

IN BRIEF

Young motorcyclist crushed to death between 2 ST buses

Kolhapur / Raigad, Feb 27 (UNI) : In an unfortunate incident, a young motorcycle rider died after being crushed between two State Transport buses at Alibaug ST bus depot in Raigad district on Thursday afternoon.

According to police, the deceased, identified as Jaydeep Bana (16), was coming out of Alibaug bus stand on his bike when an ST bus while entering the bus stand hit his bike, at that time, another ST bus that was moving out of the bus depot rammed the motorbike from behind.

As a result, Jaydeep was killed on the spot after being crushed between two ST buses.

After the accident, a tense situation prevailed in bus stand area as irate peoples staged an impromptu 'rasta roko' agitation, demanding to take bus driver into custody. Sensing trouble, heavy police force was deployed as agitators refused to listen to police. After police detained the driver, agitators withdrew their agitation, sources added.

SAD demands criminal case against Narinder Bharaj

Chandigarh, Feb 27 (UNI) : The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has demanded registration of a criminal case against AAP legislator Narinder Kaur Bharaj for allegedly forcing Truck Union leader Manjit Singh Kaka Phaguwalato commit suicide by consuming poison, as she ignored his right for the post of President and sold the post for Rs 55 lakh to another claimant.

Addressing a press conference here, senior SAD leader Winnerjit Singh Goldy said when AAP came to power in 2022, there was widespread resentment among truck operators of Bhawanigarh as Narinder Kaur tried to sell posts of truck unions.

He said at that time it was agreed to nominate president for a one-year term and informed that Manjit Singh Kaka Phaguwala was to assume charge as President in the third year in 2025 for which he had paid Rs 30 lakh to Narinder Kaur, he claimed.

SCR team swings into action to accelerate rescue operations at SLBC tunnel collapse site

Hyderabad, Feb 27 (UNI) : The South Central Railway (SCR) has deployed a team of metal cutting experts along with requisite machinery to clear debris inside the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) Tunnel.

A portion of the SLBC tunnel in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana State collapsed on Feb 22, and eight workers were trapped inside the tunnel.

The state government, with the help of the Indian Army, Navy, Rat Miners, and NDRF teams, has undertaken extensive operations to rescue those trapped inside.

In this regard, Nagar Kurnool District Collector sought the help of South-Central Railway to help in

the rescue operation by clearing the debris of steel and iron, which has been hindering the rescue works at the site. SCR quickly responded to the call and deployed two teams of metal cutting experts to help in the rescue mission.

The 1st batch, led by S Murali, Divisional Mechanical Engineer, SCR, along with one senior Section Engineer, 13 welders, and 2 technicians from Secunderabad, Lallaguda, and Rayanapadu workshops, has reached the site and taken the required works, SCR Chief Public Relations Officer A Sridhar said in a release here on Thursday.

The second batch of experts, consisting of one

senior section engineer along with 4 technicians, will also be reaching the site to support the first team.

The staff have been deputed along with requisite machinery—1 plasma cutting machine, 1 brocho cutting machine and consumables, 1 portable air compressor, 6 plasma cutters, and 1 ultra-thermic, Cutting Equipment, 20 Packets-Electrodes, 1-Battery, 6-Oxygen cylinders, 2-Welding machine, 4 Packets - Welding electrodes, Helmets and Retro Reflective jackets. At present, South Central Railway is at the forefront of the operations to clear the debris and accelerate the mission to rescue the workers and provide relief.

HCL Tech opens new facility in Hyd



(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Feb 27 : HCL Tech, a Global Company, which is operating in 60 countries with over 2.2 lakh employees, opened its new world-class facility here on Thursday.

The 3.2 lakh square feet new facility which will provide 5,000 jobs, was

inaugurated by Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in the presence of IT Minister D Sridhar Babu and HCL Tech CEO and Managing Director C.Vijayakumar.

Speaking on the occasion, Revanth Reddy said the state government has been entering MoUs

with multinational companies and inaugurating new facilities as per the agreements all through the year.

Telangana State and the city of Hyderabad are developing at the fastest pace in the country, the Chief Minister said "it is a proud moment that Telangana has

Kharge, Rahul hold meeting with Assam Congress leaders

New Delhi, Feb 27 (UNI)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi held a meeting with Assam state Congress leaders here on Thursday to review the preparation for the assembly elections in the state and also discussed various issues. Taking to his social media handle X, Kharge said, "We chaired an important meeting of @INCAssam leaders at Indira Bhawan, New Delhi, today."

"In a year, the people of Assam shall discard the politics of corruption, division, and vendetta," he said. Kharge said, "3.5 crore people of Assam look towards the Congress to usher in this change. No amount of select-media-driven propaganda can shake their resolve for

transformation."

Later, talking to the media after the meeting, Assam Congress chief Bhupen Kumar Borah said that the party has resolved to remove the BJP completely from the state.

He said that in this meeting, all the leaders from Assam got a chance to express their views, for which we thank the top leadership of the party.

Calling Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma the "most corrupt chief minister of the country," he said that the state unit has placed all the evidence related to the corruption of the chief minister before the top leadership.

"We and all our leaders will go among the public and present these pieces of evidence of corruption before them," he added.

Police nab three including one Inter-state Ganja supplier

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Feb 27 : The Hyderabad police have arrested three persons including one Inter-state Ganja supplier and a drug peddler.

Police also seized 41.13 kilograms of ganja from their possession.

On credible information, the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (HNEW) team along with Madhura Nagar police, had conducted a joint operation and held -- Bala Hantal alias Raju of Odisha (Ganja supplier), Srinivasulu (Peddler), resident of Kukatpally and delivery boy Abhishek alias Abhi, also a resident of Kukatpally (both are native of Andhra Pradesh), the Enforcement wing said in a release here on Thursday.

Besides 41.13 kilograms of Ganja and Rs 40,400 in cash, the police seized one bike and three mobile phones from the possession of the accused.

According to the police, the accused Bala Hantal, a native of Koraput District, Odisha, cultivates ganja and supplies it to needy peddlers in and around Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

Another accused Srinivasulu worked previously in an IT company, and after getting addicted to online gambling incurred huge debts. To clear the loans, he planned to sell ganja.

Through some friends, Srinivasulu learned about Bala Hantal, of Odhisa who was selling ganja.

Srinivasulu through one Kalyan Rao contacted Bala Hantal and purchased ganja from him.

He brought it to the city and through Abhishek and was selling it to customers, the release added.

Polling for three MLC seats in Telangana ends

Hyderabad, Feb 27 (UNI) The polling in the three MLC constituencies, including one Graduates and two Teachers, ended peacefully in Telangana on Thursday evening.

The voting in Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Teachers' constituency, spread over 15 districts in the state, began at 8 AM this morning and ended at 4 PM.

The counting of votes will be held on March 3. While 56 candidates are in fray for the lone Graduates' constituency, 15 and 19 candidates are contesting the Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Teachers' constituencies respectively. While 3.55 lakh people have registered their names for the graduates' constituency, there are 27,000 people for the teachers segment.

Officials said the polling in Telangana has ended peacefully without any untoward incidents.

While the ruling Congress party is contesting only the graduates' constituency, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has fielded candidates in all the three constituencies while the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has opted to stay out of the contest.

Currently, T Jeevan Reddy (Congress) is the sitting MLC from the Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Graduates' seat, while K Raghotham Reddy and Alugubelli Narsi Reddy are the MLCs from the respective Teachers' constituencies. Their terms will end on March 29.

MEA takes up case of Indian student Neelam Shinde

New Delhi, Feb 27 (UNI) : The Ministry of External Affairs has taken up the case of Indian student, Neelam Shinde, who is in critical condition after a car accident in California, sources said.

The US side is looking into the formalities for early grant of visa for her family, the sources added.

Neelam Shinde, 35, a student from Satara, Maharashtra, is in critical condition after a car accident in California on February 14. She is currently in a coma and being treated in the ICU, Supriya Sule, a Member of Parliament, told the media.

The driver who allegedly caused the accident has been arrested.

As Neelam's condition

attracted the highest investments from domestic and multinational companies in just a year and also became number one in job creation".

Telangana is endowed with the highest artificial intelligence and the lowest inflation.

Today, we make Hyderabad number one in EV adoption, promoting the state as a hub of data centres, green energy, life sciences, biotechnology, skill development, manufacturing and agri processing, he added.

People are now saying that Hyderabad Rising will not stop.

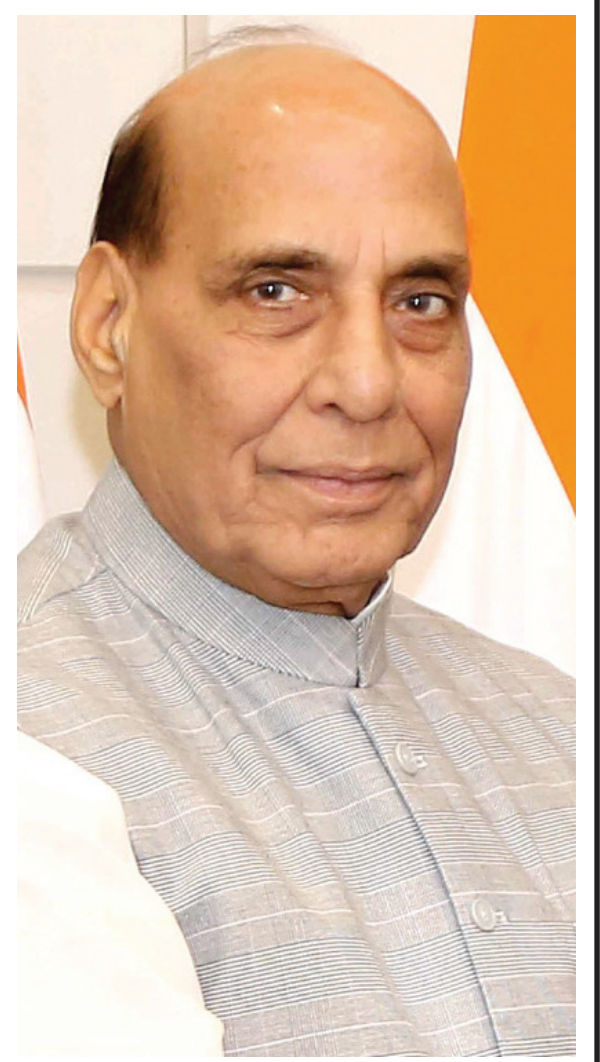
Many people are not sure when I gave the slogan of Telangana Rising. Now, the whole world is accepting it. People are also skeptical about Hyderabad Rising. Today, the entire world witnessed, Reddy said.

remains grave, her family is desperately seeking assistance from the government to obtain an emergency visa that would allow her father, Tanaji Shinde, to travel to the US and be by her side during this critical period.

Shinde's family has applied for an urgent visa.

Voicing her concern, Sule posted on social media: "Student Neelam Shinde has met with an accident in the USA and is hospitalized in a local hospital.

Her father, Tanaji Shinde, from Satara, Maharashtra, India, urgently needs to visit his daughter due to a medical emergency. Tanaji Shinde has applied for an urgent visa to the USA and requires assistance."



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh releases hindi magazine ...

