

## IN BRIEF

### CM urges Union Govt to allocate fair share of Krishna river water to Telangana

Hyderabad / New Delhi, Mar 3 (UNI) : Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday evening requested Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil to allocate a fair share of Krishna river water to Telangana.

Since the Krishna basin covered 70 percent of Telangana and 30 percent of Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Minister made an appeal to Patil to allocate 70 percent of Krishna river water to Telangana.

Revanth Reddy, who meets Jal Shakti minister C R Patil in New Delhi, pleaded with the Union minister to take a decision on AP projects only after finalization of share of Godavari river water to Telangana.

The CM along with State Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy met with Jal Shakti Minister and also requested to safeguard the interests of Telangana in sharing of Krishna and Godavari river water.

### Five injured in explosion in transport office godown, 1 held

Kakinada, Mar 3 (UNI) : Five people were injured after being hit by splinters following explosion of firecrackers while unloading the parcels from a lorry at a transport godown on Wharf road here on Monday.

The injured were immediately rushed to government general hospital where their condition is stated to be out of danger. One person, who had placed orders for the parcels loaded at Hyderabad, was taken into custody and being interrogated, police said.

SP Bindu Madhav rushed to the spot with police dog squad and ballistic experts and ordered search of the entire area.

It was found that one of the parcels contained firecrackers called 'plastic onion bombs' while being unloaded fallen down and exploded and their splinters hit the workers, injuring them seriously.

The transport godown was sealed pending further investigation, police added.

## AP leads Green Hydrogen Revolution in India: CM



(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, Mar 3 : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday virtually inaugurated Hero Future Energies' first-of-its-kind Green Hydrogen blending plant at Rockman Industries in Tirupati.

This project pioneers the blending of green hydrogen with PNG/LPG for industrial furnace applications, significantly reducing carbon emissions. The initiative aligns with Andhra Pradesh's Swarnandhra Vision 2047 and the state's commitment to becoming a global hub for green hydrogen production and adoption.

Congratulating Hero Future Energies and Rockman Industries on this groundbreaking Green Hydrogen Plant, the Chief Minister said that with its strong industrial base and progressive energy policies, Andhra Pradesh is well-positioned to lead India's green hydrogen revolution. "This project marks another step towards our

state's clean energy future, leveraging our abundant renewable resources and growing industrial demand," he noted.

The Chief Minister highlighted the State Government's commitment in leading India's green energy revolution, aligning with its Swarnandhra Vision 2047, which aims to make the state a global hub for renewable energy and green hydrogen production.

"Our government is determined to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, supporting India's Net-Zero by 2070 goal and contributing to energy security while reducing crude oil imports," he revealed.

He acknowledged that in October 2024, the State introduced the Integrated Clean Energy (ICE) Policy, with a vision to add over 160 GW of renewable energy capacity and attract investments worth approximately 210 trillion (Rs\$118.95 billion) over the next five years. This policy

also focuses on developing green hydrogen production, electrolyser manufacturing, and infrastructure for hydrogen-powered mobility, mentioned.

"With our vast coastal advantages, deep-sea ports, and robust logistics network, Andhra Pradesh is uniquely positioned to become a hub for green hydrogen exports, catering to both domestic and global markets. Projects like Hero Future Energies' green hydrogen blending initiative reinforce the state's reputation as an investor-friendly destination for sustainable industrial transformation," the Chief Minister observed.

"The successful demonstration of hydrogen blending at Rockman Industries is just the beginning, and we look forward to scaling up these efforts. I assure all investors that Andhra Pradesh will continue to support clean energy projects, ensuring a prosperous, greener future for all," the Chief Minister maintained.

## Ex Sebi Chairperson, 5 others move Bombay HC against special court order directing FIR

Mumbai, Mar 3 (UNI) A day after the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Mumbai asked the ACB to file an FIR against former Chairperson of SEBI and five others to investigate into alleged irregularities pertaining to listing of a company, Ms Madhabi Puri Buch and others moved the Bombay High Court, seeking to quash the order against them for alleged stock market fraud. In her petition, former SEBI Chairperson Ms Buch challenged the special court order passed on a complaint made by a journalist alleging that SEBI officials had allowed the listing to proceed without adhering to the SEBI Act, 1992, as well as key regulatory frameworks such as the SEBI (ICDR) Regulations, 2018, and the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015.

The complainant has accused the officials of facilitating market manipulation, insider trading, and artificial inflation of share prices, leading to significant investor losses. The petition was mentioned before Justice S.G Dige this morning seeking urgent hearing which he agreed to it and listed the matter for hearing on Tuesday. The SEBI also had said that the applicant is known to be a frivolous and habitual litigant and thus would initiate legal steps to challenge this order.

The application in ACB sought directions for the Police to register an FIR and investigate into the alleged irregularities in granting listing permission to a Company on the Bombay Stock Exchange in 1994, without complying with the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992, SEBI (ICDR) Regulations, 2018, and the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015.

Even though these officials were not holding their respective positions at the relevant point of time, the court allowed the application without issuing any notice or granting any opportunity to SEBI to place the facts on record, the SEBI statement said, adding that it would be initiating appropriate legal steps to challenge this order and remains committed to ensuring due regulatory compliance in all matters.

## Notifications issued for elections to 10 MLC seats in Telangana, AP

Hyderabad/Amaravati, March 3 (IANS) :The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday issued notifications for biennial elections to five Legislative Council seats each in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Members of the Legislative Assembly in both Telugu states will elect the MLCs on March 20.

As per the schedule announced by the ECI, nominations can be filed till March 10 while scrutiny of nominations will be taken up on March 11. The deadline for withdrawal of nominations is March 13.

The 10 MLCs are retiring on March 29. In Telangana, the retiring MLCs are Mahmood Ali, Satyavathi Rathod and Seri Subash Reddy of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), Mallesham Yegge, who defected to Congress from BRS last year and Mirza Riyazul Hassan Effendi of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM).

The ruling Congress party is likely to secure three seats while the remaining two may go to the main opposition BRS. It remains to be seen if Congress

## Municipal workers stage 'dharna' demanding regularization of contract staff

Kakinada, Mar 3(UNI) : A large number of municipal contract workers owing allegiance to AP Municipal Workers Union staged a 'dharna' in front of the Collectorate here on Monday, in support of their long pending demands, especially regularization of the service of contract workers.

They also demanded entrusting the job of payment of wages to the contract workers directly to the municipal administration department itself, instead of private agencies in case of abolition of APCOS.

Their other demands include immediate clearance of the DA, wage and other arrears to the permanent

employees without further delay. They also demanded regularization of services of the workers appointed by the APCOS.

AP Municipal workers union state honorary president Kirla Krishnarao, district unit general secretary Thokala Prasad addressed the demonstrators. They demanded the minimum wage be hiked to Rs 38,000 besides sanctioning of surrender levation and DA arrears pending for the permanent workers for the past three years.

Later, a delegation of the protesters called on the Collectorate administrative officer and presented a memorandum of their demands.

## Haryana police arrest suspect, claim victim strangled

Chandigarh, Mar 3 (UNI) The Haryana police have arrested a suspect in Congress activist Himani Narwal's murder, an officer said on Monday, claiming she was strangled with a mobile charger cable.

Rohtak Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Krishna Kumar Rao told media persons that Sachin - a resident of Jhajjar town - has been arrested.

The suspect ran a mobile phone shop. Himani's body was found in a suitcase near Sampla bus stand in Rohtak district on Saturday. Rao said after Himani was identified by her parents, police formed an SIT and within 36 hours Rohtak police "solved the case".

He said the accused Sachin was in touch with Himani since last one and half years and also used to visit her Vijaynagar house.



## Rajnath calls upon people to contribute to the welfare of ...

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday called upon the people to contribute whole-heartedly to the welfare of the soldiers and their families, terming it as the national duty of every citizen. Addressing the Armed Forces Flag Day Corporate Social Responsibility (AFFD CSR) Conclave here, he stated that India's soldiers always stand firm, vigilant and ready at the borders in difficult conditions to protect the country from all kinds of threats with courage and promptness, a Defence Ministry statement said.

