable to walk. Doctors have recommended regular administration of costly injections to improve his health.

CM Revanth Reddy took swift action after learning from a newspaper report that Rakesh's family, struggling with financial difficulties, could not afford the necessary treatment.

## Media Academy governing council holds 1st meeting, approves key initiatives

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Feb 20 : The first Governing Council meeting of the Telangana Media Academy was held on Thursday at the Academy's conference hall on Chapel Road, Nampally, Hyderabad, under the chairmanship of K Srinivasa Reddy.

The meeting focused on several key decisions aimed at supporting and empowering working journalists across the state.

The Governing Council unanimously approved the continuation of the Academy's ambitious "Newspapers Archives" project with the support of the government. Other major decisions included conducting training classes for working journalists and providing financial assistance to the families of

deceased working journalists under the Working Journalists Welfare Fund.

The meeting was attended by K Dharmiah, Additional Secretary of the Finance Department, D S Jagan, Joint Director of the I&PR Department, Dr Satish Kumar Talladi, Dr Yadagiri Kambhampati, PV Satyanarayana, Programme In-charge of Door Darshan Kendra, Hyderabad, S Ramesh Sunkasari, Head of All India Radio Programmes; and N. Venkateswara Rao, Secretary of Telangana Media Academy.

As a special invitee, BV Krishnaji Rao, Head of the Department of Journalism at Chakali Ilamma Women's University, Hyderabad, also participated in the deliberations.

## Woman drug peddler held, 60 grams of MDMA seized

Hyderabad, Feb 20 (UNI) : In a significant operation against synthetic drug trafficking, the Cyberabad Police, in collaboration with the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB) have arrested a woman drug peddler and seized 60 grams of MDMA worth Rs 6 lakh from her possession.

Acting on credible intelligence, officers intercepted the accused Shatabdi Manna (24) of Sola Devanahalli, in Bangalore and a native of Jamsheerpur village in Jharkhand at Miyapur Bus Stop on Wednesday before she could deliver the contraband.

The accused, linked to an interstate drug network, was working under a foreign suppliers, a police release said on Thursday.

The supplier, Warren Kokarango, an African national, was absconding.

Investigations revealed that Shatabdi Manna, a graduate from Bengaluru, came into contact with Warren Kokarango in 2024. Due to financial difficulties, she agreed to store and distribute MDMA on his behalf. She regularly received 100-200 grams of MDMA per consignment and had supplied drugs over ten times in Bengaluru.

The Telangana Police continue their dedicated

efforts to curb drug trafficking by raising awareness about drug abuse, strengthening intelligence networks to dismantle supply chains, and apprehending both interstate and international drug traffickers. Their relentless crackdown has resulted in multiple successful operations and significant seizures in recent months.

On February 11, 2025, two Rajasthan-based peddlers were arrested in Cyberabad with 40 grams of MDMA (Cr.No.234/2025 - Pet Basheerabad PS). On December 25, 2024, three local peddlers were caught in Film Nagar, Hyderabad, with 17.38 grams of MDMA (Cr.No.1008/2024 - Film Nagar PS).

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

Auction Catalogue No. CAT-DL-0001

(1) Lot No./Category: MSS-WAT-VSKP-Digil-63-25-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Digital lockers at station)

DESCRIPTION: THE CONTRACT IS FOR INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DIGITAL CLOCK ROOM AT VISAKHAPATNAM STATION.

(2) Lot No./Category: MSS-WAT-VZM-Digil-64-25-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Digital lockers at station)

DESCRIPTION: THE CONTRACT IS FOR INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DIGITAL CLOCK ROOM AT VIZIANAGARAM STATION.

(3) Lot No./Category: MSS-WAT-CHE-Digil-68-25-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Digital lockers at station)

DESCRIPTION: THE CONTRACT IS FOR INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DIGITAL CLOCK ROOM AT SRIKAKULAM ROAD STATION.

(4) Lot No./Category: MSS-WAT-RGDA-Digil-65-25-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Digital lockers at station)

DESCRIPTION: THE CONTRACT IS FOR INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DIGITAL CLOCK ROOM AT BORRAGUHALI STATION.

(5) Lot No./Category: MSS-WAT-SCM-Digil-66-25-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Digital lockers at station)

DESCRIPTION: THE CONTRACT IS FOR INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DIGITAL CLOCK ROOM AT SIMHACHALAM STATION.

(6) Lot No./Category: MSS-WAT-ARK-Digil-71-25-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Digital lockers at station)

DESCRIPTION: THE CONTRACT IS FOR INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DIGITAL CLOCK ROOM AT ARAKU STATION.

(7) Lot No./Category: MSS-WAT-BGHU-Digil-67-25-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Digital lockers at station)

DESCRIPTION: THE CONTRACT IS FOR INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DIGITAL CLOCK ROOM AT BORRAGUHALI STATION.

Lot Start Date & Time: 03.03.2025 at 11:00hrs. (for all SI Nos.)

Lot End Date & Time: 03.03.2025 at 11:30 hrs (for SI. No. 1), 11:40 hrs (for SI. No. 2), 11:50 hrs (for SI. No. 3), 12:00 hrs (for SI. No. 4), 12:10 hrs (for SI. No. 5), 12:20 hrs (for SI. No. 6) and 12:30 hrs (for SI. No. 7).

Minimum Increase : 0.2% (for all SI Nos.), Lot Status : New in Draft Catalogue (for all SI Nos.)

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## Kishan Reddy calls for BJP victory in MLC elections, criticizes Cong

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Feb 20 (UNI) : Union Minister and BJP Telangana President G Kishan Reddy emphasized the need for BJP candidates to win in the upcoming elections to ensure a better future for Telangana.

Addressing a Teachers' Meet & Greet event at Vivera Hotel in Bhuvanagiri as part of the MLC election campaign, Reddy said the MLC elections in Telangana are scheduled for February 27, covering the joint Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Medak-Adilabad Graduate MLC, Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Medak-Adilabad Teachers' MLC, and Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam Teachers' MLC seats.

Reddy highlighted the special voting rights given

to teachers and their crucial role in electing representatives to the Legislative Council, a system designed to address their concerns within the government.

Recalling his political journey, Reddy noted that he first entered the Legislative Council through this system. He reminisced about how BJP leaders like V. Rama Rao, Yagna Narayana, Chalapathi Rao, and others had once won MLC elections, strengthening the voice of intellectuals in governance.

He credited teachers with playing a vital role in India's post-independence development, increasing literacy, and educating society about social and electoral responsibilities.

Reddy stated that as an

MLA, he had personally taken teachers to meet the Chief Minister to discuss their problems, an approach that ensured accountability in governance.

However, he lamented that after the TRS government came to power, the importance of the Legislative Council diminished significantly, and the system was deliberately weakened. He accused the BRS of absorbing Congress MLCs into its ranks, effectively silencing the voice of teachers and intellectuals. He further asserted that neither the BRS nor Congress had the courage to seek votes based on solving teachers' issues.