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the first edition of the Ministry of Defence's biennial Hindi magazine 'Sashakt Bharat' here on Thursday. The magazine contains poems on the valour, patriotism and sacrifice of the Armed Forces personnel and articles on the policies of the Government written by the personnel of the Ministry. The Defence Minister appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Defence, Department of Official Language for promoting Hindi. He stressed on the need to increase the adoption and use of Hindi and described the language as a connecting thread in the social and cultural fabric of India.

(See on page 2)

Modi-BJP's claims of women's safety hollow: Congress



The Congress on Thursday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of making "hollow promises" about ensuring women's security, and claimed that cases of harassment against women are increasing under the BJP's rule.

(See on page 4)

Ex-England coach Jones returns to South Africa staff



Former England defence coach, Felix Jones will become an assistant coach with South Africa from next week. Jones stepped down from his position with England in December after becoming disillusioned in Steve Borthwick's set-up, the BBC reported.

(See on page 7)

SC disposes challenge to Rakesh Asthana's appointment ...



The Supreme Court recently disposed of a challenge to the appointment of former Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana. However, it left open the legal question of whether the 2006 judgment in Prakash Singh versus Union of India applies to the appointment of Delhi Police Commissioners.

(See on page 8)

Concrete steps of Mahagathbandhan government for women safety!

(By Rajesh Undi)

Mumbai, Feb 27 : Today, in the wake of the accident in Pune, I had an important meeting with Transport Minister Pratapsarnaik and @msrtcofficial officials. Some concrete suggestions were given and a statement was made to increase the safety of women passengers.

Effective promotion of 112 women helpline - awareness through stickers in buses and loudspeakers in ST depots

Toilets should be clean and safe at every ST station in the state.

Especially in urban and rural areas, there should be a rickshaw stand outside every ST station and it should be under CCTV surveillance. This service is very important for women who travel late at night or early in the morning to reach home safely.

CCTV cameras should be installed in ST buses running under the Transport Department and private travel companies.

It should be considered whether a police beat can



be deployed at every bus depot.

Proposal to set up police beat in every ST depot Officers should periodically patrol the stalled buses, places where there is less movement of people. This place should be monitored by security guards.

When the bus is parked in the parking lot, its doors should be closed and all the windows should be closed, so that the bus is not misused in any way. Security increased and

regular patrolling done for buses parked at deserted places

The government has immediately suspended 23 security guards for negligence in duty and has set up effective mechanism to arrest the accused. Therefore, soon the accused will be arrested and strict rules will be implemented.

Our dutiful Chief Minister Devabhau is always committed to the issue of women safety. Therefore, I am sure that no

woman will be mistreated or harassed in our state.'

To make ST travel safe and reliable for women passengers, a strong SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) is being prepared soon under the leadership of our Transport Minister Hon. Pratap Sarnaik ji.

From now on, the government will try its best to make every woman's travel safe. May his beloved sisters remain safe in Devbhau's kingdom...Said by MLA Chitra wagh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh releases hindi magazine 'Sashakt Bharat'

New Delhi, Feb 27 (UNI) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the first edition of the Ministry of Defence's biennial Hindi magazine 'Sashakt Bharat' here on Thursday.

The magazine contains poems on the valour, patriotism and sacrifice of the Armed Forces personnel and articles on the policies of the Government written by the personnel of the Ministry. The Defence Minister appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Defence, Department of Official Language for promoting Hindi. He stressed on the need to increase the adoption and use of Hindi and described the language as a connecting thread in the social and cultural fabric of India. The objective of 'Sashakt Bharat' magazine is to highlight the creative talent of the employees of the Ministry of Defence and encourage them to perform their daily tasks in Hindi. The e-version of the magazine is available on the official website of the Ministry of Defence.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare) Dr Niten Chandra, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO, Dr Sameer V Kamath and other senior officers of the Ministry of Defence were present on the occasion.

Himachal to spend Rs 100 cr on Mandi Shiv dham

Mandi (HP), February 27(UNI) : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister SS Sukhu on Thursday took part in the opening day of the National level Shivratri fair and announced a grant of Rs 100 crore for the construction of the Shiv Dham here. The work for the Dham was started during the BJP regime but was later stalled due to some unknown reasons. Addressing a huge gathering at Paddal ground Amid heavy rains, Sukhu announced that his government would complete the work of Mandi Shiv Dham in the next two years and for that, he issued strict instructions to the local authorities.,

People have to play constructive role to control drug menace: JK Dy CM

Srinagar, Feb 27 (UNI) : Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Thursday said that the people have to play a constructive role to control the drug menace in the society.

The Deputy Chief Minister was talking to media persons in central Kashmir Budgam district.

"I appeal to people in general to play a constructive role to control the drug menace which has found space in our homes and in the society", Choudhary told media persons.

"We don't know where from it is coming, but there is dire need to catch the drug traffickers", he said and added "we hope that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will play a role and instruct police, who is under his belt, to put a break on the drug trafficking in Jammu and Kashmir".

When asked that contractors are not being paid their pending dues, the Deputy CM said that he visited several places to inspect the work and found substandard material has

been used.

We will identify contractors and those who will work honestly will be paid money and those contractors using substandard material in their work would never be paid anything", he emphasized.

Choudhary said that he will review the industry estates and said that "there were so many places where monkey business has taken place during the past six years". "Where ever our children would like to work we will provide them a good atmosphere and construct industry estates", the Deputy CM said.

In reply to another question, he said "the corrupt system has come up in our hands and we will correct it and the people will see soon".

Choudhary also launched work on Chewdara Beerwah bridge being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 14.15 crore in Budgam district.

The project, being executed under NABARD, will cater to a large chunk of commuters and general public as well, augmenting

the connectivity in the area to great extent.

While speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the government is committed to holistic and sustained development of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that a new era of progress and prosperity has been ushered in the region with tremendous development in every nook and corner of the UT.

Choudhary directed the executing agencies to address the challenges impeding the project's advancement.

"Work should be completed within the stipulated time so that cost escalation does not take place and the vital project is dedicated to the people in time", the Deputy Chief Minister maintained and directed for a synergetic approach to remove bottlenecks, if any. Later, he interacted with several deputations at Town hall and reiterated the Government's commitment towards speedy development besides prompt public service delivery and redressal of grievances.

Sarbananda Sonowal Unveils 'One Nation, One Port' to Enhance Efficiency with Ease of Doing Business



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 27 : The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal launched a series of major initiatives of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) aimed at modernising India's maritime infrastructure, strengthening its global trade presence, and promote sustainability. These initiatives were launched during a stakeholders meeting to

discuss on various possibilities from the major announcements made in the Union Budget for the Maritime sector here today.

The Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the "One Nation: One Port Process (ONOP)" initiative to standardise and streamline operations across India's major ports. This step aims at removing inconsistencies in documentation and processes that led to

inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays. Sarbananda Sonowal also launched Sagar Ankalan — the Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) for FY 2023-24, as a significant step towards enhancing efficiency and global competitiveness in India's maritime sector.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "It gives me immense pleasure to launch the important of our Ministry which are aligned with honourable PM Narendra Modi ji's vision of Viksit Bharat, driving self-reliance, sustainability, and economic growth. With the launch of 'One Nation, One Port' Process and Sagar Ankalan - LPPI Index, India is taking a decisive step towards standardised, efficient, and globally competitive ports. By enhancing port performance and streamlining logistics, we are reducing inefficiencies, cutting carbon footprints, and strengthening India's position in global trade. Our commitment to modern, green, and smart port infrastructure will not only fuel economic resilience but also ensure a sustainable maritime future for generations to

come. This is a transformative leap towards making India a maritime powerhouse, contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat and a developed India by 2047.

Sarbananda Sonowal also launched Bharat Global Ports Consortium to Strengthen Global Trade by expanding India's maritime reach and enhance global trade resilience. The Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal also launched MAITRI logo (Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface) with an aim to streamline trade processes, reduce bureaucratic redundancies and expedite clearances, reinforcing India's commitment to ease of doing business.

Adding further, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "The launch of Bharat Ports Global Consortium and MAITRI App marks a transformative step in strengthening India's maritime and trade ecosystem. These initiatives will sustain the initiatives taken since 2014, under the 2 dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, to enhance efficiency, streamline trade processes, and bolster global supply chains, reinforcing India's position as a key player in international logistics. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, India is rapidly modernising its ports and trade infrastructure, aligning with his commitment to Viksit Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat. By leveraging digital innovation and global partnerships, we are creating a seamless, efficient, and future-ready trade network, accelerating India's journey towards becoming a global economic powerhouse."

Adv Swati A. Teli

PUBLIC NOTICE BEFORE THE COURT OF MEMBER MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL, THANE AT THANE

M.A.C.P. No.618/2023, Exh No. 19
Next Date: 21/04/2025

Master Sahil Dattatray ManjulkarApplicant

V/s.

M/s. Pappuraj Tour & Travels & 1Opponents To,
M/s. Pappuraj Tour & Travels,
O/at: A/P Tinhewadi, Rajgurunagar,
Tal- Khed, Dist:- Pune, 410 505,

Whereas the above named applicant has filed accident Claims application for the compensation of Rs. 1,00,000/- in the Tribunal against you and others.

You are hereby given notice to appear in the Tribunal in person or by pleaser duly instructed and to file your say within 30 days from the publication of this notice. Failing which the said application will be heard in your absence and determined ex-parte.

Give under my hand and seal on this day of 20th Jan, 2025.

By Order

Sd/-
Clerk



Sd/-
Superintendent

Motor Accident Claims Tribunal Thane.

CENTRAL RAILWAY SOLAPUR DIVISION E-TENDER NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No.:** SUR/TD/T/2025/02R **Name of work:** Electrical TRD portion of work in connection with- 1) Solapur - Wadi - CTR(P) -14.279 TKM; TRR(P)-7.305 TKM & TSR(P) - 39.250 TKM. 2) Daund - Wadi - CTR(S/P) -0.999 TKM & TRR(S) - 18.165 TKM (Re-Invitation). **Estimated cost:** ₹ 67,01,197.76/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,34,000/- **Completion Period:** 12 Months **Validity of offer:** 60 Days **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 26/03/2025 at 15.00 hours. **ANJ-39**
बतलावक व लिक्वेटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना कर्तवीय अपराध है।

WESTERN RAILWAY MODIFICATION OF SIDE PATHWAY FOR PROVISION OF OHE MAST OVER THE BRIDGE

DY. CE (Bridge-Line)-Dadar, Western Railway invites E-Tender No: DYCE-BR-DDR-2025-04. **Name of Work:** Modification of Side pathway for provision of OHE mast over the bridge in connection with raising of speed up to 160 Kmph under ADEN/B/BL in Virar-Surat section. **Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 83,51,715.49. **EMD:** ₹ 1,67,000/-. **Date and time for submission of e-tender and opening of e-tender:** On line tender is to be submitted on 25.03.2025 before 15:00 Hrs., and is to be opened on same date - 25.03.2025 at 15:30 Hrs. **Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen etc.:** Website @ www.ireps.gov.in. 1126
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

TREE AUTHORITY

- PUBLIC NOTICE -

In accordance with the provision under section 8 (3) (C) of the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection & Preservation of Trees Act 1975 (As modified upto 24th June 2021), **01** Proposal from 'R/North' Ward & **03** proposals from R/Central Ward i.e. Total **04** Proposals in Zone - VII for removal of trees are approved by Municipal Commissioner, Chairman, Tree Authority MCGM under sub section 6 of section (8) of the said Act.