(See on page 2)

## Iranian Vice Prez Zarif resigns for 2nd time since appointment



Iranian Vice President Mohammad Javad Zarif resigned Sunday night for the second time since his appointment in August last year. In a post on social media X on Monday, Zarif said he met with Iran's judiciary chief on Sunday and had accepted his recommendation to return to university.

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## Australia add Cooper Connolly in squad ahead of India ...



All-rounder Cooper Connolly comes in place of the injured Matthew Short in Australia's ICC Men's Champions Trophy squad, media reports said. Cooper Connolly will replace Short, who suffered an injury during the Afghanistan encounter in the Champions Trophy, and was seen struggling on the field, according to an ICC report.

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## Advice to work 90 hours a week impractical: Akhilesh Yadav



Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Monday termed the advice of working 90 hours a week as impractical and said that those who are giving this advice to the youth should introspect and tell why this idea did not come to them when they were young and even if it came to their mind, why did they not do it.

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# NAREDCO Andhra Pradesh Applauds Key Urban Development and Revenue Reforms

(By Ravi Kumar Boppana)

Vijayawada, March 3 : NAREDCO Andhra Pradesh has welcomed the series of transformative reforms introduced by the state government, aimed at streamlining urban development and revenue processes. These policy changes, focused on ease of doing business, faster approvals, and regulatory transparency, are expected to boost the real estate and infrastructure sectors. The press meet, held at MALAXMI Chambers, Vijayawada, highlighted the impact of these reforms on the industry. Gadde Chakradhar, State President of NAREDCO Andhra Pradesh, emphasized that the reduction of the minimum road width requirement from 40ft to 30ft will help regulate unauthorized layouts and promote better planning. He also lauded the approval of Podium Parking, which will reduce the financial burden on developers who previously had to invest heavily in constructing cellar parking.

Highlighting the government's commitment to efficiency, Chakradhar welcomed the upgradation of DPMS software, which will speed up approvals and minimize bureaucratic delays. He also praised the



introduction of a new transparent TDR process, allowing developers to utilize TDR on the same site where land is lost due to road widening. Speaking about the growth potential in Andhra Pradesh's real estate sector, Chakradhar stated, "Now is the ideal time to invest in residential properties or layout plots in Andhra Pradesh. With the state government's visionary development policies and initiatives, the real estate sector is poised for significant growth." He further added, "Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu garu, Andhra Pradesh is witnessing unprecedented

development, making it an attractive destination for investors and homebuyers alike. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of Andhra Pradesh's growth story."

Kiran, State Executive Vice President, emphasized the need for further policy adjustments to create a more developer-friendly environment. He pointed out that removing floor height restrictions for non-high-rise buildings will provide better internal space utilization and ensure improved efficiency in planning. He further stressed the importance of setback relaxations for smaller sites adjacent to bigger roads, stating, "Developers are losing

significant land due to setback regulations. A more balanced approach will ensure that smaller plots are not unfairly disadvantaged while still maintaining urban planning standards." Kiran also highlighted the financial challenges faced by developers and welcomed the proposal to allow payment of fees in installments. He remarked, "This step will ease the financial burden on developers, allowing them to execute projects more efficiently without excessive upfront costs."

Seetaramaiah, State Secretary General, emphasized the need for seamless coordination between various

departments to improve approval processes. He pointed out that the government is working on a single-window system, integrating MAUD, Fire, Revenue, and Airports departments, a move that aligns with the goal of streamlining governance. He also commended the modernization of fire safety policies, which will replace outdated requirements with globally accepted standards. Ramesh Babu, State Treasurer, highlighted the financial relief provided by these reforms. He welcomed the proposal to allow fee payments in installments, reducing financial stress on developers. He also noted that basement construction

will now be allowed from 500 sq mt plots, optimizing land utilization.

Sandeep Mandava, President (Central Zone), addressed key concerns in the Revenue sector. He called for reforms in land mutation processes, updates to registration software, and uniform charges for family partition deeds. He particularly welcomed the government's decision to repeal the NALA Act at the request of NAREDCO Andhra Pradesh, stating that this move will significantly accelerate real estate project launches despite revenue losses for the government. The NAREDCO Andhra Pradesh leadership reiterated its support for the government's initiatives and expressed confidence that these reforms will drive urban development, governance efficiency, and economic growth. They reaffirmed their commitment to collaborating with the state government in shaping a more sustainable and investment-friendly real estate sector. PV Krishna, Treasurer (Central Zone), and Vamsi participated in the press meet, further emphasizing the importance of these reforms and their positive impact on the industry.

## YSRCP slams Govt for denying MSP to chilli farmers

(Standard Post Bureau)

Vijayawada, Mar 3 : YSRCP MLC Lella Appi Reddy on Monday accused the Andhra Pradesh Government of failing to deliver the promised Rs 11,781 minimum support price (MSP) to chilli farmers.

The MLC highlighted the drastic fall in prices from Rs. 27,000 per quintal last year to below Rs. 10,000 now, pushing farmers into distress sales amid unpaid debts. Appi Reddy criticized the State Government for not releasing funds and delaying action, alleging a conspiracy to benefit middlemen by seeking trader details two months after sales began.

He also questioned whose interests the coalition government serves, contrasting the previous YSRCP regime's Rs. 3,000 crore Price Stabilization Fund with the current Rs. 300 crore

allocation, a tenth of the earlier amount, calling it a shameful neglect of farmers. Ex-Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to the Guntur chilli yard has prompted the government's limited response, which included review meetings and a letter to the Centre, but no concrete relief, the YSRCP leader said and slammed the government for politicising farmers' issues despite a Legislative Council motion, urging it to prioritize their welfare.

Appi Reddy emphasized Guntur's significance, with its Rs. 10,000 crore annual chilli trade and 150 cold storage units holding 1.3 crore bags, making the government's apathy deplorable. He accused Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of indifference, warning that such neglect threatens farmers' livelihoods and the state's agricultural legacy.

## Hyderabad airport records 22 pc growth in cargo during 2024

Hyderabad, March 3 (IANS) : The Hyderabad International Airport recorded 22 per cent cargo growth during the calendar year 2024.

The airport handled 1,80,914 tonnes of cargo, an increase of 22 per cent compared to 2023.

Airport operator GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) announced on Monday that this robust performance was driven by 36 per cent surge in international cargo to 1,08,520 tonnes and a five per cent growth in domestic cargo to 72,395 tonnes.

Hyderabad airport continues to be a leading airport for handling high-value pharma cargo in India and has witnessed a strong growth in movement of electrical and electronic items along with engineering goods in the last one year.

Pradeep Panicker, CEO, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited, said they remained dedicated to developing world-class infrastructure, optimising processes, and enhancing capacity to serve diverse cargo needs.

Hyderabad cargo sustained its growth momentum, operating to more than 20 international destinations through a robust network of passenger and freighter flights. It facilitated exports to top global markets, with high-value pharmaceutical shipments comprising 72 per cent of the total exports. The US and Europe remained the largest export regions, accounting for 51 per cent of the total exports

from Hyderabad.

According to GHIAL, Hyderabad cargo established a direct connection to the African market with Ethiopian Airlines operating two weekly freighters between Hyderabad and Addis Ababa.

In late October 2024, Lufthansa Cargo transitioned to operating its own Boeing 777F freighters from Hyderabad, enhancing its direct cargo operations in the Indian market. Additionally, passenger flight frequency increased from five to six weekly.

Qatar Airways and Turkish Airlines operate scheduled freighter services to their respective hubs (Doha and Istanbul) using wide-body freighters.

Qatar Airways is increasing its freighter frequency from February 2025, on the Hyderabad-Doha route from two to three weekly using B777F aircraft looking at the growing potential at Hyderabad.

Exports from Hyderabad Airport reached destinations worldwide, including the US, Europe, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, Australia, and China.