Speaking about Telangana's history, Reddy acknowledged the sacrifices made by teachers,

employees, and youth during the statehood movement, particularly in the Sakala Janula Samme (strike). However, he expressed disappointment that Telangana, which was won through mass movements, had become a prisoner of the KCR family's rule. He criticized the former Chief Minister for banning Dharna Chowk and ignoring teachers' unions, ruling in an authoritarian manner.

He further alleged that the people of Telangana, who had ousted the BRS government, were now being deceived by the Congress government. He described the situation as "falling from the frying pan into the fire," citing the government's failure to release Dearness Allowances (DA), resolve

the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) issues, provide unemployment benefits, or fill job vacancies. He declared that Telangana's future was at risk under the current administration.

Reddy accused the Congress of misleading voters with false promises, including its pledge to build one international school per Mandal, while existing government schools remained in poor condition.

He criticised the state's growing financial crisis, stating that a once self-sufficient Telangana had been burdened with Rs 9 lakh crore in debt over the last decade. He argued that the financial mismanagement had led to crises in key sectors like education and healthcare,

with the government unable to generate resources to fulfill its commitments.

Emphasising the importance of the upcoming elections, Reddy urged voters to choose wisely to secure Telangana's future. He accused the Congress of failing to implement any of the 420 promises it made before the elections, including its pledge to fulfill guarantees within 100 days. In contrast, he praised the Narendra Modi-led central government for providing tax exemptions to poor and middle-class citizens earning up to Rs 12 lakh, showcasing BJP's commitment to economic relief and governance.

Reddy called for voters to elect BJP candidates, ensuring strong and accountable leadership in the Legislative Council.

## Governor graces Foundation Day celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram

Hyderabad, Feb 20 (UNI) : Governor of Telangana, Jishnu Dev Varma, graced the Foundation Day Celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram as the Chief Guest at Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad, on Thursday.

Extending his heartfelt greetings to the people of both states, the Governor expressed deep appreciation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision in fostering such meaningful celebrations, which serve as a catalyst for national integration.

In his address, Jishnu Dev Varma underscored the profound cultural and

emotional ties between Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Telangana. He urged the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram to take pride in their rich heritage and serve as cultural ambassadors, carrying the essence of their traditions wherever they go.

He further emphasised the collective responsibility of strengthening national unity and contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat—a developed India by 2047. He stressed that the need of the hour is unity in diversity, rather than uniformity, to truly uphold the spirit of Ek

Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

A special highlight of the event was the video messages from the Hon'ble Governors of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, adding to the spirit of the occasion.

The celebrations came alive with captivating cultural performances, including a mesmerizing traditional bamboo dance presented by talented artists from both states.

The event was anchored by Ms. Enong Lomtong, a Ph.D. scholar from Arunachal Pradesh, and Ms. Candle Vanrempuui, a Ph.D. scholar from Mizoram, both from the University of Hyderabad.

## Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy slams BRS over irrigation failures

Hyderabad, Feb 20 (UNI) : Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy accused BRS leaders of spreading falsehoods to defame the Congress government.

He blamed the previous BRS regime for failing to protect Telangana's water rights and causing severe financial and structural damage to the irrigation sector.

Addressing a press conference at Jala Soudha on Thursday, alongside Ministers Komati Reddy Venkatreddy and Ponnam Prabhakar, Uttam Kumar Reddy criticized BRS leaders for attempting to conceal their failures.

He alleged that the BRS

government mismanaged irrigation funds, borrowing over Rs 1 lakh crore for the Kaleshwaram project, which suffered from faulty design and poor construction. He pointed out that the Medigadda Barrage, termed the 'heart of Kaleshwaram,' collapsed under BRS rule, yet its leaders downplayed the disaster.

Reddy revealed that despite spending Rs 1.81 lakh crore on irrigation projects, the BRS government failed to expand ayacut significantly. He noted that Rs 27,000 crore was spent on the Palamuru-Rangareddy Project and Rs 9,000 crore on the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, yet

neither delivered irrigation water. Several key projects, including Devadula, Kalwakurthy, Nettampadu, and Dindi, remained incomplete.

Accusing the BRS government of corruption, he claimed irrigation projects were executed for personal gain rather than for farmers. He assured that the Congress government is working to rectify these failures by prioritizing pending projects and securing Telangana's water rights. Efforts to allocate 67 TMC of Godavari River water for the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project have been expedited, and negotiations are ongoing for an additional 44 TMC for the Sammaka Sarakka project.

## STANDARD POST

## Indian scientists find common biomarkers for early diagnosis of pancreatic, glioma cancers

A team of scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali -- an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) -- has identified some common metabolites of hard to detect pancreatic and glioma cancers, which can boost their early diagnosis and lead to better treatment outcomes.

The team identified metabolites in exosomes derived from pancreatic cancer, lung cancer and glioma cancer cell line, which offers potential universal biomarkers resulting in enhanced clinical applicability.

"This offers a potential non-invasive method for early cancer diagnosis as well as therapeutic strategies for cancer," said the researchers in the paper, published in the journal *Nanoscale*.

Aggressive cancers like pancreatic and glioma cancers often diagnosed late and having poor prognoses. Hence there is an urgent need for non-invasive, reliable cancer biomarkers to address significant gaps in cancer diagnostics and therapeutics, particularly for pancreatic and glioma cancers, which lack early detection methods.

Nano messengers (exosomes) -- as carriers of tumour-derived metabolites -- provide a unique opportunity to explore the tumour microenvironment (TME), said the team, including Nandini Bajaj and Dr. Deepika Sharma from the Institute.

The researchers utilised a multi-technique approach combining Nanoparticle Tracking Analysis (NTA), Electron Microscopy (EM), Western Blot (WB), Fourier Transformed Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), untargeted Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) -- providing a comprehensive characterisation of exosomes, surpassing conventional single-method studies.

The study advances cancer diagnostics, personalised medicine, and our understanding of cancer progression mechanisms. These metabolites identified highlight dysregulated pathways in the tumour microenvironment and also gives insights on how the cancer progresses and enables non-invasive and precise cancer detection and therapeutic targeting.

The findings can lead to the development of targeted therapies that can disrupt dysregulated metabolic pathways in tumours, enhancing treatment efficacy and potentially reducing side effects.



(By Ravi Kumar Boppana)

Data Protection Day, observed globally on January 28, serves as a reminder of the critical importance of privacy and safeguarding personal data in an increasingly digital world. Established in 2006 by the Council of Europe, the day commemorates the signing of Convention 108 in 1981, the first legally binding international treaty focused on protecting personal data. It is a call to action for individuals, businesses, and governments to reflect on their responsibilities and take proactive measures to ensure data security.

**Empowering Individuals to Take Charge**

In today's interconnected era, where personal information is a valuable asset, Data Protection Day emphasizes the growing need to educate people about their digital rights and empower them to take control of their data. For individuals, this means adopting simple yet

effective practices like reviewing privacy settings on apps, using strong passwords, enabling two-factor authentication, and staying informed about cyber threats such as phishing and malware. The day encourages everyone to reassess their online habits, clean up unused accounts, and secure sensitive information to prevent misuse.