The information of the trees for cutting/ Transplanting in above mentioned proposals is available on mcgm website → www.mcgm.gov.in/ → About us wards/ Department → Department manuals → Gardens & Tree Authority → WS253-R/North, WS254-R/Central, WS255-R/Central, WS256-R/Central.

Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer

Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer
of the Tree Authority
Penguin Building, 2nd Floor
Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan
Dr. Ambedkar Road, Byculla (E),
Mumbai - 400 027.
Tel No : 23742162

Email : sg.gardens@mcgm.gov.in

PRO/2649/ADV/2024 - 25

Avoid self medication.

Sd/-
Supdt. of Gardens
& Tree Officer

Massive rescue operations underway at SLBC tunnel: Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy

Nagarkurnool, Feb 27 (UNI) : Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday assured that the rescue and relief operations, which are in full swing at the SLBC (Srisailem Left Bank Canal) Tunnel to save the trapped eight workers, would be completed within two to three days, and the tunnel works would resume in two to three months.

Multi-agency rescue operation is in full swing at the SLBC tunnel, with the country's best experts and advanced equipment deployed to save the workers trapped under the debris of the collapsed SLBC tunnel since Feb 22. Speaking to media persons at the SLBC tunnel tragic accident site near Domalipenta in Nagarkurnool district, Uttam described the incident as one of the most complicated and complex tunnel accidents in Indian history, stating that for the first time, so many national and international agencies have been brought together under a unified command for the rescue mission.

Eleven top agencies specialising in tunnel disasters are leading the operation, working with unmatched coordination and expertise. The Minister

said that the rescue teams were working round the clock, using the most advanced technology and equipment to safely extract the trapped workers. Plasma cutters, high-grade shutters, and debris removal machinery were being used at the site, while international experts were overseeing the strategy. Tunnel boring machines and dewatering processes had been reactivated to clear obstructions, he said.

"This is an extremely challenging operation, and the best experts in the field are involved", Uttam said and added that precautionary restrictions had been imposed at the site to ensure the safety of both workers and rescuers. Uttam Strongly condemned BRS leaders, especially Harish Rao, for his criticism of the rescue operations. The minister dismissed the BRS leaders' visit to the accident site as mere political theatrics. "They came here to stage a drama and left after putting on a show," he said.

Uttam pointed out that during the Srisailem Left Bank Power Station blast, where nine workers lost their lives, no BRS leader even visited the site. He recalled that when Revanth

Reddy tried to visit the victims, he was arrested and taken to a police station. Similarly, in the Devadula project, where seven workers died, their remains were recovered only after five years.

He questioned why Harish Rao never spoke about these incidents when they happened under the BRS regime, but is now giving lectures on the SLBC tunnel accident.

The minister further accused KCR and Harish Rao of crippling the irrigation sector by spending Rs 1.81 lakh crore on projects that never provided water.

He alleged that the Palamuru-Rangareddy project cost Rs 27,500 crore, yet not a single acre received water.

He also pointed out that the Kaleshwaram project, which they proudly built, collapsed, and now they dare to question the Congress government.

He reiterated that the rescue operation is being conducted with full dedication, and after the workers are safely rescued, the government will ensure that tunnel works resume in the next two to three months and are completed within the stipulated time.

There should be no sympathy for deportees: Manohar Khattar

Chandigarh / New Delhi, Feb 27 (UNI) : Amidst uproar over USA's treatment of Indian deportees, Union minister Manohar Lal Khattar said on Thursday that they went to the USA illegally, therefore, there should be no sympathy for deportees.

While speaking to media, he said that they went to the US illegally through the Dunkey route and broke the law, so there should be no sympathy for them.

When asked about the US sending Indian deportees handcuffed, he said there were different laws in different countries, and one cannot argue with that. They entered a country illegally and they are criminals, he noted.

Comparing the tendency of going abroad illegally (in search of jobs/opportunities) with drug menace,

the Minister said that people take these journeys despite being advised against it.

"Our people should not take this route, as it is as bad as drug menace," he said.

Notably, the USA has sent more than 300 deportees in three Army planes after new President Donald Trump announced a new immigrant policy. As the deportees have been sent back handcuffed and in chains, the opposition has raised the demand that the Indian government should bring back these deportees in commercial flights.

Also, they are demanding that the government should take steps to rehabilitate these youths by providing them job opportunities as they had gone abroad in search of jobs by selling their lands or properties or taking loans. Moreover, action against fake travel agents, who sent people illegally abroad, is also being sought.

Former News Editor of Hindu Kurien passes away

Hyderabad, Feb 27 (UNI) : Former News Editor of 'The Hindu', PK Kurien, passed away at NIMS here on Thursday due to age-related ailments.

He was 78 and he is survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter.

Kurien worked in Newstime between 1984 and 1994 and from then till 2008 in The Hindu.

Before that, he had worked in The Tribune.

Several Journalists have expressed their profound grief and extended their deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

Fanatics to double its workforce to 500 within next two years

Hyderabad, Feb 27 (UNI) : Fanatics, a leading global digital sports platform with 22,000 employees across more than 80 locations, on Thursday announced the strengthening of its leadership, increasing technical hiring, and expanding its footprint within India.

As part of its global expansion and commitment to enhancing the fan

Poultry India urges Indians to prioritise protein intake on World Protein Day

Hyderabad, Feb 27 (UNI) On the occasion of World Protein Day on February 27, Poultry India, the Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) are raising awareness about alarming protein deficiency and advocating for affordable, high-quality protein sources like chicken and eggs.

Studies indicate that 73 percent of Indians suffer from protein deficiency, and 17 percent of the population struggles with underweight issues. This nutritional gap has serious health implications, including

impaired growth, weakened immune function, and increased risk of chronic diseases, the association said in a release here on Thursday.

According to the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), the recommended daily protein intake is 0.8-1g per kg of body weight, with an additional 20-30 g per day advised for physically active individuals.

Eggs and chicken provide an accessible and cost-effective solution to this deficiency. One medium egg contains 6g of protein, while chicken is

another lean, high-quality protein source, packed with essential nutrients like iron, zinc, and B vitamins.

"Many Indians prioritise carbohydrates over protein, mistakenly equating a full stomach with good health. However, protein is essential for tissue repair, enzyme and hormone production, and overall immunity," said Uday Sing Bayas, President of Poultry India/IPEMA. Nutritionist Pooja Makhija said, "I recommend consuming at least 5-6 eggs per week and incorporating chicken regularly to meet essential protein requirements."

18 illegal migrants held for organising brothels

Hyderabad, Feb 27 (UNI) : The city Taskforce has arrested 18 illegal migrants, who were organising brothel houses at Chaderghat and Khairatabad in the city.

On credible information, the Commissioner's Task Force, South Zone Team, Hyderabad along with Chaderghat and Khairatabad Police have conducted simultaneous raids on organised brothel houses and apprehended 2 groups comprising 18 persons including sex workers, said A Srinivasa Rao, Additional Deputy

Commissioner of Police (Task Force) Hyderabad City, in a release here.

On enquiry, it transpired that some of the local brokers Kamarul Shaik and Azarul Shaik of West Bengal and others hatched a plan to migrate the male and female Bangladeshi nationals by illegal means to run brothel houses in Hyderabad, Bangalore cities.

For that, they are targeting and planning to migrate the innocent girls who are facing financial crises at their country.

Initially, the brokers are

providing temporary shelters in West Bengal. Where they also providing some Indian ID proof on the residence addresses of West Bengal.

After that, the brokers split them to various places including Hyderabad on the name of job.

For that, they are charging Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 for each candidate to migrate from Bangladesh to India and also provide ID proofs. The apprehended persons and victim girls were handed over to Chaderghat and Khairatabad Police for further action.

EAM Jaishankar calls on European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

New Delhi, Feb 27 (UNI) : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today called on visiting European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and voiced appreciation for her thoughts on reenergizing India's engagement with Europe.

In a post on X, the EAM said:

"Pleased to call on @EU_Commission President @vonderleyen today in Delhi.

"Appreciate her thoughts on reenergizing India's engagement with Europe.

"The wide ranging participation of Indian Ministers and EU College of Commissioners during this visit stands testimony to the importance we place on deeper India-EU ties."

The European Commission President in a post on X said:

"Touchdown in Delhi with my team of Commissioners.

"In an era of conflicts and intense competition, you need trusted friends.

"For Europe, India is such a friend and a strategic ally.

"I'll discuss with @narendramodi how to take our strategic partnership to the next level."

Earlier, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arrived here today on a two-day visit during which she will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The MEA spokesperson said in a post on X that Von der Leyen was received at the airport by Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel.

"Elevating the India-EU multifaceted partnership to new heights.

"President of the @EU_Commission @vonderleyen arrives in New Delhi for the first visit of EU College of Commissioners to India.

"Warmly received with a special welcome by MoS for Health & Family Welfare @AnupriyaSPatel at the airport."

Later, the European Commission president visited Raj Ghat.

The MEA spokesperson said on X: "Recalling Mahatma's message of universal peace.

"President of the @EU_Commission @vonderleyen started her India visit with homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat."

Tomorrow she will hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Modi at Hyderabad House, to be followed by press statements.

Von Der Leyen, whose visit is on the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is accompanied by the European Union College of Commissioners.

The second ministerial meeting of the India - EU Trade and Technology

Council and bilateral ministerial meetings between the European Commissioners and their Indian counterparts will also be held during the visit.

India and European Union are strategic partners since 2004 and their bilateral ties have expanded and deepened across a wide range of areas. As the two sides enter the third decade of the strategic partnership, the visit of President von der Leyen and the EU College of Commissioners will pave the way for further strengthening of bilateral relations based on growing convergences.

This is President Ursula von der Leyen's third visit to India. President von der Leyen paid an official visit to India on April 24-25, 2022. During her meeting with Prime Minister, they announced the establishment of an India-EU Trade and Technology Council. She also

participated in the Raisina Dialogue 2022 in April as the Chief Guest and delivered the inaugural address.

The India-EU Trade and Technology Council was set up as a strategic coordination mechanism to tackle challenges at the nexus of trade, trusted technology, and security, and thus deepening cooperation in these fields. The TTC met in Brussels on May 16, 2023.

She also attended the G20 Leaders' Summit in India in September 2023.

Prime Minister and President Ursula von der Leyen have also met regularly on the sidelines of multilateral meetings. Following the European Parliamentary elections in June 2024, Prime Minister Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen briefly met on the sidelines of the G20 Rio Summit in November 2024.

experience, the company will double its technical workforce in Hyderabad from 250 to over 500 employees within the next two years, said Fanatics Interim Chief Technology Officer Matthias Spycher in a press conference here.

In 2018, the company opened its first technology innovation center in Hyderabad as part of its commitment to growing its technology, data, and

analytics capabilities, he said. In addition to the hiring growth, the company will move into a new large office space in Hi-Tech City by 2028 which will be three times the size of its current office space in the city, he informed. The company is committed to enhancing the fan experience and maximizing the presence and reach of its hundreds of sports partners globally by offering products and

services across Fanatics Commerce, Fanatics Collectibles, and Fanatics Betting and Gaming allowing sports fans to Buy, Bet, and Collect, he added. The recently appointed Vice President and General Manager Abhishek Dhasmana, said "This expansion reinforces Fanatics' commitment to Hyderabad as a strategic hub for technological advancement and growth".

