

## IN BRIEF

### Shiv Sena demands Rs 1 crore compensation for SLBC tunnel victim's family

Hyderabad, Mar 10 (UNI) : Shiv Sena Telangana State President Sinkar Shivaji has strongly criticized the Rs 25 lakh compensation granted to the family of Gurpreet Singh, the operator who lost his life in the SLBC tunnel accident, calling it inadequate.

In a statement on Monday, Shivaji demanded Rs 1 crore in compensation for Gurpreet Singh's family along with a government job for one of his family members.

He also emphasised that the financial aid provided to the eight trapped personnel was insufficient and urged the government to withdraw the Rs 25 lakh cheque and instead provide a firm guarantee of Rs 1 crore along with employment support.

Shivaji further called on the central government to step in and support the families of the SLBC project workers, stressing that their sacrifices should not be forgotten.

Expressing deep sorrow over the tragic loss of eight personnel, he prayed for the safety of the remaining trapped workers and urged the government to recognize their contributions with due honour and responsibility.

### Upper air cyclonic circulation lies over Equatorial Indian Ocean

Amaravati, Mar 10 (UNI) The upper air cyclonic circulation over northeast Equatorial Indian Ocean & adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal now lies over Equatorial Indian Ocean & adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal at 1.5 km above mean sea level, the Meteorological Centre said on Monday.

In a daily weather report here, it said that the maximum temperatures are likely to be above normal by 2-4 degree celsius in Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and Rayalaseema on March 12, 13 and 14. No large change in temperatures in Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and Rayalaseema on Tuesday. Dry weather is likely to prevail in Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and Rayalaseema during the next 7 days.

Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and Rayalaseema during the last 24 hours.

## Govt. cancels land allotment to Hayagreeva in Visakhapatnam

Amaravati, March 10 (IANS) : The government of has cancelled the allotment of 12.51 acres of land to Hayagreeva Farms and Developers in Visakhapatnam.

The government issued an order on Monday, cancelling the allotment made in 2008, for violation of rules. The land was allotted by the state government for building cottages for old-age people and orphans.

However, the investigations by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) revealed that it fraudulently alienated the land and sold it to various persons, generating over Rs. 150 crore. The government through the GO issued on Monday directed Visakhapatnam District Collector to resume the land from Hayagreeva and to utilise it for public purposes.

Last month, the ED provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs. 42.03 crores and six



Police Station, Visakhapatnam under various sections of the Indian Penal Code against Gadde Brahmaji, Gannamani Venkateswara Rao and YSR Congress Party leader and former MP MVV Satyanarayana for forging signatures, fabricating sale documents and coercion to grab 12.51 acres allotted by

movable properties worth Rs. 2.71 crore. The Central agency attached the properties valued at Rs 44.75 crore under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002.

The ED had initiated investigations on the basis of FIR registered by Arilova

Police Station, Visakhapatnam under various sections of the Indian Penal Code against Gadde Brahmaji, Gannamani Venkateswara Rao and YSR Congress Party leader and former MP MVV Satyanarayana for forging signatures, fabricating sale documents and coercion to grab 12.51 acres allotted by

the state government.

Last year, the ED raided the residence and properties of former MP and YSRCP leader MVV Satyanarayana.

According to the ED, its investigation revealed that the 12.51 acres of land allotted by the State government was registered in the name of Hayagreeva Farms and Developers in 2010 after a payment of nearly Rs. 5.63 crore. However, the market value of the property as on the date of the conveyance deed was around Rs. 30.25 crore as per the records of the Andhra Pradesh Registration & Stamps Department.

The Investigation revealed that after allegedly acquiring the ownership of the land fraudulently, the accused divided the land into small plots and started alienating it from 2021 onwards by registering agreements of sale and sale deeds to various individuals. This has generated proceeds of crime of more than Rs. 150 crore, the ED said.

## Rajya Sabha passes Railways Amendment Bill by voice vote

New Delhi, March 10 (UNI) : The Parliament on Monday cleared the Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 with Rajya Sabha passing the bill which seeks to enhance the functioning and independence of the Railway Board.

The Upper House approved the Bill by voice vote following a discussion on it. The Lok Sabha has already passed the Bill.

Replying to the discussion on the Bill, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said that the Indian Railways has been undergoing continuous reforms with focus on infrastructure building, safety and modernisation.

"In 11 years, 34,000 kilometers of new railway tracks have been built, which is more railway tracks than a developed country like Germany and 45,000 kilometers of electrification has been done," the Minister said. Vaishnav highlighted safety as the government's top priority.

Talking about the Bill, he said, "This is a simplification bill. Instead of two laws, all the provisions are in one law. This bill has been brought with this spirit. Today the General Manager has the power to accept all contracts, whether it is Rs 10 crores or Rs 1,000 crores."

## RS sees uproar as Opposition demands debate on alleged lapse in electoral rolls, Trump remarks

New Delhi, Mar 10 (UNI) : The Rajya Sabha on Monday, the first day of the second leg of the Budget session, witnessed uproarious scenes with the Opposition members pressing for discussion on issues ranging from alleged lapse in electoral rolls to the US President Donald Trump's statement about funding for voter turnout in India. As many as 12 notices were received under rule 267 of the House which were rejected by the Deputy Chairman Harivansh.

The members of the Opposition parties led by Congress staged a walkout from the House as their demands were declined. Some of the members also wanted discussion on concerns around the upcoming delimitation exercise.

While Harivansh cited previous rulings of the Chairman to reject the members' demand for discussion on various issues under rule 267, he urged members to send notices under other relevant provisions.

"The notices under Rule 267 have not been permitted. If the members so desire they may submit notices under any other Parliamentary device for the consideration of the Chairman," Harivansh said.

## All NDA candidates likely to be elected unopposed in Andhra Pradesh MLC polls

Amaravati, March 10 (IANS) All five candidates of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) are likely to be elected unopposed to the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council. Only five nominations were received for the March 20 elections as the deadline for filing nominations ended on Monday. Three candidates of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and one candidate of its ally Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) filed nominations on the last day.

Kavali Grishma, Beeda Ravichandra Yadav, and B.T. Naidu filed their papers as the candidates of the TDP.

BJP national executive committee member Somu Veerajug filed his papers as the BJP candidate.

Elections to five MLC seats from the MLAs' quota are scheduled on March 20.

The TDP has left a seat each for the Jana Sena and the BJP. Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena President Pawan Kalyan's brother Naga Babu has already filed the nomination for the MLC polls. Chandrababu Naidu has already announced that Naga Babu will be inducted into the Cabinet. The TDP-led NDA, which has 164 MLAs in the 175-member Assembly, is set to sweep the polls. The TDP has 135 MLAs, the Jana Sena 21, and the BJP eight.

The YSR Congress Party has only 11 seats in the Assembly. The scrutiny of nominations will be taken up on March 11. The deadline for withdrawal of nominations is March 13. Meanwhile, B.T. Naidu, who has been nominated by the TDP for second consecutive term as MLC, said that for the first time someone from the backward classes has been re-nominated for second term.

He said the TDP has given MLC tickets to candidates from weaker sections. B.T. Naidu and Ravinchandra Yadav are BCs while Kavali Garishma is from the Scheduled Caste. She is the daughter of senior TDP leader and former Speaker Pratibha Bharati. Garishma thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and TDP General Secretary Nara Lokesh for fielding her as the party candidate. She said she would raise people's issues in the Council.

Meanwhile, Lokesh said the TDP has once again proved its sincerity towards the welfare of weaker sections of society by fielding all three candidates from these sections.

He said that Garsihma had been given a ticket to promote young women. He said all those working hard for the party would get the posts. He said those who did not get MLC nominations should not lose heart.

## Confident my Mauritius visit will open bright new chapter in bilateral ties: PM Modi

New Delhi, Mar 10 (UNI) : Ahead of his two-day state visit to Mauritius to attend the 57th National Day celebrations as Chief Guest, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today voiced confidence that his visit will open a new and bright chapter in the India and Mauritius relationship.

During his two-day visit the PM will also hold talks with Mauritian Prime Minister, Navinchandra Ramgoolam, who took over the helms in November last year. In a departure statement, the PM said he is also eager to interact with the Indian community in the Indian Ocean nation.

He posted on X: "Starting tomorrow, I will be on a two day visit to



Mauritius, where I will take part in their 57th National Day celebrations. I look forward to meeting my friend and Prime Minister, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. I am also eager to be interacting with the Indian community there.

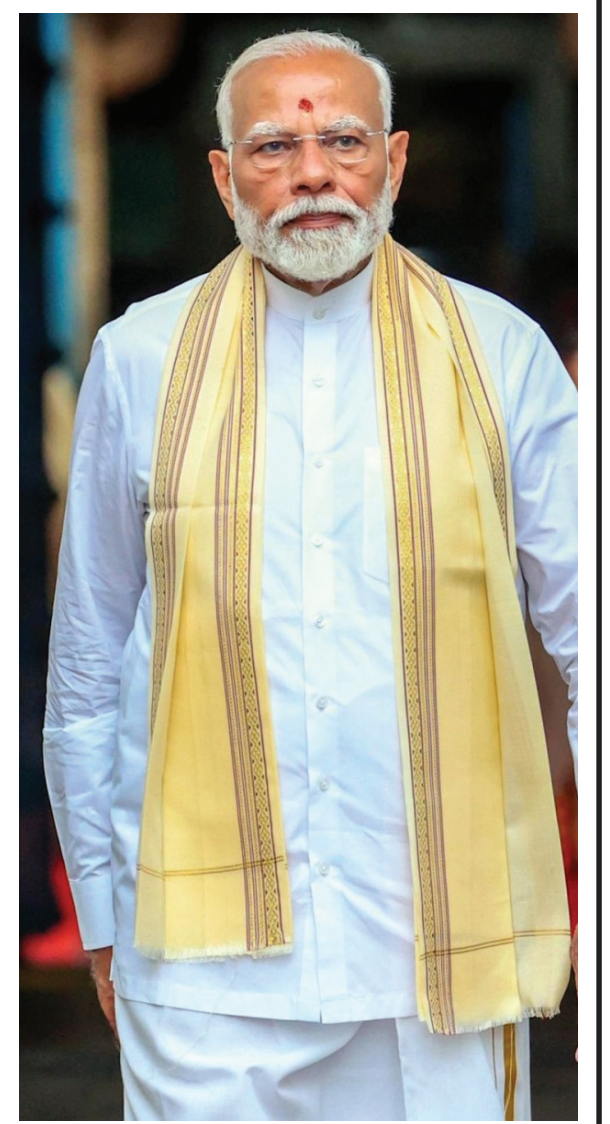
"Mauritius is a close maritime neighbour and a key Indian Ocean partner. We are connected by shared values and deep-rooted cultural ties.

of democracy, and celebration of our diversity are our strengths. The close and historical people-to-people connect is a source of shared pride.

"We have made significant strides in the past ten years with people centric initiatives.

"I look forward to the opportunity to engage with the Mauritius leadership to elevate our partnership in all its facets and strengthen our enduring friendship for the progress and prosperity of our peoples, as well as for security and development in the Indian Ocean Region, as part of our Vision SAGAR.

"I am confident that this visit will build on the foundations of the past and open a new and bright chapter in the India and Mauritius relationship."



## New Zealand PM to discuss boosting trade, security ties ....

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has said that trade will play a central role in his discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his upcoming India trip, including talks on securing a free trade deal. PM Luxon had promised ahead of the 2023 election that he would secure a free-trade deal with India in his first term. He will be arriving in India on March 16 with one of the largest ever prime ministerial delegations in a concerted effort designed to boost trade and security ties with India.

(See on page 2)

## CDS stresses need for holistic counter-UAS system



Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan on Monday emphasised on the need for developing holistic counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) System for the Armed Forces.

(See on page 3)

## Budget Session: Gulmarg fashion show private event ...



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday stated that the controversial fashion show at the famous skiing resort of Gulmarg was organized by a private party at a private hotel, with no involvement of the government at any stage.

(See on page 5)

## Rohit Sharma uncertain about ...



India captain Rohit Sharma has left the door open regarding his playing future but remained non-committal on featuring in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027. Fresh off leading India to victory in the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025, Rohit dismissed speculation about his retirement but admitted that the next World Cup is still too far to predict.

