

## IN BRIEF

### Transform rural areas through education & technology: Dhankar

Mumbai, Mar 1 (UNI) : Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday called for transformation of rural areas with the help of technology, saying that education and technology are important factors that bring about social transformation.

Addressing the gathering at Amrit Mahotsav programme of K P B Hinduja College held at Yashwantrao Chavan Centre here, he said that 'developed India' is not just a dream but a definite achievement.

The Vice President further said, "Our country is moving towards an economic superpower. The youth power of the country is our biggest strength. We are a leader in the field of advanced education. Planning is the core of development. Education and technology are the factors that bring about social transformation and in future the industry sector should invest in education sector and contribute to quality education along with infrastructure. Research in any field is necessary to be useful to the society." Students should give more importance to self-study as education is a lifelong process, added Dhankhar.

### Nitish-BJP govt ruined two generations in 20 yrs: Tejaswi

Patna, Mar 1 (UNI) : Leader of the opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejaswi Prasad Yadav alleged that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and BJP government ruined two generations during their 20 years of rule.

Comparing the NDA government with that of an old "khatraara" vehicles which were not allowed to ply in Bihar as they emit lots of smoke and hazardous pollutants in the atmosphere, Yadav, in his scathing remark questioned here on Saturday that why will the 20 year old "Khatara" government of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) continue with its manipulations?

Yadav alleged that unemployment, corruption, crime and migration which increased during 20 years of rule of Kumar completely ruined the two generations.

## 4 Rescued workers die ASHA workers in AP to get gratuity



Injured people being evacuated to Joshimath for critical medicare via helicopters from the avalanche site, in Mana of Chamoli district, Uttarakhand on Saturday.

Deharadun, Mar 1 (UNI) : Four out of 55 rescued construction workers, who were caught in a massive avalanche at remote Mana village in Uttarakhand, have died, informed V K Suman, secretary of Disaster Management, here on Saturday night. He told by tonight a GPR radar is also reaching Jolly Grant airport from Delhi by a special plane.

Notably, 55 workers engaged in road construction work were trapped due to avalanche near Mana, the last village situated on the high ranges of Himalayas on India-China border under Chamoli district at 6 am on Friday. Out of these, 43 workers were rescued on the same day with the help of Army while 17 others were rescued on Saturday morning. They have been admitted to Army hospital where they are undergoing treatment.

A total of 50 workers

have been rescued so far. Out of which, 26 workers who were undergoing treatment at Badrinath Mana, three have died this evening while 23 are safe and healthy. Apart from these, one worker has reportedly died at AIIMS, Rishikesh. The search for other five workers has been stopped for now due to darkness and continuous snowfall. In latest development, one of five missing workers from Kangra in Himachal Pradesh has reached his home safely on Saturday and rescue team is searching for other four.

Out of 55 workers who were caught in an avalanche near the border village Mana, 50 have been rescued so far. Now, the rescue and relief team is working on war footing to search for other four workers with help of Army sniffer dogs. Late this evening, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami took

an update on relief and rescue operations from secretary of Disaster Management, Vinod Kumar Suman, and District Magistrate-Chamoli, Sandeep Tiwari.

He has given instructions to conduct a massive search and rescue operation for missing four workers. On instruction of the CM, relief and rescue operation was conducted for missing four workers.

Intensive reconnaissance is being done by Army, ITBP, NDRF and SDRF. Search operation will resume on Sunday morning with help of GPR, thermal imaging and victim location cameras. Suman said that on Saturday, 24 workers were brought to Joshi Math for treatment from Army hospital in Mana. Condition of two of these workers is little serious and they have been referred to AIIMS hospital, sources said.

Vijayawada, Mar 1 (UNI) For the first time in the country, the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), will get gratuity in Andhra Pradesh as the Government has approved the payment of gratuity to them besides other retirement benefits.

Showering boons on Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has granted several benefits meeting the aspirations of ASHA workers, who act as an important link between the people and healthcare system. The decision of the Chief Minister benefits 42,752 ASHA workers in Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister has directed the payment of gratuity as per the Act to ASHA workers, the first of such benefit to the health workers in the country. This amounts to providing a sizable retirement benefit of Rs.1.50 lakh to each ASHA who puts in 30 years of service. This has been a major demand of health workers in the State. No other State/Union Territory is paying gratuity to ASHA workers.

Official sources here on Saturday said that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu discussed the issue of demands of ASHAs in pursuance of fulfilling the pre-election assurances given to them in a review meeting with Minister of

Health Satya Kumar Yadav and senior officials a few days ago.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to examine the benefits being extended to ASHA workers in various States including the wages, post retirement benefits etc. before giving direction to pay gratuity on Friday. Payment of gratuity was not among the demands of ASHAs.

The Chief Minister also approved extending 180 days of paid Maternity Leave for the first two deliveries of eligible health workers and also increasing their retirement age from the present 60 years to 62 years meeting the long standing demands of ASHAs.

In 2018, the then Naidu headed State government extended to these health workers benefits like providing Smart Phones, giving preference to ASHAs with ANM qualification in the recruitment of ANMs who are above ASHAs, extending the benefit of Chandranna Bima Yojana, providing white ration cards, extending the benefit of Dr.NTR Vaidya Seva and allowing ASHA workers to retire at the age of 60 years with eligibility for old age pension.

Monthly remuneration being paid to the ASHA workers, voluntary health workers in Andhra Pradesh of Rs.10,000 per month is the highest in the country.



### Shah instructs authorities to ensure free movement of ...

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting on the security situation in Manipur here and instructed the authorities to ensure the free movement of people on all the roads in the state from March 8. During the meeting, he directed that strict action should be taken against anyone attempting to create obstructions. Shah also directed that the fencing work on both sides of the designated entry points along Manipur's international border should be completed at the earliest.

(See on page 4)

### Union Minister J P Nadda offers prayer at Vaishno Devi Shrine



BJP National President and Union Minister for Health, Chemicals and Fertilizers, J P Nadda on Saturday visited the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum. He was accompanied by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh. Upon their arrival at Katra, the base camp of the Shrine.

(See on page 2)

### Air defenses destroy 48 Ukrainian drones over Russian .....



This night, air defenses intercepted and destroyed 48 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement. "This past night, air defense systems on duty intercepted and destroyed 48 Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles," the ministry said.

(See on page 5)

### India's German Open run ends as Tanisha-Dhruv exit in ...



India's campaign at the German Open 2025 came to an end as Paris 2024 Olympian Tanisha Crasto and her mixed doubles partner Dhruv Kapila bowed out in the semifinals here on Saturday.

(See on page 7)

## State budget lacks substance: Ex-MP alleges

(Standard Post Bureau)

Rajamahendravaram, Mar 1 : Former YSRCP MP Margani Bharat criticized the state government's budget for favoring rhetoric over substance.

Bharat highlighted the unfulfilled pledges, including the 'Annadata Sukheebhava' scheme, where Rs 20,000 promised to farmers remains unpaid. He estimated Rs 11,000 crore is needed for 50 lakh farmers and demanded allocation details.

Under the 'Talliki Vandanam scheme', supporting 87 lakh students requires Rs 12,000 crore, but only Rs. 9,400 crore was allocated in the budget, raising shortfall concerns, the Ex-MP pointed out.

The YSRCP senior leader questioned the lack of unemployment allowances for 20 lakh jobless youth and funds for the Aadabidda Nidhi scheme for 1.2 crore women over 18. Bharat also cited unmet promises like Rs 10,000 honorariums for 2.5 lakh volunteers and pensions for BCs above 50, criticizing TDP leaders for not securing special status from the Centre.

The former MP accused the government of financial mismanagement, noting a Rs 2,17,000 crore income against a Rs. 3,24,000 crore budget, implying over Rs 1 lakh crore in loans to mislead the public.

He slammed the Rs. 40,000 crore capital expenditure allocation, doubting its adequacy for development and welfare. On investments, he challenged the government's Davos claims, contrasting it with Maharashtra's 61 MoUs and Telangana's 20 MoUs, securing Rs. 1,61,000 crore.

For infrastructure, Bharat claimed credit for proposing flyovers like Diwan Cheruvu, accusing MP Purandeswari of taking undue credit. He urged her to bring mega-projects like a Godavari rail-cum-road bridge, noting railway projects launched by PM Modi are being repackaged. The Ex-MP cited securing Rs 100 crore for ESI Hospital upgrades and Rs 88 crore for the NRCB project, pressing for their completion, and demanded funds for the approved Rajamahendravaram Outer Ring Road from Diwan Cheruvu to Pottilanka.