Police arrest 6 people for writing pro-Khalistan slogans, blame Pannun

Sangrur (Punjab), Feb 27 (UNI) The Punjab Police have arrested six people, who allegedly wrote pro-Khalistan slogans lured by anti-India activist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun with money, a senior officer said on Thursday.

Sangrur District Police Superintendent Palwinder Singh Cheema said the slogans were found in Satauj village of the district. Four of those arrested are from Bhatinda district, and the remaining two hail from Mansa district.

Cheema said a case was registered at Dharamgarh police station regarding

slogans about Khalistan being written in Satauj village. There were also reports that a flag with "Khalistan" written on it was displayed.

Cheema said a video displaying the slogans and the flag was made viral on social media by Canadian-American Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, who has formed an organisation named Sikh For Justice (SFJ), which has been declared illegal by the Government of India.

He said Pannun, who often makes provocative statements and indulges in activities against India, is creating an atmosphere of "fear and intimidation" by fomenting hatred among people of different religions and communities and making them fight among themselves. He said the matter is very sensitive and is causing "fear" among the common people, due to which a case has been registered against the said unknown persons and an investigation has been initiated. Cheema said the six people nabbed include

Jagraj Singh alias Soni and Gurmeet Singh alias

Gitti - both from Mansa district. The other four - Amritpal Singh, Baljinder Singh, Baljit Singh alias Prabhu and Atarvir Singh alias A - are from Bathinda district. He said the arrest of the alleged accused Gurbatwant Singh Pannun is pending. He said during the investigation, it has come to light that Pannun, who stays abroad, is luring the innocent youth of Punjab with money into such illegal activities. Pannun's sole aim isto spread unrest and fear in

India. He said during the investigation, the six arrested people admitted their mistake in carrying out such activity and said they only did it out of the lure of money.

Pannun himself is hiding abroad, but by luring the youth of Punjab with money, he is throwing them into the swamp of crime and spoiling their future.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Hari Krishna Reddy S/O Srihari Reddy, R/o Indukurupeta Mudivarthi Palem, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh- 524313, I have changed the name of my minor Son Konduru Jagannathan Reddy aged about 14 years and He shall hereafter be known as Konduru Jaswanth Reddy.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Murali Ramnath, W/O Vasudev Ramnath Singh, R/o Door Number-13-5/14/1, 4th Lane, Guntur Vari Thota, Kothapeta, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh- 522001. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Vasudev Murali Ramnath.

CENTRAL RAILWAY SOLAPUR DIVISION E-TENDER NOTICE
The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No.:** SURTD/7/2025/**02R Name of work:** Electrical TRD portion of work in connection with: 1) Solapur - Wadi - CTR(P) - 14.279 TKM; TRR(P)-7.305 TKM & TSR(P) - 39.250 TKM. 2) Daund - Wadi - CTR(S/P) - 0.999 TKM & TRR(S) - 18.165 TKM (Re-Invitation). **Estimated cost:** ₹ 67,01,197.76/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,34,000/- **Completion Period:** 12 Months **Validity of offer:** 60 Days **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 26/03/2025 at 15.00 hours. **ANJ-39**

ICICI HOME FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Registered office at: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra - Kurla Complex, Mumbai - 400051.
Corporate office - ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri(East), Mumbai - 400059.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large, that ICICI HOME FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED (ICICI HFC) has decided to conduct auction of gold ornament(s) pledge in the below accounts. Which have become overdue or which have defaults or margin breach customers. Notice hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) to repay the due amount (mentioned below) together with further interest thereon plus all the cost and incidental expenses etc. till the date of auction.

The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) willing to release their ornament(s), shall visit the base branch wherein the ornaments were pledged by the Borrower(s) or contact the below mentioned numbers of said designated authority of respective branch(es). Having failed to repay the due amount within specified period, ICICI HFC will sell off the gold ornament(s) to public/bidders in general by way of auction. The auction will be held online through <http://gold.samil.in> or <https://egold.auctiontiger.net> between 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Branch - Guntur Contact no - 8106072142 GLA/c - 120000120067

The sale is subject to confirmation by the ICICI HFC and the authorized officer of the ICICI HFC reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

Auction will be held online through <http://gold.samil.in> or <https://egold.auctiontiger.net>, in case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days. Change in venue or date, if any, and detailed terms and conditions of the sale, details will be updated on our website www.icicihfc.com.

No further communication shall be issued in this regard.

Dated: 28.02.2025
Place: Guntur

sd/-
Authorised Signatory
For, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

STANDARD POST

Healthcare leads AI adoption in India, surpasses FMCG and manufacturing sectors

India's healthcare sector is on the cusp of a revolution, with an increase in adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and technology-driven solutions, according to a report.

The report by Deloitte India showed that AI adoption in healthcare has surged past 40 per cent, surpassing sectors such as FMCG (about 30 per cent) and manufacturing (about 25 per cent).

The report credited this to government-backed initiatives such as the IndiaAI Mission and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 -- setting the stage for a digitally empowered healthcare ecosystem.

"India's digital healthcare ecosystem is rapidly advancing, with AI-powered diagnostics, MedTech innovations, and digital health records transforming patient care," said Joydeep Ghosh, Life Sciences and Health Care Industry Leader, Partner, Deloitte India. Ghosh noted that the surgical consumables and disposables exports in the country "reached \$1.6 billion in FY 2022-23, showcasing its growing capabilities and presence in the global healthcare market".

The report also mentioned the government's strategic initiatives such as the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, an influx of private sector investments, and the integration of various technological breakthroughs.

Initiatives such as mobile cancer detection hubs in Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, along with AI-driven diagnostic labs in Himachal Pradesh, are improving early disease detection and making advanced diagnostics more affordable. India's healthcare system is poised to significantly influence the health of over a billion people, stimulate economic growth, and provide high-quality, affordable care to previously underserved regions of the country, the report said.

Despite advancements, the adoption of AI in healthcare is progressing more slowly than in banking and financial services, said the report, citing concerns on data security, regulatory fragmentation, and limited digital infrastructure in rural areas.

In addition, the shortage of professionals trained in AI further complicates the seamless integration of these technologies into clinical workflows.

To realise AI's full potential in healthcare, "the sector must overcome challenges such as regulatory alignment, workforce training, and infrastructure limitations. With targeted investments and focused policy advancements, India can become a global leader in AI-powered healthcare, elevating patient outcomes and accessibility," Ghosh said.

Ashwini Vaishnaw visits Prayagraj, congratulates Rail Parivar - Everyone - for extraordinary work during Mahakumbh!



(Standard Post Bureau)

Railway Minister, Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw, undertook a morning visit to Prayagraj to personally review Indian Railways' extensive preparations for Mahakumbh 2025. Recognising the scale and significance of this grand religious gathering, he visited various stations under North Central Railway (NCR), North Eastern Railway (NER), and Northern Railway (NR) to assess on-ground operations. During his visit, he interacted with railway personnel, inspected key arrangements, and ensured that all systems were functioning smoothly to accommodate the unprecedented influx of devotees. Shri Vaishnaw also lauded the seamless coordination between different departments and reaffirmed Indian Railways' commitment to facilitating safe, efficient, and comfortable travel for all pilgrims. Railway Minister thanked Hon'ble Prime Minister for his continuous guidance and also thanked Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Mohan Yadav, and the governments of neighboring states for their unwavering cooperation in handling the massive influx of pilgrims.

Railway Minister Commends the Outstanding Dedication of Rail Karmayogis

During his visit, the Railway Minister personally met and extended his appreciation towards every individual of the Railway Workforce who played a role in managing an event of this magnitude. From frontline staff assisting passengers to RPF, GRP and police personnel ensuring security, from engineers maintaining seamless train

operations to safai karmis upholding cleanliness, and from doctors and paramedics providing medical aid to help desk officials and booking staff facilitating travel—each contribution was recognised. He also extended his gratitude to TTEs, drivers, assistant drivers, signal and telecom personnel, TRD and electrical teams, ASMs, control officials, trackmen, and railway administrators, whose coordinated efforts ensured the smooth execution of this massive undertaking. He thanked every employee starting from the first to last row personally. He personally thanked every employee, from the first to the last row, walking through the stations, exchanging words of encouragement, and expressing heartfelt gratitude to those who worked tirelessly around the clock to ensure a seamless Mahakumbh 2025 experience for millions of pilgrims.

Unprecedented Scale of Rail Operations

Indian Railways significantly exceeded its initial operational plan for Mahakumbh 2025. A total of 17,152 trains were run, surpassing the originally planned 13,000 trains, marking a fourfold increase compared to the last Kumbh. This included 7,667 special trains and 9,485 regular trains, ensuring that pilgrims reached their destinations smoothly and efficiently. The total number of pilgrims attending Mahakumbh stood at 66 crore, with 4.24 crore passengers handled at the nine key railway stations of Prayagraj alone.

Enhanced Passenger Facilities in Prayagraj Region

To accommodate the vast number of pilgrims, Indian Railways implemented extensive

infrastructural and operational enhancements across nine key stations in Prayagraj, adding second entry points, 48 platforms, and 21 Foot Over Bridges (FoBs) to streamline movement. Surveillance was strengthened with 1,186 CCTV cameras, including facial recognition technology, and drone monitoring for crowd control. To manage peak-hour congestion, 23 permanent holding areas were established, while multilingual announcements and leaflets in 23 languages improved passenger communication. Ticketing facilities were expanded with 554 counters, including 151 mobile UTS counters and a QR-based system. Additionally, 21 Road Over and Under Bridges (ROBs/RUBs) were constructed to ensure seamless connectivity.

Strengthening Medical and Emergency Preparedness

Indian Railways implemented a robust medical and emergency support system to ensure passenger safety and convenience. Centralised help desks, medical facilities, ambulances, fire brigades, and mobile toilets were deployed in coordination with district authorities, while additional catering services were arranged at stations. To maintain smooth passenger movement, parcel traffic was restricted, and an app-based system was introduced for efficient staff deployment and accommodation. Continuous monitoring of rakes, coaches, and locomotives ensured operational efficiency, while focused efforts enabled the swift completion of the last 34 km of track linking in the Varanasi-Prayagraj section within a month.

A Testament to Indian

Railways' Commitment

The seamless execution of Mahakumbh 2025 operations stands as a testament to Indian Railways' unwavering dedication to public service. Through multi-tier coordination and advanced crowd management, the Railway network successfully transported millions of devotees.

Acknowledging this extraordinary effort, Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw personally expressed his gratitude to the entire rail workforce whose relentless dedication ensured smooth and efficient travel for all. Their commitment and teamwork have once again set a new benchmark in large-scale operational excellence, reinforcing Indian Railways' role as the backbone of the nation's transport system.



