

## IN BRIEF

### Ujjwal Nikam appointed Special PP in Santosh Deshmukh murder case

Mumbai, Feb 26 (UNI) :Ujjwal Nikam, who successfully represented the government in many important cases, has finally been appointed as the Special Public Prosecutor in the Santosh Deshmukh murder case.

Balasaheb Kolhe has been appointed as Nikan's assistant.

Santosh Deshmukh's brother Dhananjay Deshmukh and social worker Anjali Damania, welcomed the decision of the government.

The villagers of Massajog have started a food boycott movement for their seven main demands in the Santosh Deshmukh murder case. The demands of the villagers are being considered positively and the villagers have been appealed to by Beed Superintendent of Police Navneet Kavat to withdraw their movement. Police Inspector Vaibhav Patil has reached Massajog to discuss with the villagers. The appointment of Adv. Nikam was a major demand of the villagers. Nikam has successfully served as the special public prosecutor in many important cases on behalf of the government, from the 1993 bomb blasts to the 2008 terrorist attacks on Mumbai.

### Army inks deal for procurement of critical CBRN defence equipment

New Delhi, Feb 26 (UNI) :The Indian Army has signed a contract worth Rs 80.43 cr for the procurement of 223 Automatic Chemical Agent Detection and Alarm (ACADA) systems with L&T Ltd, under the Buy Indian (IDDM) category. ACADA has been designed and developed by DRDO's Defence Research and Development Establishment, Gwalior, and marks a significant milestone in the nation's indigenisation initiative in the niche Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) domain, a Defence Ministry statement said here on Wednesday.

The ACADA system is used to detect Chemical Warfare Agents (CWA) and programmed Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TICs) by sampling the air from the environment.



Navi Mumbai Police personnel during destruction of drugs seized from various parts of Navi Mumbai, at Talaja, in Navi Mumbai on Wednesday.

## 26-year old woman raped in govt bus

Pune, Feb 26 (UNI) : In a shocking incident, a 26-year-old woman was raped inside a government-run bus at Swargate Bus Depot here while she was going to her village on Wednesday, police said.

The incident took place in the morning when the victim woman came to the bus depot and asked for a bus to Phaltan.

The alleged accused asked the woman to board the bus which was standing at the depot. Then he also got on to the bus and raped the woman.

The police have identified the alleged accused as Dattatray Ramdas Gade, who was absconding. A search was on to nab him, an officer said. Eight police teams have been formed to trace the

accused. The victim herself approached the police station and filed the complaint. Based on CCTV footage, police then identified the accused.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Vasant More alleged that rapes are happening daily in the Swargate bus depot.

NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule in a post on X said the incident happened in a busy bus stand like Swargate with a police post nearby.

"Still, the fact that the accused dared to commit such a heinous crime shows that criminals have no fear of the law. The question has also been raised on this occasion whether there is no safe place for women in this state. Serious crimes are happening in Pune every day somewhere," she alleged. She alleged that the

state Home Department has failed to stop such cases not been successful in stopping it, said Sule.

After hearing about the shocking incident, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president Harshvardhan Sapkal made a frontal attack on the state government, saying the government, which calls women as "dear sisters", has failed to protect them.

Talking to reporters here, he said that the shocking incident of a young woman being raped inside a state transport bus at Pune's Swargate bus station has once again raised serious concerns about women's safety. The Chief Minister, who also hold the Home portfolio, is preoccupied with shielding corrupt

## Ajit Pawar seeks death penalty for Pune rape accused

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai Feb 26 : Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Wednesday strongly condemned the rape of a woman in a state-government run MSRTC bus in Pune and sought death penalty for the alleged accused in the case.

Pawar said he has instructed the Pune police to investigate the matter and arrest the accused who

is currently on the run. In a message on X, he said "The incident of the rape of one of our sisters at Swargate bus station in Pune is extremely unfortunate, painful, infuriating and shameful to all in civilized society. The crime committed by the accused in this crime is unforgivable and there can be no other punishment for him than death."

## ST bus services resume

Kolhapur, Feb 26 (UNI) : Inter-state bus services between Maharashtra and Karnataka, which had been suspended from both sides from February 22 following an alleged assault on a M a r a t h i - s p e a k i n g conductor in Chitradurga of southern state, resumed on Wednesday. A bus arrived at Kolhapur from Belgaum this afternoon on a trial, however, regular bus services between the two neighbouring states will resume from Thursday (tomorrow).

A decision to resume ST bus services was taken in a

## Govt to sign MoU with Youth for Jobs organisation for employment of disabled youth : CM

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Feb 26 : The government will soon sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Youth for Jobs organisation in order to create opportunities of employment and self-employment for youths, particularly disabled youth,

said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday. He said the Youth for Jobs organisation is going to cooperate with the government in Vidarbha and North Maharashtra in the initial phase. In the coming period, this work will be expanded and speeded up across the state, he said and expressed that this will provide employment to disabled youth. The government always insists on ensuring that the disabled persons of the society, who are handicapped naturally or by accident, get their rights and get full benefit of the schemes announced for them. The government is trying to provide training to disabled youth in the state, make them financially self-reliant, and make employment opportunities available to the disabled as well, he said. The Chief Minister further said that the government is effectively implementing schemes for the disabled. Accordingly, Unique Disability ID (UDID) will be given to registered persons with disabilities in the next five years for employment and self-employment by providing skills-based training to persons with disabilities in the state, he added.

officers while the security of women in the state remains compromised.

The Pune rape case has laid bare the collapse of law and order in Maharashtra, he said.

Sapkal recalled that Maharashtra was shaken by a recent case of sexual assault on schoolgirls in Mumbai, however, the government tried to suppress the truth by eliminating the accused in an encounter, thereby protecting the real masterminds.

The Pune incident is equally serious, and the government's apathy is making women feel unsafe, he added.

The Chief Minister, who speaks on all matters, deliberately remains silent on critical issues, he charged.

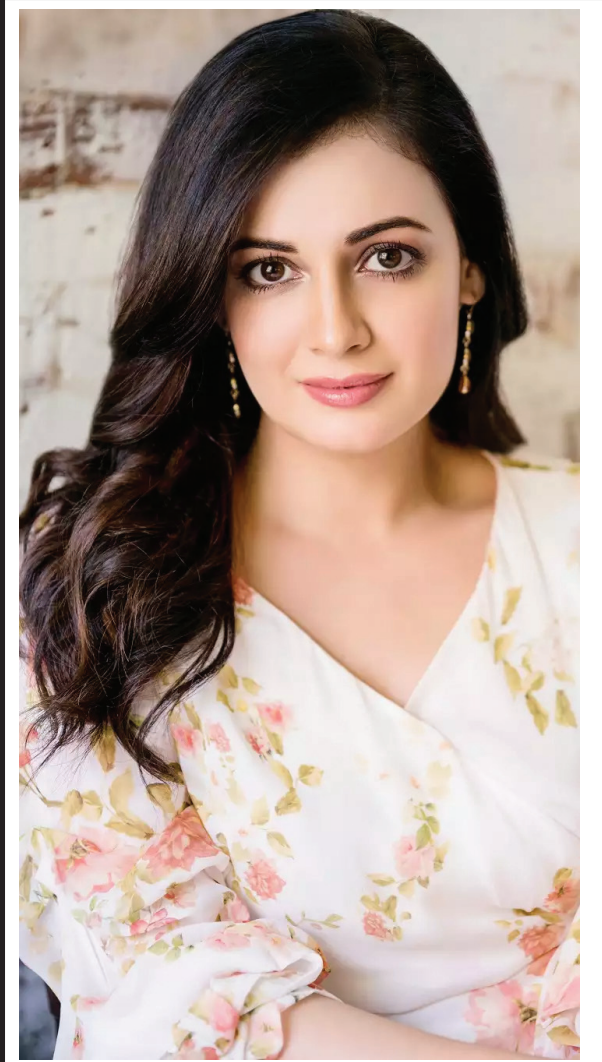
virtual meeting held between collectors of Kolhapur and Belgaum districts—Amol Yedje and Mohammad Roshan, respectively.

In this meeting, it was decided to start bus services from both sides with police protection as a precautionary measure.

Accordingly, an ST bus of Karnataka arrived at Kolhapur's Central Bus Stand on a trial and returned with passengers to Belgaum this evening with police protection. Following which, an ST bus went to Nipani from Kolhapur.

However, regular bus services from both sides will commence from Thursday morning.

On February 21, the Kannada Rakshak Vedika activists stopped an ST bus of Maharashtra at Chitradurga and allegedly assaulted conductor for not speaking in Kannada. Following this incident, all bus services between the two neighbouring states were suspended from Feb 22. However, in last two days, both the states started their bus services partially up to Kognoli check post on border of Maharashtra and Karnataka.



## UN Goodwill ambassador Dia Mirza highlights role of youth in climate change action

Dia Mirza, United Nations National Goodwill Ambassador, underlined the relevance of encouraging "mindful consumption" for environmental conservation and the significance of involving children and young to promote meaningful change in climate debates. Speaking on the concluding day of the International Conference on Carbon Markets, "Prakriti 2025" here, Dia Mirza said, "Big change will only occur when it starts from the top down because behaviours sometimes take hundreds of years to change."

(See on page 2)

## Australian PM pledges 2 bln USD for transport projects ....



Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has pledged over 2 billion U.S. dollars to fund transport projects in the country's second-most populous state in a major pre-election commitment. Albanese on Wednesday announced over 3.3 billion Australian dollars (2.08 billion dollars) for road and rail projects in the state of Victoria.

( See on page 5)

## Cummins provides fitness ahead of WTC Final and IPL



Australia's Test and ODI captain, Pat Cummins, has returned to bowling as he prepares for the upcoming IPL season and the World Test Championship (WTC) final against South Africa in June. Cummins, who had been managing an ankle injury sustained during the Test series against India,

(See on page 7)

## Over 50k Bihar youths from backward communities .....



Leader of opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejaswi Yadav on Wednesday accused the Narendra Modi government of depriving 50,000 youths from the scheduled caste, schedule tribe, backward and extremely backward communities of government jobs in the state,

(See on page 8)

## Grand confluence of faith concludes, 66 crore plus take holy dip during Maha Kumbh

Prayagraj, Feb 26 (UNI) : The 45-day long Maha Kumbh, one of the largest spiritual and cultural congregation in the world, concluded with the final bathing festival on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri on Wednesday.

On the last day of the Maha Kumbh, a sea of devotees converged on the banks of Sangam to take a holy dip. The banks of Triveni Sangam, the confluence of holy Ganga, Yamuna and mystique Saraswati rivers, reverberated with the chants of 'Har Har Mahadev', 'Ganga Maiyya ki Jai' and 'Jai

Shri Ram' as tight security arrangements were made to ensure seamless bath on Maha Shivratri.

The enthusiasm among the devotees could be gauged from the fact that more than 1.53 crore devotees took a holy dip in the Sangam waters till 8 pm. According to the official figures more than 66.30 crore devotees took advantage of the holy bath during the gala event.

The Uttar Pradesh government ensured an unforgettable experience for devotees by showering them with flowers from a helicopter on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri.

Continuing its tradition from previous bathing festivals, the government arranged for 20 quintals of rose petals to be showered upon devotees at the Sangam Ghat. The floral shower began at 8 am, just as thousands of devotees were taking a dip at the sacred confluence.

Overwhelmed by the sight of rose petals raining from the sky, devotees chanted 'Jai Shri Ram', 'Har Har Mahadev', 'Ganga Maiyya Ki Jai', and 'Tirthraj Prayag Ki Jai' in reverence. Many expressed their gratitude towards the Yogi government, appreciating the grand gesture that

honoured their faith.

Special attention was paid to the security and arrangements of the devotees reaching the Sangam banks in large numbers. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself monitored the holy bath from Gorakhpur.

Like all the past Amrit Snan and Snan Parv, a control room was set up for him in Gorakhnath temple itself, where he was seen monitoring the bathing festival every moment. He watched every feed of devotees bathing live on TV and directed the top officials from the control room itself.

