

IN BRIEF

'India has played active role in global promotion, protection of human rights'

New Delhi, Feb 24 (UNI) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday addressed the 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council during which he stressed that India has played an active role in the global promotion and protection of human rights through building capacity and strengthening human resources.

In a post on X, the EAM who addressed the UN Human Rights Council virtually, said:

"Addressed the 58th Session of @UN_HRC in Geneva virtually.

Underlined that: *India brings its pluralistic and progressive ethos to its engagements within the Council, fostering dialogue and understanding.

Nashik court grants bail to Minister Kokate, his brother

Nashik, Feb 24 (UNI) The District and Sessions Court here has granted bail to Maharashtra Agriculture Minister Advocate Manikrao Kokate and his brother Vijay on a surety of Rs one lakh in the case of embezzlement of flats provided from the Chief Minister's quota.

Manikrao Kokate's lawyer Avinash Bhide informed media that the brothers two-year sentence has been temporarily stayed until the appeal proceedings begin. He further said that although the court has given its verdict on Kokate's stay today, the next decision will be taken after the prosecutors present their arguments on Tuesday (tomorrow).



Chief Minister Mr Revanth Reddy inaugurated the Amgen India facility site in Madhapur on Monday, marking a significant milestone for the biotechnology sector.

CM Revanth Reddy accuses BRS, BJP of conspiring against Cong

(Standard Post Bureau) Nizamabad, Feb 24 : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday alleged that the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are "conspiring" to weaken the Congress in the state.

Addressing a campaign rally for the upcoming MLC election in Nizamabad district, Reddy asserted that BRS, despite not contesting the election, is working to prevent Congress from winning. He questioned BRS leaders on their indirect support for the BJP and

criticised former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for political inaction after his party's defeat in the 2023 Assembly polls.

Highlighting his government's achievements, Reddy stated that 55,163 government jobs have been given and initiatives like the Skills University and Young India Sports University have been launched under the present Congress government. He cited appointments of sportspersons, including boxer Nikhat Zareen and

Warangal's Deepti, to government posts.

The Chief Minister accused the previous BRS regime of neglecting the unemployed while asserting that his government is paying salaries on time and has allocated Rs 8,000 crore for retired employees' benefits. He also reaffirmed his commitment to securing central funds for Telangana's development. Reddy criticised BJP leaders Bandi Sanjay and Kishan Reddy for allegedly shielding BRS

'Presence of women in peacekeeping missions makes it more inclusive'

New Delhi, Feb 24 (UNI) : President Droupadi Murmu today said that the presence of women in a peacekeeping mission makes it more diverse and inclusive.

Addressing a group of participants from the Conference for Women Peacekeepers of the Global South who called on her at Rashtrapati Bhavan, President Murmu also recalled India's proud history of contribution to UN peacekeeping.

The women peacekeepers are in New Delhi to participate in a Conference on the theme "Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective".

The first-ever Conference for Women Peacekeepers, being held in New Delhi on February 24-25, is being attended by women peacekeepers from 35 Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) from the Global South.

The conference is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK).

Earlier, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar delivered the key note address. In his address, the EAM reiterated: "Guided by Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- the world is one family- India reaffirms its dedication to global peace and gender diversity in UN peacekeeping."

Rescue operations continue for 8 workers trapped

Nagarkurnool, Feb 25 (UNI) : The rescue operation to save eight workers trapped in the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel has entered its third day.

Efforts have been hindered by heavy spring water flow, which is mixing with mud and obstructing progress.

On Sunday, the rescue team managed to reach 13 kilometers inside the tunnel, but on Monday, they could advance only 11 kilometers due to increasing water levels. The sudden surge of muddy water has made further operations extremely challenging.

To overcome these difficulties, specialized

equipment brought by IIT Madras experts is being deployed. Teams from the Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) are working relentlessly to rescue the trapped workers.

Disaster Management Chief Commissioner Arvind Kumar, Hyderabad Commissioner Ranganath, and Nagarkurnool SP Gaiwad Vaibhav are closely monitoring and reviewing the rescue operations.

Minister Komatireddy, along with other public representatives, has also arrived at the site, assuring that the trapped workers will be rescued at any cost.

Bandi Sanjay slams Telangana CM for not acting against graft

(Standard Post Bureau) Mancheril, Feb 24: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday castigated Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for "losing" his courage and "failing" to act against corruption.

Speaking at an MLC election campaign event at Chennur, Bandi Sanjay questioned why the Chief Minister had not taken action against former CM KCR and his family despite

earlier allegations of their involvement in multiple scams, including the Kaleshwaram, phone tapping, drugs, and Formula E race scams.

Addressing BJP leaders and supporters at Ketan Palli MNR Garden, he alleged that BRS and Congress had struck a "secret deal" to suppress BJP's growth in Telangana. He claimed that despite Congress' promises, farmers, employees, and students

ECI announces MLC elections, polling on March 20

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Feb 24 : The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday announced the schedule for the biennial elections to the Legislative Council of Telangana by the Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) respectively to fill the five seats of members retiring on March 29, 2025.

The polling will be held from 9 am to 4 pm on March 20 and the results will be declared on the same day in the evening after counting of votes at 5 PM on the same day, according to a release here. In all, the term of five MLCs under MLA quota, including Mohd Mahmood Ali, Satyavathi Rathod, Seri Subhash Reddy, Yegge Mallesham and Mirza Riyazul Hassan Effendi, is due to expire on March 29.

The ECI also released a similar schedule to conduct the election for five MLC seats under MLAs quota in the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, on the same dates.

As per the election schedule, notification for the election will be issued on March three, while the last date of submitting nomination is March 10.

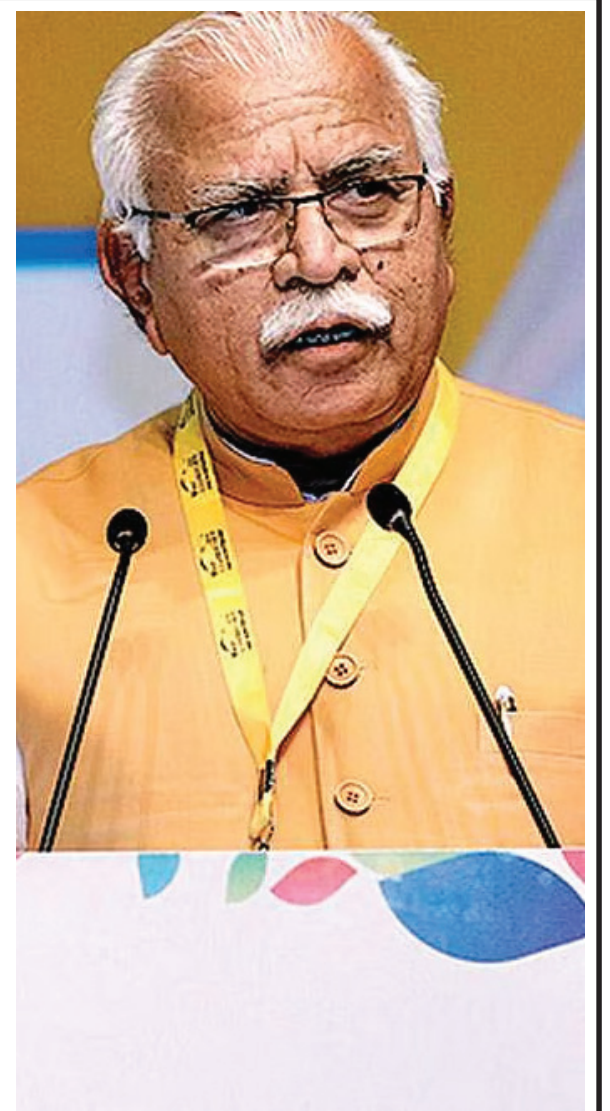
Scrutiny of nominations will be carried out on March 11, and the last date for withdrawal is March 13. The ECI will complete the election procedure before March 24.

Fire in Pvt bus on National Highway, no casualties

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (UNI) : A Fire broke out in a private Hyderabad-bound bus on the National Highway near Jadcherla, on the outskirts of the city, in the early hours on Monday.

All the bus passengers on their way from Bengaluru had a lucky escape as the driver timely acted by stopping the bus and alerting the passengers about the fire, police said here.

The vehicle was totally gutted in the fire along with the luggage of the passengers.



India's carbon credit market will support industries to meet ...

Union Minister of Power Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday said Carbon Credits market is not merely a policy matter but it will play a crucial role in achieving the sustainable growth in the country. Launching the International conference on carbon markets, (Prakriti) here, the Minister said India will soon launch its first carbon market which will support industries in meeting global carbon emission norms and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Sharing the Government's vision on the critical role of carbon markets in tackling climate change,

(See on page 2)

CDU/CSU leader calls his absolute priority to achieve ...



Friedrich Merz, who leads the Christian Democratic Union and Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) bloc, on Sunday called achieving Germany's independence from the United States his "absolute priority," saying that the future of Ukraine is "relatively indifferent" to the US. "It will be an absolute priority for me that we achieve independence from the US.

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Mohun Bagan Super Giant



Mohun Bagan Super Giant have etched their name in the Indian Super League (ISL) history books, becoming the first-ever team to successfully defend their League Winners' Shield. The Mariners, under the astute leadership of head coach Jose Molina, have amassed 52 points with two games still to play, asserting their dominance in the 2024-25 season.

(See on page 7)

India, UK resume negotiations towards trade deal



India and the United Kingdom on Monday resumed negotiations towards a trade deal between the two countries, says Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal. India and the United Kingdom have a close partnership, built through collaboration on security and defence, new and emerging technologies,

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Under Modi govt, Indian economy to achieve 3rd spot in world: Anurag

Jammu, Feb 24 (UNI) Member Parliament and Chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel and former Cabinet Minister, Anurag Thakur on Monday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has raised the Indian economy from tenth spot to fifth spot and we are heading to achieve third spot in the world.

"Focus is to increase the turnover of the units and the mission to achieve Viksit Bharat by 2047," Thakur said addressing 'Budget Pe Charcha' organized by Mookerjee Samriti Nyas here at Jammu Club, Jammu.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, and Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition, J&K Assembly along with Spokespersons, Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia and Gaurav Gupta also spoke on the occasion.

Thakur, presented detailed insight on the Budget 2025 and said that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi increased the tax and the Cess up to 97 percent of income which gave rise to the culture of hiding money from the government. Due to the ill governance by the Congress party, hoarding black money in India began and now the Modi



government is taking effective steps to bring the money into circulation by reducing tax. Mentioning the new tax-free income slab up to 12 lakhs, he explained the benefits to the major chunk of the Indian Taxpayer population, stressing that it will boost the market by increasing the spending capacity of the people and hence boosting all sectors from service to manufacture. He explained the benefits given in the Direct as well as Indirect Taxes to the people given by the Modi government. He also mentioned the increase in return update time limit. Thakur enumerated the achievements and the projects of the Modi government like an increase in the number of Airports,

AIIMS, IITs, IIMs, Universities, Medical Colleges, PG seats, electrification of railway lines, length of National Highways, rural roads, profit of Banks, tax benefit up to twelve lakh income and many more.

Thakur said J&K has received two Vande Bharat trains and mentioned that the erstwhile state got the Industrial Revolution in 2002 under Atal ji's government. Enumerating the steps to strengthen the MSMEs he said that limits are improved for funding in the enterprises. He said that steps to increase exports are being taken, along with their capacity.

He mentioned that start-ups have gained the number three spot in the world. He said that industries like leather are

being boosted along with the focus on value addition. Mentioning that the prices of Cancer medicines are reduced by zero tax and Day Care Centers for Cancer patients, he took the vibe on Rahul Gandhi Congress party for hitting consecutive zeroes.

He mentioned the schemes like Medical cover to benefit more than one crore Gig workers. Mentioning the increase in KCC loans from 3 to 5 lakhs, he said that the government is establishing Agri-Districts. As many as 50 tourism sites are to be developed on a fast-track basis, he said and mentioned the Mudra yojana for Home Stays.

Thakur said the Union government is focusing on clean tech by increasing the use of solar, wind, hydro

energies, and Bio while increasing the refining of the nuclear energy and clean gases from the Coal reserves.

He said that the world is looking towards us and international companies are looking for Indian Companies to collaborate.

Atal tinkering labs are being opened to impart practical knowledge to the students and mentioned 1.5 lakh crores to state governments for this.

He laid stress on the Swamidhi yojana to help the business of Rehri-Fari owners.