(Standard Post Bureau)

Preparations made by Railways during Mahakumbh-2025:

All the goods trains have been diverted in DFC +200 rakes have been provided in the Kumbh area having either train set or engines on both sides (to avoid shunting operations)

5,000 Cr work done in last 3 years for Maha Kumbh area

Banaras - Prayagraj doubling (including Ganga bridge)

Phaphamau - Janghai doubling

17,152 trains Run for Mahakumbh against 13,000 planned trains, 4 times more than the last Kumbh (Special Trains, 7,667 and regular trains 9,485=17,152)

Total No. of pilgrims to kumbh 66 crore (Out of which 4.24 crore passengers handled at 9 Kumbh railway stations of Prayagraj) Passenger facilities in prayagraj area

9 Stations, all with second entry, 48 PF, 21 FoB

1,186 CCTV (10 % cameras with facial recognition), Drones for surveillance

23 permanent holding areas

Announcement in 12 languages at Prayagraj, Naini, Cheoki and Subedarganj and information leaflets in 23 languages

554 ticket counters (151 mobile UTS) & also QR based Ticketing facility

21 ROB/RUBs : Improving mobility of road as well as rail

Color coding : Colour coding of holding areas and tickets for easy identification and direction-wise segregation of passengers.

Red: Lucknow, Ayodhya

Blue: DDU, Sasaram, Patna

Yellow: Manikpur, Jhansi, Satna, Katni, MP area

Green: Kanpur, Agra, Delhi

5 tier Monitoring System:

PF/ holding area ? Station ? Division? Zonal ? Railway Board war room

13,000 extra staff deployed

RPSF women's team 2 battalion, 22 Dog squad, 1000+ Sanitation workers, 1,500+ TTE and booking staff, More than 3,000 running staff (Guard, driver and Ast driver)

Medical help provided to more than 3 lakh pilgrims

Special arrangements done

Adequate holding areas made for passengers at critical stations - 20 acre area

Fixed barricading, Segregated pathways, Signages to guide & control passengers movement

24 x 7 Intensive deployment of Railway manpower: More Staff at Peak Hours

Help from Scout / Guides for crowd guidance.

Coordination with Chief Secretary, DGP, District Collectors & SPs, Magistrates and thanas

Close Coordination & Monitoring with State Govt through Focused WhatsApp Groups and live monitoring of Crowd Inflow/ Movement + Bulk Bus Movement + Vehicular Movement

Additional ticketing arrangements: Additional windows (Portable UTS Counters) in the holding areas

Regular Manual Announcements: from PA system and Megaphone in the entire station area & platforms.

Special Mela Trains: as per the need to clear passengers rush

Extra halts: provided to regular Mail/Express trains for boarding/de-boarding of passengers to handle heavy rush.

5 tier coordination: PF/Station/Division/Zonal/Railway Board war room

Hot lines communication and CCTV Monitoring of crowds at Platforms, FOB, Entry/Exits and holding areas.

Central help desk at enquiry counter and in the holding areas.

Basic medical facilities

Increased Catering provided in circulating areas / stations.

Ambulance, Fire Brigade and Mobile Toilets have been arranged with the help of Civil / District Administration.

Parcel traffic has been restricted to facilitate free passenger movement.

App based deployment of other division's staffs and their resting arrangements

Rake, coach and loco monitoring

Assistance to stakeholders in deploying manpower for track linking of the last 34 km in a month in Varanasi - Prayagraj section.

SC clarifies power of arrest Under GST & Customs laws

New Delhi, Feb 27 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Thursday held that arbitrary arrests and coercion by tax authorities violate constitutional rights, and directed that enforcement actions by the officials should remain within the bounds of the law.

While delivering a landmark judgment clarifying the powers of arrest under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act and the Customs Act, a bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, Justice MM Sundresh, and Justice Bela M Trivedi ruled that officers under these tax laws do not hold the status of police officers, rejecting the argument that they should be treated as such.

The bench held that procedural safeguards under the Code of Criminal Procedure (now Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita) will equally apply to arrests made under these laws.

The top court further held that anticipatory bail provisions apply, allowing individuals to seek relief from the judiciary even before an FIR is registered.

The bench observed that the arrests under GST and Customs laws must be based on "verifiable material," not mere suspicion.

Officers under these laws are not police officers and cannot exercise similar powers. Circulars issued by the GST department on arrests must be strictly followed.

The court directed that the allegations of coercion in tax payments must be taken seriously; those affected can approach the court for redress.

The SC said citizens should not be harassed due to ambiguities in arrest provisions, and emphasised that there can be no private complaints under the GST Act.

The court applied the principle from the Arvind Kejriwal case, where arrests under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) must be backed by "reasons to believe." It ruled that the same principle applies to GST and Customs arrests since the relevant legal provisions are nearly identical.

CJI Khanna, while delivering the verdict, stated, "We have held that Deepal Mahajan's case was different, and we have referred to the Arvind Kejriwal case."

"Section 132 and 104 of the Customs Act, when specifying offences as cognizable and bailable, should instead be treated as non-cognizable and non-bailable."

"We have observed that allegations of coercion in tax payments have some merit and that such practices must not be permitted," he said.

Justice Trivedi, in her concurring judgment, addressed the powers of judicial review under Article 226, reaffirming the court's stance on upholding constitutional safeguards in tax-related arrests.

Modi-BJP's claims of women's safety hollow: Congress

New Delhi, Feb 27 (UNI) The Congress on Thursday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of making "hollow promises" about ensuring women's security, and claimed that cases of harassment against women are increasing under the BJP's rule. Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, Congress spokesperson Ajay Kumar referred to the alleged rape of a young woman inside a government bus in Pune on Tuesday and regretted that the police were unable to catch the culprit.

"The incident has raised serious questions on women's safety as the accused is still out of police custody even two days after the incident," he said. The former Congress MP said that on the one hand, Narendra Modi and the BJP never tire of making hollow claims related to women's safety. On the other hand, the BJP governments have completely failed to stop crime against women.

"Why didn't the police know about the history-sheeter who was out on bail? If the accused was roaming around as a conductor, then what was the administration doing? Women are being treated under the BJP government, but why is the government sitting like lame ducks?" he asked.

Modi-BJP's claims of women's safety hollow: Congress

Health

High blood pressure: Exercise and tips

This is largely due to unawareness regarding early detection and cure. In India, around 16 per cent of people above 20 years of age suffer from high blood pressure. However, a single high reading does not necessarily imply that you have hypertension. Moreover, even if you were informed recently that you have the condition; there is absolutely no reason to panic. All you need are some basic lifestyle tips and a well-planned exercise routine and you will be as fit as a fiddle.

Overview:

High blood pressure or hypertension is a medical condition when the difference between the maximum (systolic) and minimum (diastolic) pressures exerted by the circulating blood on your blood vessels increases the desirable value (above 90-119 systolic and 60-79 diastolic).

Prime risk factors:

Some of the major factors that increase your risk of developing the condition are:

Age Increased levels of blood pressure are closely associated with age and the effects of an unhealthy lifestyle

gradually build up.

Ethnicity Generally, it is observed that people belonging to the African-Caribbean and South-Asian communities have increased probability of developing hypertension.

Family history Having a family history of high blood pressure places you at a greater risk of developing the condition.

Lifestyle issues It is a well-known fact that your lifestyle can affect your risk of developing it. Major lifestyle flaws include high intake of alcohol, excessive smoking, too much salt and not eating sufficient fruits and vegetables.

Tips to prevent and

control:

One of the primary steps to ensure that you do not develop the condition is by adopting a healthy lifestyle. By healthy lifestyle, we refer to the complete cycle of following a healthy eating plan, and moderate indulgences. Broadly, the prevention and control tips can be segregated into:

- Maintaining a healthy weight - Practice moderation if you drink alcohol - Quitting smoking - Regulating the excessive intake of salt and sodium - Frequent regulation of your health by visiting health care professionals at periodic intervals.

Exercise tips for managing blood pressure:

Becoming active and incorporating regular physical activity in your day-to-day living helps make your heart stronger. This, in turn, can lead your heart to pump more blood with less effort, thereby lowering the force on your arteries and the subsequent reduction of blood pressures.

Aerobic training can have a major influence on your blood pressure levels. This can include anything from walking, running and hiking to biking and even swimming. On an average, target at least 30 minutes of aerobic activity for most days of the week. In case, you are unable to manage

Commonly referred to as a 'silent killer', high blood pressure or hypertension is a leading cause of death globally.

this time set, you can also opt for shorter bursts of activity as they count too.

Weight training Although these exercises can lead to sudden spikes in your blood pressure levels, they can have long term benefits. Make sure that you consult a physician before embarking on any weight training programs.

Yoga and meditation In order to prevent this condition, yoga postures and meditation techniques should also be incorporated in your daily routine. The prime effect of these fitness programs is that they help combat stress and saturate the mind with tranquility.

Deep-breathing exercises According to a recent research published in the American Journal of Hypertension, a person can regulate his blood pressure level by 'harnessing' the body's own natural pressure regulator. Breathing techniques are easy and effective ways to curb elevated levels of blood pressure. Regular and right breathing techniques can help you maintain normal blood pressure.

However, for long term effects, always remember that you will have to follow these exercise and lifestyle tips on a regular basis. The benefits last as long as you continue with the planned fitness regime.

'Fitness at workplace' is the latest mantra in the corporate world.

Companies have realised that regular exercise boosts employee morale, enhances productivity,

reduce

s absenteeism and signs of burnout or depression.

Nowadays, the corporate employees not only stretch themselves beyond their responsibilities, but also stretch their muscles in the office gym.

A little bit of planning and a few small additions in one's office routine can help one a healthier lifestyle. According to a World Health Organisation report, India could incur losses to the tune of \$237 billion by 2015 due to rise in lifestyle diseases like heart disease, diabetes, stroke and cancer, because of unhealthy workplaces.

Here are some easy everyday things you can do to get healthy and fit while at your workplace:

Stay hydrated:

Water helps your body with physical and mental performance, detoxification and

Fun ways to keep

fit

in your office

avoid monotony.

Make reasons to walk around:

Give yourself several reasons to take a break and move around after every 40 minutes. Simply getting up and moving around for a few moments can keep you focused, less fatigued and feeling better. For example, avoid ordering a cup of coffee/tea at your desk, go and get it yourself or while speaking with someone on cell phone walk around till you end the call. Get down from your car if driven by a chauffeur a few blocks before your office and walk the remaining distance provided you leave home 10 to 15 minutes before your usual time.

Hit the office gym in lunch hours:

Try to exercise for 30 minutes during the lunch time and grab a bite at your desk afterwards. Encourage having an area of a simple gym in your office. It could be jogger or a stationary bicycle or a treadmill.

Simple stretching:

People often face stress, back and joint pains and weight gain problems at work. To get rid of such health problems, while sitting in your chair, flex your feet and circle your ankles, stretch your legs and arms as frequent as you can.

Take the stairs:

Whenever possible, get moving and take the stairs rather than the elevator. Taking stairs will keep you fit and energetic.

Pack healthy snacks:

Rather than buying chips, junk food and sodas during office hours, bring some granola, fruit or raw veggies to snack on. This healthy diet will keep your energy levels fit and steady.

Conduct meetings on the go:

When it's practical, schedule walking meetings or brainstorming sessions. Do laps inside your building or take your walking meetings outdoors.