**Businesses and Their Responsibility to Build Trust**

Businesses play a crucial role in fostering a culture of trust and transparency. Data Protection Day is an opportunity for organizations to conduct audits, update their privacy policies, and ensure compliance with regulations such as GDPR and CCPA. Companies can also engage with employees and customers by hosting workshops, sharing educational resources, or even launching campaigns to spread awareness about safeguarding data. It's a chance to reaffirm their commitment to ethical data practices, ensuring that personal information is handled with care and in accordance with privacy laws.

**The Role of Governments and NGOs**

Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have

**Privacy is not a luxury; it's your right. Protect it today and every day.**

**Data protection starts with awareness—secure your digital life now.**

**"In a connected world, safeguarding your data means safeguarding your future."**



a unique platform to engage the public, especially through campaigns that highlight the importance of privacy and offer practical tips for protecting personal data. Public seminars,

school programs, and social media initiatives can amplify the message, making data protection a shared responsibility across society. Collaboration with

international stakeholders further reinforces the global nature of data security challenges and the need for unified solutions."

The Cost of Data Breaches and the Path

Forward"

Data breaches and cyberattacks remain a pressing concern, with millions of individuals affected each year. This day serves as a reminder of the potential consequences of mishandling data, from identity theft to reputational damage, and highlights the urgency of adapting to emerging threats in the digital landscape. By taking simple yet meaningful steps, individuals and organizations can significantly reduce their risk and contribute to a safer digital environment."

**A Shared Responsibility for a Secure Future**

Ultimately, Data Protection Day is not just about protecting data—it's about preserving trust, fostering accountability, and ensuring that privacy remains a fundamental right in a rapidly evolving technological world. It is a day to take action, spread awareness, and advocate for stronger policies that uphold the principles of security and respect for personal.

(The author is a senior journalist and media consultant, who previously served as the Chief Public Relations Officer to governor at the Andhra Pradesh Raj Bhavan and media liaison officer to speaker at the AP Legislative Assembly.)

## BSF-BGB talks: India, Bangladesh agree to curb border violence, bring down attacks on BSF

New Delhi/Dhaka, Feb 20 (UNI): The border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh agreed to bring down to minimum incidents of attacks on BSF personnel by Bangladesh-based trans-border criminals and reiterated the need for synergised efforts to uphold human rights and curb violence on the border.

The Indian delegation to the talks was headed by Daljit Singh Chawdhary, DG BSF, and Bangladesh delegation was headed by Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, Director General, Border Guard Bangladesh, the BSF said in a post on X.

The major agenda points at the four-day 55th Director General-level meeting between the Border Security Force and the Border Guard Bangladesh, held in New Delhi (Feb 17-20), were:

From the BSF side were prevention against attack/assault/abuse on BSF personnel and Indian civilians by Bangladesh based criminals/miscreants, joint efforts to prevent trans-border crimes, action against Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs) in Bangladesh, issues related to border infrastructure, construction of SRF, joint efforts for effective implementation of Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP), Confidence Building Measures (CBM) and other miscellaneous activities.

From the BGB, the

points were: prevention of border crimes; border violation/illegal crossing/intrusion into Bangladesh territory by BSF/Indian police/Indian nationals, smugglers and miscreants; killing at border; issues related to border infrastructure within 150 yards of IB; establishment of Effluent Treatment plant (ETP) for 4 canals carrying waste water from Agartala to Akhaura; border demarcation, survey and construction of pillars; construction work within 150 yards of IB; river bank protection works and water sharing; location of camps and movement of armed miscreants inside India; effective implementation of CBMP, confidence building measures and other Misc activities. Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP), With a view to maintain the highest level of cordial relations between both the nations, as envisaged by its present top leadership, following decisions were taken by both the D'sG after detailed discussions on the agenda from both sides: \*Both sides appreciated each other's concerns and committed to settle these issues amicably through continued, constructive and positive engagements at all levels. They agreed to implement the decisions of the conference at the ground level in true spirit.

\*On the incidents of assault/attack on BSF personnel by Bangladesh

based trans-border criminals/miscreants, both sides agreed to undertake combined efforts to bring down such incidents to absolute minimum by increasing coordinated patrols especially during late hours of nights to early morning in vulnerable areas and educating border population regarding the sanctity of the International Border. \*Reiterating the need for synergistic efforts to uphold human rights and curb violence on the border, both sides agreed to work together with utmost synergy by enhancing joint patrolling, vigilance, intensifying public awareness program, undertaking appropriate socio-economic development program and sharing of real-time information in order to ensure effective border management without any killing on either side. BSF is already following the non-lethal policy on Indo-Bangladesh border.

\*Highlighting the importance of Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP) in curbing trans-border crimes, human trafficking and illegal crossing, both sides agreed to pursue and share real-time information and investigation reports of traffickers (if any), both sides also assured to remain extra vigilant to curb such crimes and to put all out efforts to make Indo-Bangladesh border crime free. Both sides also agreed

to help victims of human trafficking and to facilitate their rescue and fastest rehabilitation as per law of the land.

\*Both sides appreciated the efforts taken for strengthening mutual cooperation through various agreed-upon events under CBMP. Both sides agreed to continue with all the bilateral engagements like coordinated joint patrolling, games and sports, joint retreat ceremonies, band display goodwill visits etc.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction over the outcome of the conference and reiterated their commitments to work jointly for maintaining peace and tranquillity at the border. They provisionally agreed to hold the next DG level conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh at a suitable time in the month of July 2025. The highest-level talks between the Border Security Force India and Border Guard Bangladesh are held twice every year—once each in India and Bangladesh, which facilitates both the border guarding forces to establish robust systems through which co-operation in Border Guarding and Border Management is ensured.

India and Bangladesh share a civilizational and cultural heritage and host of factors that span virtually the entire spectrum of interaction that is possible for neighbors to have.

## Delhi cabinet approves Ayushman Bharat scheme and 14 CAG reports

New Delhi, Feb 20 (UNI) Delhi's BJP government in its first cabinet meeting on Thursday approved the Ayushman Bharat scheme with a top up of Rs 5 lakhs and 14 pending CAG reports, which the new regime has promised to table in the first seating of the Assembly.

The cabinet meeting was chaired by Rekha Gupta after she took oath as the 4th women chief minister of Delhi. The meeting was attended by the six cabinet ministers.

Speaking after the meeting, Gupta said "During the cabinet meeting, we took two big decisions. The Ayushman Bharat Yojana, whose implementation had been held back by the previous government, will be implemented in Delhi with a top-up of Rs 5 lakh from the state government".

"PM Narendra Modi had announced the scheme for the whole nation, but Delhi could not get its benefits because of the AAP. This will be done at the earliest after the formalities are completed" she added.

She also assured that her government will fulfill its promise of providing ₹2,500 monthly assistance to women and added that the AAP would be held accountable for its actions during its rule.

"The first instalment of the monthly support would be credited to eligible women's accounts by March 8" said Gupta.

