

IN BRIEF

GBS patients found in Nashik

Nashik, Mar 12 (UNI) :While patients with Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) are being found in various parts of the state, the first GBS patient has been found in Nashik city and has been admitted to the District Government Hospital. The patient's condition is critical. The health department has become alert as GBS has entered the city.

After Mumbai, Pune, Solapur, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Dhule, GBS has also entered Nashik. A 60-year-old man living in the Pathardi Phata area of the city has been diagnosed with GBS disease.

He initially sought treatment at a private hospital. However, as his condition deteriorated, he was admitted to the District Government Hospital.

District Surgeon Dr. Charudatta Shinde informed about this. A 10-bed ward has been set up for GBS patients in the district hospital.

The patient's condition is critical, and he is undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit. Necessary instructions have been given to the relevant agencies by the Health Department.

Close aide of BJP MLA Suresh Dhas arrested

Beed, Mar 12 (UNI) The Beed police in a joint operation with their Uttar Pradesh counterparts arrested Satish Bhosale alias Khokya, a close aide of BJP MLA Suresh Dhas, from Prayagraj on Wednesday in connection with an assault case registered against him here. A case was registered against him after he brutally beat a person here. He had been absconding since then. The local police were searching him for last six days. Police tracked his location to Prayagraj and arrested him from there. Confirming news of his arrest, Beed superintendent of police Navneet Kanwat told reporters that a case was registered against 'Khokya' Bhosale six days ago and he was absconding since then.

"We came to know that his last location was in Prayagraj and we started investigating in that direction. We took help from Uttar Pradesh Police. The Beed and Uttar Pradesh police took a joint action and arrested 'Khokya' Bhosale from Prayagraj," he added.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi after being conferred Mauritius's highest civilian award, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, by President of Mauritius Dharam Gokhool, at Port Louis in Mauritius.

People should not fall prey to high interest schemes: CM Fadnavis

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Mar 12: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday made an appeal in the Maharashtra Legislative Council that people of the state should not fall prey to the schemes that promise to pay high interest. While replying to a question raised by member

Shshikant Shinde regarding the Torres scam, he said that 99 percent of schemes that pay exorbitant interest are fraudulent. The Chief Minister further said that no one can pay excess interest in this way. Two to four percent more interest than the bank interest rate is possible, but no one is

able to pay more or higher interest than that, he informed. Therefore, such schemes that offer high interest are fraudulent, Fadnavis said and appealed the public not to fall prey to this lure and invest in such fraudulent schemes.

Also, while replying to a question, Minister of

State for Home Yogesh Kadam said that Economic Intelligence Unit is being established to monitor the investment and economic transactions in the state.

Also, action is being taken according to the legal procedure to return the money of the investors who were duped in the Torres scam, he added.

Opposition demands discussion on lapses in electoral rolls

New Delhi, Mar 12 (UNI) : The Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday yet again pressed for a discussion on alleged voters' list discrepancy by suspending the scheduled business of the House.

As soon as the House met for the day, Deputy Chairman Harivansh said nine members have given notice for discussion under Rule 267. He said Pramod Tiwari of Congress, Saket Gokhale, Dola Sen and Sushmita Deb of Trinamool Congress and Sanjay Singh of Aam Aadmi Party have asked for adjournment of the proceedings and discussion on the issue of duplication of voters list. However, the Deputy

Chairman declined to entertain the notices citing previous ruling of the Chair

On this, Tiwari said in a democracy, just conducting elections is not enough. Fair elections are the soul of democracy but 48 lakh voters have been added by duplication of voter ID card, and the Election Commission should answer on this. Trinamool Congress' Derek O'Brien said the Chairman has given the ruling but there is a tradition in the House and the issue should also be discussed, preferably next week. He said the Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) with the same number have been issued to many voters across the country, which was a serious matter.

'CM to take decision on increasing amount of Ladki Bahin Yojana'

Mumbai, Mar 12 (UNI) Women & Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare said in the Maharashtra Assembly on Wednesday that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will take a decision on increasing the amount of Ladki Bahin Yojana to Rs 2,100 at the right time. Replying to questions raised by opposition leaders, she said when the government issued decision on the Ladki Bahin Yojana, it was mentioned in it that if the beneficiary women are getting financial benefits of more than Rs 1,500 from any other scheme, the Ladki Bahin Yojana will not be applicable to them. She said that under the Namoo Shetkari Mahila Yojana, women get a benefit of Rs 1,000. As per the government decision, every eligible woman should get a benefit of at least Rs 1,500 from the government, she said.

Accordingly, the beneficiaries of the Namoo Shetkari Mahila Yojana get Rs 1,000 from that scheme and the remaining Rs 500 from the Ladki Bahin Yojana, she informed and clarified that therefore, those women have not been excluded from the scheme. The rumours that 20 to 25 lakh women beneficiaries have been excluded from the Ladki Bahin Yojana are false, she pointed. Ms Tatkare also said in October 2024, before the code of conduct came into force, there were 2,33,64,000 female beneficiaries of the Ladki Bahin Yojana and when the government paid last installment in February, the number of female beneficiaries was more than 2.47 crore, this means that now the number of female beneficiaries has increased, she added.

PM Modi announces MAHASAGAR vision for Global South

Port Louis/New Delhi, Mar 12 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced India's vision of MAHASAGAR - Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions - for the Global South, going beyond the SAGAR vision that he had announced in Mauritius a decade ago.

Addressing a press event in Port Louis, in the presence of Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam, and other dignitaries, PM Modi said that Mauritius is India's

important partner, whether as part of the Global South, the Indian Ocean or the African continent.

"Ten years ago, the foundation of Vision SAGAR, which stands for "Security and Growth for All in the Region" was laid here in Mauritius. We're moving ahead with the SAGAR Vision for the stability and prosperity of this region.

"Today, building upon this, I want to say that our vision for Global South will be - going beyond SAGAR - it will be MAHASAGAR, i.e. "Mutual and Holistic

Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions". "It shall encompass the ideas of trade for development, capacity building for sustainable growth, and mutual security for a shared future. Under this, we will extend cooperation through technology sharing, concessional loan and grants," the PM said.

He said that during their talks, PM Navin Ramgoolam and he had agreed that Defence Cooperation and Maritime Security are key pillars of the strategic

partnership. "Free, open, secure, and safe Indian Ocean is our common priority. We are committed to providing our full support for the security of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Mauritius. In this regard, we will extend every possible assistance to meet the needs of the Coast Guard," the PM announced.

India will also assist in setting up of the Police Academy and National Maritime Information Sharing Centre in Mauritius. The two sides will also strengthen cooperation in

Police issues advisory for Holi, prohibits singing obscene songs in public

Mumbai, Mar 12 (UNI) To maintain public peace and safety during upcoming Holi, Dhulivandan and Rang Panchami celebrations, the city police on Wednesday issued an advisory announcing restrictions for its citizens.

The order forbids people from spraying colours and water on pedestrians, as well as singing obscene songs in public from March 12-18.

The order, issued by Akbar Pathan, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Operations, further stipulates that any individual found violating these restrictions, or aiding in the violation, will face legal action under Section 135 of the Maharashtra Police Act, 1951.

Strict action to be taken against sale of artificial and fake paneer: DyCM

Mumbai, Mar 12 (UNI) Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said in the Maharashtra Assembly on Wednesday that fake or artificial paneer is definitely a health hazard for citizens and warned that strict action will be taken against the vendors and related parties who are selling this cottage cheese.

Replying to questions raised by members Vikram Pachpute and Kailas Patil in the lower house on this issue, he said that samples are taken to identify adulteration of food and pointed that analysis in laboratories can prevent adulterated products from entering the market. For this, substantial funds will be provided for new laboratories and strengthening of laboratories of Food and Drug Administration, he said. Also, existing rules will be amended to crack down on the sale, storage and transportation of fake cheese and make them more stringent, he informed and said that relevant Union Ministers will be requested to change the rules of the central government. Pawar also gave a clear warning that action will be taken against those who sell such paneer.



BJP is the biggest land mafia: Akhilesh Yadav

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is giving protection to land mafias and criminals, is the biggest land mafia party. In a statement issued here, Akhilesh said that there is terror of land mafias under the protection of BJP in the entire state. "Ever since BJP has come to power, its people are harassing the poor and forcibly registering lands at various places and occupying them," he alleged.

(See on page 2)

Retail inflation dips to 7-month low of 3.61 pc in Feb on lower ...



Driven by lower food prices, India's retail inflation fell to a seven-month low of 3.61% in February this year from 4.26% in the previous month. The decline in retail inflation has raised hopes of a further cut in repo rate by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the upcoming monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting.

(See on page 4)

Zheng Qinwen of China into Indian Wells quarterfinals



China's Zheng Qinwen stormed into her first WTA 1000 Indian Wells quarterfinal with a decisive 6-3, 6-2 victory over Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk in Monday's fourth-round clash, marking her seventh career appearance in the last eight at this tournament tier.

(See on page 7)

Youth are the driving force behind India's Development ...



Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday said that the youth are the driving force behind India's development. Addressing students at an event under the Viksit Bharat - Yuva Connect initiative at the University of Kashmir here,

(See on page 8)

BJP is the biggest land mafia: Akhilesh

Lucknow, Mar 12 (UNI) Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is giving protection to land mafias and criminals, is the biggest land mafia party.

In a statement issued here, Akhilesh said that there is terror of land mafias under the protection of BJP in the entire state. "Ever since BJP has come to power, its people are harassing the poor and forcibly registering lands at various places and occupying them," he alleged.

He said that if the registrations of lands done in many districts including Ayodhya during the BJP government are seen, then the whole truth will be revealed. "Now it has crossed all limits that land mafias are occupying even the lands of former army officers. They beat up people in protest. They threaten them. What could be a worse picture of law and order than this is that land mafias occupied the land of a retired army brigadier and attacked him lethally in protest. The victims are not getting justice," he said.

The SP chief said that law and order is in shambles under the BJP government. "Incidents of murder, robbery, rape, land grabbing are increasing continuously. Murders are happening every day in the state due to disputes. The situation is getting worse. Under the BJP government, land mafias are growing rapidly in every district," he claimed.



Young women celebrate Holi, at the Durgiana temple in Amritsar on Wednesday.

Leo By-pass road issue to be raised with Union Home Minister: Vikramaditya Singh

Shimla, Mar 12(UNI) Himachal Pradesh Government would take up the issue of Leo by pass road of Lahaul Spiti district proposed to connect the district with Kinnur with the centre soon as this road could not be completed by the state Public work department during last 20 yrs. In response to a query by Lahaul Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana, Public Works Development Minister Vikramaditya Singh stated that the issue of the Leo By-pass road would soon be raised with the Union Home Minister.

He acknowledged that despite efforts to hand over the road to the Border Roads Organization (BRO), the construction of this strategic route has not progressed as expected. The project, which spans just two kilometers, has been under development for 20 years and is a critical link between the Lahaul Spiti and Kinnur districts.

The state government sent a proposal to the Centre in 2024 to bring the road under BRO's jurisdiction, but no response has been received so far. Minister Singh assured that he would visit Delhi soon to escalate the matter. He also noted that the state plans to hand over other roads to BRO, primarily for national security purposes, though they may not be crucial for local residents.

Regarding the Chamba-Brahoth road, Singh explained that the process to bring it under the Central Road Infrastructure Plan (CIRP) could not be completed due to the need for a gift deed from local people. He expressed the state's inability to either compensate or construct

the road and urged senior leaders like Hansraj to help persuade locals to provide the necessary deed. On the construction of a new road, the gift deed for the Charda to Mahua Thak stretch is still awaited. The government is considering whether compensation for land acquisition or new road construction will be necessary.

Regarding black spots, Singh informed that the geo-tagging of 32 roads in Himachal Pradesh is underway. A convergence committee under the Principal Secretary of Transport is addressing issues like black spots along these roads.

He concluded by urging members to continue pushing the Centre to ensure the handover of these critical roads to the BRO for better management and completion.