Participate in different office games:

Office games such as table tennis, basket ball are an interesting way to keep healthy and fit. These games not only keep your energy levels high but also keep your body in good shape.

digestion. Keep a water bottle at your desk and you'll find it much easier to drink the recommend eight glasses of water each day. It will ease stress and result in sustained energy throughout the day. You can also supplement it with fresh lemonade and coconut water, etc, to

Use neem oil, garlic for mosquito free home

As the national capital battles one of its worst dengue seasons, experts suggest natural methods like neem and coconut oil concoction or garlic to keep the mosquito-borne tropical disease at bay.

Neem oil acts as a great indoor mosquito-repellent owing to its smell that wards off mosquitoes. One can make an effective insecticide by mixing neem oil and coconut oil in equal proportion and rub it on the exposed parts of a body.

- Another natural method to keep mosquitoes at bay is to plant Tulsi near the window panes. The plant has properties that do not allow mosquitoes to breed.

- A mixture of lemon oil and eucalyptus oil is extremely effective in warding off mosquitoes naturally. Both have the active component cineole in it carrying antiseptic and insect repellent properties, which makes them effective when applied to the skin.

- Camphor is an easily available ingredient that kills mosquitoes in a house. Made from the extract of a tree, this compound has been found to have the longest mosquito repellent effect as compared to other natural products. Burning camphor in a closed room can be extremely effective in keeping mosquitoes at bay.

- Garlic might smell bad, but that is exactly why mosquitoes stay away. All you need to do is crush a few pods of garlic, boil them in water and spray the liquid in the room.



'Problem of delaying release of Palestinian prisoners resolved'

Gaza, Feb 27 (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 in a statement.

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 27 (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. 27 (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 Disسانayake 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. 27 (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. 27 (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. 27 (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. 27 (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 Gaziosmanpaşa 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 27 (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 27 (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. 27 (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 27 (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. 27 (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. 27 (UNI) At least 36 people have died and 40 others were injured in rain-related incidents throughout Afghanistan, Mullah Janan Saeq, 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 27 (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".

Delhi Capitals appoint England legend Kevin Pietersen as team mentor

New Delhi, Feb 27 (UNI) : Delhi Capitals on Thursday announced the appointment of England legend Kevin Pietersen as their team mentor ahead of the upcoming IPL season.

The 44-year-old will link up and work alongside a formidable Delhi Capitals support staff which includes Director of Cricket Venugopal Rao, Head Coach Hemang Badani, Assistant Coach Matthew Mott and Bowling Coach Munaf Patel.

Pietersen played for the Capitals, then known as Delhi Daredevils, from 2012 to 2014, scoring 599 runs in 19 appearances.

Welcoming the former England captain onboard, Kiran Kumar Grandhi, Chairman & Co-owner,

Delhi Capitals, said, "We are delighted to welcome KP as our team mentor. He has been a Delhi boy, having played for us in the IPL earlier, and it's great to have him back in a different role. We are confident that his vast experience, his tactical understanding of the game, and his passion for the franchise will be invaluable to our team and our players."

Parth Jindal, Co-owner of Delhi Capitals, said, "KP was arguably one of the best modern-day batters, and having him in our team is a valuable addition. We look forward to seeing him apply his knowledge and help our players drive towards our objectives. My best wishes to him in this new role."

Marking his return to the franchise after more than a decade, Pietersen commented in great spirits, "I've got incredible memories of representing the Delhi franchise in the IPL, and I've been able to maintain that passion for

the team even as a broadcaster over the years. I shared the field with

Venu (Venugopal Rao) during the 2012 season, and it's great to be reconnecting with him as we begin a new chapter at this amazing franchise."

"I've got a great relationship with the owners and the Delhi Capitals fans, so when this idea came about, it was a very quick YES from me. It's an exciting opportunity to step into this new role as a mentor for the Capitals, and I'm really looking forward to joining the squad, working closely with the boys, and doing everything I can to help us win that ultimate prize," he added.

A veteran of 200 T20s with 5,695 runs, Pietersen appeared in 36 IPL matches scoring 1001 runs across his stints with the Delhi Daredevils, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Sunrisers Hyderabad, and the Pune franchise.

The South African-born player, who captained England between 2008-2009, won the Player of the Series award for his remarkable performance in the 2010 ICC T20 World Cup, which helped

England secure their maiden ICC trophy.

In his illustrious international career, Pietersen played 104 Tests, scoring 8,181 runs, and 136 ODIs, amassing 4,440 runs.

Earlier this week, Delhi Capitals also announced the appointment of renowned and highly successful coach Matthew Mott as their assistant coach. Mott coached the England men's team to victory in the 2022 ICC T20 World Cup and previously spent seven record-breaking years with Australia's women's team.

Fanatics to double its workforce to 500 within next two years

Hyderabad, Feb 27 (UNI) Fanatics, a leading global digital sports platform with 22,000 employees across more than 80 locations, on Thursday announced the strengthening of its leadership, increasing technical hiring, and expanding its footprint within India.

As part of its global expansion and commitment to enhancing the fan experience, the company will double its technical workforce in Hyderabad from 250 to over 500 employees within the next two years, said Fanatics Interim Chief Technology Officer Matthias Spycher in a press conference here.

In 2018, the company opened its first technology innovation center in Hyderabad as part of its commitment to growing its technology, data, and analytics capabilities, he said. In addition to the hiring growth, the company will move into a new large office space in Hi-Tech City by 2028 which will be three times the size of its current office space in the city, he informed.

The company is committed to enhancing the fan experience and maximizing the presence and reach of its hundreds of sports partners globally by offering products and services across Fanatics Commerce, Fanatics Collectibles, and Fanatics Betting and Gaming allowing sports fans to Buy, Bet, and Collect, he added. The recently appointed Vice President and General Manager Abhishek Dhasmana, said "This expansion reinforces Fanatics' commitment to Hyderabad as a strategic hub for technological advancement and growth".

Strikers camp with McCann behind scintillating field goals of India at Hockey Pro League

New Delhi, Feb 27 (UNI) : The Indian Men's Hockey Team's recent performance at the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25 (Men) where they won five out of eight matches was backed by a week-long coaching camp for strikers held in Bhubaneswar.

The Indian team is now placed third in the points table only behind England and Belgium while Netherlands, Germany and Australia are placed No.4 to No.6 respectively with the finale scheduled in June.

To foster the Indian team's performance in a crucial year with the FIH Men's World Cup qualification at stake, Hockey India invited legendary former Australian forward and striker's coach Michael McCann for a camp in Bhubaneswar between February 6 to 12.

McCann was part of Australia's dream team that won the Athens Olympic Gold in 2004 and Gold in FIH Champions Trophy 2005 in Chennai.

He is also a two-time Silver medalist in FIH Men's World Cup and a back-to-back Commonwealth Games

Teenage qualifier Tien stuns top seed Zverev in Mexican Open

Vallarta (Mexico), Feb 27 (UNI) : World number two Alexander Zverev suffered a shock early exit from the Mexican Open with a straight-set defeat against teenage qualifier Learner Tien.

Australian Open finalist Zverev, the top seed in Acapulco, put in an uncharacteristically error-strewn performance as American Tien won 6-3 6-4.

Tien, 19, beat Briton Cameron Norrie in the previous round and will face Czech Tomas Machac in the quarter-finals, the BBC reported.

"I just went out there and tried to control my side of the court," said Tien.

"Obviously I knew it was going to be a tough match. To come through feels great... I think just focusing on what I can control and keeping my cool as best as I can has really taken me a long way," he said. Tien is the youngest American man to record a victory against a top-three opponent since Andy Roddick in 2001.

He has enjoyed a memorable few months, reaching the final at the Next Gen ATP Finals in December before making it through to the fourth round at the Australian Open in January.

Zverev is one of six seeds to exit the competition in the second round. Casper Ruud, Tommy Paul and Holger Rune all pulled out because of a stomach bug, while Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe were beaten by David Goffin and Alejandro Davidovich Fokina respectively. Ruud finished runner-up at the ATP 500 event in 2024 but the second seed did not make it to the court for his encounter against local favourite Rodrigo Pacheco Mendez.



gold medalist in 2002 and 2006.

Over the past eight years, McCann has been closely working with the German U21 side and the Senior squad.

Underlining the importance of working with experts like McCann particularly in the training blocks leading up to Men's Asia Cup this year and World Cup and Asia Cup next year, India Chief Coach Craig Fulton said, "It was great to have Michael here ahead of our Pro League campaign. This would particularly help the youngsters in the squad and though it was a short

camp, it was very effective. We worked a lot of basics and also had one-hour off-the-field sessions so players could also interact with him. We look forward to having more such sessions leading up to the World Cup and Asian Games next year."

Elaborating on the camp, experienced India striker Mandeep Singh, who scored a magical goal against Ireland that helped the team bounce back from 0-1 to 3-1 win, said, "It was a very good camp and Michael was not only extremely informative on the field but his off-the-field meetings were also

extremely knowledgeable where he showed us a lot of short clips on specific areas."

"I particularly enjoyed the basics inside the D, shot on target two-feet from the goal. He also taught us new things specific to strikers' lead and re-lead within the circle and how to deflect from the nine yards mark near the D with two-touch to the goal were some of the interesting aspects he made us work on," he said.

"Small things like, angle of the body while receiving the ball, fake-passing to beat the defenders in the D was fun to learn. If you see our performance in the Pro

League, we scored a lot of field goals. This was a very good learning point for us, and we were able to implement what we learnt in the camp in the matches," he added.

Uttam Singh, also emphasized his learnings from the camp and thanked Hockey India for the exposure.

"The things I particularly enjoyed working on was on my finishing. Michael touched upon how to finish, when we can't get a full attempt on goal. Receiving the ball and what position we must be in while receiving in the second post and which side we must hold the stick and how important it is to look at the goalkeeper's position when we take strike were all some of the finer details which I think will help me in the long run.

It was a very good experience especially for youngsters like me," expressed Uttam, former India Colts Captain.

The Indian Men's Hockey Team is currently on a break and will regroup mid-March following the Hockey India Annual Awards to be held in New Delhi.

Kerala 131/3, trail by 248 at stumps on Day 2

Nagpur, Feb 27 (UNI) : Kerala staged a spirited fightback in the morning session, claiming five wickets, before Vidarbha's lower order resilience saw them post a competitive 379 in the Ranji Trophy final here on Thursday.

In response, Kerala ended Day 2 at 131/3, trailing by 248 runs.

Danish Malewar was the standout performer for

Vidarbha, scoring a crucial 153, guiding his side close to the 400-run mark. Vidarbha, resuming from their overnight score, added 119 runs before losing their last six wickets. Kerala bowlers tightened their grip as Eden Apple and Nideesh claimed three wickets each, while Nedumankuzhy Basil claimed two.

Kerala's reply began on

a shaky note as they lost both openers early, courtesy of Darshan Nalkande's fiery spell. Ahammed Imran and Aditya Sarwate then steadied the innings, ensuring no further damage in the evening session. Imran fell to Yash Thakur's short-pitched delivery after a well-compiled 37 while Sarwate remained unbeaten on 66, holding Kerala's hopes for

a strong reply on Day 3. The pitch has played well so far with no significant assistance for bowlers, allowing both teams to put up a strong contest.

Kerala will aim to capitalise on the platform built, while Vidarbha bowlers, especially Nalkande and Thakur, will be keen to make early inroads on the third morning.