He said that tourism, cottage industry, and others are being boosted in J&K. Thakur said India is prepared for the 6G technology and said that India accounts for the highest digital transactions in the world. Sat Sharma, said around one thousand years back India's contribution to the world GDP was around 28 percent which was reduced to 3 percent GDP in 1947 due to the consistent foreign invasions. He stressed that under the progressive Union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has achieved 5th spot in the world. This budget reflects Modi's vision to achieve Viksit Bharat by 2047, he said.

India's carbon credit market will support industries to meet global carbon emission norms: Khattar

New Delhi, Feb 24 (UNI) Union Minister of Power Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday said Carbon Credits market is not merely a policy matter but it will play a crucial role in achieving the sustainable growth in the country.

Launching the the International conference on carbon markets, (Prakriti) here, the Minister said India will soon launch its first carbon market which will support industries in meeting global carbon emission norms and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Sharing the Government's vision on the critical role of carbon markets in tackling climate change, he emphasized the importance of transitioning to renewable energy (RE) to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and achieve emissions targets.

"We are committed to

reduce the carbon emissions, reduce GDP emission intensity by 45% by 2030 and achieve 50% electric power from non-fossil fuels".

Khattar underscored the need for climate policies that ensure "real, verifiable, and fraud-proof carbon reductions" making India's sustainability transition both ambitious and achievable. The two-day conference Prakriti 2025, aimed to promote resilience, awareness, knowledge, and resources for integrating transformational climate initiatives.

It also provides a high-level platform for National and International experts, policymakers, industry leaders, to engage in discussions and exchange ideas on the global carbon market's current trends, challenges, and future

directions. Speaking at the event, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power, Akash Tripathi said "The Indian Carbon Market ensures that the target notification aligns with buyer and seller needs in the carbon market.

The focus is to implement a strategy to minimize emissions through cost-effective measures."

He further added, "As part of the compliance mechanism, there will be a gradual implementation of carbon reduction targets, with a 40% reduction by 2027 and the remaining by 2030." The conference provided an in-depth understanding of the functioning and processes of the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) while offering insights into the global carbon market's dynamics, opportunities, and challenges" an official statement said.

The central and state governments should jointly create a corpus fund of Rs 2 lakh crore for organising Kumbh," He said, "In this, the state government should give Rs 1 lakh crore and the central government should give Rs 1 lakh crore. So that permanent infrastructure can be built with Rs 1 lakh crore of the corpus fund and with Rs 1 lakh crore, transport system and facilities should be developed for the poor devotees coming to Kumbh so that such incidents never happen again in Maha Kumbh and such situations do not arise as have happened this time."

The SP chief reiterated that the double-engine government of the BJP is a double blunder. "Now

BJP has made Maha Kumbh a political event: Akhilesh

Lucknow, Feb 24 (UNI) Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Monday alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has turned Maha Kumbh, a religious event of faith of saints, religious leaders and the public, into a political event.

Addressing workers and leaders from various districts of the state at the party's state headquarters, Akhilesh said that there is a need to develop permanent and basic infrastructure for organising Kumbh. "Therefore, the SP is ready to give whatever kind of advice is required. The central government should hand over the Prayagraj fort to the Uttar Pradesh government.

The correct information about the dead and injured in the stampede was not given. People kept wandering for information about their relatives.

A large number of people died in accidents on the way to Maha Kumbh," he said.

Akhilesh said that no one becomes a Yogi by wearing clothes. "A person becomes a Yogi by his behaviour, language, and conduct.

A large number of people have not yet been able to take a bath in the Maha Kumbh. Crores of people have yet to take a bath.

The government should extend the date of Kumbh which is a historic and mythological event," he said.

The central and state governments are clashing over the water of Ganga in Sangam.

The Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board are fighting over their respective reports. Seeing the fight between the agencies of the BJP government, the common people are feeling cheated.

They could not even arrange for clean water for the holy bath in Maha Kumbh," he said.

He said that the stampede in Maha Kumbh was the failure of the BJP government. "More than this, the government and the Chief Minister have reached the pinnacle of insensitivity. The government kept hiding the information about the stampede.

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RBI permits withdrawal upto Rs 25,000 for depositors of New India Co-operative Bank Ltd

Mumbai, Feb 24 (UNI) A week after imposing all Inclusive Directions on the New India Co-operative Bank Limited and subsequently superseding the Board, the Reserve Bank of India on Monday allowed a "deposit withdrawal" of upto Rs 25,000 per depositor with effect from February 27, a move that would give much required relief to its account holders.

The RBI had imposed All Inclusive Directions (AID) on New India Co-operative Bank Limited, Mumbai and the bank was directed not to allow withdrawal of any amount from savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor. The Reserve Bank subsequently superseded the bank's Board and appointed an Administrator and a Committee of Advisors (CoA) on February, 14, 2025.

The Reserve Bank, after reviewing the bank's liquidity position in consultation with the Administrator, has decided to allow a deposit withdrawal of upto Rs 25,000 per depositor, with effect from February 27, 2025. With above relaxation more than 50 percent of the total depositors will be able to withdraw their entire balances and the remaining depositors can draw upto Rs 25,000 from their deposit accounts, the RBI said in a notification.

The depositors may use the branch as well as ATM channel of the bank for this withdrawal, however, aggregate amount that can be withdrawn will be Rs 25,000 per depositor or the balance available in their account whichever is lower.

Basis a review, the Reserve Bank has also reconstituted the Committee of Advisors (CoA) to the Administrator effective, from February 25, 2025. The CoA shall now consist of Shri Ravindra Sapra, former General Manager, State Bank of India; Shri Ravindra Tukaram Chavan, former Deputy CGM, Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd.; and Shri Anand M Golas, Chartered Accountant.

Vijayendra accuses Cong govt of misusing SC/ST funds

Bengaluru, Feb 24 (UNI) : BJP leader Vijayendra Yediyurappa on Monday launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Karnataka, accusing it of misusing funds meant for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities, to fulfil its guarantee schemes, thereby sidelining development initiatives.

"Ever since the Congress government came to power, it has drained its coffers to implement vote bank-based projects, pushing development work to the sidelines.

The misappropriation of government corporation funds through illegal means to contest elections in favour of the Congress party, as exposed through the Valmiki Corporation, is now well-known," Vijayendra alleged.

He further accused the state government of betraying marginalised communities by slashing grants allocated for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. "Not even 25% of the allocations

DU's global academic partnership will unlock avenues for students, faculty: VC

Jammu, Feb 24 (UNI) The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu, Umesh Rai on Monday exuded optimism about promoting and strengthening academic collaboration and research partnerships with leading British universities.

Rai said the ongoing initiatives will create new opportunities for both students and faculty, enriching their learning experiences on a global scale.

"We are committed to further strengthening these ties to enhance the university's academic ecosystem," the Vice Chancellor said while commending the efforts of a high-level delegation led by Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman of the J&K Higher Education Council and former Vice Chancellor of Delhi University, during its recent visit to the United Kingdom.

Interacting with delegation members upon their return, Rai reiterated that these initiatives align with the University's mission to achieve academic excellence.

The delegation

apprised the Vice Chancellor about their visit to the United Kingdom, provided insights into the discussions held and the prospective collaborations that could benefit JU's faculty and students. They said the delegation explored opportunities for academic collaboration, research partnerships, and faculty and student exchange programs with leading British universities.

The delegation visited top institutions, Imperial College London, University College London (UCL), Middlesex University, and the UCL Institute of Education (IOE). They also participated in significant academic forums, including the India-UK Education Conference and the India-UK Reception at the UK Parliament, which facilitated high-level discussions on higher education collaborations between the two nations. A key highlight of the visit was the enthusiastic response received for the Design Your Degree (DYD) programme, a unique initiative launched by the University of Jammu under the visionary leadership of Prof. Umesh Rai.

Makhana Board will boost agro economy in Bihar : Nitish

Bhagalpur, Feb 24 (UNI) Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday said the proposed constitution of Makhana Board in the state would immensely help in boosting agro-economy particularly of those associated with Makhana farming.

Kumar while addressing farmers' rally in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the dais, said that decision of the Centre to constitute Makhana board in Bihar would greatly help in boosting agro economy of the state. Those associated with Makhana farming would get immense benefits from functioning of the proposed board, he added.

The Chief Minister said that he was very pleased over the fact that PM had released Rs 22,000 crores directly to bank accounts of farmers under PM Kisan Nidhi Samman Yojana. Both the measures-- PM Kisan Nidhi Samman Yojana and Makhana board would help in improving condition of farmers including those of Mithila region of the state, Nitish said.

"Centre has been providing financial assistance to Bihar under various categories and 4th Agriculture Road Map is being executed", Kumar said, adding that Centre and state government would continue to work in tandem with each other for development of Bihar.

PC George sent to judicial custody over alleged communal remarks

Kochi, Feb 24 (UNI) : Kerala BJP leader P C George was sent to 14-day judicial custody on Monday in connection with his remarks against a community allegedly having terrorist links in India. Earlier, a FIR was registered against George for his comment during a channel discussion on January 5. He equated a section of Muslims in India with terrorists and demanded they go to Pakistan.

George, a seven-time MLA and former Kerala

Janapaksham (Secular) leader, during the day, surrendered before a magistrate court at Erattupetta in Kottayam in connection with the case.

On Friday, he was denied an anticipatory bail plea by the Kerala High Court saying that he has violated the norms of bail that he was granted in a similar case in 2022.

The FIR was filed against the BJP leader based on a complaint alleging that he tried to promote enmity between communities. Responding

to the issue on January 11, senior BJP leader and the party's Kerala in-charge Prakash Javadekar alleged that the LDF Government in Kerala never takes a stand against extremism.

Javadekar said, "The FIR against PC George is political vendetta by LDF government, which doesn't say a word against Hamas and admits PDF followers into their fold."

"UDF is also guilty of appeasement of extremist politics. It never appreciated the ban on PDF or condemned Hamas."

ICCAAP-25 Held at MANUU concludes successfully

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Feb 24 : : The Department of Physics, School of Sciences, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), successfully organized the International Conference on Current Advances in Applied Physics (ICCAAP-25). The second day of the conference featured insightful talks by esteemed scientists and researchers. Dr. M. Venkat Ratnam, Scientist & Head, (NARL) Department of Space, Government of India, Gadanki, delivered a lecture on climate issues, focusing on the greenhouse effect, and atmospheric dynamics.

Mr Sanjay Biswas, scientist, DRDO Hyderabad, shared his pioneering research on battery technologies for defense applications, including their potential use in missile and naval systems.

Prof. M. A. Shah, Department of Physics, NIT



Srinagar, presented a novel bio-safe and bio-compatible method for synthesizing metal oxide/hydroxide nanomaterials.

Dr. Sunitha A.P. Registrar, Sreenarayana Guru Open University, Kollam, Kerala, India, discussed the importance of green hydrogen production particularly through water splitting.

Dr. Ravi Misra, Department of Material Science and Engineering,

Swansea University, United Kingdom, delivered a talk on emerging photovoltaics, covering the development of materials and devices for large-scale fabrication.

Dr. I. M. Noor, Centre for Foundation Studies in Science of University Putra Malaysia, presented his research on polymer electrolytes for lithium-ion batteries (LIBs). Many eminent speakers have also presented their work in various disciplines of

physics. Various distinguished speakers have also chaired and co-chaired the online and offline sessions.

The valedictory session was graced by eminent academicians Prof. P. K. Suresh (Dean, School of Hyderabad) and Prof. S. A. Hashmi (Dept. of Physics & Astrophysics, University of Delhi). Dr. Mohd Sadiq Convener of ICCAAP-2025 presented comprehensive

conference report with summarizing key discussions, innovative research, and new collaborations established during the event.

The Chief Guest, Prof. P. K. Suresh, emphasized the role of applied physics in technological advancements, while Guest of Honor, Prof. S. A. Hashmi, highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary research in driving scientific progress. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, MANUU, delivered the Presidential address, commending the organizers for the successful execution of the conference and encouraging further research collaborations.

The event concluded with a prize and certificate distribution ceremony, recognizing outstanding research contributions followed by vote of thanks to all dignitaries, participants, and organizing committees.

Two-day BioAsia 2025 to focus on AI-Driven Healthcare to kick off on today

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (UNI) : Hyderabad is set to host BioAsia 2025, the world's leading life sciences and healthcare event, on Tuesday.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will be the chief guest at the two-day conference, which will commence at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) here tomorrow, while Telangana Industries and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu and Queensland (Australia) Governor Dr. Jeannette Young will be guests of honour.

The conference will bring together global leaders in healthcare and life sciences to push the boundaries of healthcare innovation, from biopharma breakthroughs to cutting-edge digital health technologies.