Defence Ministry inks Rs 2,906 cr deal with BEL for Ashwini radar

New Delhi, Mar 12 (UNI) As part of the government's efforts to strengthen indigenous defence capabilities of the country, the Defence Ministry on Wednesday inked a capital acquisition contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Ghaziabad for procurement of Low-level Transportable Radar, LLTR (Ashwini), worth Rs 2,906 crore. The radar is indigenously designed and developed by Electronics & Radar Development Establishment, DRDO. The contract was signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh here.

LLTR (Ashwini) is an active electronically scanned phased array radar based on state-of-the-art solid state technology. The radar is capable of tracking aerial targets from high-speed fighter aircraft to slow moving targets such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and helicopters. Its acquisition will significantly enhance the operational preparedness of the Indian Air Force.

The programme is a major step towards achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing by reducing dependency on foreign origin equipment manufacturers besides acting as a catalyst for the development of defence industrial ecosystem in the country.

Central Railway's Holi Bonanza- 62 Holi Special trains for Maharashtra and Konkan

A total of 184 Holi Special Train trips run this year

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, March 12 : Central Railway has given a wonderful Holi gift to Maharashtra & Konkan bound passengers this festive / holi season.

Central Railway is running a total of 184 Special trains to various destination across the country to facilitate passengers to celebrate Holi festival with their near and dear ones.

Of these, 62 train trips are for Maharashtra & Konkan bound passengers. These trains include AC Specials, trains with mixed combination of AC, Sleeper and General coaches apart from Unreserved specials.

62 train trips for Maharashtra & Konkan includes

- 8 trips from Mumbai to Nagpur
- 8 trips from Pune to Nagpur
- 4 trips from Mumbai to Nanded,
- 28 trips from / to

Kalaburagi-Daund, • 6 trips from Mumbai to Ratnagiri (Konkan) • 8 trips from Mumbai to Chiplun (Konkan)

These Special trains will be helpful to passengers to plan their journeys. To ensure passenger comfort and convenience, Central Railway has enhanced passenger facilities and implemented several measures across its network. "Sufficient number of Ticket counters at various stations have been provided to facilitate the passengers. Holding areas are being created at major stations with provision of drinking water, food and toilet facilities.

A systematic queue management system has been put in place to ensure proper boarding in special trains by deploying extra RPF personnel and ticket checking staff. Visible presence of Railway

Protection Force (RPF) and ticket checking staff at key locations throughout the stations is also helpful for maintaining passengers safety & security. These personnel are assisting in directing passengers to their designated platforms, ensure strict adherence to safety protocols, and effectively manage crowd movement throughout the station premises.

For detailed timings and halts of these Special Trains, please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App."

Passengers are advised to arrive timely at the station to avoid any last-minute inconvenience. The timely arrival will help in ensuring smoother boarding process and more comfortable travel experience.

Central Railway appeals to its passengers to travel with valid tickets and identification cards to avoid inconvenience.

Eyes on us, of tomorrow's generations, Today we dream, of tomorrow's vision... : MLA Pravin Datke



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 12 : The government has announced to provide 5 lakh new employment opportunities in the state.

Nagpur's Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport will be upgraded and modernized with private participation.

This will boost the overall economic development of Vidarbha.

"Urban Haat Centers" will be established in Nagpur to provide incentives and facilities to handloom weavers.

The first phase of the 40-kilometer long Nagpur Metro has been completed and the

government has announced to complete the work of 43.80 kilometers long in the second phase at a cost of Rs. 6,708 crore.

The Wainganga-Nalganga river linking project has been approved in principle. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 88,574 crore and the benefit area of the project is 3,71,277 hectares. This project will benefit the entire Vidarbha region including Nagpur.

This is a resolution for the upliftment of all sections of the society and the development of Maharashtra will gain momentum due to this budget.

WESTERN RAILWAY ELECTRICAL WORK

Sr. DEE/P/BCT invites E-tender Notice No: EL-81-79-18-WA-50(R) dated 10/03/2025; Work and Location: Sachin - Electrical (Power) work in connection with extension and raising of island platform, Platform No. 2 and home platform on loop line No. 1; Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 1,04,90,903.00; EMD: ₹ 2,02,500; Date & Time of Submission: till 07/04/2025, 15:00 Hrs; Date & Time of Opening: on 07/04/2025 at 15:30 Hrs; For further details please visit www.reps.gov.in 1174

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BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (E.O.I)

Lacquer sealed Expression of Interest (E.O.I.) are invited from N.G.O.'s for Enroachment Removal action at P/South Ward. To Provide "Enroachment Removal action in P/South Ward".

Expression of Interest, scrutiny fee along with terms and conditions can be purchased on payment of Rs.3300/- + 18%(GST) from the office of Sr. Insp. (Ench) P/South Ward office, 1st floor, C.T.S.746, S. V. Road, Goregaon(W), Mumbai-104 on 13/13/2025 to 19/03/2025 between 11.00 am. to 04.00 pm.

Interested sansthas may visit <http://portal.mcgm.gov.in> for details of application form or Sr. Insp. (Ench) P/South ward should be contacted.

The expression of Interest form will be accepted at Sr. Insp. (Ench) P/South dtd.13/03/2025 to 20/03/2025 between 11.00 am to 04.00 pm. The form will not be accepted after this hour and date, under any circumstances. The expression of Interest will be opened on 20/03/2025 at 05.00 pm. or as per convenience of this office.

Asstt. Commissioner, P/South Ward Reserves the right.

Sd/- Assistant Commissioner, P/South(I/c)
PRO/2807/ADV/2024 - 25
Avoid self medication.

Ancient sites encroached in Prayagraj: Yogi

Lucknow, Mar 12 (UNI) : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said that during previous governments, land mafias illegally took over historic sites in Prayagraj, such as Akshaya Vat, Mata Saraswati Koop, Patalpuri, Shringverpur, Dwadash Madhav and Bhagwan Beni Madhav.

Addressing 'Manthan: Kumbh and Beyond' Vichar Sangam programme, the CM said, "This severely affected the heritage and significance of these sacred places. During Maha Kumbh, these sites were freed from land mafias, paving the way for their revitalisation. As a result, devotees can now visit

them throughout the year."

He emphasised that Prayagraj, the land of Maharishi Bharadwaj and home to the world's first Gurukul, was once in the grip of land mafias under previous governments. He said that Akshaya Vat was locked away during colonial rule, depriving devotees of darshan for 500 years, while sacred sites like Mata Saraswati Koop and Patalpuri remained neglected.

He also highlighted how Shringverpur, the site of friendship between Lord Ram and Nishadraj, was encroached upon under land jihad and how Dwadash Madhav and Nagvasuki temples also fell victim to illegal occupation.

Yogi said, "During the Maha Kumbh, our government built new corridors and freed these sites, which is a symbol of gratitude towards India's ancient traditions."

He highlighted that the Maha Kumbh not only displayed India's strength and the true essence of Sanatan Dharma but also changed the negative perception of UP. "Through Maha Kumbh, we successfully achieved both objectives," he said.

The CM said, "The event presented Sanatan Dharma's inclusive and vast nature to the world, as crores of devotees, regardless of caste, sect, or region, took a holy dip together at the Triveni

Sangam, reflecting the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.'"He said, "The world watched in amazement and curiosity. Sanatan Dharma has no place for discrimination and Maha Kumbh was a testament to that."

He also called it a unique opportunity for UP to present its positive image on the global stage. He mentioned that during the 45-day Maha Kumbh, a record-breaking 66.30 crore devotees took a holy dip, describing it as 'the world's largest spiritual, religious, and cultural gathering'.

In a sharp attack on the opposition, Yogi said, "Expecting positivity from those with a negative mindset is pointless."

He criticised previous governments, citing the disorder and mismanagement of Kumbh under Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) rule from 1954 to 2013. He recalled the 1954 Kumbh tragedy, where over 1,000 people lost their lives, the 2007 natural disaster that caused significant loss of life and property, and the 2013 incident where the then Prime Minister of Mauritius shed tears after witnessing the filth at Sangam.

He said, "Past governments turned Kumbh into a hub of chaos and dirt, and today, the same people are questioning our 'Swachh' Mahakumbh."

महाराष्ट्र शासन

सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग

"डू" - निविदा सूचना क्रमांक १६

खालील कामाच्या निविदा कार्यकारी अभियंता, इलाखा शहर विभाग, मुंबई, २ रा मजला, बांधकाम भवन, २५, मर्हबान रोड, फोर्टे मुंबई ४०० ००१ दुरुवनी क्रमांक २२०१६९७५ हे खालील कामासाठी अनुभवी कंत्राटदार / डेकेटर यांचेकडून खालील कामाकरीता "डू- नमुन्यातील" निविदा मागविले आहेत. को-या निविदेचा नमुना, कार्यकारी अभियंता, इलाखा शहर विभाग, मुंबई, यांचे कार्यालयाला दिनांक १२.०३.२०२५ ते १९.०३.२०२५ पर्यंत देण्यात येईल. कार्यकारी अभियंता, इलाखा शहर विभाग, मुंबई, भरत पाटविलेखना सिलबंद निविदा दिनांक २०.०३.२०२५ पूर्वी / त्याद्वारेच दिनांक २०.०३.२०२५ पर्यंत देण्यात येईल.

अ.क्र	कामाचे नांव	अंदाजित किंमत (रु. लाखोंत)	इसारा रक्कम (रुपये)	काम पूर्ण करण्याची कालमर्यादा	निविदेचा नमुना प्रकार	निविदा नमुन्याची किंमत
१						
२	MOW to New Council Hall Building at Mumbai - Providing erecting stage and seating arrangement in mandap portion at New Council Hall Mumbai. (NCH-32838)	रु.८२४७७६.००	रु.८५००.००	७ दिवस	"डू"	५९०/-
३	MOW to New Council Hall Building at Mumbai - Providing erecting stage, tower, and providing seating arrangement in mandap portion at New Council Hall, Mumbai. (NCH-32926)	रु.८३४७६०.००	रु.८५००.००	७ दिवस	"डू"	५९०/-
४	MOW to New Council Hall Building at Mumbai - Providing erecting waterproof / sun proof Mandap at Main at Premises for Media at NCH Mumbai. (NCH-32931)	रु.४३०९५०.००	रु.४४००.००	७ दिवस	"डू"	५९०/-
५	MOW to New Council Hall Building at Mumbai - Providing erecting sun proof Mandap at MMRDA parking and in premises of Building at NCH at Mumbai. (NCH-32927)	रु.७६६४७७.००	रु.८०००.००	७ दिवस	"डू"	५९०/-
६	MOW to New Council Hall Building at Mumbai - Providing and fixing woolen carpet at Main staircase to 1&2 lift, lift to 5th floor central Hall at NCH Mumbai. (NCH-32930)	रु.४१८३३४.००	रु.४२००.००	७ दिवस	"डू"	५९०/-
७	MOW to New Council Hall Building at Mumbai - Providing erecting waterproof / sunproof Mandap at Inox gate & Police Chowky in front of Vidhan Bhavan Main Gate at NCH Mumbai. (NCH-32929)	रु.८०८५०४.००	रु.८१००.००	७ दिवस	"डू"	५९०/-
८	MOW to New Council Hall Building at Mumbai - Providing erecting water proof / sun proof at Main (in/out) gate & MMRDA Parking at New Council Hall Mumbai. (NCH-32928)	रु.८१६२३४.००	रु.८२००.००	७ दिवस	"डू"	५९०/-

कार्यकारी अभियंता, इलाखा शहर विभाग, मुंबई यांचे कार्यालयामध्ये सूचना फलकावर सविस्तर निविदा सूचना पाहण्यास मिळेल. एक किंवा सर्व निविदा कोणत्याही कारण न देता रद्द ठरविण्याचा अधिकार कार्यकारी अभियंता यांनी राखून ठेवला आहे.

जा.क्र. काअ/इशवि/भांडार/डी-निविदा/२२९९

कार्यकारी अभियंता, यांचे कार्यालय, इलाखा शहर विभाग, बांधकाम भवन, २ रा मजला, २५, मर्हबान पथ, फोर्टे, मुंबई - ४०० ००१.

