

## IN BRIEF

### High School HM in ACB net

Hyderabad, Feb 28 (UND) : Anti Corruption Bureau Officials on Friday arrested Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) Head Minister Tali Ravinder in Bhadradi Kothagudem district while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000 from a complainant.

ACB sources said the Head Master took the bribe to process the transfer of Rs 30,000 under the Central Government Scheme Self Defence Program (Rani Lakshmi Bhai Athma Raksha Prashikshan)".

The amount was sanctioned by the Government as an honorarium amount to her. The Headmaster demanded the amount, on the pretext that the amount would be utilized for providing snacks and nutritious food to children, ACB said in a release here.

The bribe amount was recovered from the possession of the Accused Officer.

The Head Master was arrested and produced before the III Additional Sessions Judge for SPE and ACB cases, Warangal. The case is under investigation.

### Govt announces 50 pc discount for women tourists from March 1 to 8

Mumbai, Feb 28 (UND) : The government announced a special 50% discount for women tourists in the resort owned by state government, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) resorts across the state from March 1 to 8, 2025, in celebration of International Women's Day.

This initiative is part of the "Aai" Women-Centric and Gender-Inclusive Tourism Policy, aimed at promoting safer and more convenient travel experiences for women, Tourism Minister Shambhuraj Desai said.

Minister Desai further said that the "Aai" policy was well-received last year, with over 1,500 women tourists benefiting from the discount. Encouraged by this response, MTDC decided to extend the scheme for 2025 as well.

# Budget will lay foundation for reconstruction of State : CM

(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, Feb 28 : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu stated that his government is committed to welfare, development, and good governance, and the 2025-26 state budget serves as the foundation for the reconstruction of Andhra Pradesh.

He highlighted that despite financial challenges, his government has been working tirelessly to restore systems weakened by the previous administration's destructive policies. "Within just eight months, welfare initiatives such as pension hikes, Anna Canteens, and Deepam schemes have been

implemented. Additionally, 74 out of 93 centrally sponsored schemes that were halted by the previous government have been restarted," he said reacting to the budget presented by the Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav.

The Chief Minister asserted that the budget is not just about department-wise allocations but a comprehensive effort to drive holistic development. "This progressive budget is designed to change the course of the state and has allocated significant funds to key sectors and welfare programs. The proposed budget of Rs 3,22,359 crore will act as a bridge to achieve the ten guiding principles of

the Swarna Andhra 2047 Vision," he noted.

As part of poverty eradication efforts, Rs 2,000 crore has been allocated under the Viability Gap Fund for major infrastructure projects. Public-private partnerships will also be encouraged for new developmental initiatives, he pointed out.

The Chief Minister said that, in fulfilling electoral promises, the budget has made rational allocations for the Super Six schemes. Notably, Rs 6,300 crore has been earmarked for the 'Annadata Sukhibhava' scheme and Rs 9,407 crore for the 'Thaliki Vandanam' scheme. He said that his government has placed a

strong emphasis on uplifting weaker sections of society. In line with this commitment, Rs 47,456 crore has been allocated for Backward Classes (BC) welfare in this budget. "Additionally, Rs 1,000 crore has been allocated for the implementation of the Adarana-3 scheme, providing further support to BCs. He added that in keeping with electoral promises, Rs 20,000 per fisher folk will be provided as assistance during the fishing ban period, and Rs 230 crore allocated for the scheme. Chandrababu Naidu said that recognizing the crucial role of Andhra Pradesh in India's food security, the government

has allocated Rs 48,341 crore to the agriculture sector. Additionally, Rs 18,019 crore has been set aside for the critical water resources sector. Key allocations include Rs 34,311 crore for education, Rs 20,218 crore for SC welfare, Rs 8,159 crore for ST welfare, and Rs 5,434 crore for minority welfare. The government has ensured robust allocations for infrastructure and industries. Rs 8,785 crore has been allocated for road development and Rs 3,156 crore for the industries sector. Adequate funds have also been assigned to key projects such as Polavaram, Jal Jeevan Mission, and Swachh Andhra," he noted.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen during a meeting, in New Delhi.

## FM presents Rs 3,22,359 crore annual budget for 2025-26

(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, Feb 28 : Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav on Friday presented the annual budget for the Financial Year 2025-26 in the Assembly with a total outlay of Rs 3,22,359.33 crore.

The revenue expenditure is estimated at Rs 2,51,162.50 crore while the capital expenditure is estimated at Rs 40,635.72, Revenue Deficit Rs is

33,185.97, the Fiscal deficit is estimated at Rs 79,926.90, Capital Receipts is estimated at Rs 1,04,382.80. The revenue deficit in GSDP is 1.82 percent and the fiscal deficit in GSDP is 4.38 percent.

The Finance Minister has given priority to implementing welfare schemes. The Finance Minister allocated Rs 6,705 crore for the construction of Polavaram project, Rs 9,407

crore for the implementation of Talliki Vandanam scheme, Rs 6,300 for Annadata Sukhibhava scheme, Rs 12,773 for the implementation of free electricity for farmers.

Budget allocations were made to boost productive development with a capital expenditure of Rs 40,635 crore for job and employment generation with productive asset creation. This budget has given

## Naval Dockyard, Vizag commissions Scrap Metal Processing facility

(Standard Post Bureau) Visakhapatnam, Feb 28 : Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, the premier establishment of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) for the repair and maintenance of warships, submarines and auxiliary vessels has commissioned a state-of-the-art 'Scrap Metal Processing Facility.'

This initiative streamlines the segregation and processing of metal scrap and thereby

reduces the carbon footprint, generated during major repair and maintenance work of ships and submarines in the yard, a Defence release said here on Friday.

Equipped with a Jib Crane, the facility also ensures the safety of workers while enabling segregation of ferrous and non-ferrous metals and compacting the materials into dense bales for safe and easy handling, transport and storage.

## The planets are aligned, and so are Europe and India: EU chief Von der Leyen after talks with PM Modi

New Delhi, Feb 28 (UNI) : European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen today said that like the alignment of planets in the solar system, Europe and India are aligned and have decided to work together on enhancing economic growth, on exploring a common tech agenda, and for deeper cooperation in security and defence, as she held talks with PM Narendra Modi here.

In her media statement, the EU chief referred often

to PM Modi as "dear Narendra", signalling the warmth of friendship between the two leaders.

Referring to the rare alignment of seven planets in the solar system, she said this celestial event signals transformation and growth. "It is exactly the moment we find ourselves in. The planets are aligned - and so are Europe and India."

The EU chief said the fact that she is visiting India with the whole College of Commissioners, on their first

visit outside Europe after they took office in December, shows how much the EU values its partnership with India. "We want to take it to new heights. India is a like-minded friend. We are the two largest democracies in the world. And under your leadership, Prime Minister, it has been thriving. We are bound by shared convictions and values. From resilient supply chains to our shared interest in a free and open Indo-Pacific,

we are working together."

Von Der Leyen said the two sides have agreed to work on a new Strategic Agenda, with three main avenues.

The first is economic growth. "The potential is immense. Europe is already India's biggest trading partner," she said, and added that the two leaders have tasked their teams to build on the momentum and finalise the Free Trade Agreement before the end of this year. They have also

decided to take the Trade and Technology Council to the next level and connect research, innovation and market uptake, which would include building robust and diverse supply chains in the field of semi-conductors.

The second avenue the two sides agreed to explore is a common tech agenda.

On clean tech, they will champion the International Solar Alliance and have agreed to launch a Joint Task Force on Green Hydrogen.



### Amit Shah holds review meeting on law and order in Capital

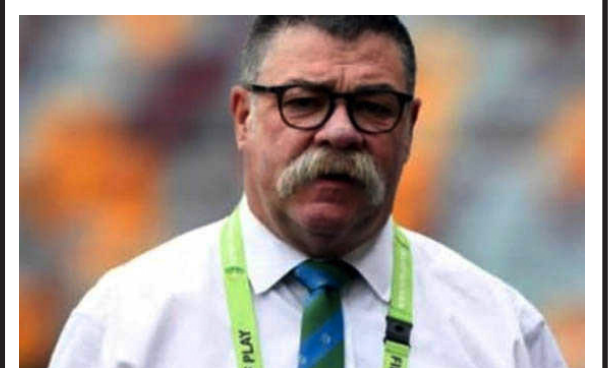
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday chaired a crucial meeting to review the law and order situation here. The meeting was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood and senior officers from the Delhi government. Besides, Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora, Union Home Secretary, Intelligence Bureau (IB) Chief, and senior officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs were also present in the meeting. (See on page 2)

### Russia launches Progress MS-30 cargo spacecraft to resupply ISS



Russia successfully launched the Progress MS-30 cargo spacecraft into orbit using a Soyuz-2.1a rocket on Friday, Russia's state space corporation Roscosmos said. The carrier rocket lifted off from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan at 00:24 a.m. Moscow time Friday (2124 GMT Thursday). (See on page 4)

### Former Australian batter David Boon to join Cricket Australia ...



Test and one-day international batting great David Boon has been appointed to the Cricket Australia board. Tasmanian Boon, whose 7422 runs in 107 Tests included 21 centuries, will join the CA board on March 28 to fill the vacancy left by Paul Green. (See on page 5)

### Govt should help dependent of deceased from Kumbh's ...



Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said that the Uttar Pradesh government should make arrangements to find and send the missing people home along with compensating the families of the victims of the stampede at Sangam bank from the earnings from the Maha Kumbh. (See on page 8)



# Meeting of General Manager, Western Railway, Ashok Kumar Mishra with MPs

(Standard Post Bureau)

Ratlam, Feb 28 : A meeting with General Manager Western Railway Mr Ashok Kumar Mishra and Hon'ble MPs on Western Railway Ratlam Division was held in the Committee Room of Divisional Office Ratlam on 28th February, 2025.

The meeting started with the welcome of the honorable guests and after that in the welcome address by General Manager Western Railway Mr Ashok Kumar Mishra, he told about the work being done by Western Railway Ratlam Division. The honorable guests unanimously elected Shri Savitri Thakur, Hon'ble Minister of State for Women and Child Development as the Chairperson of the meeting and the meeting was held under the chairmanship of Smt. Savitri Thakur.

The honorable MPs and their representatives were informed about the achievements of Ratlam Division including the work being done in the context of safety, security and infrastructural development through a presentation by Divisional Railway Manager Shri Ashwani Kumar.

At present, the works being done for safety, security and passenger facilities as well as



development of infrastructure on Ratlam Division were appreciated by the Hon'ble MPs.

Various issues of Ratlam Division such as doubling of Neemuch-Ratlam section, Indore Dahod new rail line, speedy completion of Mhow Sanawad gauge conversion work, speedy completion of redevelopment work of Ujjain and Indore stations, doubling of Ujjain-

Fatehabad section along with Ratlam-Indore via Fatehabad, stoppage of trains at various stations, extension of trains, starting new trains from Indore and Ujjain, as well as various issues related to passenger facilities were discussed by the Hon'ble MPs. The Hon'ble MPs also gave suggestions to hold a separate meeting for the Simhastha Mela to be held in Ujjain in 2028 and to

discuss the preparations to be made in that regard.

General Manager Western Railway Shri Ashok Kumar Mishra listened to the issues of Hon'ble MPs and MP representatives carefully and assured all the members that your suggestions will be considered and appropriate decision will be taken and you will be informed as soon as possible.

# MANUU Film Club Hosts Inaugural KA Abbas Memorial Lecture on Islamicate Influences in Bombay Cinema

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Feb 28 : The University Film Club of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) organized the First KA Abbas Memorial Lecture, featuring distinguished speaker Professor Ira Bhaskar, retired faculty from the School of Arts and Aesthetics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The lecture, titled "Islamicate Cultures of Bombay Cinema," explored the profound influences of Islamicate culture on films produced in Bombay throughout cinema history.

The event, held at the Cultural Activity Centre on campus, attracted a diverse audience including undergraduate and postgraduate students, PhD scholars, and faculty members from various departments. The lecture marked the beginning of what is expected to become

an annual tradition honouring the legacy of KA Abbas, the renowned filmmaker, screenwriter, and journalist.

Dr. Meraj Ahmed Mubarki, Assistant Director at the UGC-MMTTC and President of the University Film Club, emphasized the significance of the event: "Organizing this inaugural lecture in memory of KA Abbas represents a crucial step in recognizing cinema's role as both a cultural repository and a means of social commentary. Abbas's work exemplified how films can serve as powerful vehicles for social change while remaining rooted in our rich cultural traditions."