The cargo infrastructure at Hyderabad is also undergoing significant expansion to meet growing demand. The existing Cargo Terminal 1 is being upgraded and, upon completion, will feature a state-of-the-art domestic terminal, an international courier/express terminal, and a dedicated export perishables terminal.

## Digital literacy should be widely promoted among people: CM

Vijayawada, Mar 3 (UNI): Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu, on Monday directed the officials to make every effort to make every citizen a digital literate thus transforming the entire State as a total digital literacy State.

Holding a review meeting at the State Secretariat on people's perception and RTGS (Real Time Governance Society), the Chief Minister said that the State Government is providing an opportunity to the people to make use of WhatsApp governance so easily and to get all kinds of services through it without making rounds to the government offices. Expressing the opinion that the people are yet to get fully accustomed to WhatsApp governance, Chandrababu Naidu directed the officials to initiate steps so that the people can make use of

WhatsApp governance extensively.

All the District Collectors should take this responsibility and initiate steps to bring awareness among the people in their respective districts to make use of WhatsApp governance on a large scale. Complete awareness should be created among the people in their respective areas through the secretariats and the staff members of the secretariats, he added.

The Chief Minister made it clear that people can not only get public services but also make complaints and appeals through WhatsApp governance and told the officials to explain this to the people. A facility will soon be provided to the illiterates to bring their complaints to the Government's notice through WhatsApp governance by posting their voice, the Chief

Minister said and felt that if digital literacy increases among the people the utilization of WhatsApp governance too will go up.

The officials are also told to take steps to provide the facility to the people to utilise WhatsApp governance through QR Code and complete the process of establishing data lake and interlinking data at a faster pace by adopting the best available standards being followed across the globe.

The Secretary (IT and Real Time Governance), Bhasker Katamaneni, informed Chandrababu that till now 200 services are being provided to the public through WhatsApp, and 150 more such services will be provided by the end of this month. By the next phase the total services will reach 500 and the first phase data lake will be completed by May, he added. The officials

## BSP supremo Mayawati expels nephew Akash Anand from party

Lucknow, Mar 3 (UNI) A day after relieving Akash Anand from all responsibilities, including that of National Coordinator, of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), party supremo Mayawati on Monday expelled him citing the interest of the party and the movement.

In a series of posts on 'X', Mayawati wrote, "In the all-India meeting of BSP yesterday, Akash Anand was relieved from all responsibilities, including that of National Coordinator, due to his continuous influence under his father-in-law Ashok Siddharth, who was expelled from the party, for which he (Akash) was expected to show maturity by expressing remorse." She said, "But on the contrary, the lengthy response given by Akash is not indicative of his remorse or political maturity, but rather mostly selfish, arrogant and non-missionary, influenced by his father-in-law, from which I have been advising and punishing all such people in the party to refrain."

The BSP supremo wrote, "Therefore, in the interest of the self-respect and dignity movement of the most revered

Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, and while upholding the tradition of discipline set by the Kanshiram Ji, Akash Anand, like his father-in-law, is expelled from the party in the interest of the party and the movement."

The decision came in response to Akash's statement claiming that he was a cadre of Mayawati and would continue to work with full devotion for the party and the mission and would fight for the rights of my society till his last breath. Taking to X, Akash wrote, "I am a cadre of the most revered sister Mayawati ji and under her leadership, I have learned unforgettable lessons of sacrifice, loyalty, and dedication, all these are not just an idea for me, but the purpose of life.

Every decision of the respected sister is like a line of stone for me, I respect her every decision and stand by that decision." He said, "The decision of sister Mayawati to relieve me from all the posts of the party is personally emotional for me, but at the same time it is a big challenge now, the test is difficult and the fight is long.

## 3 women siblings, an infant killed as car collides with auto

Anantapur, Mar 3 (UNI) : In a tragic road accident, three women siblings and a three-month-old infant were killed and three others were injured when the auto rickshaw in which they were travelling was collided by a car at Kammuru village in Kuderu mandal on Sunday.

Police said that one of the deceased Saraswati (32) gave birth to a baby girl three months ago. She, along with her infant daughter Vidyasri, accompanied by her two elder sisters Leelavathi (42) and Yegeswari (40), was going to her mother-in-law's house Rayampalli in Uravakonda mandal from her parents' house when the mishap took place. All the four deceased, including the infant, were killed instantaneously.

The car was going to Anantapur from Uravakonda and the ill-fated auto rickshaw was going towards Uravakonda. The car, while overtaking an RTC bus, collided with the auto rickshaw. The auto rickshaw driver and two students were critically injured in the accident and they were admitted to the GGH. Heart wrenching scenes were witnessed at the GGH here with grieving family members inconsolably as three sisters and an infant were killed. The accident created a great tragedy in three families. The Kuderu police registered a case, removed the two vehicles from the road and cleared the traffic.

## Conveyor belt repair expedited to remove debris

Hyderabad, March 3 (IANS) : Authorities have expedited the repair work on the conveyor belt to remove debris from the accident site in the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district as the rescue operations continued for the 10th day on Monday.

The fate of eight persons, who were trapped in the tunnel after a portion of the roof collapsed on February 22, is still unknown. Disaster Management Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar, Nagarkurnool District Collector Badavath Santosh, and other officials conducted a review meeting at the tunnel inlet office to assess the ongoing rescue operations.

The conveyor belt repairs have been expedited to facilitate the removal of debris from the SLBC accident site. Officials have confirmed

that the dewatering process is progressing swiftly.

Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited Chairman and Managing Director Musharrar Ali, Nagarkurnool District Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Gaikwad Raghunath, Colonel Parikshit Mehra, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) officer Prasanna, and representatives from HYDRAA, Singareni Mines Rescue, SDRF, Fire Services, and South Central Railway, participated in the meeting. Disaster Management Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar analysed the challenges encountered in the rescue operations and discussed them with the teams involved. Authorities are continuously reviewing the rescue efforts with teams from 12 different agencies.

## STANDARD POST

## Important period for investors to focus on long-term opportunity

Despite the short-term sell-off, the combination of strong macro fundamentals, robust earnings growth, and attractive valuations makes this an important period for investors to focus on the long-term opportunity rather than the immediate volatility, according to market watchers.

On the macro front, conditions remain stable. Fiscal deficits are under control, tax cuts are expected to boost consumption, inflation is low at 4.31 per cent, and rate cuts have started, which should support economic growth.

“Domestic investors continue to pump money into mutual funds, offsetting some of the foreign selling pressure. While it is impossible to predict an exact market bottom, excessive negativity often signals a turning point,” said Krishna Appala at Capitalmind Research.

The GDP growth accelerated to 6.2 per cent in the third quarter (October-December) of 2024-25, up from a revised figure of 5.6 per cent in the second quarter of the financial year.

The GDP growth rate for the financial year 2024-25 is now estimated at 6.5 per cent while the economic growth rate for 2023-24 has been revised to a 12-year high of 8.2 per cent.

India's Q3 FY25 GDP data met expectations, with a slight upward revision to 6.5 per cent for the fiscal year, according to experts.

The agriculture sector posted steady growth in Q3, indicating a likely improvement in the kharif crop, which could support rural consumption.

“Investors will be closely watching key upcoming events, including the tariff policy, U.S. Core PCE Price Index, and jobless claims. In the near term, market conditions are expected to remain weak, with a gradual recovery anticipated as earnings improve from Q1 FY26 and global trade policy uncertainties subside,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Markets do not move in a single direction forever, experts added. Meanwhile, the confluence of a favourable fiscal policy that supports both capex and consumption and easing monetary policy across all its levers — rates, liquidity and regulations and robust services exports — that augur well for the job market outlook are likely to aid the growth momentum for India, a Morgan Stanley report has said.