दुरुवनी क्र. २२०१६९७५ / २२०१६९७३

ई-मेल - presidency.se@mahapwd.com

दिनांक :- १०/३/२५

(वि.अ.पाटसकर)
कार्यकारी अभियंता,
इलाखा शहर विभाग, मुंबई.

DGIPR/2024-25/7069



All India Democratic Women's Association members stage a protest, in Agartala, Tripura on Wednesday.

Don't impose Shaktipeeth Expressway: Oppn tells govt; CM says project will bring positive change

Mumbai, Mar 12 (PTI) : Opposition in the Maharashtra legislative council on Wednesday urged the government not to impose the proposed Nagpur-Goa Shaktipeeth Expressway on farmers, but Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the project would bring a positive change in people's lives.

The issue was discussed in the Upper House of the state legislature, during which the opposition members cited objections raised by farmers in Kolhapur and Sangli districts over acquisition of their farmlands for the proposed project. The Shaktipeeth Expressway, a 802-kilometre route proposes to connect Nagpur to Goa while linking various pilgrimage sites across Maharashtra. Farmers' concerns over land acquisition remain a key issue in its implementation.

Leader of Opposition in the House Ambadas Danve said, "We took part in a

protest (over the project by farmers). Former chief minister had announced that the government would not carry out the project (amid opposition). So we need clarity on this stand." Danve was referring to a protest held in Mumbai by farmers affected by the proposed expressway project. Responding to it, CM Fadnavis said, "The government's position is clear. We aim to construct roads...but not impose it." He said several farmers along with Congress MLC Satej Patil and NCP MLA and minister Hasan Mushrif, had met him at the Kolhapur airport and submitted a statement signed by several farmers but none opposed it.

The Shaktipeeth Expressway is expected to positively impact five districts in Marathwada, Fadnavis said. Farmers want this route. It is not mere stubbornness. Just as the Samruddhi Expressway changed the lives across 12 districts, this expressway

will also bring change," he asserted. Fadnavis noted that larger events are planned to promote the project. "In villages where meetings were held, farmers contributed funds," he said. The chief minister urged opposition members to assist the government in its land acquisition efforts, stating that compensation offered to farmers was five times its actual value.

Congress' Satej Patil said, "The chief minister has presented his views clearly. While the Shaktipeeth route will connect Nagpur and Ratnagiri, an existing road already serves this purpose." People in Solapur and Sangli had provided land for similar projects, he said.

Patil asked the CM to meet farmers who had gathered to express their concerns about the project.

"Those who have given permission are being mentioned, but they were initially opposed to the project. The route should

be reconsidered," the Congress MLC said.

During the farmers' protest over the project held at the Azad Maidan in south Mumbai, Danve said, "The project that is being carried out without taking into consideration people's feelings is of no use." On the occasion, Danve played a video clip of Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's statement he made when he was the state CM, in which he had said that the government would cancel the project if people don't want it.

"I took stock of the Shaktipeeth Expressway's route alignment and found that the Nanded-Tuljapur, Mahur Nanded, Nagpur Mahur roads are in extremely good condition. If required, the existing roads can be expanded by adding another lane. The government has nothing to do with the sentiments of people, but it is concerned with the sentiments of contractors," the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader alleged.

Court grants anticipatory bail to Abu Azmi for his remarks on praising Aurangzeb

Mumbai, Mar 12 (UNI) A session court here granted Anticipatory Bail (AB) to Samajwadi Party MLA Abu Asim Azmi, booked for his controversial remarks praising Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb while interacting with media persons during the ongoing budget session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, a lawyer said on Wednesday.

While granting bail, Additional Sessions Judge VG Raghuvanshi directed him to furnish a surety of Rs 20,000 in the event of his arrest. The court also directed Azmi to appear before the investigating officer today on March 12,

13, and 15 between 11 am and 1 pm. He has been further asked not to make any attempt to hamper and tamper with any evidence related to the case. Azmi's controversial remarks, which sparked a political storm, were made when he was questioned by the media on March 3 during the budget session of the assembly. Azmi allegedly stated that "Aurangzeb was a good administrator."

He further said that "during his reign, India was called 'A Golden Sparrow,' and the country's GDP was 24%, which is why the British came to India."

He further said that the ruler did not take a single rupee from the

administration and that during his regime, India's borders extended to Burma and Afghanistan.

His remarks, however, were criticised for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of the Hindu community.

Following these comments, Azmi was suspended from the Maharashtra Assembly and was booked for offences under Sections 299 (deliberate insult to religious beliefs), 302 (hurting religious feelings), and 356(1) and 356(2) (defamation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which govern offences related to religious sentiments and defamation.

PF, gratuity yet to be paid to ST employees: Minister

Mumbai, Mar 12 (UNI) Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik on Wednesday informed the Maharashtra Assembly that amount of provident fund and gratuity of State Transport employees are yet to be paid. Replying to the issue of Employees Provident Fund raised by the members Anil Parab of Shiv Sena (UBT) and Shashikant

Shinde of NCP (Sharad Pawar) in the lower house, he said, "An amount of Rs 2,214.47 crore of PF and gratuity is yet to be paid. We will pay it as per the availability of funds." He further said, "In the meantime, the ST workers went on strike. Even so, we have given a salary hike to the employees. On other hand, we have not received

a single complaint regarding the provident fund. At the same time, no amount of the fund will be spent on the salaries of the employees in this way in the future." Sarnaik said, "The Corporation has a monthly deficit of Rs 64 crore. Also, we are yet to receive Rs 582 crore from the government and Rs 268 crore from the Manav Vikas Yojana.

Incentive allowance for Anganwadi workers, supervisor: Minister

Mumbai, Mar 12 (UNI) The state government will give an incentive allowance of Rs 50 per application to Anganwadi workers and supervisors who fill the applications of the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' yojana, informed Women & Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare in the Maharashtra Assembly on Wednesday.

She said that necessary funds have been allocated, and the process of fund distribution is underway at the regional level.

She was replying to a question in this regard raised by members Rohit Pawar and Varun Desai in the lower house during the question hour.

Anganwadi workers and supervisors had filled the applications of eligible candidates for the implementation of this scheme, she said.

A fund of Rs 31.33 crore has been distributed to them for incentive allowance, said Tatkare.

The process of disbursement of this allowance is going on at the regional level and soon the Anganwadi workers and supervisors will get the benefit, she added.

One killed, 2 injured in road accident

Ahilyanagar, Mar 12 (UNI) : A 56-year-old woman died and two other people were injured when a speeding Scorpio car entered a hotel and a general store on the Mumbai-Nagpur Highway near Sant Janardan Swami Hospital on Tuesday in Kopergaon taluka in Ahilyanagar district.

According to Kopergaon police, the deceased was identified as Sunanda Sable (56).

A Scorpio speeding towards the Sai Janardan Hotel and a general store near SJS Hospital on the Mumbai-Nagpur road passing through Kopergaon city.

The accident occurred when the driver lost control. Hotel driver Akash Vilas Gondkar has suffered losses.

Meanwhile, the entire scene of the accident has been captured on CCTV cameras. As soon as the car entered the stall, there was a loud noise. Citizens of the area rushed to the spot.

According to eyewitnesses, the driver was drunk. The Scorpio driver first hit a two-wheeler.

Then he lost control and entered the hotel and general stores. Sunanda Sable died in this. Sudam Sable and Alka Sable were injured.

Due to this accident, the stall owner, Akash Vilas Gondkar, has suffered a loss of at least three to four lakhs.

The injured have been admitted to the nearby Janardan Swami Hospital for treatment. Kopergaon city police have taken the driver into custody, and further investigation is underway.

If you live in Maha, you must know Marathi: Chitra Wagh

Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Mar 12 : BJP leader Chitra Wagh on Wednesday demanded that people who live in Maharashtra must know Marathi and if they do not understand it, then they must be prepared to learn it and respect the language.

She made this demand while reacting to a video that has gone viral on social media, in which a young female employee at Airtel India showroom is reportedly heard saying to a customer that it is not compulsory to know or speak Marathi. The young woman in the video says to a Marathi youth, "Why should I speak in Marathi? Where is it written? We live in Hindustan."

The youth had gone to the Airtel gallery with a complaint and insisted on speaking in Marathi, the young woman working



over there refused to speak Marathi and continued arguing. Ms Wagh said that she would request Airtel India to take immediate action against the concerned employee seen in the video.

From now on, in every gallery, whether it is a manager or an employee, the company should recruit

as many people as possible who knows Marathi.

Ms Wagh warned in a tweet that disrespect for Maharashtra and the Marathi language will not be tolerated. She also demanded that Airtel should issue an apology to all Marathi speakers on behalf of that girl.

Gadkari hails IPS officer's initiative in fighting sickle cell disease among tribals

Nagpur, Mar 12 (PTI) Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has lauded a trust run by IPS officer Sandeep Tamgadge for fighting sickle cell disease and thalassemia that affect tribal and marginalised populations in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

The Smrutishesh Madhukarrao Tamgadge Charitable Trust (SMTCT) was founded in the memory of the late Madhukarrao Tamgadge who devoted his life to uplift marginalised communities, and his legacy continues to guide the trust's mission in healthcare and social welfare.

Late Tamgadge's son Sandeep Tamgadge is the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) currently posted in Nagaland.

Gadkari hailed the trust's work commemorating the 10th death anniversary of the late Madhukarrao Tamgadge.

The SMTCT is currently leading a large-scale sickle cell screening programme in collaboration with government bodies.

Under this initiative, more than

11,000 students have been screened through 100 plus screening camps, identifying at-risk individuals and ensuring they receive necessary medical care, the Trust stated.

As the programme continues to expand, efforts are being made to cover additional districts and make early diagnosis accessible to a broader population, it said.

The trust has been actively engaged in key areas such as health care, education, and community development. The organisation has placed a significant focus on addressing sickle cell disease (SCD) and thalassemia,

conditions that disproportionately affect tribal and marginalised populations. The trust has been working to spread awareness, encourage early testing, and provide access to treatment, the release said. To tackle these urgent healthcare needs, the trust has been conducting free diagnostic screenings, awareness campaigns, and medical assistance programs.

CENTRAL RAILWAY	
REPAIRING/OVERHAULING OF PRESSURIZED FLUSHING SYSTEM IN LHB COACHES	
Name of Work : Repairing/Overhauling of Pressurized Flushing System in LHB coaches. Quantity: As per rate schedule. Date of Tender Closing/ Opening & Time: Up to 02.04.2025, 12:00 hrs. Tender details & Tender document is available on the website www.ireps.gov.in. Tenders shall be accepted only in E-tendering format through the website.	
E-Tender Notice No.- RR/PR/WC/1986/24-25/92/RT	
अनाधिकृत रूप से बिल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है	
842	

PUBLIC NOTICE	
CLOSURE OF FOOT OVER BRIDGE	
The structural condition of staircase of Dadar PSC Foot Over Bridge (FOB) (North side) at Platform No. 4 is dilapidated. In order to rebuild the complete staircase, the same will be closed from 16/03/2025 (for 45 days). Inconvenience to the passengers is highly regretted.	
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1173	
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BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION	
Tender Document ID No.	2025_MCGM_1160099_1
Name of the Organization	Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation
Subject	Repair and refurbishment of ARSS (Asbestos roof sheet shed) of food trolley carrying passage and electrical dept. at GTB Hospital, Sewree-15.
Cost of Tender	Rs 1320/- + (18.0% GST)
Cost of E-Tender (Estimated Cost)	Item Rate Tender
Bid Security Deposit / EMD	Rs. 9,500.00
Date of Issue and sale of tender	12-03-2025 from 10.00 Hours
Last date & time for sale of tender & Receipt of Bid Security Deposit	18-03-2025 up to 11.00 Hours
Pre-Bid Meeting, timing & venue	Not Applicable
Opening of Packet A and Part B	19-03-2025 after 15.00 Hours
Address for Communication	Office of the Medical Superintendent GTB Hospital, Jerbal Wadia Road, Sewree, Mumbai - 400015.
Venue for opening of bid	On line in Medical Superintendent's office.
Sd/- Medical Superintendent, GTBH.	
PRO/2798/ADV/2024-25	
Let's together and make Mumbai Malaria free.	