Professor Bhaskar's comprehensive lecture examined the intricate tapestry of Islamicate aesthetic and cultural elements that have shaped Bombay cinema's distinct

identity. "The poetic sensibilities, musical traditions, and architectural motifs of Islamicate culture have contributed immeasurably to the visual and narrative language of Indian cinema," noted Professor Bhaskar during her presentation. "These influences transcend religious boundaries and have become an integral part of our shared cinematic heritage."

Mr. Meraj Ahmed, Assistant Professor at the Department of Mass



Communication and Journalism and Secretary for Cultural Activities at the university, highlighted the educational value of the lecture: "Events like these provide our students with critical historical context for understanding the evolution of Indian cinema. Professor Bhaskar's insights into how Islamicate cultural elements have been integrated into mainstream Bombay films helps students appreciate the complex cultural exchanges that have shaped our national cinema."

Communication and Journalism and Secretary for Cultural Activities at the university, highlighted the educational value of the lecture: "Events like these provide our students with critical historical context for understanding the evolution of Indian cinema. Professor Bhaskar's insights into how Islamicate cultural elements have been integrated into mainstream Bombay films helps students appreciate the complex cultural exchanges that have shaped our national cinema."

Communication and Journalism and Secretary for Cultural Activities at the university, highlighted the educational value of the lecture: "Events like these provide our students with critical historical context for understanding the evolution of Indian cinema. Professor Bhaskar's insights into how Islamicate cultural elements have been integrated into mainstream Bombay films helps students appreciate the complex cultural exchanges that have shaped our national cinema."

Communication and Journalism and Secretary for Cultural Activities at the university, highlighted the educational value of the lecture: "Events like these provide our students with critical historical context for understanding the evolution of Indian cinema. Professor Bhaskar's insights into how Islamicate cultural elements have been integrated into mainstream Bombay films helps students appreciate the complex cultural exchanges that have shaped our national cinema."

# Central Board recommends 8.25% Interest on EPF

(Standard Post Bureau)

New Delhi, Feb 28 (UNI) The Government has retained 8.25 rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for the financial year 2024-25.

"The Central Board of Trustees (CBT), EPF, recommended 8.25% annual rate of interest to be credited on EPF accumulations in members' accounts for the financial year 2024-25. The interest rate would be officially notified by the Government of India, following which EPFO would credit the rate of interest into the subscribers' accounts," Ministry of Labour & Employment said in a statement after the

meeting of the CBT.

The meeting was chaired by Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.

Compared to many other fixed-income instruments, the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) offers relatively high and stable returns, ensuring steady growth of savings. The interest earned on EPF deposits is tax-free (up to a specified limit), making it a highly attractive investment option for salaried individuals. This reflects strong confidence in the credit

profile of EPFO's investments and its ability to deliver competitive returns to its members, the Government said.

Further continuing with the reform agenda, the CBT, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mandaviya, took few more decisions during the CBT meeting. The major decisions taken by the Board in the meeting include, enhancement of insurance benefits under EDLI Scheme. Following the actuarial valuation of the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) scheme, the Board

approved key modifications in scheme to provide greater financial security and support to the family of members. This will address major grievances under this category and ensure a more inclusive approach to benefit claimants.

Minimum Benefit Introduced for death within one year of service.

A minimum life insurance benefit of Rs. 50,000 will be provided in cases where an EPF member dies without completing one year of continuous service, the statement said adding this amendment is expected to

result in higher benefits for more than 5,000 cases of deaths in service, every year.

Benefit for Members who die while in service after a non-contributory period. Previously, EDLI benefits were getting denied in such cases considering these as death away from service. Now, if a member passes away within six months of their last contribution received, the EDLI benefit will be admissible, provided the member's name is not stuck off from rolls. The modification is estimated to result in benefits for more than 14,000 cases of such death cases every year.

# Amit Shah holds review meeting on law and order in Capital

New Delhi, Feb 28 (UNI) : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday chaired a crucial meeting to review the law and order situation here.

The meeting was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood and senior officers from the Delhi government.

Besides, Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora, Union Home Secretary, Intelligence Bureau (IB) Chief, and senior officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs were also present in the meeting.

According to sources, the meeting focused on

strategies to enhance coordination between the newly formed Delhi government and the Delhi Police, as well as strengthen the policing measures to address emerging threats to law and order in the city.

The meeting also discussed how to improve the coordination between

the Delhi Police and the newly formed Delhi government.

The meeting also assumed importance on how to tackle the new law and order challenges in the National Capital while simultaneously strengthening the police's effort to address these challenges.

# MHRC continues police reform campaign



(Standard Post Bureau)

Bishnupur, Feb 28 : Manipur Human Rights Commission (MHRC) continues to conduct an awareness programme under the theme "Needs of Police Reforms to ensure Human Rights". The awareness campaign held at the conference hall of SP, Bishnupur with Shri Ravikumar (IPS), SP Bishnupur, and other senior officers, including Officers-in-Charge and Investigation officers in attendance.

MHRC Member Shri Kangjam Khagendra Singh and Head of Investigation Division IGP Smt. Mamata Wahengbam, IPS, attended the awareness programme as a functional president and facilitator. Smt Rosita Haobam (IAS), Secretary, MHRC highlighted the importance of the programme, she said the campaign aims to make police officers particularly Officer-in-Charges and Investigation Officers aware of various Guidelines and Special Operating Procedures issued by the National Human Rights Commission so that police officers follow these guidelines and special operating procedures.

The awareness programme further deliberated on the Protection of Human Rights, 1993, which serves as the legal foundation of human rights commission in India. Discussions also covered the Paris Principles, an international principles which ensure independent functioning of human rights institutions and NHRC guidelines on police public relationships and death in police actions, etc. "The MHRC distributed a book titled "A Basic Handbook for Human Rights Advocates and Investigation officers." "MHRC Member Khagendra Singh advised the police officers to follow prescribed guidelines and laws while maintaining law and order.

# Continuation of train stoppage at Halligudi Halt Station : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 28 : South Western Railway has decided to continue the temporary one-minute stoppage of Train No. 56927/56928 SSS Hubballi-Sindhanur-SSS Hubballi Daily Passenger at Halligudi halt station on an experimental basis for three months. This stoppage will be in effect from 1st March 2025 to 31st May 2025."

1. Train No. 56927 SSS Hubballi-Sindhanur Daily Passenger will arrive at Halligudi at 10:29 a.m. and depart at 10:30 a.m.

2. Train No. 56928 Sindhanur-SSS Hubballi Passenger will arrive at Halligudi at 5:03 p.m. and depart at 5:04 p.m.

Passengers are requested to make use of this facility.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PRESIDENCY DIVISION, MUMBAI		
E-TENDER NOTICE CORRIGENDUM -I		
Ref :- This Office E- Tender Notice No- 78/2024-25 Outward No-PD/TC/1599 dt. 11.2.2025		
Following changes are made in the e-tender notice published as per above reference for the works.		
Sr.No.	Details of already published	Details of changes
1.	E- Tender Proposal submission period dt. 17.2.2025 to 24.2.2025	E- Tender submission period upto dt. 17.2.2025 to 3.3.2025
2.	E- Tender opening on dt. 25.2.2025	E- Tender opening on dt. 4.3.2025
Other particulars remain unchanged. <a href="http://mahatenders.gov.in">www.mahapwd.com</a> <a href="http://mahatenders.gov.in">http://mahatenders.gov.in</a>		
No.PD/ TC/ 2238 Office of the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, P.W.D., 2nd floor, Bandhakam Bhavan, 25, Murzban Road, Presidency Division, Mumbai. Fort, Mumbai 400 001 Date : 2/2.2025		
		Executive Engineer Presidency Division Mumbai.
DGIPR/2024-25/6779		

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PRESIDENCY DIVISION, MUMBAI		
E-TENDER NOTICE CORRIGENDUM -I		
Ref :- This Office E- Tender Notice No- 83/2024-25 Outward No-PD/TC/1855 dt. 14.2.2025		
Following changes are made in the e-tender notice published as per above reference for the works.		
Sr.No.	Details of already published	Details of changes
1.	E- Tender Proposal submission period dt. 18.2.2025 to 25.2.2025	E- Tender submission period upto dt. 18.2.2025 to 4.3.2025
2.	E- Tender opening on dt. 27.2.2025	E- Tender opening on dt. 5.3.2025
Other particulars remain unchanged. <a href="http://mahapwd.com">www.mahapwd.com</a> <a href="http://mahatenders.gov.in">http://mahatenders.gov.in</a>		
No.PD/ TC/ 2239 Office of the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, P.W.D., 2nd floor, Bandhakam Bhavan, 25, Murzban Road, Presidency Division, Mumbai. Fort, Mumbai 400 001 Date : 2/2.2025		
		Executive Engineer Presidency Division Mumbai.
DGIPR/2024-25/6780		





Advocates at a polling station during District Bar Association elections at the District Court premises, in Gurugram.

## Budget lacks solid development plan: YSRCP

Vijayawada, Feb 28 (UNI): The Opposition YSR Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh on Friday slammed the coalition government's state budget as a "deceptive numbers game," filled with self-praise and criticism of the previous regime, lacking a solid development plan, and leaving the "Super Six" promises unfulfilled.

Botsa Satyanarayana, opposition leader of the AP Legislative Council, accused the coalition of misusing the public mandate, prioritizing praise

for CM Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh over public needs.

He highlighted unfulfilled promises, including inadequate allocations for Talliki Vandanam (Rs. 15,000 for school-going children), with only Rs. 9,400 crore allocated for 81 lakh students against a required Rs. 12,000 crore, and Annadata Sukhibhava, promised Rs. 20,000 for farmers, offering no clarity on the scheme. Market intervention funds dropped from Rs. 3,000 crore to Rs.

300 crore, with no support for chili farmers. He pledged a thorough budget review to expose its flaws.

MLC Ravi Babu called it a hollow exercise, lacking funds for backward classes and the promised Rs. 3,000 unemployment allowance. MLC Varudu Kalyani accused the government of deceiving North Andhra and Rayalaseema, citing underfunded schemes like Deepam 2.0 (Rs. 2,500 crore allocated vs. Rs. 4,000 crore needed).

MLC Chandrasekhar Reddy criticized the

omission of Adabidda Nidhi, interim relief for employees, fee reimbursements, and the delayed mega DSC notification. MLC Bommi Israel labeled it a "numbers game" offering no relief to the poor, with Rs. 1 lakh crore borrowed without clarity, neglecting weavers, housing, and BCs, SCs, and STs. YSRCP leaders vowed to confront the government in the legislature over these lapses and the coercion in the forced resignations of 17 Vice-Chancellors, with evidence to be presented soon.

## South will be plunged into serious crisis if delimitation is done on population basis: CM

Hyderabad, Feb 28 (UNI): Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday evening said that if the delimitation is done on the basis of population, the south will be plunged into a serious crisis.

Addressing a press conference here, Reddy alleged that the BJP hatched a conspiracy to do injustice to the southern states in the name of delimitation of the constituencies.

BJP is conspiring to remain in power permanently; he said the delimitation should be done on the basis of seats and not population.

The BJP's conspiracy to weaken the southern states economically and politically, he pointed out.

We will not let BJP's conspiracies continue. We will fight against the union government, he cautioned.

## Ex-Finance Minister describes AP budget as jugglery of figures

Vijayawada, Feb 28 (UNI): Terming the AP Budget 2025-26 as a jugglery of figures, former Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy said the figures do not add up and there is no clarity on how the Super Six schemes would be implemented.

Speaking to the media here on Friday, he said there is no concord of figures between what the Finance and Agriculture Ministers said on Annadata Sukhibhava scheme which shows the yawning gap. The actual amount needed for implementing the Super Six schemes is far less than the actual number of beneficiaries. How this gap will be fulfilled is not mentioned and as is the practice of TDP the number of beneficiaries will be condensed.

This shows the lack of sincerity on the part of the coalition government and

still, it has been harping on the previous government which was mentioned at least 25 times. The figures do not add up in the total outlay of Rs 3.22 lakh crore budget, he said.

"The coalition has raised a hue and cry when we were in power and told about inflated figures on loans counting to Rs 15 lakh crores and finally the figure has come down drastically and their figures never tally with the CAG and other reputed institutions," the former Finance Minister revealed.

Be it 'Talliki Vandanam, Deepam', 'Annadata Sukhibhava' or others, the amount sanctioned is far less than the actual requirement, and it has been tucked away deep inside and we have to put in much effort to trace it. While the budget booklet is colourful, content-wise, it lacks clarity, he observed.

With no proper procurement policy, farmers are selling their produce in distress at lower prices to private buyers. Employees who were eagerly waiting for DA, leave encashment and other benefits promised during elections are a disappointed lot, he lashed out.