As per the directives of

CM Yogi, all the top officials also appeared alert, and they also took charge from the morning itself. Earlier, Yogi had also held a meeting with the officials in the war room since morning on the occasion of Basant Panchami and Magh Purnima Amrit Snan and kept monitoring.

The CM took stock of the entire situation in terms of security and arrangements for this important event of Maha Shivratri Snan festival. In Gorakhpur, he reached the control room located at Gorakhnath temple in the morning and kept

(Contd on page 3)

# UN Goodwill ambassador Dia Mirza highlights role of youth in climate change action

New Delhi, Feb 26 (UNI) : Dia Mirza, United Nations National Goodwill Ambassador, underlined the relevance of encouraging "mindful consumption" for environmental conservation and the significance of involving children and young to promote meaningful change in climate debates.

Speaking on the concluding day of the International Conference on Carbon Markets, "Prakriti 2025" here, Dia Mirza said, "Big change will only occur when it starts from the top down because behaviours sometimes take hundreds

of years to change."

Sharing her vision for sustainability, Dia stated that "My dream sustainability project, if finances didn't have any upper limit, would be one, to eradicate each and every unit of single use plastics, and two, a scenario where every resource comes in the circular economy."

She further added that, "As an individual, I have the capacity to change the way I live and hopefully thereby bring some change in the world. Big change will only occur when it starts from the top down because behaviours sometimes take hundreds of years to change." The UN Goodwill

Ambassador also lauded Government's initiatives under LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), highlighting its role in promoting mindful consumption and leading a global movement...emphasizing the importance of engaging children and youth to drive meaningful change in climate conversations."

Speaking at the event, Thomas Kerr, Lead Climate Change Specialist, World Bank said that the Indian Carbon Market does not operate in isolation, as global carbon pricing policies will influence India's industries.

He highlighted the impact of the European

Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) on Indian exports, particularly in steel, aluminium, and other high-emission industries, stating, "The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will impact Indian exports, particularly in steel, aluminium, and other high-emission industries."

"This calls for urgent action in domestic carbon markets." Encouraging India's active participation, he added, "If you build it, they will come", he added.

Ashok Lavasa, Former Finance Secretary highlighted the complexities of global

carbon markets and the challenges India faces in developing a robust system.

Emphasizing key factors for success, he stated, "Strong MRV frameworks, fair benefit distribution, and strategic market alignment are crucial to India's success in the carbon economy. International collaboration is necessary, but India must develop policies tailored to its own needs and challenges."

The two-day conference was inaugurated by the Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, witnessed robust participation from

key Indian ministries, including , Financial Institutions, Corporates, International NGOs and PSUs.

As a flagship initiative of the central government organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, PRAKRITI 2025 served as a platform for in-depth discussions on global carbon market trends, challenges, and future pathways.

Approximately 80+ experts and 600+ delegates engaged in the conference's discussion in the last two days, focusing on carbon market mechanisms, policy framework, climate finance and technologies.

# DRDO, Indian Navy successfully conduct flight-trials of Naval Anti-Ship missile

New Delhi, Feb 26 (UNI) : Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy carried out successful flight-trials of first-of-its-kind Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range (NASM-SR) from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur on Tuesday.

The trials demonstrated the missile's capability against ship targets while launched from an Indian Naval Seaking Helicopter, a Defence Ministry statement said on Wednesday.

The trials have proven the missile's Man-in-Loop feature and scored a direct hit on a small ship target in sea-skimming mode at its maximum range. The missile uses an Indigenous Imaging Infra-Red Seeker for terminal guidance. The mission also has demonstrated the high bandwidth two way datalink system, which is used to transmit the seeker live images back to the pilot for in-flight retargeting.

The missile was launched in Bearing-only Lock-on after launch mode with several targets in close vicinity for selecting one among them.

The missile initially locked on to a large target within a specified zone of search and during the terminal phase, the pilot selected a smaller hidden target resulting in its being

hit with pinpoint accuracy.

The missile uses an indigenous fiber optic gyroscope-based INS and radio altimeter for its mid-course guidance, an integrated avionics module, electro-mechanical actuators for aerodynamic and jet vane control, thermal batteries and PCB warhead. It uses solid propulsion with an in-line ejectable booster and a long-burn sustainer. The trials have met all the mission objectives.

The missile is developed by different labs of DRDO including Research Centre Imarat, Defence Research and Development Laboratory, High Energy Materials Research Laboratory and Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory.

The missiles are currently being produced by development cum production partners with the help of MSME's, start-ups and other production partners. Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, Indian Navy and the industries for the successful flight tests.

The tests for Man-in-Loop features is unique as it gives the capability of in flight retargeting, he said.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Samir V Kamat also congratulated the entire DRDO team, users and the industry partners.



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta with National Commission for Women chief Vijaya Rahatkar during a meeting, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

# CM Yogi lacks emotional sensitivity: Akhilesh Yadav

Lucknow, Feb 26 (UNI) Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday alleged that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath lacks "emotional sensitivity" and uses "indecent and undemocratic" language.

In a statement issued here, Akhilesh said that it is the CM's nature to "insult" the suffering, sad and troubled people. "In the arrogance of power, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has become devoid of political etiquette. This government launched a campaign to insult and defame farmers, youth, women, traders, leaders of opposition parties and everyone," he said.

"Now it has crossed all limits that the CM is not even sparing the families of those who died in the Maha

Kumbh stampede. Instead of helping the suffering and sad families, the CM is increasing their pain by insulting them," he said.

The SP chief said in democracy, the public elects the government. "The government of democracy cannot be dictatorial. But the behaviour of the BJP government is dictatorial. It is harassing and torturing political opponents. In the BJP rule, people no longer have the right to speak and write freely. Action was taken against many people of SP with malice," he alleged.

He said the conduct of the BJP government is highly condemnable.

"No one is getting justice. BJP will suffer a defeat in the upcoming assembly elections. Faulty GST has

destroyed business and traders. The BJP government is committing atrocities on traders by conducting raids. There is great resentment among traders with the working style of the BJP government. The zero-poverty scheme of this government is a fraud. The government keeps finding new tricks to cheat farmers, youth, traders, the poor and every section by showing them false dreams," he alleged.

Akhilesh said religion is not a business. "Faith is associated with religion. Service cannot be a business, but the BJP government and the CM have made people's faith a business. The CM made Kumbh of charity, virtue and service a business. For him Kumbh has become a business of Rs 3 lakh crore.

# Yogi performs Rudrabhishek at Gorakhnath temple

Gorakhpur, Feb 26 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Gorakshpeethadhiswar Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday dedicated his day to the worship of Lord Shiva on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri.

From the sacred premises of Goraksh Peeth to four major Shiva temples in the district, the CM performed rituals including darshan, pooja, jalabhishek, and Rudrabhishek with utmost devotion.

Following the traditional rituals, CM Yogi prayed to Lord Adiyogi for the well-being of the people, national prosperity and a life of health, peace

and happiness for all citizens. His spiritual journey continued from morning till the afternoon as he visited multiple temples, offering prayers and seeking divine blessings on this significant day.

He started his Maha Shivratri rituals at Gorakhnath Temple during which he performed the sacred Rudrabhishek of Lord Shiva using cow's milk at the Shakti Temple on the first floor of the monastery. Following this, he conducted a havan and offered aarti, praying to Lord Shiva for the well-being of all living beings.

Before this, he also worshipped at the Shiva

temple within the Gorakhnath Temple complex, where he offered prayers to Lord Nandi and performed Jalabhishek (holy water offering) to Lord Shiva. In the Nath tradition, Guru Gorakhnath is believed to be an incarnation of Lord Shiva, dedicated to the welfare of all. The Gorakhnath Temple itself is rooted in this spirit of public welfare.

This makes Maha Shivratri an especially significant occasion for the Goraksh Peethadheeshwar (head of the Gorakhnath monastery), Yogi Adityanath.

After completing rituals at Gorakhnath Temple, he visited three major Shiva

temples in Gorakhpur, including Manasarovar Shiv Temple in Andhiyari Bagh, Mukteshwar Nath Temple in Rajghat and Jharkhandi Mahadev Temple.

He offered prayers, performed Jalabhishek and wished for the well-being of all. During his visit, he directed the officials to ensure proper security, cleanliness, and facilities for devotees. He also interacted with worshippers and inquired about their well-being.

At Manasarovar Temple, CM Yogi offered belpatra, bhanga, dhatura and flowers to Lord Shiva and performed rituals amid Vedic chants. Noticing

children among the devotees, he warmly interacted with them and gave blessings.

Later, at Mukteshwar Nath Temple, he conducted Jalabhishek and gifted chocolates to children. His final stop was Jharkhandi Mahadev Temple, where he performed traditional worship.

In the afternoon, the CM visited the historic Piteshwar Nath Temple in Bharohiya, performing prayers and Jalabhishek. This temple, linked to the Pandavas, holds a deep connection with the Gorakshpeeth, and every Mahashivratri, the Peethadhiswar performs rituals here.

# UK Ministers Reynolds, Gustafsson announce 17 new export and investment deals during India visit

New Delhi, Feb 26 (UNI) : UK's Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds and Investment Minister Poppy Gustafsson announced 17 new export and investment deals during their visit to India this week.

There are already over 950 Indian-owned companies operating in the UK and over 650 UK companies operating in India, cumulatively supporting over 600,000 jobs across both economies, a statement from the UK High Commission in India said. UK insurance companies in particular have gained more potential to expand in India following the recent Indian budget, which increased the amount of foreign direct investment (FDI) permitted in the insurance sector from 74% to 100%.

The UK has the third largest technology economy in the world, and a number of UK technology companies have also announced expansion into India, accelerating their growth journey.

Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said: "Tech and life sciences are two huge growth sectors for the UK economy."

"I'm proud that government support has helped some of our finest businesses in these sectors to expand into the exciting Indian market. It's great to see them going for growth, and their successes will amount to tens of millions of pounds for the UK economy."

Recent Indian investments in the UK valued at over pounds 100 million in total are expected to create hundreds of new jobs over the next three years in a range of sectors including AI, professional services and textiles. These investments are proof of global investor confidence of doing business in the UK.

The trend of strong Indian investment into the UK in recent years is evident, with the last year-on-year change showing the value of inward FDI stock from India having increased 28% at the end of 2023. India has remained the second largest investor in terms of number of projects into the UK for five consecutive years.

Minister for Investment Poppy Gustafsson said: "The new Indian investment proves that the government's Plan for Change is giving Indian businesses the confidence they need to continue investing in Britain."

On Monday, in New Delhi, Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announced the relaunch of talks on a free trade agreement between the UK and India that can support jobs and bring more growth across both economies.

Minister Gustafsson is visiting Mumbai and Bengaluru to champion free trade and promote exciting investment opportunities in the UK for Indian companies.

# Gulmarg Gondola Cable Car service suspended due to inclement weather

Srinagar, Feb 26 (UNI) : Bad weather forced the authorities to suspend the Gondola Cable Car service at the world famous ski resort of Gulmarg on Wednesday, Officials said.

"Due to inclement weather at Kongdoori and Affarvat, the Gondola Services shall remain suspended for the day," the officials said. Authorities also assured that a full refund will be provided to ticket holders as per the established norms. Pertinently, Gulmarg received 33 cms of snowfall during the past 24 hours much to the delight of the

tourists staying there. Gulmarg Gondola, one of the highest cable car services in the world, remains a key attraction for adventure enthusiasts, nature lovers and tourists across the world. The Gulmarg Gondola service starts from the elevation of 8,694 ft and ends at Kongdoori at an elevation of 8,694 ft.