Ex-England coach Jones returns to South Africa staff

London, Feb 27 (UNI) Former England defence coach, Felix Jones will become an assistant coach with South Africa from next week. Jones stepped down from his position with England in December after becoming disillusioned in Steve Borthwick's set-up, the BBC reported. The 37-year-old was part of the Springboks' coaching staff during their 2019 and 2023 World Cup victories, working under head coach Rassie Erasmus in the first of those triumphs. "We are delighted to welcome Felix back and we are excited to see him pick up where he

left off in 2023," said Erasmus, who returned as head coach when Jacques Nienaber left for Leinster following the 2023 World Cup win. "He was a vital cog in the coaching team from 2019 to 2023 and his experience, professionalism, and excellent work ethic will make him a great addition.

"After spending some time in England, his experience of studying opposition teams in the Six Nations and other international tournaments will add immense value in assisting us as we cast an eye on a tough international

season ahead. "Former Ireland wing, Jones is one of three new appointments to Erasmus' backroom staff along with physiotherapist Lance Lemmetjies and team dietician Robyn Moore.

"As a team we are well aware that we need to keep improving and growing if we want to remain one of the best teams in the world and to give ourselves the best possible chance to defend our World Cup title in Australia in 2027," Erasmus added.

"Felix, like all the other coaching and support staff, will play a key role in guiding us to do so."

Arsenal drop more points in title race with draw at Nottingham Forest

Nottingham, Feb 27 (UNI) : Arsenal's slim title hopes faded further after a frustrating stalemate at Nottingham Forest.

The goalless draw at the City Ground left the Gunners 13 points behind leaders Liverpool, who now look like making the run-in a title procession.

If that is the case, the last few days will be viewed as pivotal to Arsenal's season following their home defeat to West Ham and dropped points against third-placed Forest, the BBC report.

Before this game, with the Gunners 11 points behind Liverpool and having a game in hand, boss Mikel Arteta vowed to

fight fighting, but it is surely now a futile chase after Wednesday's results.

They needed to win at Forest but lacked a cutting edge, despite dominating possession, with their attacking options blunted by injury. Without the injured Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Jesus, Gabriel Martinelli and Kai Havertz, Leandro Trossard and Mikel Merino were neat and tidy up front but offered no focal point.

The closest Arsenal came was when full-back Riccardo Calafiori's effort bounced off the post and into Matz Sels' arms midway through the first half, before the goalkeeper saved Merino's header soon after the break.

Banthia-Somani storm into semifinals of Bengaluru Open doubles event

Bengaluru, Feb 27 (UNI) : The unseeded Indian duo of Siddhant Banthia and Parikshit Somani stormed into the semifinals of the DafaNews Bengaluru Open doubles event with a dominant 7-5, 6-0 victory over Nicolas Mejia and Bernard Tomic on Thursday. The home pair will now face Australia's Blake Bayldon and Matthew Christopher Romios for a place in the final. Organised by the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA), the Bengaluru Open is an ATP Challenger 125 tournament featuring a prize pool of USD 200,000. It holds the distinction of being India's most prestigious international tennis event, with the singles champion earning 125 ATP ranking points.

On Court 1 of the KSLTA Tennis Stadium, Banthia and Somani endured an evenly contested first set against Mejia and Tomic, saving a crucial break point in the seventh game. They capitalised on their momentum, winning their service games in the ninth and eleventh games

before breaking their opponents in the twelfth to take the set. The second set, however, saw a commanding performance from the Indian pair, who bageled their rivals in just 20 minutes to seal the win.

Earlier, defending champions Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni advanced to the semifinals with a clinical 6-3, 6-3 victory over Hynek Barton and Eric Vanshelboim. The Indian duo secured an early break in the first set and then dominated the second with crucial breaks in the fifth and ninth games.

They will next take on the winners of the quarterfinal between Anirudh Chandrasekar/Ray Ho and SD Prajwal Dev/Aryan Shah.

Joining the two Indian pairs in the semifinals, second seeds Bayldon and Romios secured a 6-2, 6-4 win over India's Adil Kalyanpur and Karan Singh. The Australians set the tone with an early break in the first game and overcame a spirited fightback in the second set, saving two crucial break points in the eighth game to clinch victory.

DafaNews Bengaluru Open partners with DD Sports

Bengaluru, Feb 27 (UNI) : The DafaNews Bengaluru Open, India's largest international tennis event, has collaborated with Doordarshan Sports to telecast key moments of the tournament, ensuring wider accessibility for Indian audiences. The ongoing tournament offers a total prize purse of \$200,000 and 125 ATP ranking points for the champions in both singles and doubles categories.

DD Sports will provide live coverage of the event on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, broadcasting the crucial knockout stages, including the semifinals and finals, to tennis enthusiasts across the country. Notably, this is the only ATP Challenger event in India that features ATP-produced television coverage.

The Tennis Channel will also stream the tournament live via Samsung TV in India, while its international coverage extends to the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and the Netherlands. Sunil Yajaman, Tournament Director & Secretary, KSLTA, expressed his enthusiasm over the expanded coverage, stating, "We are thrilled to extend the Bengaluru Open's reach through a strong national broadcast network, making it accessible to fans across India and worldwide. DD Sports' coverage ensures Indian viewers can follow the tournament's most crucial moments, while ATP's global distribution platforms allow international audiences to witness the rising talent and thrilling competition at this year's Challenger 125 event." Additionally, the ATP website and app will provide online streaming of the tournament. Internationally, the event will be available across multiple platforms, including DAZN in Italy and New Zealand, Arena Sport in Slovakia and Czechia, and BB Sport in Russia, further enhancing its global footprint.

Printed, Published and Owned by
Mohammed Shafi

Printed at KR Graphics,
2-3-703/8, Tirumala Nagar Colony, Amberpet,
Hyderabad - 500 013 and
Published from # 2-3-645/8/1,
Back Side of CPL Church, Prem Nagar,
Amberpet, Hyderabad-500 013

Editor: Mohammed Shafi
R.N.I.No. : TELENG/2011/39668

Cell : 9849881368, Tel : 040 - 23232705
Email : standardposthyd@gmail.com

WR played a significant role in carrying Maha Kumbh Pilgrims

Around 1.70 lakh pilgrims travelled through Kumbh Special trains from various stations across WR

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Feb 27 : During the Maha Kumbh, a huge multitude of pilgrims had gathered at Prayagraj. Many departments and agencies played their respective roles, but the role of Railways is undoubtedly leading in it. Indian Railways helped pilgrims & devotees from all over the country to reach the holy land of Prayagraj, and also created a unique record in terms of rail operations. Approximately, almost 15 crore pilgrims took advantage of train travel during this one and a half month event.

In other words, about one-fourth of the pilgrims of Maha Kumbh went by rail transport to reach Prayagraj or nearby major cities.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, the Special Trains run by Western Railway played a crucial role in facilitating the movement of the devotees. Western Railway operated 125 trips of Special trains from various stations of WR viz. Mumbai Central, Vapi,

Valsad, Udhna, Vadodara, Vishwamitri, Ahmedabad, Sabarmati, Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Indore, etc to cater to this huge rush of pilgrims proceeding to attend the Maha Kumbh. 26 trips of Kumbh Special trains were run from Mumbai Central Division, 24 trips from Ahmedabad Division, while 8 trips are from Bhavnagar Division, 4 trips from Rajkot Division, 2 trips from Vadodara Division & 6 trips are from Ratlam Division. These Special Trains were run to Prayagraj, as well as other nearby railway stations and it is estimated that around 1.70 lakh pilgrims travelled by these Kumbh Special trains.

Mr Vineet informed that the Indian Railways played a leading role in making the Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj, divine and grand.

All efforts were taken in making the journey of the pilgrims & devotees gathering at Maha Kumbh, a pleasant and spiritual experience. Railways had started giving concrete shape to their action plan much before the commencement of Maha Kumbh. To meet the

increased travel demand, plans were made to run trains according to the estimated number of pilgrims from different parts of the country, especially on specific occasions. In view of the huge demand, the railways adopted special measures for this and additional extra trains were run. Senior Railway officials were monitoring the ongoing situation round the clock from the war room, where CCTV camera footages from all the railway stations were being received. Accordingly, the plans were drawn & preparations were reviewed to manage the situation. Also, special arrangements were made to remove the pressure on any one route, at any particular train or station. Special trains were run one after the other according to the number and demand of pilgrims.

Indian Railways provided the best of services to the pilgrims attending the Maha Kumbh 2025. The Railway administration worked tirelessly to ensure that the devotees have a safe and comfortable journey to and from the Maha Kumbh.

Surprise inspection of Vizianagaram Railway Station by DRM, ECoR



(Standard Post Bureau) Visakhapatnam, Feb 27 : Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair Division Shri Lalit Bohra did surprise inspection of Vizianagaram station on 26.02.2025 night. Accompanied by ADRM (operations) Shri Manoj

Kumar Sahoo & senior officials, Divisional Railway Manager checked for cleanliness, crowd management, passenger amenities and safety related issues.

DRM Mr Lalit Bohra inspected the Platform No.1

Booking Office area, Foot over bridge, Catering stalls etc and reviewed the Amrit Bharat Station works at the station.

He checked the various facilities at the station during his maiden visit to the station.

Central Railway contributes significantly to the success of Maha Kumbh 3.85 lakh devotees travelled

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Feb 27 : Central Railway has played a pivotal role in the grand success of MahaKumbh-2025. With a well-planned and extensive train service network, over 3.85 lakh devotees have been able to travel comfortably to take a holy dip at Prayagraj during MahaKumbh-2025, one of the largest religious gathering of world. "The Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj saw a massive influx of pilgrims from all over the country, and Indian Railways played a pivotal role in facilitating their journey. A major part of the rail operation during this spiritual gathering was carried out by Central Railway, which ensured that the devotees reached the holy land of Prayagraj

and nearby cities with ease and comfort. With a record 17,000 plus train trips, Indian Railways has played an important role in transporting devotees from various destinations to Prayagraj and nearby areas and back.

Central Railway operated a total of 823 train services from Mumbai alone, which includes 708 train services from Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) and 115 train services from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) to facilitate the journey of Kumbh Mela devotees.

Apart from Mumbai, Pune has also contributed significantly by operating 102 train services including 6 special trains, while Nagpur witnessed 225 train services including 6 special

trains. These trains were meticulously planned and operated to ensure smooth and timely travel for the devotees, attending the Maha Kumbh.

Central Railway facilitated devotees with more than 6793 train stoppages at various stations for Maha Kumbh-2025

"Several trains passing through major stations of Central Railway have seen a remarkable influx of devotees:

- * 383 trains having stoppages at Thane
- * 687 trains having stoppages at Kalyan
- * 723 trains having stoppages at Bhusawal
- * 601 trains having stoppages at Nashik
- * 537 trains having stoppages at Manmad

WR to provide Additional stoppage to Bandra Terminus Palitana special train at Palghar station

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Feb 27 : For the convenience of passengers, Western Railway will provide additional stoppage at Palghar station to Train No. 09093/09094 Bandra Terminus-Palitana Special Train for Phalgun Pheri.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, the details are as under:-

Train No. 09093 Bandra Terminus-Palitana Special has been provided with additional halt at Palghar station w.e.f journey commencing Ex Bandra Terminus on 10th March, 2025. The train will arrive Palghar station at 18:50 hrs and depart at 18:52 hrs.