Gupta also allocated Portfolios to her cabinet ministers. She has kept the General Administration Department (GAD), Women and Child Development (WCD), Land and Building, Information and Publicity (I&P), Administrative Reforms, Planning, Vigilance, and Finance.

Ashish Sood will be in charge of Home, Power, Urban Development, Education & Higher Education and Training & Technical Education departments. while Parvesh Verma will be responsible for the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, which is tasked with the cleanup of the Yamuna River.

Industries, Food and Supplies, Environment, and Forestry has been allotted to Manjinder Singh Sirsa, while Social Welfare and Welfare for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) has gone to Ravinder Indraj Singh.

Kapil Mishra will be the incharge of Law & Justice, Labour Department, Employment Department, Development, Art & Culture, Language Department, Tourism Department.

## Beauty



# Why you should try a Hair spa this summer

## Treatments using exotic oils and pastes can be a boon for thinning, heated tresses this time of the year

mixed with the conditioner onto the hair. I recommend using argan oil, which is very beneficial and can penetrate the hair shaft and restore moisture. After oiling and shampoo, a deep-conditioning mask or pack made with natural ingredients is applied to the hair and massaged well.

### 5 steps to a home hair spa

A hair spa is not just about pampering the hair with a massage. It also provides nutrients to the hair, with a variety of packs. The four essentials are: Oil massage, shampoo, mask and conditioner.

1. Massage your scalp: This is the first step to start a hair treatment at home. Warm some coconut oil or olive oil. Massage your head with this. This increases blood circulation and boosts hair growth.

2. Steam the hair: Dip a towel in warm water and squeeze the excess water out. Wrap the towel around the hair. This allows the oil to penetrate deep into the scalp. Do this for about 5-six minutes.

3. Wash your hair: Now, wash the hair with a mild shampoo. Use only cold water as hot water is harmful to the hair roots.

4. Apply conditioner: Post the shampooing, use a conditioner. You can also use the water of tea leaves to which a few drops of lime juice has been added. Or try a paste of grated beetroot to which hibiscus powder has been added. The hibiscus flower powder is a great base and is rich in iron and other vitamins. Rinse it off after half an hour with just warm water and no shampoo.

5. Lastly, a hair mask: The last step is crucial as it seals in the nourishment. Try making this mask at home. In a bowl, mix two eggs, honey and some coconut oil. You can add a ripe

banana to this — banana is a softener. You can also use olive oil instead of coconut oil. Leave the mask on for 20 minutes, then rinse with a mild shampoo.

### Try these hair masks

#### Avocado mask

Make a mix of 1 avocado, 1 egg and a little lemon juice. Apply this concoction to wet hair and leave on for 15 minutes. Rinse and wash.

#### Banana-almond mask

Mash up a banana and add a few drops of almond oil to this. Mix well and massage this on the hair. Allow it to remain for about 20 minutes, then rinse and wash hair. Gives softness to the hair.

#### Honey de-frizzing mask

Take half a cup of honey and yogurt. Add half a teaspoon of almond oil to it. Mix and add to the hair. Wash off.

#### Pumpkin booster

Blend a cup of cooked and diced pumpkin, half a tablespoon of coconut or almond oil, a teaspoon of yogurt and one teaspoon of honey. Apply on the hair and leave for 20 minutes. Rinse off. As pumpkin is a source of vitamin A and potassium, it calms the scalp and promotes hair growth.

## Use a night cream for Better skin

Night creams work wonders on your skin while you sleep... read on to find out more



Skin is the most important part of one's body. And it is the most essential part of one's beauty as well. If your skin looks fresh and radiant, there is little that you need to do after that. And in the rush to look younger and slow down the process of ageing, night creams have come as a blessing to women who want to keep themselves beautiful.

So how do these night creams work? And are they any good? Better than day creams? These are the normal questions that arise in a person's mind. But let me tell you, night creams are very good. They repair and moisturise your skin. These are called night creams because you apply them before you go to sleep and when you wake up, viola! You find your skin refreshing and the complexion soft and rosy. This is because the elements used in night creams remove all the dull and dead skin while you sleep. The night creams are thicker as compared to the ordinary moisturisers. Hence, they penetrate deep inside the skin and moisturise it. And the vitamins and snit-ageing components help your skin look younger, wrinkle-free.

Also, when you are sleeping, the deep-breathing helps your skin produce new cells, which also helps in looking younger. But remember, don't apply the night cream on your upper lids of your eyes before sleeping or else you will wake up with puffy lids. So use the night creams and wake up to find a soft and supple skin and feel refreshed.

It's certainly hot and while you're watching your diet and eating right, also ensure you take care of your hair, which faces damage due to the heat. A hair spa can take care of that. Importantly, it seeks to normalise oil secretions due to sweating. Of course, one can go in for a hair spa for tired-out hair during any season, but with the hair losing its moisture and sheen during the summer, the treatment is especially a boon. Agrees beauty expert, Nisha Jhaveri. "Sun damage does have an adverse effect on the hair, leaving it dehydrated.

But as people are constantly highlighting and streaking their hair, it makes the hair very brittle. So, I'd advise a hair spa at least once a week at any time," she says.

### What is the treatment about?

If you're going in for a hair spa, the therapist would first take a look at what kind of hair you have, its quality, etc. You are then offered suitable remedies and packs. Some spas also have a protein treatment for hair. Says Jhaveri, "The idea is to rejuvenate and protect the hair. A serum is

### Sign #1

#### Your hairstyle hasn't changed since ages

You have evolved through the years and so has your sense of fashion but not your hairstyle. It's high time you altered that too. Hairstylist Savio Pereira suggests you to get inspired by collecting images of cuts and styles you wish to have. Hurry and schedule an appointment!

### Sign #2

#### You look older than you really are

Even though you might humbly grace greying, often when the grey strands are visible at a young age, you tend to look older than you are. Consider a colour change or head in to shorten the length of your hair to look chic as they age.

### Sign #3

#### Your hair has no volume

With the increasing level of pollution and almost no time to oil and nourish your hair every week, the hair starts losing out on volume. "When you feel your hair is flat on the crown and has no movement even after a blow dry, it is time for you to go in for a new hairstyle," says Sylvia Chen hairstylist. A haircut with added layers will retain the length and will inject life and energy to your hair.

### Sign #4

#### Your hair colour has begun to fade out

You are planning to go for a party and you notice that your hair colour has begun to fade out, and you don't want people to start noticing the little strands of grey hair. Head to a salon straight away and ask your hairstylist for a new look. Add deeper, warmer streaks using peroxide and ammonia-free shades in burgundy and mahogany to add loads of dimension without damaging your hair. Sign #5

#### No one compliments your long-black-straight-hair

You'd had people complimenting your long straight hair 5 years back. But now no one notices it! Turn heads by a simple twist to your present hairstyle. Hairstylists recommend setting your strands on hot rollers. Of all the styling tools, the hot rollers produce the sexiest and the softest waves.