## YSRCP slams TDP's false propaganda on State debt

(Standard Post Bureau)

Vijayawada, Mar 1 : Former Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy has issued a statement in response to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's remarks during his tour of Gangadhara Nellore in Chittoor district, where Naidu accused the previous YSRCP government of engaging in false propaganda regarding the state's debt.

Rajendranath Reddy asserted that if the Chief Minister genuinely wishes for the public to know the truth about the state's borrowings, he should release the debt details in Volume-6 (Budget in Brief) of the budget document, as has been the practice every year. The TDP-led coalition government has consistently spread misinformation about the YSRCP regime since its inception, alleging that the state's debt soared to Rs 14 lakh crore during the YSRCP's tenure, an outright falsehood. During his Chittoor tour today, Chief Minister Naidu further claimed that the previous

administration looted the state like "wild boars" and burdened the public with Rs 10 lakh crore in debt, launching yet another attack on the YSRCP government. However, the reality contradicts these claims. In the first budget presented by the TDP coalition in November 2024, the state's debt was officially recorded at Rs 6.46 lakh crore. Of this, Rs 3.10 lakh crore was the debt inherited when the YSRCP assumed power in 2019, meaning the debt accumulated during their term was far lower than the exaggerated figures cited by Naidu. These numbers were explicitly mentioned in the TDP's own budget document. The ex-Finance Minister emphasized that the YSRCP has repeatedly provided evidence-based clarifications on the debt issue. During Chandrababu Naidu's tenure from 2014 to 2019, the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of debt growth was 19.54 percent, while under the YSRCP government from 2019 to 2024, it was significantly lower at 15.61 percent. This demonstrates that the

state's debt grew at a much higher rate during Naidu's administration, he highlighted. He questioned how Naidu could unjustly claim that the YSRCP imposed a Rs 10 lakh crore debt burden when the TDP's own budget contradicts this narrative. Moreover, in this year's budget, the TDP government deviated from the long-standing tradition of disclosing debt details in Volume-6 (Budget in Brief), a practice followed for decades. "By withholding these figures, the government has avoided transparency, raising questions about its intentions," Rajendranath noted and argued that releasing these details would reveal the actual debt incurred under each administration, dismantling the TDP's false propaganda. The ex-FM accused the coalition of deliberately concealing this information to continue blaming the YSRCP and mislead the public, though he added that the truth would eventually emerge through the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report.

## Land records to be updated by expanding the village area : Minister Chandrashekhar



(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, March 1 : The village area has not been expanded in the state for the last several years. Therefore, Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said that the

land records will be updated by expanding the village area. For this, Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule directed the Town Planning Department to submit information regarding the

matters to be included as per the Town Planning Rules. A meeting was held in the Ministry regarding the implementation of the ownership scheme for properties outside the village area. Additional Chief Secretary of the

Revenue Department Rajesh Kumar, Director General of Yashda Niranjani Sudhanshu were present on the occasion. While Jamabandi Commissioner Suhas Diwase, Director of Town Planning Mr. Patil participated through the video system.

Revenue Minister Mr. Bawankule said that in the first phase, the village area will be expanded and its records will be prepared. Due to this, the income generated from it will be available to the Gram Panchayats. After that, a separate decision will be taken regarding the development of this area in the second phase. For this, initially, some village stations will be expanded as a pilot project, he also said on this occasion.

## Minister B Basu escapes unhurt after allegedly attacked by SFI activists

Kolkata, Mar 1 (UNI) : West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu escaped unhurt on Saturday after being attacked allegedly by SFI activists of Jadavpur University but his car was vandalized, official sources said. Basu was rescued by his security personnel and drove straight to the SSKM Hospital where he was given first aid.

"I am fine, I have no problem but my car in which I was sitting in front was vandalized the windshield broke and the car tyres are deflated," Basu told reporters after coming out from the SSKM Hospital.

He said security men took him to the back seat to escape further attacks.

Basu went to the JU campus to address a meeting of the West Bengal Professors Association (WBCUPA). As soon as he began to speak, the ruckus broke out and the SFI activists attacked him. His security personnel immediately escorted him to his car, which was vandalized.

"I do not know why the TMC people are not allowed on the campus and why WBCUPA can not hold meetings in JU," asked Basu. The student protest

began when Basu began addressing the SFI activists demanding for holding a student union election.

During vandalization, some students were also injured after the convoy car dashed against a student, whose head was bleeding, the students alleged.

Some FIRs were also lodged with the Jadavpur Police station, sources added. Denouncing the incident, Trinamool Congress leader and the party's state General Secretary Kunal Ghosh said, "We are shocked. They planned and attacked Bratya Basu. We will not tolerate such hooliganism."

## CM reviews implementation of liquor ban in Bihar

Patna, Mar 1 (UNI) : Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday reviewed performance of Excise and Prohibition department to assess how effectively prohibition was being implemented in the state.

Kumar during review meeting, directed the officials to ensure that liquor ban could be implemented effectively in all parts of the state. Those found involved in violation of liquor ban should not be

spared at all, he added. "Crime control should be on top of priority of the police administration and there should be strict vigil on those trying to create disturbance and violence in the society", the Chief Minister said, adding that there was need to be extra alert to maintain law and order during the festivals.

Liquor ban had greatly helped in checking crimes and also domestic violence causing much harassments

to women, Nitish pointed out. "We noticed that there is a feeling of happiness among poor families whose income are now being saved due to liquor ban and it is now being utilised to arrange important needs like education of children and facilities of comforts" Kumar noted. People should be made aware about ill effects of liquor ban. It would help in successful implementation of liquor ban, he remarked.

## ED finds embezzlement of Rs 2.5 cr Govt fund by forest officials in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Mar 1 (UNI) : The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bhubaneswar Zonal Office, conducted search operations at the offices and residences of forest range officials of Jaipatna Range in Odisha's Kalahandi district.

The raids were conducted in connection with the alleged misuse and diversion of government funds meant for compensatory afforestation. Investigations revealed that approximately Rs.2.5 crore from the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) during 2023-24 was transferred to mule accounts.

According to ED sources, the raids were carried out on Friday based on an Operational Analysis Report related to Money Mule Accounts, which was received from the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

Preliminary investigations indicated that certain forest department officials were involved in using multiple mule accounts

to divert large sums of money and misappropriate funds allocated for various government schemes.

The probe further revealed that officials, including forest guards and rangers, were involved in opening 121 mule accounts under different names. These accounts received funds via NEFT transfers from the range office, followed by immediate withdrawals through ATMs. Notably, many of these accounts were linked to the same mobile numbers.

ED sources suspect that the total diversion of Forest Department funds exceeds ₹2.5 crore. The funds were transferred from the Jaipatna Range Office to mule bank accounts via National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and were immediately withdrawn using ATMs.

During the search operations, ED seized various ATM cards linked to mule accounts, mobile phones, withdrawal slips, digital devices, incriminating documents, and an illegal suspected tiger skin.

Further investigation is underway.

## Union Minister J P Nadda offers prayer at Vaishno Devi Shrine

Jammu, Mar 1 (UNI) : BJP National President and Union Minister for Health, Chemicals and Fertilizers, J P Nadda on Saturday visited the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum. He was accompanied by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh. Upon their arrival at Katra, the base camp of the Shrine, the dignitaries were received by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

The CEO briefed the Union Ministers about the various initiatives undertaken by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, including the upcoming Medical College being set up at Kakryal.

The CEO highlighted the Board's efforts to upgrade and expand the existing infrastructure to provide enhanced facilities and services to the ever-increasing number of pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine.

Nadda expressed appreciation for the endeavors of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board aimed at facilitating the journey and holy Darshans of the pilgrims.

He commended the Board's commitment to ensuring a smooth, safe, and spiritual experience for all devotees visiting the Shrine.

## Russian cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev meets PM Modi

New Delhi, March 1 (UNI) : Russian cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev, participant of three ISS expeditions, had a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, on the sidelines of the NXT Conclave here. Oleg Artemyev presented PM Modi with the flags of the two countries that had been onboard the ISS, as well as the book 'On the Moon' by outstanding Russian theoretical space scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, a Russian Embassy statement said. PM Modi highly praised the level of international cooperation in space exploration, and specifically noted the bilateral collaboration between Russia and India on space projects, including Russia's contribution to the national manned space mission 'Gaganyaan', it said.