## CENTRAL RAILWAY

FOR PROCUREMENT OF MATERIALS  
TENDER NOTICE NO. 1/2025 DATED 24.02.2025 For & on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Central Railways, Mumbai Division, Mumbai CSMT-400001 invites electronic tenders for supply of the following item: Tender No.: 92255181  
Description: Manufacturing and Supply of Single Piece Spring Inserted Reusable Seize Nut for Size M-27 Lock Nut M 025. Size of nut Pitch: 3mm, Hn: 22mm, Bn:38.0mm, Cn: 43.5mm, Ln 37mm, Sn: 38mm as per drawing and Materials as per STS, S45C, SCM, Plating Electro Zinc Plating, Melted Zinc, Nickel, Chrome, Zinc Powder Plating, Accepted make Saper lock or other make with same specification, QTY. : 3100 Nos.  
Description: Manufacturing and Supply of Single Piece Spring Inserted Reusable Seize Nut for Size M-27 Lock Nut M 027. Size of nut- Pitch: 3 mm, Hn: 22 mm, Bn:41.0 mm, Cn: 47.3mm, Ln 37.5mm, Sn: 41.0 mm as per drawing. Materials STS, S45C, SCM, Plating Electro Zinc Plating, Melted Zinc, Nickel, Chrome, Zinc Powder Plating, Accepted make saper lock or other make with same specification, QTY. : 2300 Nos. EMD AMT. : Rs.178950/- Due Date: 17.03.2025 NOTE:- 1. Above tenders are uploaded on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm who desires to participate against above e-tenders, are advised to register themselves electronically on the above website. Manual offers against these e-tenders will not be accepted. 2. Bidders will have to make online payment of EMD through IREPS 3. For details of these tenders and other governing conditions, please visit the website www.ireps.gov.in. 4. For any queries, please write to Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Central Railway, DRM Office, Mumbai CSMT-400001. E-mail: srddmm@bb.railnet.gov.in 5. Note:- This tender complies with the tender public procurement policy order 2017/dated 15.06.2017.

## CENTRAL RAILWAY

VARIOUS MAINTENANCE WORKS

For & on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Engineer (Bridge Line) HQ @ Central Railway, G.M. Building, 2nd Floor, CSMT Mumbai-400001 invites e-bids at e-Procurement website, "http://www.ireps.gov.in" for the following work: Sr.No.: 1. Tender Notice No. & date: CR-BRMMR 372024-2025 dated 24.02.2025 Name of work: Provision of footpath for track girder bridges on Open web girder bridges of various sections over Mumbai division (8 nos. bridges) Approx cost of work in Rs.: 1,02,56,793.31 Bid Security Rs.: 2,01,300 Completion period: 12 months Sr.No.: 2. Tender Notice No. & date: CR-BRMMR 382024-2025 dated 24.02.2025 Name of work: Provision of additional side pathway, Inspection Ladder and Jacking Brackets of TGB and PA-STR section over Pune Division. Approx cost of work in Rs.: 2,39,39,032.71 Bid Security Rs.: 2,69,700 Completion period: 18 months Date & Time of closing: 18.03.2025 at 15:00 Hrs. Complete information of above e-tender notice is available on website "http://www.ireps.gov.in". Bids other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against the above Tender. 811

## WESTERN RAILWAY

TRD WORK

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Sub), Western Railway, Mumbai Central, Mumbai- 400 008, invites e-tender Notice No: WR-MMCTOESUB(ESOT)/4/2025. Name of the work: TRD work in connection with replacement of unsafe beam loading Foot Over Bridge by new 6m wide Foot Over Bridge at Goregaon In Churchgate-Vihar Section. Estimated cost of work : ₹ 30,66,523/- Bid Security: ₹ 61,300/-. Date & time of submission: Till 24.03.2025, 15:00 Hrs. Date and time of opening: On 24.03.2025 at 15:30 hrs. Website particulars: The tender can be viewed and submitted through website www.ireps.gov.in. 1118

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अनाधिकृत रूप से ले लाने को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

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## CM directs to create Kumbh Mela Authority for Simhastha Kumbh Mela in 2027

Mumbai, Feb 26 (UNI) Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday gave instructions to create a separate Kumbh Mela Authority for Simhastha Kumbh Mela to be held in 2027 at Nashik Trimbakeshwar.

He also instructed to plan for this Simhastha Kumbh to be known as 'Digital Technology Kumbh'. He was speaking at a review meeting held here under his chairmanship regarding preparations of Simhastha Kumbh Mela to be held in Nashik-Trimbakeshwar in the year 2027.

Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan, Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik, Nashik Divisional Commissioner Dr Praveen Gedam, Collector Jalaj Sharma, Municipal Commissioner Manisha Khatri along with secretaries of various departments were present for the meeting.

On this occasion, the recommendation of a team from Nashik that had been sent to inquire about preparations for the Mahakumbh Mela at Prayagraj were reviewed.

Fadnavis gave suggestion for using digital technology and artificial intelligence in Kumbh Mela planning.

In view of huge crowds witnessed at Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, the Chief Minister suggested for management of crowd, to plan for number of ghats, road, rail and air traffic and to extend Nashik-Trimbak road by 24 metres.

The Chief Minister also directed to carry out a drone survey to see if a coastal road can be constructed on the banks of the Godavari river. Thousands of devotees converge at 3 Jyotirlinga temples to celebrate Maha Shivaratri Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Feb 26 (UNI) The Marathwada region of Maharashtra state, comprising a total of eight districts, celebrated Maha Shivratri on Wednesday with religious fervour and sacred offerings to Lord Shiva. In this city of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, fasting devotees poured in large numbers at the Shiva Temple located in the Khadkeshwar locality.

Following prescribed rituals, women devotees performed poojas commonly known as bael leaves since early this morning.

Thousands of people thronged towards the Grishneshwar temple since the wee hours of Wednesday in Verul (Ellora) town, about 35 km away from this district, located barely a kilometre away from the Ellora Caves—a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Grishneshwar temple holds extreme religious significance as it is one among twelve Jyotirlinga temples in India. A large number of devotees converged at the other two Jyotirlinga temples—Parli Vajinath and Aundha Nagnath—which are located in the districts of Beed and Hingoli, respectively. Elaborate security arrangements were put in place across the region of Marathwada to avert any untoward incident.

## Grand confluence of faith concludes, 66 ...

(Contd from page 1)

monitoring the live feed of the bathing festival. He directed the administrative and police officials that the devotees should not face any kind of inconvenience during the bath and all the arrangements should be kept in order.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) gave a grand salute to mark the conclusion of the Maha Kumbh during the final bathing festival of Maha Shivratri. As the deafening roar of fighter planes filled the skies over the Sangam, devotees looked up in awe, applauding with pride and enthusiasm.

The atmosphere resonated with chants of Jai Shri Ram, Har Har Gange, Har Har Mahadev, and slogans praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Excited by the breathtaking aerial display, devotees began capturing and sharing photos and videos of the air show on social media. According to an IAF official, the event was specially organised to salute the millions of devotees who had gathered for the Maha Kumbh.

This time the Maha Kumbh drew devotees from every corner of the globe, with diplomats from 73 countries and guests, including Bhutan's King Jigme Namgyel Wangchuk. More than 50 lakh devotees from Nepal, the land of Mata Janaki's maternal home, also participated.

Pilgrims from Italy, France, the UK, Portugal, the USA, Israel, Iran, Mauritius and numerous other nations arrived to witness this unparalleled spiritual event.

All the 13 Akharas participated in Maha Kumbh, who followed the tradition by taking holy dip in all the three Amrit Snans. Along with these 13 Akharas, their follower Akharas also participated, in which the follower Akhara of Juna Akhara, Kinnar Akhara, was the center of attraction.

These Akharas successfully conducted the initiation programs as per the tradition of Maha Kumbh. Various Akharas also made appointments on other posts including Mahamandaleshwar.

To make Maha Kumbh grand and divine this time, the Yogi government left no stone unturned. Maha Kumbh Nagar was settled in 4,000 hectares. The entire fair area was divided into 25 sectors. Many paved ghats were constructed in 12 km.

Parking was constructed in 1,850 hectares, while 31 pontoon bridges, more than 67,000 street lights, 1.5 lakh toilets and 25,000 public accommodations were ensured. More than Rs 7,000 crore were spent by the Yogi government, while with the help of the central government, the entire Prayagraj was transformed with a total of Rs 15,000 crore. While more than 66 crore devotees gathered in 45 days, the maximum number was on Amrit Snan



Devotees take a boat ride on Ganga river on the occasion of Maha Shivratri, in Varanasi on Wednesday.

## Sena (UBT) praises CM Fadnavis over appointment of PA, OSD

Mumbai, Feb 26 (UNI) : With Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis taking away powers from the ministers to appoint their 'PA' and 'OSD', the Shiv Sena (UBT) on Wednesday showered praise on him and congratulated him for his strong measures to bring discipline in the state administration.

An editorial in the party mouthpiece 'Saamana' termed PAs and OSDs of ministers as fixers and

brokers and said that Fadnavis has taken a stern action against these people and targeted former chief minister Eknath Shinde, alleging that during his tenure the fixers and brokers had a free run.

Out of the names sent by the ministers as 'PA' and 'OSD' to the Chief Minister for approval, 16 names were directly rejected by the Chief Minister. This was because these 16 people were engaged in fixing and brokering by becoming

OSD (officer on special duty) in the previous Shinde (Mindhe)-led government.

However, Chief Minister Fadnavis has rejected all these 'fixers'. The Chief Minister's stance that he will not give the posts to 'fixers' is correct, read the editorial.

To keep the MLAs and MPs (Shinde-Ajit group) happy, they signed the papers. On the strength of those signed papers, these people took crores from the

contractors. "Now, with Devendra Fadnavis' move to reconsider these works, the Shinde group's calculations have gone haywire, as they are reeling under the financial crisis... The people, who are going to the Shinde group, are either contractors or direct beneficiaries... if the Chief Minister has decided to destroy all these corrupt hoarders, then what will happen to all these fixers and hoarders," the editorial said.

## Man booked for sending obscene

Mumbai, Feb 26 (UNI) : The city police have registered a case against a man for allegedly outraging the modesty of his estranged wife by sending

her obscene and abusive messages.

Amboli police station has registered an offence on a complaint lodge by woman who resides on

Veera Desai Road in Andheri with her mother and son due to ongoing marital disputes.

As per the complaint, with mutual consent her husband has agreed to pay Rs 15,000 as a maintenance amount but in spite of paying the same, estranged husband has started sending her objectionable and threatening messages.

Disturbed by the nature of messages, the woman decided to take legal action and reported the incident

to the police.

Acting on her complaint, the Amboli police registered a case under relevant sections related to outraging a woman's modesty and initiated an investigation.

Officials stated on Wednesday that they are taking the matter seriously and will soon question the accused.

They assured that appropriate action would be taken based on the findings of the investigation.

## MoS Margherita to visit Uruguay, Bahamas, Barbados and Nicaragua

New Delhi, Feb 26 (UNI) Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita will pay an official visit to Uruguay, Bahamas, Barbados and Nicaragua from February 28 to March 8, to further enhance bilateral ties with these countries.

In Uruguay, from February 28- March 2, MoS Margherita will represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of Yamandu Orsi, President-elect of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay on March 1, a statement said.

MoS' visit to Bahamas, from March 2-4, would follow up on the discussion between the two Prime Ministers on the sidelines of the Second India-CARICOM summit at Guyana in November 2024.

In Barbados, from March 4-6, MoS Margherita will review bilateral relations following the successful India-CARICOM Summit and meetings between the two Prime Ministers in November 2024, and also receive the prestigious award 'Honorary Order of

Freedom of Barbados' on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that was announced on that occasion. In the last leg of his visit, MoS will be in Nicaragua, from March 6-8, where he would hold bilateral meetings. This will be the first ever Ministerial visit to Nicaragua from the Ministry of External Affairs.

MoS' program during his four nation visit would include meetings with Foreign Ministers; interaction with key political, trade and industry leaders and members of Indian Diaspora; and visit to bilateral development partnership project sites.