The off-budget borrowings have increased in the coalition government and the GSDP has shown a negative growth, he alleged. "The way the Stamps and Registration fees have been increased shows a haphazard manner as it has been exorbitant in remote and underdeveloped areas as well with a 73 percent hike in Paderu itself," he criticized. Summing it up, the figures mentioned in the budget speech do not add up and are far less than the amount required for the number of beneficiaries, he flayed.

## TTD EO presents silk vastrams to Sri Kalahastiswara temple

Tirupati, Feb 28 (UNI) As part of the ongoing Shivaratri Brahmotsavams in the famous Vayulingeswara Swamy temple at Sri Kalahasti, on behalf of TTD, Executive Officer Syamala Rao presented the silk vastrams on Friday.

The temple Executive Officer, T. Bapi Reddy, welcomed TTD Executive Officer, who presented the Pattu clothes on behalf of Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

Later, the TTD EO offered prayers to Sri Vayulingeswara and

Goddess Gnaana Prasunamba.

Afterwards, he also had the darshan of Sri Dakshina Murthy. Speaking to the media after the darshan, TTD EO said the temple of Sri Kalahasti is emerging as a great Shaivakshetra in South India, also known as Dakshina Kasi.

He said that the number of devotees coming to the Sri Kalahasti temple is also increasing significantly.

He said that the devotees coming to Tirumala to have a darshan of Srivari are also visiting the Sri Kalahasti temple as

part of their visit to the temples in the surrounding area, and the TTD has provided the necessary facilities for the devotees in Tirupati.

He reminded that devotees from all over the country come to Sri Kalahasteeswaralaya and perform Rahuketu Puja.

As part of the temple's annual Brahmotsavam, the marriage ceremony of Swami and Amma will be held on Friday. He said that it has been a tradition for TTD to present Pattu Vastrams to Sri Kalahastiswara for the last 25 years.

## Two-day Women's Intl Summit on Entrepreneurship begins

Hyderabad, Feb 28 (UNI): The two-day Women's International Summit on Entrepreneurship (WISE) & B2B Expo 2025, being organised by the Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs (COWE), which is dedicated to empowering and supporting women entrepreneurs, began here on Friday.

The summit was inaugurated by Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Verma, at the Engineering Staff College in Gachibowli here and attended by Telangana Minister for Environment and Forests Konda Surekha and Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Joint Secretary Mercy Epaio.

Speaking on the occasion, Verma said, "Today as we discuss empowering women entrepreneurs through technology, the future of business is digital, inclusive, and globally connected. We should go beyond participation, equity axis and expansion. Technology is the key enabler to bridge gender gaps, open new markets and make businesses

scalable. The rural women have woken up, they are family makers and society makers. Women are half the population and we can't talk about vikasit Bharat without vikasit women. We need to empower women through education, entrepreneurship", the Governor said.

Konda Surekha said, "Today empowerment of women is not just a matter of social justice, it is a catalyst for economic development. Our government is focussed on transforming women into wealth creators through the Indira Mahila Shakti program, this flagship program will enable one lakh crore in bank linkages over five years, the vision is to create one lakh women crorepatris, interest free loans are provided for SHGs, establishment of Indira Mahila Shakti bazars, integration of SHG products with e-commerce". Mercy said, "At the Central level we are working towards onboarding all MSMEs on ONDC and also, we want to encourage all our MSMEs to be on e-commerce platform. We are also aggressive on

digitalization". Apollo Hospitals Group Joint Managing Director Sangita Reddy, said digital knowledge is very important, and you can begin your journey on digital learning today by logging on to techequity.com, this platform was India's gift to women of the world during G20. It is a completely free platform, it has over 500 courses in 120 languages, and over 3 lakh women already benefited from this platform. COWE India National President Lalitha Aluri said, "COWE has empowered over 2 lakh women entrepreneurs during the last two decades bridging gaps in the market access, finance and business development. Our vision is to expand COWE across all states, reaching ten thousand registered members, support 20 plus micro clusters and establish women specific industrial zones in five states with corporate partnerships, incubator tie ups, and integration with key government schemes".

COWE India Founder Director Uma Gurkha said, our vision in starting COWE was to empower

women through entrepreneurship. We wanted to bring awareness, skilling, marketing support, networking, advocacy with the governments. We touched the lives of more than ten thousand women during this period.

COWE India National Secretary-2, Jyotsna Cheruvu said, "The vision and objective of WISE 2025 is to focus on MSME sectors and MSME led women entrepreneurs at the micro level. We want to create a platform for learning and also to understand the various tools available across the globe, with several foreign speakers sharing their insights".

Eminent Guests Meghana Rao, Founder, Meru International Schools; C. Shekar Reddy, National Vice Chairman - CII, Indian Green Building Council; Saroj Bajaj, President, Mahila Dakshata Samithi; International Speakers Anurag Singh, COO, UFG LAB, UAE; Nicolas Cary, President and Co-founder, Blockchain.com, UK; Gareth Wynn Owen, British Deputy High Commissioner, UK

Consulate; Ovais Sarmad, Former Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCC, Spain; Rubylyn Hernandez, Aartees Education Foundation Inc, Philippines; graced the occasion. Nidhi Toshniwal, National Vice President, COWE India; Madhu Tyagi, Past National President, COWE India; Neeraja Reddy, National Secretary-1, Darsi Aparna, National Treasurer; Meetu Puri, National Jt. Secretary-1; were present on the occasion. During the two days it has eight panel discussions on topics like e-vehicles, emerging technologies, rural to g l o b a l . W o m e n entrepreneurs will showcase their products and services at a B2B Expo.

Over 40 buyers including PSUs, Software and other major companies and 70 sellers are participating in a unique buyer seller meet. Over 108 women entrepreneurs from across the country will be recognised their individual fields are being honoured for contributions to COWE and felicitated with Shakti Awards for their outstanding contribution at the valedictory on Saturday.

## Passing out parade of All India Level Canine Induction course held

Hyderabad, Feb 28 (UNI) Stressing the importance of continuous adaptation in the face of evolving crime, Director General (Intelligence) B. Shivadhar Reddy on Friday emphasised the need for advancements in technology, forensic science, and training methodologies to ensure that law enforcement remains ahead of emerging threats.

Acknowledging the bond between handlers and their canines, he stated, "A well-trained canine is not just a tool; it is a partner, a protector, and a loyal companion." Participated in

the Passing Out Parade of the 24th batch of the All India Level Canine Basic Induction Course at the Integrated Intelligence Training Academy (IITA), Moinabad, outskirts of the city, Reddy urged the newly inducted canines and their handlers to move forward with courage, honour, and determination, serving their respective forces with distinction and bringing glory to the nation.

The ceremony marked the culmination of an intensive eight-month training program, preparing canine units and their handlers for crucial roles in law enforcement.

Addressing the gathering, Reddy emphasised the critical role that these highly trained canines and their handlers play in safeguarding society. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to all the trainees, appreciating their dedication, discipline, and commitment to duty.

This year's batch comprised 72 canines and 101 handlers from various state and central police units, including Telangana, Bihar, Goa, Tripura, CISF, RGIA, and RPF (Secunderabad & Vijayawada). The canines—36 Labrador Retrievers, 8 German Shepherds, and 28

Belgian Malinois—were rigorously trained in specialised areas such as explosives detection, narcotics detection, liquor detection, tracking, and assault operations.

Since its inception in 2004, the Canine Training Centre at IITA has successfully trained 843 canines and 1,205 handlers. These well-trained canine units play an indispensable role in anti-sabotage operations, VIP and VVIP security, bomb threat responses, narcotics control, and crime investigations.

Their efficiency and dedication have

significantly strengthened law enforcement capabilities.

Highlighting recent achievements, the Director General commended the outstanding performance of Telangana Police's canine teams at the 68th All India Level Police Duty Meet 2024-25 in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

He lauded the dedication of the trainers and extended his sincere gratitude to Tafseer Iqbal, DIG, ISW, and K Aravind Rao, I/c Principal, IITA, along with their team, for their tireless efforts in successfully conducting the training program.

## Engineers asked to be alert as peak demand for power likely to cross 17,500 MW during summer

Hyderabad, Feb 28 (UNI): Principal Secretary (Energy) Sandeep Kumar Sultania on Friday cautioned the engineers to be more alert during the coming months given the expected peak demand of the state crossing 17,500 MW. Sandeep who reviewed the implementation of the Summer Action Plan of TGNPDCL (Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited) to meet the increasing loads during this ongoing Rabi and summer season through Tele-conference from Secretariat here, expressed satisfaction over the present power supply position in the state.

He appreciated all the employees of the power sector for their concerted efforts in providing quality, reliable & uninterrupted power supply despite meeting the highest peak demand of 16,601 MW on February 26.

TGNPDCL CMD K. Varun Reddy apprised that as part of reducing overload, the works of new substations (33), 33KV feeders (83), 11KV feeders (341) and 33KV interlinking lines (98) to provide alternative power supply has been

completed 100 percent. Out of 105 overloaded power transformers, the work of 99 power transformers has already been completed, he said that out of the total 4850 overloaded distribution transformers, the works of 4530 transformers have already been completed and the remaining works will be completed by March 10, 2025.

The CMD said that the field engineers are ready to meet the expected peak load demand this summer and resolve any technical issues.

D. Krishna Bhaskar CMD/TGTRANSOCO, informed that the augmentation works of 16 Power Transformers have been completed, and the balance 6 works in the Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited area will be completed before March 10 on top priority.

To save the standing crops of the farming community, the Principal Secretary issued instructions to deploy the Emergency Response Team (ERT) Vehicles effectively for immediate rectification/

replacement of troublesome distribution transformers, if any.

Widespread awareness should be created among all consumers to utilize the 1912 system for effective redressal of their grievances.

The required Line Clears on equipment shall be available in advance to complete maintenance works in an optimum time, he added.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
e-Tender Notice No. CAOCWATTECEVSKP/2025002, Dated: 19.02.2025  
**NAME OF WORK:** 74TH LINE BETWEEN KOTTAVALASA-VIZIANAGARAM AND 3RD LINE BETWEEN VIZIANAGARAM - NAUPADA (51.70 KMS); - PROVIDING FACILITATION TO COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR LAND ACQUISITION (CALA) FOR ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE LAND UNDER RAILWAY ACQUISITION ACT 2008, ALIENATION AND PERMISSIVE POSSESSION OF GOVT. LAND IN VIZIANAGARAM & SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH.

**Approx. Cost of the Work (₹):** 1,15,75,855.20, EMD (₹): 2,07,900.00, **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 (Twelve) Months.

**Tender Closing Date & Time:** At 1500 Hrs. of 13.03.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

**Note:** The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers / bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer / bidder can participate on e-tendering.  
**The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions.**  
By, Chief Engineer (Con-),  
PR-172/CH/24-25  
Visakhapatnam



## STANDARD POST

## UN report says Lebanese children struggle with hunger, trauma, lost of education

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released a report on Friday on the lasting negative impact on Lebanese children from the Israel-Lebanon conflict even after the ceasefire, calling for urgent support to help them rebuild their lives.

In a survey conducted by UNICEF last month, 72 per cent of caregivers said their children were anxious or nervous during the war, and 62 per cent said they were depressed or sad, which "represents a surge from pre-war data collected in 2023"

According to the report, in the densely populated areas of Baalbek-Hermel and Bekaa governorates, repeated airstrikes took a toll on children's nutrition and health.

In Baalbek-Hermel, 51 per cent of children under two are experiencing severe food poverty. In Bekaa, the rate was 45 per cent, a dramatic increase from 28 per cent in 2023, the report said.

The report also pointed out the challenging education situation in Lebanon.

Despite the ceasefire, school attendance remains low. Over 25 per cent of children were still not attending school as of last month's survey, compared to 65 per cent during the conflict.

Meanwhile, financial barriers prevent many children from attending school. Two-thirds of families with children out of school report that the high costs of school fees, transportation, and materials are the main reasons, a number that has doubled since 2023.

The report added that schools were destroyed or heavily damaged in the war, and hundreds more were used as shelters for some of the 1.3 million people who were internally displaced due to the conflict.

UNICEF urged the global community to aid Lebanon's children by contributing to their 2025 appeal for \$658.2 million, which aims to provide lifesaving assistance to 2.4 million people in the country, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Lebanon must receive the help it requires to restore vital infrastructure and services, ensuring that children have a future to look forward to," said Akhil Iyer, UNICEF representative in Lebanon.

"We call on all parties to abide by the terms of the ceasefire and to work with the international community to sustain peace and ensure a brighter future for children. We call on the country's new government to put children's rights and needs on top of the reform and recovery agenda," he added.

# CM Chandrababu Naidu to Launch P4 Initiative on Ugadi for Poverty Alleviation

## Government Aims to Empower 5 Lakh Families by August Under P4 Model



(By Ravi Kumar Boppa)

The Andhra Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, is set to launch the P4 initiative on Ugadi, aiming to empower the economically weaker sections.