## BJP engaged in fooling people of country: Ram Gopal

Etawah (UP), March 1 (UNI) : Samajwadi Party's (SP) national chief general secretary Prof Ram Gopal Yadav on Saturday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is engaged in fooling the people of the country.

While talking to journalists on the occasion of the inauguration of a private hospital in his home district Etawah, Ram Gopal said that the people of the BJP government have neither any policy nor any development agenda. "The BJP has nothing to do except fooling the people of the country. Inflation is at its peak in the country, apart from this unemployment is increasing continuously," he said.

He said that the law and order of the country and the state has collapsed, the BJP is stating foolish things to divert the attention of the people of the country.

On Samajwadi leader IP Singh's statement regarding the resignation of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the SP general secretary said that we do not want to comment on the words of such fools. He said that whatever has come before the countrymen regarding the government-sponsored

Maha Kumbh is raising many questions in itself.

He said that there is no need to tell how the government hid whatever happened in Kumbh Mela. "The public knows and understands this very well. The government itself has come under fire for the event because the religious leaders themselves have questioned the government's intentions," he said. Ram Gopal said that the government is busy taking credit for the Maha Kumbh Mela but everyone is well aware of the reality. "Whenever it will be reviewed, the government's deeds will come out in the open," he said.

He said that the people sitting in the government have already started claiming that the BJP government will be formed in UP once again in 2027 but they do not know what the picture of the elections will be by the time the polls are held. He said that the deeds of the government are enough to bring the Samajwadi government to power in UP in 2027, so the socialists should start from now itself in reaching out the flaws of the BJP to the people and prove helpful in forming the SP government in 2027.

## Mukul Saran Mathur takes over as GM, SWR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 1 : Mr Mukul Saran Mathur took over charge of General Manager, South Western Railway on 1st March 2025. He is an Indian Railway Traffic Officer of 1988 batch and holds a Law Degree from Delhi University and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management from Management Development Institute, Gurgaon. Before joining the present assignment, he was Additional Member Commercial Railway Board.

In his career spanning more than over three decades he has served on Central Railway, Northern Railway, East Coast Railway, West Central Railway & Railway Board in various capacities.

Previously he had held important assignments of PED/Infrastructure, Principal Chief Operations Manager/West Central Railway, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager/Waltair, and Executive Director/PPP,



Railway Board, among others. He has handled key infrastructure projects including Dedicated Freight Corridor Projects, High Speed Rail Project and Port and Mine Connectivity Projects. Also he has contributed towards enhancing passenger experience through Digital Solutions.

He has also worked as the Head of Asia office of International Union of

Railway and has contributed to rail developments in the Asia-Pacific region. For his works in the past, he has been awarded by Railway Minister MR Award in 2005, Change Agent Award in 2018 by Railway Minister and Leadership Excellence Award in 2019 by Hon'ble Railway Minister. He succeeds Mr Arvind Srivastava who got superannuation on 28.02.2025.

## J&K Govt tightens noose on illegal mining, initiates action against Joint Director

Jammu, Mar 1 (UNI) : In a decisive move aimed at tackling the menace of illegal mining in the Union Territory, the Jammu and Kashmir government has attached Joint Director, Geology and Mining, Jammu, H L Langeh, with the Administrative Department, ceasing all powers vested in him with immediate effect.

The order, issued by the Mining Department comes in the wake of directives received from the office of the Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, reinforcing the administration's commitment towards ensuring transparency and accountability in the mining sector, an official spokesman said on Saturday.

He said that the government has taken this step in response to rising concerns over unauthorized mining activities that have been causing severe environmental degradation and revenue loss to the state exchequer.

In light of this, the Director of Geology and Mining, J&K, has been directed to submit a comprehensive report addressing complaints related to illegal mining and the issuance of disposal permits, allowing authorities to initiate further scrutiny and take necessary corrective measures. The officials have been instructed to ensure strict compliance with mining regulations to prevent any further unlawful extraction of mineral resources, he added.

Surinder Choudhary, while addressing the matter, underscored the government's firm stance against illegal mining, stating that the administration would not tolerate any misconduct or negligence in the execution of duties.

He affirmed that illegal mining not only endangers the environment but also deprives the government of rightful revenue, impacting developmental initiatives. Stressing the need for stringent enforcement mechanisms, the Deputy Chief Minister assured that those found complicit in unauthorized mining activities,

irrespective of their position, would face strict legal consequences.

Choudhary also urged the public to actively participate in reporting any illegal mining operations, emphasizing that community vigilance plays a crucial role in safeguarding the region's natural resources.

Illegal mining has been a longstanding issue in Jammu and Kashmir, with unregulated extraction causing extensive damage to riverbeds, groundwater levels and local ecosystems.

The government has reiterated its commitment to sustainable and legal mining practices, ensuring that all mineral extraction activities are conducted within the ambit of law and environmental norms.

Efforts are being intensified to introduce advanced monitoring technologies, including satellite surveillance and digital tracking to curb unlawful mining operations, he said.

The action against the Joint Director of Geology and Mining serves as a strong message that the government will not hesitate to take stringent action against any official found to be negligent or complicit in illegal activities, said the spokesman.

The government has urged all stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, regulatory bodies and local communities to work in unison to eliminate illegal mining, he added.

The spokesman said that with a clear emphasis on accountability and legal enforcement, this move signals a renewed effort to protect Jammu and Kashmir's natural wealth while fostering responsible economic growth. The citizens are encouraged to report any instances of illegal mining through designated helplines and online grievance portals, reinforcing the administration's objective of public participation in governance and environmental conservation.

## Congress activists gherao CM's residence to protest rising atrocities against Women

Bhubaneswar, Mar 1 (UNI) : Activists from various front wings of the Odisha Congress staged a protest demonstration outside Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's official residence on Saturday, condemning the rising atrocities against women in the state.

Led by newly elected party President Bhakta Charan Das, members of the District Congress, Mahila Congress, Youth Congress,

and Chhatra Congress marched from the party office to the Chief Minister's residence, carrying placards and posters. When Congress members attempted to breach the police barricade to reach the CM's house, security forces intervened, preventing the agitators from advancing and forcefully detaining some Congress leaders in a police van. Das alleged that as many as 54 rape cases

had been reported in Odisha during the past eight months of BJP rule, exposing the failure of the so-called "double-engine government" to curb crimes against women.

He further stated that gang rape cases had been reported from various districts, and three minor girls giving birth to babies in government-run schools indicated a complete breakdown of law and order in the state.



## STANDARD POST

## Where's Kejriwal as Atishi struggles on Delhi roads

Sometimes, it is useful to stay home and reflect on situations to find solutions to issues. Perhaps this is what AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal appears to be doing.

It's been days since he was last seen or heard. He has largely remained absent from public view after his party's crushing defeat in the Delhi Assembly elections. Kejriwal, who lost to BJP's Parvesh Verma in the New Delhi Assembly seat, was last seen on February 23 at AAP's legislative party meeting, where Atishi was named the Leader of Opposition in the House. He has also not posted much politically significant on his social media handles, including the X. Interestingly, he has neither reacted nor posted on the happenings of the Delhi Assembly, where his lieutenant Atishi, the former Delhi CM, seems to be waging a lone leader's fight. He has not said a word over the suspension of 21 AAP MLAs from the Delhi Assembly.

The only significant post made by Kejriwal was on the photo controversy, which Atishi tried to rake and make into a big issue. Reposting Atishi's post on X on February 24, Kejriwal wrote in Hindi (loosely translated): "The new BJP government of Delhi removed Baba Saheb's photo and put up the photo of Prime Minister Modi. This is not right. This has hurt millions of followers of Babasaheb...I have a request for the BJP. You can put the photo of the Prime Minister but do not remove the photo of Baba Saheb. Let his photo remain there."