(See on page 7)



## Himachal budget session: Governor highlights govt's financial management

Shimla, Mar 10 (UNI) The budget Session of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly began on Monday with Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla addressing the house for an hour and a half, outlining the government's efforts in financial management, horticulture, agriculture, power and animal husbandry. He acknowledged the financial constraints faced by the state due to the discontinuation of GST compensation in 2022 and the steady decline of the Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG). The grant, which was Rs 11,431 crore in 2020-21, has been reduced to Rs 6,258 crore this financial year and will drop further to Rs 3,257 crore by the end of the 15th Finance Commission period. Despite these fiscal challenges, capital expenditure has been maintained at Rs 6,270 crore, ensuring that development projects remain on track. Urban expansion has also been a priority, with 14 new Nagar Panchayats established and several municipal bodies upgraded.

Horticulture continues to be a key sector, with an additional 1,255 hectares brought under fruit cultivation. The government has also diversified agricultural production by expanding the cultivation of vegetables, flowers, and spices, the governor said. To support orchardists, a Universal Carton Policy has been introduced for standardized apple packaging, ensuring better prices.

## INS Imphal to participate in Mauritius National Day celebrations

New Delhi, Mar 10 (UNI) : The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Imphal made her maiden port call at Port Louis, Mauritius on Monday to participate in the 57th Mauritius National Day celebrations on March 12. INS Imphal's visit is in keeping with the tradition of Indian warships and aircraft participating in Mauritius National Day celebrations, an Indian Navy statement said.

The ship will field a marching contingent, naval band and helicopter for the flypast at the National Day Parade at Champs de Mars. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be the chief guest at the celebrations.

During her stay at Port Louis March 10-14, the ship plans to participate in several training and cultural exchanges,

## LoP KCR to participate in budget sessions commencing from Wednesday

Hyderabad, Mar 10 (UNI) : BRS president and Leader of Opposition (LoP) K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) will participate in the upcoming budget session of the State Legislative Assembly commencing from Wednesday. Confirming this to reporters here on Monday, Party working president K T Rama Rao (KTR) stated that our party Chief will attend the Governor's address and also the State budget presentation.

The BRS chief would be present

## New Zealand PM to discuss boosting trade, security ties during talks with PM

Wellington/New Delhi, Mar 10 (UNI) New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has said that trade will play a central role in his discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his upcoming India trip, including talks on securing a free trade deal.

PM Luxon had promised ahead of the 2023 election that he would secure a free-trade deal with India in his first term. He will be arriving in India on March 16 with one of the largest ever prime ministerial delegations in a concerted effort designed to boost trade and security ties with India.

The delegation will be made up of New Zealand business leaders; prominent Kiwi-Indians in the community; and representatives from across Parliament, the Prime Minister's Office said. Tourism and Hospitality Minister Louise Upston, Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay, and Ethnic Communities Minister Mark Mitchell will also be in attendance.

Luxon said strengthening Aotearoa's (New Zealand) ties with India "is a key priority for my Government", according to local New Zealand dailies.

"We've already made incredible progress over the last year as we invest in building a broad-based, sustainable relationship with India—the world's fastest-growing major economy, and the place from which 6% of New Zealand's population claim their heritage. I hope my visit will further strengthen the close links between us."

The last formal negotiations on an FTA between the two sides were last held nearly a decade ago. Dairy was a key point of contention, described as a "sensitive area" by Luxon, given it was New Zealand's major export and part of India's strong agricultural sector.

Asked whether he stood by his promise, Luxon said the "real commitment" had been to deepen trade relationships.

"We're going to do everything we can to push trade really, really hard," Luxon said in a joint media interview on Sunday.

"What I'm looking for is just a much more comprehensive economic partnership and how we'd move that forward, so yeah, you'll have to wait and see."

"I am determined that we are going to change the trading relationships with India big time."

He cited the higher tariffs New Zealand wine and apple exporters faced in comparison to their Australian counterparts, while arguing concerns about dairy shouldn't discourage trade-deal efforts.

Luxon's comments about Indian trade were laced with criticism of the previous Labour-led governments, which he claimed had "given up" on securing a deal.

Luxon said the relationship had been broadly "non-existent" prior to the coalition taking power: "we have had to start from scratch". Referring to the roughly \$2 billion two-way trade he lamented how only 1.5% of New Zealand exports went to India.

## BJP leader dies after being injected poisonous substance in Sambhal

Sambhal (UP), Mar 10 (UNI) A senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader died after being injected with some poisonous substance by unidentified persons in Junabai area of Sambhal district here in Uttar Pradesh on Monday, police sources said here.

Police said that BJP leader Gulfam Singh Yadav, a resident of village Dabthara Himachal, was sitting in the cattle shed in his village on Monday afternoon when three unidentified persons came on a bike and gave him a poisonous injection.

"As soon as the poisonous injection was given, Gulfam Singh Yadav started writhing in pain," they said.

Police said that Yadav was taken to the Community Health Centre, where his condition became critical and he was referred to Higher Center Aligarh.

"He died in Aligarh," they said.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Krishna Kumar Bishnoi said that the post-mortem of the deceased Yadav is being conducted by a panel of doctors.

"Nearby CCTV cameras are being scanned to investigate the incident. Police have also got some important clues," he said.

Yadav, who started his social life with RSS, contested the election from Gunnaur assembly seat against the then Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav in the by-election of 2004.

## Suggestion competition organized to promote the use of personal protective equipment

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 10 : The 54th National Safety Week (from 04 to 10 March 2025) was organized at Banaras Locomotive Workshop (BLW) along with the entire Indian Railways. The objective of this event was to increase safety awareness among railway employees and promote safe working systems.

In this sequence, today on 10 March 2025, under the closing ceremony, a suggestion competition was organized among the employees on the topic "Safety and Wellness (Health) is Important for a Protected India" or "Safety and Health – Essential for a Developed India". In this, BLW employees as well as contract workers also participated to promote the use of personal protective equipment.



The main objective of this campaign was to make the railway employees understand the importance of safety at the workplace and motivate them to follow safety rules. Safety related information was provided to the employees through various programmes throughout the week."

The BLW administration is constantly making efforts to make all its employees aware of safety. Activities like safety seminar, safety exhibition, poster and slogan competition, street play and mock drill were organised under the National Safety Week. By following the

safety guidelines, a safe environment should be created not only at the workplace but also for our daily lives and Indian Railways should be established at the highest standards of safety. With this resolution, the 54th National Safety Week concluded with great pomp today."

## Ceasefire on LoC, IB lead to tourism revival in border areas: J&K CM

Jammu, Mar 10 (UNI) Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday stated that the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and international border has led to a revival of tourism activities in frontier areas. Replying to a supplementary question raised by Member Sajad Shafi regarding his Uri constituency, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, informed the House that as the border areas are slowly opening after the ceasefire along the LoC and border, tourism is witnessing a positive trend due to the prevailing peace in the region.

"It is true that Uri has huge border tourism potential. Tourists have started visiting areas like Uri and are eager to explore places such as Aman Setu and other scenic locations. Our priority is to enhance tourism infrastructure in these regions," Abdullah said.

In response to a starred question from the member, he stated that the feasibility of establishing a Zipline or Cable

Car project from Lagama to Baba Farred Garkote in Uri Constituency would be assessed by the Tourism Department. However, he clarified that no such proposal is currently under consideration.

The Chief Minister further said that the development of locations such as Rustom and Nambla Waterfalls, with their inclusion under the Border Tourism Programme, would be considered in the future, subject to feasibility and availability of resources.

Highlighting the potential of adventure tourism, he noted that Bijham and Limber Waterfall/Limber Wildlife Sanctuary are well known for attracting adventure enthusiasts.

The Tourism Department has undertaken several initiatives for the holistic development of these areas, he said. The Chief Minister said that while the department does not directly operate paragliding activities, it facilitates them through private adventure tourism operators.

## District-wise exhibitions to mark 8 years of govt on March 25: Yogi

Lucknow, Mar 10 (UNI) : Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday emphasised that a public representative with dedication and compassion can achieve remarkable results and said that selflessness and a commitment to public welfare are essential for meaningful change. The CM attended the '3 Years of Excellence, Sarojini Nagar Gratitude Day' event organised by local MLA Dr Rajeshwar Singh at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Law University. During the event, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for multiple development projects and explored the Sarojini Nagar Samvad and Development Exhibition. Sikh families from Sarojini Nagar also presented him with prasad from Kartarpur

Sahib. Highlighting the festive spirit, Yogi said that combining vibrant colours and development initiatives has made Holi in Sarojini Nagar even more joyful. He said that the occasion coincided with Rangbhari Ekadashi, with temples celebrating by playing Holi with idols of deities. Yogi said that projects worth Rs 32,000 crore have either been completed or are in progress.

"Among these, a Rs 1,200 crore convention centre with a seating capacity of 10,000 people is set to be constructed. The constituency will also house a defence corridor, UP's first forensic institute and a medical facility comparable to SGPGI," he said. Expressing appreciation for MLA Dr

Rajeshwar Singh's dedication, he said, "I'm impressed by the ground-level efforts to uplift the region." Yogi emphasised that such commitment is the essence of democracy. Congratulating the people of Sarojini Nagar, he recalled that Dr Rajeshwar Singh was elected MLA on this day three years ago, and since then, the region has witnessed remarkable progress. The CM emphasised that a public representative with dedication and compassion can achieve remarkable results. He stressed that selflessness and a commitment to public welfare are essential for meaningful change.

He said that during a cabinet meeting earlier in the day, discussions were held about marking the

government's eighth anniversary on March 25 with exhibitions in every district. While the model for these exhibitions is yet to be finalised, he appreciated the glimpse of such a model at the event.

Yogi proposed that similar exhibitions showcasing development schemes should be organised in every assembly constituency.

"These exhibitions should engage the public directly and transparently demonstrate the benefits of various schemes to reflect the true essence of democracy," he said.

Regarding MLA Dr Rajeshwar Singh, CM Yogi highlighted his seamless transition from a bureaucrat and ED officer to a dedicated public servant. He praised Dr Singh's

assertive communication with the public, effective coordination with the organisation and government and innovative efforts in implementing government and CSR schemes.

The CM asserted that every capable and committed public representative should follow this example, as it fosters public trust and strengthens democracy.

He emphasised that a robust democracy ensures that the voices of the common people are heard and justice is served.

Highlighting the transformation of Sarojini Nagar, Yogi outlined the ongoing and upcoming development projects in the area, including state-of-the-art highways, metro expansion and airport facilities.

## NCC cadets conduct cleanliness drive in Kumbh Mela area

Prayagraj, Mar 10 (UNI) : Around 90 cadets from Uttar Pradesh 6 UP Girls Battalion NCC and UP Naval NCC actively participated in the comprehensive cleanliness drive organised by the Prayagraj Mela Authority in Sector 7 on Monday after the successful organisation of Maha Kumbh to maintain

hygiene in the fair area. The campaign was led by Subedar Major Harvinder Singh, Lieutenant Colonel Farah Diba and PI Arvind Kumar. The cadets took responsibility for garbage collection and disposal, ensuring that the Kumbh Mela area remained clean and environmentally balanced.

The campaign aimed at maintaining cleanliness and preserving the environmental balance in the Kumbh Mela area.

The initiative was supported by Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Ashutosh, Health and Sanitation Officer (SMO) Dr Vivek Kumar Pandey,

and other officials who were present to oversee the efforts.

The two-hour campaign witnessed dedicated involvement from the cadets, who carried out the cleanliness activities with full commitment and energy. As a token of appreciation, cadets were felicitated during the closing ceremony,

where they were provided with food packets, jute, and cotton bags to encourage their continued commitment to social service.

The Prayagraj Mela Authority reaffirmed its commitment to continuing such initiatives and urged everyone to be mindful of cleanliness.



## Blenders Pride fashion tour transforms V'patnam with a futuristic fusion of fashion

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Mar 10 : Blenders Pride Fashion Tour took over Visakhapatnam with an electrifying showcase that seamlessly merged fashion, technology, and entertainment.

The evening brought a futuristic vision of fashion to life, where cutting-edge designs met high-energy performances, shaping a next-gen en-vogue universe. Popular film actress Tamannaah Bhatia stole the spotlight, commanding the runway as the showstopper and embodying the bold, avant-garde vision of Akshat Bansal's Bloni. As the stunning creations unfolded, Ritviz's pulsating live performance amplified the energy, transforming the event into a mesmerizing fusion of style, sound, and innovation, offering a thrilling glimpse into the future. In partnership with the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), Blenders Pride Fashion Tour continues to redefine India's fashion landscape with iconic showcases that celebrate the country's rapidly evolving style narrative. The synergy between FDCI's expertise and the tour's pioneering

spirit culminated in a spectacular presentation in Visakhapatnam that not only set a new benchmark for immersive fashion experiences but also reinforced the Fashion Tour's position as a trailblazer in the industry.