STANDARD POST

Indo-US strategic friendship will remain on an even keel under Trump

India has done well to adopt a cautious and balanced approach to the unfolding policy framework of US President Donald Trump, who has a reputation of being unpredictable, reactive and autocratic in his responses.

As a major power with a say on the global issues of peace and world economy, India would be well advised to handle India-US relations on the premise that the two countries needed each other for promoting their national interests.

This is precisely what came out of the first meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi had with the new US President at the White House on February 13.

The atmospherics for this meeting was set by the bonhomie struck by the two leaders in their telephonic conversation on January 27 earlier.

The Prime Minister said in a post after the call that the two countries were 'committed to a mutually beneficial and trusted partnership' and will work for the welfare of our people and towards global peace, prosperity and security.

President Trump also referred to the 'productive' call he had with Prime Minister Modi and added that the 'expanding and deepening' bilateral cooperation as also the issues of security of the Indo-Pacific, Middle East and Europe had figured in the talk.

He specifically mentioned that Prime Minister Modi 'will do what is right' when it came to taking back Indian immigrants who had come to US illegally.

Meanwhile, the multiple directives signed by President Trump on his first day in office for the second term on January 20, had confirmed that he was going to focus on domestic issues of governance, economy and protection of borders against infiltration, that he was against the 'compulsive' funding of global projects for the cause of human rights, equity and support to liberal regimes and that he was committed to 'America First' approach in the spheres of foreign affairs, trade and tariffs and involvement in the world's trouble spots.

India has reasons to feel satisfied with the new US President's forthright denunciation of global terror rooted in 'radicalisation'—he ordered close scrutiny of visa applications from 'certain countries and regions' that were known to be promoting 'faith-based' terrorism -- as also with his China policy.

Trump was clearly critical of China while declaring American withdrawal from WHO -- he said the UN agency was 'under the Chinese domination'.

Also, in asserting the legitimacy of the US right to 'take back' Panama Canal, he contended that the channel had been 'unfairly exploited by China'.

There is evidence that President Trump was going to bank on India in the pursuit of his China policy.

The resumption of Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting -- hosted by the new US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, on the first day of his office at Washington on January 21 -- marked a significant continuity of the shared policy of US and India on Indo-Pacific that included dealing with Chinese encroachment in the maritime region.

The Quad meeting signalled that China was high on the agenda of the Trump Presidency and countering Chinese designs was a priority for the new US President.

The joint statement issued at the end of the meeting, lauded the fact that the next leadership-level meeting of Quad was going to be hosted by India this year.

The 'national emergency' invoked by President Trump to 'throw out' all illegal immigrants was also a part of the pursuit of 'America First' mandate.

It enabled the US President to induct army in the task of tightening up vigilance on Southern border and give a direction to the Homeland Security to create teams in all states to proactively identify illegal elements on the ground that they posed an 'internal security' challenge.

It deserves to be noted that at his first press conference President Trump had said in regard to H1B visas that 'he is on both sides of the argument' and indicated that he had no intention of blocking the 'engineers' enrolled by major American corporations to come in on such visas.

He however, wanted 'working jobs' to be given to Americans except where immigrants had to be recruited on 'merit' and not just because they could be employed cheaply and taken on board for profit-making.

The despatch of 104 'illegal migrants' to India by the US in a military plane -- all in handcuffs and fetters -- as a first lot, evoked political reactions in this country and signalled the need for a suitable diplomatic intervention. Prime Minister Modi in his meeting with Trump made it a point to reiterate India's policy of taking back its identified nationals deported on grounds of illegal stay and viewed it as India's cooperation in the 'crackdown against an illegal ecosystem that promoted human trafficking'. President Trump's known lack of enthusiasm for European Union and NATO on one hand and his past record of smooth relationship with President Putin of Russia on the other, did give him a certain potential for exercising a moderating influence on the Ukraine-Russia 'war'.

TISS -Law School Embarks Field Study on Unmet Legal Needs of the Rural Marginalised Communities



(Standard Post Bureau)

Access to justice in rural communities is impeded by geographical distance, low legal awareness and literacy, financial constraints, social and cultural barriers, language, and complex procedural laws. TISS-LLM law students with directions and guidance from Prof. (Dr.) Arvind Tiwarithe Dean and Dr. Devakumar Jacob the Course Teacher initiated the mission 'Unmet Legal Needs of the Rural Communities and Bridging the Gap between Legislations and Practice in Dharashiv district Tuljapur Vicinity. The mission aims to enhance students' understanding of rural legal issues, governance challenges, law-welfare policy gaps, and access to justice for marginalized communities which

focuses on public hearings, rural community Household surveys special interactions with government law and policy enforcing institutions in multiple villages. This field practice endeavour takes place every year as per the mandate NEP 2020-Community Connect, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)- Fostering Social Responsibility and Community Engagement. The outcome of the legal intervention is to unlock the socio-legal barriers to avail the government welfare policies and schemes to the rural fabric.

From 4th to 8th March 2025, thirty LLM students, a social worker, and two PhD scholars with the course teachers mapped the socio-legal needs in most backward five villages of Dharashiv.

A scientific survey and a rural public hearing were conducted to measure the unmet legal needs of the local communities. Focussed and customised discussions have been conducted with various government authorities and other stakeholders. Several barriers, law policy ignorance, and procedural obstacles have been identified as hindering barriers to rural justice

Legal interventions played a key role in the visit, with paralegal training sessions through skits, legal literacy materials, thematic speech, and dialogue, empowering villagers with knowledge about government socio-economic welfare schemes besides constitutional rights. Community legal aid workshops and training on effective local

governance to the grama sarpanches, workshops on new criminal laws, rural mediation, and legal literacy are the facets of the programme. The scientific survey on rural unmet legal needs was conducted with the consensus of rural villages, covering themes such as local infrastructure, free legal aid, community and official connect, rural health sanitation, food security, right to service, welfare schemes so on. Special focus was given to women's empowerment, child welfare, and the challenges faced by marginalised communities. Issues such as domestic violence, child marriage, lack of access to justice, and coping mechanisms were also addressed. TISS student community lawyers gave meaning to the International Women's

Day theme- Accelerate Action by celebrating it with two hundred widows and a hundred rural women from the vicinity. TISS Law students addressed how to accelerate action to overcome challenges and empower women. It was eye-opening field exposure, we actively participated and gained rich experiential learning, Ratnesh, Shivam, Seema Rahaman, and Elina, TISS LLM students said. The mission that the access to justice needs is most unmet in the lower echelons of society. Rural communities are in dire need of competent and free legal services for justice delivery therefore, legal education in the outside classroom towards the marginalised is the best practice of the TISS-Law school said the course teacher.

UNIX Unveils the compact & rugged XB-U22 Recto Speaker

(Standard Post Bureau)

UNIX, a leading brand in consumer electronics & mobile accessories has introduced its latest innovation in portable audio, the XB-U22 Recto Speaker, designed for users who demand both performance and portability. Built for rugged durability and powerful sound, this speaker is set to redefine on-the-go entertainment.

The 5W powerful speaker delivers deep bass and crystal-clear audio, ensuring a rich and immersive listening experience. Despite its compact size the XB-U22 Recto packs a punch with its dual-driver setup, making it an ideal choice for



music lovers.

With Bluetooth 5.3 for seamless connectivity, the speaker allows effortless pairing within a 10-meter range, ensuring a lag-free

audio experience across multiple devices. The 1200mAh battery provides up to 6 hours of continuous playtime, making it the perfect companion for

travel, parties, or casual listening. The built-in TWS (True Wireless Stereo) technology also enables users to pair two XB-U22 speakers for an even more powerful stereo sound.

Designed with durability and style in mind, the XB-U22 Recto features a rugged, shockproof build with a premium matte finish. Adding to its visual appeal, the speaker features an RGB light strip positioned below the control buttons, creating an ambient glow that enhances the listening experience. The IPX5 is suitable for both indoor and outdoor use as its intuitive control buttons allow easy volume adjustment, track change, and call handling, offering convenience at

every touch.

Mr. Imran Kagalwala, Co-Founder of Unix India said, "UNIX XB-U22 is aimed at those who live life on the move—whether it's for outdoor adventures, travel, or simply enjoying music anytime, anywhere. Its rugged design, immersive sound, and long battery life make it the perfect companion for users who demand more from their audio experience."

The UNIX XB-U22 Recto Speaker is now available across leading retail stores and online platforms including Amazon India at an introductory price of ₹2,499/-

Please let me know if there is anything else needed from my side :-)

Purabi Dairy congratulates Bharat Kalita for Assam Gaurav Award in pioneering dairy revolution

(Standard Post Bureau)

Recognizing the crucial role of Assam's farmers in the milk revolution, the state government on March 9 announced the Assam Gaurav Award for Bharat Kalita, a dairy farmer and president of Kamdhenu Dugdha Utpadak Samabay Samiti of Nityananda in Bajali.

The dairy cooperative affiliated to West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd (WAMUL), which operates under the brand name Purabi Dairy, was mentioned as a pioneer in milk revolution by Assam chief minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma in his press briefing on Sunday evening.

"Acknowledging the



role played by the farmers of Bajali in the milk revolution of the state, we are presenting the Assam Gaurav Award to Bharat Kalita for his pivotal role in this achievement. People in Bajali already recognise Kalita as Assam's (Vergheese) Kurien," the chief minister said. Last year, the Kamdhenu Dugdha Utpadak Samabay Samiti under WAMUL, won the prestigious National Gopal Ratna Award 2024 for Best Dairy Cooperative Society under the Special NER category. The award was given by the Central government.

The Kamdhenu Dugdha Utpadak Samabay Samiti at Nityanand started milk collection on August 1, 2007 with around 70 litres of milk. At present, the society provides around 4,500-7,000 litres of milk to Purabi Dairy.

Thanking the state government for this huge honour, Bharat Kalita, who is also a managing committee member of WAMUL said, "I feel honoured to be bestowed this prestigious award by the Government of Assam. This has

been possible due to Purabi Dairy guided by NDDDB which has been a driving force in Assam's dairy revolution and of course all the dairy farmers. I am now confident that the milk revolution started under our brand Purabi will grow significantly."

Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman NDDDB, and Chairman WAMUL Management Committee, extended his best compliments to Kalita for this prestigious award.

Congratulating Kalita, Sameer Kumar Parida, Managing Director WAMUL, said: "Bharat Kalita's dedication and leadership have significantly transformed the dairy sector in Bajali. His efforts have enhanced

Retail inflation dips to 7-month low of 3.61 pc in Feb on lower food prices

New Delhi, Mar 12 (UNI) : Driven by lower food prices, India's retail inflation fell to a seven-month low of 3.61% in February this year from 4.26% in the previous month.

The decline in retail inflation has raised hopes of a further cut in repo rate by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the upcoming monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting.

"The February 2025 CPI inflation print falling well below 4% has cemented the expectation of a back-to-back 25 bps rate cut in the April 2025 MPC meeting. This may be followed by another 25 bps repo rate cut either in the June 2025 or the August 2025 meetings, dependent in large part on the next GDP growth print for Q4 FY2025," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at research and rating firm ICRA. As per data released by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Wednesday, food inflation in the month of February this year stood at 3.75% as compared to 5.97% in the previous month. "A sharp decline of 222 basis point is observed in food inflation in February, 2025 in comparison to January, 2025. The food inflation in February, 2025 is the lowest after May, 2023," an official press release said.

Both urban and rural inflation declined significantly in the month of February. With retail inflation staying below its comfort level, the MPC in February this year decided to cut the repo rate by 0.25% to 6.25%. The CPI-based inflation is a primary factor for the Reserve Bank of India for formulating monetary policies to target inflation. The RBI is tasked to maintain inflation at 4% with a margin of 2% on either side. The significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of February, 2025 was mainly on account of decline in inflation of vegetables, eggs, meat & fish, pulses & products and milk & products.