## IRCTC, IRFC get Navratna status, Railway Minister Congratulates

### All Railways listed PSUs got Navratna status after 2014

(Standard Post Bureau) Government has approved the upgradation of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) & Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) as Navratna companies. IRCTC has become 25th & IRFC 26th #Navratna company among CPSEs. Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw congratulated team IRCTC and IRFC on their feat of being upgraded to the Navratna status. Minister says- we are happy to share that all the 7 listed PSUs of Railways are now Navratna status and this has happened after 2014. CONCOR: July 2014, RVNL: May 2023, IRCON and RITES in Oct 2023, Railtel: Aug 2024 and now IRCTC and IRFC. This is a major achievement and this reflects our Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji's very focussed attention on transforming Railways. He also thanked Hon'ble Finance Minister on this occasion.

IRCTC: IRCTC is a Ministry of Railways CPSE with an annual turnover of ₹ 4,270.18 Cr, has a Profit after Tax, ie PAT of ₹ 1,111.26 Cr and a net worth of ₹ 3,229.97 Cr for FY 2023-24. IRFC is also a



Ministry of Railways CPSE with an annual turnover of ₹ 26,644 Cr, PAT of ₹ 6,412 Cr and a net worth of ₹ 49,178 Cr for FY 2023-24.

The Navratna recognition marks a momentous achievement as IRCTC is celebrating 25 years of excellence in catering, tourism, and online ticketing services in 2025. This is a testament of the operational excellence of the Corporation in the Hospitality, Travel & Tourism Sector achieved over the years.

Navratna PSUs play a crucial role in nation building by driving economic growth through enhancing India's position in the global competitive market. The upgraded status allows IRCTC to expand its footprint and enhance its service offerings in the

travel, tourism and hospitality sectors.

IRFC:

Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), a key financial institution under the Ministry of Railways, has been awarded the prestigious Navratna status by the Government of India. This recognition marks a significant milestone in IRFC's journey as one of the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) supporting India's railway infrastructure.

Established on December 12, 1986, as a 100% government-owned entity, IRFC has been instrumental in financing the expansion and modernization of Indian Railways. With a revenue of over ₹ 26,600 crore and a profit after tax exceeding ₹ 6,400 crore as of March 31, 2024,

IRFC is now the third-largest government NBFC in India.

Benefits of Navratna Status:

Navratna PSUs enjoy several advantages, such as:

- Financial Autonomy
  - They can form joint ventures, subsidiaries, and enter into mergers or acquisitions without needing direct government intervention.
- Operational Freedom
  - They can make independent business and investment decisions, enabling them to compete with private sector companies.
  - They have greater flexibility in HR management, including hiring professionals at market-linked salaries.
- Global Expansion
  - They can enter international markets, form strategic alliances, and expand globally without strict bureaucratic constraints.
- Better Market Position
  - Navratna companies are considered financially stable and attract more investor confidence.
  - Their strong financial performance allows them to generate better returns for shareholders.

## Delhi Budget will fulfill aspirations of people : CM

New Delhi, Mar 3 (UNI) Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday said that the upcoming Delhi budget will be a "people's budget" which will fulfill the aspirations of the people.

Addressing a press conference here, she said the budget would focus on the development of Delhi as per the poll promise.

The Chief Minister also invited public suggestions which will be included in the budget.

Citing the poll promises, She said ₹ 2,500 monthly to the poor women, expansion of healthcare, transport services, Yamuna cleaning, and the welfare of senior citizens and added their target is to make a budget that fulfills pledges. “We will seek the people's suggestions and include them in the budget,” Gupta said.

She gave an email (viksitdelhibudget-25@delhi.gov.in) and a phone number (9999962025) and invited people to submit their suggestions for the budget. The Chief Minister said there is a website for the people's suggestions.

Rekha Gupta said that women's organizations have been invited on March 5 so that they can give their suggestions. On the same day, people associated with the education world have also been invited for suggestions.

Apart from this, people from business organizations have been invited for suggestions on March 6.

She said that preparations are being made to present the Delhi budget between March 24 and March 26 and added that the budget of developed Delhi will be presented by incorporating suggestions from all sections. The Chief Minister said that he will have budget dialogues with people from all areas and take suggestions from them. On that basis, he will prepare the budget for the development of Delhi. Rekha Gupta said that all the promises made in the manifesto will be fulfilled. She said that all the department officials have been instructed to take suggestions from all sections and include those in the budget. The Chief Minister said that all the MLAs and Ministers will go to the public to know their views on the upcoming budget. “We are committed to fulfilling all the promises made in our manifesto”, she added.

## 'Public, pvt sectors should work together to increase IAF capacity'

New Delhi, March 3 (UNI) The Empowered Committee for Capability Enhancement of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has asked the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), DPSUs and private sector to work together to achieve the desired goal with enhanced 'Aatmanirbharta'.

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh presented the report to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh here on Monday, a Defence Ministry statement said.

The committee has identified key thrust areas and made recommendations for implementation in the short, medium and long term to achieve the desired capability enhancement goals of the IAF optimally.

The report also underscores the need for an impetus to enhance 'Aatmanirbharta' in the Aerospace domain with the private sector complementing the efforts of DPSUs and DRDO. The Defence Minister appreciated the work of the committee and directed that the recommendations be followed up in a time-bound manner.

## Tata Motors Celebrates 27 Years of Tata Safari

(Standard Post Bureau) Tata Motors, India's leading SUV manufacturer, proudly celebrates 27 iconic years +of the Tata Safari with the launch of the exclusive, limited STEALTH Edition—a bold and sophisticated embodiment of luxury, power, and exclusivity. Limited to just 2,700 units, this premium edition will be available in both the Harrier and Safari redefining exclusivity and finest SUV aesthetics. With sleek, monotone finishes leading the charge, this STEALTH lineup sparks a fresh wave of desirability showcasing the evolving customer preferences of owning a vehicle which is one its kind. With just few units on sale, the bookings for the STEALTH edition opens starting today, both online and at our dealerships across the country.

The STEALTH Edition amplifies the looks with an all-new STEALTH Matte Black finish, exuding an undeniable road presence

that is not just seen but felt. More than a mere design statement, this edition is a testament to dominance and exclusivity, offering an enigmatic aura that sets it apart on the road. The matte car paint delivers a unique, stylish finish, enhancing the SUV's distinctive appeal. Its non-reflective surface lends the vehicle a sophisticated, elegant look, accentuating the SUV's body lines and contours, making it appear exceptionally premium. The subtle sheen reduces glare under harsh sunlight, ensuring the vehicle's bold stance remains uninterrupted in any lighting condition. Priced at ₹ 25.09 lakh, Ex-showroom Delhi for the Harrier STEALTH and at a starting price of ₹ 25.74 lakh, Ex-showroom Delhi for the Safari STEALTH (available in both 6 and 7 seater), these limited edition SUVs seamlessly blend prestige, performance, and cutting-edge technology, making an unmissable statement of excellence.

## Nubella Centre for Women's Health and Lighthouse Counselling Centre Announces

(Standard Post Bureau) With a motive to empower women and prioritize their physical and mental wellbeing, Nubella Centre for Women's Health and Lighthouse Counselling Centre announced the launch of its state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence for Women's Health. This revolutionary initiative, was unveiled just ahead of International Women's Day, and is dedicated to addressing a wide spectrum of ailments and health concerns unique to women, offering comprehensive, compassionate, and cutting-edge care under one roof.

The centre was inaugurated in the presence of Dr Geeta Shroff Founder Director of Nubella Centre for Women's Health and Co-Founder, Lighthouse Counselling Centre. With the launch of this dedicated Centre of Excellence, the organization reaffirms its commitment to providing holistic healthcare solutions (both physical and mental health) tailored to the unique needs of women at every stage of life.

The launch of the Centre of Excellence is a fitting tribute to women everywhere as the world prepares to celebrate World Women's Day on March 8. This initiative highlights the importance of prioritizing women's health and wellbeing, recognizing that healthy women are the foundation of strong families, communities, and societies.

Speaking at the launch event, Dr Geeta Shroff Founder Director of



Nubella Centre for Women's Health and Co-Founder, Lighthouse Counselling Centre, said, “Women often put their health on the back burner while caring for others. With the Centre of Excellence, we aim to change that narrative. Our goal is to provide women with the care, support, and resources they need to lead healthier, happier lives. This International Women's Day, we celebrate the strength and resilience of women and reaffirm our commitment to their health and empowerment.”