Akshat Bansal's collection revolutionized the runway with AI-generated visuals, 3D-modeled elements, and cutting-edge textiles. The crowd was left awestruck as photochromatic technology mesmerized the audience, with outfits seamlessly transforming hues in real-time. The runway came alive with Tamannaah Bhatia's show stopping walk, showcasing the collection's futuristic design. Chef Mohammed Ashiq's delightful cuisine and Ritviz's high-energy beats completed an enchanting evening of style, innovation, and rhythm.

Kartik Mohindra, Chief Marketing Officer and Head of Global Business Development at Pernod Ricard India said, "Blenders Pride Fashion Tour has always been about pushing creative boundaries and redefining fashion as an art form. This year, we are pushing the boundaries further by blending fashion with AI, creating an

immersive experience that defines the future of style. Our collaboration with visionary designers like Akshat Bansal reflects our commitment to shaping India's evolving fashion landscape and inspiring the next generation of trendsetters. As we move forward, each experience will continue to showcase the ever-evolving landscape of fashion, solidifying 'The One and Only' platform as the ultimate convergence of innovation and iconicity like never before." Tamannaah Bhatia said: "Walking as the showstopper for Bloni at Blenders Pride Fashion Tour was an amazing experience. Akshat Bansal's stunning collection, with its innovative use of technology and avant-garde textiles, was truly a sight to behold. I felt truly empowered and glamorous in the show-stopping outfit, and the energy of the crowd was electric." Sunil Sethi, Chairman, FDCI expressed, "FDCI couldn't have been prouder to partner with Blenders Pride Fashion Tour, where we continue to redefine the fashion landscape. As two powerhouses in fashion, we're committed to shaping the future of fashion experiences."

## CSIR-NGRI organises advanced training on AI & ML for geophysical data analysis

Hyderabad, Mar 10 (UNI) The CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) is conducting an advanced training program on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI & ML) for Geophysical Data Analysis from March 10 to 14. This program aims to equip participants with cutting-edge techniques in AI & ML applications for geophysical research.

The inaugural session was attended by distinguished guests, including Prof Mrinal K. Sen from the University of Texas, USA, and former Director of CSIR-NGRI, who graced the event as the Chief Guest. Dr. Sanjay Srinivasan from Penn State University, USA, and Dr. Kalachand Sain, former Director of WIH, Dehradun, were present as Guests of Honour.

During the event, Dr. Ajai Manglik, Chief Scientist at CSIR-NGRI, emphasised the growing importance of AI & ML in various aspects of daily life, particularly in geosciences.

He highlighted its potential in forecasting natural hazards, improving weather predictions, and enhancing early warning systems for earthquakes.

Prof. Mrinal Sen spoke about the unique nature of geophysical data in subsurface exploration and the transformative role of AI & ML in developing uncertainty models for more accurate interpretations.

The program brings together leading international experts from the USA and Italy, along with top national professionals from academia and industry.

Participants will engage in discussions on the latest challenges, opportunities, and advancements in applying AI & ML to geophysics. A major highlight of the training is the hands-on sessions, providing practical exposure to researchers and academicians from institutions across India.



LoP in the Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi with party MPs Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, KC Venugopal, K Suresh, and others during the Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi.

## Telangana Directorate of Industries hosts workshop to strengthen MSME-PSU collaboration

Hyderabad, Mar 10 (UNI) : The Directorate of Industries, in collaboration with TReDS Platforms and the GEM Portal, on Monday organized a one-day workshop for Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and mega industries in Telangana.

The workshop was graced by Dr Malsur, Director of Industries, as the Chief Guest, who emphasised the need for stronger collaboration between PSUs and MSMEs. He highlighted how PSU support for local MSMEs would benefit both sectors by reducing logistics costs and improving operational efficiency. He also assured attendees that MSMEs in Telangana are being equipped with technology upgrades and quality certifications to meet PSU standards.

The primary objective of the workshop was to facilitate cash flow for MSMEs by onboarding both large PSUs/industries and MSMEs onto TReDS Platforms and the GEM Portal, allowing instant invoice encashment.

Additionally, in line with the new MSME Policy of the Telangana State Government, the Directorate of Industries aims to establish market linkages between

PSUs, large corporations, and MSMEs. As a follow-up, a database of goods and services required by large entities will be compiled to connect them with relevant MSMEs. Industry experts, including Roy Mathew (CEO, MExchange), Nikita Bose (National Head, Invoice Mart), and Ved Prakash (State Head, RXIL), shared insights on financial and operational solutions for MSMEs. The event was attended by over 100 participants, including major PSUs such as BDL, ECIL, MIDHANI, FCI, BSNL, NTPC, SAIL, and mega industries like Microsoft Data Centre and SAFRAN. The workshop concluded with a roadmap focused on compiling PSU and industry procurement needs, creating a centralized database, conducting vendor development programs, and strengthening networking between MSMEs, PSUs, and the Telangana Government to boost economic growth in the state.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shaik Ameer S/O Shaik Mohammdh, R/o 3-68/F, Makavaran, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh- 531032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Mohammad Ameer.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Naveen Kumar Bhandari alias Bandari Naveen Kumar S/O Bhaskara Rao Bandari, R/o 31-29-2, Vadlapudi Post, Kurmannapalem, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh- 530046, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Naveen Kumar Bandari.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, B Ambika alias R Ambika alias Ambiga D/O Bala Subramanian Iyer, W/O Ramesh Babu R/o Flat No-B2-103, Greencity Homes, Greencity Apparels, Vadlapudi, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh- 530046, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Ambika Ramesh Babu.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mahammadh Mahimmdh Chinna S/O Mahammadh Asan Ahmmdh, R/o H No 3-68/F, Makavaram, Anakapalli Mandalam, Makavaran, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh- 531032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Mohammad Mahimudh.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shaik Masthan Begam alias Mahammadh Mastani Begam D/O Shajahan Shaik, W/O Mahammadh Mahimmdh Chinna R/o H No 3-68/F, Makavaram, Anakapalli Mandalam, Makavaran, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh- 531032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Mohammad Mastani Begum.

## Hundreds of Indians rescued from cyber fraud cafés in Thailand

Hyderabad, Mar 10 (UNI) : Hundreds of young Indians who were lured abroad with fake job offers but ended up trapped in cyber fraud cafés in Thailand have been rescued.

Held captive and forced into cyber crimes, they are now being brought back to India following the intervention of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

Authorities have identified a total of 540 victims, including 42 from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Two special flights, each carrying 270 individuals, have been arranged for their safe return. The first flight took off on Monday, while the second is scheduled for Tuesday, according to an official statement here on Monday.

These victims had travelled abroad in search of jobs but fell prey to cybercriminals operating from Thailand. Fraudsters, using local agents, deceived them with false job offers.

Upon arrival, they were sold to cyber fraud cafés across Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar. There, they were forced to engage in online scams and subjected to brutal torture, including electric shocks, if they refused to comply.

The case came to light when Madhukar Reddy, a young man from Rangapet village in Telangana, was reported to be among those trapped.

Acting swiftly, Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar wrote to the Ministry of External Affairs and alerted Indian diplomatic offices in Myanmar and Thailand. In response, the Myanmar government deployed its army to rescue the victims.

With coordinated efforts between India, Myanmar, and Thailand, all victims are now being safely repatriated, bringing an end to their harrowing ordeal.

## TGSRTC turnover is expected to reach Rs 10,000 cr by next year: Sajjanar

Hyderabad, Mar 10 (UNI) : VC Sajjanar, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) on Monday said that the TGSRTC turnover is expected to reach Rs 10,000 crore by next year.

In his chief guest address at the conference on "Navigating Corporate Failure and Digital Fraud: Pathways to Success", organised by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) at FTCCI Surana Auditorium, Federation House, Hyderabad, this evening, Sajjanar shared his journey from a hardcore police officer to a successful business administrator. He recalled that when

he took over TGSRTC in September 2021, it was a loss-making corporation with a turnover of Rs 3,800 crore. However, through passion, commitment, and the hard work of 50,000 employees, coupled with strong government support, the corporation has now become a billion-dollar entity. He further revealed that by next year, the turnover is expected to reach Rs 10,000 crore. He credited this transformation to financial transparency, strong internal controls, and timely salary disbursements. Speaking on the growing threat of digital fraud, Sajjanar stressed the need for corporate houses to prioritize cybersecurity.

He warned that with the rise of AI and Big Data, cybercriminals are

exploiting digital platforms at an alarming rate.

He recommended AI-powered fraud detection for analyzing suspicious activity, blockchain technology to secure financial transactions, cybersecurity training for employees, and raising awareness about digital fraud risks. He said that digital fraud is no longer just a business risk but a societal concern.

A J Jawad, Registrar of the International Arbitration & Mediation Centre (IAMC), highlighted the need for alternative dispute resolution, noting that India's backlog of over five crore court cases could take centuries to clear without judicial reforms. To promote mediation and arbitration, FTCCI and IAMC signed a Letter of

Support. Journalist and author Aruna Ravikumar discussed corporate fraud detection, warning against MLM and Ponzi schemes. She also highlighted the growing involvement of women in digital fraud and urged professionals to remain cautious.

Chartered Accountant Sharath Kumar cautioned against blind reliance on AI in fraud detection, calling it a double-edged sword. He shared real-world cases, stressing the importance of human oversight in preventing cybercrimes.

Niloufer Café's Babu Rao and Shashank Anumula shared their success story, detailing their journey from a 30-member team in 1978 to a thriving business with 2,000 employees and over one lakh daily customers.



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ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015

**TENDER NOTICE**

Ref: ADVT.NO.IREL/CO /2024-25/01 dt: 10/03/2025

IREL (India) Limited invites RFP (GeM Bid. No. GEM/2025/B/6032633 dated 07.03.2025) for Selection of Manpower Staffing Agency for Providing Outsourced Manpower. Bidders may download the tender document available in our website <https://irel.co.in> and submit their bid in <https://gem.gov.in>. Any corrigendum(s)/ extension(s) to complete tender shall be hosted in above websites only.

**GM-T**

**CBC 48129/12/0006/2425**

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

Tender Notice No. VSKP-ELG-TL-AC-24-25-12, Date : 03.03.2025

**NAME OF THE WORK : SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF CABLE TRANSIT ENTRY SEALING AND FULL PROOF PROTECTION SYSTEM WITH MULTI DIAMETER HALOGEN FREE EPDM MODULES TO PREVENT RODENT INTO HT COMPARTMENT OF SWITCH BOARD CABINET OF EOG TYPE LHB AC COACHES, POWER CARS & PANTRY CAR OF MAIL/EXPRESS TRAINS OF WALTAIR DIVISION.**

Tender Value : ₹ 62,25,264, Bid Security : ₹ 1,24,500/-, Completion Period: 180 Days.

**Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1330 Hrs. of 03.04.2025.**

**Date and Time of Opening of Tender : At 1600 Hrs. of 03.04.2025.**

The Tender documents Complete details will be available at website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in). The tenders are required to watch the website for any corrigendum issued.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), PR-1060/P/24-25 Waltair



## STANDARD POST

### Why India and Japan should deepen ties amid volatile geographical landscape

Looking ahead, both nations must leverage their respective strengths -- India's strategic geography and expanding global influence, combined with Japan's technological prowess and diplomatic reach -- to secure the Indo-Pacific's stability.

Indo-Pacific is fast becoming the epicentre of global security, and for India and Japan, the urgency of deepening strategic cooperation has never been more pressing.

In an era where authoritarian expansionism threatens sovereignty and disrupts regional stability, both nations must take decisive steps to reinforce a rules-based order that ensures peace and prosperity.

This was at the heart of discussions at a New Delhi-based think tank, the Centre for Integrated and Holistic Studies (CIHS), which hosted an event at the India International Centre in New Delhi on February 18, 2025.

Titled "Indo-Japan Relations", the event featured Minister Noriaki Abe, Minister for Political Affairs at the Embassy of Japan, as the chief speaker, alongside a distinguished gathering of scholars, academicians, policymakers, and security experts.