This initiative, introduced in addition to the existing welfare schemes, is designed to provide further financial and social support to the most underprivileged families.

The "P4 – Family Empowerment and Benefit Management System" has been personally overseen by Chandrababu Naidu, ensuring that it reaches those in genuine need.

The primary objective of the P4 model is to encourage wealthier families to support those at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder, thereby promoting social equity. Chandrababu Naidu has emphasized the need for a structured and sustainable approach to uplift the most disadvantaged sections of

society. The government is making all necessary arrangements to launch this program on Ugadi. Initially, the scheme will be implemented in four villages as a pilot project, benefiting 5,869 families. Based on the results and impact of this phase, the initiative will be expanded to cover more families across the state.

To ensure that assistance reaches those who need it the most, the government has laid down clear eligibility criteria. Families that own more than 2 acres of wetland or 5 acres of dry land, hold government jobs, pay income tax, own four-wheeler vehicles, consume over 200 units of electricity, or possess property in municipal areas will be excluded from the program. Based

on these criteria, the state government estimates that 40 lakh families qualify for P4 assistance.

The process of identifying eligible families is already underway. A household survey began on February 20 in 10 districts and will be completed by March 2. Of the 52 lakh families in these districts, 27 lakh families have already been surveyed. The second phase of the survey, covering 16 more districts, will begin on March 8 and conclude by March 18. This phase will evaluate 76 lakh families. The government has assured that this survey is meant solely for identifying new beneficiaries and will not affect the existing recipients of welfare schemes.

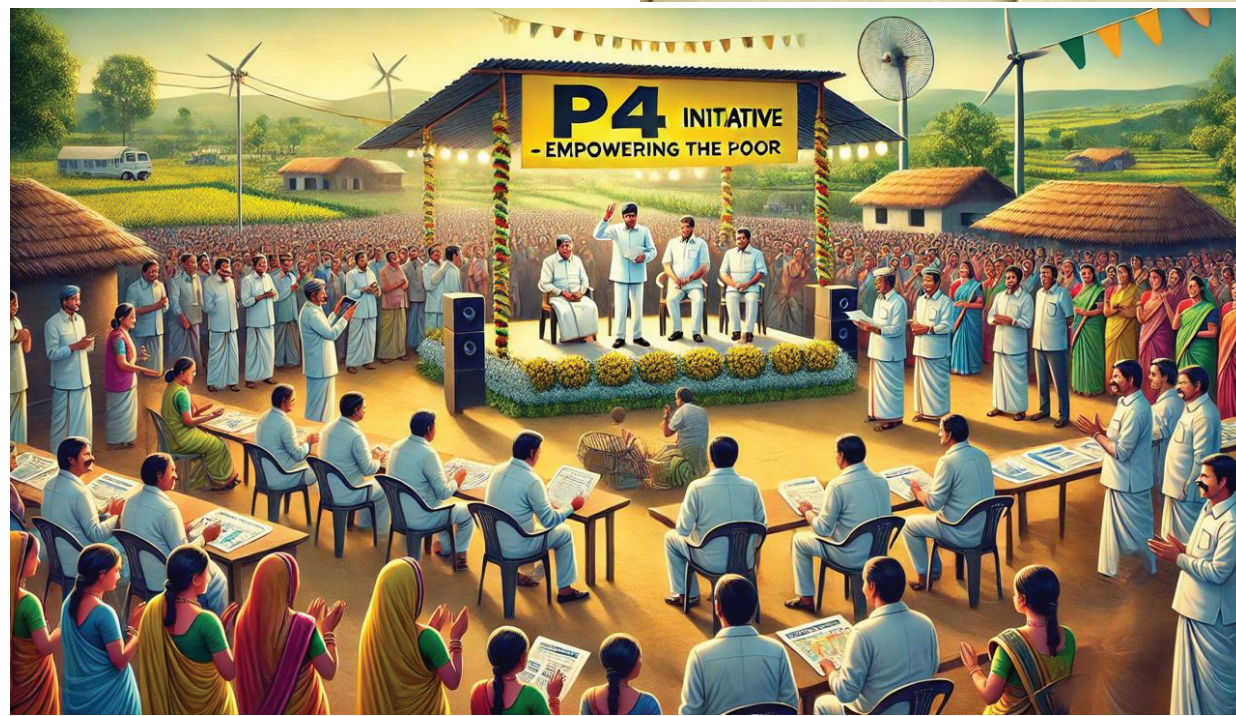
Once the verification



process is complete, eligible families will be linked with supporting families through the Samruddhi Bandhanam platform. The government's role will be limited to facilitating connections, monitoring progress, and ensuring accountability. The assistance provided under this scheme will be entirely voluntary, and there will be no forced participation. The government aims to complete the verification of 5 lakh families by August 2025, integrating them into Samruddhi Bandhanam to ensure greater economic and social empowerment.

With Chandrababu Naidu personally overseeing the implementation, the P4 initiative reflects his vision of a poverty-free, progressive Andhra Pradesh. By fostering community-driven empowerment and inclusive growth, the government aims to bridge the gap between different economic classes and create a stronger, self-sufficient society.

"(The author is a senior journalist and information analyst consultant, who previously served as the Chief Public Relations Officer to Hon'ble governor at the Andhra Pradesh Raj Bhavan and media liaison officer to Hon'ble speaker at the AP Legislative Assembly.)"



## Revolutionary iTIND Solution for Urinary Issues in Youth at AINU

(Standard Post Bureau)

Doctors at the Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology (AINU) have introduced a groundbreaking, advanced solution for urinary problems. A 38-year-old man from West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, was experiencing severe



allowing normal urination without discomfort. This is a minimally invasive procedure that does not require tissue removal. Unlike traditional urological surgeries that may impact sexual function, iTIND has no such side effects.

PBNO can cause severe discomfort. While an

promptly, and the iTIND device was implanted, leading to complete symptom resolution. Since this procedure is performed on an outpatient basis, patients can go home the same day. Only local anesthesia is required, making it safe even for individuals with heart or

## TATA.ev Celebrates 2 Lakh EVs on the Road

(Standard Post Bureau)

TATA.ev, the pioneer of India's EV revolution and leader of the Indian EV market with over 2 Lakh EVs on the road, extended the celebration of this momentous milestone by thanking its customers and unveiling a set of limited period exclusive benefits for the next 45 days to not only encourage new customers to adopt sustainable and emission free electric mobility, but also allow current Tata Motors passenger and electric vehicle owners to upgrade to a new EV.

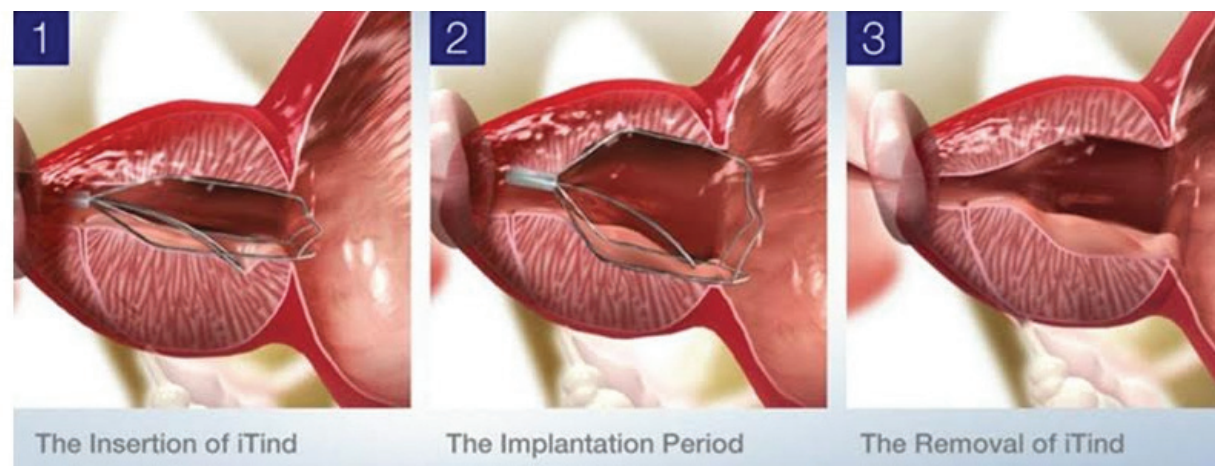
TATA.ev's customer base of over 2 lakh satisfied EV adopters – who have collectively covered more than 5 bn KM in just 5 years, contributing in cutting down 7 lakh ton of CO2 emissions – has solidified the company's leadership as the highest selling 4-wheeler manufacturer in the EV space, since effectively creating the category.

With over 8,000 EV users surpassing 1 lakh KM, TATA.ev's product portfolio proves its strong value proposition for the discerning customer. In addition to this, TATA.ev is actively investing in developing the ecosystem that makes EV technology more accessible to a mass audience.

It recently announced efforts to double India's public charging infrastructure by installing over 400,000 charging points by 2027. By consistently pushing boundaries and maintaining an unwavering focus on innovation, infrastructure, and market development, TATA.ev is shaping the future of mobility and contributing to India global EV aspirations, one milestone after the next.

As a part of this 45 day bumper celebration, TATA.ev has unveiled a range of benefits for both new and existing customers looking to purchase their favorite Tata EV. These include an exchange bonus, lifetime battery warranty, and 100% on-road finance options. In an effort to enhance charging convenience, the company is extending the free charging benefit of 6 months at any Tata Power charging station, and is now providing free installation of a 7.2 kW AC Fast home Charger with the purchase of an EV.

TATA.ev is also thanking its EV community by offering a loyalty bonus of up to ₹ 50,000 in addition to the incentives being offered. This allows current customers of both Tata Motors passenger and electric vehicles to upgrade to an EV and accelerate India's journey to a greener tomorrow. Snapshot of available benefits as a part of the 2 Lakh TATA.ev celebration:



difficulty in urination—frequent urges, incomplete emptying, and persistent bladder fullness. This condition is known as Primary Bladder Neck Obstruction (PBNO), which affects around 33-45% of men under 55 with difficulty in passing urine. It is commonly seen in individuals with Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS).

To address this issue, AINU doctors opted for the iTIND device (Temporarily Implanted Nitinol Device), a revolutionary implant that

is available only in select centers across the country. So far, AINU has successfully helped eight patients with this procedure.

Dr. Madduri Vijay Kumar Sarma, Consultant Urologist at AINU, explained, "This device is placed at the bladder neck within the urinary tract and is removed after seven days. During this period, three small channels are formed at the bladder neck, ensuring smooth urine flow. Even after removal, these channels remain open,

average male urinates four to five times a day, those suffering from PBNO may feel the urge to urinate every hour but struggle to do so effectively. This condition can lead to social embarrassment, preventing individuals from attending meetings or using public transport. Many avoid seeking medical help due to shame, worsening their condition and increasing the risk of kidney damage due to prolonged urine retention.

In this patient, the problem was diagnosed

respiratory conditions. The procedure leaves no scars or stitches and does not interfere with sexual function.

Dr. Vijay Kumar Sarma added, "The iTIND device effectively opens up the prostate and bladder neck, creating a natural urinary channel within 5 to 7 days. Unlike conventional treatments that involve partial removal of the prostate—often resulting in loss of ejaculation—this method is entirely non-invasive, ensuring normal sexual function is preserved."



## Russia launches Progress MS-30 cargo spacecraft to resupply ISS

Moscow, Feb. 28 (UNI) : Russia successfully launched the Progress MS-30 cargo spacecraft into orbit using a Soyuz-2.1a rocket on Friday, Russia's state space corporation Roscosmos said.

The carrier rocket lifted off from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan at 00:24 a.m. Moscow time Friday (2124 GMT Thursday). The spacecraft is expected to reach the International Space Station (ISS) in approximately two days, with docking to the Zvezda module scheduled for Sunday, Roscosmos said in a press release on its website.

Progress MS-30 carries a total of 2,599 kg of cargo for the ISS, including 1,179 kg of equipment, clothing, food supplies, as well as medical and hygiene products.

Additionally, the spacecraft is transporting 950 kg of fuel for station refueling, 420 liters of drinking water, and 50 kg of nitrogen to replenish the station's atmosphere, it said.

A key delivery of this mission is the new Orlan-MKS No. 6 spacesuit, designed for spacewalks. This model features an advanced internal hermetic shell made from high-tech fabric for enhanced durability, an automated water-cooling system that maintains optimal comfort for the operator, and an upgraded display system.

## Indonesia to lower airfares, toll fees for Ramadan, Eid homecoming

Jakarta, Feb 28 (UNI) : Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto has instructed his administration to reduce airfares for domestic passengers and lower toll fees on several major highways during the holy month of Ramadan.

Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population, will begin Ramadan on Saturday. The holy month and the subsequent Eid al-Fitr celebration are closely associated with the homecoming tradition, locally known as mudik, when millions of Indonesians travel to reunite with their families.

The pre-Eid homecoming rush is particularly intense in major cities like Jakarta and Surabaya, where travelers leave by various means of transportation, overwhelming train stations and airports while congesting highways. Prabowo announced that airfare reductions will be in effect for the next two weeks, while toll fees on several major highways will be lowered during Eid al-Fitr and Bali's Day of Silence (Nyepi), which fall close together this year. The policy is part of the government's efforts to ensure a smooth mudik experience and support the Muslim community in fasting and celebrating the holidays comfortably.

## Myanmar holds AI Yangon 2025 expo

Yangon, Feb. 28 (UNI) : Myanmar kicked off its largest Artificial Intelligence (AI) expo, AI Yangon 2025, on Friday.

Organized by the My Me My Mine Media Agency, the expo aims to develop AI technology in Myanmar's agriculture and trade sectors while serving as a platform to attract international investments, Han Sak, the agency's founder, told Xinhua on Friday.

Visitors can explore cutting-edge AI technology, attend discussion sessions featuring insights from global AI experts, and learn about AI research and education programs presented by colleges and universities, he said. The three-day expo, featuring over 50 exhibits, runs until March 2, he added.

## JUI-S leader Haq among six killed in suicide blast at Nowshera madressah

Islamabad, Feb 28 (UNI) : A suicide blast at Darul Uloom Haqqania seminary in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday killed six people, including JUI-S leader Maulana Hamidul Haq Haqqani, and injured 15 others, media reports said.

The blast tore through the main prayer hall of the madressah in Nowshera district as worshippers gathered for Friday prayers, KP Police Inspector General Zulfiqar Hameed, the Dawn reported.

"It was a suicide blast. Three policemen were also injured in the attack," Hameed said.

Rescue officials transported the injured to nearby hospitals. The KP government declared an emergency in all hospitals and health facilities across Peshawar, approximately 70km away from Nowshera by road, the report said.

"The presence of medical staff and necessary medicines must be ensured," read a statement from the KP commissioner's office.

According to media reports, KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur ordered an immediate report on the incident and directed officials to "provide the best medical facilities" to the wounded.

"Targeting innocent people in a place of worship is an inhumane act," Gandapur said, adding that "all available resources should be used to bring the elements involved in the heartbreaking incident to justice." Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the "heinous act of targeting worshippers in a suicide attack," according to a statement from the President's House.

"Targeting innocent worshippers is a despicable and heinous act," he said. "Terrorists are enemies of the country, nation, and humanity." He expressed condolences to the families of the deceased.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also condemned the incident and prayed for the recovery of Maulana Haq and others who were injured, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office. He directed that the best medical facilities be administered to the injured and sought a report of the incident, the report said.

## Israeli delegation proposes extending 1st phase of Gaza ceasefire for 42 days: Egyptian source

Cairo, Feb 28 (UNI) An Israeli delegation proposed in Cairo extending the first stage of the Gaza ceasefire agreement for an additional 42 days, an informed Egyptian security source told Xinhua on Friday.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the source noted the Israeli delegation also proposed that Hamas release three Israeli hostages on Saturday in exchange for Palestinians prisoners, without specifying the number, along with the facilitation of humanitarian aid delivery.

The talks have yet to address the second stage of the deal, which seeks to end the war in Gaza, and secure the complete Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the source added.

Egypt, a key mediator, continues to push for an end to the war and the launch of reconstruction efforts in Gaza, the source added.

On Thursday, two delegations from Israel and Qatar arrived in the Egyptian capital Cairo to continue the ceasefire negotiations in the Gaza Strip in the presence of U.S. mediators, according to the Egyptian State Information Service statement.

## Iraqi FM, UN envoy discuss UN mission's withdrawal, future cooperation

Baghdad, Feb. 28 (UNI) Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein held a meeting here on Thursday with Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq Mohamed Al Hassan, during which they discussed the withdrawal of the UN assistance mission and their future cooperation.

At the meeting, Al Hassan briefed Hussein on the work of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the steps taken to end the mission's tasks by the end of this year, according to a statement by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

A UN Security Council resolution issued in May 2024 requires UNAMI's withdrawal from Iraq by Dec. 31, 2025, following a request from the Iraqi



government.

Additionally, the two sides discussed strengthening Iraq's engagement with the UN and enhancing its presence within the organization, especially after Iraq assumed the chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China, the largest

intergovernmental organization of developing countries in the UN.

Hussein commended the role of UNAMI in assisting Iraq over the past years and emphasized Iraq's keenness to continue productive cooperation with the United Nations across various fields, it

added. For his part, Al Hassan expressed his appreciation for the constructive cooperation between the mission and the Iraqi government, affirming the UN's commitment to supporting Iraq in its path toward stability and development, the statement said.

## Russian scientists develop Arctic climate monitoring system

Vladivostok, Feb. 28 (UNI) : Scientists from Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of the Russian Academy of Sciences have developed Russia's first system for monitoring climate-active substances in the Arctic Ocean, local media reported on Friday.

"The system integrates both shipborne and autonomous environmental observation platforms. A key component of this newly developed system is the Sea-Air-Wave Station (SAWS), which was successfully tested during

last year's Arctic expedition," TASS news agency quoted the press service of the institute as saying.

"Measurements of greenhouse gas concentrations demonstrated the high efficiency of the gas analyzers installed on SAWS," it said.

The station has undergone successful testing in Arctic conditions and its configuration will serve as the basis for a network of buoys in the subpolar Atlantic and the

Arctic, it said.

According to the institute, the system will enable efficient monitoring of all parameters of the surface atmosphere and ocean layer, providing critical data for assessing regional gas and energy flux balances in the ocean.

The data collected from the hydrometeorological station have, for the first time, allowed researchers to obtain quantitative characteristics of energy and greenhouse gas flux variability between the ocean and the atmosphere

in real time. The Arctic is often referred to as the "engine of global weather" due to its heightened sensitivity to climate change.

The ocean serves as a long-term heat reservoir, absorbing approximately 92 percent of excess heat entering the atmosphere due to human activities.

The project, approved by the Russian government in 2022, is being conducted by six scientific consortia dedicated to monitoring processes on land, in oceans and forest ecosystems.

## IDF releases findings of October 7 investigation

Jerusalem, Feb 28 (UNI) : The Israel Defense Forces has released findings of its investigation into the October 7 attack, during which the Hamas movement killed and kidnapped hundreds of Israelis. One of the investigation's main findings highlights the scale on which the Israeli intelligence failed, as the surprise element and operational collapse on that day were greater than those of the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

"The surprise was total—situational and fundamental—against a strategic deception that lasted years, an operational

deception leading up to the attack, and a tactical deception throughout the night before the invasion," the Ynet news portal quoted the investigation report as saying.

According to the report, initially Hamas planned to stage the attack on Jewish holidays in 2022 or later on Passover (early April) in 2023, but then rescheduled to give its elite Nukhba forces more time to prepare.

Moreover, the investigation found that the movement has been systematically preparing for the operation since 2016. The Gaza Strip conflict of 2021 just cemented the

perception that Israel is weak and the full "liberation" of the enclave is possible. By July 2023, Hamas had already developed a full complex war plan coordinated with Lebanese movement Hezbollah and Iran and directed at the destruction of Israel. The report also alleges that Hezbollah did not immediately join the conflict over a disagreement with Hamas that occurred during the July 2023 coordination.

Despite serious mistakes, the investigation cuts short of putting personal blame on anyone, leaving any disciplinary measures in the hands of

Maj. Gen. Eyal Zamir, the successor of outgoing IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi. In a separate statement following the report's publication, Halevi said that he bears full responsibility for the events. "My responsibility is mine. I was the commander of the military on October 7th, and I have my own responsibility. I also carry the weight of all your responsibility—that, too, I see as mine. And when I see any of my subordinates who made mistakes, I see my own share in it as well," he said. On October 7, 2023, Israel was subjected to an unprecedented rocket

attack from the Gaza Strip. In addition, fighters of Palestinian movement Hamas infiltrated the border areas, opened fire on the military and civilians and took around 250 hostages. Israeli authorities say that about 1,200 people were killed during the raid.

In response, the Israel Defense Forces launched Operation Iron Swords in the Gaza Strip and announced a complete blockade on Gaza, cutting off water, electricity, fuel, food, and medicine. Gaza's health ministry has reported over 48,350 Palestinian deaths and more than 111,700 injuries since the conflict began.

## Zelensky's White House meeting with Trump grows heated

Washington, Feb 28 (UNI) : An Oval Office meeting with President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky devolved Friday afternoon into a hostile confrontation, as Trump threatened Zelensky to make a deal with Russia, or "we're out," and Vance accused the Ukrainian leader of being "disrespectful."

"You're gambling with World War III. And what you're doing is very disrespectful to the country — this country," Trump said at one point.

The hostile exchange underscored the tension that has emerged between the United States and Ukraine — along with many of its European allies — over the tougher line that Trump has taken toward

the country since coming into office. He has called Zelensky a "dictator" and said that Ukraine, not Russia, started the war, NBC news reported.

The tension in the Oval Office began after Vance said that the path to peace between Russia and Ukraine is diplomacy. Zelensky disagreed, noting that Russia had broken agreements with his government in the past.

"He killed our people, and he didn't exchange prisoners," Zelensky said about Russian President Vladimir Putin. "What kind of diplomacy, JD, you are speaking about? What do you mean?" Zelensky said. "I'm talking about the kind of diplomacy that's going to end the destruction of your country," Vance shot back, adding, "I think it's

disrespectful for you to come into the Oval Office to try to litigate this in front of the American media right now." The heated exchanges came ahead of what was an anticipated rare minerals deal signing between the two countries, and as Trump pressures Ukraine to end the war.

When Vance told Zelensky that Ukraine has "manpower problems" in recruiting troops, Zelensky challenged Vance, noting he had never even been to his country. "I've actually watched and seen the stories," Vance responded. "And I know what happens is you bring people, you bring them on a propaganda tour, Mr. President."

"Do you think that it's respectful to come to the Oval Office of the United States of America and

attack the administration that is trying to prevent the destruction of your country?" he added.

Zelensky said that everyone has "problems" during the war and suggested that the US doesn't feel the effects of the war because of the "nice ocean" between the two countries. He said the U.S. may not feel the effects now, but added, "You will feel it in the future."

"You don't know that," Trump retorted. "You don't know that. Don't tell us what we're going to feel. We're trying to solve a problem. Don't tell us what we're gonna feel, because you're in no position to dictate that. You're in no position to dictate what we're going to feel. We're going to feel very good." "You don't have the cards right now," Trump said, as Zelensky

continued to interject and disagree. "With us, you start having cards. Right now, you don't have your playing cards, you're gambling with the lives of millions of people. "You're gambling with World War III. You're gambling with World War III."

"Have you said thank you once, this entire meeting? No, in this entire meeting, have you said thank you?" Vance said.

"We are thankful," Zelensky said. "You have to be thankful," Trump added. "I've empowered you to be a tough guy," Trump said. "And I don't think you'd be a tough guy without the United States. And your people are very brave, but you're either going to make a deal or we're out, and if we're out, you'll fight it out."

## China firmly opposes U.S. tariff threat, vows to safeguard interests

Beijing, Feb. 28 (UNI) : China firmly opposes the United States' threat of a further 10-percent tariff on goods imported from China on the pretext of fentanyl-related issues, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said Friday. If the United States persists, China will take all necessary countermeasures to protect China's legitimate rights and interests, an MOC spokesperson said in a statement.

While saying that China has taken note of the U.S. move, the spokesperson said that China had repeatedly stated that the unilateral imposition of extra tariffs violates WTO rules and undermines the multilateral trading system.

China is one of the countries that has the strictest drug control policies and highest levels of enforcement globally, and China has actively launched international drug control cooperation, including the United States, the spokesperson said. However, the United States has repeatedly ignored objective facts, and has previously imposed an additional 10 percent tariff on China using a similar pretext and is now threatening to impose more tariffs once again.

Such actions are outright blame-shifting, which not only unhelpful to the resolving of its own problems but also likely to increase the burden on U.S. businesses and consumers while undermining the stability of global supply chains, the spokesperson said. China hopes the U.S. side will not repeat its mistakes and return quickly to the right path of resolving differences through equitable dialogue, the spokesperson added.

## USAID's closure to affect fight against AIDS in DRC : Prime Minister

Geneva, Feb 28 (UNI) The closure of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) will negatively affect the fight against AIDS in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), DRC Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka told Sputnik.