The key items having lowest year on year inflation in February, 2025 are ginger (-35.81%), jeera (-28.77%), tomato (-28.51%), cauliflower (-21.19%) and garlic (-20.32%).

Odisha creates over 8 lakh Lakhpati Didis: Official

Bhubaneswar, Mar 12 (UNI) :Odisha has so far created more than 8 lakh Lakhpati Didis, out of which 1.66 lakh belong to aspirational and tribal districts, official sources said on Wednesday.

The state government has announced the "Lakhpati Didi Sahayika Yojana," through which all Community Support Staff (CSS) will work towards the creation of Lakhpati Didis.

As per the instructions of Deputy Chief Minister Pravat Parida, a one-day district-level workshop was organized across the state on Lakhpati Didi on Tuesday.

This workshop, official sources said, was a grand success, with participation from 4,000 attendees, including all steering committee members, community support staff, successful Lakhpati Didis, community influencers, and officials from various departments.

In her video message, Parida greeted all the participants of the workshop and urged them to strengthen the government's flagship "Lakhpati Didi Initiative."

She emphasized that since Community Support Staff (CSS) are key stakeholders in driving the Lakhpati Didi initiative at the household level, more focus has been placed on improving their capacity-building and understanding to ensure greater visibility and amplification in the creation of more Lakhpati Didis.

To achieve the desired target, onsite training for potential Lakhpati Didis and Business Development Plans (BDPs) are being conducted across Odisha.

A total of 16.44 lakh potential Lakhpati Didis (PLDs) have been trained, and 11 lakh Business Development Plans (BDPs) have been prepared to achieve the goal for 2024-25. For effective implementation of the Lakhpati Didi initiative, state and district-level steering committees have already been constituted.

Official sources stated that more than 22,000 CRPs have undergone training to provide hands-on support to all Community Support Staff (CSS) for mobilization efforts aimed at creating more Lakhpati Didis in the state.



Passengers rush ahead of the Holi Festival at the New Delhi railway station, in New Delhi.

Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 passed in Parliament

New Delhi, Mar 12 (UNI) : The Parliament on Wednesday passed the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 with the Lok Sabha approving it during the day.

The Bill seeks to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948. It expands the definition of Mineral oils, which include naturally occurring hydrocarbon, coal bed methane, and shale gas. The legislation clarifies that coal and lignite or helium will not be included in mineral oils.

Replying to a debate on the Bill, the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said, "India's long term strategy

for energy security revolves around the trilemma of affordability, availability and sustainability and the country has navigated all three very successfully."

The bill aims to decriminalise some of the provisions of the original Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, by introducing "penalties, adjudication by an adjudicating authority and appeal as against the order of adjudicating authority", he said.

"India at present imports from 40 countries." Puri said, adding "India does not distinguish between the sources of supply provided the supplying countries are

able to deliver at India's port of importation at a reasonable price".

The Minister added that there is no shortage of supply and the world is experiencing increased supply from the Western Hemisphere. The Minister said there has been increased supply from Brazil, Guyana, Suriname, Canada and USA. He said large consumers like India can leverage the market consumption card to diversify and buy from cheaper sources. Puri expressed confidence that India will be able to navigate the trilemma with the same success in the future.

Speaking on the bill, Congress MP Manish Tiwari said the draft law

"lacks vision and roadmap". Referring to oil imports, Tewari claimed that India was not "future ready".

"As far as the bill is concerned, it makes minor changes here and there but a vision is missing.... You're not a government that was sworn in yesterday, but 11 years ago,"

Manish Tiwari said the country's production of crude and natural gas was 37.46 million metric tonnes and it imported 189.43 million metric tonnes of crude oil in the year 2014-15. "Crude oil production declined to 29.4 million metric tonnes and crude oil imports rose to 243.3 million metric tonnes in 2023-24" he added.

US Vice President JD Vance, wife Usha Vance, to visit India later this month: Report

Washington/New Delhi, Mar 12 (UNI) US Vice President JD Vance will travel to India later this month alongside his wife Usha Vance, the Politico reported citing three sources familiar with the plans,

This will mark the US Vice President's second foreign trip since taking over in January. He had earlier travelled as vice president to France and Germany last month.

Usha Vance's parents emigrated from India to the US. It will be her first time visiting her ancestral country as second lady. Usha Vance's mother, a molecular biologist, and mechanical engineer father moved to the US from Andhra Pradesh. The vice president's first foreign trip was marked by a fiery speech at the Munich Security Conference where he criticized European governments for their handling of illegal migration, ignoring religious freedoms, and overturning elections.

The India visit also comes as the two countries are negotiating the first tranche of a mutually beneficial multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by the Fall of 2025.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump had agreed during their meeting in the White House on February 13 to designate senior representatives to advance the negotiations. They were to work towards increasing market access, reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers and deepening supply chain integration. An Indian delegation led by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal visited Washington from March 3-6 for talks with the US Commerce Secretary, the US Trade Representative and their teams.

Kashmiri Samiti Delhi delegation briefs Delhi CM

New Delhi, Mar 12 (UNI) A delegation from the Kashmiri Samiti Delhi, led by its president Sumeer Chhurgoo met Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and discussed several critical issues impacting the community.

During the meeting on Monday, the delegation brought to the CM's attention two pressing concerns -- settlement of Tehbazari shops and the release of monetary support (Relief), which has been withheld since April 2024, a Kashmiri

Samiti Delhi statement said on Wednesday.

The delegation apprised the Delhi Chief Minister about the challenges faced by the Tehbazari Shop owners and emphasised the urgent need for timely release of the monetary support (Relief), which is vital for the survival of several migrant families.

Hearing the concerns of the delegation, Rekha Gupta expressed her commitment to addressing the issues raised by the delegation.

Port Louis/New Delhi, Mar 12 (UNI) : India and Mauritius agreed to take further steps in India-assisted developmental assistance projects, including working towards timely delivery of 100-electric buses and Implement Phase II of High Impact Community Development Projects, the joint statement said today.

Following the visit of PM Modi and his talks with Mauritian PM Navin Ramgoolam, the two sides agreed to initiate implementation of the replacement of 100 km water pipeline in Mauritius under the first INR denominated Line of Credit agreement concluded between the two sides;

They agreed to finalise discussions on the new Parliament building on a site to be identified by Government of Mauritius, and conclude framework understanding to implement this project with India's grant assistance; and Finalise discussion on the redevelopment of the Ganga Talao Spiritual Sanctuary and conclude framework understanding to implement this project with India's grant assistance;

Explore new areas of development cooperation, as per the needs and priorities of the Government of Mauritius.

In the sphere of Human Resource Development and Capacity Building, the two sides committed to:

Continue ongoing capacity building initiatives, both under

Government of India's ITEC framework and customized training programmes;

They agreed to implement the customized training programme for 500 civil servants of Mauritius through the National Centre for Good Governance in India over a period of five years;

Create institutional linkages between the Civil Service College, Forensic Science Laboratory, and National Archives and Library with relevant premier institutes in India for continued cooperation and sharing of best practices;

Support continued deputation of Consultants and/or technical experts to assist the Government of Mauritius for its functional requirements;

They agreed to Enhance and strengthen the existing training collaboration for Mauritian diplomats by institutionalizing a capacity building programme at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); and Explore further training programmes for Mauritian officials in civil, police, parliamentary, customs, legal, health, and other domains, as per needs and requirements of Mauritius.

In the field of Space and Climate Change, they agreed that the ongoing space cooperation has immensely benefited both the countries and reflected the importance attached by India to its special ties with Mauritius. The Prime Minister of Mauritius

conveyed his appreciation to the Government of India for its support towards the joint development of a satellite for Mauritius and acknowledged that this cooperation is a testament to India's unwavering support to Mauritius on its developmental journey.

In order to further deepen cooperation in the space domain, they agreed to: Work closely towards successful development and launch of the India-Mauritius satellite, including requisite training for Mauritian scientists and experts at the Indian Space Research Organisation;

Support implementation of weather and climate forecasting system at different temporal scales, Wave Rider Buoys and Multi-hazard Emergency System in Mauritius to help it build a resilient disaster preparedness and response system;

Renew the ongoing cooperation between ISRO and Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) on ISRO Telemetry and Tracking Centre in Mauritius; and

Explore new avenues of cooperation in the space and climate change domain to cater to the needs of Mauritius, and associated capacity building support; and Pursue the proposal of the Government of India for a development partnership project aimed at utilising an Earth Observation Application and an interactive computing framework to enable Mauritius to monitor extreme weather events and

study climate impact effectively, which will be carried out by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), under the umbrella of the QUAD, the joint statement said.

In the field of economic and trade cooperation, the two sides acknowledged that the conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), India's first ever trade agreement with a country in African region, marked a major milestone in the economic and trade relations of both countries. The Prime Minister of Mauritius underlined the need for Indian companies and businesses to see Mauritius as a gateway to Africa and benefit from trade and business opportunities offered by Africa.

Reiterating their firm commitment to diversify the trade and commercial linkages between the two countries, the leaders agreed to:

Hold the second session of High Power Joint Trade Committee under CECPA to further strengthen trade, economic cooperation and partnership between the two countries;

Facilitate trade settlements in local currencies, viz. Indian Rupee and Mauritian Rupee, which will work towards derisking bilateral trade, pursuant to signing of an MoU on Local

Odisha notifies amendments in building planning to facilitate ease of doing business

Bhubaneswar, Mar 12 (UNI) The Odisha Government has notified key amendments to the Odisha Town Planning and Improvement Trust (Planning and Building Standards) Rules, 2021, and the Odisha Development Authorities (Planning and Building Standards) Rules, 2020, to facilitate ease of doing business.

These amendments, issued by the Housing and Urban Development Department on Wednesday, will bring significant relief to standalone and flatted factories, particularly in the MSME sector and IT/ITeS enterprises in the state.

The notified amendments enhance economic freedom and ease of doing business in Odisha by removing the requirement for ground coverage, reducing parking and setback requirements, and increasing the base Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for factories and IT/ITeS enterprises.

As a result, plotted and flatted factories can now achieve a footprint of over 70 percent, flatted factories can accommodate twice the number of units as before, and IT/ITeS enterprises can construct more within fewer floors. To attract large-scale commercial development along wider roads, incentives have been introduced in the form of FAR relaxations. Specifically, the base FAR for commercial developments on roads with a width of 18 meters (60 feet) or more has been increased to promote large-scale commercial growth.

For all industrial buildings, restrictions on ground coverage and the requirement for purchasable FAR or Transferable Development Rights (TDR) have been completely removed. Additionally, the parking requirement for industrial buildings has been reduced from 30 percent to 8 percent, allowing more space for industrial construction.

The Economic Survey 2024-25 recommended that "enhancing economic freedom for individuals and small businesses is arguably the most important policy priority to define and bolster India's medium-term growth prospects." It also observed that land lost per factory in Odisha due to restrictive building norms was higher than in other states and recommended suitable revisions. These steps align with the Economic Survey's call for revising building norms to promote ease of doing business, reduce regulatory costs, and boost job creation and economic growth.

India to deliver 100 electric buses, implement Part II of development projects: India-Mauritius Joint Statement

currency Settlement by the partner Central Banks;

Ratify the Protocol on Amendment of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement at the earliest to harmonise with International Standards on treaty abuse, after ongoing discussions are concluded; and Promote investments in sunrise sectors such as ocean economy, pharmaceuticals, IT and Fintech, among others, to support Mauritius in diversification of its economy for long term and sustainable economic growth.

In the field of Digital cooperation, the Mauritius PM requested India's support to the Government of Mauritius on its digitisation drive. In line with this objective, the leaders agreed to:

Support implementation of e-judiciary system, and digitisation of archives and records at Mahatma Gandhi Institute; Strengthen cooperation in the field of ICT including cyber security, Digital Public Infrastructure, and capacity building for the same; and Explore implementation of successful digital tools developed by India, such as PM Gati Shakti digital platform, as per Mauritius's requirements.