Their discussions highlighted the necessity of fortifying India-Japan ties in an increasingly volatile geopolitical landscape. Minister Abe provided critical insights into the evolving regional dynamics, emphasizing the need for deeper Indo-Japanese engagement. The discussions spanned economic collaboration, security partnerships, and technological cooperation—key pillars in ensuring regional resilience. A focal point was the increasingly assertive posture of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in the Indo-Pacific. From aggressive military manoeuvres in the South China Sea to economic coercion and territorial incursions, CPC's expansionist strategies continue to challenge the sovereignty of nations across the region. Its militarisation of artificial islands, debt-trap diplomacy, and grey-zone tactics have further escalated tensions, making a robust India-Japan partnership indispensable.

As two of the region's leading democratic powers, India and Japan must intensify their security and economic cooperation to counter these challenges.

The informal Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) grouping—which also includes the United States and Australia—has demonstrated its effectiveness in bolstering military interoperability, intelligence-sharing, and securing vital maritime corridors. However, a crucial area demanding greater attention is the security of the Malacca and Sunda Straits—chokepoints critical to global trade yet increasingly vulnerable to CPC's geopolitical manoeuvring. CPC's growing influence in the region, particularly through its strategic presence in Myanmar and Cambodia, poses a direct challenge to freedom of navigation. A coordinated Indo-Japanese approach—incorporating joint patrols, intelligence-sharing, and strategic infrastructure investments—is essential to maintaining stability. Japan's advancements in maritime technology, coupled with India's naval capabilities and strategic location, create a formidable alliance for safeguarding sea lanes. Both nations have also heavily invested in maritime domain awareness (MDA), an essential component of deterring territorial encroachments and securing vital trade routes.

Beyond military security, economic resilience is equally critical. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has sought to entrench economic dependencies, eroding national sovereignty through unsustainable debt-driven projects.

In response, India and Japan have championed the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), a transparent and sustainable alternative that prioritises local economic empowerment over exploitative financing.

Strengthening this initiative is vital—not just to counter CPC's economic coercion but to foster long-term regional stability.

The success of the AAGC hinges on increased investment in sustainable infrastructure, digital connectivity, and capacity-building in partner nations.

By promoting economic independence rather than dependency, India and Japan can help developing nations build resilience against external economic pressures. This initiative also unlocks new avenues for trade and investment, benefiting not just the Indo-Pacific but also Africa's economic landscape.

The digital domain is another battleground where India and Japan must strengthen collaboration. China's dominance in 5G networks, artificial intelligence, and digital infrastructure presents a clear security threat.

Beijing's state-controlled tech firms have been instrumental in cyber espionage and geopolitical manoeuvring, necessitating a coordinated response.

By jointly investing in secure digital corridors, semiconductor supply chains, and advanced cybersecurity frameworks, India and Japan can safeguard critical technologies and infrastructure.

As the world moves toward an increasingly digital future, cyber threats loom large. Both nations must develop robust cyber resilience frameworks to counter state-sponsored hacking, misinformation campaigns, and intellectual property theft.

## Rajya Sabha Passes Historic Bill for Railway Reforms: Minister Ashwini Vaishnav Highlights Key Achievements

### Railways (Amendment) Bill 2025 Passed: Govt Assures More Efficiency, Safety, and Empowerment

(Standard Post Bureau)

Today, the Rajya Sabha passed a landmark bill aimed at streamlining and modernizing railway operations in India. Addressing the House, Minister of Railways, Communications, and Electronics & IT, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, emphasized the bill's role in empowering field offices, enhancing efficiency, and reinforcing cooperative federalism.

The Minister expressed gratitude to the 25 Members of Parliament who participated in the discussion, acknowledging the valuable suggestions and debates. He categorically stated that the bill is designed to simplify existing laws and does not diminish the powers of state governments. Instead, it promotes decentralization by granting full authority to general managers in railway zones to approve

projects up to ₹ 1,000 crore.

Highlighting the government's commitment to state-wise railway development, Shri Vaishnav cited substantial budget allocations in states where the ruling party is not in power. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and West Bengal have all received significantly higher allocations compared to previous administrations.

Major Achievements and Reforms in Railways: Infrastructure Development

- Over the past 11 years, 34,000 kilometers of new railway tracks have been laid, surpassing Germany's total rail network.

- Electrification of 45,000 kilometers has been completed, significantly reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

- 50,000 kilometers of old tracks have been replaced with new, high-

quality rails.

- Safety Enhancements: Investment in railway safety has surged from ₹ 8,000 crore under previous administrations to ₹ 1.14 lakh crore under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

- Rail fractures have reduced by 91%, with incidents decreasing from 2,548 in 2013-14 to just a fraction today.

- The introduction of the Kavach safety system, with SIL 4 certification, ensures high-level security in railway operations.

- Employment and Capacity Building: More than 5,02,000 jobs have been provided under the NDA government, compared to 4,11,000 during the UPA era.

- Large-scale recruitment exams have been conducted transparently, with millions of candidates participating.

- Enhanced training programs on the iGOT platform have seen maximum enrollment from railway employees.

- Passenger Amenities and Modernization: 3,10,000 modern toilets have been installed in railway coaches, dramatically improving hygiene standards.

- 558 running rooms for loco pilots are now fully air-conditioned.
- New locomotives are being manufactured with state-of-the-art technology and improved working conditions.

- Shri Vaishnav also addressed concerns regarding crowd management at railway stations, particularly in light of recent incidents. He announced that full access control will be implemented at 60 major railway stations, ensuring only ticketed passengers can enter platforms. Special trains will be stationed near high-traffic

stations to accommodate unexpected surges in passenger numbers.

Concluding his speech, the Minister reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), urging railway employees and stakeholders to work three times harder to build on the strong foundation laid in the past decade. The passing of this bill marks a significant milestone in India's railway modernization journey, ensuring safer, more efficient, and passenger-friendly services for the future.

Brief on Railways (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Railways functions through its Zones, Divisions, and Production Units etc. under the supervision of the Railway Board. The Railway Board also makes all the policy decisions for Railway operations.

Now, the railways

amendment act 2025 bill replace the colonial period provisions. Now the provision for Railway Board are incorporated into the Railways Act, 1989. The new act bill will reduce reference to two Acts. Now, only one Act will need to be referred to.

The nature, scope and functioning of the Railway Board, Zones, Divisions, Production Units etc. will remain the same.

Motion for introduction of 'The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024' was moved in Lok Sabha on 09<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 i.e. on the last day of First Session of the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.

'The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024' (Bill No. 113-C of 2024) passed in the Lok Sabha on 11.12.2024.

The Bill has come up as Item No. 10 in the List of Business of Rajya Sabha on 10.03.2025 and passed as 'The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2025'.

## Fighting the Silent Threat of Glaucoma Together Before It's Too Late

### Theme - Uniting for a Glaucoma-Free World

(Standard Post Bureau)

Glaucoma, often referred to as the "silent thief of sight," is the second leading cause of blindness worldwide. Despite its devastating impact, it remains largely undetected until significant vision loss occurs. As we observe World Glaucoma Week 2025 under the theme "Uniting for a Glaucoma-Free World," it is crucial to raise awareness about the increasing burden of glaucoma among youth, the role of lifestyle factors, and the advancements in technology aiding in early detection and management.

Traditionally considered a disease of aging, glaucoma is now emerging as a serious concern among younger populations due to lifestyle changes, prolonged screen exposure, and poor dietary habits. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that India has one of the highest numbers of vision-related disorders, with a rising prevalence in individuals aged 10-35 years. Factors such as excessive screen time, unhealthy diet, smoking, and sleep deprivation contribute to increased intraocular pressure (IOP)—a primary risk factor for glaucoma.

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that damage the optic nerve, often due to elevated IOP. Unlike other vision problems that present immediate symptoms, glaucoma progresses silently, leading to irreversible blindness if left untreated. Early symptoms include:

- Frequent headaches and eye strain

- Blurred or narrowed vision (tunnel vision)

- Difficulty adjusting to darkness

- Increased light sensitivity

- Seeing halos around lights

Due to its asymptomatic nature in the early stages,



Dr. Mahipal Singh Sachdev, Chairman, and Managing Director of Centre For Sight Group of Eye Hospitals.

regular eye screenings are essential for timely diagnosis and treatment.

Lifestyle Factors Increasing Glaucoma Risk

The modern lifestyle of today's youth is significantly contributing to the growing incidence of glaucoma. Some key risk factors include:

- Prolonged Screen Time: Excessive use of digital devices strains the eyes, leading to increased eye pressure and reduced blink rates, which can contribute to optic nerve damage.

- Smoking and Alcohol Consumption: Tobacco and excessive alcohol consumption deplete essential nutrients, including Vitamin A, which is vital for eye health. Smoking is also linked to oxidative stress, further exacerbating the risk of glaucoma.

- Nutritional Deficiencies: A poor diet lacking in antioxidants, Omega-3 fatty acids, and vitamins (A, C, and E) weakens the eye's defense mechanism against pressure-related damage.

- Poor Sleep Patterns: Irregular sleep schedules, especially among those in shift-based jobs, impact eye health by increasing IOP fluctuations.

- Sedentary Lifestyle: Lack of physical activity

contributes to poor blood circulation, affecting the optic nerve and overall eye health.

Advancements in Glaucoma Detection and Management

With the advent of cutting-edge medical technologies, early detection and treatment of glaucoma have become more accessible. Some of the latest innovations include:

- AI-Powered Screening: Artificial intelligence-based algorithms can analyze retinal images to detect early signs of glaucoma with high accuracy.

- OCT (Optical Coherence Tomography): This advanced imaging technology provides detailed cross-sectional images of the optic nerve, enabling early detection.

- Smart Contact Lenses: Designed to monitor intraocular pressure fluctuations throughout the day, these lenses help in early diagnosis and personalized treatment plans.

- Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS): New surgical approaches offer safer and more effective ways to reduce eye pressure with minimal recovery time.

- Laser Treatments: Selective laser

trabeculoplasty (SLT) has emerged as a preferred non-invasive option to improve fluid drainage and lower eye pressure.

Preventive Measures for a Glaucoma-Free Future

While technological advancements aid in glaucoma management, prevention remains the key to reducing its global burden. Indian youth must adopt healthy habits to safeguard their vision:

- Regular Eye Check-ups: Early detection through routine screenings can prevent irreversible vision loss.

- Balanced Diet: Incorporate Vitamin A-rich foods like carrots, leafy greens, sweet potatoes, and fish to support eye health.

- Screen Time Management: Follow the 20-20-20 rule—every 20 minutes, take a 20-second break and look at something 20 feet away.

- Quit Smoking and Limit Alcohol: Smoking cessation reduces oxidative stress, while moderate alcohol intake prevents nutrient depletion.

- Exercise Regularly: Physical activity enhances blood circulation to the optic nerve, lowering the risk of high IOP.

- Adequate Sleep: Ensure at least 7-8 hours of sleep daily to maintain overall eye health.

Glaucoma is no longer just an age-related disease—it is rapidly becoming a public health concern among the youth. With the combined efforts of healthcare professionals, policymakers, and individuals, we can unite to create a glaucoma-free world. Early detection, lifestyle modifications, and embracing technological advancements are the cornerstones of preventing this silent killer from becoming an epidemic. Let's take proactive steps today to preserve the vision of future generations.

## CDS stresses need for holistic counter-UAS system

New Delhi, Mar 10 (UNI) : Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan on Monday emphasised on the need for developing holistic counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) System for the Armed Forces.

While emphasising the transformative impact of UAS in modern warfare, Gen Chauhan highlighted the key trends - celerity, robotics advancements, and AI-driven intelligence - that are exploited by UAS, making them highly disruptive, a Defence Ministry statement said.

The CDS was delivering the keynote address at a seminar on "UAS Warfare with Special Focus on Counter-UAS" here, which was hosted by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS).

Referring to the present day conflicts, Gen Chauhan underscored how drones are reshaping warfare economics with low-cost, high-impact solutions.

The CDS postulated the imperative to establish a common vocabulary and grammar on UAS / drones / uncrewed systems by the Indian Armed Forces.

Stressing the doctrinal clarity in UAS classification, he outlined four generations of UAS and the need for developing holistic Counter-UAS systems.

He also called for synergy between users, designers, and manufacturers, ensuring India's self-reliant defence future. Meanwhile, the seminar underscored India's progress in drone warfare, with a focus on indigenous development and self-reliance under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. The discussions focused on the increasing manifestation of drone threats along India's northern and western borders, as well as in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), highlighting the need for advanced detection and neutralization systems. Leading defence industry representatives, including JSW UAV Ltd, Mahindra Defence, Adani Defence Systems, Kepler Aerospace, and Shyam VNL Pvt Ltd, presented cutting-edge solutions for counter-UAS warfare.