The conference will focus on AI-driven healthcare, next-gen drug discovery, personalised medicine, clinical research, biotech innovations, investment opportunities, industry-academia partnerships, and healthcare data security.

BioAsia aims to highlight India's role in life sciences, attract global investments, and foster industry collaborations.

Eighty startups, from among more than 700 that applied, have been shortlisted by a panel of experts from industries and academia to showcase their products and solutions at the two-day conference.

Telangana Industries and IT Minister Sridhar Babu said, "BioAsia 2025, in its 22nd edition, is assembling world leaders to explore AI-driven healthcare, data interoperability, and India's clinical trial potential. This will be the most impactful BioAsia yet."

Telangana Special Chief Secretary (IT and Industries) Jayesh Ranjan said, "BioAsia continues to be a global platform for healthcare innovation. With partners like Deloitte, BCG, EY-Parthenon, and HealthArk, this year's discussions will shape the future of life sciences."

Miltenyi Biotec opens India's 1st cell, gene therapy CoE in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (UNI) : Miltenyi Biotec, a global leader in cell and gene therapy (CGT) solutions, launched India's first-ever dedicated cell & gene therapy centre-of-excellence (CoE) at Genome Valley, India's leading life sciences hub, Hyderabad on Monday.

The MITC (Miltenyi innovation and technology centre) was inaugurated by Telangana Special Chief Secretary (IT and Industries) Jayesh Ranjan and Dr. Kathrin Misera-Lang, Consul General (interim) of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of India, Chennai in the presence of Dr. Boris Stoffel, Chief Commercial Officer, Member of the Board, Miltenyi Biotec B.V. & Co. KG, Priya Hingorani, Managing Director, Miltenyi Biotec India,

Shakti Nagappan, CEO of Telangana Lifesciences, and Ms. Amita Desai, Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Hyderabad.

Spanning 1,800 sq mtr, MITC is designed to advance cell and gene therapy development.

It will foster innovation by integrating expertise, best practices, and cutting-edge technologies to combat diseases, including cancer. The facility features a showroom with advanced MACS® instruments, a CliniMACS Prodigy® platform for therapy development and manufacturing, and interactive training opportunities. It will serve as a collaborative hub, hosting seminars and workshops in immunology, stem cell biology, cancer, and other key areas.

Accused to be charged under Goonda Act, says Ktk Minister

Belagavi, Feb 24 (UNI) Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Monday announced that those involved in the recent assault on a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus conductor in Belagavi will be charged under the stringent Goonda Act.

The incident occurred on February 21, when a group of passengers attacked conductor Mahadev Hukkeri following a dispute over language preferences. The altercation escalated after Hukkeri requested the passengers to converse in Kannada, leading to a physical assault.

Addressing reporters, Reddy strongly condemned the attack and criticised the police for what he termed a lack of "common sense" in booking Hukkeri under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

He emphasised that KSRTC has been operating for 65 years without any allegations of sexual harassment and described the charges against the conductor as baseless.

The Minister visited the Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, where Hukkeri is receiving treatment, and assured him of the government's support. Reddy also stated that he would discuss the matter with Home Minister Dr G. Parameshwar to ensure the withdrawal of the POCSO case against Hukkeri.

He also addressed the temporary suspension of bus services between Karnataka and Maharashtra, stating that it was a precautionary measure to prevent further escalation of tensions.

Efforts are underway to restore normal operations at the earliest, the Minister said.

Endometriosis Foundation to hold Yellow Ribbon run in Hyderabad on March 2

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Feb 24 : Endometriosis Foundation of India (EFI), the first and only organization in India dedicated to the cause of Endometriosis and for Endometriosis patients, is organizing Yellow Ribbon Run — an event poised to elevate awareness of Endometriosis, at Necklace road in the city on March 2.

Over 1500 people from all walks of life to take part in the Run to be held in 3 categories 10k, 5k, and 3k said Endometriosis Foundation of India Founder Dr. Vimee Bindra in a press conference here on Monday.

Endometriosis is a disease in which tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus, it can cause severe pain in the pelvis and make it harder to get pregnant.

This is the second edition of the Yellow Ribbon Run in India, Dr Vimee said Endometriosis is as common as diabetes and asthma which affects people. It's the most misunderstood,

misdiagnosed, unknown, underfunded & researched health condition which severely affects people's lives mentally, personally, and professionally.

Yellow Ribbon Run 2025 is the second edition after the successful first edition last year, first its kind Endometriosis awareness run in the country by Endometriosis Foundation of India, which was started to create awareness and provide helping hands while networking with various stakeholders, especially with the state and central governments, medical institutes to bring in accessible and affordable medical solutions to the patients suffering from Endometriosis, Dr Vimee said.

Dr. Vimee said "On an average 1 in 10 people suffer from Endometriosis and a total of over 4.2 crores of women in India are affected.

The current state of endometriosis care in India is insufficient to address the magnitude of the issue. The objective of the

Yellow Ribbon Run is to create public awareness, urge policy makers to invest in research and development, and ensure partnerships with stakeholders to address Endometriosis, Dr Vimee added.

R.V. Karnan, Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare, Telangana Government said "Telangana government under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is committed to women's healthcare.

The Government strongly believes that women's health is the foundation of the prosperity of family and the community.

Initiatives like these will build a healthier and empowered future for Telangana women".

Dr . Sai Kamakshi Bhaskarla Indian Actress and social activist* said "I am extremely privileged to be part of this healthy initiative to empower our girls and women on endometriosis knowledge.

Blood donation camp held in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (UNI) : Thalassemia Sickle Cell Society (TSCS), a registered non-profit body, organised a blood donation camp at Kings Palace, Gudimalkapur, in the city on Monday.

M A Aleem Baig, Joint Secretary – TSCS along with Abu Aimal and the dedicated staff of TSCS participated in the donation camp where the blood units collected are going to be used for Thalassemia patients, who need blood for every 15 days just to survive.

The collected blood will be utilised for patients who need blood transfusion at regular intervals.

IGP Kashmir calls for effective implementation of UAPA

Srinagar, Feb 24 (UNI) : Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, V K Birdi on Monday underscored the importance of effectively utilising the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) to address security challenges while improving investigative skills to increase efficiency.

The IGP Kashmir said this after inaugurating a three-day training program on the "Investigation of UAPA Cases," in collaboration with the National Investigation Agency (NIA), at the Police Control Room Kashmir today.

A police spokesman said the initiative is designed for Investigating Officers to adopt the latest techniques, standard practices, and investigative skills to expedite and

enhance the quality of investigations in UAPA cases.

In his address, IGP Kashmir emphasised the significance of the training, briefing the officers on key aspects of the program. He highlighted the importance of effectively utilising the UAPA to address security challenges while improving investigative skills to increase efficiency.

IGP Kashmir urged the officers to adhere to established procedures and deepen their understanding of the UAPA to conduct a logical and systematic investigation. He stressed the need for meticulous case management, with a focus on the admissibility of evidence and the development of clear action plans.

Furthermore, IGP

Kashmir underscored the importance of maintaining high standards in documentation, including writing comprehensive case diaries, preparing memos, and drafting well-structured charge sheets to secure convictions.

He encouraged the officers to master the collection of both digital and physical evidence, ensuring a robust foundation for each case. He also stressed the IOs to improve their drafting skills for preparing FIRs, memos, and charge sheets to enhance the quality of investigation.

Additionally, he urged the Investigating Officers to improve the disposal rate of cases under investigation and ensure follow-up in court to secure convictions.

Over 6.25 mn malware incidents recorded in Telangana in 2024: Cyber Threat Report

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (UNI) : Telangana has emerged as one of the most targeted states in India, accounting for nearly 23 percent of all malware detections nationwide in 2024, with over 6.25 million incidents recorded, according to the state Cyber Threat Report 2025.

The report was released here on Monday by Seqrite, the enterprise arm of Quick Heal Technologies Limited., a global cybersecurity solutions leader, revealing a dramatic escalation in cyber threats across the state. The report, prepared meticulously by researchers at Seqrite Labs, India's largest malware analysis center, highlights a concerning rise in malware, ransomware, and hacktivist activities targeting key sectors such as healthcare, education, and government institutions. The report brings several alarming findings to light.

The report revealed that identity theft is the most reported cybercrime in the state, with nearly 30,000 incidents registered which includes 11,125 cases of unauthorized transactions, and 5,369 incidents of KYC update fraud. Impersonation frauds accounted for a concerning 18,647 cases, which included courier frauds, police impersonation and digital arrest scams.

With several growing economic hubs in the state, people also fell prey to nearly 26,000 business and investment scams. Advertisement fraud (17,669 cases) and loan fraud (12,589 cases) comprised other prominent forms of fraud detected in the state, the report stated.

Apart from digital frauds, ransomware attacks have also surged alarmingly, with an average of 47 attacks per day and a total of 17,505 incidents last year. Among the most affected sectors were IT/ITES, manufacturing, and education, which saw repeated disruptions due to cyberattacks. The report details several high-profile incidents that underline the severity of the threat

landscape.

A ransomware attack on Narayana Group hospitals and educational services disrupted critical patient care and administrative operations by encrypting electronic medical records (EMR) and billing systems. Similarly, Sivaraj Medical Colleges suffered a devastating breach that compromised sensitive student records, financial transactions, and faculty payroll systems.

Both attacks exploited vulnerabilities such as phishing emails and weak access controls to gain entry into critical systems.

Operating through platforms like Telegram have also intensified their activities in Telangana, the Hacktivist Groups have targeted government portals such as data.telangana.gov.in and educational institutions like Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University. Sensitive citizen data, login credentials, and governmental documents were leaked online, while website defacements tarnished the reputations of public institutions.

For instance, the Deputy Chief Minister's website was breached, exposing internal documents that raised serious concerns about data privacy and security, the report revealed.

Sharing the gravity of these findings, Vishal Salvi, Chief Executive Officer of Quick Heal Technologies Limited said, "Telangana is becoming a key IT hub, driving India's digital economy through robust infrastructure and innovation-driven policies.

As the state develops, the rise in cyber threats is inevitable. At Quick Heal Technologies Ltd., we help organisations and individuals combat growing digital fraud and cyberattacks with cutting-edge solutions like Quick Heal AntiFraud.AI, Seqrite Data Privacy, Seqrite Threat Intelligence, and more, empowering them to navigate the evolving threat landscape with confidence and security."

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Yanterpragada G Naga Saikowshik Chowdary S/O Yanterpragada Mohan Rao, R/o MIG-148, New Balaji Nagar, Kukatpally, Tirumalagiri, Hyderabad, Telangana- 500072, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Yantrapragada Kowshik.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohd Zakiullah S/O Samiullah Mohammed, R/o 12-2-448/A Gudi Malkapur, Behind Anusha Hospital, Mehdiptanam, Hyderabad, Telangana- 500028, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Mohammed Zakiullah.

EAST COAST RAILWAY APPOINTMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENTS (STBA)

Notice No. WCE/UTS/STBA/Notification/MAT/25/2. Date : 19.02.2025 APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED IN THE PRESCRIBED FORMAT FOR SELECTION AND ENGAGEMENT OF "STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENT" (STBA), ON COMMISSION BASIS ONLY ONE (1) "NSG-5" CATEGORY STATION IN WALTAIR DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY, FOR ISSUING UNRESERVED TICKETS, THROUGH UNRESERVED TICKETING SYSTEM (UTS). INTERESTED PERSONS FULFILLING THE STIPULATED CONDITIONS MAY APPLY IN THE PRESCRIBED FORMAT, ENCLOSED REQUISITE SELF ATTESTED PAPERS (ENCLOSURES) AND DROP THE DULY FILLED IN APPLICATIONS (SEALED COVER) IN THE SEALED BOX, KEPT AT SENIOR DIVISIONAL COMMERCIAL MANAGER'S OFFICE, EAST COAST RAILWAY, WALTAIR (COMMERCIAL BRANCH, DRM'S OFFICE BUILDING, WALTAIR). DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION, 24.03.2025 UPTO 1200 HRS. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER AFORESAID DATE & TIME WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

NAME OF THE STATION : GUNUPUR (GNPR). Closing Date of Submission of Application : 1200 Hrs. of 24.03.2025 Opening Date and Time of Application : 1230 Hrs. of 24.03.2025 For detailed general terms & conditions and application format please visit website www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in, http://tenders.gov.in or contact office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Waltair Division, Dondaparthi, DRM Office Complex, Visakhapatnam. PR-1017/P/24-25 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Waltair

STANDARD POST

Exercise may boost survival in cancer patients post-treatment

Higher levels of physical activity may not only prevent the risk of cancers but also boost survival rates in people who have undergone treatment.