Similarly, Train No. 09094 Palitana - Bandra Terminus Special has been provided with additional halt at Palghar station w.e.f journey commencing Ex Palitana on 13th March, 2025. The train will arrive Palghar station at 05:28 hrs and depart at 05:30 hrs.

For detailed information, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Haryana CM meets Modi, briefs development and future projects

New Delhi, Feb 27 (UNI) : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and briefed him about Haryana's infrastructure development and future projects.

Saini also discussed with the Prime Minister about the upcoming civic election in the state.

According to sources, during the around half an hour meeting, the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister reviewed the development programmes in Haryana.

Central Railway to Run Additional 48 Holi Special Trains

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Feb 27 : Central Railway will run additional 48 Holi special train services on key routes. These special trains are aimed at ensuring a smooth and comfortable journey for passengers traveling. These special trains will run between:

Mumbai - Mau / / Danapur / Banaras / Samastipur / Kanniyakumari / Thiruvananthapuram
Pune - Ghazipur / Danapur / Hazrat Nizamuddin

1) LTT-Danapur-LTT Bi-Weekly Special (6 trips)

01009 Bi-weekly Special will leave LTT Mumbai at 12.15 hrs on 10.03.2025, 15.03.2025 & 17.03.2025 and will arrive Danapur at 17.00 hrs next day. (3 trips)

01010 Bi-weekly Special will leave Danapur at 18.15 hrs every on 11.03.2025, 16.03.2025 & 18.03.2025 and will arrive LTT Mumbai at 04.40 hrs on third day. (3 trips)

Halts: Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Pipariya, "Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar and Ara.

Composition: 06 Sleeper Class, 9 AC-III Tier, One AC-2 Tier, One AC-2 Tier cum AC-III Tier, 3 General Second Class and 2 Second Class-cum-Luggage-cum Guard's Coach (22 Coaches).

2) LTT-Mau-LTT Bi-Weekly Special* (8 trips)

01123 Bi-Weekly special will leave Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 12.15 hrs on 07.03.2025, 09.03.2025, 14.03.2025, 16.03.2025 (4 trips) and will arrive Mau at 20.20 hrs next day.

01124 Bi-Weekly special will leave Mau at 05.50 hrs on 09.03.2025, 11.03.2025, 16.03.2025, 18.03.2025 (4 trips) and will arrive Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 16.45 hrs Next day.

Halts: Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Pipariya,

"Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Varanasi Jn, Jaunpur Jn and Aunrihar.

Composition: 06 Sleeper Class, 9 AC-III Tier, One AC-2 Tier, One AC-2 Tier cum AC-III Tier, 3 General Second Class including 1

Generator Car and 2 Second Class-cum-Luggage-cum Guard's Coach (22 Coaches).

3) LTT-Banaras-LTT Bi-Weekly Special (4 trips)

01053 Bi-Weekly special will leave Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 12.15 hrs on 12.03.2025 and 13.03.2025 (2 trips) and arrive Banaras at 16.05 hrs next day.

01054 Bi-Weekly special will leave Banaras at 20.30 hrs on 13.03.2025 & 14.03.2025 (2 trips) and arrive Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 04.40 hrs third day.

Halts: Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Pipariya, "Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki and Varanasi Jn.
Composition: 06 Sleeper Class, 9 AC-III Tier, One AC-2 Tier, One AC-2 Tier cum AC-III Tier, 3 General Second Class and 2 Second Class-cum-Luggage-cum Guard's Coach (22 Coaches).

4) Pune - Danapur-Pune Bi-Weekly Special (6 trips)

01481 Pune - Danapur Bi-Weekly Special will leave Pune at 19:55 hrs on 10.03.2025, 14.03.2025, and 17.03.2025 and arrive at Danapur at 05:00 hrs on the third day (3 trips).

01482 Danapur - Pune Bi-Weekly Special will leave Danapur at 06:45 hrs on 12.03.2025, 16.03.2025 and 19.03.2025 and arrive at Pune at 17:35 hrs next day. (3 trips).

Halts: Daund Chord Cabin, Ahmednagar, Kopergaon, Manmad, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Itarsi, Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Deendayal Upadhyay Junction, Buxar and Ara.

Composition: 01 AC 2-Tier, 07 AC 3-Tier, 08 Sleeper Class, 04 General Second Class, 02 Luggage cum Guard's Brake Vans (22 Coaches)

5) Pune - Ghazipur City - Pune Bi-Weekly Special (8 trips)

01431 Pune - Ghazipur City Bi-Weekly Special will leave Pune at 06:40 hrs on 07.03.2025, 11.03.2025, 14.03.2025, and 18.03.2025 and arrive at Ghazipur City at 19:05 hrs on next day (4 trips).

01432 Ghazipur City - Pune Bi-Weekly Special will leave Ghazipur City at 04:20

hrs on 09.03.2025, 13.03.2025, 16.03.2025, and 20.03.2025 and arrive at Pune at 16:20 hrs next day (4 trips).

Halts: Daund Chord Cabin, Ahmednagar, Manmad, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Varanasi, Jaunpur and Aunrihar Junction.

Composition: 01 AC 2-Tier, 07 AC 3-Tier, 08 Sleeper Class, 04 General Second Class, 02 Luggage cum Guard's Brake Vans (22 Coaches)

6) LTT-Samastipur - LTT Weekly Special (4 trips)

01043 Weekly special will leave Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 12.15 hrs on Tuesdays 11.03.2025 & 18.03.2025 (2 trips) and will arrive Samastipur at 21.15 hrs next day.

01044 Weekly special will leave Samastipur at 23.20 hrs on Wednesdays 12.03.2025 & 19.03.2025 (2 trips) and will arrive Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 11.00 hrs next day.

Halts: Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Pipariya, "Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra Jn., Hajipur and Muzaffarpur.

Composition: One AC First Class, Three AC-2 Tier, 15 AC-3 Tier, 1 Pantry Car, 2 Luggage Cum brake van. (22 Coaches).

7) Pune - Hazrat Nizamuddin - Pune Weekly Superfast Special (4 Trips)

01491 Weekly superfast special will leave Pune at 17.30 hrs on Fridays 07.03.2025 and 14.03.2025 and arrive Hazrat Nizamuddin at 18.10 hrs next day. (2 trips)

01492 Weekly superfast special will leave Hazrat Nizamuddin at 22.10 hrs on Saturdays 08.03.2025 and 15.03.2025 and arrive Pune at 23.55 hrs next day. (2 trips)

Halts: Lonavala, Kalyan, Bhiwandi Road, Vasai Road, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Udhna Junction, Vadodara, Ratlam, Bhawani Mandi, Sawai Madhopur, and Mathura Junction.

Composition: 01 AC 2-Tier, 04 AC 3-Tier, 11 Sleeper Class, 04 General Second Class, 02 Luggage cum Guard's Brake Vans (22

Coaches).

8) CSMT - KanniyaKumari - CSMT Bi-Weekly Superfast Special (4 Trips)

01005 Bi-Weekly superfast special will leave CSMT at 00.20 hrs on Mondays 10.03.2025 and 17.03.2025 and arrive KanniyaKumari at 12.15 hrs next day. (2 trips)

01006 Bi-Weekly superfast special will leave KanniyaKumari at 14.15 hrs on Tuesdays 11.03.2025 and 18.03.2025 and arrive CSMT at 04.15 hrs third day. (2 trips)

Halts: Dadar, Thane, Kalyan, Lonavala, Pune, Daund, Solapur, Kalaburagi, Wadi, Krishna, Raichur, Mantralayam Road, Adoni, Guntakal Gooty, Tadipatri, Yerraguntla, Cuddapah, Razampet, Renigunta, Tiruttani, Katpadi, Vellore Cantonment, Tiruvannamalai,

Thirukkivilur, Villupuran, Vriddhachalam Jn., Ariyalur, Tiruchirappalli Jn., Dindigul Jn., Kudal nagar, Madurai Jn., Virudhunagar Jn., Satur, Kovilpatti, Tirunelveli Jn, Valliyur and Nagarcovil Jn.

Composition: Two AC-2 Tier, 09 AC-3 Tier, 05 Sleeper Class, 02 General Second Class, 2 Luggage Cum brake van. (20 Coaches)

9) LTT-Thiruvananthapuram North-LTT Weekly Special - 4 trips

01063 Special will leave Lokmanya Tilak Terminus every Thursday at 16.00 hrs on 06.03.2025 and 13.03.2025 and will arrive Thiruvananthapuram North at 22.45 hrs next day. (2 trips)

01064 Special will leave Thiruvananthapuram North every Saturday at 16.20 hrs on 08.03.2025 and 15.03.2025 and will arrive Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 00.45 hrs on third day. (2 trips)

Halts: Thane, Panvel, Pen, Roha, Khed, Chiplun, Sangameshwar Road, Ratnagiri, Kankavali, Sindhudurg, Kudal, Sawantwadi Road, Thivim, Karmali, Madgaon Jn, Karwar, Gokarna Road, Kumta, Murdeshwar, Bhatkal, Mookanbika Road, Byndoor, Kundapur, Udupi, Suratkal, Thokur, Mangaluru Jn, Kasaragod, Kannur, Calicut, Tirur, Shoranur, Thrissur, Ernakulam Town, Kottayam, Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Mavelikara, Kayankulam and Kollam.

SC disposes challenge to Rakesh Asthana's appointment, leaves legal question open

New Delhi, Feb 27 (UNI) : The Supreme Court recently disposed of a challenge to the appointment of former Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana.

However, it left open the legal question of whether the 2006 judgment in Prakash Singh versus Union of India applies to the appointment of Delhi Police Commissioners.

A bench, comprising Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh, stated, "The only legal issue that survives for consideration is whether the principles enumerated by this court in Prakash Singh (I), Prakash Singh (II), and Prakash Singh (III) shall be applicable in the matter of appointment of Commissioner of Police, Delhi. While the case of the petitioner is that those principles will apply 'mutatis mutandis' to the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, the Union of India contends that the Prakash Singh decision does not apply to the deployment, posting, or appointment of officers belonging to the AGMUT cadre."

Given that Asthana retired during the pendency of proceedings, the Court ruled, "Keeping in view the subsequent events mentioned above, the special leave petition is disposed of as having become infructuous. However, the question of law is kept open to be gone into

in an appropriate case." Asthana, a 1984-batch Gujarat cadre IPS officer, was appointed Delhi Police Commissioner in July 2021 on inter-cadre deputation. Four days before his retirement, the Ministry of Home Affairs extended his service for one year beyond his superannuation date of July 31, 2021. Several litigants challenged his appointment in the Delhi High Court, arguing that the post of Delhi Police Commissioner was akin to a State DGP position and, therefore, the Prakash Singh guidelines should have been followed by the central government.

The Prakash Singh judgment laid down the following key guidelines for the appointment of State DGPs:

That the DGP should be selected from the three senior-most officers empanelled by UPSC, based on service record and experience. The DGP must have a minimum tenure of two years, irrespective of superannuation and the candidates should have a residual tenure of at least six months before retirement.

Petitioners contended that Asthana's appointment violated these guidelines as he was not empanelled by UPSC and had less than six months of residual tenure, retiring just four days after his appointment.