In the field of defence and maritime security cooperation, the Mauritius PM thanked India for its continued assistance towards refit of Coast Guard Ships Victory, Valiant and Barracuda, on grant basis.

The Prime Minister of

India reiterated India's continued support and assistance to Mauritius in augmenting its defence and security needs.

Reiterating their collective desire to counter growing threats and challenges in the region, the leaders resolved to:

Continue cooperation on provisioning of defence and maritime assets and equipment, as per needs and priorities of Mauritius;

Enhance maritime cooperation through increased deployment of ships and aircraft for joint maritime surveillance and hydrography surveys;

Deepen cooperation towards securing EEZ of Mauritius, including through enhanced utilisation of newly built runway and jetty at Agalega;

Assist setting up of National Maritime Information Sharing Centre to enhance maritime domain awareness; Cooperate by providing expertise in the fields of Marine Operations and Marine Engineering; Port Safety Environment, Port Emergency and Port security to Mauritius Port Authority; and

Conduct customized training programme and capacity building initiatives to meet growing needs of Mauritius Police Force.

The two leaders welcomed the ongoing discussions between Mauritius and the United Kingdom on Chagos islands. The Prime Minister of India reiterated India's firm support to Mauritius on the Chagos issue.

Career

Are you always struggling to be on time?



Repetitive lateness, if neglected, can become a part of your character. Here are a few tips to avoid being late:

Sleep well: If you have trouble getting out of bed early in the morning, then make a serious effort to get to bed earlier. Sufficient sleep is essential for maximum brain function anyway, so you really don't want to ignore this.

Give yourself a buffer time: Don't be on a tight timeline. Give yourself enough time to finish your daily chores and get ready for work.

Waking up to rush to work will only keep you running around. Organize your day. Keep a diary to note down your 'things-to-do' list. Jot down your appointments and tasks clearly. It is always beneficial to maintain a log of your day-to-day activities.

Pack your bag a day before if you struggle to reach your college on time, keep your bag ready ahead of time. In fact, do it a night before. Don't procrastinate.

Stop misusing the snooze button:

Take the snooze button out of your life. Get up when the alarm rings and get rid of the habit of pressing the snooze button every morning.

Take your appointments and tasks seriously: A laid back approach will prevent you from reaching your destination on time.

Infosys top executives' salaries jump 200%

The radical changes in the top management of Infosys last year resulted in a compensation bonanza for its key executives.

Chief operating officer UB Pravin Rao, CFO Rajiv Bansal and head of global services Srikantan Moorthy saw their compensation packages more than double in 2014-15, compared to the year before. All major components of the package saw sharp increases, but the biggest increases were in the bonus and incentive component.

Rao's total paycheck zoomed 197% in the 2015 fiscal to \$990,702, compared to \$333,085 in the year before, said a recent regulatory filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The total compensation includes salary, bonus, incentives, other annual compensation and long-term incentives. Bansal's compensation rose 170% to \$770,858, from \$284,892, and that of Srikantan Moorthy, who was previously the



head of HR, rose to \$658,636, a 202% jump over the \$217,810 he took home the preceding year.

This is in stark contrast to the average salary increase of 6-7% that employees received last year, and the 6.5% increase given for this year. The average increment for top performers was 9% this year.

The \$8.7-billion IT services company gave these huge salary increases in a challenging year when its revenue grew 7.1%, just about meeting the lower end of its guidance of 7-9%. The industry is seen to have grown by about 11% in the year.

But the increases may have become necessary following the appointment last year of Vishal Sikka as CEO at a salary of \$5.08 million, making him one of India Inc's highest paid professional CEOs. This included a base salary of \$900,000 and a variable pay of \$4.18 million subject to the company achieving certain fiscal milestones.

Soon after Sikka's appointment, Infosys had raised sharply the salaries of all its executive vice presidents. Analysts had then noted that it was a retention strategy, an effort to make them unpoachable by rivals.

Key to happiness at work is unrelated to

Job

From taking lunchtime walks to adjusting frustrating commutes to trading old jobs for ones we actually like, we make changes (both big and small) for the sake of our workplace happiness. But what many of us might not realise is that the biggest mood booster could be sitting in the desk chair right next to us.

According to a new report, which explores what employees love most

about their jobs, one of the most important factors in enjoying a 9-to-5 gig is the company we keep as we do so. Nearly 40% of survey respondents named their co-workers as the top reason they love working for their company, with 66% saying those positive relationships increased their productivity and 55% saying they helped mitigate their on-the-job stress levels. And considering

the average office worker spends 47.5 hours or more in office each week, some employees may spend more time with their co-workers than with family members or friends outside of the office.

"The centrality of social connections to our health and well-being cannot be overstressed," says author Sonja



As we spend more time at the office, we search even harder for better ways to achieve the mythical 'work-life balance'.

the process. Camaraderie at work — or even just the opportunity for it — has been found to not just make for a happy employee but a more effective business as a whole. Whether coworkers use their time to air grievances about their bosses, chat about weekend plans or head out to happy hour together, close bonds help dissolve dissatisfaction they may feel otherwise, making them more likely to work productively and remain in their current position for longer.

Microsoft's Office gets new features and UI



While moving its Outlook.com email service over to Office 365, Microsoft is set to bring in several new features along with a new user interface (UI).

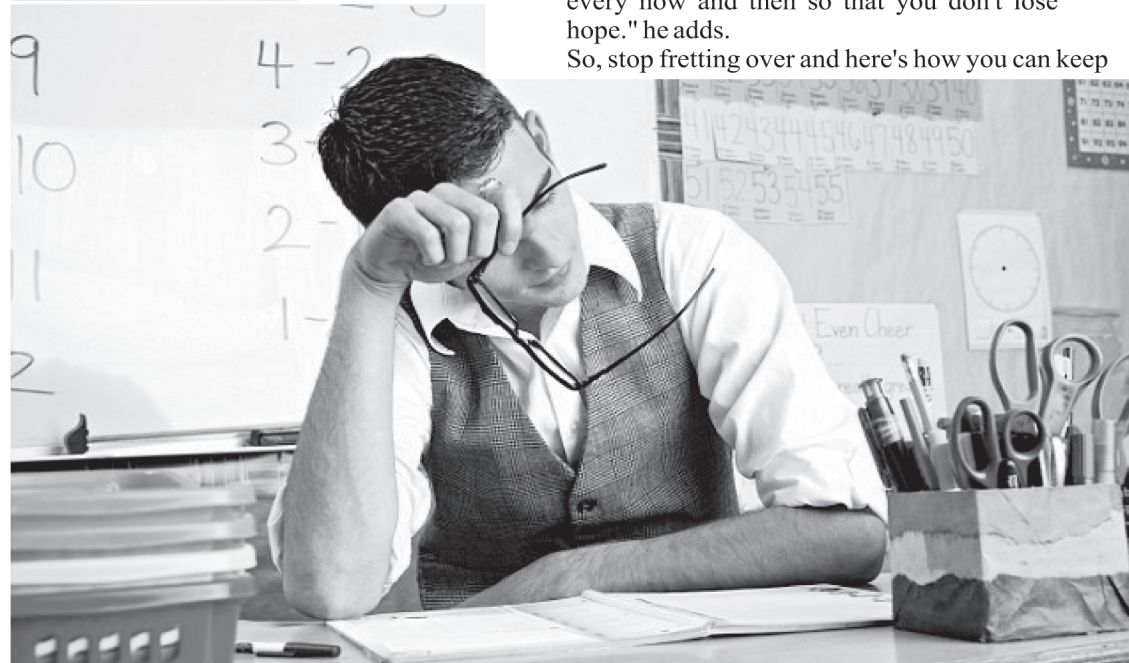
According to The Verge, 13 new themes

will be added to the email service along with new features aimed at improving overall email experience like, a function called, Clutter, to sort messages that users ignore into a separate folder, a new search interface that will let users search people they email regularly while searching for content and a Refiners feature to let users filter search results based on sender, folder, date, and attachments.

How to cope with a career low and stay Positive

Anjali mundetiya, a 36-year-old advertising professional, says, "I have been working in this company for the past three years and I have seen a few colleagues being fired for no reason. I now fear I will face the same treatment and it has affected my work." She's not alone, given the scenario.

Relationship counsellor Sauleha Shaik, however, feels it's okay to feel the slump at work sometimes. He says, "You need to boost your motivation every now and then so that you don't lose hope." he adds. So, stop fretting over and here's how you can keep



yourself motivated: you will also be able to understand the perspective of your boss.

Stay positive:

No matter what the job atmosphere is, remember that staying positive will keep you motivated.

Also, negativity will sap your off your energies. When you stay optimistic, it will automatically show in your work.

Surround yourself with happy colleagues:

At times, the reason to feel demotivated at work is that you have too many negative people surrounding you at your workplace. These are people who are constantly cribbing about the work atmosphere and leave no stones unturned when they have to gossip about something at work. Take the hint and try to maintain a distance from such people because their constant nagging may one day make you become just like them.

Talk it out with your boss:

If you think the reason for feeling demotivated is your boss's attitude, then try talking it out with your immediate superior. Not only will you feel relieved,

Don't worry too much: Don't get too affected by your colleague losing his/her job or people finding it difficult to cope at work. It's all a part and parcel of the professional environment. Working hard will surely reap benefits.

Look out for another job:

Says clinical psychologist Dr Seema Hingorany, "Staying in a negative work atmosphere pulls you into further negativity. So, if you are not happy with your present job, it is better to look out for a job which suits you."

Seek professional help:

Says Advaita Kalra, a 27-year-old software engineer, "I was jobless for almost eight months and had started losing hope. I would keep applying to various companies, but none had any vacancy. That is when a friend suggested that I approach an outsourced HR agency. Within two weeks, they approached me with a job opening and I was happy to take it up."

MI root for WPL final spot after strong league run

Mumbai, Mar 12 (UNI) : Mumbai Indians Women will look to assert their dominance in the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 eliminator here on Thursday after finishing second in the league stage with five wins from eight matches.

Despite a loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru Women in their last league encounter, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side remains a formidable contender for the title.

Gujarat Giants Women had a mixed league campaign but staged a comeback with three consecutive wins to secure a playoff berth with eight points. They lost their last league match to Mumbai Indians but had already ensured qualification.

Mumbai showcased consistent form throughout the season, balancing their campaign with five victories and three defeats. Their strong performances in the early stages ensured a top-two finish, securing them a direct entry into the playoffs. Captain Ashleigh Gardner has been Gujarat's standout performer, scoring 235 runs in eight innings at a strike rate of 163. Beth Mooney has been a reliable presence at the crease with 230 runs at a strike rate of 128. Harleen Deol has made significant contributions with 224 runs at a strike rate of 124. Kashvee Gautam has been their bowling mainstay, picking up 10 wickets at an economy of 6.29. Tanuja Kanwar and Deandra Dottin have shared 17 wickets between them, adding depth to Gujarat's bowling attack.

Hardik banishes 2017 ghosts with CT win in 2025

New Delhi, Mar 12 (UNI) : In 2017, a young Hardik Pandya lit up the Champions Trophy final with a blistering 76 off 43 balls, a lone warrior in India's crushing 180-run defeat to Pakistan.

His valiant effort was in vain, leaving an unfinished chapter in his career.

Eight years later, on the same grand stage, Pandya ensured there would be no repeat of that heartbreak. Now a senior figure in the Indian squad, he played a crucial role in the closing stages, scoring a composed 18 off 18 balls to guide India to a triumphant Champions Trophy victory in 2025.

"2017, the work was left. You know I could not finish the job back then," Pandya reflected after the win. "And I am very, very glad that tonight is the night where I can say that, you

Nat Sciver-Brunt has been the leading batswoman for Mumbai, amassing 416 runs in eight innings at an impressive strike rate of 151.82. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur has played an anchor role, scoring 200 runs in eight matches at a strike rate of 128.