The seminar brought together distinguished experts from the Indian Armed Forces, strategic policymakers, industry leaders, and domain specialists to deliberate on the latest advancements in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and evolving counter-UAS strategies.

It reinforced the importance of integrating indigenous technologies with strategic policy frameworks to strengthen national security. It included all the stake holders such as BSF, ITBP, Coast Guard and Police.

## UP assembly establishing itself as excellent legislature in country: Mahana

Lucknow, Mar 10 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana on Monday said that the state's Legislative Assembly is establishing itself as an excellent legislature in the entire country.

Talking to reporters in Vidhan Bhawan, the Speaker said that dialogue programmes have been organised by forming groups of MLAs in the past. "Now in the coming time, a special 'Samvad Program' will be organised, in which the MLAs will share what they did for the development of their assembly in the past years and how their positive image was created. This will increase the confidence of the MLAs," he said.



## Delhi court dismisses J&K MP Engineer Rashid's plea to attend parliament session

New Delhi, Mar 10(UNI) : A Delhi court on Monday dismissed the application of Jammu and Kashmir MP Engineer Rashid seeking custody parole to attend parliament session.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Chander Jit Singh after hearing arguments on behalf of the prosecution and defence dismissed the application of the custody parole.

The counsel for Rashid moved an application on February 27 seeking custody parole on the grounds that he needed to attend parliament as an MP and to fulfil his public duty.

Engineer Rashid defeated Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Baramulla constituency.

He was arrested by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a 2017 terror funding case and lodged in Tihar Jail.

The NIA after investigation filed a chargesheet against several persons, including Kashmiri Separatist Leader Yasin Malik, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen Chief Syed Salahuddin in the court.

## SAD alleges Punjab officials tried to "inflare passions", demands judicial probe

Chandigarh, Mar 10 (UNI) : The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Monday asked the Punjab Chief Secretary (CS) to recommend a judicial probe against Information and Public Relations officers of three districts who tried to "inflare passions and force clashes" among different sections of the Sikh community.

In a statement here, senior SAD leader Dr Daljit Singh Cheema said "it seems officers of the Public Relations department were given orders to spread videos to inflame passions by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) functionaries.

"These functionaries should be identified and action should be taken against them as per law. Officers circulating inflammatory matter should also face legal as well as disciplinary action," said Cheema

Asking the AAP government not to interfere in the internal affairs of the Khalsa Panth, Cheema said "We have nothing against the Panthic organisations who had certain objections to the installation of Giani Kuldeep Singh Gadgaj as the new Jathedar of Sri Kesgarh Sahib. In fact they are much respected".

Asserting that the AAP government worked overtime to force a clash amongst Sikh groups, he said "this was the reason why the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee took a decision to install the new Jathedar in the early hours today at Sri Kesgarh Sahib".



Students of Allahabad University apply 'gulaal' to each other ahead of Holi festival, in Prayagraj.

## Budget Session: Gulmarg fashion show private event, no Govt involvement: CM

Jammu, Mar 10 (UNI) Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday stated that the controversial fashion show at the famous skiing resort of Gulmarg was organized by a private party at a private hotel, with no involvement of the government at any stage.

The Chief Minister, who is also the Leader of the House, made this statement in response to concerns raised by various members regarding the controversial event held during the holy month of Ramadan.

Informing the House about the matter, he said, "An inquiry into the matter was promptly initiated, and

some preliminary findings have come to light."

Providing further details, the Chief Minister stated that a fashion show was organized by a private entity on March 7 as part of a four-day event.

He noted that the actions during the event hurt public sentiments, a concern that he acknowledged as both understandable and justified.

Abdullah emphasized that the organizers failed to exercise sound judgment, disregarding the sensitivities of the people, the significance of the location, and the timing of their event. "There have been concerns that such an

event should not have taken place during Ramadan. I completely agree. However, I would go a step further and say that such an event should not have been held at any time of the year in a place, given the cultural and social ethos of our region," the Chief Minister said.

He further clarified, "Moreover, I must categorically state that the government had no involvement in this event whatsoever."

Providing further information, the Chief Minister stated that the event was privately organized in a private hotel.

"The government was neither approached for

permission nor did it provide any financial or logistical support. No government infrastructure was utilized and no government officials were present at the event," he said. "Despite this, the administration has been instructed to examine whether any legal violations occurred. If any provisions of the law have been breached, the authorities will take appropriate action," he added. The Chief Minister reiterated, "There was no government involvement in this event.

Had the matter been brought to our notice beforehand, we would not have permitted it."

## EAM brings up issue of safety, security of Indian missions, diplomats in UK

London/New Delhi, Mar 10 (UNI) : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who was the target of heckling by Khalistani activists during his London visit, brought up the issue of the safety and security of Indian Missions and diplomats during his talks with UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

During the talks, EAM also reiterated the need to expeditiously bring to justice, the perpetrators of attacks on the premises of HCI London, which took place two years ago when Khalistani activists clambered up the balcony of the Indian High Commission and attempted to remove the Indian national flag and replace it with a Khalistani flag. India had then raised the issue very strongly with the UK side.

EAM also emphasized the need to address the growing concerns over the increasing anti-India activities of pro-Khalistani Extremism elements, a statement said.

During his meeting with the UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds, the two sides focussed the progress of India-UK FTA negotiations. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing trade and investment opportunities, emphasizing the need to reduce trade barriers and expand market access.

In his meeting with Prime Minister Keir Starmer, EAM conveyed the warm greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Both sides

noted the positive momentum in India-UK relations, particularly with the resumption of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. They also recognised the strengthening of technology cooperation and deepening of people-to-people ties, and discussed key global issues, including the Ukraine conflict.

EAM was welcomed at Chevening House by Foreign Secretary David Lammy. EAM and Foreign Secretary Lammy held extensive discussions covering the full spectrum of India-UK relations, including India's strategic coordination, political cooperation, trade negotiations, education, technology, mobility, and people-to-people exchanges.

They reviewed progress on the new Roadmap 2.0 being discussed by the two sides that will impart fresh energy and new momentum to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. They also exchanged views on regional and global developments, including the Ukraine conflict, West Asia, Bangladesh, and the Commonwealth.

Both leaders interacted with Chevening Scholars from India, recognizing the crucial role that education and youth play, in fostering stronger bilateral ties.

EAM Jaishankar participated in a conversation at Chatham House with its Director and Chief Executive Bronwen

Maddox, where he spoke on shifting geopolitics, geoeconomics, India-UK relations, and India's perspective on global affairs.

EAM inaugurated the Consulate General of India in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in the presence of several distinguished local dignitaries, including the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly Edwin Poots; Minister Fleur Anderson; Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Micky Murray; and India's Honorary Consul, Lord Diljit Rana. The opening of the Consulate marks a significant step in strengthening India's presence in Northern Ireland, facilitating enhanced trade, business, technology, and educational linkages.

He also met with Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland Emma Little-Pengelly and Junior Minister Aisling Reilly at Stormont Castle. They explored opportunities for deeper collaboration in key areas such as skills development, cybersecurity, technology, creative industries, and manufacturing.

EAM visited Queen's University in Belfast, where he underscored the importance of their upcoming campus in GIFT City, Gujarat, as a testament to the growing India-UK partnership in the higher education sector. He also interacted with Indian students currently studying at Queen's

University, discussing their experiences and aspirations.

EAM inaugurated the Consulate General of India in Manchester, the fourth Indian Consulate in the UK, fulfilling a long-standing demand of the Indian diaspora and strengthening India's diplomatic outreach in Northern England.

## EAM Jaishankar holds bilateral talks with visiting Armenian FM

New Delhi, Mar 10 (UNI) : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held talks with visiting Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan here today, during which the two sides held talks on advancing trade, investment, connectivity among other issues.

In a post on X, the EAM said: "Pleased to welcome FM @AraratMirzoyan of Armenia this evening in Delhi.

"Productive discussions on advancing trade, investment, education, connectivity, mobility & culture.

"Also shared perspectives on the recent global and regional developments."

The Armenian FM, who delivered a lecture at the ICWA, said on X: "Delighted to start my official visit to #India with the engagement at @ICWA\_NewDelhi as we explore the vast potential in further strengthening the #strategic ties between Armenia and India.

"While our nations share deep historical bonds, today we have achieved concrete results in numerous spheres of mutual interest, including economy, security & defense, information technologies, education, & culture.

"As we view these relations from a long-term perspective, we continue working jointly towards more ambitious projects, including connectivity.

"Our vision on establishment of lasting peace in #SouthCaucasus, perhaps could have not been defined better than through Mahatma Gandhi's famous message: "There is no way to #peace, peace is the way."

"Grateful for the insightful exchange."

## Justice Bagchi appointed as SC judge

New Delhi, Mar 10 (UNI) : The Union government on Monday appointed justice Joymalya Bagchi as a judge of the Supreme Court.

The announcement was made by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on social media platform X.

The Supreme Court collegium, led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, Justice Bhushan R Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice Abhay S Oka, and Justice Vikram Nath, recommended his appointment on March 6.

The selection process considered his judicial acumen, integrity, and experience, along with factors such as seniority and regional representation.

Justice Bagchi, who began his tenure as a judge of the Calcutta High Court in June 2011, has had an extensive judicial career. He was transferred to the Andhra Pradesh High Court in January 2021 and later returned to the Calcutta High Court in November 2021.

His appointment to the Supreme Court fills one of the two existing vacancies in the apex court, which has a sanctioned strength of 34 judges. With his elevation, Justice Bagchi is set to assume the Chief Justice of India (CJI) role in May 2031, holding the position for a brief tenure until his retirement on October 2, 2031. Throughout his judicial career spanning over 13 years, Justice Bagchi has gained extensive expertise across various domains of law, making significant contributions to the judiciary.

## LS passes Bills of Lading Bill 2024

New Delhi, Mar 10 (UNI) The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Bills of Lading Bill 2024 by a voice vote, which seeks to replace the Indian Bills of Lading Act, 1856 and provides a legal framework for issuance of bills of lading. The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on August nine, 2024.

Replying to the debate, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said the changes have been brought in keeping with the principle 'reform, perform and transform'. He noted that the law being replaced is a 168-year-old law.

"We have created this Bill after extensive consultation with stakeholders and legal experts," he said.

The Minister asserted that it would empower stakeholders to deal with issues in the future.

Addressing the criticism of the members pertaining to the Bill, he said that the Bill deals with the specific rights and liabilities emanating from a transfer of bill of lading to a consignee, noting that it is not a contract but the

evidence of a contract, thus it is a legal document.

Sonowal said that the Bill is in keeping with Narendra Modi's transformative vision.

He concluded his speech expressing confidence that India would become self-sufficient by 2047 and become one of the top developed nations in the world. Earlier, speaking on the bill, NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule said that not all Opposition members are objecting to the Bills of Lading Bill, as they understand that it is not a policy change. She asked as to how to the Bill would make the shipping process more transparent.

She said that drug inflow should be stopped and asked what this Bill is doing for that.

She requested the government to take their feedback and strengthen the Bill. "I hope no Indian gets compromised in the future in the international game," she added and hoped that the Centre would take ownership and lead from the front for Indian fishermen who are helping maritime commerce.

### Government of Maharashtra

Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai Electrical Division,  
P.W.D. Sawali building, Ganpat Jadhav Marg, Worli Mumbai-18

### Notice No. 1/2024-25

The Tenders are invited by Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai Elect.Div. PWD Worli Mumbai for estimation purpose from consultants Empanelled under category Electrical Engineering Consultants in Regional Electrical Div PWD Mumbai for the following works. The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Government website <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. The competent authority reserves the right to reject/accept any or all the tenders. Conditional tenders will not be accepted.