The Centre of Excellence is a one-stop destination for women's

health, addressing reproductive concerns like PCOS, fibroids, and infertility. It offers pregnancy, postpartum, and menopause care, along with cancer screening, mental health support, and personalized nutrition plans. Advanced diagnostics ensure comprehensive treatment for menstrual and overall well-being. Having a team of highly skilled and empathetic healthcare professionals, including gynecologists, endocrinologists, oncologists, nutritionists, and mental health experts, the centre is equipped with the latest medical

technology and diagnostic tools, the centre ensures accurate diagnoses and effective treatment plans.

The Lighthouse Counselling Centre will provide a range of services including individual counselling, group therapy sessions, workshops on mental wellness, and guidance on managing anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. Additionally, it will also cater to unique needs such as post-partum support, grief counselling, and coping strategies for work-life balance.

In addition to clinical care, the centre will also focus on education and awareness, hosting regular workshops, seminars, and community outreach programs to empower women with knowledge about their health.

The Nubella Centre for Women invites women from all walks of life to experience the transformative care offered at the Centre of Excellence. To mark the launch, the centre is also offering free health screenings and consultations throughout the month of March.



## One killed in Haifa knife attack: Israel Ambulance Service

Tel Aviv, Mar 3 (UNI) : One person was killed as a result of a knife attack on a bus station in the city of Haifa, Israel's Magen David Adom ambulance service said on Monday. Earlier in the day, the Israel Police reported a terrorist attack involving a shooting in the city and later specified that it was a knife attack. The MDA, in turn, reported about five people injured.

"MDA EMTs and Paramedics have pronounced a 70 year old male dead, and are treating 4 patients: 3 in serious condition - male and female in their 30s, and a 15 year old male, and a 70 year old female in moderate condition," the MDA wrote on X.

## Ukraine still ready to sign minerals deal with U.S.: Zelenskyy

London, Mar 3 (UNI) : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that he is still "ready to sign" a minerals deal with the United States.

Despite a fractious meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump last week, he is still willing to have a "constructive dialogue" with the United States, Zelenskyy told BBC following a summit with Western leaders in London. Zelenskyy's statement came after his meeting with Trump on Friday turned into a heated exchange, leading to the cancellation of an anticipated bilateral raw materials agreement.

The draft deal, as U.S. media reported, included the establishment of a fund to be jointly owned by Ukraine and the United States, to which Ukraine will contribute 50 percent of its revenues from the future monetisation of natural resources, including critical minerals, oil and gas. After the Sunday summit, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that leaders at the summit had agreed on a four-step plan to guarantee peace in Ukraine and that Britain will allow Ukraine to use 1.6 billion pounds (2 billion U.S. dollars) of British export finance to purchase more than 5,000 air defence missiles.

## Avalanche kills 2 miners

Bazarak, Afghanistan, Mar 3 (UNI) : Heavy snowfall and an avalanche claimed the lives of two emerald miners in eastern Afghanistan's Panjshir province on Sunday, provincial director for Mines and Petroleum Mohammad Qasim Amiri said Monday.

The ill-fated miners were busy extracting the precious gem, the emerald, in the Hisa-e-Awal district when the natural disaster occurred and killed both on the spot, the official added. At least half a dozen people have lost their lives due to snowfall and avalanches in Afghanistan over the past month.

Parts of Afghanistan have experienced heavy snowfall and freezing weather over the past couple of days, which led to hours of closure of some highways linking the capital city of Kabul to the northern and central provinces of the country.

## Maldives shuts govt offices as record rainfall triggers severe flooding

Colombo, Mar 3 (UNI) : Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu ordered the closure of government offices and institutions on Sunday in response to severe flooding caused by the highest daily accumulated rainfall in the country's history, PSM News, the official state media of the Maldives, reported.

The Maldives Meteorological Service, in a post on X, said it recorded 296 millimetres of rainfall in the 24 hours ended at 8 a.m. Sunday morning. The president's decision follows continuous rainfall, which has resulted in significant hardship to the people, PSM News said.

PSM News said heavy rains on Saturday led to extensive flooding in Male City, including Male, Hulhumale, and Hulhule, which is home to Velana International Airport, and several outer islands.

The Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) and other agencies have been mobilised to mitigate the impact of floodwaters on households and properties in the capital, it said. A total of 17 pumps were deployed by the MNDF across six locations to remove floodwater, with an estimated 17,000 tonnes of water already pumped out, PSM News said. The MNDF has also provided assistance to 131 properties and supplied 976 sandbags to help control and mitigate the flooding, PSM News said. The Maldives Meteorological Service said it expects more torrential rain and thunderstorms with gusty winds on Sunday.

## Israeli army kills 4 Palestinians across Gaza: Sources

Gaza, Mar 3 (UNI) : The Israeli army killed at least four Palestinians across the Gaza Strip on Sunday, according to Palestinian health authorities and medical sources. "The Israeli army killed two Palestinians by attacking a group of locals with a military drone in the town of Beit Hanoun in the north of the Gaza Strip," Gaza-based health authorities said in a press statement.

The Israeli army said in a press statement that its forces had spotted several individuals engaging in "suspicious activities" near military positions in northern Gaza, alleging that they were planting an explosive device.

The statement added that the Israeli Air Force launched an attack to "eliminate the threat" and reiterated the military's commitment to removing any perceived dangers to Israeli soldiers and citizens.

Meanwhile, local sources and eyewitnesses reported a mass displacement of hundreds of families from the eastern areas of Beit Hanoun due to the airstrikes. In a separate incident, medical teams recovered the body of a woman and treated two wounded people following an Israeli bombardment on the town of Al-Farahin, east of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, according to Gaza-based health authorities.

# Gaza ceasefire essential to prevent renewed regional devastation: ICRC

Gaza, Mar 3 (UNI) : A collapse of the Gaza ceasefire agreement could lead to renewed devastation in the region, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) warned Sunday. The ceasefire has "saved countless lives and provided a glimmer of hope amid immense suffering" and "is essential to prevent the region from plunging back into despair," ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric said in a statement. "As a neutral humanitarian mediator, the ICRC has worked week after week to advance the ceasefire by implementing safe and critical releases

## Iranian Vice Prez Zarif resigns for 2nd time since appointment

Tehran, Mar 3 (UNI) : Iranian Vice President Mohammad Javad Zarif resigned Sunday night for the second time since his appointment in August last year.

In a post on social media X on Monday, Zarif said he met with Iran's judiciary chief on Sunday and had accepted his recommendation to return to university.

He hoped that by stepping aside from his post, "the excuses for throwing a wrench" in the path of the administration's success would be removed.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian received Zarif's resignation letter on Sunday night but has not responded to it yet, the official news agency IRNA reported Monday. The semi-official Fars news agency reported that by Iran's law on sensitive occupations, appointing Zarif as vice president was considered a clear violation of the law because two of his children have U.S. citizenship.

A number of Iranian lawmakers had been following up on his "illegal" appointment to the post since the beginning of the administration's term, said the report. In August last year, Pezeshkian appointed Zarif, a former foreign minister, as vice president for strategic affairs and head of the Center for Strategic Studies. Zarif resigned 10 days after his appointment because he was "not satisfied with the result of his work" as head of the steering council that selected the new Iranian administration's cabinet members. He later withdrew his resignation after Pezeshkian's "prudent" follow-ups and consultations.

Also on Sunday, Iranian lawmakers impeached Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Abdolnaser Hemmati and voted in favour of his removal due to the country's economic problems, such as high inflation and the depreciation of the national currency.



at the request of the concerned parties," she said, voicing the ICRC's unwavering commitment to facilitating the safe return of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners.

She urged all sides to make every effort to sustain the ceasefire, allow humanitarian aid to continue entering Gaza, and prevent further hostilities.

Earlier, on Saturday, the 42-day initial phase of the three-stage agreement between Hamas and Israel expired, with no breakthrough announced for its next phase.