**WESTERN RAILWAY UPGRADING & REPAIRING WORKS**  
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (W), Western Railway Carriage Repair Workshop, N. M. Joshi Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013, invites E-TENDER NOTICE NO. EL/WA/PL/2024-25/53. Name of work: Repairing/Rehabilitation with Up-gradation of defective different make ERRUs of 25 KW to RDSO Spec. No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0013-2011 (Rev-3) or latest at Carriage Repair Workshop, Lower Parel. Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 70,20,897/-. EMD: ₹ 1,40,400/-. Last Date and time for submission of tender: T111 18.03.2025, 12:00 Hrs. Opening of tender: On 18.03.2025 at 12:30 Hrs. For further details please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). 1120  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

## Woman jail officer, prisoner injured in scuffle between 2 groups of inmates in Kolhapur Jail

Kolhapur, Feb 26 (UNI) A woman jail officer and a prisoner were injured in an alleged scuffle between two rival groups of prisoners inside District Central Jail at Kalamba here on Wednesday.

According to sources in the Juna Rajwada police of the city, some prisoners were conversing with their relatives at a meeting hall, when a prisoner named Amar Satish Mane came out of the room, at that time, another prisoner Karan Puri allegedly suddenly attacked Mane and started kicking and punching him over an old feud.

When other two prisoners tried to stop Puri,

his two accomplices allegedly attacked them too. As an on-duty woman jail officer Swati Laxman Jadhav rushed to stop the fight, Puri pushed woman officer, who was injured along with inmate Mane.

Following which, Jail superintendent Vivek Zende registered a complaint against three prisoners including Karan Rajendra Puri, Vanketesh alias Viki Sanjay Kamble and Oam Mangesh Mane at Juna Rajwada police station of the city.

He said that a stern action will take against all prisoners who were involved in this scuffle for violating discipline of the jail.

## HOAG together with iHUB DivyaSampark

Mumbai, Feb 26 (UNI) : HOAG, India's pioneering immersive summer school programme, has partnered with iHUB DivyaSampark, IIT Roorkee is set to launch the country's first Ivy-Grade Summer School Programme.

This groundbreaking initiative is set to redefine summer schools in India, offering students aged 11-17 an unparalleled academic experience at par with the world's leading summer programmes, said a release here on Wednesday. The programme is designed to blend rigorous academics with hands-on experiential learning, innovation-driven projects and mentorship from some of the brightest minds in academia and industry.

Commenting on the programme, Manish Anand, Board member and CEO, iHUB DivyaSampark, IIT Roorkee remarked, "Our partnership with HOAG brings an Ivy-Grade summer school experience to India. By combining academic excellence with HOAG's innovative learning approach, we offer students a unique opportunity for immersive learning that bridges the gap between Indian and International standards to develop future leaders."

## 'Cabinet expansion will accelerate pace of development in Bihar'

Patna, Feb 26 (UNI) : Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary said pace of development will get acceleration after cabinet expansion on Wednesday. Chaudhary, also a senior BJP leader, told media persons after cabinet expansion, that the exercise carried out, would help in accelerating the pace of development of Bihar. It was long overdue and a Minister was holding the charge of several departments, he added.

The Deputy Chief

Minister said that RJD supremo Lalu Prasad was daydreaming for his party to come to power in Bihar in next assembly election. RJD was defeated in 2005 state assembly election, 2009 Lok Sabha election, 2010 assembly election, 2014 Lok Sabha election, 2019 Lok Sabha election, 2020 assembly election and 2024 Lok Sabha election.

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICE AT VIKHROLI STATION  
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Central Railway Mumbai CSMT for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender from the eligible tenderers for "Provision of catering services on General Minor Units VK-S-1 at Vikhrol station of Category "SG1" (old category "C") under General Category Women Quota over Mumbai Division under double packet system for a period of 5 years". Details of the same are as under: **Stall Unit:** VK-S-1 **Tender No.:** BCC159COCATGVK-25 **Name of Station / category:** Vikhrol station of Category "SG1" (old category "C") **Location:** PF NO. 1, NEAR EXISTING WATER HUT Stall category: General Category Women Quota **Tenure of the contract:** 05 (Five) years; **Web site address:** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **Date & Time of Submission of tender:** upto 15:00 on 24-03-2025 **Address of the office from where the details are available:** Office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Catering Section, First Floor, PRS Building, Reservation Office, Central Railway, Mumbai CSMT-400001. This notice is for tender advertisement purpose only, the detailed terms and conditions are available in tender document. Further Addendum/ corrigendum, time extension, clarification etc. if any, in connection with the subject tender, will only be uploaded on the website. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated. Railway reserves the right to accept the work in full or part or reject the tender in full or part without assigning any reasons. Conditional offers will summarily be rejected. 807

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING WORKS  
Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), 1st Floor, Parcel Office Building, Near P.F. No. 13, Central Railway, Mumbai CSMT 400 001, for and on behalf of the President of India invites One E-Tender (Open tender) from the reputed contractors. The last date and time for submission of tender is 24/03/2025 till 15:00 Hrs. **Tender Notice No:** CR-BB-TELE-2025-12 **Name of work:** "Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of various Passenger amenity items including Bogie/ Coach Position Indicator Boards and Main line indicator boards, Coach guidance system, Train information display, data network equipments and other telecom assets at CSMT Station in Mumbai Division of Central Railway". **Approximate Cost (in Rs.):** 9,65,09,525/- **EMD (in Rs.):** 6,32,600/- **Date & Time of Closing:** 15:00 Hrs. on 24/03/2025 **Validity:** 60 days **Completion Period:** 12 Months **Complete details of tenders with corrigendum are available at Indian Railway official website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)** The complete tender documents can be downloaded from the website. The complete details of tenders are also available in the "Notice Board" of the Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)'s Office, Mumbai CSMT. **This tender complies with Public Procurement Policy Order 2017 dated 15.06.2017** 803  
अनाधिकृत रूप से तल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है।  
अनाधिकृत रूप से तल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है।

## STANDARD POST

## Study shows continuous glucose monitors may harm healthy adults

While continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) may be of significant help to people living with diabetes, they may harm healthy adults by showing inaccurate results that can lead to unnecessary food restrictions, according to a study on Wednesday.

CGMs were originally designed to help diabetics manage their blood sugar. It helps by tracking glycaemic index (GI) -- a measure of how quickly a food can make your blood sugar. However, these devices are now increasingly being used by health-conscious adults to track how different foods affect their glucose levels.

The peer-reviewed research, published in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, warns that CGMs could be overestimating blood sugar levels in healthy adults, leading to unnecessary dietary changes.

"CGMs are fantastic tools for people with diabetes because even if a measurement isn't perfectly accurate, it's still better than not having a measurement at all. However, for someone with good glucose control they can be misleading based on their current performance," said Professor Javier Gonzalez from the Department for Health, from the University of Bath.

"For healthy individuals, relying on CGMs could lead to unnecessary food restrictions or poor dietary choices. If you want to assess your blood sugar accurately, traditional methods are still the way to go. We want to better identify the sources of the error in CGMs so that we can improve their performance in the future and have active research on this topic," Gonzalez added.

Researchers measured blood sugar responses in healthy volunteers (non-diabetic, within a healthy BMI range) using two methods -- a CGM and the gold standard finger-prick test -- to assess the accuracy of CGMs in fruit-based products, ranging from whole fruit to smoothies.

The CGM consistently reported higher blood sugar levels compared to finger-prick tests. When participants consumed a smoothie, the device overestimated the GI by 30 per cent, reporting a GI of 69 (medium) compared to the traditional test result of 53 (low).

Whole fruit was misclassified as medium or high-GI foods by CGMs, while the finger-prick test showed they were low-GI.

This could lead users to mistakenly believe that fruit could cause harmful spikes in blood sugar. The research also debunked the common myth that blending fruits into a smoothie raises their GI.

Whether eaten whole or blended, fruits like apples, bananas, mangoes, and oranges remained low on the GI. CGMs are unlikely to be a valid method to determine whether a food has high or low GI, said the researchers.

Gonzalez said the CGMs may be inaccurate because they measure glucose in the fluid surrounding your cells, not directly in your blood. "This can lead to discrepancies due to factors like time delays, blood flow, and how glucose moves between different parts of the body."

# Transformative Role of Artificial Intelligence in Achieving Sustainable Development Highlighted at National Seminar



(Standard Post Bureau)

The Engineering Staff College of India hosted a landmark National Seminar on the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technologies across various sectors, emphasizing their crucial role in achieving sustainable development goals.

The seminar underscored that technology is ever-evolving. Its journey began in ancient times with the invention of the wheel for transportation -- a breakthrough that enabled humanity to cover vast distances swiftly. From the advent of navigation systems that have allowed us to discover and connect with distant places, to the revolutionary impact of the printing press during the industrial era, and now, the transformative influence of Artificial Intelligence, human ingenuity continues to drive improvements in quality of life. "Today, AI is making significant inroads in sectors such as

aerospace, healthcare, finance, retail, manufacturing, transportation, logistics, marketing, cyber security, education, and textiles, thereby fostering innovative development," stated Professor V. Balakishtha Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana State Higher Education Council.

Professor Reddy further emphasized that the goal of leveraging AI and modern digital technologies to achieve sustainable development is being jointly pursued by the Engineering Staff College of India in Gachibowli, Jayaprakash Narayan College of Engineering, and Avinash Group of Institutions. The seminar, held on Tuesday, 25th February 2025 at the SK Campus Convention Center, was attended by nearly a thousand students from various colleges.

Addressing the assembly, Professor Reddy highlighted the importance of technology for India's

competitive edge in the global arena. He noted that with 65 percent of the population being young, it is crucial for this demographic to embrace and master new technologies. He expressed optimism that India, which currently supplies skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled workers to nearly every corner of the globe, is well on its way to achieving sustainable development by 2047--provided that the youth continue to refine and apply their intellectual abilities.

Dr. Sandhya Chintal, Vice President of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), highlighted the continuous evolution of technology. She remarked that while innovations such as the steam engine and electricity have each marked significant technological revolutions, today's advancements--including augmented reality, robotics, blockchain, 3D printing,

quantum computing, cloud computing, and nanotechnology--are fueling a new wave of global innovation that spans sectors from finance to healthcare.

In her address, Dr. Chintal encouraged the youth, whom she referred to as the "Future of India," to seize the opportunity to contribute to the nation's progress by leveraging their skills in science and technology.

Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao, Director of the Engineering Staff College of India, assured the audience that the institution remains committed to providing training on emerging technologies. He noted that the college annually trains approximately 7,000 personnel working in various government offices across the country and has already extended training to hundreds of students from 17 colleges under the Prime Minister's Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

The seminar featured a series of insightful

presentations covering a range of topics, including:

The use of AI in preventing, forecasting, and detecting challenges related to earth, air, water, sky, and energy (presented by retired IG Dr. S. Umamathi).

AI, digital skilling, and sustainability--bridging the gap for a smarter tomorrow.

The latest advancements and research in AI for sustainable development by Futurelink's Sri Pramod Chintapenta.

Career opportunities in AI and the role of technology in driving social impact (addressed by Associate Vice Chancellor Dr. Hafiz Bhash).

Perspectives on cyber security risks from Singapore's Sai Krishna, along with discussions by Kashyap Kompel, Vijay Kumar Makyam, KS Ravi Kumar, Dean Sushil of Avinash College, and an address on Intelligent Traffic Management - the e-Chalaan system by Police Officer Nursing Rao from

the Telangana Police Command Control Center.

Speaking at the concluding session, Telangana Planning Board Vice Chairman Dr. G. Chinnna Reddy stated that the most talked-about subject in the world today is Artificial Intelligence. He mentioned that a recent international conference on Artificial Intelligence was held in France, where the Prime Minister of India also participated and explained the importance of AI.

He highlighted that the script of the Gondi language spoken by tribals in the Asifabad district was discovered through artificial intelligence, a fact that the Indian Prime Minister recently mentioned in Mann Ki Baat.

Dr. Chinnna Reddy also noted that the brain of Einstein, who contributed to the discovery of nuclear energy and the atomic bomb, was preserved in a laboratory. He emphasized that even greater intelligence is now embedded in artificial intelligence.

## Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal Highlights Assam's potential to be World's Mega Basin



(Standard Post Bureau)

Cairn Oil & Gas, part of Vedanta Group, and India's largest private Oil & Gas producer, committed to an investment in exploration and production of oil and gas worth Rs. 50,000 crores in the region on the opening day of Advantage Assam 2.0 - the state's global investment conclave in Guwahati. The investment will provide for the establishment of world-class Oil & Gas E&P facilities in Assam, alongside extensive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives such as establishing more Nand Ghars (modernised anganwadis), expanding handloom skill centers, building digital classrooms for women and children, and promoting sports to ensure a brighter, more inclusive future for the Youth of the region.

Speaking at the summit, in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, and other dignitaries, Shri Anil Agarwal, Chairman -

Vedanta, reinforced his company's commitment towards the progress of the state.

He highlighted Assam's strategic location, pro-investment policies and expanding infrastructure, as key factors to fuel India's growth. He emphasised on the potential of the state to become a Mega basin, and India's energy production hub. Calling Assam an attractive investment destination, he expressed his company's commitment to play a pivotal role in the state's long-term, sustainable growth.

Reflecting on Assam's rich legacy as the birthplace of India's oil industry, Shri Anil Agarwal, Chairman of Vedanta Limited said, "Assam is abundant in natural resources and has the potential to become world's Mega basin. We are poised to play a pivotal role in Assam's sustainable growth and development. With an investment exceeding Rs 50,000 crore, we will produce 100,000 barrels of oil and gas per day from Assam - making it a dominant hydrocarbon

hub, while creating direct & indirect employment opportunities for 1 lakh youth."

Vedanta's focus goes beyond people. Through its operations in Assam, the company aims to protect biodiversity, preserve local culture, and produce energy to fuel the nation's growth.

Cairn holds an acreage of 7650 km<sup>2</sup> in the Arakan basin in Assam and its footprint includes a strategic portfolio of 15 exploration blocks, including 12 blocks under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) and 3 Discovered Small Fields (DSF). The company has been producing from its Hazarigaon field in Assam since 2023, the 1st DSF block to go under production in North East. It has been supplying gas to the neighbouring Tea estates, giving a boost to tea production in the region and enabling farmers to switch from expensive coal-based energy sources to clean gas. The locally produced gas from the Hazarigaon field is also a prime contributor in fueling 100 CNG buses in Guwahati, supporting the clean energy initiative of the Government of Assam.

Cairn, in association with Assam State Livelihood Rural Mission (ASLRM) has been supporting women artisans in Assam through sustainable livelihood opportunities.

With the launch of handloom centres, the company has provided financial independence to more than 3000 women.

## One Nation, One Election will strengthen democracy: Tripura CM

Agartala, Feb 26) UNI: Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha on Wednesday said that 'One Nation, One Election' policy will significantly help in strengthening democracy, boosting voter turnout and engagement and also bring economic benefits. Addressing a discussion session on 'One Nation, One Election' here he said that ever since BJP came to power businessmen have received respect across the country. Earlier, in Tripura they were treated as enemies of society.

"Today, we called the businessmen to create awareness among them about One Nation, One Election. Whenever an election takes place, schools have to be used for the process, leading to their closure. One Nation, One Election is beneficial as we need to cast our vote only once in five years, which is a relief. But if elections are held every year, common people will suffer," said Saha.

"It will also help from a financial perspective and strengthen democracy. This is the need of the hour. PM Modi has been advocating for it, and in 2024, the matter was also raised in Parliament, leading to the formation of a committee," he said. Holding elections multiple times in a year requires huge funds, as during any election, the first target is teachers, who are deputed for various election-related duties. If elections are held only once in five years, teachers and other employees can work properly without interruptions, he stated.

## PV Sindhu Joins KiranaPro as Investor and Brand Ambassador



(Standard Post Bureau)

KiranaPro, India's leading AI-powered quick commerce platform, has taken a giant leap forward by welcoming PV Sindhu, India's badminton icon, as both an investor and brand ambassador. KiranaPro has secured a significant investment from the renowned Indian shuttler and Olympic medalist. This investment marks the first commitment in KiranaPro's seed funding round. This strategic collaboration underscores Sindhu's belief in the brand's mission to revolutionize India's retail landscape by empowering neighbourhood kirana stores with cutting-edge technology and AI-driven solutions. The partnership between PV Sindhu and KiranaPro is being facilitated by Cornerstone Sport, ensuring a seamless collaboration that aligns with the brand's long-term vision.

PV Sindhu's role will extend beyond just being the face of KiranaPro. She will actively contribute to the brand's vision of bridging the digital divide for small retailers. Her role as the brand's official ambassador during IPL 2025 will further amplify KiranaPro's presence on a national scale, solidifying its position as a category leader in quick commerce.

PV Sindhu is a perfect choice for KiranaPro's brand ambassador as she perfectly embodies the company's core values of perseverance, excellence, and trust. Just as she has pushed the boundaries of her sport, KiranaPro is pushing the boundaries of quick commerce by harnessing AI technology to empower small retailers. The quality of service the company offers has made it a trusted partner of thousands of consumers as well as kirana stores associated with the brand. After this partnership, PV Sindhu will feature in multiple digital and traditional media campaigns, wear the logo of KiranaPro on her jersey, further strengthening the brand's connection with its audience. At a time when the company is eyeing to expand its reach into tier 2 and tier 3 cities, this association is expected to play a key role in building trust and familiarity.

## 'Problem of delaying release of Palestinian prisoners resolved'

Gaza, Feb 26 (UNI) An agreement was reached to resolve the problem of delaying the release of Palestinian prisoners who were supposed to be released in the last batch, Hamas said on Tuesday.

The prisoners would be released simultaneously with the bodies of the Israeli hostages that were agreed to be handed over during the first stage of the Gaza ceasefire deal, Hamas said in a statement.

A Hamas leadership delegation concluded its visit to Cairo, where it met with Egyptian officials, the statement said, noting that discussions were held on the implementation of the ceasefire agreement, the exchange of prisoners, and the prospects for the second phase of negotiations.

"The delegation of the movement's leadership stressed its clear position on the necessity of full and precise commitment to all its provisions and stages," the statement added.

Israel announced early Sunday that it had postponed the release of Palestinian detainees, who were set to be freed Saturday under the ceasefire agreement until more hostages are released. Israel was expected to release more than 600 Palestinian detainees on Saturday after Hamas freed six hostages earlier in the day. However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement that it had been decided to delay the release of Palestinian detainees scheduled for Saturday "until the release of the next hostages is secured, without the disgraceful ceremonies."

## Russia rejects deployment of European peacekeeping troops in Ukraine

Moscow, Feb 26 (UNI) The Kremlin has dismissed statements that Russia was open to European peacekeeping troops in Ukraine.

When asked about the possible deployment, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to make a direct comment but referred to an earlier rejection of the idea by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

"There is a position on this issue here, which was expressed by Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov. I have nothing to add to this and nothing to comment on," the spokesman said on Tuesday. Lavrov said last week that Russia rejected the use of Western soldiers in Ukraine.

## SL resumes vehicle imports after 5-year suspension

Colombo, Feb. 26 (UNI) The first batch of vehicles imported for private use arrived at Colombo Port on Tuesday, following the government's decision to end a five-year suspension on vehicle imports due to foreign reserve shortages.

Speaking to the press in Colombo on Wednesday, Vehicle Importers' Association of Sri Lanka President Prasad Manage said the first shipment has arrived from Thailand, and another shipment from Japan was scheduled to arrive at Hambantota International Port on Thursday.

The Sri Lankan government officially lifted the temporary ban on vehicle imports, which had been in place since early 2020, on Jan. 31, 2025.

One of primary reasons for lifting the suspension was to boost state revenue and meet the tax target of 15 percent of gross domestic product, a requirement under Sri Lanka's bailout agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

During a recent budget speech in the parliament, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said the liberalization of motor vehicle imports was expected to generate a significant portion of the government's revenue gains. He also said that vehicle imports will be closely monitored to prevent any adverse effects on the country's external sector stability.

## Asteroid 2024 YR4 no longer poses significant threat to Earth: NASA

Los Angeles, Feb. 26 (UNI) NASA has confirmed that asteroid 2024 YR4, which was initially flagged as a potential threat, poses no significant danger to Earth in 2032 or beyond. The near-Earth asteroid, nearly the size of a football field, was first discovered in December last year.

Experts previously projected a 3 percent chance of the asteroid striking our planet before lowering the chance to 0.28 percent last week.

Following further observations, NASA updated the probability of its impact on Dec. 22, 2032 to only 0.004 percent, said the Center for Near-Earth Object Studies.

NASA added that the asteroid poses no significant risk to Earth for at least the next century. However, there remains a 1.7 percent chance it could impact the moon. NASA will continue to observe asteroid 2024 YR4. The asteroid's observation has provided valuable data for advancing planetary defense methods and refining impact prediction processes, the agency said.

## Tokyo stocks extend falls amid U.S. trade policy concerns

Tokyo, Feb. 26 (UNI) Tokyo stocks extended falls on Wednesday as concerns over U.S. trade policies and economic slowdown led investors to cut holdings.

The benchmark Nikkei stock index, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average, closed at 38,142.37, down 95.42 points, or 0.25 percent from the previous day.

This marks the lowest level since Nov. 27, 2024. At one point, the index dropped more than 400 points, briefly falling below 38,000 yen, as the Tokyo Stock Price Index (TOPIX) index also dipped below its 200-day moving average, raising market concerns.

## Flooding kills 6, injures 5 in Afghanistan's Helmand

Lashkar, Afghanistan, Feb. 26 (UNI) At least six people have been killed and five others were injured after flash floods caused by heavy rains in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, a local official reported Wednesday.

The recent flash floods swept through multiple regions, including Garashk, Sangin, Musa Qala, Nawzad, Babaji districts and Lashkar Gah city, the capital of the province, said Hafiz Abdul Bari Rashid, provincial director of information and culture.

On Tuesday, rain-related incidents in the provinces of Kandahar and Farah, adjacent to Helmand, killed 29 people and injured several others.

Since Monday, most parts of Afghanistan have experienced rain and snowfall. The country's meteorological department has forecasted snowfall and intermittent rain in 32 out of the 34 provinces.

## Türkiye detains 153 suspects in Istanbul drug crackdown

Ankara, Feb. 26 (UNI) : Turkish police have detained 153 suspects in a large-scale anti-drug operation in Istanbul province, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said Wednesday.

The operation, dubbed "Narkopan-14," targeted street-level drug dealers in the Gaziosmanpasa and Kagithane districts, Yerlikaya said on X, without specifying the time frame of the operation.

Authorities seized 25.5 kg of heroin, 17 kg of methamphetamine, some weapons, and large sums of foreign currency and Turkish lira, he said.

## Military plane crash in Sudan leaves 19 dead

Khartoum, Feb 26 (UNI) At least 19 people were killed in a crash of a Sudanese military plane in Sudan's Omdurman, media reported on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, the Alrakoba newspaper reported that a military plane had crashed near Omdurman, killing the crew and officers on board. The Sudanese army later confirmed the crash of the plane. The Antonov military plane crashed shortly after taking off from the Wadi Seidna airbase, killing 19 people, including both military personnel and civilians, Al Sudani newspaper reported.

The commander of operations in the Bahri region, Bahar Ahmed Bahar, was among the victims, the newspaper reported.

Khartoum Governor Ahmed Osman Hamza visited the crash site and offered his condolences to the families of the victims.

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been fighting the regular Sudanese army for control of the country since April 2023. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has said that the ongoing fighting could lead to the collapse of the health care system.

# Death toll from tropical disease in Australia rises to 12

Sydney, Feb 26 (UNI) : The number of deaths from a disease linked to heavy rainfall and flooding in northeast of Australia's state of Queensland has more than doubled to 12, local health authorities said.

Health authorities in the tropical north coast region of Queensland confirmed on Tuesday that the death toll from melioidosis in the current wet season has risen to 12, up from five deaths that had been reported as of Feb. 21.