Researchers from the Louisiana State University in the US focussed on long-term survival rates in colon cancer survivors. Individuals with colon cancer face higher rates of premature mortality than people in the general population.

To assess whether exercise might reduce this disparity, the team analysed data from two posttreatment trials in patients with stage 3 colon cancer. A total of 2,875 patients self-reported physical activity after cancer surgery and chemotherapy.

For all participants, physical activity was based on metabolic equivalent (MET) hours per week. (Health guidelines recommend 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week, translating to approximately 8 MET hours/week.)

The findings, published in the peer-reviewed journal *CANCER*, showed that patients who were alive at three years after cancer treatment, and those with less than 3 MET-hours/week had subsequent 3-year overall survival rates. It was 17.1 per cent lower than the matched general population.

On the other hand, people with more than 18 MET-hours/week had only 3.5 lower subsequent 3-year overall survival rates than the matched general population. Similarly in the second trial, patients who were alive at three years, those with less than 3 and more than 18 MET-hours/week had subsequent 3-year overall survival rates that were 10.8 per cent and 4.4 per cent lower than the matched general population, respectively.

The results indicate that “higher levels of physical activity may lessen and even eliminate survival disparities,” the researchers said. The study showed that cancer survivors who were tumour-free by year three and regularly exercised achieved even better subsequent survival rates.

“This new information can help patients with colon cancer understand how factors that they can control -- their physical activity levels -- can have a meaningful impact on their long-term prognosis,” said lead author Justin C. Brown, from the Pennington Biomedical Research Center and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

RESIGNATION THAT STRENGTHENED BIREN SINGH

(Waari Singbul Network)

When Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh was finally ‘allowed’ to resign on February 9, 2025, it was neither a moment of political surrender nor an unexpected development. It was the culmination of the Centre’s prolonged and deliberate oversight of the state’s worsening crisis. Since the outbreak of ethnic violence on May 3, 2023, which left over 250 dead and displaced more than 60,000 people, Manipur has been a theater of bloodshed, destruction, and deep communal fractures between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities.

Yet, Singh’s departure was anything but a closure—it instead reinforced his political standing. Unlike most resignations, his was carefully choreographed; he did not merely step down but dictated the terms of his exit, ensuring that his vision for Manipur remained central to its governance.

The political drama that followed exposed the disarray within the BJP’s Manipur unit. The dissident legislators, who pressured Singh to step down by threatening to support a no-confidence motion in the Assembly’s budget session, failed to offer a viable alternative leader. Their failure was starkly evident when the new Governor, former Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, recommended placing the Assembly under suspended animation. Rather than achieving their objective of replacing

peacekeeping, a commitment that spans decades.

“Since the 1950s, India has contributed over 290,000 peacekeepers across more than 50 missions. In fact, India remains the largest Troop Contributing Country to this day. Currently, more than 5,000 Indian peacekeepers are deployed in nine of the 11 active missions, often in challenging and hostile environments, with a singular focus: the advancement of global peace and security.”

He said that India has unfortunately lost nearly 180 peacekeepers, “whose supreme sacrifices are



Singh, the rebels unwittingly reinforced his political weight—Manipur’s governance was left in limbo, and the BJP’s inability to manage internal dissent stood exposed.

Singh’s resignation was unprecedented in Indian politics. He did not merely step down—he laid out conditions for his exit, asserting that any future leadership must uphold Manipur’s territorial integrity, intensify action against illegal immigration, sustain the war on drugs, and curb narco-terrorism. These conditions were not just a political statement; they were demands directed at both the Centre and his rivals within the BJP. His resignation letter was, in effect, a roadmap for Manipur’s continued governance, making it clear that any deviation from these principles would be met with public scrutiny.

Governor Bhalla, a seasoned bureaucrat with a track record of managing crises—including in Kashmir post-Article 370 abrogation and during the COVID-19 lockdown—acted swiftly after BJP legislators failed to rally around a leader and stake a claim to form the government. Recommending the promulgation of President’s Rule, he wasted no time in

asserting control. By relocating to the Manipur Secretariat to oversee governance firsthand and issuing an appeal for the surrender of looted arms, Bhalla signaled that restoring order was his top priority. His decision to suspend the Assembly underscored the Centre’s recognition that the state’s political leadership was in disarray and incapable of resolving the crisis on its own. The anticipated crackdown on arms retrieval, likely through extensive combing operations, further indicates that security consolidation is Bhalla’s immediate mission.

The BJP’s central leadership may have underestimated the consequences of removing Singh. The dissident MLAs, in their eagerness to assert influence, found themselves politically outmanoeuvred. Their failure to rally behind a successor only reinforced Singh’s indispensability. In contrast, Singh emerged from the episode with enhanced political capital—his resignation became a moment of defiance rather than defeat. By setting the terms for Manipur’s future, he has ensured that his legacy will continue to shape the state’s political discourse.

Singh’s tenure as Chief Minister saw him champion

several policies that no other leader propagated, which redefined Manipur’s engagement with national security and border politics. He was instrumental in pushing the Centre to fence the 398-km porous Indo-Myanmar border, regulate the Free Movement Regime (FMR) through biometric tracking of foreign nationals, and enforce deportation policies for overstayers. His ‘War on Drugs’ campaign took direct aim at poppy cultivation and narco-financed insurgency, placing him at the center of Manipur’s fight against organized crime and cross-border infiltration.

Many political analysts believe Singh’s resignation was a calculated sacrifice to shield the BJP from blame for its mishandling of the Manipur crisis. Yet, paradoxically, the move only elevated his standing. His dissident rivals’ lack of leadership acumen played directly into his hands, allowing him to step away from the immediate turmoil while ensuring his ideological and policy legacy remains central to Manipur’s governance.

In the end, far from diminishing him, Singh’s resignation has only solidified his stature as a leader with an unwavering agenda. Whether he stages a political comeback or remains a formidable voice from the sidelines, one thing is certain—Biren Singh’s influence over Manipur’s future remains intact. Rather than marking his exit, his resignation has etched his legacy even deeper into the state’s political history.

India at forefront of deploying women in peacekeeping roles: EAM

New Delhi, Feb 24 (UNI) India has been at the forefront of deploying women in peacekeeping roles, both military and police, with over 150 women peacekeepers deployed across six critical missions, including in the Congo, South Sudan and Lebanon, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said today.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Conference for Women Peacekeepers from the Global South, titled ‘Women in Peacekeeping - A Global South Perspective’, the EAM said that India is proud of its contributions and association with UN

peacekeeping, a commitment that spans decades.

“Since the 1950s, India has contributed over 290,000 peacekeepers across more than 50 missions. In fact, India remains the largest Troop Contributing Country to this day. Currently, more than 5,000 Indian peacekeepers are deployed in nine of the 11 active missions, often in challenging and hostile environments, with a singular focus: the advancement of global peace and security.”

He said that India has unfortunately lost nearly 180 peacekeepers, “whose supreme sacrifices are

etched in the history of our collective endeavors forever.”

“One such individual, Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria, posthumously honored with the Param Vir Chakra for his courage during the UN Mission in Congo, remains a beacon of inspiration. His is the singular case of this highest honor being awarded for operations conducted abroad,” he said. EAM said India first began deploying women in peacekeeping roles in the 1960s, when Indian women, as medical officers, were deployed in Congo.

“In 2007, India was the first to deploy an all-

women Formed Police Unit in Liberia—a pioneering initiative that had an indelible impact on both the host community and the broader UN framework. Over the years, this initiative empowered Liberian women, increasing their participation in security sectors.” Indian women peacekeepers are deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Lebanon, Golan Heights, Western Sahara, and Abyei. “India has produced a multitude of exemplary women peacekeepers who have inspired others globally. Dr. Kiran Bedi, who

served as the first woman UN Police Advisor, Major Suman Gawani and Major Radhika Sen, recipients of the UN Military Gender Advocate Award in 2019 and 2023 respectively, and Ms. Seema Dhundia, who led the first all-women Formed Police Unit in Liberia—these are just a few who have blazed a trail for others to follow,” he added.

“India strongly believes that peacekeeping is an effective instrument in the maintenance of international peace and security. This year is of particular importance, as two significant events will take place: the

CM of practicing the worst kind of divisive politics by destroying Assam’s culture, exploiting the natural resources, no development and investment is only on paper.

Gogoi also criticized the CM’s wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sharma accusing her of becoming a “business tycoon in eastern India in just four years”.

He alleged that she had “acquired multiple tea gardens, including Kanchanjuri Tea Estate and Radha Krishna Tea Estate, along with several others under the names of close associates”.

The Senior Congress leader further alleged that the CM’s wife had “expanded her business empire by acquiring a news portal, opening a McDonald’s outlet, and establishing an international school”.

He also claimed that her company, “Pride East Entertainment Private Limited, reportedly received a central subsidy of Rs 10 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana”.

Gogoi also accused the BJP of intimidating many of its leaders but warned that they won’t get scared. “We will not let the BJP sit in peace until the elections are over. They will be able to sit in peace after the elections because then they will be in the Opposition,” he said.

Socialist remembers religion while standing at the last rung: Yogi

Lucknow, Feb 24 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday took a dig at the main opposition, Samajwadi Party, and said that a socialist remembers religion only when he stands at the last rung.

Taking a dig at the Leader of the Opposition, while participating in the discussion on the motion of thanks on the address of the Governor on the fifth day of the budget session, the CM said, “It is good that you accepted Maha Kumbh, Sanatan tradition and Ayodhya Dham. When a socialist stands at the last rung, he remembers religion.” He said, “The

Leader of Opposition had an objection as to why the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) mentioned making Maha Kumbh a global level event in its Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra and in the Governor’s address and why such arrangements were not made.”

Yogi said, “The Leader of the Opposition has changed from a ‘Samajwadi’ to a ‘Sanatani’. Contrary to his nature, he even interrupted his members. It is welcome that you understood this topic and showed respect by giving importance to it.”

Responding to the Leader of the Opposition, he said, “I respect all the

great men who were born in India. I respect Buddha, and Jain traditions (all Tirthankaras). We are working on the renovation and beautification of Buddhist pilgrimage sites along with Sanatan Dharma. We respect all the sects and communities, including Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs, who have respect for India and have a direct or indirect role in the Sanatan tradition.”

The CM said that it is out of respect for the martyrdom of the four sons of Guru Govind Singh that Prime Minister Modi has declared December 26 as Veer Bal Diwas. “For the first time, Guruvaani is being

recited continuously at the CM’s residence. We have a feeling of reverence and respect for Lord Buddha, Jain Tirthankaras, Sikh tradition, Kabirpanthi, Ravidasi, Maharishi Valmiki’s tradition or every method of worship born in India, which strengthens Sanatan Dharma and the country moves forward as ‘Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat,’ he said.

Reflecting on scenes witnessed during the Governor’s address on the first day of the session, he said, “You roam around with a copy of the Constitution, but what is your attitude towards the dignitaries occupying

constitutional posts, can be easily guessed by looking at the scene in the House during the Governor’s address. Was the uproar, comments and behaviour towards the Governor constitutional? If such behaviour is constitutional, then what is unconstitutional? You people give a lot of speeches, but to see the actual behaviour, look at the handle of the SP social media cell. It is such a medium of expression of their ideology, internal etiquette, and their views towards democracy, that any civilised society feels ashamed. Yet you preach to others,” he said.

Yogi began his address by quoting former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. “Dr Radhakrishnan had said that being human is an achievement, being a demon is a defeat, and being a great human is victory,” he said.

He emphasised that three categories, humans, demons and great humans (Dev), have always existed throughout history. Referencing Maharishi Kashyap’s two queens, he said that one gave birth to ‘Dev’ and the other to ‘Danav’, asserting that one’s karma, conduct and behaviour determine their place in these categories.

Assam CM involved in large-scale corruption : Cong alleges

New Delhi, Feb 24 (UNI) The Congress on Monday alleged that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was involved in large-scale corruption, including land grabbing, and claimed that nine years of BJP rule had pushed the state’s economy into a severe crisis.

Addressing a press conference here, senior Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi, Assam incharge Jitendra Singh, state unit chief Bhupen Kumar Borah, Debabrata Saikia, Rakibul Hussain, Pradyut Bordoloi and Pawan Khara criticised nine years of BJP rule in Assam, calling it corrupt, inefficient, incompetent, rogue, divisive, and hateful. They asserted that the government’s failures have pushed the state into a deep crisis.

Labelling Himanta Biswa Sarma as the “most corrupt Chief Minister in the country,” Gaurav Gogoi accused the BJP-led government of failing on multiple fronts. He claimed that unemployment has reached an all-time high, Assam’s economy is in crisis, and law and order have collapsed.