AAP's efforts to make it a big issue have come to a cropper as the photo matter has not created any support for AAP. Atishi has been trying badly to hit the road on the issue, but, except for her 20 co-MLAs, not a single extra AAP worker or leader can be seen joining her protest in the streets. She has even written a letter to the Speaker, objecting to the suspension of 21 MLAs and has tried to make the Assembly ruckus as AAP's fight for Ambedkar. "On 25 February 2025, during the address of the Lieutenant Governor, MLAs of the ruling party raised slogans of 'Modi-Modi,' while the opposition MLAs raised slogans of 'Jai Bheem,' respecting the views of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. It is very unfortunate that no action was taken against any MLA of the ruling party, but 21 MLAs of the opposition were suspended from the House for three days for raising the slogan 'Jai Bheem,'" she wrote.

While Atishi has been trying to keep AAP 'activism' active in Delhi, Kejriwal has gone silent. It is not that Kejriwal has no involvement in whatever Atishi is doing, but the AAP chief seems to prefer to stay low and do jobs from the backroom.

Currently, in the national capital, only Atishi and Gopal Rai seem to be handling the Delhi affairs and the rest all seem to have just vanished after massive electoral defeats. Most of the rest of the AAP leaders seem to be busy with varied activities.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has also not been visible in the capital or on social media. Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh has been busy with the Haryana municipal polls. Former Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj is active mostly on X.

Kejriwal is said to be busy keeping his flock together in Punjab, where internal rifts are being reported. It is also said that he is seeking entry to Parliament through the Rajya Sabha route in order to keep his political scales up despite crushing defeat in Delhi. While he may or may not gain entry to the Upper House, his deeds of previous years are getting exposed in the Delhi Assembly.

It was quite expected for the ruling BJP to go aggressive with the 14 CAG reports that the previous AAP government in Delhi had hidden for fear of exposure. Some of them were presented to the L-G four years ago, but the then-Kejriwal government kept them under the carpet. The reports are now being tabled one by one, exposing the AAP underbelly. It was known that things were not right on the ground under the Kejriwal-led government, but the extent is now being exposed.

As per the CAG reports, everything seems to be wrong with the AAP dispensation in Delhi. These reports, including performance audits on several issues such as the cost of renovating former CM Arvind Kejriwal's residence, liquor supply in Delhi, prevention and mitigation of air pollution, functioning of the Delhi Transport Corporation, healthcare and Mohalla Clinics, gravely reflect the then Kejriwal government's working.

The coming days may not be good for Kejriwal and his party as action may ensue on the CAG reports.

He was in jail for five months last year for his alleged role in the excise policy. After the CAG expose, his legal troubles may mount. Equally distressing for him could be his political troubles.

# Celebrate Strength, Resilience and Brilliance

(Standard Post Bureau)

Women' Day is celebrated to acknowledge the contribution made by women achievers in different fields. It is the day to recognize women unsung heroes who have and are making commendable contribution towards nation building in their own unique ways. On this day we celebrate 'Strength', 'Resilience', and 'Brilliance' of women around the world. Eleanor Roosevelt had once beautifully said, "A woman is like a tea bag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water." Indeed, God has blessed every woman with so much potential, unless she takes up the challenge and tests herself, she will not realize her fullest potential. Woman is a wonderful creation of God with a special plan and purpose.

Woman's day is not just a celebration but a reminder



that there is still a lot to be done for the welfare of women in society. It is about recognizing the contribution made by women in every segment of life. A homemaker, teacher, entrepreneur, healthcare worker, scientist, social worker, sports person, the

contribution of women is significant in every sphere. She has the capacity to wear multiple hats and balance every task with grace and fineness. The future is bright for women, and it is we women who can ensure that every other woman has the opportunity

to reach her fullest potential.

Speaking from my own personal experience, I believe that women have the power to transform society. Today, I am grateful to our Lord Jesus for His continual grace in fulfilling the vision to reach

out to the children of our nation and to the poor and needy of the society.

Being in the field of education, I am committed to empowering women through education and leadership, fostering a more inclusive and progressive society. 95% of my

workforce consists of women educators who are provided opportunities for fostering professional growth, leadership, and skill development. They are all committed to shaping young minds and driving social change through education.

"Education has opened up several avenues for women and with education as a tool in hand women can transform their family, society and generations to come.

On this day that is dedicated to all women, cheer one another and inspire fellow women to dream big. Let's inspire change to this world a better place to live in. Keep shining as there are endless possibilities to grow. You have a powerful role to play in shaping the future. Follow your Passion and always remember - "Forward ever, backward never..."

## Cow, the Magical Being by Ashwini guruji of Dhyani Ashram



(Standard Post Bureau)

Our coming generations have a strong western bias and firmly believe that the vedic culture is mubo-jumbo and there is no science behind the worship and rituals. For the younger generation I would like to give certain facts about the efficacy and the global acceptability of the vedic principles.

I came across the diary of Sir Cunningham at national archives. He had sketched out a calf and a cow on the third page of the diary and discussed the scientific and logical benefits of preserving this animal. One can find

references to the cow across cultures - the egyptians worshipped her as Hathor, the goddess of fertility, those from this side of the indus called her the kamdhenu and nandi, greeks knew her as Io and the nordics as audhumbra, the primeval cow who licked ice and brought mankind into existence...What is it about the cow that caused it to be revered across cultures and also caught the attention of the learned archaeologist?

The cow is indeed a special animal, its every aspect is a boon to mankind. The vedic seers called it the mother, the

source of nourishment of creation and it lives up to the title through its various products - milk and its derivatives - ghee, curd, butter, etc form an important dietary component for us humans, the dung is a fuel and a natural fertilizer, the urine acts as a natural pesticide and has medicinal uses. In fact, there is a story in Mahabharata, where the great sage chyawan, in a barter deal with King Nahush, puts his worth as equivalent to a cow - indicating what how evolved a being it is. It is an intelligent being and the karmic implications of causing hurt to it are severe, likewise the karmic benefits of serving it are also manifold.

Various cultures describe the immense benefits of preserving and serving this animal. It is said that if you regularly feed cows and they lick your head then your hidden mental abilities fructify - this was true for the great saint kabir, his poetic abilities manifested only once he was licked by a cow on his head. Massaging the cows ensures strong and beautiful body with longevity.

Serving its calf gives the benefit of healthy relationships in your life. In no culture or religion, eating its meat is considered healthy.

## 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 7.2kW AC Fast home Charger with the purchase of an EV.

## Shah instructs authorities to ensure free movement of people in Manipur from Mar 8

New Delhi, Mar 1 (UNI): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting on the security situation in Manipur here and instructed the authorities to ensure the free movement of people on all the roads in the state from March 8.

During the meeting, he directed that strict action should be taken against anyone attempting to create obstructions.

Shah also directed that the fencing work on both sides of the designated entry points along Manipur's international border should be completed at the earliest.

He said that to make Manipur drug-free, the entire network involved in the drug trade should be dismantled.

The Home Minister said that the Union Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains fully committed to restore peace in Manipur and is providing all necessary assistance in this regard.

The meeting was attended by Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Union Home Secretary, Director, Intelligence Bureau, Deputy Chief of Army Staff, Army Commander of the Eastern Command, Directors General of Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Assam Rifles, Security Advisor, Manipur and senior officers of MHA, Army and Manipur administration.



## Smt. Priyadarshini Gaddam joins NMDC Board as Director (Personnel)

Smt. Priyadarshini Gaddam assumed office as Director (Personnel) at NMDC on Friday. She has been appointed as a Functional Director on the Board of the company by the Ministry of Steel.

Prior to this appointment, she held the post of Chief General Manager (Personnel & Administration) and the Head of Personnel for both the NMDC Corporate Office in Hyderabad and NMDC Steel Limited in Nagarnar. Joining NMDC as an Executive Trainee in 1992, she steadily rose through the company's ranks and has emerged as a leader, paving the way for more women in leadership roles in the mining industry.

In her over three decade long service, Smt. Priyadarshini has played a defining role in shaping an ecosystem that ensures a safe workplace for women and provides equal opportunities for persons with benchmark disabilities while setting the highest standards of employee welfare at NMDC.

She has streamlined processes and procedures in Industrial Relations, Recruitment, Medical Policies and Stakeholder Management within the company. She represented NMDC in the Second Pay Revision Commission with respect to the Pay Revision of CPSEs and has since achieved milestone outcomes in negotiating wage settlements.

Smt. Priyadarshini's leadership came to the forefront at NMDC Steel Limited (NSL) where she steered the R&R Policy, advocated for skill development initiatives for the community and swiftly established the Fire Department, Occupational Health Centre, and Primary Health Centre at NSL, all of which contributed to the overall well-being and safety of the workforce.