Sr No	Name of Work	Amount
1	W11648/2024-25 Appointing design consultant for Estimation and works progress monitoring for providing complete internal electrification, external electrification designing, data telephone, CCTV, Lightning protection system, BEST charges, etc work of New Charity commissioner Bhavan at Dr. Annie Basent Worli, Mumbai. (2 Basement + Ground floor + First floor + second to fifth floor podium + sixth to 25th floor)	Rs. 481623/-
2	W11651/2024-25 Appointing design consultant for Estimation and works progress monitoring for providing complete Fire Fighting and Air Conditioning system work of New Charity commissioner Bhavan at Dr. Annie Basent Worli, Mumbai. (2 Basement + Ground floor + First floor + second to fifth floor podium + sixth to 25th floor)	Rs. 393856/-
3	W11655/2024-25 Appointing Design Consultant for Estimation and Works Progress Monitoring for Providing Complete Lift and Car Lift System Work of New Charity Commissioner Bhavan at Dr. Annie Basent Worli, Mumbai. (2 Basement + Ground floor + First floor + Second to Fifth floor Podium + Sixth to 25th floor)	Rs. 375000/-
4	W11626/24-25 Appointing MEP design consultant for MEP designing, Estimation and works progress monitoring for providing complete Internal and External Electrification work, Fire Fighting System, Air conditioning, Lift, CCTV, exhaust fan, computer Board, Water cooler, etc work of Special Panchkarma Hub, at M.A Podar Hospital, Worli, Mumbai.	Rs. 411670/-

Tender Available From Dt. 11/3/2025 To Dt. 25/3/2025  
Tender Open On Dt. 27/3/2025 after 11.00 am (If Possible)

DGIPR/2024-25/6989

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Central Mumbai Electrical Division  
PWD Worli Mumbai



## Home &amp; Garden

## 10 cool ways to go Green



And no, you do not need to go on a planting drive or install a compactor in your home to go eco-friendly. Here's listing 10 ways you can do your bit for the environment. Apart from them being hassle-free and cool, you can start doing them right from your home. So, chop chop.

**1. CARPOOL:**

You must have noticed the unimaginable jump in the number of personal vehicles in the city in the last five years? Well, according to a Barclays report - Megatrends: Accelerating urbanization in India - the country's transportation infrastructure is unable to keep up with its rapid urbanization rates.

Result: 8 hours and 15 km-long traffic jam on Delhi-Gurgaon expressway on May 22, this year. Even if you weren't stuck in the jam, you must be tasting this bitter pill every day on your way to work. Solution? Carpool.

**WHY IS IT COOL?**

Because, you get a break from driving every day and you get to drive on roads that do not feel like Gariahat during Chaitra sale!

**2. RECYCLE AND GET CRAFTY:**

If you have an artiste inside you who hasn't had an outlet yet, this is your chance. Recycle

your alcohol, sauce, jelly and soft drink bottles. Paint on them to turn these into centrepieces or vases. You can even use them as unusual planters for your plants. Youtube papermache and start using up the unending piles of newspapers you have hoarded in between. Instead of throwing away takeaway containers and pizza boxes, use them to store your trinkets and accessories like hair bands or tie-pins. Use your old CDs as coasters. Yes, there's no end to the stuff you can DIY while recycling. **WHY IS IT COOL?**

Because doing it yourself is the latest thing, but mostly because it has got an acronym.

**3. UNPLUG:**

No, we aren't talking metaphorically not about suddenly. It's walking up to your boss and going bam, "I need a break" one day. No, we mean literally. Stop leaving your mobile

chargers hanging from the plug point even when not in use or even when not in use or putting your computers and televisions on sleep-mode at night. Simply unplug. Because you might think that the appliances are not plugged into the chargers to consume electricity, but simply leaving them plugged keeps the electricity running through them.

**WHY IS IT COOL?**

Because wires are a nuisance. They are messy and knotty. Who wants them hanging around even when there's no need?

**4. DONATE TO FOOD BANKS:**

Mummy was right. The recent pictures of hungry kids from quake-hit Nepal reinforced that belief in us all over again. So what to do with the excess food products that we simply can't stop buying from the

supermarkets all the while knowing they are of no use? Donate them to food banks. Never heard of these banks? Well, they are organizations that collect leftover food from big restaurants to distribute amongst the underprivileged. Look for one in your vicinity and get in touch.

**WHY IS IT COOL?**

You will be starting a trend that most of your cool friends are still unaware of.

**5. GO FOR JUTE AND THE KHADI:**

From inter national runways to Esplanade pavement, natural fabric is the haute trend this season.

These natural fabrics are massively helping designers to merchants, consumers to weavers.

And, we aren't only talking about clothes. Everything from bags to lampshades, curtains to doormats come in these natural fabrics.

**WHY IS IT COOL?**

Because even Stella McCartney has pledged her commitment to sustainable green fashion.

**6. MOVE IN:** Think about it. It saves the entire daily utilities of another home. Save on the rent, electricity, cooking gas, water... should we go on? For the commitment phobic people out there, this is one leap of faith you can take. one leap of faith you can take.

**WHY IS IT COOL?**

Do we have to spell it out, dumbos? Wink, wink.

**7. INVEST IN A KHUS KHUS MAT INSTEAD OF RENTING A COOLER:**

Renting coolers during summers is a common thing for students staying in hostels or PGs. But a khus khus mat is so much cheaper! Just invest in one and douse it in water regularly after hanging it from the window.

**WHY IS IT COOL?**

Apart from the fact that it makes the living area much cooler, it also lends the room a retro look. If you can pair that up with a khus khus floor mat too, well you are almost on your way to being an interior designer. Ok, not that.

**8. GO DIGITAL:**

If you haven't already, it's high time you shift your banking and billing to the online and phone-banking portals. Seriously, when you have the option of sitting in the comfort of your home and pay your phone and electricity bills through the internet, why would you want to go out (or make someone else go out on your behalf) in this heat? It saves energy, fuel, trees and mostly time.

**It's World Environment Day today . And even if you are someone who is principally against celebrating special days, this is one of those commemorations that can do with your help.**

**WHY IS IT COOL?**

Because, c'mon, it's the digital age and you cannot afford to be left behind. Do you seriously want people to stare at you when you tell them that you have to leave early because you need to pay the phone bill? Who does that anymore!

**9. PEE IN YOUR GARDEN:**

Stop laughing. Stop smirking. Stop hawking! It's an easy and natural way of going green. The average flush drains at least three litres of water everytime you flush after peeing. That's a lot of water if you consider the fact that India is facing a drought. Plus, urine is a natural fertilizer, containing nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and urea. So, apart from saving water, you are also helping grow save plants! Statutory Warning: Since it's still not a well-regarded practice in this country, we suggest you do not do it in public. It might be construed as a public nuisance. a public nuisance.

**WHY IS IT COOL?**

Did you not read the header? Because, it will save the planet!

**10. KEEP A COFFEE MUG IN YOUR LOCKER:**

Stop using paper or polystyrene cups that your workplace provides. Instead, invest in a coffee mug. It is always cooler to sip coffee from a mug that **boasts of a quirky message, preferably one that defines you.**

**WHY IS IT COOL?**

Because this is the best excuse to get your significant other to buy you that cup you had been lusting after.

## Tips to make your home Monsoon ready

**Holed up indoors on a rainy day? Make sure you've done your bit to brighten your house in the dull monsoon season.**

Navin Mistry, head of retail exports and lifestyle category, eBay India, lists out five easy tips to add some life to the atmosphere at home:

- Small, simple yet elegant changes in the decor can make your home monsoon ready. Bright and cheerful colours like coral and yellow are perfect for the melancholy the weather leaves you with.

- Rainy season calls for light fabrics and therefore fabrics with synthetic blends are always a good idea. - One can avoid the damp moist smell with scented candles. They are in various fragrances, so choose what suits you.

- Many of us enjoy sitting by the window and reading on a rainy day, adding wind-chimes near the window can be a good idea then. The light tingling and chiming with soft breeze will add a mystical touch to your day.

- Using vibrant coloured Chinaware can also be a good idea. Adding a few colours to the containers and dishes works fine. One can also hand paint on containers as not only does it brighten the table, but also keeps one busy during the heavy rains.



## Seed bombing is the new way to reclaim green spaces

The non-violent way to reclaim the green spaces in your city with plants of your choice is fast gaining ground

Want to reclaim the city space, beautify your area and be an architect of your own surroundings? Then you're welcome to be a seed bomber - a technique that has people throwing live seeds, packed in a specially made, compressed bundle of soil. These little bombs germinate and catch soil easily during the monsoons so you don't have to spend a lot of time gardening and make your ambitious patch of green in places that are hard to reach.

**Bombing the city green**

In Mumbai seed bombing is fast gaining traction with plant lovers and gardening enthusiasts coming together to organise workshops during monsoon where they meet and share the various techniques to make these seed bombs. Aditi Punj, who organises these workshops at her flyover farm in Mohammed Ali Road, says that while usual gardening enthusiasts show interest, it is the kids who take to the activity in a big way. "The concept is guerrilla gardening and it is a fun way for people to be involved in making the city green. It's easy to do, and a great and tactile way for the kids to be involved."

**Taking to the highways**

Another seed bombing enthusiast, Shaan Lalwani who owns a nursery in the suburbs organised a similar seed bombing run along the Mumbai Pune Expressway where him along with a bunch of other enthusiasts, "I had recently read in papers that around 3 to 5 lakh trees were destroyed while making the express way. The



landslides that occur during monsoons are because of this indiscriminate chopping of trees." To tackle this problem and find a remedy for the long run, Lalwani along with other enthusiasts took off in two cars with 500 bombs each and pelted the sides along the highway with these colourful bombs with sling shots. "We used seeds of plants as well as trees. The bombs were made of seeds including Neem, Peepal, Gulmohar, Badam, Umber and Bhindi. We used these as they are strong species, native to the area and ideal to be grown along the highway."



DIY Making a seed bomb is a rather easy process, which involves very little

in terms of materials. It is cheap. You can then go on to graduate to making the complex, fancier seed bombs.

**Classic Clay Seed Ball**

Invented by Japanese Masanobu Fukuoka, this is the most common one to make.

**Ingredients**

- Seed of your choice, or a mix (Important to use native plant seeds)  
- Compost, made up of dried leaves  
- Water

**Method**

- Mix 5 parts of clay with 1 part of compost and 1 part of seeds  
- Mix a few drops of water and knead into a mix.

- Separate the clay and make tiny, clay balls. Each ball can have more than a few seeds.

**Places where one can bombard with seed grenades**

- 1) Plots of soft land
- 2) Dividers between roads
- 3) Building gardens
- 4) Soft paths along highways

**Important**

Always use seeds of native plants, as species that are not native to the environment can hurt the ecosystem of the place

## Give your home a monsoon makeover

**Monsoon is a great time to give your abode a practical yet vibrant makeover. Lend a refreshing change to your home decor with vibrant colors, quirky printed fabrics and accessories to add a touch of liveliness.**

Experts at upholstery providers D'Decor provide some useful tips and trends to re-invent your home decor this monsoon.

- With plenty of black and grey outside, it is a definite no-no for the interiors. Whites and creams can also be avoided as they get difficult to maintain, especially if you have kids in the house.

- Monsoon calls for warm and bright colors such as ochre, coral, shades of red or neon pastels.

- Opt for slip covers in light weight, easy-care home wash fabrics like satin and poly cotton blends. Not only do they feel cozy and comfortable, but also keep away mildew and mites.

- With overcast skies, one would need whatever light that can enter the home to enhance the bright colors and reflective surfaces. Use light cotton or sheer curtains or blinds which do not have lining, to allow sufficient light to enter the room, yet providing the privacy needed.

- Indoor plants should be placed outdoor since they retain moisture and add staleness to the air. Woolens, blankets and quilts can be stored in plastics.

- Small colorful cotton rugs and mats are a surely recommended as add-ons, so that one can clean their feet before jumping on the bed. Keep the bed clean as well as dry, such that you do not need to change the linen frequently.

- Cover the beds during the day with bedcovers made from blended fabrics and sit back and enjoy the pleasant weather.





## ICC announces Champions Trophy 2025 Team of Tournament

Dubai, Mar 10 (UNI) : The ninth edition of the Champions Trophy 2025 saw India being crowned as the winners on March 9 after they overcame New Zealand in the final.

Several exceptional performers lit up the tournament with the bat and ball.

The best of them made it to the Team of the Tournament.

1. Rachin Ravindra (New Zealand) 251 runs, 62.75 average, two hundreds

Ravindra went big in two of New Zealand's Champions Trophy games while also finding ways to contribute as a spin bowler. He won the Player of the Tournament award for his all-round excellence.

2. Ibrahim Zadran (Afghanistan) 216 runs, 72 average, one hundred

The opener proved how crucial he is to Afghanistan's competitiveness, steering his team to a famous win over England by scoring a mega 177 in the first innings, which is now the highest-ever individual score in the competition's history.