Of the 12 deaths, nine occurred in and around Cairns, the largest city in the region, and three in the city of Townsville, almost 300 km south.

Melioidosis is a rare tropical disease caused by bacteria commonly found in soil and water in Southeast Asia and northern Australia. After heavy rainfall, it becomes airborne. Queensland's tropical northern coast was



hit by widespread damaging flooding earlier in February, with many towns recording record rainfall for the month in a matter of days.

There have been 53 confirmed cases of melioidosis in Cairns and 34 cases in Townsville since the start of 2025, Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported, citing Jacqueline Murdoch, director of the Tropical Public Health

Services.

"It absolutely is a record-breaking year. Certainly we haven't seen anything like this and the numbers are very alarming," said Murdoch on Tuesday.

"It's a very severe disease and it has a reasonably high fatality rate, so we do have a large number of deaths now, which is reflecting the large number of cases." She said

that most of the patients were older people and that the majority had contracted the disease through the air.

Murdoch urged people to be careful about being outside in heavy rain, being in contact with soil and to wear a mask when using a high-pressure hose.

Anyone with a cough or difficulty breathing has been advised to visit their doctor or nearest emergency department.

## Hong Kong to step up cooperation with ASEAN, ME markets

Hong Kong, Feb. 26 (UNI) The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) will facilitate the financing of overseas enterprises and specific products as part of a broader effort to boost the securities and derivatives market, said Paul Chan, financial secretary of the HKSAR government, on Wednesday. Delivering the

2025-26 budget at the HKSAR's Legislative Council, Chan said that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is an important economic region that continues to grow, and that a number of enterprises from ASEAN are seeking to apply for listing in Hong Kong, covering businesses in areas including biotechnology, integrated

logistics, and mining.

The Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) will step up its promotion in ASEAN and the Middle East, and actively explore areas of cooperation with countries in the region, including the listing of exchange-traded funds, to enrich the investment product choices in mutual markets and promote two-way capital

flows, he said. HKEX will also strive to increase the number of overseas recognized exchanges to facilitate more overseas companies' secondary listing in Hong Kong, he added. Meanwhile, Hong Kong will continue to attract global capital and develop a vibrant ecosystem for family offices. Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) of the HKSAR

government has assisted over 160 family offices in setting up operations or expanding their businesses in Hong Kong, Chan noted.

The city will be hosting the third edition of the Wealth for Good in Hong Kong Summit shortly under the theme of "Hong Kong of the world, for the world," showcasing Hong Kong's strengths as a global hub for family offices, he said.

## 'Russia preparing to launch rare earth metal investment projects'

Moscow, Feb 26 (UNI) Preparations are underway for the launch of major investment projects focused on rare earth metals in Russia's Murmansk and Irkutsk regions and the Sakha Republic, the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade told Sputnik on Wednesday.

"Preparations for the launch of the largest investment projects in the Murmansk Region, Irkutsk Region, Yakutia and other regions are underway. These projects will address the key needs of Russian industry for strategic raw

materials and, in the future, for high value-added products based on them," the ministry said.

The ministry also revealed plans to establish a full production cycle for rare earth metals by 2030, ensuring Russia's raw material and technological sovereignty.

Currently, 24 key production chains for rare earth metals and their compounds are under development in Russia, the ministry said. Full-cycle enterprises are being constructed, ranging from raw material extraction to the production of high-tech

products. Last week, Russian Industry and Trade Minister Anton Alikhanov said that over the next six years, Russia intends to reduce its import dependency on rare and rare-earth metals from the current 75% to 45%.

On Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia is one of the leading countries in terms of rare earth metal reserves, having much more of such reserves than Ukraine. Russia is also ready to work with foreign partners in the development of rare earth metals, the president said.

## Australian PM pledges 2 bln USD for transport projects ahead of general election

Canberra, Feb. 26 (UNI) Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has pledged over 2 billion U.S. dollars to fund transport projects in the country's second-most populous state in a major pre-election commitment. Albanese on Wednesday announced over 3.3 billion Australian dollars (2.08 billion dollars) for road and rail projects in the state of Victoria.

Of the total funding, 2 billion AUD (1.26 billion USD) will go towards the Melbourne Airport rail link project. The Melbourne Airport, located 20 km northwest of the central business district, is the second-busiest in Australia but has never had a railway connecting it to the city

center, forcing travelers to rely on either buses or cars.

Construction on the rail link began in 2022 after decades of failed proposals. Albanese's announcement on Wednesday takes the federal government's funding commitment to the project to seven billion AUD (4.42 billion USD) out of a total final estimated cost of 13 billion AUD (8.22 billion USD).

The new funding will go towards building a new rail hub in the suburb of Sunshine, 13 km south of the airport, which will connect the new line to regional rail services and Melbourne's existing train network. The rail link is scheduled to be completed by 2033. "Whether you're

going on holiday, or traveling for work, getting to and from the airport shouldn't be the most complicated part of your trip," Albanese said in a speech in Melbourne.

"Melbourne Airport needs a rail link. Melbourne needs one. And Victorians deserve one."

He also announced 1 billion AUD (632.4 million USD) in federal funding, on top of 200 million AUD (126.5 million USD) from the state government, for road repair works in growth areas in Melbourne's southeast and north. An additional 325 million AUD (205.5 million USD) will be spent increasing capacity on a railway line serving the city's western suburbs.

## 36 killed, 40 injured in rain-related incidents in Afghanistan

Kabul, Feb. 26 (UNI) At least 36 people have died and 40 others were injured in rain-related incidents throughout Afghanistan, Mullah Janan Saq, the spokesman for the national disaster authority, said Wednesday. More than 300 residential houses have been either completely or partially destroyed due to the disaster, the official said, noting that the flash floods have also swept away hundreds of acres of agricultural land. The severe casualties and damages from the flash floods have taken place in western Farah province and its adjacent provinces of Kandahar and Helmand. Most parts of Afghanistan, including the capital Kabul, have been receiving heavy rains and snowfall since Monday.

## Known for his anti-India comments, Mahfuz Alam is Bangladesh's new Information Advisor

Dhaka, Feb 26 (UNI) : Bangladesh's Interim Government on Wednesday named student activist Mahfuz Alam, who in the past has posted anti-India statements on social media, as Information and Broadcasting Advisor.

Mahfuz Alam, who played a critical role in the movement that led to the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August last year, is already holding the post of Special Assistant to Chief Advisor Mohammed Younus.

Meanwhile, Chief Advisor Younus has taken charge of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, which were previously being handled by Nahid Islam, another student activist, who resigned on Tuesday as Information Advisor.

Nahid Islam handed over his resignation letter to Mohammed Younus after an informal meeting of the Advisory Council held on February 25, following which the country's Cabinet Division issued a circular confirming the new appointment today, according to Business Standard BD. Nahid Islam came to the spotlight during the July-August uprising in 2024 which led to the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government. Seen as a key coordinator of the movement, Islam is set to join the upcoming party of Students Against Discrimination and the Jatiya Nagorik Committee scheduled to be launched on February 28, where he is expected to be the convener of the new party.

On December 20, India had registered a strong protest with Bangladesh over a social media post by student leader Mahfuz Alam, special aide to Mohammad Yunus, where he had shared a controversial map of Bangladesh that included India's eastern and northeastern areas such as West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had said in his weekly briefing: "We have registered our strong protest on this issue with the Bangladesh side."

"We understand that the post being referred to has reportedly been taken down. We would like to remind all concerned to be mindful of their public comments. "While India has repeatedly signalled interest in fostering relations with the people and the interim government of Bangladesh, such comments underline the need for responsibility in public articulation," he stressed. In his Facebook post, Mahfuz Alam alleged that India practises a "contain" and "ghettoize" policy towards Bangladesh. He claimed that the 1975 coup which saw Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and almost his entire family killed, and the 2024 protests, both came to save Bangladesh from Indian "reliance" and "hegemony".



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## Ramkumar-Myneni begin title defence with convincing win

Bengaluru, Feb 26 (UNI) : Defending champions Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni commenced their 2025 DafaNews Bengaluru Open campaign with a straight-sets victory over Italy's Jacopo Berrettini and Enrico Dalla Valle at the KSLTA Courts on Wednesday.

The Indian duo, the most successful doubles players in the tournament's history with three titles each, two of them as partners—secured a 6-3, 7-6(4) win in one hour and 14 minutes to advance to the quarterfinals.

Organised by the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA), the Bengaluru Open is an ATP Challenger 125 tournament with a prize pool of USD 200,000. It is currently India's biggest ATP Tour event, with the champion set to earn 125 ATP ranking points.

Ramkumar and Myneni made a strong start, breaking their opponents'

serve in the fourth game to race to a 4-1 lead. They wrapped up the opening set in under 30 minutes but faced stiff resistance in the second, with Berrettini and Dalla Valle breaking back in the sixth game. However, the home favourites broke back immediately and prevailed in the tiebreaker to seal their 6-3, 7-6(4) win.

The Indian pair will next face Hynek Barton and Eric Vanshelboim, who edged past Johannes Ingildsen and Ivan Liutarevich 6-3, 1-6, 13-11 in their pre-quarterfinal clash.

In other doubles action, top seeds Anirudh Chandrasekar and Ray Ho recorded a 6-4, 6-4 win over Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta and Khumoyun Sultanov to secure a quarterfinal berth. The Indian-Taiwanese duo showcased excellent coordination, breaking serve in the ninth game of each set to seal victory in an hour and 13 minutes.

Meanwhile, wild card entrants Adil Kalyanpur and Karan Singh staged a remarkable comeback to defeat fellow Indians Nitin Kumar Sinha and Manish Sureshkumar in a thrilling three-setter.

After losing the first set 1-6, Adil and Karan fought back with a 6-2 win in the second, before dominating the match tiebreaker 10-4. They will now take on second seeds Blake Bayldon and Matthew Christopher Romios of Australia in the quarterfinals.

In the singles Round-of-16 matches, Britain's Billy Harris capitalised on his second chance to advance to the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Czechia's Marek Gengel.

Australia's James McCabe, meanwhile, battled past Japan's Rio Noguchi 7-6, 5-7, 7-6(5) in a grueling contest. McCabe will now face Nicolas Mejia in the last eight, after the Colombian registered a straight-sets win over Blake Ellis.

## Indian Senior Women go down to Korea Republic in Pink Ladies Cup

Sharjah (UAE), Feb 26 (UNI) : The Indian Senior Women's team went down to Korea Republic 0-3 in their concluding Pink Ladies Cup at the Al Hamriya Sports Club Stadium here on Wednesday. The Koreans, placed 20th in the FIFA rankings, led 2-0 at half time.

While Choi Yoojung and Choi Dageong put Korea Republic in the lead in the first half, Mun Eunju rounded off the tally in the 81st minute. In the Pink Ladies Cup, India played three matches winning the opener against Jordan, before going down to Russia and Korea. As expected, the Koreans proved to be a team too hot to handle and camped themselves in the Indian half right from the word go. Credit to Crispin Chettri's girls for closing the gaps early. It took the sting out of Korean attacks to some extent, but wasn't enough to keep their rivals at bay



for a long time. Relentless pressure forced the Indian defenders to commit a few infringements near their area and one of them resulted in the first goal in the eighth minute. Choi Yoojung and skipper Lee Youngju were the livewires of the Korean attacks and the former struck the first blow. The direct free kick Indian conceded was on the edge of the box with a clear view of the frame. Choi

Yoojung hammered the free kick brilliantly providing the right trajectory that made the ball find the net with a smoothness for which Shreya Hooda had no answer.

Overall, Shreya was an alert customer, always on her toes as she had to negotiate with too many onslaughts from all angles. She did her job well, including saving a penalty in the 66th minute, but she

could do little when Choi Dageong scored the second goal in the 27th minute. The Indian defenders allowed the ball to stay in the Indian box for too long and paid the penalty. Dageong tapped the ball in from an almost handshaking distance.

The Indian attacks were far and few. In the first half, the only time the Korean goalkeeper was tested was when she collected a Lynda

Kom hopeful shot with a rather casual approach. India earned a few corners though none of them produced anything fruitful.