### Sign #6

#### You are bored with your current hairstyle

Going to beauty parlours is not always a viable option due to time and financial constraints. However, we still look forward to healthy and glowing skin. Here are some quick home remedies anyone can follow

Everybody desires to have fair and flawless skin like Kareena Kapoor and Katrina Kaif. Television advertisements and tips garnered from the internet tell us we ought to drink gallons of water and use endless varieties of creams, soaps and face washes. Instinctively, we also know maintaining a beautiful,

ageless skin also means numerous visits to the parlours and emptying out of our hard-earned cash on various beautification regimes.

But for many of us this is not an option. A more viable alternative to have an enviable skin tone is right inside your kitchen cabinets itself. Skin specialist Keertana Mohan, gives a few tips on how to prepare your own skin creams

and lotions to look picture perfect. - Add oatmeal to a mixture of curd and tomato and apply it on your face. Wait till it dries. Wash off. Repeat twice a week to de-tan your face. - Keep raw potato slices to remove blemishes and scars on the face. Keep repeating the process till you achieve the desired result. - Take one spoon of milk powder and to it add a teaspoon

of lemon juice and a drizzle of honey. When it becomes a homogenous mixture, add some almond oil and mix it thoroughly again. Apply this mix on your face and rinse it out after 20 minutes. - Take one tomato and crush it to a pulp in a blender, to it add 6 drops of lemon juice. Apply the pulp on your face for about 20 minutes to achieve an instantaneous glow and lightens skin as well. - Take some

## 10 signs you need a hair Makeover

**It usually takes a jolt to do anything that would fundamentally change our look. But it's worth it. If no one has given you a second glance in a while and you are tired of tying the same boring ponytail, it's time for a snip...**



### Limp and dull hair

You might like the length of your hair and be quite happy with your hairstyle, but often the hair becomes dull and boring. Chen explains,

"The hair needs a cut or a trim every three to four months. Though the hair is growing constantly, however due to regular use of styling products or wash and external factors like exposure to sun, air and dust, the hair develops split ends and becomes dull and limp and loses its texture. This is the time you should go in for a haircut or a hair make-over."

### Sign #8

When your partner says 'you still look the same'

When your partner says 'you still look the same,' he is not referring to your overall look always. He is looking for a change in your hairstyle too! Ask your hair expert to give you an interesting look to surprise him when you get back home. Pereira says, "If you have long hair, you could opt for layers and shorten your hair upto your shoulders and if you have medium-length, you could go in for a flared bob."

### Sign #9

#### Always sporting a pony

You wouldn't want your hair to look like a lizard's tail! Chen says, "You can add some layers and locks to your mane to wear them down." If you do not want to shorten the length of your hair, you can always add layers or bangs to add more volume to your hair. This will help you can wear them in any way you want to and not tie them up all the time.

### Sign #10

#### You fail miserably every time you try to style your hair

If styling your hair takes more than 15-20 minutes, then your cut is clearly not making the most of your texture. In this case, ask your stylist to give you a hair cut or style that is easy to maintain and can be styled in just five to 10 minutes.

## Treat your skin to oatmeal, almonds

almonds and soak in cold water overnight. Crush them in the morning and add it to 20 ml of honey. Rub the concoction to your face for about 30 minutes. Rinse off with cold water to reveal fresher, glowing skin. - Take dried orange peels and crush it to powder. Add this to milk and apply the paste on your face. It must be used regularly for whiter skin. "Apart from this, consuming fruits and raw vegetables are always beneficial, to maintain your skin's healthy glow," says Mohan.



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## India beat Bangladesh by 6 wickets

Dubai, Feb 20 (UNI) : A scintillating century from Shubman Gill and a five-wicket haul by Mohammed Shami propelled India to a clinical six-wicket victory over Bangladesh in their ICC Champions Trophy 2025 opener at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

India's pace attack made an immediate impact, with Shami dismantling Bangladesh's top order in a devastating spell. Debutant Harshit Rana complemented him well, ensuring Bangladesh reeled at 35/5 inside the first 10 overs—one of the worst powerplay collapses in Champions Trophy history. Axar Patel further dented Bangladesh's innings with a double

strike, removing Tanzid Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim off successive deliveries.

However, Towhid Hridoy produced a resilient counterattack, forging a record 152-run partnership for the sixth wicket with Jaker Ali. Hridoy's unbeaten 100\* off 118 balls (6 fours, 2 sixes) not only salvaged Bangladesh's innings but also made him only the ninth player to score a century on his Champions Trophy debut and the second Bangladeshi after Tamim Iqbal (128 vs England, 2017) to achieve the feat.

Despite their fightback, Bangladesh were bowled out for 228 in 49.4 overs, with Shami finishing with figures of 5/53—India's

second-best in Champions Trophy history, behind Ravindra Jadeja's 5/36 in 2013. Chasing a modest target, India made a steady start with skipper Rohit Sharma scoring a brisk 41 off 36 balls before falling to Taskin Ahmed. Shubman Gill then took centre stage, constructing a masterful innings despite a slow start. His eighth ODI century, achieved in 125 balls, was among the slowest for India in recent years but underlined his temperament and class. Notably, Gill surpassed the likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, and Sachin Tendulkar as the fastest Indian to reach eight ODI centuries.

India faced a brief wobble with Virat Kohli (22 off 38) and Shreyas Iyer (15

off 17) falling cheaply, allowing Bangladesh a brief glimmer of hope. Rishad Hossain provided a crucial breakthrough by dismissing Kohli and Axar Patel, but the dropped catch of KL Rahul by Jaker Ali proved costly for Bangladesh.

Rahul ensured India's victory with an unbeaten 41, finishing the chase in style with a towering six off Tanzim Hasan Sakib in the 47th over. India reached 231/4 in 46.3 overs, sealing a six-wicket triumph and making an emphatic start to their campaign. With this dominant win, India have set the tone for their Champions Trophy campaign and will aim to carry forward their momentum in the upcoming fixtures.

## Rohit second fastest to 11,000 ODI runs

Dubai, Feb 20 (UNI) : India captain Rohit Sharma etched his name in the record books by becoming the second fastest batsman to reach 11,000 runs in One-Day Internationals (ODIs) in terms of innings. He achieved the milestone in his 261st innings during the ongoing match against Bangladesh. With this feat, Rohit trails only Virat Kohli, who reached the mark in 222 innings. He also outpaced legendary batsmen Sachin Tendulkar (276 innings), Sourav Ganguly (288), and Ricky Ponting (286). Rohit became only the fourth Indian and the 10th player in the world to cross the 11,000-run mark in ODIs. The landmark moment came when he lofted a Mustafizur Rahman delivery over mid-on for four runs, despite the ball coming off the thick inside half of his bat.

The India skipper's latest achievement adds to his illustrious career, reinforcing his stature as one of the finest white-ball batsmen of the modern era.

## Pakistan penalised for slow over-rate

Karachi, Feb 20 (UNI) : The hosts have been fined five percent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over rate during the Tournament's opening game in Karachi.