"Of course, we still receive significant humanitarian aid through a number of UN organizations, such as the UNHCR, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, or, in particular, UNICEF, which operate in the country. The World Health Organization, for example, plays a special role in preventing a number of epidemics. The fact that USAID's aid has been terminated directly affects a number of organizations that are involved in the prevention and treatment of AIDS. Thus, there is a risk not only for the DRC, but for all countries that receive this aid," the prime minister said. In early February, US President Donald Trump appointed Secretary of State Marco Rubio as acting head of USAID.



# Home & Garden

## Pick the right container for your Plants



Whether you live in a tiny apartment or on a large bungalow, gardening in containers is a way to add colour and the beauty of nature to your surroundings. The three main elements of creating successful containers gardens are:

1. Choosing the pots
  2. Getting the right planting medium
  3. Selecting the plants
- In all of these elements, the key is to create a healthy growing environment for the plant roots. For a healthy root system, water must be able to pass quickly through the soil. As the water drains out, air replaces it in the soil and an exchange of carbon dioxide is made with the plant roots. This movement of water and air is essential to a healthy plant.
- Here are some tips to help you choose from the dizzying array of pots, troughs and boxes:

### Location

Pick the spot for your garden first and then find a container to suit it. For example, a quaint wooden trough would not suit a modern balcony, nor would classic urn shaped pots be the best choice for an informal garden. In addition to style considerations, give attention to size and proportion issues.

### Weight

Consider the weight of the container — not only empty, but filled with wet soil and plants. If there is a strong prevailing breeze across your outdoor space, the container must be heavy enough to prevent it from tipping over. On the other hand, the structure on which the containers are placed must be able to support them.

### Materials

Clay/terracotta pots are attractive and complement a wide range of foliage and flowering plants. They are the traditional potting container because, in addition to draining well, they wick moisture through their sides. This provides a drier root environment, which means less opportunity for root diseases. However, it also means more frequent watering is needed. If you tend to underwater, use terra cotta pots for only drought tolerant plants, or choose another type of container.

On the down side, clay pots can be heavy and must be protected in colder climates during the winter to prevent cracking. A glazed clay container is non-porous, creating a moisture barrier. Because this will not allow the root system to breathe,

glazed pots are best used with a regular terracotta pot inside of them.

Plastic pots are inexpensive, lightweight and functional, and come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and colours. If you don't like the look of plastic, apply a faux finish to fool the eye, or slip the plastic pots inside other containers. With the proper soil mix and attentive watering, plants do well in plastic pots. If you tend to underwater your plants, plastic is a better choice than terra-cotta for you. However, plastic containers may need to be weighted down to stay in place on windy days.

Wood containers look good in naturalistic environments, and most plants do well in them. Wood drains better than plastic but does not have the wicking advantage of clay, and wood containers can be heavy when planted. Choose containers made of hardwood, such as redwood, cedar or cypress, which are less susceptible to rot over time. Lining wood containers with heavy-duty plastic bags will give you added protection from moisture, but you must remember to provide proper drainage.

Metal containers can be used successfully in many modern settings. Galvanised containers are the best for planting — they won't leach rust or chemicals into the soil. Unless the container was designed as a planter, you'll need to add drainage holes to the bottom of the pot, or slip other pots inside it.

### Quaint Accents

Found items can add variety and whimsy to your container garden. If you're going to plant directly in such items as watering cans, old boots, teapots or wheelbarrows consider drainage and air movement around the roots of the plants. Now that you chosen the perfect containers, you need to select the planting medium and the plants. Go fill your world with beautiful plants!

## Create an atmospheric Living room

Usually a living room or hall is the first room one notices on entering a home and must, therefore, be the most comfortable and relaxing zone in your house.

-Arrange your furniture in such a way that one can easily move around without tripping.

-If you have a fairly large hall, then designate separate areas or zones for various activities like dining, lounging, reading and watching television.

-If your hall is small, then opt for a multi-functional arrangement by placing the seating or the dining zone in front of or near to the entertainment or television area.

-Decorative screens, flooring, rugs and even artwork play an important role



in defining the zones in the living room.

- A wall can be made the focal point of the living

room. This can be done by adding interesting accent pieces like paintings and photographs.

## Redo your home decor with bright, bold shades

It's time to brighten up the interiors of your home and go for trendy wall colours like lime, orange, purples, pink and sky blue. Many wouldn't approve it, but bright colours can be stressbuster and also create a positive environment.

Leading decor store, Home by Nilkamal Limited, offers easy tips to change the look of your sweet home.

They suggest that give a new look to the wooden knick-knacks by painting the background or the side walls in orange or blue. Put summery cotton and linen bedsheets in bright colours, floral and geometric prints.

Those who love brightness around them, can also put glass vases, planters and other accessories in rustic ceramics in bright shades.

If not too keen to have bright walls, hang a series of bright and vibrant pictures or paintings down a dark hallway.



Accessorise your bathroom with pinks, orange and lemon. For a fresh feel place some aqua or lavender potpourri in your bath area.

To add natural touch, decorate with fresh flowers and plants. Kitchens too can have green planters to bring the soothing effect. Also, you can use wooden accessories to give it a natural look.

## Tried and tested home cleaning remedies

You don't always need fancy and expensive home cleaning products from you market; the following will work just fine!

- To clean your microwave: If you use your microwave daily, you will have trouble removing all the greasy food stains from the inside. In a microwave bowl, take half part water and half part vinegar and heat it for five minutes. Once you open, you will just have to clean the inside of the microwave with a wet cloth, as the chemical reaction between the water and vinegar will make it easy for the food



stains to come right off.

- Instead of wasting money on air fresheners that are full of chemicals, make a natural home spray, minus all the harmful

ingredients. In a cup, take a spoon of vanilla extract and bake it in the oven on 360 degrees Celsius for half an hour. The fragrance will spread all over your house!

- Do all the surfaces in your house accumulate with dust, a few hours after you have wiped them clean? You can make your very own dust repeller at home. All you need

is some fabric softener mixed with water. Spray this mixture on a cloth and clean your glass table and it won't immediately layer up with dust.

The mustiness of monsoons can make the interiors dull and drab. Here's how you can make your abode vibrant as you bid goodbye to the rains

### Add warmth with colours

There are many things that one can do to spruce up the home. One of them is doing up the home in bright colours to uplift the mood. Put away the blues and greens for the warmer months. The monsoon calls for lively, bright and warm colours such as yellows, oranges and red to brighten up the interiors. Black and greys should be avoided at all costs as the skies are generally overcast and you would need whatever light that enters your house to be enhanced by bright colours and other reflective surfaces. But take care to avoid light colours such as white and cream as they are difficult to keep clean during a squelchy monsoon.

### Keep the dampness out

The season demands that you keep your plants out as they retain moisture and add to the staleness in the air. Keeping the plants outdoors has dual benefits - they also get watered naturally by the rains!

The mould and humidity can wreak havoc on your woollens, quilts and heavy blankets. So make sure to air them at least once during the season when the sun comes out.

Wrap your linen in plastic packets before storing them in the cupboards to prevent moisture from getting in. Cottons, silks and woolen fabrics usually attract moisture; so it is advisable to use polyester and nylon bed linen. Kids generally tend to run around bare feet at home getting them dirty in the process; hence it is practical to place small rugs/mats in the bedroom so that they can wipe their feet before clambering onto the bed; it will help to keep the bed clean and dry and save you the trouble of changing the bed linen frequently. Wall-hangings and paintings can also be damaged by the damp

## Get rid of the Gloom

air, so minimize the decor on the walls. Also keep an eye out for wall seepage. Wrought iron furniture and decorative pieces at home would also need a coat of anti-rust polish.

### Roll away the blinds and carpets

Put up lace curtains or curtains without lining to ensure that natural sunlight filters through them and imparts the interiors a suffused glow. These curtains will allow sufficient light to enter the room, while still allowing you the privacy that you seek. Carpets are a strict no-no in this season as they house dust mites and moulds which can trigger allergies. So store the carpets away in plastic sheets. This will reduce the chances of moisture damaging the carpet.

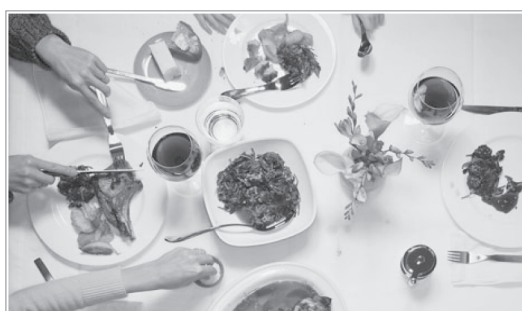
Bright, multi-coloured washable plastic carpet mats are an absolute essential during monsoons. These are light carpets and dry fast even if they get wet or are washed frequently. You may miss the luxurious feel of the regular synthetic fibres, but it is a small price to pay for the health of your menage. A cheaper option to the plastic mats would be the ethnic bamboo or coir mats which also look extremely chic and brighten up the home considerably.

### Use glass for gloss

Mirrors hung on the walls can also lend sheen to dreary, dull spaces. Large mirrors in exquisite frames hung on the walls can impart a regal charm to a room. Additionally, they reflect light and create an illusion of a larger space. Brightly painted walls can also help to bounce light around a room and dispel the gloom.



## Be a perfect host for Dinner parties



Here are some handy tips on how to be a perfect host.

Being a host and inviting friends for dinner can be a taxing task, if you are not organised. Here are some tips (read: important responsibilities) that a host must follow to give the guests a pleasant experience:

1. Initiate conversation: The host always initiates the conversation between people, especially if it is a bunch of strangers that

you have gathered.2. Introduce people: Make sure you introduce everyone to everyone before you do anything else so that people can converse with each other when you are caught up in the kitchen.

3. Plan well in advance: Make sure you have everything ready, from what you cook to a menu list for your guests to games to entertain them.

4. Play some music: Make a playlist which includes songs from different genres. Not only is this a great mood enhancer, it also begins conversation amongst a group of people.

5. Always keep water and glasses near the guests so that they don't have to bother you for it.

6. Dishes and laying out the table: Don't let the guests help you with setting up the table and help you with dishes. It is okay only for a family party, nothing else!

7. If they give you gifts at the end of the party, accept them with grace. That is just a way to say thank you for hosting the party.



## Wasim Akram explains why he never took head coach role for Pakistan

Islamabad, Feb 28 (UNI) Former Pakistan fast bowler Wasim Akram has clarified why he has never considered taking up the role of head coach or chief selector of the national cricket team, citing the harsh treatment faced by former players in such positions.

Speaking on a sports channel, Wasim Akram addressed a fan's question regarding his reluctance to take on a coaching role. He pointed to the criticism and disrespect often directed at former cricketers who take up coaching roles, using Waqar Younis as an example. "To be honest, a lot of people still, on and off, either criticise me or take digs at me, saying, 'Just let him talk, he doesn't do anything himself,'" Akram said. "When I see Pakistani coaches, including Waqar, who has been a coach multiple times, and how people misbehave with them, I realise that I wouldn't be able to tolerate such disrespect towards me." Despite ruling out a formal coaching role, the former left-arm pacer reiterated his willingness to contribute to Pakistan cricket without financial compensation, according to The Express Tribune report. "I want to help Pakistan cricket. Why do you have to pay me? I'm available for free. Whenever you call me for a camp, I'll come. If you involve me in any tournament, I'll spend time with players," he said.

Akram, 58, also highlighted his personal priorities, stressing the importance of family time.



Vidarbha's Harsh Dubey being congratulated after he broke the Ranji Trophy record for most wickets in a season, during the third day of a Ranji Trophy final cricket match between Kerala and Vidarbha, in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Dubey has taken 69 wickets so far in the ongoing Ranji Trophy season.

## Bihar will host 'Asia Rugby U-20 Sevens Championship 2025'

Patna, Feb 28 (UNI) : For the first time, Bihar will host the Asia Rugby U-20 Sevens Championship 2025, scheduled for August 9 and 10 in Rajgir.

Top Asian Rugby nations like Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan, and Nepal are expected to participate in the event.

After signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rugby India, Rugby India, Director-General and CEO of the Bihar State Sports Authority, Ravindran Shankaran said here on Friday that hosting the Asia Rugby U-20 Sevens Championship for the first time is a great honor for Bihar. Highlighting Bihar's

consistent growth in rugby, with its players making rapid progress at the national level, he extended his gratitude towards Rugby India for this opportunity.

Shankaran said that recently, Bihar's women's team won a silver medal in the National Games, and in the recently concluded School Games, both boys' and girls' teams won championships across junior, sub-junior, and senior categories. Over the last three years, Bihar's boys' and girls' rugby teams have won 21 gold and 5 silver medals in the National School Games, National Games, and Senior Rugby Championships. This showcases the growing interest and passion for rugby among

Bihar's athletes.