3. Virat Kohli (India) 218 runs, 54.5 average, one hundred

India's top-order star Kohli produced two impressive knocks, including an 84 in the semi-final against Australia, confirming that even at 36, he's still at the peak of his powers in the format. During the Champions Trophy, Kohli also crossed the landmark of 14,000 ODI runs, becoming just the third player after Sachin Tendulkar and Kumar Sangakkara to do so.

4. Shreyas Iyer (India) 243 runs, 48.6 average, two fifties

Solid as a rock in India's middle order. From India's last four tournament matches, Shreyas' lowest batting return was 45 runs, proving to be a pillar of consistency in trying batting conditions in Dubai.

5. KL Rahul (wk) (India) 140 runs, 140 average, 42 highest score\*

India's keeper was reliable behind the stumps and a clutch performer in his role as India's finisher with the bat. From four innings, he finished unbeaten on three occasions. He was particularly crucial during India's chases in the all-important knockout games, scoring unbeaten 42 not out and 34 not out against Australia and New Zealand respectively.

6. Glenn Phillips (New Zealand) 177 runs, 59 average, two wickets, five catches

New Zealand all-rounder Phillips not only showed glimpses of why he's one of the most dangerous batters in the world but displayed exceptional fielding prowess for the Kiwis, taking three absolute stunners during the tournament, including a mindboggling catch against Virat Kohli in the final group game against India.

7. Azmatullah Omarzai (Afghanistan) 126 runs, 42 average, seven wickets, one five-wicket haul

The middle-order batting production was there for all to see, while his bowling was also effective. Omarzai's 5/58 against England proved match-winning as the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year for 2024 lived up to his billing.

8. Mitchell Santner (c) (New Zealand) Nine wickets, 26.6 average, 4.80 economy

Santner's captaincy and bowling were equal parts world-class, right way through New Zealand's impressive campaign that saw them finish as runner-ups.

## Mohammedan SC finish debut ISL campaign without a home win

Kolkata, Mar 10 (UNI) : Mohammedan SC held Punjab FC to a 2-2 draw at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan, here, in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 on Monday night.

Both teams have thus rounded off their campaigns in the competition this season, with Mohammedan SC having 13 points from 24 games, being unable to secure a home win throughout, and Punjab FC bagging 28 points on the back of eight victories and four draws.

The Kolkata-based team, trailing by two goals at one point, produced a laudable outing in the second half to bag the draw. Punjab FC commenced the flow of proceedings bringing a cohesive pattern of play to the fore. They functioned impressively, breaching past the Mohammedan SC midfield lines with a rapid string of passes that the home side struggled to break.

The visitors maximised that with Asmir Suljic showing impressive awareness to enter space

on the left flank, before setting an instinctive squared up delivery for Ezequiel Vidal that was slotted into the bottom left corner to open the scoring in the ninth minute. Vidal was critical to the second goal that Punjab FC netted in the 53rd minute.

He cracked open the Mohammedan SC defence with a through pass intended for Luka Majcen at the edge of the 18-yard box. Zodingliana Ralte attempted to make a timely interception but he ended up losing control of the pass, as Majcen jumped upon the loose ball to deposit it into the bottom right corner and double his team's advantage.

Mohammedan SC grabbed command over the game immediately though, as Manvir Singh launched in a sharp cross from the left flank with multiple teammates positioned extremely near to the box to latch upon the delivery and head the ball in. An extremely crowded situation followed, with Vanlalzuidika

## Rohit Sharma uncertain about 2027 World Cup

New Delhi, Mar 10 (UNI) : India captain Rohit Sharma has left the door open regarding his playing future but remained non-committal on featuring in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027.

Fresh off leading India to victory in the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025, Rohit dismissed speculation about his retirement but admitted that the next World Cup is still too far to predict.

"It's very hard to say that right now," Rohit said on his participation in the 2027 edition on Monday. "But I'm keeping all my options open. I want to see how well I'm playing. Right now, I'm playing really well and enjoying everything with this team."

The 38-year-old opener played a captain's knock in the Champions Trophy final, securing India's triumph and earning the Player of the Match award. His leadership was instrumental in India reclaiming an ICC trophy, silencing critics who questioned the team's ability in knockout tournaments.

Dismissing rumours of an imminent retirement, Rohit made it clear that as long as he enjoys the game and contributes to the team, he will continue. "There's so much pride in playing for India, and the way this team is playing, I don't want to leave," he remarked. Rohit emphasised that the camaraderie in the squad plays a key role in his motivation. "There's so much joy and fun playing with this team. As long as I feel that passion, I'll be here." While Rohit's long-term future remains undecided, his current form and commitment to Indian cricket remain unquestionable. With another ICC trophy under his belt, the veteran leader continues to inspire, leaving fans wondering just how much longer he will grace the international stage.

## Argentina gears up for Regional Qualifier on road to Women's T20 WC 2026

Dubai, Mar 10 (UNI) : The next step in the race for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 begins on Monday with Argentina, Brazil, Canada and the USA set to do battle in Buenos Aires at the Americas Qualifier.

The teams arrived in the Argentinian capital on Friday with hopes of advancing to the final stage of qualification – the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2026 – a ten-team global event which will determine the remaining teams that will feature in England and Wales in 2026.

Twelve matches in a double round-robin format will be held across the eight-day competition, kicking off with an opening double-header of Canada v USA and Argentina v Brazil at the St Albans Club Ground on Monday. Teams will play each other twice before the event concludes on 17 March with only the table-topping side advancing to the next

## Parul Singh appointed as President of DPSA

New Delhi, Mar 10 (UNI) : The Divyang Para Sports Association of Delhi (DPSA) has officially appointed Ms. Parul Singh as its new President. The appointment was confirmed by Rahul Kasana, General Secretary of DPSA, recognizing her dedication to the upliftment of para sports and athletes. Under her leadership, DPSA aims to set new milestones in promoting inclusivity and excellence in para sports. Ms. Singh, known for her relentless efforts in empowering para-athletes, has expressed her commitment to elevating India's standing in the global para-sports arena.

"I am honored to take on this responsibility and will work tirelessly to ensure India becomes a leading country in the Paralympics. Our para-athletes have immense potential, and my goal is to provide them with the best training, resources, and opportunities to shine on the international stage," said Parul Singh.

Rahul Kasana, General Secretary of DPSA, also emphasised the significance of this leadership change. "With Parul Singh at the helm, we are confident that DPSA will reach new heights. Her passion and vision for para sports will play a crucial role in empowering athletes and fostering a strong sportsmanship culture in the country," he stated.

CS Neeraj Sharma, Secretary of DPSA, echoed similar sentiments and highlighted the association's commitment to para sports. "Parul Singh's leadership marks a new era for DPSA. Her dedication to athlete development and her vision for India's dominance in the Paralympics will undoubtedly drive significant progress. We are excited to work together in building a brighter future for para-athletes," he said.



stage.

A vibrant build-up also witnessed the launch of a participation programme for girls in Argentina on International Women's Day, with the competing teams leading the festivities alongside Argentinian Olympic stars including three-time hockey medallist and flag-bearer at Paris 2024, Rocio Sanchez Moccia.

President of Cricket Argentina, Hernan Pereyra, said: "As we prepare to

welcome the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Americas Qualifier, I extend my warmest greetings to all participants and supporters. Buenos Aires, a city full of culture and vibrant energy, is the perfect stage for this prestigious tournament.

"This event brings together the best teams in the region, all competing for a place on the road to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. The stakes are high, and the

passion and determination on display will inspire future generations of cricketers across the Americas."

Reflecting on the prospect of qualifying for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, Argentina captain Alison Stocks, stated: "It would be a dream come true. I don't know how long I have in the game but I know that the young team that is playing in the Americas Qualifier deserves it, and it would be

an honour to help these young girls accomplish this huge goal."

The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 will see a greater number of competing teams (12) and matches (33) than ever before.

Eight teams have already gained automatic qualification to the event; Australia, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the West Indies by virtue of their performances at the 2024 edition, plus Pakistan and Sri Lanka, who were the two next highest ranked teams on the ICC Women's T20I rankings table on October 21, 2024.

The four remaining spots will be determined through the ten-team Qualifier, comprising teams that have advanced from regional pathway events such as next week's Americas Qualifier and subsequent competitions held in Africa, Asia, Europe and the East Asia-Pacific in 2025.

## Skier Siddhartha Gadekar from Pune clinches gold in KIWG at Gulmarg

Srinagar, Mar 10 (UNI) : Skier Siddhartha Gadekar of Pune Maharashtra won the gold in Vertical Ski Mountaineering event in the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) being played at the picturesque Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Shardul Thapliyal and Himanshu Singh both from Himachal Pradesh clinched Silver and Bronze in the event respectively.

Celebrating yellow metal, Skier Gadekar divulged that consistent endurance training got him the result he wanted.

He expressed gratitude to KIWG authorities for the platform and unique opportunity to help athletes display latent potential.

Gadekar eyes international sports events and hopes to carry current performance forward to do

better in upcoming events.

In the women's category, Tenzin Dolma from Himachal Pradesh secured Gold in Vertical Ski Mountaineering, the first medal for her in KIWGs, while Natasha Mahar from Himachal Pradesh improved from yesterday's performance and won the silver medal.

As an Ultra Trail Runner, Dolma didn't find the competition challenging since the endurance she had developed over the period showered her with desired rewards.

In the same event, Manek Gunjiyal of Uttarakhand who had won Gold in Women's Snowboarding Slalom on Sunday had tough luck today and had to settle for bronze. Gunjiyal was one of the gold medallists from KIWG-2024.

In the Nordic Ski Sprint,

ITBP sent all other participants to cleaners while wrestling all three medals in the event. The ITBP players Kulsum Rana, Selma Soreng, and Anjana Devi obtained Gold, Silver, and Bronze respectively.

The Nordic Ski Sprint for men saw medals raining for the Army as the athletes including Manjeet, Shubam Parihar and Sunny Singh took away Gold, Silver and Bronze medals respectively leaving others high & dry amid the snow.

Competing against thirty other participants in Snowboard giant Slalom event, Zubair Ahmad Lone from J&K, glided the slopes fiercely to clinch Gold Medal, while Kulvinder Sharma and Karan Sing of Army settled with Silver & Bronze. Similarly, in Alpine Giant Slalom Category Women, Himachal Pradesh had triple whammy to

celebrate all three medals with Anchal Thakur, Tanuja Thakur and Suhani Thakur taking home Gold, Silver and Bronze respectively amid the huge applause of spectators and supporters.

In the Men's Category of Alpine Giant Slalom, Sunil Kumar from Army, Atul Bhat from ITBP and Yogesh Kumar from Himachal Pradesh achieved Gold, Silver and Bronze respectively. It would be entertaining to watch which among these teams would be dominating the final medal tally of KIWGs.

Similarly, in Alpine Giant Slalom Category Women, Himachal Pradesh had triple whammy to celebrate all three medals with Anchal Thakur, Tanuja Thakur and Suhani Thakur taking home Gold, Silver and Bronze respectively amid the huge applause of spectators and supporters.

## Flick eyes win over Benfica for Barca doctor Minarro

Madrid, Mar 10 (UNI) : FC Barcelona has to overcome tragedy when it takes on Benfica in the second leg of their Champions League tie on Tuesday night aiming to defend a 1-0 lead from the first leg.

Barcelona's La Liga game at home to Osasuna on Saturday night was postponed following the shock death of club doctor Carles Minarro prior to the game and the club has asked UEFA to allow the players to not speak to the press prior to the game as a mark of respect. Barca coach Hansi Flick was planning to make squad rotations for Saturday's game, resting players such as Pedri, Raphinha and Inigo Martinez ahead of Tuesday's game.

The fact that Saturday's game was postponed means the Barca squad has been able to rest, which makes Flick's task of selecting his side for Tuesday much easier.

With central defender Pau Cubarsi suspended after his red card last week in Lisbon, Martinez and Ronald Araujo will play in central defense, with Jules Kounde and Alejandro Balde as full backs.

Frenkie de Jong and Pedri (both of whom were due for a weekend rest) will play in central midfield, with Dani Olmo in the 'number 10' role behind Raphinha, Robert Lewandowski and Lamine Yamal.

Flick did speak to the press and said he believed the team was "managing" the death of Dr Minarro "well," and that the players wanted to dedicate a win to him on Tuesday. "It is a great loss, he was a great person and an excellent doctor, who was incredible for the team and the club and a key piece in our team.

We will miss him," said Flick. "We want to play for him to tomorrow and we want to win this important match for him. We are prepared for that," added the coach.