Following their defeat in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 opener against Black Caps, Pakistan have been handed a slow over-rate fine, after being found one over short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration, according to an ICC media release.

While on-field umpires Richard Kettleborough and Sharfuddoula, third umpire Joel Wilson and fourth umpire Alex Wharf levelled the charge, Match referee Andy Pycroft imposed the sanction - five percent of match fee deducted.

Pakistan skipper Mohammad Rizwan pleaded guilty to the offence with no formal hearing required thereafter.



Vidarbha's Yash Rathod celebrates his century during the fourth day of the Ranji Trophy semi-final cricket match between Mumbai and Vidarbha, at VCA stadium in Nagpur, Maharashtra on Thursday.

## Kohli equals Azhar's record for most ODI catches

Dubai, Feb 20 (UNI) : Virat Kohli has equalled former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin's long-standing record for the most catches as a fielder for India in One-Day Internationals (ODIs).

Kohli equalled Azhar's record in the Champions Trophy match against Bangladesh in Dubai on Thursday.

Kohli and Azharuddin now share the top spot with 156 catches each, surpassing the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, who held 140 catches in his ODI career. Rahul Dravid

occupies the fourth position with 124 catches, while Suresh Raina, known for his agility in the field, completes the top five with 102 catches. Meanwhile, India's pace spearhead Mohammed Shami has etched his name in history by becoming the joint-second fastest bowler to take 200 ODI wickets. He achieved the feat in just 104 matches, matching Pakistan's Saqlain Mushtaq. Australia's Mitchell Starc holds the record, having reached the milestone in 102 ODIs.

In terms of the fewest

balls bowled to claim 200 wickets, Shami leads the charts, having accomplished the feat in just 5,126 deliveries. Starc follows closely with 5,240 balls, while Saqlain Mushtaq (5,451), Brett Lee (5,640), and Trent Boult (5,783) complete the top five. Shami's achievement underscores his efficiency as a strike bowler, reaffirming his status as one of the most lethal pacers in modern-day cricket. His exploits will be crucial for India as they gear up for upcoming international assignments.

## AFG spin battles SA batting power in CT opener

Karachi, Feb 20 (UNI) : A thrilling contest is on the cards as Afghanistan's spin-heavy attack prepares to take on South Africa's formidable batting lineup in their opening match of the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy here on Friday.

The match, scheduled to commence at 2:30 PM IST, will be played under hot and dry conditions, with temperatures hovering around 30°C.

Afghanistan enters the contest with a formidable spin-heavy bowling attack, spearheaded by Rashid Khan. While their bowling unit remains their strength, their batting lineup will need to step up in conditions that are expected to favour batsmen. The team faces added pressure as Pakistani pitches traditionally support high-scoring encounters.

Rashid Khan remains Afghanistan's key weapon, with his mesmerising spin expected to be a major factor in the game. If he can break through South Africa's top order, Afghanistan's chances of an upset increase significantly.

South Africa, despite being a consistent force in international cricket, continues its quest for an elusive ICC title. The Proteas suffered heartbreak in the 2024 T20 World Cup final against India and were eliminated in the group stage of the 2017 Champions Trophy due to rain-affected matches. With a power-packed batting lineup, they will look to dominate Afghanistan's bowlers and make a strong start to their campaign. Heinrich Klaasen, known for his six-hitting ability, is a player to watch, with bets favouring him to hit the most sixes in the encounter. While Afghanistan's bowling attack poses a significant threat, the batting-friendly conditions in Karachi are expected to favour South Africa's deep and experienced batting order. Experts give the Proteas the upper hand, predicting them to emerge victorious in this highly anticipated clash.

## Mbappe hat-trick goals defeats Man City in knockout play-off

Madrid, Feb 20 (UNI) : Manchester City's Champions League campaign came to a tame conclusion at the Bernabeu as Kylian Mbappe's brilliant hat-trick inspired holders Real Madrid to a comfortable victory and place in the last 16.

Pep Guardiola's side were attempting to reverse a 3-2 deficit from the play-off first leg, but this contest was effectively over after four minutes when Mbappe's precise lob from Raul Asencio's pass increased their advantage, the BBC reported.

City, with Erling Haaland only fit enough for the bench, saw their plight worsen moments after Mbappe's opener when they lost defender John Stones to injury.

And City's earliest Champions League exit since they failed to get out of the group in 2012-13 edged closer when Mbappe showed brilliant close control to wrong-foot Josko Gvardiol before beating Ederson after 33 minutes.

The France forward's third came just after the hour with a low shot as City subsided, barely laying a

glove on Real all night as they were outclassed.

City pulled a goal back when Nico Gonzalez turned in his first goal for the club after Omar Marmoush's free-kick hit the bar, but it was no consolation on a desperate night for the reigning Premier League champions.

It was a chastening experience for Guardiola, whose discomfort was particularly relished by Real's fans because of his old Barcelona allegiances, as he faces a mammoth task to rebuild and restore City to Europe's top table.



Former cricketer and one of the ambassadors of ICC Champions Trophy 2025 Shikhar Dhawan before the start of the One Day International (ODI) cricket match of the tournament, between India and Bangladesh, in Dubai, UAE.

## Mohammed Shami highlights comeback struggles ahead of Champions Trophy return

Dubai, Feb 20 (UNI) India pacer Mohammed Shami who was out of action for over a year due to an ankle injury suffered during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2023, talked about how tough his comeback to international cricket has been and what lies ahead in the future.

The India fast-bowler has revealed there were times when he thought his international career was over and he would never get another opportunity to represent his country, according to an ICC media release on Thursday.

Shami injured his ankle during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2023 and then was sidelined for almost a year as he battled with self-doubt and a strict rehabilitation process in an attempt to

prolong his already distinguished career.

The 34-year-old did make a successful return when featuring in four white-ball fixtures for India against England across the last month and is now set to push his comeback even further when he turns out for his country in their ICC Champions Trophy 2025 opener against Bangladesh in Dubai on Thursday. It has been a long road back to the big stage for Shami and the talented right-arm said there were times when he thought he may never make it back at all. "From being in great form during the World Cup to suddenly finding myself on the operating table from that form to being injured was really tough," Shami told the ICC. "My

first question to the doctor was 'how many days until I can be back on the field'. He said my priority is to get you to walk, then jog and then run and thinking about playing competitive cricket is still a distant goal. "I always wondered when I would be able to put my feet on the ground again someone who is used to running on the field constantly was now in crutches. "A lot of thoughts used to run through my mind. Will I be able to do it again? Will I be able to walk without a limp?" For the first two months I often doubted whether I would be able to play again as an injury like this followed by a 14-month break can pull you down. "Shami paid tribute to the role his family played during his

rehabilitation and said the BCCI had been very supportive of him throughout the process.

It was the desire to once again represent India on the big stage that drove Shami during the tough times and gave him the strength to push through the pain barrier.

"After 60 days when they asked me to put my feet on the ground, you won't believe me, but I have ever been more scared to put my foot on the ground," Shami said. "It felt like I was starting over, like a toddler learning how to walk and I was worried about any complications.