Speaking about Bihar's focus on international sports events, he said that Bihar has been hosting several international sporting events in recent years. Recently, an MoU was signed for hosting the Sepak Takraw World Cup, scheduled for March 20-25 in Patna. Additionally, the Women's Kabaddi World Cup and Hero Asia Cup Hockey will be hosted in Rajgir. The Khelo India Youth Games are also set to take place in May. With continuous government support, Bihar has successfully strengthened its position in the international sports arena.

Rugby India Secretary General Gerald Prabhu who signed the MoU on behalf of Rugby India

acknowledged Bihar's growing reputation in sports and its ability to successfully host international events. He stated that this was a key factor in selecting Bihar as the host for this championship. He also praised Bihar's grassroots training model, which identifies young talent and prepares them for national and international-level competitions, a remarkable and inspiring approach for other states.

In Asia Rugby U-20 Sevens Championship 8 men's and 8 women's teams will participate. This event will be a milestone for Bihar in international sports, and its successful execution is expected to further boost the state's recognition in the global sporting community.

## KL Rahul acknowledges competition with Pant

Dubai, Feb 28 (UNI) : India's wicketkeeper-batsman KL Rahul acknowledged the ongoing competition with Rishabh Pant for a place in the playing XI, stating that while there is always a temptation for the team management to choose between them, his focus remains on performing to the best of his abilities.

"There is (competition with Pant), I won't lie. He is a very talented player and has shown all of us what he can do and how aggressively he can play and how quickly he can change the game. So there is always a temptation in the team with the captain and the coach to think if they should play him or play me.

"For me, whenever I get the opportunity, I try and see what I can do best. I am not trying to compete with Rishabh. I am not trying to play like him, or I am sure when he gets a chance, he is not trying to play like anybody else. He is picked on the basis of how he can play, and the same applies to me," Rahul told reporters ahead of CT clash against New Zealand on Sunday. When asked whether Pant might feature in the upcoming Champions Trophy match, Rahul clarified that he is not part of the leadership group and does not have a say in selection matters.

"Luckily I am not part of the leadership group. I don't have to make that decision. There will be some temptation to try out players who have not gotten a game. But I don't think that will happen in the Champions Trophy, because there is just one day's break between the final group-stage game and the semifinal. That is my version," he stated.

Speaking about Virat Kohli nearing his 300th ODI appearance, Rahul lauded the veteran batsman, highlighting his immense contribution to Indian cricket.

"Words fall short of explaining the kind of player he has been... that's a lot of games, international games, and he has been a great, great player. An important senior player who we always look up to. Hopefully, many more hundreds left in him," Rahul remarked. Regarding concerns over the fitness of captain Rohit Sharma and pacer Mohammad Shami, Rahul dismissed any major worries. "Fitness-wise, there are no concerns about anyone (Rohit Sharma and Mohammad Shami) missing a game as far as I know." Meanwhile, Shami showed signs of discomfort with his ankle early in his spell, briefly leaving the field before returning to bowl. He eventually finished with figures of 0/43 from eight overs. Rohit, on the other hand, appeared to struggle with a hamstring issue following his exuberant celebration of Babar Azam's wicket. He was briefly off the field, handing over leadership duties to vice-captain Shubman Gill before returning for the batting innings.

## Meg Lanning's unbeaten 60 seal victory for DCW

Bengaluru, Feb 28 (UNI) Skipper Meg Lanning's unbeaten 60 off 49 balls and a stellar bowling effort from Jess Jonassen and Minnu Mani, who claimed three wickets each, powered Delhi Capitals Women (DCW) to a dominant nine-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians Women (MIW) at M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday, taking them to the top of the Women's Premier League (WPL) points table.

Delhi's bowlers delivered a disciplined performance to restrict Mumbai to 123 for 9 in their 20 overs. Despite picking just one wicket in the powerplay, they maintained a tight grip on the scoring rate. Jonassen starred with the ball, claiming crucial wickets of Harmanpreet Kaur (22) and Nat Sciver-Brunt (18), while Minnu also struck key blows, ensuring Mumbai never recovered as they lost wickets at regular intervals.

In response, DCW's openers came out with an aggressive approach. Shafali Verma and Lanning made full use of the powerplay, racing to 57 runs. Shafali, who struck three sixes and four boundaries in an over against Amelia Kerr, played a blistering knock of 43 off 28 balls before falling to Amanjot Kaur.

## Seventh seed Shintaro reaches Bengaluru Open SFs

Bengaluru, Feb 28 (UNI) Seventh seed Shintaro Mochizuki ended Czech qualifier Hynek Barton's dream run at the 2025 DafaNews Bengaluru Open, knocking him out of the singles event at the KSLTA Tennis Stadium on Friday. The 2019 Junior Wimbledon champion registered a 7-6(5), 6-3 victory to secure a place in the semifinals, where he will face Australian James McCabe. Organised by the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA), the Bengaluru Open is an ATP Challenger 125 tournament with a prize pool of USD 200,000. It holds the distinction of being India's biggest international tennis event, with the champion earning 125 ATP ranking points.

Playing on Centre Court, Mochizuki started strongly, winning the opening game of the first set without conceding a point. The Japanese star then earned two break points in the second game, but Barton fought back to hold serve. As the set progressed, both players displayed high intensity before Mochizuki edged past Barton in a tie-breaker. Mochizuki carried his momentum into the second set, breaking Barton's serve in the first game. He then defended two break points in the second game and

another in game four, ensuring a solid foundation for his victory. The seventh seed wrapped up the match in an hour and 36 minutes.

Earlier in the day, 21-year-old McCabe battled past Colombia's Nicolas Mejia 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in a quarter-final match lasting two hours and 22 minutes. After losing the first set, McCabe fought back in the second, exchanging breaks in games six and seven before clinching the set in the 10th game. With momentum on his side, the Australian saved three break points in the first game of the decider before breaking Mejia in game six to seal the win. Great Britain's Billy Harris also booked his spot in the semifinals after a hard-fought three-setter against second seed Tristan Schoolkate. Harris, a lucky loser from qualifying, took the first set 6-2 before Schoolkate levelled the match by dominating the second.

In a closely contested decider, Harris, having lost his serve in the opening game, broke back in game six before sealing the match 6-2, 1-6, 7-5. In the doubles event, second seeds Blake Bayldon and Matthew Romios advanced to the final after defeating unseeded Indians Siddhant Banthia and Parikshit Somani 6-3, 7-6(6).

## Former Australian batter David Boon to join Cricket Australia board

Melbourne, Feb 28 (UNI) : Test and one-day international batting great David Boon has been appointed to the Cricket Australia board.

Tasmanian Boon, whose 7422 runs in 107 Tests included 21 centuries, will join the CA board on March 28 to fill the vacancy left by Paul Green.

After a six-year stint as Cricket Tasmania's representative on the CA board, Green has stepped down, according to an News.com.au report.

CA chairman Mike Baird said Boon, who also scored 5964 runs in 181 one-day internationals, would bring "vast experience as a player and cricket administrator" to the board.

"David is an iconic figure in Australian cricket universally respected for his accomplishments on the field and, more recently, through his impressive contribution to Tasmanian, Australian and international cricket," Baird said of Boon, who has been a Cricket Tasmania director since 2014 and chairman since 2022.

Boon was also a national selector from 2000 and 2011, and an ICC match referee – a role he will relinquish – for the past 14 years.

## Kerala Blasters FC begin quest for three straight wins, starting with playoff bound Jamshedpur FC

Kochi, Feb 28 (UNI) : Kerala Blasters FC will host Jamshedpur FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in the Indian Super League (ISL) match on Saturday, at 7:30 pm IST.

The qualification scenario for Kerala Blasters FC is complicated since they bank on a spate of other results. However, the straightforward equation for them is that they need to win all of their remaining games for starters. So far, they have 24 points from 21 games on the back of seven wins and three draws.

Kerala Blasters FC have struggled in recent games, failing to score in their last two home matches, which demands their attack to bounce back. Currently, they remain unbeaten at home against Jamshedpur FC (P5 W2 D3).

Jamshedpur FC have already qualified for the playoffs and will be eyeing a league double after prevailing 1-0 over the Kochi-based team in the reverse fixture.

Kerala Blasters FC have never gone three consecutive home games without scoring in ISL history, and they will want to sustain this record at the end of the forthcoming fixture.

Kerala Blasters FC have leaked 15 goals from set-pieces this season, the second-most in the league after Hyderabad FC (17).

Jamshedpur FC kept a clean sheet in their last

## Prajwal, Poonacha felicitated for National Games gold

Bengaluru, Feb 28 (UNI) : Karnataka tennis stars SD Prajwal Dev and Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha were felicitated by the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) with a cheque of Rs 1 lakh each for their outstanding performance in the 38th National Games.

The duo scripted history by clinching Karnataka's first-ever gold medal in tennis at the prestigious event, defeating Services Sports Control Board's Ishaque Iqbal and Faisal Qamar 6-3, 6-1 in the final.

The felicitation took place during the ninth edition of the DafaNews Bengaluru Open 2025 at the KSLTA Tennis Stadium in Cubbon Park, where Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Kharge, presented the cheques. Also in attendance were KSLTA Honorary Joint Secretary and Bengaluru Open Tournament Director Sunil Yajaman and KSLTA Honorary Treasurer Naganand Doraswamy.

Speaking at the event, Priyank, who is also the Senior Vice President of KSLTA and Chairman of the Organising Committee for the DafaNews Bengaluru Open, lauded the achievements of Prajwal and Niki. "I congratulate both players for their contribution to Karnataka

tennis and for making the state proud with their gold medal at the 38th National Games. The Bengaluru Open is India's biggest professional tennis tournament, and we have worked hard to bring it here. Our efforts aim to provide players with a platform to showcase their talent on the global stage and put Bengaluru on the international tennis map," he said.

The Minister further emphasised KSLTA's dedication to fostering young talent and enhancing infrastructure. "Hosting this event reflects KSLTA's commitment to developing worldclass facilities and giving Indian players the chance to compete against top international stars," he added. The recognition of Karnataka's tennis champions underscores the state's commitment to promoting excellence in the sport. With the DafaNews Bengaluru Open 2025 underway, the event continues to play a crucial role in uplifting Indian tennis talent.

Organised by KSLTA, the Bengaluru Open is an ATP Challenger 125 tournament with a prize pool of USD 200,000. It remains India's premier international tennis event, with the champion set to earn 125 ATP ranking points.

away match (2-0 vs Mohammedan SC). The last time they won back-to-back away games while recording shutouts was in December 2017.

The Red Miners have scored 15 set-piece goals, with only Mohun Bagan Super Giant (20) and Odisha FC (18) netting more from such situations, as they are clearly set to cause threats to the Kerala Blasters FC backline.

The two teams have played 17 matches against each other, with Kerala Blasters FC winning five games and Jamshedpur FC emerging victorious four times. Eight encounters have produced draws.

Kerala Blasters FC interim head coach TG Purushothaman expressed his intentions ahead of the clash against Jamshedpur FC.

"Our only goal right now is to win the coming match. More so, because we are playing at home and we want to do well. We must continue working hard to get a

positive result," he said.

Jamshedpur FC head coach Khalid Jamil assured that his side won't let their guards down upon having qualified for the playoffs.

"We have prepared for this match like we have prepared for all of our games so far. We must approach the game with utmost seriousness," he said.

Kerala Blasters FC's Korou Singh has scored once and made four assists this season, creating 11 goal-scoring chances and making 24 touches inside the opposition's box.

Jamshedpur FC's Ritwik Das has scored in his last three ISL starts. He has 11 ISL strikes for Jamshedpur FC and is one away from becoming the club's second-highest scorer in history.

Kerala Blasters FC's Adrian Luna has three ISL goals against Jamshedpur FC, his joint-most against any opponent. He has netted in his last two meetings with them at home.

Printed, Published and Owned by  
Mohammed Shafi

Printed at Haritha Printers  
Plot No : 70, Opposite Petrol Pump, VUDA  
Colony, Gopalapatnam, Visakhapatnam-530 027.

Published from # 39-22-82/1/4,  
Near Vuda Quarters, Kalinga Nagar,  
Madhavadhara, Visakhapatnam - 530 007.

Editor: Mohammed Shafi  
R.N.I.No. : APENG/2013/52180

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



# Central Railway Cultural Team rocks at Inter-Railway Cultural Competition (Dance)-2025

## Wins "Sartaj" trophy for Best Overall Performance

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 28 : Central Railway's Cultural Team won accolades as they clinched the "Sartaj" trophy for Best Overall Performance at the Inter-Railway Cultural Competition (Dance)-2025 held at Integral Coach Factory, Chennai on 26th & 27th February 2025.