# UK PM announces new 1.6-bln-pound deal for Ukraine to buy missiles

London, Mar 3 (UNI) : British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced on Sunday that Britain will allow Ukraine to use 1.6 billion pounds (2 billion U.S. dollars) of British export finance to purchase more than 5,000 air defence missiles.

"This will be vital for protecting critical infrastructure and strengthening Ukraine," Starmer told a press conference following a summit with Western leaders in London.

The goal is "to put Ukraine in the strongest position" so the country can negotiate from a position of strength, he added.

Western leaders, including more than a dozen European heads of state and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, gathered in London on Sunday for a defence summit aimed at advancing a peace plan for Ukraine.

Starmer said leaders at the summit had agreed on a four-step plan to guarantee peace in Ukraine: to maintain military aid to Ukraine while the conflict

continues and increase economic pressure on Russia; to ensure that any lasting peace guarantees Ukraine's sovereignty and security, with Ukraine at the table for any negotiations; to deter "any future invasion by Russia" in the event of a peace deal; and to establish a "coalition of the willing" to defend Ukraine and uphold peace in the country.

The leaders also agreed to meet again soon to sustain the momentum behind these efforts, Starmer said. The prime minister reaffirmed Britain's commitment to supporting the peace plan with "boots on the ground, and planes in the air."

"Europe must do the heavy lifting," he said, emphasizing that the agreement needs U.S. backing.

"Let me be clear, we agree with Trump on the urgent need for a durable peace. Now we need to deliver together," he said.

Earlier on Sunday before the summit, Starmer announced that Britain, France and Ukraine will work on a ceasefire plan to

present to the United States. He named three essential points to achieve "lasting peace" -- a strong Ukraine, a European element with security guarantees, and a U.S. backstop, with the last one being the subject of "intense" discussion.

The summit took place amid diplomatic tensions, following a heated exchange earlier this week between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House, which led to the cancellation of an anticipated raw materials agreement between the two countries.

On Saturday, Zelensky met with Starmer at 10 Downing Street, where the British prime minister reaffirmed the UK's "unwavering determination" to achieve lasting peace in Ukraine.

Following the meeting, Ukrainian Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko announced that Britain and Ukraine had agreed on a loan of 2.26 billion pounds to support Ukraine's defence capabilities. (1 pound = 1.26 U.S. dollar).

# No alternative to maintaining good ties with India: Bangladesh CA Mohd Yunus

Dhaka, March 3 (UNI) : Bangladesh Interim Government Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has said there is no alternative to maintaining good ties with India, even as he said that there have been "some clouds" in the relationship due to "propaganda".

"Some conflicts had been seen in the midway. I would say some clouds were seen. These clouds mostly came through propaganda. Others will judge the sources of those as propaganda," Yunus told BBC Bangla in an interview published on Monday.

The comments come as the interim government is set to complete seven months, since it was formed following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5 last year by a so-called "student-led" protest.

Yunus' remarks also come as UNB quoted

diplomatic sources to say that there might be a possible first ever in-person meeting between Chief Adviser Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok on April 4, 2025. Responding to a specific question, Yunus said the relations between the two neighbours are in very good shape and there has been "no deterioration". He said, there had been some misunderstandings. "We are trying to overcome those misunderstandings. There is no problem in our basic relationship," Yunus added. The Chief Adviser said he had always explained that the relations between Bangladesh and India are so deep, still the relationship is in good shape and it will remain good in the future. "There is no alternative to maintain good relations between the

two countries," said Yunus said. He said the relationship between Bangladesh and India is "historically, politically and economically" very close and they "cannot deviate" from this. He also referred to huge "interdependencies" on each other. Yunus said there is continuous communication between the two countries.

After the Interim Government was formed Prime Minister Modi sent a message to Chief Adviser Yunus, later they had a telephone conversation, and Modi invited Prof Yunus to join the third Voice of Global South Summit hosted virtually by New Delhi on August 17 last year. On January 1 this year, Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain made it clear that maintaining good relationships with three big countries - India, China and the United States - is among the priorities in 2025. He stressed that Dhaka's ties

# France and UK have proposed one-month truce in Ukraine: President Macron

London/Paris, March 3 (UNI) : France and Britain have proposed a one-month truce in Ukraine "in the air, on the seas, and in energy infrastructure", President Emmanuel Macron of France told Le Figaro. Ahead of the summit on Ukraine in London on Sunday, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced that Paris and London were working on a "plan" to stop the fighting.

President Macron explained that one advantage of such a truce is that "it can be measured" given the vast front, "equivalent to the Paris-Budapest line", the Brussels Time reported

Initially, the cessation of hostilities would not include ground combat, as "it would be very difficult to verify that the front is respected" in the case of a ceasefire, Macron said.

The deployment of European troops, in which France and Britain are ready to participate, would come only at a later stage, he added.

There will be no European troops on Ukrainian soil in the coming weeks," Macron told Le Figaro. He stressed the need to use this time to negotiate a truce.

"We want peace, but not at any price, without guarantees," he said. French officials are also trying to re-establish dialogue between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who had a sharp confrontation in the Oval Office on Friday.

"In the coming days, we

should manage to re-engage," Macron said, after returning from the London summit. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed his willingness on Sunday to sign the mineral agreement negotiated with the United States, delayed due to his altercation with Donald Trump on Friday.

"Once all parties are ready, the agreement on the table will be signed," said Zelenskyy in an interview with British journalists before leaving London.

"If we agreed to sign the mineral agreement, then we are ready to sign it. We are constructive," he added, following Washington's suggestion that the Ukrainian leader might need to step down if he did not change his behaviour.

However, Zelenskyy stated on Sunday evening that replacing him would "not be so easy." Speaking to the press in London, he emphasised that substantial support for him made a simple replacement difficult. He has consistently worn military fatigues since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2023. Zelenskyy argued that removing him, as Moscow wishes, would require more than just organising elections; it would also necessitate preventing his candidacy, a much more complicated task.

He also mentioned seeking security guarantees for Ukraine in the event of a ceasefire and reiterated his earlier offer to resign if Ukraine could join NATO.

# 37 injured in NW Turkiye bus crash

Istanbul, Mar 3 (UNI) : A tour bus travelling from Greece veered off the road in northwestern Turkiye's Canakkale province on Monday, injuring 37 passengers, it is reported.

The accident occurred at 6 a.m. local time (0300 GMT) when the bus driver, carrying 42 passengers to the western port city of Izmir, lost control of the steering wheel, the state-run Anadolu news agency reported.

## Air India resumes flights to Israel after 7-month hiatus

Jerusalem, Mar 3 (UNI) : India's flagship carrier Air India resumed its flights to Israel on Sunday after a suspension of seven months.

The operations resumed with a direct flight that took off from Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi and landed Sunday evening at Ben Gurion Airport outside Tel Aviv.

Air India will now operate five weekly flights between Delhi and Tel Aviv, becoming the sole airline offering direct services between the two nations.

Following the outbreak of Israel's multi-front conflict, most foreign airlines temporarily suspended their flights to Tel Aviv amid heightening tensions in the Middle East region.

## Beauty

# Must-have exfoliating tools for Your skin

Cleansing and exfoliation are integral steps to any basic skincare routine.

They create a healthy foundation for products like moisturisers and serums and help in efficient absorption, allowing them to work effectively, and giving you that radiant-to-die-for skin. Here are some skincare tools that you can use during cleansing/ exfoliation to



complement your at-home

skincare regime...

**Cleansing brush** There are two types of cleansing brushes available in the market — manual and mechanical (battery-operated). Both provide a deep cleanse and are great tools to add another level of exfoliation to your cleansing routine.

**Mechanical cleansing brush** Avni Amlani, international skincare professional says, "The most popular type of

cleansing brushes use sonic (sound) frequencies. The resulting flexing action works to loosen dirt and oil, removing deep-seated impurities from pores and priming skin to better absorb moisturisers, masques and serums. It is suitable for all skin types and cleanses the skin six times better than hands."