An alumna of Osmania University, Hyderabad, she holds a postgraduate degree in Social Work (Personnel Management and Industrial Relations) along with an LLB. With Smt. Priyadarshini as the Director (Personnel), NMDC is gearing up to set higher sights of productivity and collective growth for the industry.

## Air defenses destroy 48 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions : Defense Ministry

Moscow, Mar 1 (UNI) : This night, air defenses intercepted and destroyed 48 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"This past night, air defense systems on duty intercepted and destroyed 48 Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles," the ministry said. It said 21 drones were shot down over the territory of the Tver Region, 11 over Crimea, five over the Bryansk Region, three over the territories of the Belgorod and Rostov regions each, two over the Smolensk and Lipetsk regions each, and one over the Kursk Region.

## US approves 3 bln USD arms sales to Israel

Washington, Mar 1 (UNI) : The U.S. State Department has approved potential arms sales to Israel totaling about 3 billion U.S. dollars, the Pentagon said Friday.

The packages, notified to Congress under emergency procedures, bypass standard legislative review processes.

The U.S. State Department said it had authorized a 2.04-billion-dollar arms deal with Israel, including 35,529 general-purpose bomb bodies for 2,000-pound bombs and 4,000 bunker-busting 2,000-pound warheads.

Deliveries are estimated to begin in 2026. But there is a possibility that a portion of this procurement may come from U.S. stock, potentially allowing for immediate delivery of some munitions, according to a Pentagon statement.

The second deal on 1,000-pound bombs and guidance kits, valued at 675.7 million dollars, is scheduled to be delivered in 2028. The third one is a 295-million-dollar deal on Caterpillar D9 Bulldozers, which is scheduled to be delivered in 2027.

This marked the second emergency arms approval to Israel this month without congressional review.

U.S. arms sales followed a fragile ceasefire last month that paused 15 months of hostilities between Israel and Hamas.

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. 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 said on condition of anonymity. Earlier on Friday, Hamas called on the international community to pressure Israel to enter the second phase of the Gaza peace deal immediately, with the 42-day initial phase of the three-stage agreement set to expire on Saturday.

## Canada will not leave Ukraine without support : Minister

Washington, Mar 1 (UNI) : Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly held a conversation with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, during which she confirmed Canada's readiness to continue to provide assistance to Ukraine.

"Just spoke with Ukrainian Foreign Minister @andrii\_sybiha to reaffirm Canada's unwavering support for Ukraine. Canada remains committed to providing the necessary assistance to ensure Ukraine's security, sovereignty, and resilience," she said on X.

Following a spat in the Oval Office between US President Donald Trump and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed support to Ukraine on X.

Talks between Zelenskyy and Trump regarding the peace settlement in Ukraine failed on Friday after a spat in the Oval Office. Trump's senior officials asked the Ukrainian delegation to leave the White House and canceled a joint press conference.

## IMF completes 3rd review under 48-month Extended Fund Facility with Sri Lanka

Colombo, Mar 1 (UNI) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board completed the third review under the 48-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with Sri Lanka, providing the country with immediate access to Special Drawing Right (SDR) 254 million (about 334 million U.S. dollars) to support its economic policies and reforms, the IMF said in a press release on Friday.

The International Monetary Fund said Sri Lanka's performance under the program has been strong and that all quantitative targets for end-December 2024 were met, except the indicative target on social spending.

The IMF said reform efforts are bearing fruit, and the recovery is gaining momentum. As the economy is still vulnerable, sustaining the reform agenda is critical to put the economy on a path toward lasting recovery and debt sustainability.

The International Monetary Fund said economic growth averaged 4.3 percent since growth resumed in the third quarter of 2023. By end-2024, Sri Lanka's real GDP is estimated to have recovered 40 percent of its losses incurred between 2018 and 2023. The recovery is expected to continue in 2025, the International Monetary Fund said.

The program supports Sri Lanka's efforts to restore and maintain macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability while protecting the poor and vulnerable, rebuilding external buffers, and enhancing growth-oriented structural reforms, including strengthening governance, the IMF said.

# Zelenskyy says his ire with Trump began after negative comments

Washington, March 1 (UNI) : In the aftermath of an explosive Oval Office press conference with President Donald Trump, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his frustration with the administration began after it issued a series of controversial comments in the five weeks after Trump's inauguration.

"It's not about [being] mad," Zelenskyy told Fox News' on "Special Report."

"[When you hear] president, vice president or somebody or senators — doesn't matter, big politicians — when they, for example, say that Ukraine is almost destroyed, that our soldiers run away, that they are not a heroes, that Ukraine lost millions of civilians, that his president is dictator.

"The reaction is that, where is our friendship between Ukraine and United States?"

Zelenskyy said it was important that Ukraine, the



US and Europe maintain their great partnership in the face of Russian President Vladimir Putin's aggression.

But when asked if he feels he should apologize for the heated discussions that erupted in the Oval Office, which began after Vance accused Zelenskyy of being "disrespectful," the Ukrainian leader said "no." "I respect the president, and I respect the American people," he said. "I'm not sure that we did

something bad."

Zelenskyy noted again that security guarantees, which caused the blowup in the Oval Office Friday, are not an issue he can disregard because the threat of another Russian invasion is too great.

Zelenskyy also reiterated he would be willing to step down as president so long as Ukraine was given NATO membership.

"We want just and lasting peace. It's true. We want security guarantees," he said. "If [the] United States will support NATO ... I think that is enough for Ukraine."

Trump, after speaking with Putin earlier this month, began pushing the idea that Ukraine should hold elections, claiming Zelenskyy has little support among the Ukrainian public.

But under Ukraine's constitution, it cannot hold elections when Martial Law is in effect during a time of war.

## British PM Starmer meets Zelenskyy, tells him he has full backing of UK, a day after Oval Office clash

London, March 1 (UNI) : UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer embraced Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday and told him he has "full backing across the United Kingdom" as the two met in Downing Street, a day after the blowout at the White House with US President Donald Trump.

Zelenskyy arrived to shouts of support from people who had gathered outside 10 Downing Street.

"And as you heard from the cheers on the street outside, you have full backing across the United Kingdom," Starmer told Zelenskyy. "We stand with you, with Ukraine, for as long as it may take." The

relations with the US, the BBC reported.

In recent weeks, the UK PM has sought to cast himself as a bridge between the US and Europe as it adapts to the Trump administration's desire to be less involved in European defence, after having a cordial meeting with Trump a day before Zelenskyy's.

The two leaders embraced outside No 10 before heading inside to discuss efforts to bring the Russia-Ukraine war to an end. Starmer will host a summit of European leaders on Sunday on the matter - as well as wider European defence - while Zelenskyy will meet King Charles III at the request of the UK government. Those meetings are set to be overshadowed by events in Washington and concerns about a hardening of

## Landslide kills 6 in southern Afghanistan's Uruzgan

Tirin Kot, Afghanistan, Mar 1 (UNI) : A landslide killed at least six people, including women and children, in southern Afghanistan's Uruzgan province, a local official reported. The disaster occurred late on Friday after heavy rain and snowfall in the Sarmory area of the province's Gizab district, said Zamir Ahmad, provincial

director of culture and information. Earlier, four people lost their lives and three others were wounded after the roof of their house collapsed in Urozgan's neighboring Kandahar province on Tuesday.

At least 36 people have died and 40 others were injured in rain-related incidents throughout Afghanistan, Spokesman for the national disaster authority Mullah Janan Saq said Wednesday.

In the last couple of days, heavy rains, snow and flash floods have impacted most parts of the poverty-stricken country.

## European leaders set to meet in London

London/Washington, March 1 (UNI) : European leaders are set to meet on Sunday for an emergency summit on Ukraine, amid the fallout from the bust-up between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the Oval Office. France's President Emmanuel Macron, Poland's PM Donald Tusk, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, UK PM Keir Starmer and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen immediately threw their support behind the Ukrainian president after the White House shocker.

They are meeting on Sunday, March 2, in London for a summit on Ukraine organized by Starmer. Meanwhile, Zelenskyy is meeting with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer Saturday, a day after the tense verbal exchange between the US President, his Vice President JD Vance and Zelenskyy, which left the world gasping.