The Senior Congress leader further alleged that the law is being misused to target political opponents selectively and that the BJP’s hypocrisy on illegal immigration has been fully exposed.

He also accused the

Germany kicks off federal election

Berlin, Feb. 23 (UNI) : German voters went to polls Sunday to decide the composition of the next Bundestag, the country's lower house of parliament.

The election was scheduled for September this year, but a snap election was triggered by the collapse of the current ruling coalition of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), the Greens, and the Free Democratic Party last year.

The latest polls show that the sister parties of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and Christian Social Union (CSU) are taking the lead.

According to Friday's survey conducted by the Forsa Institute, support for CDU and CSU stood at 29 percent, compared with 21 percent for the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) and 15 percent for Chancellor Olaf Scholz's SPD.

It takes a majority of the 630 seats in the Bundestag to form a stable federal government.

The Forsa survey also showed that 22 percent of respondents were still unsure of their choice shortly before the election.

Polling stations closes at 18:00 local time (1700 GMT) on Sunday when the counting of votes begins.

A total of 4,506 candidates stand for the election in 299 constituencies, with at least 59.2 million people eligible to vote, official figures show.

Putin vows to improve combat capability of Russian military

Moscow, Feb. 23 (UNI) : Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday vowed to enhance the combat potential and effectiveness of Russia's armed forces while ensuring its military is equipped with modern weaponry.

In a video speech on Defender of the Fatherland Day, which falls on Sunday, Putin outlined a strategic vision for strengthening national defense amid global uncertainties.

"Today, as the world is changing impetuously, our strategic course for strengthening and developing the armed forces remains unchanged," said Putin, adding that Russia will continue to build up the combat potential and effectiveness of its army and navy. He also underscored the need to equip the military with cutting-edge technology, citing battlefield experience as a key factor in refining weaponry and military tactics. "Based on the analysis of the tactical use of the weapons and equipment, we will continue to provide the armed forces with new state-of-the-art models," Putin said.

NATO becoming means of containing US - Russian Official

Moscow, Feb 23 (UNI) : NATO is becoming a means of containing the United States itself due to the contradictions between the European elites and Washington, the deputy director general of the Rossiya Segodnya media group and member of the Russian Security Council's science board, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Alexander Yakovenko told Sputnik.

"Having lost support from overseas, the European elites are fighting for their survival. That is why they have taken [Ukrainian President Volodymyr] Zelenskyy as an ally. The bet on continuing the war is aimed at disrupting the Russian-US normalization. At the same time, NATO is becoming a means of containing the US itself, which has decisively said goodbye to the liberal agenda," Yakovenko said. The conservative wave means a tough reformatting of the US policy, but European political leaders are going against what is becoming the geopolitical mainstream and risk ending up on the "US menu," the official added.

Territory of Russian consulate in Marseille hit by two Molotov cocktails: Reports

Moscow, Feb 24 (UNI) : Unknown people threw two Molotov cocktails in the garden that is located on the territory of the Russian consulate general in Marseille on Monday, the Valeurs Actuelles news agency reported, citing a police source. Russian consul general Stanislav Oransky confirmed to local media outlet Marseillaise that the blast occurred on the territory of the Russian diplomatic mission.

A stolen car was also found not far away from the consulate, media reported, adding that the incident did not result in any casualties. Law enforcement officers are reportedly conducting an operation to neutralise a suspicious container near the Russian consulate in Marseille after the explosion.

Japan: Forest fire in Iwate continues for day 6

Tokyo, Feb 24 (UNI) : Firefighting efforts continued on Monday as a forest fire in Ofunato City of Japan's Iwate Prefecture entered its sixth day, local media reported. The fire, which broke out on Feb. 19 in the Sanriku district of Ofunato, has not been extinguished. Smoke was observed in multiple locations on Monday morning, and authorities have yet to determine when the fire will be fully contained, national broadcaster NHK reported. According to the prefectural government, approximately 324 hectares of land have burnt as of Monday morning. No injuries or damage to buildings have been reported so far.

Ofunato City has maintained evacuation orders for 62 households (157 people) in the Tahama district and continues to urge caution.

A dry weather advisory has been in effect for the southern coastal region of Iwate Prefecture for seven consecutive days, with dry conditions persisting.

Zelensky says ready to quit if Ukraine gets NATO membership

Kyiv, Feb 23 (UNI) Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday offered to resign if it brought peace to his war-torn country, and suggested he could step down in exchange for NATO membership for the small European nation.

Queried whether he was ready to quit if it ensures peace for Ukraine, Zelensky told a press conference here: "If [it guarantees] peace for Ukraine, if you really need me to resign, I am ready. I can exchange it for NATO." CNN reported.

Zelensky earlier said his country's army would need to be double its current size if NATO denies Ukraine membership to the alliance.

Earlier this month, US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth termed as "unrealistic" any possibility of Kyiv joining NATO.

Zelensky's comments came after his escalating spat with US President Donald Trump who accused Ukraine of starting the ongoing conflict with Russia. Trump later admitted "Russia attacked" but blamed his predecessor Joe Biden and Zelensky for not stopping the fighting sooner. Zelensky then hit back, alleging the US president was in a "disinformation space", prompting another outburst from Trump who described the Ukrainian leader as a "dictator."

Meanwhile, Russia launched a record 267 drones at Ukraine, killing at least one person, in an unprecedented attack on the eve of the third anniversary of the war between the two nations, once part of the erstwhile USSR. "Every day, our people are resisting aerial terror," Zelensky said, calling the overnight attack "the largest since Iranian drones started hitting Ukrainian cities and villages."

"We need to do our best to bring a lasting and just peace to Ukraine. This is possible in the unity of all partners - we need the strength of all of Europe, the strength of America, the strength of everyone who wants a lasting peace," Zelensky said on X.

FDP leader Lindner leaves politics due to failure in German elections

Moscow, Feb 24 (UNI) The leader of the German Free Democratic Party (FDP), which previously left the current ruling coalition, former German Finance Minister Christian Lindner confirmed his departure from politics after the unsuccessful elections for his party.

Earlier, Lindner said that he would leave the leadership of the party and leave politics if the FDP did not make it to the Bundestag as a result of the elections. "The federal elections brought defeat to the FDP, but I hope they also brought a new beginning for Germany. That's what I fought for. Now I'm leaving active politics," Lindner said on X.

Conservatives celebrate election win but AfD's historic gains loom

Berlin, Feb 24 (UNI) : Friedrich Merz's conservatives have won Germany's election, well ahead of rival parties but short of the 30 pc vote share they had expected, media reports said.

"Let's celebrate tonight, and in the morning we'll get to work," he told cheering supporters. His immediate priority is to try to form a government with the third-placed Social Democrats of Olaf Scholz, the BBC reported.

Even before the result was clear, Merz said his top priority was unity in Europe, so that "step by step, we can really achieve independence from the US." According to reports, the other big winner in Sunday's vote was the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), who are celebrating a record second-place result of 20.8pc.

Alice Weidel, the AfD's candidate for chancellor, secured a victory for her supporters, but her party remained hopeful for a more significant outcome, causing a subdued atmosphere at AfD HQ.

Merz, a 69-year-old German chancellor, has pledged to demonstrate European leadership and increase support for Ukraine if elected as the next chancellor, the report said.

Most Germans have been shocked by President Donald Trump's conduct towards Ukraine and Europe, and Friedrich Merz said the US leader had



shown "the Americans are largely indifferent to the fate of Europe."

Trump has labelled Ukraine's leader a "dictator," and two of his leading figures have openly backed the AfD in the run-up to the vote. Vice-President JD Vance was accused of meddling in the vote during a visit to Munich, while billionaire Elon Musk has made repeated remarks on his X platform. According to media reports, Friedrich Merz plans to form a coalition with his Christian Democrats and Scholz's centre left, despite the Social Democrats' worst-ever performance of 16.4%.

After the collapse of Olaf Scholz's three-party coalition late last year, Merz had asked the electorate for a strong mandate to form a clear-cut coalition with one other party.

In the event, he secured enough seats only because two of the smaller parties failed to get into parliament.

A two-party coalition

would enable him to solve as many of Germany's problems as he could in four years, he said, from a stagnant economy to closing its borders to irregular migrants, the report said.

German voters had other ideas. They came out in big numbers, with an 83% turnout not seen since before reunification in 1990. Merz's CDU party leadership will meet on Monday, and so will the Social Democrat SPD's, separately, but Scholz will not take part in the talks.

Merz is keen to form a government by Easter. It could be possible, because between the two parties they have 328 seats, a majority of 12 in the 630-seat parliament. But it was not until the early hours of Monday that that became clear, the report said.

Weidel also benefitted from a successful TikTok campaign that drew in big numbers of young voters.

As results came in during the early hours of

Monday, it became clear the AfD was far ahead of the other parties in the east, with a projected 34% according to a survey for public broadcaster ZDF, the report said.

"Germans have voted for change," said Alice Weidel. She said Friedrich Merz's attempt to forge a coalition would ultimately end in failure: "We'll have fresh elections—don't think we'll have to wait another four years."

But just as the election map turned light blue in the east, much of the rest of Germany turned black—the colour of the CDU.

And Merz dismissed the rise of the AfD out of hand. "The party only exists because there have been problems that haven't been solved. They're happy if these problems get worse and worse."

"We need to solve the problems... then that party, the AfD, will disappear."

Merz was equally withering towards the new Trump administration.

Australia imposes largest sanctions package against Russia since 2022

Canberra, Feb 24 (UNI) Australia imposed the largest sanctions package against Russia since 2022, targeting 70 individuals and 79 entities, the country's government said in a statement.

"The Australian Government has today imposed further targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on 70 persons, and targeted financial sanctions on 79 entities," the government said.

It is specified that the sanctions are aimed, among other things, at the administration of new regions of Russia, including ministers, judges and prosecutors.

"The sanctions also target persons and entities involved in deepening military cooperation between Russia and North Korea," the statement said.

Moreover, sanctions were imposed on individuals in

Ukraine ceasefire without removing conflict's causes fraught with consequences

Kyiv, Feb 24 (UNI) A ceasefire in Ukraine without eliminating the root causes of the conflict threatens to have grave consequences, including for Russian-US relations.

Moscow does not want this and explained its position to US representatives at a meeting in Riyadh in great detail, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said in an interview with RIA Novosti.

"Today, we have not developed a greater understanding. We can probably record with sufficient confidence the desire of the American side to move towards a quick ceasefire. But, as was emphasised both in Riyadh and earlier, a ceasefire without a long-term settlement is a path

to a quick resumption of hostilities and a resumption of the conflict with even more grave consequences, including consequences for Russian-US relations. We do not want this," Ryabkov said.

According to the diplomat, "we need to find a long-term solution, which, in turn, must necessarily include an element of overcoming the root causes of what was happening in and around Ukraine." "The special military operation is deeply motivated. It could not help but begin. We simply had no alternative, since those underlying causes of the crisis were maturing largely as a result of the destructive policy of Washington and European capitals in the Eastern European

Russia's defence, transport, and financial sectors, as well as "those spreading disinformation to undermine Ukraine and governments around the world."

"Today we have further tightened trade bans on Russia by prohibiting the supply of commercial drones and components, including the provision of related services," the statement says.

Australia has now imposed a total of more than 1,400 sanctions on Russia. Russia has repeatedly stated that the country will cope with the sanctions pressure that the West began to exert on Russia several years ago and continues to intensify. Moscow noted that the West lacks the courage to admit the failure of sanctions against Russia. In Western countries, opinions have repeatedly been voiced that anti-Russian sanctions were ineffective.

Chinese Alibaba to invest \$53 billion in building AI infrastructure: Reports

Beijing, Feb 24 (UNI) Chinese tech giant Alibaba Group will invest more than 380 billion yuan (about \$53 billion) in building cloud and hardware infrastructure for artificial intelligence, the Xinhua news agency reports.

Chinese publication Penpai noted that these investments were a record volume of investments by Chinese private enterprises in the creation of cloud and hardware infrastructure for AI. According to the publication, Alibaba's announcement of the investment occurred against the backdrop of two important moments: one is the explosive growth of China's AI industry, and the other is a symposium on private enterprise

CDU/CSU leader calls his absolute priority to achieve independence from US

Kyiv, Feb 24 (UNI) Friedrich Merz, who leads the Christian Democratic Union and Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) bloc, on Sunday called achieving Germany's independence from the United States his "absolute priority," saying that the future of Ukraine is "relatively indifferent" to the US. "It will be an absolute priority for me that we achieve independence from the US. It seems clear from the statements made last week that the US is relatively indifferent to the future of Ukraine," Merz said during the Berliner Runde program on German broadcaster ARD.