**Manual exfoliating brush** If you cannot go for a mechanical brush, use an ultra-gentle brush to gently exfoliate surface debris and impurities for effective cleansing. Aesthetician Ritu Singh Tanwar says, "Exfoliating brushes with a long handle are great for a back scrub." Adds consultant dermatologist and aesthetic physician, Dr Madhuri Agarwal, "Use a long-handled, natural bristled brush for dry brushing before bathing to reduce dead cells."

**Sponge cloth** Damp sponge cloth is a gentle tool that can thoroughly remove makeup and debris without irritating your skin. Avni says, "Select one that is made from biodegradable, bacteria-resistant fabric, can be easily rinsed clean and dries quickly. Sponge cloths can be used to remove cleansers, exfoliants and masques."

**Buffing cloth** This hygienic, microbial exfoliating cloth can be used to buff and polish the body. Use this with a body wash to clean and exfoliate rough and dull skin in hard-to-reach areas. Opt for one made from extra-durable nylon fiber that can easily be rinsed clean and dries quickly. This is a great tool to experience an exfoliating power cleanse at home.



# Stretch marks selfies are the latest fad!



**marks selfies**

Gone are the days when post pregnancy stretch marks and bodies were kept secret. Now, besides tracing the progress of the baby in the womb, there are photoshoots that exclusively take place post the delivery. Stretch mark selfies are another 'proud mom' movement and speak of women empowerment.

**No makeup selfie**

While the Ice Bucket Challenge brought awareness to ALS, the no makeup selfie was started by the Cancer Research Institute in UK. Gradually, it transformed into a phenomenon of flaunting the makeup-free look all over the world and women, including some B-town beauties, put up selfies sans cosmetics.

**ThighReading**

This movement started last month when a microblogging site user posted a picture of her thighs, captioning it #ThighReading. Derived from the idea of palm reading, it

picked up. As a result, girls posted pictures of their thighs — with scars, cellulite, spider veins, stretch marks, freckles and hair.

**At ease with body hair**

Be it the unthreaded hair on the upper lip or unwaxed arms, body hair has been a big no-no for ages, but that's changing now. The play Vagina Monologues has tapped the issue. 'Hairy feminists', as the term goes, are widely supporting it, some are even making documentaries on the same.

**JustATampon**

Similar to Kiran's endeavour is the #JustATampon campaign in which people posed for pictures holding a tampon to immunise the shock

value that is still associated with menstruation. There are games like Tampon Run and Tampon Dodge based on it, where instead of bullets, tampons are fired and dodged. Then again, there are comics that tell readers everything about periods.



In April, Kiran Gandhi, a Harvard Business School graduate, who ran a race with blood running down her legs, made headlines. Her reason for doing this was to tell women to not be ashamed of their periods and to raise awareness about feminine products. This is not the only instance where women tried to bring focus to sensitive issues, there have been other similar initiatives. Here's taking a look at some...

**Post Pregnancy photoshoot And stretch**



Well, looking beautiful has more to do with taking care of your skin and hair and less to do with hoping for a magical transformation.

And to help you out in your sojourn of beauty, we bring to you five affordable beauty and hair care tips every woman must know.

- If your skin is prone to acne, you should use an oil-free product that is non-comedogenic. Try looking for the word on the label of the product you're planning to pick up. A non-comedogenic product is formulated in a way that it does not cause blocked pores.

- When using a hair colour for the first time, do conduct a 24 hour patch test. Apply some colour behind your ear or the inside fold of your elbow. Allow the colour to remain on the test area for 24 hours to check if your skin is not allergic to the product.

- Hassled by the idea of removing a long lasting lipstick? Try cleaning it with some sweet almond oil dabbed on a cotton ball.

## 5 beauty tips every woman

### must know

**There isn't a woman, who's not beautiful but sadly, the beauty standards fixed by the world have started determining the attractiveness of a woman these days. But then, who said you can't match those high standards and be the epitome of beauty?**

- For enviable hair, massage your mane with some coconut oil. Shampoo the hair post ten minutes of the comforting massage and see how different your hair seem.

- Hate green tea? Well, your feet will love it! Try throwing in a few tea bags into a tub along with some cold water and believe us your feet with thank you for the exercise.



## For those enviable thick and long fingernails

**People judge you by the way you carry yourself. As much as you take care of your face, your hands and nails too need equal attention.**

Chipped and peeling fingernails are a problem faced by one and all. Nails can peel off due to several reasons. Climate changes, dietary issues, yeast infections, too much exposure to water and vitamin deficiency are some of them. Here are a few tips to take care of your nails.

- Cold, dry weather can cause layers to separate and flake off. So moisturise your hands and nails every morning and evening.

- Lack of biotin, sulfur or vitamin B can result in flaky nails. A good

supplement, as well as raw vegetables and fruits, will prevent the chipping.

- If you're suffering from a yeast infection, it can adversely affect your nails. If you've been given a prescription ointment or cream for what's on your skin, try rubbing it on your nails, too.

- Water has a drying effect on your nails, leading to flaking and peels. If your nails are exposed to water for too long, wear gloves wherever possible, and

moisturise at least twice a day.

- Biotin helps our body to process fatty acids and proteins. Two and a half milligrams of biotin supplement is recommended daily to strengthen nails. Or you can take vitamin B complex daily. Add enough protein in your diet. You should have at least several servings of meat, dairy or nuts every day.

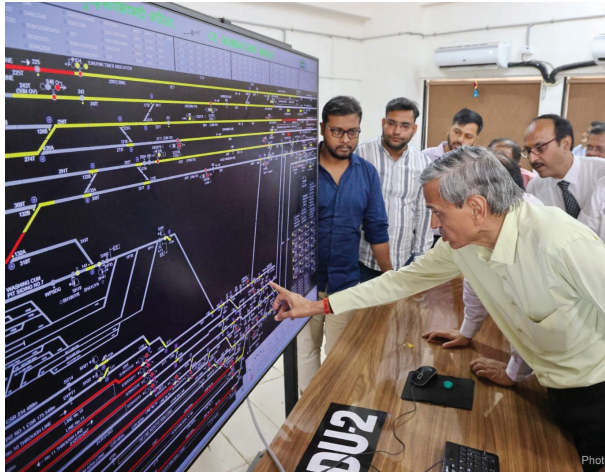
- Do not use your nails in removing tags, pulling out staples etc. Get the right tool instead.

While applying nail polish: Before applying nail polish, file and buff your nails in one direction only and remove all ridges that can cause chipping. Always apply two coats of nail polish and a clear top coat at the end to seal the nail.





## GM, Central Railway, Dharam Veer Meena Inspects Extended Platforms 12/13 at CSMT



(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, March 3 : Mr Dharam Veer Meena, General Manager, Central Railway, inspected the recently completed Non-Interlocking (NI) works and extension of platforms 12 and 13 at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT). The extension of these platforms marks a significant upgrade to accommodate 24-coach

trains, enhancing passenger convenience and operational efficiency. The platforms have been extended by 305 meters, making the total length 690 meters. Central Railway executed special blocks for Pre & Post Non-Interlocking (NI) works from the midnight of February 28/March 1, 2025, to March 2/3, 2025. The commissioning involved

modifications to the existing Siemens-made Electronic Interlocking system and was accomplished in a record time of just 10 hours—from 23:15 hrs on March 1, 2025, to 09:15 hrs on March 2, 2025.

### Key Highlights of the Extension and Upgradation Work:

**Infrastructure Enhancement:** Yard remodelling carried out and a washing apron was added for improved maintenance and extended life.

### Track and Signal Modifications:

**Turnouts:** 2 dismantled, 1 newly inserted.

**Signals:** 3 signals shifted, 2 shunting signals converted to main signals, and 1 new shunting signal added.

**Operational Efficiency:** Routes increased from 278 to 285.

**Safety Measures:** Dual detection track circuits introduced for enhanced safety. The timely completion of these critical infrastructure enhancements reflect Central Railway's commitment to providing a safer, faster and more efficient travel experience for passengers.