Britain's Starmer and President Emmanuel Macron of France have led efforts to convince Trump to continue supporting Ukraine. The spat in the Oval Office in front of the media has called into question whether that support will continue, and if the United States will proceed with a dramatic rapprochement with Russia's Vladimir Putin. Most European countries came out in support of Ukraine, breaking with Washington as differences in the trans-Atlantic alliance built over the past 80 years burst into public view. "Today it became clear that the free world needs a new leader. It's up to us, Europeans, to take this challenge," European Union foreign minister Kaja Kallas said, NBC News reported.

Friday's meeting at the White House was meant to jump-start talks on a deal over Ukraine's critical minerals, but degenerated into confrontation. Zelenskyy's "dignity honors the bravery of the Ukrainian people," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen posted on X. "Be strong, be brave, be fearless. You are never alone, dear President Zelenskyy. We will continue working with you for a just and lasting peace."

## European leaders defend Zelensky after fiery White House meeting

Brussels, Mar 1 (UNI) The open clash between U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House on Friday prompted an outpouring of support from European leaders for Zelenskyy and his country.

"Your dignity honors the bravery of the Ukrainian people. Be strong, be brave, be fearless. You are never alone," European Parliament President Roberta Metsola said on social media platform X, adding, "We will continue working with you for a just and lasting peace."

"Nobody wants peace more than the Ukrainians do. Therefore we are working on a common path to a lasting and just peace," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz posted on X. "Ukraine can rely on Germany -- and on Europe."

"We were all right to help Ukraine and sanction Russia three years ago, and to continue to do so," French President Emmanuel Macron said, calling for respect for those who have been fighting since the beginning.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said: "Dear Ukrainian friends, you are not alone."

Slovenian President Nataša Pirc Musar said her country "upholds the principles and respect of international law and international relations," noting "what we witnessed in the Oval Office today undermines these values and the foundations of diplomacy."

"We stand firmly in support of Ukraine's sovereignty," she continued. "It is time for Europe to take the lead on

the path to peace in Ukraine. With respect for international law, UN Charter, fairness and above all ... decency."

Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala said: "We stand with Ukraine more than ever. Time for Europe to step up its efforts."

Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic said: "Croatia knows from its own experience that only a just peace can last. The Croatian government stands firm in its belief that Ukraine needs such a peace -- a peace that means sovereignty, territorial integrity, and a secure Europe."

Other European leaders rallied to defend Ukraine in similar messages, including European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Council President Antonio Costa, Irish Taoiseach Micheal Martin, Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda, Moldovan President Maia Sandu, Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

Zelenskyy in response quoted these posts with "Thank you for your support." But not all European leaders backed Ukraine. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban praised Trump on X, saying the U.S. president "stood bravely for peace. Even if it was difficult for many to digest."

Earlier in the day, a press conference at the White House where Trump and Zelenskyy were scheduled to sign the U.S.-Ukraine minerals deal was canceled, following the stunning clash between the two inside the Oval Office which ended with Zelenskyy leaving the meeting.

## SL Navy drives infrastructure devt for annual Kachchativu fete

Colombo, Mar 1 (UNI) : The Sri Lanka Navy is working in full swing to establish infrastructure and facilities for the convenience of devotees visiting Kachchativu Island in the Jaffna Peninsula to participate in the annual two-day Saint Antony's Church festival that begins on April 14. The Sri Lanka Navy in an official statement said here on Saturday that following the directives from Commander of the Navy and overseen by Commander of Northern Naval Area, the Naval personnel were actively involved in the development of

infrastructure in Kachchativu, including setting up sanitation and drinking water facilities, temporary shelters, roads, jetties and ensuring electricity supply for the upcoming festival.

Apart from that, Sri Lanka Navy is set to deploy lifesaving teams and medical teams with a temporary Sick Bay for the safety and security of the devotees attending the festival, besides undertaking colour washing and repairs of the shrine, built by the Lankan Navy, and cleaning of surrounding area and roads leading to the premises.

The Navy also made all arrangements to ferry priests, officials, devotees as well as equipment needed for the festival, from Kankasanthurai and Kurikadduwan to the Kachchativu islet, it added.

Scores of Indian pilgrims, mostly fishermen participate in the St. Antony's church festival though the 275-acre uninhabited Islet was ceded to Sri Lanka by India in 1974 as a goodwill gesture. As per Indo-Sri Lanka agreement, fishermen of both countries were allowed to fish near the Islet, dry their fishing nets and offer prayers at the church.

## 3 policemen injured in police station attack in Karachi

Islamabad, Mar 1 (UNI) : Three policemen were injured in an attack on a police station in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi on Saturday, officials said.

Some unidentified assailants hurled a cracker explosive at the police station, and fled the scene, sources from Karachi police told Xinhua.

The device landed inside the premises, causing injuries to the cops, and

damaging several parked vehicles.

The injured personnel have been shifted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. Authorities have summoned the bomb disposal squad to assess the situation, while security forces have cordoned off the area and launched an investigation to trace the perpetrators.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.

## Tech &amp; Career

# Tips to crack your job Interview

**The most important task before preparing for a job interview is to start with a self assessment of whether you suit the position and organization in question.**

Here are a few tips on how you can sail through your first job interview. The foremost issue all organizations face is that candidates do not match up to the needs of the job. Many job aspirants look at their careers from a myopic view of brands and fancy designations coupled with fat salaries. The first five years of one's professional life are formative, which is why this period should be utilized to gather profound professional experience. This is not the time to hunt for a cozy post.

The most important task before preparing for a job interview is to start with a self-assessment of whether you suit the position and organization in question. Visualise yourself as a part of the organization:

How confident do you feel about being there? Is the work in line with your interest and natural abilities? The inner call, backed up by research, is crucial before you choose to go for the interview. There is a job for everyone; they just need to be in the right place.

- A lot of engineers may actually do well in creative positions than technical roles. If technical expertise is your area of interest and prowess, go for it. Evaluate which subject or activity you are best at. It shows your interest and natural inclination. If the inner call says, 'choose an alternative career,' please do so. Do not succumb to social pressure. It is better to succeed than to 'ape' and remain mediocre.

- The interviewer has been entrusted with the task of hiring the best in a competitive environment. It is thus your responsibility to convince him/her of your capabilities. Data and facts always help, so converge on tangible information rather than abstract points.

However, the statistics must be focused on competencies.

- Provide information on your strengths with evidence of its practical application in real life.

- Talk about your extracurricular activities and the difficult choices you made in life; it shows leadership attributes and job-fit skill sets.

- Talk about facts that show you make



brought you where you are today - it exhibits strength of character.

- Speak about your career vision. When you know how the job

fits in the grand picture of your career, the interviewer is most likely to choose you because it creates certainty. This is rare because many engineering graduates are disillusioned and openly talk about being explorers. Be clear where you wish to go. Employers would not like to waste time, money and effort on individuals who are continually

exploring. If that is the case, go for career advice or seek other professional help before interviews. In the case of engineers, interviewers' expectations are going to be specific. They look for thought leadership, precision in all you do, the ability to comprehend a problem and create solutions, an innovative mindset and critical thinking. As an engineer, your ability to lead a team will carry tremendous weight. Above all, one must "look and feel" like an engineer and not a casual person from nowhere. Lastly, understand that rejection has nothing to do with you personally. It is about an understanding that your abilities do not suit the job. So, gear up for the next opening.

## Recruitment as a Career option after 40

Looking for a career post 40? Maybe you can turn to recruitment. You have been working for about 15-18 years. You have seen your role grow and expand and you have matured as an individual, but on the work front, there is a lot of operational maintenance and opportunities for growth may be getting limited both laterally and upwards.

Even if you move to another company, after the initial months of being onboarded and throwing yourself into work, you may realise that there is nothing new being added to your experience. You are in a limbo as to where your career is heading. What can you do that will keep you engaged intellectually, put to best use your network and knowledge and at the same time, give you back your zest for risk taking and FINANCIAL rewards?

**Does this sound familiar?**

If yes, have you considered professional executive recruit



- As a candidate, how was your experience of working with recruiters?

- Lastly, how many times did you meet work with a recruitment partner who came from a similar background and understood you and your need thoroughly and were able to meaningfully contribute to the discussions?