Hayley Matthews has made an allround impact with 227 runs at a strike rate of 119.47 and 14 wickets at an economy of 7.96. Amelia Kerr has been Mumbai's key spinner, claiming 14 wickets at an economy of 8.03. Brunt has also contributed with the ball, securing eight wickets at an economy of 8.27.

The match will take place at Brabourne Stadium, where the pitch is expected to favour batting under floodlights. High-scoring conditions are likely, but the surface tends to slow down after 15 overs.

Dew could play a significant role in the second innings, making bowling challenging. Seamers might find some movement due to the sea breeze after 9 PM, while spinners may have an impact as the game progresses. The weather forecast indicates clear skies with no rain interruptions, ensuring pleasant playing conditions.

Considering previous results at the venue, teams may prefer to bat first, as both matches at Brabourne this season have been won by teams setting a target.

As the playoffs approach, Mumbai and Gujarat will aim to bring their A-game to secure a spot in the WPL 2025 final.

know what, I am a Champions Trophy winner as well."

With India securing back-to-back ICC titles, including last year's T20 World Cup, Pandya is eager to keep adding to his growing list of achievements.

"For me, it has always been about winning as many championships as I can," he said. "I did say when we won in 2024 that this is not done. I still need five or six more trophies. I am very happy that one more is added."

The victory, he emphasized, was a true team effort, with every player stepping up when it mattered most.

"It's very satisfying, very calming, a very happy moment for me. Every time I step on the field, even if I don't confirm the win, I think

Zheng Qinwen of China into Indian Wells quarterfinals

California, Mar 12 (UNI) : China's Zheng Qinwen stormed into her first WTA 1000 Indian Wells quarterfinal with a decisive 6-3, 6-2 victory over Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk in Monday's fourth-round clash, marking her seventh career appearance in the last eight at this tournament tier.

The eighth-seeded Chinese star needed just 80 minutes to dispatch the 18th-seeded Kostyuk. "I needed to balance controlled aggression today," Zheng analyzed post-match.

"Kostyuk was more aggressive but she also had more unforced errors. I wasn't playing at my best level but it was enough for me to advance."

The breakthrough follows a turbulent start to the season for Zheng, who navigated injury concerns and coaching adjustments before reuniting with Spanish mentor Pere Riba.

"Riba's return shifted our focus from physical limitations to court execution. We've intensified training loads while eliminating excessive injury talk - that mental freedom translates to better movement during matches," Zheng said.

Zheng's quarterfinal challenge comes against world No. 2 and four-time Grand Slam winner Iga Swiatek of Poland in their eighth career meeting.

Zheng's only victory over Swiatek came in the Paris Olympics semifinal encounter.

In doubles action, Chinese veteran Zhang Shuai and partner Hsieh Su-wei of Chinese Taipei advanced to the semifinals with a straight-sets victory.

that's the most beautiful feeling I have," he said. "Everyone came out there and showed their class, the belief they have."

With the Champions Trophy secured, Pandya has already turned his focus to the next major challenge—the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, which will be held in India. The tournament on home soil presents an opportunity for India to continue its dominance and defend its title in familiar conditions.

"I love wins like this where everyone puts their heart out," he said. "This was for India, this was for Bharat. The Champions Trophy is done—next goal, ICC T20 World Cup in India, lifting the cup." With a relentless hunger for success, Pandya's redemption arc is complete—but his journey is far from over.

other feel great. Then suddenly the difference is much bigger than it usually is.

"It's tennis. Things like that can happen. For sure I used my opportunities and I used my chances. It's not easy, but, I can imagine that it looks like it."

The 23-year-old five-time Grand Slam champion is the first woman to reach the Indian Wells quarter-finals for four consecutive years since Karolina Pliskova, who achieved the feat between 2016 and 2019.

Ukraine's Elina Svitolina and Russian Mirra Andreeva won to set up a quarter-final meeting.

Svitolina needed five hours, including a near three-hour rain delay, to beat American fourth seed Jessica Pegula 5-7 6-1 6-2, while ninth seed Andreeva saw off

Bayern, Inter, Barcelona, Paris Saint Germain into Champions League quarters

Madrid, Mar 12 (UNI) : Paris Saint-Germain, FC Barcelona, Bayern Munich, and Inter Milan all secured their places in the Champions League quarterfinals.

Paris Saint-Germain triumphed in a dramatic penalty shootout at Anfield, knocking Liverpool out of the competition after a 1-0 victory on Tuesday night. Gianluigi Donnarumma made two crucial saves, denying Darwin Nunez and Curtis Jones, while PSG converted all of their penalties following an intense 120 minutes of play.

Ousmane Dembele opened the scoring for PSG just 12 minutes in, scrambling the ball home after excellent work from Bradley Barcola. The game was played at an incredibly high pace, with Barcola close to a second goal only to be denied by Alisson Becker in the Liverpool goal.

Alisson also had to be at his best to come off his line and deny Dembele a



second goal after the PSG winger's touch was just too long. At the other end, Liverpool looked to create chances but were often let down by a poor final ball, with Mohamed Salah slightly out of sync with his teammates.

After the break, Liverpool turned up the intensity, dominating the second half, but Donnarumma made several key saves to deny their efforts. Jarell Quansah nearly equalized in the 79th minute with a header that struck the post following an

Andy Robertson free kick. Despite Liverpool's dominance, similar to PSG's recent struggles, they failed to convert their chances into goals.

Liverpool had the better of the first period of extra time but failed to force a save from Donnarumma, while PSG were stronger in the last 15 minutes, with Alisson producing a fine save to deny Dembele.

FC Barcelona was the first team to book a place in the quarterfinals with a 3-1 win at home to Benfica (4-1 on aggregate), with all the

Top seed Shi Yuqi cruises into second round

London, Mar 12 (UNI) : China's top seed Shi Yuqi cruised into the second round of the men's singles event at the All England Badminton Championships by sweeping Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo of Indonesia 21-13, 21-8 in Birmingham here. Shi, 29, led the head-to-head 4-0 against Dwi Wardoyo ahead of Tuesday's match and needed only 34 minutes to defeat the 26-year-old world No. 34.

The current world No. 1 Shi will face Chou Tien-Chen of Chinese Taipei in the last 16 round after the world No. 9 outplayed Frenchman Christo Popov 21-10, 21-12.

Shi's compatriot Li Shifeng, who was crowned champion at the All England two years ago, overcame Canadian Brian Yang 21-11, 18-21, 21-16 to set up a second-round clash against Toma Junior Popov. In the men's doubles, top seeds Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen suffered an early exit as the Danish duo lost to Indonesian pair Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Daniel Marthin 22-20, 21-18.

The women's top two seeds, An Se-young from South Korea and Wang Zhiyi of China, will both play in the opening round on Wednesday, while the third seed, Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, started her campaign by defeating Vietnamese Nguyen Thuy Linh 21-19, 21-12.

Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina 6-1 6-2. British lucky loser Sonay Kartal is due to face Belarus' world number one Aryna Sabalenka in the last 16 on Wednesday.

Denmark's Holger Rune ended Stefanos Tsitsipas' winning run to reach the quarter-finals.

Tsitsipas, seeded eighth, had won his past seven matches taking in a maiden Dubai Tennis Championships title, but was beaten 6-4 6-4 in one hour 33 minutes.

The highlight of the match was a remarkable through-the-legs lob from the baseline by Rune to save break point in the second set.

Having reached the same stage in Indian Wells last year, the 21-year-old is the first Scandinavian since Stefan Edberg in 1994-95 to reach back-to-back quarter-finals.

goals coming in the first half. After an emotional minute of silence for club doctor Carles Minarro, who died suddenly on Saturday, Barca started strongly.

Alejandro Balde saw a shot saved before Raphinha opened the scoring in the ninth minute after a pass from Lamine Yamal, who clipped the ball to him with his left foot. Nicolas Otamendi powered home a header almost immediately afterward from a corner to level the score on the night, but a moment of magic from Yamal, who cut inside

Bayern Munich seals quarterfinal berth with comfortable win over Leverkusen

Berlin, Mar 12 (UNI) : Bayern Munich secured its place in the Champions League quarterfinals with a commanding 2-0 victory over Bayer Leverkusen, completing a 5-0 aggregate triumph.

Leverkusen, which lost 3-0 in the first leg, faced further challenges with the absence of Florian Wirtz due to injury.

Bayern took control early on Tuesday, stifling Leverkusen's attempts to build momentum. The visitors nearly struck first in the fifth minute when Jamal Musiala set up Harry Kane, but Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky made a crucial save.

Bayern maintained relentless pressure, with Kane testing Hradecky from distance and Michael Olise firing wide in quick succession in the 15th minute.

Despite Leverkusen's struggles to break through Bayern's defense, Patrik Schick came close with a header that narrowly missed in the 37th minute and sent another effort into the side netting just before halftime.

Bayern broke through early in the second half. Joshua Kimmich's free kick caused confusion in the box, allowing Kane to pounce and slot the ball home from close range in

before scoring with a left-footed shot, made it 2-1 in the 27th minute.

Robert Lewandowski missed a good chance to make it 3-1 in the 40th minute, but it didn't matter when Raphinha netted his second of the game and his 11th goal of the tournament after magnificent work from Alejandro Balde, who ran half the length of the pitch before setting up the Brazilian. The second half saw Barca control the game effectively, dropping slightly deeper but still frustrating a brave Benfica side with their offside trap.

Inter Milan secured their progression with a 2-1 home victory over Feyenoord, adding to their 2-0 win in the first leg for a 4-1 aggregate score. Marcus Thuram opened the scoring just eight minutes in, giving Inter a 3-0 aggregate lead. Although Jakub Moder equalized for Feyenoord in the 42nd minute, Hakan Calhanoglu restored Inter's advantage by scoring a penalty, sealing the win.

the 52nd minute. With a 4-0 aggregate lead, Bayern stayed in control and sought to extend its advantage. Alphonso Davies delivered the final blow in the 71st minute, finishing a fluid move to double Bayern's lead on the night and extinguish any lingering hopes for Leverkusen.

The Bavarians continued to press, with Jamal Musiala hitting the post twice in the closing stages.

The result solidified Bayern's status as Champions League contenders, capping a dominant two-legged performance that sent the team through to the last eight. "A really good performance from us. From the first few minutes we didn't want to defend the lead, we wanted to go forward and put them under pressure to create some chances and win the game. In the second half we knew they had to come out and try something and we punished them," said Bayern striker Kane.

"After both games we have to say that Bayern was the better side. We are disappointed. We didn't create any chances. Bayern was clearly the better side, and we have to admit that today," said Leverkusen captain Lukas Hradecky.

Dominant Swiatek into Indian Wells quarter-finals

California, Mar 12 (UNI) : Defending champion Iga Swiatek clinched her place in the Indian Wells quarter-finals with a 6-1 6-1 thrashing of Karolina Muchova.

Poland's Swiatek is bidding to become the first woman to win the California tournament three times, having also sealed the title in 2022. Swiatek's match against Muchova was delayed by almost an hour because of rain, but it then took her just 57 minutes to secure a dominant victory in which she did not face a single break point.

The world number two has dropped just six games on her way to reaching the last eight and will face China's eighth seed Zheng Qinwen next, the BBC reported.

"Sometimes matches can be pretty weird," Swiatek said. "It's enough for one player to not feel perfect and the

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IRCTC has attractively priced the all inclusive packages, at Rs. 24,930/-

The tour package is all inclusive of comfortable train journey in III AC classes, 03 nights stay in dharamshalas/budget hotels on double/triple/quad share, All meals (onboard and offboard): Morning tea, breakfast, lunch, tea/coffee and dinner (Jain meals only) all transfers and sight-seeing in AC Vehicles, Travel Insurance and services of IRCTC Tour Managers etc.

IRCTC is also taking all necessary health precautions measures by providing safe and healthy travel to the tourists during the tour. For more details one can visit IRCTC website: <https://www.irctctourism.com> and booking is available online, on first come first serve basis on the web portal. For more information, one can contact on Mobile no. 8287931886

Tourist Train with IIIAC class will accommodate total 750 Tourists.