## MANUU to conduct Job Mela for Education and Training students

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, March 3 : The Training and Placement Cell of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) is conducting Job Mela/Fair for Education & Training final year & passed out students (Open to All) at MANUU Polytechnic Hyderabad on March 16, 2025.

According to Dr. Mohd. Yousuf Khan, Director, Training & Placement, this Job Fair will help the institutions to get competent teachers / human resources for their schools/institutions and a good number of reputed Schools/Institutions are expected to participate in the Job Mela/ Fair.

The interested Colleges/Schools/Institutions who have faculty requirements/vacancies are requested to participate with a registration fees of Rs. 10,000/- by March 13, 2025. The registration fee payment receipt is to be emailed to placements@manuu.edu.in to confirm participation.

For more details contact Dr. Mohd. Yousuf Khan (9848171044), Mr. Gufran Barkati, Assistant Professor, E&T (9044145228) and Mr Sameer Pasha, Corporate Consultant, T&PC, MANUU (9700064077).

## Leopard's body found hanging on tree in Lalitpur

Lalitpur (UP), Mar 3 (UNI) The body of a Leopard was found hanging on a tree with the help of an iron wire in Balabehat area of Lalitpur district in Uttar Pradesh on Monday. Forest Department sources said here. Sources said that the body of the leopard was found hanging on a tree with a wire noose under suspicious circumstances in the forest of Richha Maholi in Rasoi village under Gauna Forest Range. "When the villagers saw it, they informed the Forest Department officials," they said. On receiving the information, regional Forest Range Officer Subhash Verma reached the spot with his team and took the carcass of the leopard to his possession.



has in working in the power system, one cannot be friends with electricity. Therefore, even an unintentional mistake at any moment can cost one's life. After the power supply is interrupted, engineers and public servants have to perform their duty to ensure smooth power supply in extremely adverse conditions and dangerous challenges at night and day.

The heat of the sun, the heated power system, the increased demand for electricity, followed by storms, unseasonal rains and the subsequent continuous monsoon rains, floods. The male and female technical staff of Mahavitaran are responsible for maintaining 24-hour power supply and providing various other customer services. Along with this, they have to perform important tasks such as recovering overdue electricity bills, disconnecting power supply to defaulters, and taking action against power theft

work for 90 hours are talking about robots instead of humans because humans want to live with emotions and family. He said that those giving advice forgot that the entertainment and film industry also adds billions of rupees to the economy. He said that these people probably do not know that entertainment makes people feel refreshed, revived, and re-energised, which improves the working quality. He said that these people should not forget

## Advice to work 90 hours a week impractical: Akhilesh Yadav

Lucknow, Mar 3 (UNI) Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Monday termed the advice of working 90 hours a week as impractical and said that those who are giving this advice to the youth should introspect and tell why this idea did not come to them when they were young and even if it came to their mind, why did they not do it.

In a statement issued here, Akhilesh questioned whether those who are advising employees to

work for 90 hours are talking about robots instead of humans because humans want to live with emotions and family. He said that those giving advice forgot that the entertainment and film industry also adds billions of rupees to the economy. He said that these people probably do not know that entertainment makes people feel refreshed, revived, and re-energised, which improves the working quality. He said that these people should not forget

that the youth not only have hands, legs, or body, they also have a heart that wants to live freely and it is not about working for hours but about working wholeheartedly. The SP Chief said, "Quality of work is most important, not quantity. The truth is that the people sitting at the top get the maximum benefit of the hard work of the youth without doing anything, that is why some such people give impractical advice like 'working for 90 hours'."

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## MANUU Civil Academy Students Secure Second Place

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, March 3 : The Students from Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), representing Civil Services Examination-Residential Coaching Academy (CSE-RCA), participated in the prestigious National Science Quiz, competing against participants from around 45 colleges and universities across the country. The MANUU team, comprising Dr. Minhaj Ahmed, Md. Nazeer, and SD. Sohail, secured second place in the competition.

A series of science-based competitions were

## DRM, Lalit Bohra conducted Visakhapatnam station inspection : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, March 3 : Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair Division Mr Lalit Bohra led a comprehensive inspection of Visakhapatnam station today (03.03.2025). Divisional Railway Manager inspected the Computerized Reservation Office at the station, Platforms, Catering stalls, Parcel office etc.

DRM Shri Lalit Bohra reviewed the infrastructure works in progress at the station with senior officials. He checked the various facilities at the station towards Gnanapuram side during the inspection at Visakhapatnam station. Later, he inspected the New Coaching Complex, Visakhapatnam and enquired about the various activities.



## Short - Termination, Short origination of coaching trains

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, March 3 : Due to safety related modernization works for remodeling of Bacheli-Kirandul station yards in connection with doubling over Jagdalpur- Kirandul section in KK Line, the following trains will be short terminated at Dantewara.

1. The train No. 58501 Visakhapatnam-Kirandul Passenger leaving Visakhapatnam on from 07.03.2025 to 15.03.2025 will be short terminated at Dantewara.

2. The train No. 58502 Kirandul-Visakhapatnam Passenger will start from Dantewada from 08.03.2025 to 16.03.2025 instead of Kirandul.

3. The train No. 18515 Visakhapatnam- Kirandul Night Express leaving Visakhapatnam from 07.03.2025 to 15.03.2025 will be short terminated at Dantewara.

4. The train No. 18516 Kirandul- Visakhapatnam Night Express will start from Dantewada from 08.03.2025 to 16.03.2025 instead of Kirandul

## Ensure Water Arrangements and Fire Safety Precautions In View of the Ensuing Summer Season : Arun Kumar Jain



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, March 3 : Mr Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway held a detailed meeting on measures to be undertaken in view of the ensuing summer season and safety of train operations today i.e., 03<sup>rd</sup> March, 2025 at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad. Shri Neeraj Agrawal, Additional General Manager, SCR participated in the meeting along with Principal Heads of Departments. Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of all the six divisions viz.,

Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur, Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Nanded Divisions joined the review meeting through video conference. Mr Arun Kumar Jain advised all the divisions to take up necessary measures to ensure adequate water arrangements at stations, trains, railway colonies etc. before the summer season begins. He also instructed to observe all fire safety precautions including fire safety audits, maintenance of equipment etc to prevent any fire incidents in

Railway premises during summer. He advised to review the maintenance of AC's and water coolers in stations and trains, any defects found should be repaired immediately without delay, he said.

The General Manager also held a detailed review on smooth running of train operations. He stated that Safety, Punctuality and Loading are the three most important parameters of Indian Railways and all due effort must be made to maintain the same. He instructed the divisions to

examine the delays in some trains and rectify them so as to further improve the punctuality of train operations.

The General Manager reviewed the status of various safety drives being carried out across the zone. He advised the officials to adhere to all guidelines and strictly observe all safety measures to ensure smooth running of trains. He informed the officials to continue carrying out regular safety drives to educate on-field staff to avert untoward incidents or unsafe conditions.



organized at Rashtrapati Nilayam, Secunderabad, on February 27 and 28 on the occasion of National Science Day 2025.

Dr. Mahtab S. Bamji, Director of ICMR, New Delhi, and a renowned

Indian scientist; J A Chowdary, founding director of Software Technology Parks of India; and Dr. K. Rajani Priya, Director of Rashtrapati Nilayam the closing ceremony. The MANUU

team was felicitated with the award by these esteemed dignitaries.

In a separate event, MANUU Model School Class-9 student Habeeba Begum got 1st prize in Essay writing competition

organized by Telangana Science Fair Academy to celebrate National Science Day-2025 at Madina Education Centre, Nampally. Mahek Begum from Class-11 student got 3rd prize in poster presentation whereas the science project work of Mirza Zoya Begum & Sadia Begum (from class-11) got a place in Souvenir published by TSFA.

Mr Waseem Uddin Md, PGT-B i o t e c h n o l o g y, MANUU Model School, Hyderabad guided these students. Dr. Kafil Ahmad, Principal I/c congratulated the winners.