At the same time, Merz said that it is too early to raise the issue of deploying German troops on Ukrainian territory as part of a peacekeeping mission.

Bangladesh launches AEO system to improve port facilitation

Dhaka, Feb 24 (UNI) Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue (NBR) has launched the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) system, initiated by the World Customs Organisation, to provide a seamless clearance facility between ports and factories.

Under the system, which was launched here Sunday, the AEO-certified businesses will be able to directly transport cargo from ports to their factories or warehouses through a green channel without undergoing physical inspections. Speaking at the launching ceremony, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Hanun said the AEO will reduce the burden on both the NBR and businesses leading to improved port facilitation.

development held earlier in February, which was attended by government officials, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, and major private companies. Speaking at the symposium on February 17, the Chinese leader noted that today, China's private economy had broad development prospects and great potential, and it was an opportune time for private companies to prove their capabilities. Xi Jinping also called for promoting the high-quality development of the country's private economy. In late January, Alibaba Cloud introduced a new AI language model, Qwen 2.5-Max, which, according to the developer, outperforms the company's DeepSeek model.

Food&Kids



Sweet recipe: Rava laddoo in minutes



It's nutritious, tasty and easy to make. Rava laddoo is a yum treat if you want your children to indulge in some home-made sweet delicacies.

Grated coconut, roasted rava, select dry fruits and nuts, and sugar is all you need to make a delectable platter of homemade rava laddoos. And lots of ghee and lots of love of course.

Ingredients:

Rava or sooji (semolina): 200 gms
Coconut: 1
Sugar: 200 gms
Ghee: 200 gms
Nutmeg: half a pinch
Cardamom ground: a pinch
Dry fruits: kismis, sliced badam and kaju - as per your liking

Method:

Grate one whole coconut and add sugar to it. Keep this mixture aside in a bowl. Roast the rava in a non-stick pan till it attains a light brown colour. Take the pan off the stove. Add ghee to it. Pour the grated coconut with sugar on the layer of rava and ghee. Mix the ingredients well. Add nutmeg and cardamom to it and mix well. Start making laddoos by taking the laddoo mixture in your palm. You can decide on the size of the laddoo on how big or how small you want them to be. Embed the dry fruits as you make each laddoo in your palm. Once the entire lot is done, let your little ones feast on it.

How to poach eggs for breakfast



If you love eggs, then this one's for you! Chhavi Sachdev, communications consultant and radio journalist, shares her version of healthy poached eggs with HealthMeUp. She mentions two methods of preparing poached eggs - in a microwave or over the stove. Let's check them out. Over to Chhavi's healthy poached egg recipes...

Shortcut "poached" eggs - microwave version:

You need: A microwave, a microwave safe small bowl/ramekin, an egg.

-Break the egg into the ramekin and puncture the surface with a fork, swirl it around without breaking the yolk. You need the membrane to be porous or you will have an egg explosion inside your oven, which will stink and is a pain to clean up.

-Nuke for 30 seconds on 50% power. If you can't figure this out, just nuke on full power for 20 seconds.

-Wait 3 seconds. Repeat nuking for 30/20 seconds.

-Wait 3 more seconds. Ignore any noises inside the microwave. Repeat nuking.

-If you like your egg yolk hard, do it one more time.

-Use a wet knife to get the perfectly rounded 'poached' egg out of the ramekin on to your waiting English muffin.

Shortcut "poached" eggs - stovetop version:

You need: A metal bowl, a saucepan with 200 ml of water heating in it (lid preferable), egg.

-Set saucepan with water on stove, on full heat till boils.

-Break egg into the metal bowl. I dab one drop of oil in it to make the egg removal easier

-Put the metal bowl into the saucepan with the water, reduce heat to simmer

-Cover, let the steam do it's job.

-Peek in about 3 minutes in. switch off when yolk is at the colour/hardness you require.

-Use a "pakkad" or tongs to get the metal bowl out, and a wet knife to slide the egg out on to your toast.

And there you have it - a simple, no-fuss, healthy method of poaching eggs with what you have in the kitchen. Try it out and tell us how it went!

Delicious lamb-based Traditional Indian recipes



Brace yourself for the perfectly cooked lamb. Try your hand at these traditional Indian delicacies.

rump and loin. For quick cooking, choose fillet, chump chops, loin chops, leg steaks, best end cutlets and butterflied leg. For slow cooking, leg, shoulder, shank, neck and chump chops are among the

regional favourites —

Hyderabadi Haleem by Afsha Beg (Home chef and food blogger)

A dense stew, haleem usually consists of wheat, meat and lentils and spices slow cooked for hours on end, resulting in beautifully rounded flavours.

Ingredients

1 kg Boneless lamb
3 cups Cracked wheat
4 tsp Ginger-garlic paste
1 cup Urad

1/4 cup Fresh mint
5-6 Green chillies

Method

- Wash and soak the cracked wheat for half an hour. Trim the mutton of any excess fat.

- To the mutton, add 1/2 tsp of ginger garlic paste, half a tsp of salt, red chilli powder, half a tsp of garam masala powder and a pinch of turmeric powder. Pressure cook the mix for 8-10 min (or until 4 whistles) and simmer for another 15-20 min. Shred and keep aside.

- Boil the cracked wheat along with urad and chana dal with a tsp of ginger-garlic paste, turmeric, 2-3 green chillies, and pepper corns in 8-10 cups of water until its cooked completely and the water is absorbed. Blend this mix for a few seconds.

- Heat the oil in another container, add whole spices, cooked and shredded lamb, remaining green chillies, half a cup fresh coriander and saute for a 2-3 minutes. Add curd and saute for another 10-15 minutes. Add three cups of water and bring to a boil.

- To this, add the blended wheat and mix well, adding a little ghee as you go. Let it simmer and cook slowly for at least half an hour.

- Serve hot, garnished with fried onions, cashew nuts and fresh coriander.

Laal Maas by Jaya Mathur (Home chef)

A popular Rajasthani meat dish, it's known for its rich, dense flavour and deep red colour, courtesy a generous helping of red chillies.

It's usually prepared with lamb meat and is served with rotis.

Ingredients

1 kg Mutton with bones
20 to 25 Whole dried chillies
3 Medium onions, chopped

2 tsp Fresh garlic paste
2 tsp Fresh ginger paste
4 small Bay leaves

4 Cloves
2 Green cardamom
2 Black cardamom
2 tsp Roasted cumin seeds
3 tsp Coriander powder
1 cup Yogurt

Method

- Soak whole dried chillies in warm water for sometime. Grind to a smooth paste using little water.

- Heat ghee or refined oil in a pressure cooker. Add bay leaves, clove, green and black cardamom and let the spices simmer. Add garlic-ginger paste and stir. Then add onion and fry until evenly browned. Now add the chilli paste and saute the mixture for a few minutes. Add the meat and fry further.

- Now add coriander powder, cumin and yogurt and salt to taste. Cook till all the yogurt is absorbed by the meat. Then add two cups of water, stir and pressure cook for 10 minutes, till the meat is tender.

- Release the steam and serve hot with coriander garnish.

Pake hue gosht ke kabab by Masterchef Mukhtar Qureshi, Neel at Tote of the turf

Ingredients (For the first marinade)
500 gms Boneless lamb, cubed
20 gm Ginger garlic paste
10 gm Raw papaya paste
2 gm Nutmeg
Salt to taste

1 gm Shahi jeera (black caraway seeds)
10 ml Dark vinegar

For the second marinade
15 gm Browned onion, blended
5 gm Browned coconut paste
40 gm Hung curd
5 gm Red chilli powder
5 gm Yellow chilli powder
5 gm Roasted bengal gram powder
3 gm Garam masala powder
2 gm Roasted jeera powder
1/2 gm Kebabchini
Little Chopped green coriander
20 gm Desi ghee
10 ml Vegetable oil

Method

- Take 8 cleaned boneless lambs of 60 gm cubes each, or cut into even bite sized pieces and marinate it in the first marinade for half an hour, followed by the second for at least two hours.

- Refresh the cubes gently after an hour and skewer them carefully. Put the skewer on a hot grill and cook it for 12-14 minutes turning it intermittently and basting it with butter occasionally.

- Once cooked, take them off the skewer and allow it to rest for a minute.

- Alternatively, it could be served on the skewer if you've used the small wooden ones.

- Serve hot with a salad of fresh onion rings and pomegranate and chutney of fresh coriander and garlic with mustard oil emulsion.

Preparing lamb excellently, is an exploit usually reserved for pros, chefs and grandmothers who know that 'slow cooking' doesn't test your patience, but is a delicious lesson in one. For those who struggle to differ between sheep, lamb and mutton (meat of a sheep in its first year is lamb, and that of an adult is mutton), tackling the meat with the appropriate amount of tenderness required, can be an uphill battle.

According to home chef and food blogger Afsha Beg, the basic rule of thumb when selecting a cut of meat depends on how you plan to cook it. For roasts, the best cuts include leg, breast, best end of neck (also known as rack of lamb), shoulder, saddle,

best options.

When choosing any cut of lamb, look for firm, fine-grained meat with a velvety texture; it should be moist, rather than dry or slimy. Any fat on the outside of the lamb should be white (fat that is yellow could be rancid).

Properly hung lamb should have a deep red, rather than bright red colour, although a very young lamb will be paler than an older one.

In a country where lamb is a revered meat, and often a celebratory star ingredient, each region adapted it to its own unique flavours creating some exquisite dishes. Here are a few

Healthy packed lunches for work



So, let's get started with these nutrient-rich, easy to prepare, creative, packed lunch ideas that'll keep you interested in healthy food, come work or play!

Mint chutney veggie sandwich **Ingredients:**

4 slices wholemeal bread, 1 tbs butter, 1/2 cup Mint-Coriander Chutney (blend coriander leaves, onions, black salt and green chillies together), 2 large thickly sliced potatoes, 1 sliced cucumber, 2 thinly sliced tomatoes, 1 large beetroot, 1 large sliced onion, 1 tsp Chaat Masala, pepper and salt to taste.

Method: Lay all slices of bread and lay butter in it. Now add mint chutney to it and lay all the thin slices of vegetables in the sandwich. End with a generous sprinkling of chaat masala and cut in half before serving.

Poha **Ingredients:** 1 potato, 1 onion, a few green chillies, 1 tablespoon chana dal, 1 tablespoon urad dal, a few curry leaves, 4-5 peanuts, 1 tablespoon oil, 2 cups poha (beaten rice), turmeric powder, salt to taste and lime juice.

Method: Soak the poha in water for around an hour. Now prepare the tadka by heating oil and add urad dal, mustard seeds, chana dal, green chillies, curry leaves, onions and potatoes to it. Give it a nice stir and add the poha to the mixture. Let it stay on slow flame for 5-7 minutes. Yummy poha for breakfast is ready.

Chicken tikka wraps **Ingredients:** 1 2-pound roasted chicken, 1/2 cup prepared barbecue sauce, 1 cup of black beans, 1/2 cup frozen corn, 1/4 cup reduced-fat sour cream, 4

lettuce leaves, 4 10-inch whole-wheat tortillas (or you can even replace this with whole wheat chapattis), 2 limes. Method: Place a large



nonstick panover medium-high heat. Add chicken, barbecue sauce, beans, corn and sour cream; stir to combine. Cook until hot, 4 to 5 minutes. Place the mixture over whole wheat chapattis and serve warm, with lime wedges.

Sabudana vada - Sago patties **Ingredients:** 4 potatoes boiled and mashed, 1/2 a cup of sabudana, 2 cups of water, 1 chopped onion chopped, 2 chopped green chillies, grated ginger, 5 to 7 peanuts coarsely crushed, 1 tsp cumin seeds, 1 tsp raw mango powder, 2 tablespoon oil and salt to taste.

Method: Soak the sabudana in water for a night. The next morning, mix the sabudana with all the other ingredients and form handy-sized balls out of it. Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a pan and roast them till golden. Serve with mint chutney.

Leftovers Yes, last night's leftovers can become this morning's breakfast. Take the chicken out of the curry and put it in a sandwich. Last night's salad can also go into a sandwich. Make an extra chapatti the previous night, roll in some leftover vegetable, and you have a filling, healthy breakfast.

Alexis Lebrun, Han Ying win table tennis European Top 16 Cup

Montreux (Switzerland), Feb 24 (UNI) : France's Alexis Lebrun and Germany's Han Ying respectively claimed men's and women's singles titles at table tennis' European Top 16 Cup.