The Inter-Railway Cultural Competition (Dance)-2025 featured competition in 2 categories viz. Solo Classical Dance and Group Dance.

Central Railway's Rituparna Bhowmik clinched the 1st prize in Solo Classical Dance category from among 17 participants for her presentation of Kathak dance.

The Central Railway Group Dance team won the 3rd prize in Group Dance category from among 18 teams for their presentation of the Daangi Dance-a folk dance of Daang region situated on the border of Maharashtra & Gujarat. "The Central Railway Dance Team also clinched the "Sartaj" trophy, awarded for Best Overall Performance among all the participating Zones,



Workshops and Production Units of Indian Railways. " A total of 23 artistes of

Central Railway, including Dancers, Choreographers, Accompanists, Makeup Artists, Assistants led by

the Team Manager were part of the Central Railway Cultural Team.

The Central Railway

Cultural Academy(CRCA) which is the nodal organization for Cultural Events on Central Railway organizes competitions at Divisional level and the winners are short listed to represent Central Railway at the Zonal Level.

Shri Dharam Veer Meena, General Manager, Central Railway & Patron of CRCA, congratulated the CR Team and motivated them to keep giving such wonderful performances.

Shri Arvind Malkhede, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Central Railway and President, CRCA, appreciated the performance of the Team highlighting the importance of teamwork in achieving the desired result. "The Inter-Railway Cultural Competition is an annual event at the Zonal level, organized in 3 parts viz Dance, Drama & Music featuring participants in large numbers in different categories from all Zones, Workshops and Production Units of Indian Railways. This is organized with the aim to discover, encourage & promote deserving employees & their dependents and give them a platform to display their talents.

## Western Railway's Major Block between Grant Road and Mumbai Central Station

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 28 : To carry out the re-girdering work of Bridge No. 5, a Major Block of 13 hours will be taken on UP and DOWN Fast lines between Grant Road and Mumbai Central stations from 22:00 hrs to 11:00 hrs on Saturday/Sunday i.e. 01st/02nd March, 2025.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, during the block period, all UP and Down Fast line trains will be operated on Slow lines between Churchgate and Mumbai Central stations

Some suburban trains will remain cancelled during the block and some Churchgate trains will be short terminated/reversed ex Bandra/Dadar station.

Detailed information to this effect is available with Station Masters.

## 2 lakh 39 thousand new electricity connections in Bhandup and Kalyan circles in eleven months

(Standard Post Bureau)

"Kalyan/Bhandup, Feb 28 : Mahavitaran's Kalyan and Bhandup circles have taken swift and prompt action to provide new electricity connections and have commissioned 2 lakh 39 thousand 19 new electricity connections in the last eleven months. Between April 2024 and February 2025, 1 lakh 35 thousand 839 new electricity connections have been provided in Kalyan circle and 1 lakh 3 thousand 180 new electricity connections in Bhandup circle.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has directed to speed up customer service and mainly give more speed to new electricity connections. Accordingly, Chairman and Managing Director of Mahavitaran Shri. Lokesh Chandra also gave instructions to speed up customer service according to Ease of Living. Accordingly, special planning was made to increase the speed of new electricity connections in Kalyan and Bhandup circles.

In order to ensure immediate and necessary supply of meters for new electricity connections, a continuous review of new electricity connections and meter availability is being conducted department-wise.

During the last eleven months, 29,556 new electricity connections were provided under Kalyan Mandal I, 35,044 under Kalyan Mandal II, 47,960 under Vasai Mandal and 23,279 under Palghar Mandal Office in Kalyan Circle.

While 27,662 new electricity connections have been made in Thane City Mandal of Bhandup Circle, 44,718 in Vashi Mandal and 30,800 under Pen Mandal Office. Promptness is being shown in providing new electricity connection services within the time frame fixed as per the performance standards and in some places, applicants who fulfill all the requirements are getting new electricity connections in just 24 hours.

# Western Railway to run 11 pairs of Holi and Summer special trains to various destinations

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Feb 28 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the Holi festival & Summer season, Western Railway will run 11 pairs of Special Train on Special fare to various destinations.

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

1. Train No. 09001/09002 Mumbai Central - Khatipura Tri-Weekly Superfast Special [102 Trips].

Train No. 09001 Mumbai Central - Khatipura Superfast Special will depart from Mumbai Central every Monday, Wednesday & Saturday, at 22.20 hrs and will reach Khatipura at 16.40 hrs the next day. This train will run from 03rd March to 30th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09002 Khatipura - Mumbai Central Superfast Special will depart from Khatipura every Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday, at 19.05 hrs and will arrive Mumbai Central at 13.30 hrs the next day. This train will run from 04th March to 01st July, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Udhna, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Sabarmati, Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Falna, Marwar, Beawar, Ajmer, Kishangarh and Jaipur station in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 2 Tier & AC 3-Tier Class Coaches.

2. Train No. 09035/09036 Bandra Terminus - Bikaner Weekly Special [34 Trips]

Train No. 09035 Bandra Terminus - Bikaner Special will depart from Bandra Terminus at 11.00 hrs every Friday and will arrive Bikaner at 12.15 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 7th March to 27th June, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Borisar, Vapi, Valsad, Bhestan, Chalthan, Bardoli, Nandurbar, Amalner, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Pipariya Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar and Satna station in

both directions.

This train comprises of General Second Class Coaches.

4. Train No. 09025/09026 Valsad - Danapur Weekly Special [36 Trips]

Train No. 09025 Valsad - Danapur Special will depart from Valsad every Monday at 08.40 hrs and reach Danapur at 12.00 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 03rd March to 30th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09026 Danapur - Valsad Special will depart from Danapur every Tuesday, at 14.30 hrs and reach Valsad at 21.30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 04th March to 01st July, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Bhestan, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Madan Mahal, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar and Ara station in both directions.

This train comprises AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class coaches.

5. Train No. 09007/09008 Valsad - Khatipura Weekly Special [34 Trips]

Train No. 09007 Valsad - Khatipura Special will depart from Valsad every Thursday at 13.50 hrs and reach Khatipura at 08.10 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 06th March to 26th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09008 Khatipura - Valsad Special will depart from Khatipura every Friday at 19.05 hrs and reach Valsad at 12.00 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 07th March to 27th June, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Udhna, Vadodara, Ratlam, Mandors, Nimach, Chittaurgarh, Bhilwara, Ajmer, Kishangarh and Jaipur stations in both

directions.

This train comprises of AC 2 - Tier, AC 3 - Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class coaches.

6. Train No. 09045/09046 Udhna - Patna Superfast Weekly Special [34 Trips]

Train No. 09045 Udhna - Patna Superfast Special will depart from Udhna every Friday at 08.35 hrs and reach Patna at 10.30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 07th March to 27th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09046 Patna - Udhna Superfast Special will depart from Patna every Saturday at 13.05 hrs and reach Udhna at 14.50 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 08th March to 28th June, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Madan Mahal, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar and Ara station in both directions.

This train comprises AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class coaches.

7. Train No. 09007/09008 Valsad - Khatipura Weekly Special [34 Trips]

Train No. 09007 Valsad - Khatipura Special will depart from Valsad every Thursday at 13.50 hrs and reach Khatipura at 08.10 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 06th March to 26th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09008 Khatipura - Valsad Special will depart from Khatipura every Friday at 19.05 hrs and reach Valsad at 12.00 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 07th March to 27th June, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Udhna, Vadodara, Ratlam, Mandors, Nimach, Chittaurgarh, Bhilwara, Ajmer, Kishangarh and Jaipur stations in both

directions.

This train comprises of AC 2 - Tier, AC 3 - Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class coaches.

8. Train No. 09117/09118 Udhna - Subedarganj Weekly Special [34 Trips]

Train No. 09117 Udhna - Subedarganj Weekly Special will depart from Udhna every Friday at 05.45 hrs and will reach Subedarganj at 08.40 hrs the next day. This train will run from 7th March to 27th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09118 Subedarganj - Udhna Weekly Special will depart from Subedarganj every Saturday at 19.25 hrs and will reach Udhna at 20.15 hrs the next day. This train will run from 8th March to 28th June 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Bharuch, Vadodara, Dahod, Ratlam, Ujjain, Maksi, Shajapur, Pachor Road, Biyavra Rajgarh, Ruthiyai, Guna, Badarwas, Shivpuri, Gwalior, Malanpur, Soni, Bhind, Etawah, Govindpuri and Fatehpur stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class & General Second Class coaches.

9. Train No. 09411/09412 Ahmedabad - Gwalior Weekly Superfast Special [36 Trips].

Train No. 09411 Ahmedabad - Gwalior Superfast Special will depart from Ahmedabad every Saturday, at 20:25 hrs and reach Gwalior at 13:00 hrs the next day. This train will run from 01st March to 28th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09412 Gwalior - Ahmedabad Superfast Special will depart from Gwalior every Sunday, at 16:30 hrs and reach Ahmedabad at 09:05 hrs. the next day. This train will run from 02nd March to 29th June, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Anand, Chhayapuri, Godhra, Ratlam, Nagda, Ujjain, Maksi, Guna and Shivpuri station in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 2 Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second-Class Coaches.

10. Train No. 09575/09576 Rajkot - Mahbubnagar Weekly Special [36 Trips]

Train No. 09575 Rajkot - Mahbubnagar Special will depart from Rajkot every Monday at 13.45 hrs, and reach Mahbubnagar at 20.00 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 03rd March to 30th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09576 Mahbubnagar - Rajkot special will depart from Mahbubnagar every Tuesday at 22.10 hrs, and reach Rajkot at 05.00 hrs, on Thursday. This train will run from 04th March to 01st July, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Wankaner, Surendranagar, Ahmedabad, Nadiad, Anand, Vadodara, Udhna, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Malkapur, Akola, Washim, Hingoli, Basmat,

Purna, Hazur Sahib Nanded, Dharmabad, Basar, Nizamabad, Kamareddi, Medchal, Kacheguda, Umdanagar, Shadnagar and Jadcherla stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 2 - Tier, AC 3 - Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class coaches.

11. Train No. 09324/09323 Indore - Pune Weekly Special [34 Trips].

Train No. 09324 Indore - Pune Special will depart from Indore every Wednesday at 11.15 hrs and reach Pune at 03.10 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 05th March to 25th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09323 Pune - Indore Special will depart from Pune every Thursday at 05.10 hrs and reach Indore at 23.55 hrs, the same day. This train will run from 06th March to 26th June, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Dewas, Ujjain, Nagda, Ratlam, Godhra, Vadodara, Udhna, Valsad, Vapi, Vasai Road, Bhiwandi Road, Kalyan and Lonavla station in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 2 Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second-Class Coaches.

The booking for Train No. 09411 is open. Booking for Train Nos. 09001, 09025, 09057 & 09575 will open from 01st March, 2025 while for Train Nos. 09035 & 09324 will open from 02nd March, 2025 & for Train Nos. 09007, 09045 & 09117 will open from 04th March, 2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. The above trains will run as Special Train on Special Fare. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

## Govt should help dependent of deceased from Kumbh's earnings: Akhilesh

Lucknow, Feb 28 (UNI) Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said that the Uttar Pradesh government should make arrangements to find and send the missing people home along with compensating the families of the victims of the stampede at Sangam bank from the earnings from the Maha Kumbh.

In a statement issued here, Akhilesh said that as per the Yogi government's claim, the Maha Kumbh has brought several lakh crores of rupees to the state's economy. "The government should make arrangements to compensate the families of the deceased and provide better treatment to the injured from the money earned. Some money from this should be saved to find and send home the thousands of people who are missing," he said.

He said that the shopkeepers who have suffered losses by setting up shops in the fair due to the mismanagement of the UP government should be compensated from this huge earning. "Some amount from this should be announced to be given to all the fair workers as a Holi bonus," he said. The SP chief said that the CM should take inspiration from the great donor emperor Harshvardhan and donate most of the money for the infrastructure of Prayagraj. "Some money from this amount of lakhs and crores should be given for the construction of a truthful institute of 'self-improvement' that 'inspires to speak the truth' and teaches 'morality,' he said.

The booking for Train No. 09411 is open. Booking for Train Nos. 09001, 09025, 09057 & 09575 will open from 01st March, 2025 while for Train Nos. 09035 & 09324 will open from 02nd March, 2025 & for Train Nos. 09007, 09045 & 09117 will open from 04th March, 2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. The above trains will run as Special Train on Special Fare. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

Enroute this train will halt at Wankaner, Surendranagar, Ahmedabad, Nadiad, Anand, Vadodara, Udhna, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Malkapur, Akola, Washim, Hingoli, Basmat,