The truth is that there is a dearth of professional executive recruitment service providers in a vast MARKET like India. And more than ever, with the war for talent brewing in many industries, this is the right time to get into the recruitment business and start mentoring the careers of people who

lack direction. You may ask, "I don't have a recruitment HR background, how will I recruit?" So, we will let you in a little secret recruitment begins as a science. It's highly methodical you learn it by the book and over a period of time, you hone it into a fine art. And here is another open secret anybody can recruit. Not convinced yet? Here are two great reasons why recruitment becomes a choice of vocation in your 40s:

**Your experience:** By the time you are 40, you have gained enough experience in the MARKET - this gives you an edge over many recruiters who recruit with no industrial knowledge. You know the industry by its length and breadth, understand what talents and skills are required to fill a role, know how the remuneration cycle works within that industry and the kind of talent that is available in the market.

**Your network:** During your tenure with a particular industry, you've probably met all the movers and shakers within your industry and that again gives you the edge over your competitors. Aside from the connections you already have, you're decades ahead of the competition in terms of interpersonal skills. There is also movement of employers preferring to work with niche recruiters. Niche recruiters are specialists they don't cater to all sectors; they cater to the industry market that they are familiar with and confident about; and this is what makes them successful. They know the needs of their clients and understand talent in their sector and hence are able to understand the best talent for their clients.

## Here's how to influence People at work

**Being authoritative is not the only way in which you can exercise power within a team or an organization. Here are a few simple tips to help you influence those around you in the workplace without coming across as too bossy.**

**ENHANCE YOUR CREDIBILITY**  
"Knowledge is power" ~ Francis Bacon  
It can hardly be debated that people who lack formal power can exert very little influence on others. Your recent promotion might have brought you more formal power than you had before, but it may not be enough to fulfill your high-level ambitions. If you aspire to gain access to important organizational resources or visibility with top-level executives, you must enhance your credibility and gain centrality in the organization. To achieve this, ask yourself if you have something unique to offer to your organization that will make you indispensable. Perhaps you enjoy an enviable reputation for being honest or dependable; how about your knowledge and expertise? Knowledge indeed is power. If people perceive you as someone knowledgeable, hard-working or trustworthy, they are more likely to be influenced by you.

**-DEVELOP NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES**  
"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together" ~ Old

within the organization (such as your peers, supervisors or direct reports) as well as people outside the organization (such as customers, vendors, and competitors). You cannot demand commitment from people; you have to earn it.

One way to do this is by building networks and alliances to accomplish your goals. Create opportunities to spend time with your supervisor, peers or customers. You can do this at office as well as in less formal settings such as over lunch. Be open to being an active participant in your organization. Getting involved in community projects or other special organizational initiatives will allow you to get to know people from other divisions.

**-DEVELOP AND EMPLOY ELOQUENCE**  
Studies have shown that people who are more expressive generally have a greater ability to lead and influence others. Why? Because they are more aware of their ideas, emotions and reactions; they, therefore, have a tendency to reach a greater audience than less expressive people. So, the final recommendation would be to develop your communication skills and eloquence. It will allow you to inspire and motivate people. However, remember, that if you don't walk your talk, an 'inspiration gap' will surface which will eventually cause you to lose credibility.



Take a situation where you have just been promoted and are now in charge of leading and motivating others. You want to drive new initiatives and will need others to agree and cooperate with you. How will you inspire action? If you think formal authority alone is enough to be persuasive, think again.

To quote Kate Blanchard, co-author of One Minute Manager, "In the past, a leader was a boss. Today's leaders must be partners with their people. They can no longer lead solely based on positional power." The authority that stems from your position as manager is just one of the many sources of power that you can rely on to get things done. Your knowledge, network, reputation, character and personal charm are other sources you can and should tap into in order to accomplish your mission. Here are some strategies to activate your other power bases that will allow you to make a difference in your organization:

**-GAIN CENTRALITY AND**

**African proverb**  
When you become a manager, you don't just get formal authority but also new duties and responsibilities. You must learn to manage not only your team, but also the context within which it operates. Oftentimes, you will have far less time and autonomy than you might have imagined. This is why you need to rely on the cooperation of other people to get things done swiftly. These individuals could be people

not about having absolute control, exploiting people in selfish ways or manipulating others. The proper attitude to have towards power is to see it as a tool to influence people in an ethical way to achieve desired organizational outcomes. Staying true to your core values and beliefs and engaging others when exercising power will allow you to use it in a more authentic and responsible manner.

ment as a business opportunity? To help you understand why this could be a meaningful proposition for you, think back to your corporate life and ask yourself:

- How did you find people talent for your team?

- What were your expectations from your recruitment partners and how well were they met?

- Have you ever wished you could recruit your team members yourself, but couldn't due to paucity of time?





## Minister of Railways reviewed the progress of various ongoing railway infrastructural projects in Gujarat

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 1 : Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology, during his visit to Gujarat on 1st March, 2025, inspected Ahmedabad, Anand & Dahod railway stations and took stock of the progress of various ongoing railway infrastructural projects at these locations.

Minister of Railways Mr Vaishnav on reaching Ahmedabad station, conducted inspection of the station. He also reviewed the progress of the ongoing station redevelopment work. Thereafter, Mr Vaishnav interacted with the media representatives. He informed that this year Rs 17,155 cr have been allocated for Gujarat state, which is 29 times of average annual outlay of 2009 - 14. The investment by Railways in Gujarat is around Rs. 1,27,000 cr including Bullet train. Giving details about Ahmedabad station redevelopment, he mentioned that the work is going on in full swing. The design has been done considering the structural requirements and integrating it aesthetically with local heritage values.

A Concourse Roof Plaza have been planned over the railway tracks equipped with waiting area and passengers' facilities. The project also envisages elevated road network connecting Kalupur ROB and Sarangpur ROB which will be more than twice the surface area of existing roads and will facilitate seamless transportation by multimodal integration of railways with National High Speed Rail Terminal (Bullet Train), Metro & Bus Rapid Transport (BRT). Hon'ble Minister of Railways informed that the sequence of work has been planned in such a manner to ensure least inconvenience to passengers and with minimum train cancellation. Then, Hon'ble Minister of

Railways proceeded to Anand and conducted inspection of Ahmedabad - Anand section.

Minister of Railways arrived at Anand railway station and conducted inspection of the station. He also visited the One Station One Product (OSOP) stall at the station. Talking to media representatives at Anand station, Shri Vaishnav informed that since 2014, more than 1000 Rail Over Bridges & Rail Under Bridges have been constructed in Gujarat. Also, 3,144 km has been electrified since 2014. The work of KAVACH is also progressing at a rapid pace. The work of Dedicated Freight Corridor is completed in Gujarat. This has enhanced Port connectivity in the region. He further mentioned that 87 stations in Gujarat are being re-developed under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Later, MR visited



and inspected the Track Construction Base (Rail Welding Work) of Bullet Train project followed by inspection of ongoing Anand High Speed Rail (HSR) station work. Mr Vaishnav interacted with the workers and applauded them for their contribution to nation building and he also took selfies with them.

Mr Ashwini Vaishnav, Hon'ble MR visited Locomotive Rolling Stock Workshop located at Dahod. MR conducted inspection of the Factory, including the Simulator at the Workshop and inspected the newly developed prototype of 9000 HP WAG Locomotive. MR inspected all aspects of this Locomotive which is one of the most powerful locomotives (9000 HP) being manufactured in Dahod workshop. Mr Vaishnav while addressing the media representatives mentioned that the

prototype Loco is ready and the trials are underway. The Locomotive is made in India and is equipped with advanced features including KAVACH technology. Soon, the Loco will start being exported and it will make Dahod a global name across the world. This will in turn make, Dahod's Chandika Bhoriyu & Jhuldi also famous all over the world. Hon'ble MR mentioned that the work of the Workshop is nearing completion and will soon be dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister. He mentioned that this Workshop has generated employment opportunities for locals. Minister of Railways Mr Vaishnav was accompanied by Hon'ble MPs, MLAs, public representatives from the respective constituencies. Senior officials of Western Railway, NHRCL, etc. were also present on the occasion.

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## Track Slab Manufacturing Factory at Anand for Bullet Train Project T-3 Package

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 1 : A state-of-the-art track slab manufacturing factory has been established to support the ambitious project of India's first Bullet Train, marking a significant milestone in the country's high-speed rail infrastructure. The factory is designed to produce ballastless track slabs (J-slab) of different sizes, as required. Till date nearly 35000 track slabs have been cast (from two factories), which are equivalent to nearly 175 track km.