Lebrun triumphed over Slovenia's Darko Jorgic on Sunday with scores of 11-8, 10-12, 11-9, and 11-9, earning his first title in this annual event.

Both Lebrun and Jorgic qualified for the 2025 World Cup in Macao, along with Germany's Patrick Franziska and Sweden's Truls Moregaard, who shared third place.

In the women's final, Han secured victory against Romania's Elizabeta Samara with scores of 11-6, 11-9, 9-11, 8-11, and 11-4.

Germany's Shan Xiaona and Sabine Winter also earned bronze medals, securing their spots for the World Cup in April.

Lebrun's younger brother, top seed Felix, faced an upset in the quarterfinals, losing 3-2 to Franziska.

However, Alexis exacted revenge in the semifinals, defeating Franziska to set up the final against Jorgic.

The world No. 10 ranked Frenchman maintained his composure, displaying better precision on crucial points in a tightly contested match.

Han, 41, who won titles at this event in 2022 and 2023, missed the 2024 edition due to injury but made a strong comeback this year to breeze into the final. Despite a brave effort from the 36-year-old Samara, who came from 2-0 down to level the match at 2-2, Han's world-class defensive skills ultimately led her to victory, securing her third title in four years at this event.

India extends lead to 2-0 in Bilateral T20 Cricket Series for Blind 2025

Bengaluru, Feb 24 (UNI) : India continued their winning streak, securing a 43-run victory over Bangladesh on Day 2 of the five-match Men's Bilateral T20 Cricket Series for the Blind 2025 at D5 Sports, Manipal University Campus, Yelahanka, here.

With this win, India now leads the series 2-0.

Winning the toss, Bangladesh opted to field first, but India's batters delivered a commanding performance, posting 181/6 in 20 overs. B2 Nakula Badanayak (45 runs) and Sunil Ramesh

B3 (50 off 25 balls) led the charge with an aggressive display of stroke play. In response, Bangladesh fought hard but managed 138/7 in 20 overs, falling short of the target. Arif (45 runs) was their top performer, but India's bowlers, led by Dinesh Rathva B3 and Arif Ullah (2 wickets each), kept Bangladesh in check. With a 2-0 lead in the five-match series, India is in a commanding position. The team looks forward to continuing their dominance in the upcoming matches.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant fans are happiest around the world: Jose Molina

Kolkata, Feb 24 (UNI) : Mohun Bagan Super Giant have etched their name in the Indian Super League (ISL) history books, becoming the first-ever team to successfully defend their League Winners' Shield.

The Mariners, under the astute leadership of head coach Jose Molina, have amassed 52 points with two games still to play, asserting their dominance in the 2024-25 season.

Their remarkable campaign has been marked by several record-breaking feats – the first team to surpass 50 points in a single ISL season, the most wins (16) in a campaign, and a defensive masterclass that has seen them register 14 clean sheets, a new league benchmark.

"16 wins - it has been amazing. I am really grateful to everybody and, of course, to the fans. Our goal is to make the fans happy and today they are the happiest fans around the world. The support of the owner and management is really important for the coach. To win a trophy, you need to be a team. It's not only about having 11 players, everybody has to feel important inside the team," Molina remarked after their 1-0 victory against Odisha FC.

The team has kept an

unprecedented 14 clean sheets, surpassing the previous record of 10 held by Bengaluru FC (2019-20), themselves (2020-21), and Hyderabad FC (2022-23).

Goalkeeper Vishal Kaith was between the posts in all those games, firmly leading the Golden Glove race with double the number of shutouts compared to his nearest competitor Phurba Lachenpa (7). Kaith has also become the first custodian in ISL history to touch 50 career clean sheets.

The Mariners have conceded just 14 goals in 22 games, and are presently on an unparalleled 570-minute-long stretch of not conceding goals.

Molina's side built the base of their success from home, securing 10 victories in their backyard so far – breaching the record for the most triumphs a team have recorded in their turf in a single ISL campaign. They aren't just the highest-scorers this term with 43 strikes, but have also netted the most goals from set-pieces (19), equalling the previously held achievement by FC Goa in 2019-20.

A battery of dynamic forwards, creative midfielders, and resolute defenders have pushed them to assert their

dominance aerially, winning 59.9% of those duels – the highest success rate in ISL history, along with 10 headed goals too. The side has netted 11 goals from corners, beating Bengaluru FC's previous best of nine in 2021-22.

The Mohun Bagan Super Giant season has seen players step up and contribute from all areas of the pitch, with their defenders being lethal offensively, scoring 14 of their goals thus far.

Captain Subhasish Bose has been at the forefront of this charge, notching six goals himself, shadowing the previous best of five goals by Mourtada Fall in 2019-20.

Liston Colaco and Manvir Singh have been consistently efficient from the flanks, making a joint-total of 14 goal contributions between them, whereas Lalengmawia Ralte has come up as the heartbeat of the team at the centre, averaging 47 passes per game at 83% accuracy and topping it up with 45 tackles – the third-highest in ISL 2024-25.

With their fifth consecutive playoffs qualification, Mohun Bagan are determined to go all the way after narrowly missing out on the ISL Cup last season.

Barca, Atletico Madrid prepare for evenly-matched Copa del Rey semifinal

Madrid, Feb 24 (UNI) : FC Barcelona and Atletico Madrid will play the first leg of their Copa del Rey semifinal in Montjuic on Tuesday night.

It is the second meeting in the ground between the two sides after Atletico stunned Barca with an injury time winner for a 2-1 win.

Barca has now returned to the top of the table and coach Hansi Flick will make some changes to his starting 11 that won a hard-fought game 2-0 in Las Palmas on Saturday night.

Frenkie de Jong, who is back in form and in favor, will return to the side, while Inigo Martinez or Ronald Araujo both have options of returning in defense after Eric Garcia filled in at the weekend.

There will be no rest for Raphinha, Lamine Yamal or Robert Lewandowski, as the attacking trio continue to be vital for Barca. One question Flick has to answer is whether Dani Olmo should start on Tuesday night, after his physical problems in recent weeks. The Spain international

came on as a second half substitute on Saturday and opened the scoring with a neat piece of footwork and is in line to replace Fermin Lopez. Both Barca and Atletico have packed fixture calendars, with Tuesday's match followed by another

La Liga game at the weekend and the first leg of the Champions League last-16 the following week.

Barca entertains Real Sociedad in La Liga before visiting Benfica in Europe, while Atletico is at home to fourth place Athletic Club Bilbao and then visits Real Madrid in Champions League.

Diego Simeone will clearly have to rest Antoine Griezmann at some point in the coming games, but the issue is when he should do so: Griezmann helped set up two goals in Atletico's 3-0 win in Valencia on Saturday, links well with Julian Alvarez and will probably start on Tuesday. Atletico rested Javi Galan at the weekend, while Pablo Barrios was suspended and both will likely start along with Jose Gimenez in what looks like a well-balanced tie.

England bowler Brydon Carse set to miss Afghanistan match

Lahore, Feb 24 (UNI) : England bowler Brydon Carse is set to miss Wednesday's Champions Trophy match against Afghanistan and is a doubt for the remainder of the tournament.

Carse, 29, has been struggling with a blister on a toe on his left foot and the issue reoccurred in Saturday's defeat by Australia.

Carse had trouble with the injury and returned figures of 1-69 from seven overs.

Jamie Overton would be the most like-for-like replacement for Carse

against Afghanistan, who England will likely have to beat to progress, the BBC reported. If Carse is ruled out of the tournament, they are able to call in a replacement but there are no travelling reserves with the squad in Pakistan.

Leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed was with the squad in India. If the 20-year-old were brought in it would give England a second frontline spin option, in addition to Adil Rashid, for Saturday's match against South Africa.

England's quicks took 3-226 combined across 26.3 overs against Australia.

Karate event enters Guinness record books

Chennai, Feb 24 (UNI) : An event in which more than 5,000 karatekas performed has found its place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The event was organised by the World Karate Masters Association at the Tamil Nadu Sports University.

During the event, over 5,000 karate practitioners, both men and women, from all states across India participated.

Among them, 2,996 individuals performed exceptionally well, earning official recognition from Guinness World Records.

A press release here today said in East Asian countries, a self-defense art originally created by the Tamils was introduced to the Asian continent by Bodhidharma to protect innocent people from cruel, beast-like individuals.

This art significantly enhanced the self-defense capabilities of millions. Today, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the foundation of East Asian nations' technological and economic self-sufficiency on a global scale can be traced back to the self-defense techniques taught by the Tamils.

With the noble aim of bringing this exceptional self-defense art to every citizen of our nation and fostering a safer society for our children, women and future generations, the World Karate Masters Association organized a grand world record event at the Tamil Nadu Sports University.

BFC to take on CFC, keen to secure playoff berths

Bengaluru, Feb 24 (UNI) : Bengaluru FC Head Coach Gerard Zaragoza said his side is keen to put on a good show as Chennaiyin FC visit for the penultimate league stage fixture of the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Tuesday.

A win will see the Blues, who currently sit fourth with 34 points, secure a playoff berth, while Chennaiyin FC, placed eighth with 24 points, need a string of wins and favourable results elsewhere to keep their playoff hopes alive.

"Chennaiyin away was

India U20 women gear up for tough Russian test in Pink Youth Cup tie



Ankara, Feb 24 (UNI) : Having won their first two matches at the Pink Ladies U20 Youth Cup, the Indian U20 women's team will take on Russia in the third and final friendly match on Tuesday, at the Emirhan Sport Centre in Manavgat, here in Turkey, at 16:30 IST.

On Saturday, the Young Tigresses registered a hard-fought 1-0 win over a Hong Kong side that had 14 players over the age of 20 in their squad, including several senior team players. India had won 2-1 against Jordan U20 last week as well. Summing up the performance against Hong Kong into two halves, India head coach Joakim Alexandersson said, "We had a good first half, both in possession and pressing. However, we struggled with our build-ups and in positioning in the second half. But we kept the fighting spirit until the end."

After Sibani Devi gave India the lead, the more experienced Hong Kong side piled on the pressure

in search of the equaliser, leading to a few nervy moments in defence for the Young Tigresses. But they courageously hung on for a well-deserved clean sheet. India are yet to concede an open play goal in Turkey.

"I was not satisfied with our quality in build up as we lost the ball too easily because of less movement with and without the ball. That was the major reason why we had to defend so much in the second half. We also played too slow in our counter attacks. This is something we have to improve against a really strong Russian team," said Alexandersson.

The Swede also had several positive takeaways from the first two matches, mainly concerning the defensive organisation, which will also be crucial against a Russian side that put nine goals past Jordan in their last match.

"What I've liked is that we have a good structure in defence. It has been hard for the opponents to create

big chances. We have conceded some chances but mostly from our own individual mistakes and that we have to deal with. We've been good in pressing the opponents in high block with good timing and communication," he said. A physically stronger, taller and faster Russia is the biggest test awaiting India in this tour. While Alexandersson knows that his side will have a lot of work in the defensive third, the transition to attacks will be important since chances may come few and far between.

"We will meet Russia with our own weapon to try and press them in the high block from time to time. But we also have to be structured in the middle and low block as well. We have to be really aggressive and tough in duels. We want to play quality balls to the feet and give each other quick support to hurt them. Transitions will be the key for this game," the India coach added.

previously found the net against Chennaiyin FC three times for the Blues.

Midfielder Alberto Noguera has also hit a purple patch, contributing four goals in his last two matches, while Edgar Mendez continues to be a key presence in attack.

Bengaluru FC's defence has recorded consecutive clean sheets but will be without Mohamed Salah, who is suspended after accumulating yellow cards.

For Chennaiyin FC, Colombian forward Wilmar Jordan Gil leads the scoring charts with ten goals this season, while midfielder

Connor Shields has played a pivotal role with nine assists. Daniel Chima Chukwu has also been in good form, scoring twice in his last two matches.

"To play in Kanteerava is always an advantage. We have the best support both at home and away, and I'm glad we can fight for a spot in the playoffs now. We have had some tough results at home this year, but the support has always been there and we want to put on a good performance to make them proud," Zaragoza added.

The match kicks off at 7:30 PM February 25.

Savita joins elite club with 300th international cap; Hockey India extends congratulations

Bhubaneswar, Feb 24 (UNI) : Hockey India congratulated Indian Women's Hockey team goalkeeper, Savita Punia on completing 300 international caps on Monday.

The Arjuna Awardee achieved this landmark during India's match against the Netherlands in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium here.

Savita now joins Vandana Katariya as one of only two Indian women to have played 300 international matches.

Savita is only the second Indian goalkeeper, male or female, to achieve this feat after the legendary

PR Sreejesh.