Tourists can also board/deboard at Bandra Terminus - Borivali - Vapi - Valsad - Bhestan (Surat) - Bhusawal-Itarsi-Jabalpur-Satna Railway Station on this Tourist Train.

IRCTC is launching this special tourist train package in line with the Government of India's initiative of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" and "Dekho Apna Desh" and to promote domestic tourism in the country.

Jain Yatra tour package is one of the prominent spiritual tour packages operated by Indian Railways on Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train. The religious journey of 08 Nights and 09 Days covering a total of

which includes Panvel city, Nerul and Vashi divisions, electricity bills worth Rs 35 crore and one lakh are outstanding. In Pen mandal, which includes Alibaug, Goregaon, Panvel rural and Roha divisions, electricity bills worth Rs 124 crore and 67 lakh are outstanding. In the last two months, electricity supply of 24 thousand 272 consumers has been disconnected due to outstanding electricity bills. Electricity bill payment centers will be kept open on Sundays and other holidays till the end of March. Apart from this, the facility of paying electricity bills online through debit/credit card, net banking is available through Mahavitaran's website, mobile app for consumers, various payment wallets etc. Using these facilities, the concerned consumers have appealed to cooperate by paying their outstanding bills and other consumers by paying their current electricity bills within the prescribed time limit.

Electricity bills of Rs 179 crore 43 lakh are outstanding in Bhandup Circle. This includes an arrears of Rs 19 crore 75 lakh under Thane Circle Office, which includes Bhandup, Mulund, Thane One and Two and Wagle Estate divisions. In Vashi mandal,

which includes Panvel city, Nerul and Vashi divisions, electricity bills worth Rs 35 crore and one lakh are outstanding. In Pen mandal, which includes Alibaug, Goregaon, Panvel rural and Roha divisions, electricity bills worth Rs 124 crore and 67 lakh are outstanding. In the last two months, electricity supply of 24 thousand 272 consumers has been disconnected due to outstanding electricity bills. Electricity bill payment centers will be kept open on Sundays and other holidays till the end of March. Apart from this, the facility of paying electricity bills online through debit/credit card, net banking is available through Mahavitaran's website, mobile app for consumers, various payment wallets etc. Using these facilities, the concerned consumers have appealed to cooperate by paying their outstanding bills and other consumers by paying their current electricity bills within the prescribed time limit.

He said that on the complaint of the deceased's brother, the police have registered a case against the accused husband and are trying to arrest him. "The deceased has two sons aged five and seven years. The accused husband Jitendra has absconded since the incident," he said.

Mandaviya praised the youth of the nation who have excelled in various fields.

He emphasized that the strength, ambition, and innovation of young students will drive India's journey toward development. "The dream of a developed India will be realized through the determination and talent of our youth," he remarked.

The Minister also outlined the government's commitment to youth empowerment, citing key policy decisions and budget allocations that focus on education, skill development, and employment generation.

Temporary restriction on Sale of Platform tickets at Major stations of WR's Mumbai Division to control festive rush

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, March 12 : In anticipation of a heavy rush during the forthcoming festive season, Western Railway has imposed temporary restrictions on the sale of Platform Tickets at select major stations of Mumbai Division. This step aims to manage crowding on platforms and ensure smooth passenger movement within station premises. The restriction of sale of Platform Ticket is effective immediately until 16th March, 2025

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the sale of Platform Tickets has been restricted at the following stations:

Mumbai Central
Bandra Terminus
Vapi
Valsad
Udhna
Surat

Shri Vineet informed that certain exemptions are allowed like for those who come to assist senior citizens, elderly, women passengers, etc to ensure their ease of travel.

Passengers are requested to plan accordingly and adhere to the new regulations for a smooth and safe travel experience during the festive period.

Woman killed by husband over family dispute

Basti, Mar 12 (UNI) : A woman was killed by a shovel by her husband in Lalganj area of Basti district here in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday, a police officer said here. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) OP Singh said that Rajendra, a resident of Bhagwat Patti village, killed his wife Maya by slitting her throat with a shovel due to family dispute. "After receiving the information, the police reached the spot and took the body into custody and sent it for postmortem," he said.

He said that on the complaint of the deceased's brother, the police have registered a case against the accused husband and are trying to arrest him. "The deceased has two sons aged five and seven years. The accused husband Jitendra has absconded since the incident," he said.

Mandaviya praised the youth of the nation who have excelled in various fields.

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Central Railway's Holi Bonanza- 26 Holi Special trains for Bihar

A total of 184 Holi Special Train trips run this year

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, March 12 : Central Railway has given a wonderful Holi gift to Bihar bound passengers this festive / holi season.

Central Railway is running a total of 184 Special trains to various destination across the country to facilitate passengers to celebrate Holi festival with their near and dear ones.

Of these 26 train trips are for Bihar bound passengers.

These trains include AC Specials, trains with mixed combination of AC, Sleeper and General coaches apart from Unreserved specials.

26 train trips for Bihar includes

- 8 trips from Mumbai to Danapur,
- 8 trips from Pune to Danapur
- 4 trips from Mumbai to Samastipur,
- 2 trips from Pune to Malda Town,
- 2 trips from Mumbai to Raxaul and
- 2 trips from Mumbai to Saharsa.

These Special trains will be helpful to passengers to plan their journeys. To ensure

passenger comfort and convenience, Central Railway has enhanced passenger facilities and implemented several measures across its network. "Sufficient number of Ticket counters at various stations have been provided to facilitate the passengers. Holding areas are being created at major stations with provision of drinking water, food and toilet facilities.

A systematic queue management system has been put in place to ensure proper boarding in special trains by deploying extra RPF personnel and ticket checking staff. Visible presence of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and ticket checking staff at key locations throughout the stations is also helpful for maintaining passengers safety & security. These personnel are assisting in directing passengers to their designated platforms, ensure strict adherence to safety protocols, and effectively manage crowd movement throughout the station premises.

Details of Holi Special trains to Raxaul and Saharsa is as follows:

LTT Mumbai-Raxaul Holi Specials (2 Trips)
05558 special will depart LTT Mumbai at 07.55 hrs on 20.03.2025 and arrive Raxaul at 16.50 hrs next day.

05557 special will depart Raxaul at 19.15 hrs on 18.03.2025 and arrive LTT Mumbai at 05.50 hrs on third day.

Halts: Kalyan, Manmad, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Prayagraj Cheoki, Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Bairgania.

LTT Mumbai-Saharsa Holi Specials (2 Trips)
05586 special will depart LTT Mumbai at 16.35 hrs on 23.03.2025 and arrive Saharsa at 09.00 hrs on third day.

05585 special will depart Saharsa at 17.45 hrs on 21.03.2025 and arrive LTT Mumbai at 05.30 hrs on third day.

Halts: Kalyan, Manmad, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Prayagraj Cheoki, Pt. Deen Dayal

Upadhyay Jn, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Hasanpur Road, Khagaria, Mankar and Simri Bhaktiyarpur.

Composition for 05558/05557 & 05586/05585: 2 AC-2Tier, 6 AC-3Tier, 7 Sleeper Class, 4 General Second Class, 1 Luggage cum Guard's Brake Van and 1 Generator Car.

Reservation: Bookings for special train nos 05558 & 05586 on special charges will open on 15.03.2025 at all computerised reservation centres and on website www.irctc.co.in

For detailed timings and halts of these Special Trains, please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App.

Passengers are advised to arrive timely at the station to avoid any last-minute inconvenience. The timely arrival will help in ensuring smoother boarding process and more comfortable travel experience.

Central Railway appeals to its passengers to travel with valid tickets and identification cards to avoid inconvenience.

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, March 13 : The much sought-after train tour "Jain Yatra" is ready to depart on Monday 31st March 2025 from Bandra Terminus (Mumbai) Railway Station on a 08 nights/09 day's itinerary.

Indian Railway has taken initiative to run Bharat Gaurav Tourist Trains to promote the "Dekho Apna Desh" and "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" vision of Govt of India.

IRCTC's special tour offering "JAIN YATRA" will cover Pavapuri - Kundalpur - Guniyaji - Lacchuar - Rajgir - Parasnath - Rujuwalika - Sammed Shikharji and Back MUMBAI.

State of the AC

Challenge of electricity bill arrears of Rs 258 crore in Kalyan and Bhandup circles

Mahavitaran appeals to pay arrears along with current bills

(Standard Post Bureau) Kalyan/Bhandup, March 12 : Even though there are only a few office working days left for the end of the financial year, the employees are facing the challenge of recovering arrears of electricity bills worth Rs 258 crore from electricity consumers in Kalyan and Bhandup circles (excluding agricultural pumps and permanently disconnected consumers). Therefore, they have only two options: recover the arrears or disconnect the electricity supply to the arrears. To avoid possible inconvenience, Mahavitaran has appealed that the arrears should immediately pay the arrears and other consumers should immediately pay the current electricity bills.

Officers, engineers and employees at all levels, including chief engineers and Janamitras, are in the field for recovery work even in the rising temperatures. Electricity bill arrears of Rs 78 crore 48 lakh are yet to be recovered in

Youth are the driving force behind India's Development: Union Minister Mandaviya

Srinagar, Mar 12 (UNI) Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday said that the youth are the driving force behind India's development.

Addressing students at an event under the Viksit Bharat - Yuva Connect initiative at the University of Kashmir here, Mandaviya emphasized the crucial role of youth in shaping India's future. He stated that the government is committed to empowering young people through strategic policies and initiatives, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047.

Hubballi Division Celebrates International Women's Day

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, March 12 Hubballi Division celebrated International Women's Day with great enthusiasm on March 10 and 11 at Keshwapur Railway Officers' Club, Hubballi. The event was graced by Dr. Anuradha Bisirotti, from Central Railway Hospital, Hubballi, who delivered a thought-provoking address highlighting the crucial role of women play in strengthening families and society. She emphasized the importance of adopting Ayurvedic methods for a healthier lifestyle.

Dr. Anuradha Bisirotti further acknowledged the remarkable contributions of women in various fields, recognising them as role



models for society. Women's Day should not

be restricted only to March 8, but should be

railway senior officers and staff were present.

Central Railway's Holi Bonanza- 42 Holi Special trains for Goa, Konkan, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, March 13 : Central Railway has given a wonderful Holi gift to Goa / Konkan / Karnataka / Kerala / Tamil Nadu bound passengers this festive / holi season.

Central Railway is running a total of 184 Special trains to various destination across the country to facilitate passengers to celebrate Holi festival with their near and dear ones.

Of these 42 train trips are for Goa / Konkan / Karnataka / Kerala / Tamil Nadu bound passengers.

These trains include AC Specials, trains with mixed combination of AC, Sleeper and General coaches apart from Unreserved specials.

42 train trips for Goa, Konkan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Kerala includes:

- 16 trips from Mumbai to Madgaon,
- 6 trips from Mumbai to Ratnagiri (Konkan)
- 8 trips from Mumbai to Chiplun (Konkan)
- 4 trips from Mumbai to Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu)
- 4 trips from Mumbai to Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)
- 4 trips from Kalaburagi to Bengaluru (Karnataka)

Considering the trend of celebrating Holi at Tourist destinations, these trains are very convenient for passengers bound to tourist places like Goa, Konkan and Kerala. "

These Special trains will be helpful to passengers to plan their journeys. To

ensure passenger comfort and convenience, Central Railway has enhanced passenger facilities and implemented several measures across its network. "Sufficient number of Ticket counters at various stations have been provided to facilitate the passengers. Holding areas are being created at major stations with provision of drinking water, food and toilet facilities.

A systematic queue management system has been put in place to ensure proper boarding in special trains by deploying extra RPF personnel and ticket checking staff. Visible presence of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and ticket checking staff at key locations throughout the stations is also helpful for maintaining passengers

safety & security. These personnel are assisting in directing passengers to their designated platforms, ensure strict adherence to safety protocols, and effectively manage crowd movement throughout the station premises.

For detailed timings and halts of these Special Trains, please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App."

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