**Location:**  
The factory is strategically located near the alignment at 436 km (will be serving for km 393 to 508). This proximity to the project site ensures efficient logistics and timely delivery of track slabs for the bullet train construction.

**Production Capacity:**  
The pre-cast reinforced concrete track slabs are generally 2220 mm wide, 4900 mm long and 190mm thick and each slab weighs about 4 tonnes.

The track slab manufacturing factory is designed to produce 60 slabs per day, ensuring high efficiency and a steady supply of critical components for India's first Bullet Train project. The production scope of this factory is the manufacturing of nearly 46000 J-slabs.

This facility will produce track slabs for 115 route km of high speed rail track for MAHSR corridor in Gujarat & DNH (352 km)

**Stacking Capacity:**  
To support the large production volume, the factory is equipped with an extensive stacking capacity of 24000 track slabs. This allows for the organized storage of produced slabs, ensuring they are ready for transportation to the construction site as needed.

## Over 4,100 Firearms Surrendered in Manipur Amid Peace Efforts

Imphal, March 1 (Waari Singbul Network) : In a significant development towards restoring peace and ensuring public safety, over 4,100 firearms looted from police armouries in Manipur have been voluntarily surrendered to authorities. The initiative began on May 31, 2023, when then-Chief Minister N. Biren Singh made an appeal to the public to return firearms looted from security forces and police stations. Stressing the importance of law and order, he had warned of strict legal action against those found in illegal possession of arms and ammunition. Additionally, he urged citizens to lift road blockades to facilitate the movement of security personnel and relief materials, ensuring essential supplies reached affected areas.

Responding to Biren Singh's call, thousands of people in Manipur demonstrated their commitment to peace. Before his resignation as Chief Minister on February

9, 2025, "3,422 firearms" had already been voluntarily handed over to police stations. This milestone, reflecting the collective efforts of the state government, security forces, and the public, played a crucial role in curbing violence. "Further strengthening the initiative, Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla reiterated the appeal on February 20, 2025, urging people to surrender any illegally held firearms. His appeal yielded around 700 additional firearms, including 246 weapons surrendered by the Arambai Tenggol on February 27, marking a significant moment in the ongoing disarmament drive. "Authorities estimate that 6,020 firearms were looted from police stations and armouries during the peak of the ethnic violence.

With over 4,100 firearms now returned, this initiative underscores the power of collective action and the importance of community involvement in public safety efforts.

Manipur has been grappling with ethnic tensions since May 2023, when violence erupted between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities over long-standing issues of land, identity, and political representation. What began as protests quickly escalated into large-scale clashes, leading to hundreds of deaths, mass displacement, and the looting of police armouries. The violence fractured the state's social fabric, deepening communal divides and causing a prolonged security crisis.

The conflict drew national and international attention as security forces struggled to restore normalcy. Despite multiple rounds of peace talks and military interventions, sporadic violence and the proliferation of illicit arms continued to fuel tensions. The surrender of looted firearms marks a critical turning point, signaling a step toward de-escalation and efforts to rebuild trust among Manipur's diverse communities.

## 4 People who beat up a Mahavitaran team have been arrested



(Standard Post Bureau)

Kalyan/Vasai/Palghar, March 1 : An incident of beating and abusing a Mahavitaran team while taking action against a person who was using electricity illegally even though the power supply was cut off due to arrears took place on Friday (28 February) in Kunde village of Bhiwandi taluka. A case has been registered against the four people in this case at Ganeshpuri police station and the police have arrested the accused.

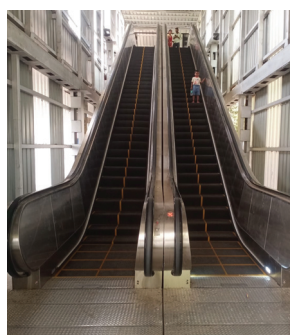
The names of the accused registered in this case are Dinesh Namdev Hoge, Naresh Agivele, Tukaram Agivele, Sharad Patil (residing in Kunde, Taluka Bhiwandi). Under the leadership of Deputy Executive Engineer Katakwar Avinash Katakwar of Wada

Sub-Division, a team of Junior Engineers Abhishek Belsare of Ambadi Branch Office, Janamitra and security guards were conducting a recovery and electricity theft search operation in Kunde village since Friday morning. In this, the electricity supply was disconnected in Kunde village of Dinesh Hoge's house due to arrears and the meter was removed, and the theft of electricity was found. When the team was going elsewhere after completing the formalities, the accused abused the team and obstructed their work. The mobile phone of Janamitra Mahesh Rajput of the team was snatched from his hand and he was beaten up. Based on the complaint filed by Deputy Executive Engineer Katakwar regarding this incident, the

Ganeshpuri police registered a case and arrested the accused.

After this incident, Katakwar, without wavering, strengthened the team and took action against 13 electricity thieves in the campaign conducted on Friday in Kunde village. On Saturday (March 01), the team again conducted a search operation under police protection and took action against five more electricity thieves. With the backdrop of the end of March, the electricity workers have only two options: either recover the electricity bill arrears or disconnect the electricity supply to the defaulters. Considering the prevailing situation, Mahavitaran has appealed to the electricity workers on duty to cooperate. "---

## Central Railway's Mumbai Division ensures safe and comfortable travel



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 1 : Central Railway's Mumbai Division has taken positive steps to ensure a safe and comfortable travel by providing better amenities and facilities to its esteemed passengers.

**Passenger Comfort:**  
• Two escalators have been commissioned at platform no 1 of Karjat station at the Kalyan end Foot Over Bridge.  
• One Lift for passengers has been commissioned at platform no 1 of Shelu station at

Karjat end Foot Over Bridge.

Both the escalators and lift will be beneficial to Senior citizens, Divyangjans, Pregnant Women and the sick.

**Passenger Information:**  
• Four new GPS clocks have been installed at Sandhurst Road station.

• Old suburban train indicators have been replaced with new indicators with better visibility at Ghansoli, Rabale and Airoli stations.  
• New All-in One Video Display indicators

have been provided at Ulhasnagar, Vangani and Neral stations

**Passenger Ticketing:**  
• 575 new ATVMs (Automatic Ticket Vending Machines) have been installed on 86 stations of Mumbai Division.

• Process for procurement of 226 more ATVMs has already been initiated.  
ATVMs provide fast ticketing solutions enabling passengers to be free of long queues at ticket windows.

Facilities to Divyangjan:

• A total of 170 new buzzers have been installed at various stations on Main & Harbour line for the benefit of Divyangjan passengers.

These buzzers are extremely helpful to Divyangjan passengers especially the visually challenged to locate the place earmarked for Divyangjan.

Central Railway has always been at the forefront towards providing safe, efficient, affordable and customer-focussed transportation

solutions and has taken several initiatives, strengthened processes and executed various measures for making the journey of its customers and passengers pleasurable.

• All old public announcement system speakers have been replaced with new ones at Ulhasnagar station. "Installation of GPS clocks and provision of better indications and PA system will greatly enhance sharing of train running information to passengers.

## Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 1 : Total length: 508 km (Gujarat & DNH: 352 km, Maharashtra: 156 km)

There are 12 stations planned. (Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Sabarmati)

Status (As on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025)

Viaduct construction is in full swing

Viaduct construction: 272 km  
Pier works: 372 km  
Pier Foundation: 386 km  
Girder Casting: 305 km

Bridges on 13 rivers completed, viz. Par (Valsad

district), Purna (Navsari district), Mindhola (Navsari district), Ambika (Navsari district), Auranga (Valsad district), Venganiya (Navsari district), Mohar (Kheda district), Dhadhhar (Vadodara district), Kolak River (Valsad district), Vatrak River (Kheda district), Kaveri River (Navsari district), Kharera (Navsari district) and Meshwa (Kheda district)

Six steel bridges and five PSC bridges have been completed

Noise barriers have been installed over 130 km  
Progress of 112 km of track bed construction has

been achieved so far in Gujarat

Overhead electrification work started in Gujarat

The work on 21 km tunnel between BKC and Shilphata in Maharashtra is under construction

Seven mountain tunnels are under construction in Palghar district, Maharashtra through NATM

Structural work is completed for six out of eight stations in Gujarat

Work has started on all three elevated stations, and the base slab at Mumbai Bullet Train station is being cast in Maharashtra