In the second half, India looked better organised and took the ball to the other side more often than before. Their attempts to use the wings were commendable at times but were blocked by the Korean defenders.

On the other end, the Koreans found Indian defenders a tough nut to crack, though Mun Eunju managed to increase the margin in the 81st minute.

India Women: Shreya Hooda (GK) (Elangbam Panthoi Chanu), Ngangbam Sweety Devi, Phanjoubam Nirmala Devi (Aruna Bag), Hemam Shilky Devi, Purnima Kumari, Naorem Priyangka Devi, Lisham Babina Devi (Nongmaithem Ratanbala Devi), Renu, Manisha (C), Kiran Pisda, Lynda Kom Serto (Karishma Shirvoikar).

## Cummins provides fitness ahead of WTC Final and IPL

Sydney, Feb 26 (UNI) : Australia's Test and ODI captain, Pat Cummins, has returned to bowling as he prepares for the upcoming IPL season and the World Test Championship (WTC) final against South Africa in June. Cummins, who had been managing an ankle injury sustained during the Test series against India, missed out on the Champions Trophy 2025 but is optimistic about his fitness heading into a busy season. "The ankle is all going strong, been able to give it a good rest and then been building up slowly, which you don't get to do when you play lots of cricket," Cummins told ESPNcricinfo. "It's feeling as strong as it has for a fair while. Should be fine [for

the IPL], that's the plan. So have a few weeks of bowling, building back up and then hopefully don't have to worry about it for a while," he said. The right-arm pacer explained that his ankle required careful management over time and became a bigger issue during the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne.

"It's something that we've opted never to have surgery on or intervene too much, just a lot to rehab," Cummins said.

"Having this break meant that I could get a couple of cortisones and really rehab it well the last couple of weeks," he said.

Looking ahead, Cummins is hopeful of steadily increasing his workload during the IPL

before playing a full role in the three-Test series against West Indies following the WTC final.

He acknowledged the importance of strategic rest in a packed schedule, hinting at the possibility of managing workload heading into a busy season of cricket.

"Sometimes by missing the odd tour, you actually end up playing more cricket for the whole year," Cummins said.

"I think in the past you used to play everything, whereas now, absolutely, you try and make sure the players are at their peak for as long as you can for the year and to play as much of the important stuff each year. It's just the way of the world. Everyone's used to

it," he said.

Australia's ongoing Champions Trophy campaign has seen an inexperienced pace attack due to the absence of Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, and Mitchell Starc. However, some of the younger bowlers have stepped up, including Ben Dwarshuis, who claimed three wickets against England, and Nathan Ellis, who impressed with an economical spell in a high-scoring game. "Nathan has always been so valuable that he can bowl at any stage," he said.

"He doesn't necessarily need to take the new ball to have big impact. He can bowl through the middle and at the end," Cummins said. Beyond the WTC final,

Cummins is already thinking about Australia's upcoming white-ball commitments, including the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka next year and the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. As the defending champions, Australia will look to retain their title, and Cummins remains committed to leading them into the tournament.

"It comes around pretty quick, we're already almost halfway," Cummins said. "That's definitely what we've been speaking to. Obviously, when it's a long way away, Test cricket and other tournaments take priorities. But once it gets a bit closer, that becomes a bit more of a focus."

## FC Goa target a win to strengthen claim for second spot

New Delhi, Feb 26 (UNI) FC Goa will travel to the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, here, to take on Punjab FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) match on Thursday.

The Gaurs have 42 points in 21 games and are in promising form with four victories in their last five encounters. Their target would be to secure the second spot, currently leading the third-placed Jamshedpur FC (37) by five points, since a top-two finish guarantees a semi-final place. Punjab FC have garnered 24 points from 21 games and the scenarios that could see them qualify for the playoffs are as follows. The Panagiotis Dilmperis-coached side needs to win all of their remaining encounters, and hope that NorthEast United FC lose their two matches or Mumbai City FC win no more than one point.

Punjab FC will also need Odisha FC and East Bengal FC to drop points in at least one of the games that they are to play now. Punjab FC need to ensure that they have a superior goal difference to Kerala Blasters FC and Chennaiyin FC, who can finish at the same points as them.

FC Goa have been unbeaten against Punjab FC in the ISL, winning twice in their last three matches including a 2-1 triumph in the reverse fixture earlier in the campaign. A victorious outing here will equal their best-ever tally of four league doubles in a single ISL season, a feat they previously scaled in 2019-20 and 2023-24.

Punjab FC's struggles reflect in the fact that they have not kept a clean sheet against FC Goa thus far.

Punjab FC have given away goals in each of their last 12 ISL matches, the longest such streak in the league this season. They have earned only six points (W1 D3 L8) in this phase vis-à-vis the 18 they managed in their first nine games (W6 L3).

68% of the goals conceded by Punjab FC in 2024-25 have come in the second half (23 out of 34), the highest percentage for any team in ISL 2024-25. They have conceded multiple second-half goals in their last two home fixtures, which means FC Goa could bring in reinforcements off the bench, especially in the final half hour or so.

## China defender Zhu ruled out of WC qualifiers against Saudi Arabia, Australia

Beijing, Feb 26 (UNI) : Zhu Chenjie will be sidelined for China's upcoming FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Saudi Arabia and Australia after suffering a facial injury during a Chinese Super League match.

Zhu's club Shanghai Shenhua released a statement on Wednesday stating that the defender will receive treatment for the injury sustained in their 2-1 victory over Changchun Yatai in last Saturday's 2025 season opener.

Shanghai Shenhua confirmed that Zhu is expected to be sidelined for six to eight weeks, ruling him out of China's World Cup qualifier against Saudi Arabia on March 20 and the following match against Australia five days later.

The injury occurred in the closing moments of the match, when Zhu collided with an opponent while attempting a header. The club added that Zhu has undergone 3D facial modeling and will continue his rehabilitation while wearing a protective mask.

## Liverpool manager Arne Slot given two-game touchline ban

London, Feb 26 (UNI) : Liverpool manager Arne Slot has been given a two-game touchline ban for his red card against Everton.

He was dismissed for approaching referee Michael Oliver on the pitch after the 2-2 Premier League draw at Goodison Park on February 12.

Slot will miss the league leaders' home game with Newcastle on Wednesday and the visit of Southampton on March 8, the BBC reported.

He can be on the touchline for the Champions League last-16 first-leg tie with Paris St-Germain on March 5.

Slot was also fined £70,000 by an independent Football Association commission after accepting the charge.

Liverpool assistant coach Sipke Hulshoff was banned for two games and fined £7,000, while Liverpool and Everton were fined £65,000 and £50,000 respectively for failing to control their players.

James Tarkowski's 98th-minute equaliser sparked chaotic scenes, with Everton fans entering the

field to celebrate.

Liverpool thought Tarkowski's goal, which was checked by the video assistant referee (VAR), should have been ruled out for a push on defender Ibrahima Konate in the build-up. Slot exchanged words with one of the assistant referees before shaking hands with Oliver, who immediately showed him a red card. Hulshoff was also sent off.

Slot, who was unable to speak to the media after the match because of his red card, later voiced

his frustration over the amount of stoppage time played, after five minutes were initially signalled.

In a news conference two days after the game, Slot said "emotions got the better of me".

Everton's Abdoulaye Doucoure and Liverpool's Curtis Jones were sent off after the final whistle for second yellow cards. Both served one-game bans. Slot's first domestic game back in the dugout will come after the international break when Liverpool face Newcastle in the Carabao Cup final on 16 March.

## Vidarbha take control as Malewar's ton anchors recovery on Day 1

Nagpur, Feb 26 (UNI) : Danish Malewar's unbeaten century steered Vidarbha to a strong position at 254 for 4 at stumps on the opening day of the 2024-25 Ranji Trophy final against Kerala here on Wednesday.

Walking in with his team in deep trouble at 11 for 2, Malewar displayed remarkable composure to guide the

innings with an authoritative knock of 138\*. After early setbacks, Vidarbha found a resolute partnership in Malewar and Karun Nair, who added a crucial 215 runs for the fourth wicket. The duo

countered the disciplined Kerala bowling attack with patience before capitalising on the loose deliveries. Nair, who contributed a

fluent 86, fell victim to a minor mix-up, breaking the stand that had put Vidarbha in the

ascendancy. Earlier, Kerala justified their decision to bowl first, making early inroads with MD Nidheesh scalping two wickets and Eden Tom chipping in as Vidarbha were reduced to 24 for 3 in the first hour.

However, as the conditions eased out and the pitch lost its early bite, batting became easier, allowing Malewar and Nair to consolidate. The Kerala bowlers toiled hard but failed to make further inroads, finishing the day disappointed after an encouraging start. With Malewar still unbeaten, Vidarbha will look to

push towards a commanding first-innings total when play resumes on Day 2 at 9:30 AM.

## CSK icon Dhoni lands in Chennai for training ahead of IPL

Chennai, Feb 26 (UNI) : With the kick off of the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket carnival less than a month away, former India and five-time champion

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper MS Dhoni landed in Chennai on Wednesday evening for pre-season training, beginning tomorrow.

Clad in a black t-shirt and sunglasses, Dhoni, popularly called as 'Thala' was escorted out of the airport by a large posse of security officers. "Thala Dharisanam (A glimpse of

Thala)...#Whistle Podu #Den coming", CSK posted in X, tagging the photo of iconic Dhoni's arrival. Other members of the CSK including skipper Rituraj Gaikwad too will take part in the 10-day pre-season training camp at the CSK High-Performance Centre at suburban Navalur. Dhoni was retained by CSK as an uncapped player in the 2025 auction for Rs four crores. The CSK will start this edition's campaign against Mumbai Indians, also five-time champions, at Chennai on March 23.

## Ibrahim Zadran scripts Champions Trophy record with fiery knock against England

Lahore, Feb 26 (UNI) Afghanistan opener Ibrahim Zadran overtook Ben Duckett, who had forged the previous highest individual score in the Champions Trophy history in England's opener against Australia.

Taking the counter-attack to the England bowlers after early loss of wickets for Afghanistan, Zadran returning with 177 runs during his stay of 146 deliveries, overtook England opener Ben Duckett during his milestone knock, with the latter having piled on 165 against Australia in England's first game at this edition.

Zadran's innings is also the highest score by an Afghanistan batter in ODI cricket, breaking his own record of 162 against Sri Lanka in 2022. The right-handed batter laced 12 fours and six maximums as Afghanistan finished with 325/7 at the end of their 50 overs. The score is also Afghanistan's highest total in ICC Men's ODI tournaments. Their previous best was 291/5 against Australia at the 2023 Men's Cricket World Cup, an ICC report said. Having been reduced to 37/3 following Jofra Archer's opening burst with the new ball, Afghanistan recovered in the must-win Champions Trophy encounter against England.

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## WR's ticket checking campaign deters unauthorized travel in AC Local trains

Penalty of Rs. 1.72 crore recovered during the checking drives in AC Locals for the period April 2024 to January 2025



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 26 : Mumbai suburban railway section is one of its kind in the busiest railway system in the world and is transporting millions of commuters daily, aptly known as the Lifeline of the City. Western Railway's Mumbai suburban network of carries approx. 3 million passengers every day through its 1406 (including 109 AC) services run daily.

According to a press

release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, Western Railway runs 109 AC local services daily carrying approximately

1.26 lakh passengers per day. During the financial year 2024-25 (upto January 2025), Mumbai Division's Ticket checking teams detected and penalised more than 51,600 cases of irregular travel in AC locals and recovered an amount

of Rs.1.72 crore as penalty.

During the month of January-2025, an amount of Rs.20.97 lakh was realised from 6258 cases of irregular travel, as against Rs.16.07 lakh from 4,743 cases during January-2024. This is an increase of around 31% in fine and 32% in number of cases detected.