"Courage and passion to play for the country are the biggest motivators and the desire to wear the India badge on my chest kept me going.

"You endure the pain and take it one step at a time without complaints or bitterness.

"The passion for representing my country has brought me this far. "It was tough and there was pain, but with resilience and patience I made it through."

And now that Shami has made a successful return, he wants to prolong his career and continue to represent India for as long as his body allows. "My motivation has always been to serve my country for as long as possible," Shami added. "Because once you step away you are just like anyone else.

"Today, by the grace of god, I am playing for India again and feeling much better," he concluded.

## Liverpool draw game with Aston Villa, leads points table

Birmingham, Feb 20 (UNI) : Liverpool moved eight points clear at the top of the Premier League after being held to a gripping draw by Aston Villa.

The Reds have not lost in the Premier League since being beaten 1-0 by Nottingham Forest at Anfield in September but were almost undone by sloppy defending and a lack of cutting edge.

Youri Tielemans and Ollie Watkins cancelled out Mohamed Salah's 29th-minute opener, before Trent Alexander-Arnold levelled 16 minutes after the break, the BBC reported.

Having extended their lead over second-placed

Arsenal, Arne Slot's side go to Manchester City on Sunday in what could now be a defining week in the title race.

The Gunners host West Ham on Saturday knowing victory, and a defeat for Liverpool at Etihad Stadium, would put them within striking distance of the leaders with a game in hand.

Villa, with Marcus Rashford starting for the first time, remain in ninth place and five points adrift of the top four.

Rashford was bright for the hosts and his cross was turned into his own net by Virgil van Dijk after 17 minutes, only for the forward to be correctly

ruled offside.

Salah then miscued a header, but he was on hand to open the scoring from Diogo Jota's centre when Andres Garcia's awful pass gifted the Portuguese forward the ball.

Yet the lead lasted just nine minutes when Tielemans struck after the visitors failed to clear Rashford's free-kick.

After Jota wasted a fine chance, Watkins nodded Villa ahead in first-half injury time following a fine Lucas Digne cross.

Liverpool hit back, though, with Jota hitting the bar before Salah teed up Alexander-Arnold for a deflected low effort that beat Emi Martinez.

## Japan reaches AFC U20 Asian Cup quarterfinals

Shenzhen, Feb. 20 (UNI) Japan secured the last ticket in the AFC U20 Asian Cup quarterfinals after drawing 1-1 with South Korea in the third round of Group D here on Thursday.

Soma Kanda opened the scoring for Japan in the 28th minute, only for substitute Kim Tae-won to find the equalizer for South Korea in the 91st minute.

South Korea topped the group with seven points and will meet defending champions Uzbekistan in the quarterfinals, while Japan will face Iran. In the other match, Thanawut Phochai scored in the 73rd and 81st minute as Thailand came from two-goal behind to tie Syria 2-2.

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## 9 Employees of Western Railway Felicitated with GM's Safety Award



Mr Ashok Kumar Misra - General Manager of Western Railway is seen along with Principal Head of Departments and the recipients of GM's Safety Award.

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, Feb 20 : Mr Ashok Kumar Misra - General Manager of Western Railway felicitated 09 employees at WR Headquarters, Mumbai for their outstanding work which resulted in safe train working. These employees were awarded in appreciation of their alertness in duty and contribution towards

averting untoward incidents, during the month of January, 2025 and thereby ensuring the safety of train operations. Out of the 09 employees, 03 are from Vadodara Division, 02 each are from Ahmedabad & Ratlam Division, while 01 each are from Mumbai Central & Rajkot Division. According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of

Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, Shri Misra appreciated the alertness of the staff who were being awarded and mentioned that they are exemplary role models for everyone to emulate. The employees showed their great zeal and commitment towards safe running of trains in various areas of safety such as detection of rail & track fracture, brake

binding or dangling objects in passing train, application of emergency brakes to save untoward incidents, save human life, extinguishing the smoke detected in coaches, etc. Western Railway is proud of all the awardee employees who with their prompt action and alertness helped to avert the possibility of any untoward incidence.

## Facility of advance booking of unreserved tickets over non - Suburban section : Western Railway

### Advance Ticketing Facility to Ease Travel during Peak Seasons

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, Feb 20 : Western Railway is committed to providing convenient and hassle-free travel experiences to its passengers. In this direction, Railways is providing passengers with the facility to book unreserved tickets up to three days in advance (excluding the day of travel) for journeys exceeding 200 km in the non-suburban section. This facility is available at all Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) counters, ensuring convenience and ease of ticketing for passengers.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, this initiative aims to reduce the rush and queues at ticket counters, particularly during peak travel seasons such as Holi, Diwali, Summer/Winter vacations, Christmas and other holidays. Western Railway urges passengers to take advantage of this advance booking facility to avoid last-minute rush at UTS booking windows and enjoy a hassle-free journey. Mr Vineet informed that many passengers are still

unaware of this convenient provision, and Western Railway is making continuous efforts to spread awareness about the same. This facility is especially beneficial for passengers traveling long distances, as it allows them to plan their journeys and also purchase tickets in advance. It will bring relief to passengers during peak travel seasons. Passengers are encouraged to plan their journeys well in advance and make use of this facility for a smooth, stress-free, and comfortable travel experience.

## Strict action against the miscreants indulging in acts of destruction to railway property at Madhubani Stn.

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Hyderabad, Feb 20 : A special team of RPF constituted to identify the culprits. Railway appeals passengers to refrain from any act of damaging railway property. On 10th February 2025, unruly passengers damaged the 73 glass windows of AC Coaches of Train Number 12561 Swatantrata Senani Express (Ex. Jaynagar- New Delhi) at Madhubani Railway Station and created a panic and chaos amongst the railway passengers. In response to this act of vandalism, the Railway Protection Force (RPF), East Central Railway took swift action by registering a case under Sections 145(b), 146, 153 & 174(a) of the Railways Act vide Crime No. 168/2025. A special team of RPF was constituted to identify the culprits. During enquiry by the special team, information was gathered from sources and through technical evidence resulting in identification and arrest of a juvenile, who was found to be involved in the incident. He has confessed his involvement in the incident and expressed remorse. The enquiry into the case is actively under progress to identify and apprehend other individuals involved in other similar incidents of vandalism. RPF is committed to take strict action against the miscreants indulging in acts of destruction/ damage to railway property.

Railway property is a national asset, and any act of damaging railway property is illegal. RPF has made necessary security in coordination with the State Government and GRP authorities to ensure the safety and security of passengers and protect railway infrastructure. While ensuring security to the Passengers with utmost commitment, the RPF is also committed to taking strict action against those involved in such unlawful activities. We urge the public to refrain from engaging in unlawful activities and acts which jeopardize public safety.