A stalwart of Indian hockey, Savita made her senior team debut at the age of 20 and has since established herself as one of the finest goalkeepers in the world.

She played a key role in India's historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics, a campaign that elevated the team's stature on the global stage. Her experience also proved invaluable in the Rio Olympics 2016 and the 2018 Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup, where India reached the Quarter-Finals.

As captain, Savita has led India to remarkable achievements, including a bronze medal at the 2022

Birmingham Commonwealth Games and a title-winning campaign at the FIH Nations Cup. Under her leadership, India also clinched back-to-back gold medals in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy in 2023 and 2024.

Recognized for her outstanding contributions, Savita was honoured with the Arjuna Award and has been a two-time recipient of the Hockey India Balbir Singh Senior Award for Player of the Year (2022, 2023). Her excellence between the posts has also earned her the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award for three consecutive seasons (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23).

Expressing her emotions on the milestone, Savita said, "Playing 300 matches for India is an incredibly special moment for me. It has been an unforgettable journey. I am deeply grateful to Hockey

India, Sports Authority of India, my family, teammates, and support staff who have stood by me throughout. Every match wearing the Indian jersey is an honour, and I will continue to give my best for the team."

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Asia's First Global Hyperloop Competition-2025

Railway Minister Highlights the Spirit of Innovation

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 24 : Asia's first Global Hyperloop Competition 2025, hosted by IIT Madras, successfully concluded, celebrating breakthrough advancements in futuristic transportation. Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics, and IT, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, virtually joined the closing ceremony, where he emphasised the government's commitment to fostering innovation through collaboration between Indian Railways and academic institutions.

During the event, IIT Madras Director Shri V. Kamakoti, speaking from Rail Bhawan, welcomed participants and highlighted the objectives of the competition. In his

address, the Railway Minister reaffirmed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of propelling the nation forward through technological advancements and partnerships with educational institutions.

The competition recognised outstanding teams with prestigious awards such as the Best Demonstration Team Award, Demonstration of Braking & Traction System, and Best in Sub-System (Mechanical). Shri Vaishnaw lauded these young innovators, stating that their achievements reflect India's world-class capabilities in science and engineering and will accelerate the country's journey toward next-generation transportation.

Highlighting India's technological strides, Shri

Vaishnaw noted that IIT Madras played a pivotal role in the success of India's 5G rollout—the fastest in the world. Building on this legacy, Indian Railways and IIT Madras will now collaborate on a Vertical Take-Off & Landing (VTOL) Vehicle project, funded by Indian Railways. This initiative aims to drive modern advancements in mobility and transportation. Dignitaries, including Railway Board Chairman & CEO Shri Satish Kumar, were present at the event. The 422-meter-long Hyperloop test track at IIT Madras, Chennai, stands as a testament to the strong partnership between Indian Railways and the education sector, paving the way for groundbreaking railway innovations and futuristic travel solutions.

Lalit Bohara assumed the charge of DRM Waltair, ECoR



(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Feb 24 : Lalit Bohara, a 1998 batch IRTS officer with extensive experience of traffic commercial and Policy formulation has joined as the new Divisional Railway Manager of Waltair Division in Visakhapatnam. Prior to this he was joint secretary in Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India (MNRE).

While working as joint secretary in MNRE he has played an instrumental role in framing PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijali Yojana, PM-KUSUM, Wind Energy Policy including offshore wind, Green Energy Corridors, PLI Scheme for Solar Manufacturing etc. He was also Director General of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE). He was in Board of Directors of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd and Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd.

While working in Railway he has worked as Chief Commercial Manager, Chief Passenger Transportation Manager, Chief Public Relations Officer, and Deputy General Manager (General).

He has also been the Chief General Manager in Container Corporation of India and has been instrumental in setting up the biggest dry port i.e. as Khatuwas Terminal and running double stack container trains.

"Indian Railways is marching towards achieving the objective of Net Zero": Ashwini Vaishnaw

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Feb 24 : Addressing investors and entrepreneurs at the Global Investors Summit 2025 in Bhopal, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & IT, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw outlined Indian Railways' vision for electrification and the adoption of alternative energy sources.

Mr Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, and Shri Rakesh Shukla, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Government of Madhya Pradesh were also present in the event.

Participating via video conferencing from Rail Bhawan, the Union Railway Minister emphasized the Indian government's goal to achieve 'Net Zero' carbon emissions for Indian Railways, with 100% electrification slated for completion in the 2025-26 financial year. The next objective is to maximize renewable energy procurement.

With this vision, Indian Railways has already tied up 1,500 MW of renewable energy.

Further strengthening this commitment, a significant 170 MW Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was signed today with the Madhya Pradesh government. This milestone marks the procurement of India's cheapest solar power at Rs 2.15/kWh and the Minister reaffirmed enthusiasm for exploring wind and nuclear energy procurement. The Government of Madhya Pradesh, through Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power Limited (RUMSL), is supplying solar power to Indian Railways from its largest solar park.

Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw commended Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Mohan Yadav for his active role in advancing railway development in the state.



He reiterated the Indian government's strong commitment to a sustainable and green future for the country's transportation network.

Today's PPA was signed between key stakeholders, including West Central Railway (WCR), represented by Dy. CEE/HQ Shri Chetan Gulwani; RUMSL, represented by Executive Engineer Shri Avneesh Shukla; and Wree Forever Energies Pvt Ltd, the solar power developer.

The Minister also added that Indian Railways is committed to achieving net-zero emissions and shifting from road to rail transport to promote environmental sustainability, reduce oil imports, and lower overall logistics costs. As part of this vision, it is meeting its energy requirements through non-fossil sources such as solar, wind, and nuclear power. The collaboration with RUMSL is a significant step in this direction.

In addition to setting up its own solar systems, Indian Railways is also securing solar power through PPA arrangements with developers. By 2030, Indian Railways' traction power requirement is projected to reach 10,000

MW. So far, it has secured 4,260 MW of installed solar capacity and 3,427 MW of installed wind capacity to meet its energy needs, the Minister said.

Call for Nationwide Collaboration in Renewable Energy

Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw urged all Indian states to contribute renewable energy—be it solar, wind, hydro, or nuclear power—to Indian Railways, emphasizing a collaborative approach to sustainable energy. He praised the successful partnership model between the Railway Ministry and the Government of Madhya Pradesh, which facilitates direct PPA agreements between the state's energy generators and Indian Railways.

Historic Budget Allocation for Madhya Pradesh Rail Infrastructure

Highlighting the record-breaking budget of ₹14,745 crore allocated to Madhya Pradesh's railway sector for FY 2025-26, the Minister stated that this is the highest-ever budgetary allocation for the state. Infrastructure development has accelerated significantly, with railway track laying increasing from 29 km per year before 2014 to 230

km per year today—a 7.5x increase.

About the Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power Limited (RUMSL)

RUMSL, designated as a Solar Power Park Developer (SPPD) by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), was entrusted with developing large-scale solar parks in Madhya Pradesh under the Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Projects (UMREPP) scheme of the Government of India. To ensure efficiency and expertise in executing and operating such large-scale projects, RUMSL adopted the DBFO (Design, Build, Finance, Own, and Operate) model. The initiative significantly contributed to India's renewable energy sector, increasing the country's solar power generation capacity by 2.50%. Notably, it achieved the lowest-ever tariff awarded for a solar public-private partnership (PPP) in India, at INR 2.97 per kWh, without any viability gap funding from the government. Recognized for its innovation and impact, the project was included in the Prime Minister's "Book of Innovation" and was honored with the prestigious "President Award" from the World Bank.

The Heritage Clock of Lower Parel Workshop: A Timeless Legacy

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 24 : Nestled on the wall of the FIAT Bogie Shop at the Lower Parel Workshop, facing the main entrance gate, stands the Heritage Clock—a remarkable piece of history that has been ticking since 1889. This iconic clock, manufactured by M/s. GILLETTE & Co. of Croydon, England, is not just a timekeeping device but a symbol of craftsmanship, heritage, and the enduring legacy of the Lower Parel Workshop.

A Glimpse into History
The Heritage Clock was crafted in 1889 at the Union Road facility in Croydon, England, by M/s. GILLETTE & Co., a company renowned for its clock-making expertise since 1844. Its installation coincided with the establishment of the Lower Parel Workshop, making it an integral part of the workshop's storied past. Over the decades, the clock has witnessed the evolution of the workshop, standing as a silent sentinel to the passage of time.



Engineering Marvel
The Heritage Clock is a marvel of mechanical engineering. With an overall diameter of 213 cm and a dial diameter of 152 cm, it is an imposing structure that commands attention. The clock operates through a meticulously designed gear train made of brass components, chosen for their resistance to corrosion. The energy required to keep the clock running is stored in a metal spring, which is wound once a week to ensure uninterrupted operation.

What makes this clock truly remarkable is its simplicity and robustness. Its compact mechanism requires minimal maintenance, a testament to the ingenuity of its creators. Despite its age, the clock continues to function with precision, a tribute to the craftsmanship of the 19th century.

Guardians of Time
Shri Parivesh Sahu, Chief Workshop Manager of the Carriage & Wagon Workshop, Lower Parel,

advocates for the preservation and maintenance of cultural and natural heritage. It is a commendable effort that contributes to the safeguarding of this long & cherished history.

The upkeep and maintenance of the Heritage Clock is entrusted to two senior technicians, Shri Rajkumar Saroj & Shri Norbert D'mello of the Millwright Shop at the Lower Parel Workshop who with their dedication have been the custodians of this antique timepiece since 1990.

These technicians who have been imparted with specialized training, were given the responsibility of maintaining not only the Heritage Clock but also all GA card time-punching clocks within the workshop. Their unwavering commitment ensures that these historic timepieces continue to operate smoothly, preserving their legacy for future generations.

The Tuned Bell: A Harmonious Companion
Adding to the historical significance of the site is a

tuned bell, also manufactured by M/s. GILLETTE & Co. in 1890. Located just below the Heritage Clock, this bell bears the cast number 122 and weighs 57 kg. With a diameter of 425 mm and a height of 430 mm, it is a fine example of the company's craftsmanship. Together, the clock and the bell form a harmonious duo, echoing the rich history of the Lower Parel Workshop.

A Living Legacy
The Heritage Clock and the tuned bell are more than just artifacts; they are living reminders of the ingenuity and dedication of those who came before us. They stand as a testament to the enduring spirit of the Lower Parel Workshop and its commitment to preserving its heritage.

As the clock continues to tick and the bell chimes, they remind us of the timeless values of precision, craftsmanship, and the importance of honoring our past. The Heritage Clock is not just a relic of history—it is a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kalyan/Bhandup, Feb 24 : The Prime Minister Suryaghar Free Electricity Scheme, launched by the Centre to provide free electricity to household consumers consuming up to three hundred units of electricity per month and also earn income by selling excess electricity, has recently completed one year. 3 thousand 283 consumers in Bhandup and Kalyan circles of Mahavitaran have taken advantage of this scheme.

Through a solar power generation project of 1 to 3 kilowatt capacity on the roof of the house, household consumers are

getting the opportunity to get about 120 to 360 units of electricity free of cost every month under the Prime minister Suryaghar Yojana. In order for household electricity consumers to install solar power generation sets on the roof, loan facilities are available from various banks at concessional interest rates and the loan process has also been simplified. Incentive funds will also be provided to gram panchayats that encourage rural consumers to take advantage of this scheme. Along with this, automatic approval is being given by Mahavitaran for applications up to 10 kW

and solar net meters are also being made available.

The electricity generated from the solar projects implemented under the scheme can be used by the consumers. Moreover, if the electricity is left over after meeting the needs of the consumers, it is being purchased by Mahavitaran. Its amount is being adjusted in the electricity bill of the concerned consumers. For rooftop solar power projects, domestic electricity consumers are getting a direct subsidy of Rs 30,000 for one kW, Rs 60,000 for two kW and a maximum of Rs 78,000 for three kW and above.

India, UK resume negotiations towards trade deal

New Delhi, Feb 24 (UNI) India and the United Kingdom on Monday resumed negotiations towards a trade deal between the two countries, says Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal.

India and the United Kingdom have a close partnership, built through collaboration on security and defence, new and emerging technologies, climate, health, education, research and innovation, green finance and people-to-people contacts.

At the centre of this relationship is the collective aspiration to deliver economic growth and sustainable development, an official statement of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and the UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer had met on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November 2024 to underline the importance of resuming trade negotiations at an early date.

Today India and the UK have resumed negotiations towards a trade deal between our two countries, Goyal said in presence of Secretary of State for the Department for Business and Trade of the United Kingdom Jonathan Reynolds who is in Delhi.

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