Mr Vineet further stated that in order to enhance the travel experience of bonafide passengers and curb irregular travel in AC

locals, Western Railway's Mumbai Division has launched several initiatives, which includes a dedicated AC Task Force in suburban trains, Special Monitoring Team to oversee issues of irregular travel. Special drives are also conducted at frequent intervals. During peak hours, passenger can lodge complaints pertaining to AC Local trains 24x7 on Helpline No. 139 / Whatsapp Message No. 9004497364, which is attended promptly. Ticket checking performance in AC local trains is also monitored on daily basis.

Western Railway is committed to work tirelessly to prevent irregular travel and ensure a comfortable travel experience to its passengers. Western Railway appeals to its passengers to travel with dignity by purchasing proper and valid railway tickets in order to avoid inconvenience.

## Few trains affected due to block between Vangaon and Dahanu road stations : WR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 26 : A Block will be taken on Saturday & Sunday, i.e 1st & 2nd March, 2025 for shifting/diversion/height raising of Monopole between Vangaon and Dahanu Road stations of Mumbai Central Division. The block will be for one-hour i.e. from 10.30 hrs to 11.30 on 01st March, 2025 and from 09.50 hrs to 10.50 hrs on 2nd March, 2025 on UP & Down Main Line.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, the details of the trains which will be affected

on 1st & 2nd March, 2025 are as under:-

Short Termination/ Cancellation of Trains on 1st March, 2025:-

1. Train No. 93013 Virar - Dahanu Road Local departing from Virar at 09.30 hrs will short terminate at Vangaon and hence Train Nos. 93013 & 93014 will remain partially cancelled between Vangaon and Dahanu Road stations.

2. Train No. 93015 Churchgate - Dahanu Road Local departing from Churchgate at 08.49 hrs will short terminate at Vangaon and hence Train Nos. 93015 & 93016 will be partially

cancelled between Vangaon and Dahanu Road stations.

Short Termination/ Cancellation of Trains on 2nd March, 2025:-

1. Train No. 93011 Churchgate - Dahanu Road Local departing from Churchgate at 07.42 hrs will short terminate at Vangaon and hence Train Nos. 93011 & 93016 will remain partially cancelled between Vangaon and Dahanu Road stations.

2. Train No. 93013 Virar - Dahanu Road Local departing from Virar at 09.30 hrs will short terminate at Boisar and hence Train Nos. 93013 &

93014 will remain partially cancelled between Boisar and Dahanu Road stations.

Regulation of Trains on 1st March, 2025:-

1. Train No. 12990 Ajmer - Dadar Express will be regulated by 35 minutes.

2. Train No. 12980 Jaipur - Bandra Terminus Express will be regulated by 25 minutes.

Regulation of Trains on 2nd March, 2025:-

1. Train No. 12934 Ahmedabad - Mumbai Central Karnavati Express will be regulated by 35 minutes.

2. Train No. 09653 Ajmer - Bandra Terminus Special will be regulated by 01 hour.

## Mahavitaran receives National Award for Excellence in Energy Transition



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 26 : Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (Mahavitaran) was honored with a National Award at the 13th Green Energy Summit organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi on Tuesday for its special work in the energy transition plan being implemented in the state under the leadership of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Mahavitaran received the award in the 'State Level Excellence Award in Energy Transition' category. The state's energy transition plan has been prepared under the guidance of Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) Abha Shukla. Mahavitaran is implementing the plan under the leadership of Lokesh Chandra, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Mahavitaran.

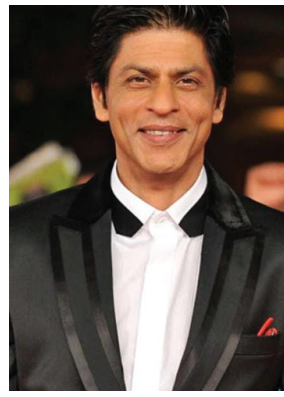
Mahavitaran's Executive Director (Distribution) Dattatray Padalkar, Chief Engineer Sandeep Patil, Superintendent Engineer Neelkamal Chaudhary and Superintendent Engineer Sanjay Waghmare accepted the award. The chief guest of the award ceremony was Anil Kumar Jain, Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board. Former Union Energy Secretary Anil Razdan, who headed the jury, was also present.

Keeping in mind the increasing energy requirement in the future to make Maharashtra a \$1 trillion economy, the

state's energy capacity will be increased by 45,000 MW in five years and it will be 81,000 MW. Under the Energy Transition plan, Mahavitaran has emphasized on the use of renewable energy. The power purchase agreements signed for future use mainly include green energy agreements. Due to this, the state's green energy consumption will increase from the current 13 percent to 52 percent by 2030. This will save Rs 66,000 crore in power purchase costs along with protecting the environment. For this reason, Mahavitaran has sought permission to reduce electricity tariff in phases in the next five years in its petition filed before the Maharashtra State Electricity Commission. Mahavitaran has also proposed to remove the burden of cross subsidy on industries.

Under the Mukhyamantri Saur Krishi Vahini Yojana 2.0 (MSKVY 2.0), solar power generation projects are being set up at various places in the state and agricultural feeders will be run on solar energy. This will provide electricity to farmers during the day.

The implementation of this scheme is going on at a fast pace in the state. In the coming year, through this scheme, all agricultural pumps in the state will be run on solar energy, i.e. green energy. Under this scheme, 16,000 MW solar power generation capacity is being developed and this scheme has an important role in energy transition.



## Shahrukh Khan will leave 'Mannat' and shift to a rented house

(By Rajesh undi)

Mumbai, Feb 26 : Shahrukh Khan and Gauri Khan's luxurious bungalow 'Mannat' is always in the headlines. Its grandeur and beauty attracts people's attention, and according to reports, it is worth around Rs 200 crore. Now there are reports that Shahrukh Khan is going to vacate 'Mannat' before May. He will shift with his family to a rented house in Bandra for a few months, the rent of which will be lakhs of rupees every month.

Recently Shahrukh Khan has rented two luxury duplex apartments in the 'Pooja Casa' building located in Pali Hill, Bandra. These apartments are the property of Jackie Bhagnani and his sister Deepshikha. Shahrukh and his family will live in this house for the next two years, and during this time King Khan will have to pay a rent of Rs 24 lakh every month. According to reports, apart from Shahrukh's family, his security team and staff will also stay in this new house.

Shahrukh Khan is going to make his iconic bungalow 'Mannat' even more grand. Regarding this, Gauri Khan had also given an application to the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority last year. According to reports, Shahrukh is planning to build two more floors above the existing 6 floors of 'Mannat', which will make this bungalow even more luxurious.

The estimated cost of this new construction is said to be Rs 25 crore. Currently, due to this renovation, Shahrukh and his family are shifting to a rented house for some time.

## AAP fields MP

## Sanjeev Arora for Ludhiana West Assembly bypoll

Chandigarh (Punjab), Feb 26 (UNI) : The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday named Rajya Sabha member Sanjeev Arora as its candidate for the Ludhiana West Assembly bypoll. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday, announced to field Rajya Sabha MP Sanjeev Arora from Ludhiana West assembly constituency, where bye-elections are to be conducted soon.

The bye-elections are necessitated by the demise of MLA Gurpreet Gogi on January 10. After the party's announcement, speculations were rife that AAP National Convenor and former Chief Minister of New Delhi Arvind Kejriwal would be sent to Rajya Sabha in place of Arora, who is, reportedly, promised to be given a birth in Bhagwant Singh Mann government, after winning the bye-elections.

## Manipuris in Dubai Open Doors to Job Opportunities, Urge Caution Against Scams



(Standard Post Bureau)

Imphal, Feb 26: A group of young Manipuris residing in Dubai has come together to establish a guest house to support individuals seeking employment opportunities in the UAE. In a press conference held by Jotin Thokchom, Convenor of Kanglei San-Gai, Ajman, UAE, and representative of Loktak Decor LLC, crucial information regarding job openings, eligibility, interview processes, and UAE labor regulations was shared. Preventing Job Scams & Securing Employment.

One of the primary objectives of this press meet was to raise awareness against fraudulent job agencies that exploit job seekers by demanding excessive fees without offering legitimate placements. Kanglei San-Gai aims to provide a secure, transparent, and affordable recruitment process for Manipuris looking to work in Dubai. At present, 14 male

candidates and 6 female candidates has secured employment opportunities.

Growing Job Demand in UAE, India's trade relations with the UAE have significantly strengthened, with exports reaching \$11.3 billion (?97,000 crore). Kerala has notably benefited from this economic exchange, and similar opportunities can be extended to Manipur.

If the Manipur Government facilitates an official guest house, Kanglei San-Gai can help place 150-200 skilled workers in Dubai, generating substantial remittances for the state's economy. "Business & Tourism Prospects in Dubai. Dubai is a major global business hub, offering extensive opportunities for entrepreneurs and enterprises. With the right strategy, Manipuri youth can secure well-paying jobs in various industries. Additionally, Kanglei San-Gai is actively working towards promoting

Manipuri culture and tourism in Dubai, with plans to participate in Dubai's Global Village collaborate with the Tourism Department and Art, Culture Department, and also Horticulture Department to establish an Organic outlet in Dubai for Manipuri products

1. Avoid fraudulent agencies - Always verify job offers before making financial commitments.

2. Ensure proper documentation - A valid passport and accurate paperwork are essential.

3. Plan your career wisely - Dubai offers long-term growth, but only through proper planning and genuine job placements.

Future Plans: To strengthen trade and employment opportunities, discussions are underway with the Assam Government to establish a direct Guwahati-Dubai weekly flight. This initiative aims to boost tourism and economic ties between the Northeast and the UAE.

## Repercussions on Trains Running through Solapur Division of CR due to Work for Extension of Platforms at CSMT Mumbai

(Standard Post Bureau)

Solapur, Feb 26 : Central Railway's Mumbai Division is operating special traffic & power blocks for extension of island platform numbered 12 & 13 at CSMT (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) Mumbai for accommodating trains with 24 coaches. Due to which the trains running through Solapur Division of Central Railway will have repercussions as following:

SHORT TERMINATIONS at DADAR  
The following trains will short terminate at Dadar as per details below:

- Train No 11020 Bhubaneswar-CSMT Mumbai Konark Exp JCO 26.02.2025, 27.02.2025 & 28.02.2025

- Train No 22144 Bidar-CSMT Mumbai Exp JCO 27.02.2025 & 01.03.2025

- Train No 22108 Latur-CSMT Mumbai Exp JCO 28.02.2025

SHORT TERMINATIONS at PUNE

The following trains will short terminate at Pune as per details below:

- Train No 12702 Hyderabad-CSMT Mumbai Hussain Sagar Exp JCO 01.03.2025

- Train No 11140 Hosapete-CSMT Mumbai Exp JCO 01.03.2025

- Train No 12116 Solapur-CSMT Mumbai Siddheshwar Exp JCO 01.03.2025

SHORT ORIGINATIONS from PUNE

The following train will short originate from Pune as per details below:

Train No 11301 CSMT Mumbai-KSR Bengaluru Udyan Exp JCO 02.03.2025

Passengers are requested to kindly note the repercussions and plan their travel accordingly.

## Over 50k Bihar youths from backward communities deprived of jobs: Tejaswi

Patna, Feb. 26 (UNI) Leader of opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejaswi Yadav on Wed nesday accused the Narendra Modi government of depriving 50,000 youths from the scheduled caste, schedule tribe, backward and extremely backward communities of government jobs in the state, by "deliberately" not including the increased reservation quota of 65% in the Ninth Schedule. Yadav

said during the short 17-month rule of the Grand Alliance in the state from August 2022 to January 2024 when his Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) was part of the government, the job reservation quota for scheduled caste, schedule tribe, backward and extremely backward community aspirants was raised from 49% to 65%.

Yadav was the Deputy CM in that dispensation headed by Chief minister

Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) supreme. Congress was also part of the coalition.

Training his gun on the NDA government, Yadav alleged that it deliberately did not include the 65% reservation limits in the 9th schedule. Describing BJP as "betrayer" of reservation, he alleged that following non-implementation of the 65% reservation quota limit, the scheduled caste, schedule tribe, backward.