## India eye historic glory at All England Open 2025

Birmingham, Mar 10 (UNI) : With a rich legacy and a burning desire for victory, Indian shuttlers, led by two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, are set to battle it out at the prestigious All England Open 2025, beginning Tuesday at the Utilita Arena.

Sindhu, ranked world No. 15, is making her much-anticipated return to the court after a hiatus since the Indonesia Masters in January. She will be keen to reclaim her dominance at one of the most coveted

events on the BWF World Tour. Malvika Bansod, world No. 28, is the only other Indian in the women's singles draw.

World No. 10 Lakshya Sen, India's highest-ranked men's singles shuttler, will be looking to better his semifinal finish from last year.

The 2022 runner-up, Sen, is returning to action after his Indonesia Masters campaign and could face compatriot HS Prannoy (world No. 30) in the quarterfinals if both advance.

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## Central Railway registers splendid loading figures of 74.39 MT for the FY 2024-25

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, March 10 : Central Railway registered splendid Freight Loading of 74.39 MT (million tonnes) in this Financial year (upto 28th February 2025) and loading of 7.28 MT for the month of February -2025.

Loading during February-2025 has been as follows :-

- 208 rakes of Petroleum products loaded in February -2025 as against 175 rakes in February -2024

registering a growth of 18.8%.

- 114 rakes of Fertilizer loaded in February-2025 as against 98 rakes in February -2024 registering a growth of 16.3%.

- 244 rakes of Cement loaded in February-2025 as against 241 rakes in February -2024 registering a growth of 1.2%.

Average speed of freight trains have increased by 2.1% over last year.

There has been an improvement of 1.2% in average interchange of trains per day with average interchange of 374 trains per day during the current year against average interchange of 367 trains per day during last year.

Central Railway has been consistently putting in great efforts to better its performance which has enabled it to achieve significant growth in Freight loadings.

## Railways to Run additional 4 Special Trains between Kalaburagi-Bengaluru for Holi Festival : Central Railway

(Standard Post Bureau) Solapur, March 10 : On demand of passengers Railways will run additional 4 Special Trains between Kalaburagi and Bengaluru to clear the extra rush of passengers travelling during Holi Festival. The details are as under :-

Kalaburagi-SMVT Bengaluru Specials (4 trips) - Train No 06520 Special will depart Kalaburagi at 09:35 hrs on 14.03.2025 & 15.03.2025 (Friday & Saturday) and will arrive

SMVT Bengaluru at 20:00 hrs same day. (2 trips)

- Train No 06519 Special will depart SMVT Bengaluru at 21:15 hrs on 13.03.2025 & 14.03.2025 (Thursday & Friday) and will arrive Kalaburagi at 07:40 hrs next day. (2 trips)

Halts: Shahabad, Yadgir, Krishna, Raichur, Mantralayam Road, Adoni, Guntakal, Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Yelahanka.

Composition: 2 AC-II

Tier, 5 AC-III Tier, 10 Sleeper Class, 2 General Second Class and 2 Luggage cum Guard's Brake Vans. (21 Coaches)

Reservation: Bookings for special train nos.06520/06519 on special charges are open at all computerised reservation centres and on website [www.irctc.co.in](http://www.irctc.co.in)

For detailed timings and halts of these Special Trains, please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in) or download NTES App.

## The anthology *Sita to Abhaya: Have Things Changed?* reflects the ever-evolving status of women in Indian society



(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, March 10 : On the occasion of international women's day, An anthology titled- Sita to Abhaya - Have things changed? was launched by eminent personalities such as the well known writer - Ms Mamta Kalia and Ms Jaya Verma Sinha - recently Retd Chairman and CEO of Railway Board, Shri

Amrendra Kathua- Retd Chairperson ICCR, and Ms Surekha Sahu - an eminent poetess and writer. The anthology contains thought provoking pieces about the challenges of being a female- fiction, non fiction , poetry , critical essays and is Bilingual- Hindi and English. It raises many uncomfortable questions which are very

relevant to today's times and society. Some of the authors are Dr Seema Sharma , IRTS, Chief Administrative Officer , Systems, Central Railway , Shri S Kapil, Shri Ravi Valluri , Retd IRTS officers amongst many others. The book has been compiled and curated by Mrs Lakshmi Valluri and Mr Ravi Valluri.

A brief write up is given

## Delhi court allows three-day ED custody

New Delhi, Mar 10 (UNI) : A Delhi court on Monday extended the Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody of Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) National President MK Faizi by three days under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The ED counsel pleaded that Faizi's ED remand be extended by five more days for further interrogation. Additional Session Judge (ASJ) Chander Jit Singh after hearing submissions on behalf of Enforcement Directorate and the defence, passed an order remanding the SDPI chief to ED custody for three more days.

## WR to run special train between bandra Terminus and Bhavnagar

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 10 : For the convenience of passengers and to clear extra rush of passenger traffic, Western Railway will run Special Train on Special Fare between Bandra Terminus and Bhavnagar Terminus stations.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of this train is as under:

Train No. 09013/09014 Bandra Terminus - Bhavnagar Terminus Superfast Special (02 Trips)

Train No. 09013 Bandra Terminus - Bhavnagar Terminus Superfast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus on Tuesday, 11th March, 2025 at 19:25 hrs and reach Bhavnagar Terminus at 09:00 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09014 Bhavnagar Terminus - Bandra Terminus Superfast Special will depart from Bhavnagar Terminus on Thursday, 13th March, 2025 at 04:00 hrs and arrive Bandra Terminus at 17:00 hrs, the same day.

Enroute this train will halt Borivali, Vapi, Udhna, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Viramgam, Surendranagar Gate, Botad, Dhola, Songadh and Sihor Gujarat stations in both directions.

This train comprises of Sleeper Class and General Second Class coaches.

The booking for Train No. 09013 will open from 11th March, 2025, while for Train No. 09014 will open from 12th March, 2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

## DGP felicitates ASI with commendation Disc for exceptional artistry

Chandigarh, Mar 10 (UNI) DGP Punjab Gaurav Yadav on Monday felicitated ASI Ashok Kumar with the prestigious Director General's Commendation Disc for his exceptional craftsmanship in creating stunning portraits using American diamonds, also known as Jarkan stones.

The recognition comes close on the heels of ASI Ashok Kumar's recent achievement, when his extraordinary artistry earned him a place in the World Book of Records.

His extraordinary work, featuring global icons, have not only showcased his unparalleled skill but have also brought immense pride to the Punjab police force.

The DGP, while congratulating ASI for the achievement, said that remarkable talent will continue to bring honour to the Punjab police. Earlier, DGP Yadav took to X, formerly Twitter, to applaud ASI's achievements, stating, "ASI Ashok Kumar has redefined portrait artistry with his breathtaking creations using American diamonds (Jarkan stone).

## Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, SCR Holds safety Review Meeting

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, March 10 : Mr Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway conducted a detailed review meeting on safety of train operations today at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad. Shri Neeraj Agrawal, Additional General Manager, SCR also participated in the meeting along with all the Principal Heads of Departments. Divisional Railway Manager's (DRMs) of all six Divisions i.e. Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur and Nanded joined the review meeting through video conference.

The General Manager reviewed the status of safety drives being conducted over the zone for smooth running of trains and safety of passengers and workmen. He emphasized that during the course of the safety



drives the officers, supervisors as well as the construction staff should be sensitized on all aspects of safety. He emphasized the field officials to ensure worksite safety requirements without compromise. He advised the officials to conduct surprise checks on track maintenance and counsel the staff about the safety procedures. The General Manager instructed to ensure

compliance of all safety guidelines such as proper lighting, sign boards etc., at construction sites across the zone. He also advised the running staff to strictly follow the guidelines on mandatory rest hours.

Mr Arun Kumar Jain discussed on the safety precautions to be followed at all the crossings and points on tracks over the zone and instructed the

officials to conduct safety drives by involving all the safety related staff. He instructed to take precautions while shunting to avoid minor incidents at yards. Officials briefed on availability of safety items such as smoke detectors in AC coaches, fire extinguishers and train approach warning equipment to track maintainers and S&T equipment etc.

## International Women's Day 2025 celebrated over Western Railway with great fervour

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 10 : Western Railway celebrated International Women's Day 2025 with great fervor and zeal with activities held for its women employees from 6th March, 2025. The celebrations came to a conclusion with a grand cultural event held at Godbole Hall, Western Railway HQs Building, Churchgate on 10th March, 2025. Shri Ashok Kumar Misra, General Manager of Western Railway was the Chief Guest and Smt. Kshama Misra - President of Western Railway Women's Welfare Organization (WRWVO) was Guest of Honour.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day is "Accelerate Action". According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, the keynote address for the closing event was delivered by Smt. Manjula Saxena, Principal Chief Personnel Officer of Western Railway who highlighted the importance of women empowerment and the significant contributions made by women employees in Western Railway. Thereon, Shri Ashok Kumar Misra, General Manager released a book titled 'Swayamsiddha' which provides necessary and



In the first photo, GM WR Mr Ashok Kumar Misra is addressing the gathering on the occasion of International Women's Day 2025 at WR's HQ. In the second photo, Smt. Kshama Misra - President of WRWVO is seen welcomed by PCPO/WR Smt. Manjula Saxena. The third photo is a view of the release of 'Swayamsiddha' book. The fourth photo gives a glimpse of the cultural programme.

important information for women employees as well as tips and guidelines on lifestyle and health. GM WR Shri Misra gave an inspiring speech to all the women employees present. He enumerated how women have reached the highest positions in various fields and are not leaving any stone unturned. He also highlighted that women empowerment must start at home first. He emphasized that change of attitude and behaviour towards women and girl child should begin at home so that all women are empowered together and success does not limit to only few who strive.

At the closing event, an exclusive collaboration video titled, was also released.

The video is made by Western Railway in collaboration with Radio Channel - Fever 104 FM which is dedicated to the exceptional service of women employees of WR. The video captures inspiring shots of women employees who work relentlessly to ensure a safe and comfortable travel experience for railway commuters. A Puppet Show (ventriloquism) by Smt. Suchi Mahadik was also organized as part of the Women's Day celebrations

on Western Railway, entertaining the audience with its colorful and engaging performance. A session on Chair Yoga by Dr. Jancy Shekar was also organized. This was followed by a cultural programme and was attended by Principal Head of Departments, WRWVO committee members, representatives from various associations and unions, women officers and staff of Western Railway. The Women's Day celebration was truly a memorable event with all activities like fun and frolic, health care, etc. having been covered.

## SWR will run Holi Special trains between Mysuru-Danapur and Vasco Da Gama-Patna

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 10 : I. One trip Special Express trains (06211/12) between Mysuru-Danapur

Train No. 06211 Mysuru-Danapur Special Express will depart from Mysuru at 10:05 a.m. on March 11, 2025 and will reach Danapur at 5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2025.

In the return direction, Train No. 06212 Danapur-Mysuru Special Express will depart from Danapur at 01:05 a.m. on March 16, 2025 and will arrive Mysuru at 3:40 a.m. on March 18, 2025.

En route, the train will halt at the following stations in both

directions: Mandya, KSR Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, Tumakuru, Arsikere, Davangere, SSS Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Miraj, Sangli, Karad, Satara, Pune, Manmad, Bhusaval, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar, and Ara.

The special train will have a total of 21 coaches, including 1 AC Two Tier cum AC Three Tier, 3 AC Three Tier, 13 Sleeper Class, 2 General Second Class and 2 SLR/D coaches.

**II. One trip Special Express trains (07311/**

**12) between Vasco Da Gama-Patna**

Train No. 07311 Vasco Da Gama-Patna Special Express will depart from Vasco Da Gama at 4:00 p.m. on March 11, 2025 and will reach Patna at 10:30 a.m. on March 13, 2025.

In the return direction, Train No. 07312 Patna-Vasco Da Gama Special Express will depart from Patna at 5:40 p.m. on March 15, 2025 and will arrive Vasco Da Gama at 10:30 a.m. on March 17, 2025.

En route, the train will halt at the following stations in both directions: Madgaon,

Thivim, Sawantwadi Road, Ratnagiri, Chiplun, Roha, Panvel, Kalyan, Manmad, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar, Ara and Danapur.

The special train will have a total of 20 coaches, including 1 AC Two Tier, 5 AC Three Tier, 12 Sleeper Class, 1 Brake, Luggage cum Generator Car and 1 SLR/D coaches.

For more details on the arrival and departure timings at the respective stations of these trains, passengers can visit the Indian Railways website or dial 139.