## MoD signs Rs 697 crore contracts for procurement of RTFLT for Armed Forces

New Delhi, Feb 20 (UNI) The Defence Ministry has signed contracts with ACE Limited and JCB India Limited for procurement of 1868 Rough Terrain Fork Lift Trucks (RTFLT) worth Rs 697.35 crore for Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy. These contracts were signed in presence of Defence Secretary R K Singh, a Defence Ministry statement said here on Thursday. Rough Terrain Fork Lift Truck (RTFLT) is a critical equipment which will assist in various combat and logistics support tasks by avoiding manual handling of enormous number of stores, thus enhancing the operational effectiveness of the armed forces. This project has immense potential of direct and indirect employment generation by encouraging MSME sector through component's manufacturing.

## Indian Railways taking Strict action against miscreants indulging in the acts of vandalism and destruction to railway property in all such cases

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, Feb 20 : On 10th February 2025, some unruly passengers damaged 73 glass windows of AC Coaches of Train Number 12561 Swatantrata Senani Express (Ex. Jaynagar- New Delhi) at Madhubani Railway Station. This created a panic and chaos amongst the railway passengers. Miscreants took advantage of the fact that there was no RPF or GRP post at Madhubani. After committing the act of causing damage to Railways property, the

miscreants fled. In response to this act of vandalism, the Railway Protection Force (RPF), East Central Railway took swift action by registering a case under Sections 145(b), 146, 153 & 174(a) of the Railways Act vide Crime No. 168/2025 at RPF Post/Darbhanga. A special team of RPF was constituted to identify the culprits and to bring them to justice. During enquiry by the special team, information was gathered from sources and through technical evidence resulting in

identification and arrest of a juvenile, who was found to be involved in the incident. He has confessed his involvement in the incident and expressed remorse. The enquiry into the case is actively under progress to identify and apprehend other individuals involved in other similar incidents of vandalism. RPF is committed to take strict action against the miscreants indulging in acts of destruction/ damage to railway property. Railway property is a

national asset, and any act of damaging railway property is illegal. RPF has made necessary security in coordination with the State Government and GRP authorities to ensure the safety and security of passengers and protect railway infrastructure. While ensuring security to the Passengers with utmost commitment, the RPF is also committed to taking strict action against those involved in such unlawful activities. We urge the public to refrain from engaging in unlawful activities and acts which

jeopardize public safety. Section 153 of the Railways Act, 1989 states that anyone who endangers the safety of a person traveling on a railway can be punished with up to five years in prison. This includes obstructing or attempting to obstruct railway rolling stock. Section 174(a) of the Railways Act, 1989 covers the offense of obstructing a train or other rolling stock. The penalty for an offense under Section 174(a) is imprisonment for up to two years, a fine of up to two thousand rupees, or both.

## DRM inspected Naupada - Para section : ECoR

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Visakhapatnam, Feb 20 : Divisional Railway Manager of East Coast Railway Shri Manoj Kumar Sahoo led a comprehensive inspection of key railway facilities in Naupada- Paralakhemundi section and safety inspection, accompanied by senior officials from ECoR headquarters and the division today (20.02.2025).

The inspection commenced at Paralakhemundi railway station where DRM inspected the progress of the Amrit Bharat Station works, examined various amenities including waiting halls, railway offices, 12 metres foot over bridge etc. He interacted with various representatives and media to address their concerns and gain insights into passenger experiences



and service expectations. The inspection continued at Naupada railway station, where DRM evaluated the existing amenities and ongoing developmental projects. He reviewed the progress of Amrit station works including inspection of the 12 metres wide Foot Over Bridge. Further, he inspected the works of Road Over Bridge at Tilaru and reviewed the progress. During the visit, he engaged with railway officials to gather feedback and insights on operational efficiencies and passenger services. He also conducted a inspection of critical areas and yards, emphasizing on operational enhancements and future developmental plans for the region.

## SC stays Lokpal Order on Jurisdiction over High Court Judges

New Delhi, Feb 20 (UNI) The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed a recent decision of the Lokpal of India that asserted jurisdiction over High Court judges, raising significant legal questions about the scope of the Lokpal Act. A Bench comprising

Justice B.R. Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, and Justice Abhay S. Oka took suo motu cognizance of the matter and issued notice, expressing serious concerns over the implications of Lokpal's ruling. The case before the Lokpal presided over by

former Supreme Court judge Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, involved allegations against a sitting High Court judge. The judge was accused of influencing an Additional District Judge and another High Court judge to favour a private company in a civil

dispute. Taking note of the Lokpal's order, the Supreme Court stepped in to examine whether the Lokpal Act extends to the higher judiciary. During the hearing, Justice Gavai remarked, "Mr Solicitor, we would like to issue notice, Something very very

disturbing." Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing in the matter, supported the Court's intervention, emphasizing the need for clarity on the Lokpal's jurisdiction over judges. "The law needs to be laid down. The order needs to be stayed," Sibal submitted.

## Central Railway's Ticket Checking Campaign in AC locals-81,709 persons detected and penalised on AC locals for travelling without proper tickets and Rs.2.70 crore recovered

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, Feb 20 : The Suburban Railway System of Mumbai, one of its kind in the world and the most unique railway system transporting millions of commuters to every corner of the city, aptly known as the Lifeline of the City. Mumbai Suburban Network of Central Railway carries approx. 3.9 million passengers every day through its 1810 services daily. Central Railway runs 66 AC local services daily carrying approximately 76,836 passengers per day. Central Railway's Mumbai division conducts frequent special ticket checking drives in AC locals and at stations to curb cases of irregular travelling and ensure the safety and comfort of bonafide passengers.

These special checks not only help detect & penalise passengers travelling with irregular tickets, but also makes a huge impact in deterring others from travelling ticketless. During the financial year 2024-25 (up to January 2025), Mumbai Division's Ticket checking teams have detected and penalised 81,709 cases of irregular travel in AC locals and recovered an amount of Rs.2.70 crore as penalty. "In comparison the amount realised as penalty during the corresponding period last FY was Rs.1.19 crore from 35,885 cases of irregular travel which is a whopping increase of almost 127%. During the month of January-2025, an amount of Rs.27.82 lakhs was realised from 8,535 cases of irregular

travel as against Rs.11.83 lakhs from 3,511 cases during January-2024. This is an increase of 135.05% in revenue and 143.09% in no of cases. In December the number of persons detected travelling without proper tickets were 9,134 in December-2024, 9,698 in November-2024 and 11,532 in October 2024. "An amount of Rs.29.56 lakhs was realised as penalty in December 2024, Rs.31.84 lakhs in November and Rs.37.45 lakhs in October 2024. "To further enhance the travel experience of passengers and curb irregular travel in AC locals, Central Railway's Mumbai Division has launched several initiatives, including: "A dedicated AC

Task Force in suburban trains "A Whatsapp complaint number (7208819987) for assistance during peak hours "A Special Monitoring Team to oversee issues of irregular travel "It may be noted that the dedicated number is only for messaging the issue on the given number and that no phone calls can be made on the same. "Central Railway is committed to work tirelessly to prevent irregular travel and ensure a safe and comfortable travel experience to its passengers. "Central Railway appeals to its passengers to travel with dignity by purchasing proper and valid railway tickets in order to avoid inconvenience.