

IN BRIEF

Fire breaks out in 2 huts in Amberpet, no casualties

Hyderabad, Mar 4 (UNI): Two temporary huts on the pavement under the flyover at Amberpet near here were damaged after a fire broke out in one of them on Tuesday.

No casualties were reported in the fire.

The incident occurred after one of the huts caught fire suspected due to a short circuit, police said here. Fire Brigade personnel and police rushed to the spot and immediately doused the fire.

Corporate Innovation Conclave 2025 to be held at HICC on March 7

Hyderabad, Mar 4 (UNI) : Corporate Innovation Conclave 2025 (CIC'25) to be held at Hyderabad Convention Centre (HICC) here on March 7 (Friday).

CIC'25 is a premier platform designed to drive transformational growth through corporate-startup collaboration. This inaugural edition will bring together 300+ corporate leaders (CXOs, VPs, Directors), 100+ revenue-generating startups, and 100+ ecosystem partners (VCs, mentors, academia) to explore new frontiers of innovation, Hyderabad based T-Hub said in a release here on Tuesday.

The conclave will feature high-profile discussions, key partnership announcements, corporate innovation programs, and the Corporate Innovation Awards.

Key Speakers & Dignitaries at the Conclave are Sridhar Babu Duddila, Telangana Minister for IT and Industries, BVR Mohan Reddy, Founder Chairman & Board Director, Cyient, Rohit Chennamaneni, Co-founder, Darwinbox (Unicorn Founder) Sunil Reddy, Managing Director, Dodla Dairy, Senior executives from Maruti Suzuki, Broadridge, RNTBCI, JLR, Apollo Tyres, Hero MotoCorp, Deloitte, Carrier Global, Denso, Royal Enfield, HSBC, Kotak Bank, Standard Chartered, GMR, Qualcomm, Bosch, Decathlon, Vedanta, RPG, and several GCCs.

CM urges Centre to release dues for rice supply to FCI



Hyderabad/ New Delhi, March 4 (UNI) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday urged Union Minister for Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi to immediately release long

pending dues of Rs. 1,468.94 crore meant for the supply of Rice to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the 2014-15 Kharif season.

Reddy along with state

Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy met Pralhad in New Delhi, brought to the attention of the Union Minister that the pending dues were related to the additional levy

collection borne by the state government and requested to release the pending dues immediately as it has been 10 years the dues were pending.

The CM requested the Union Minister to release the arrears of Rs 343.27 crore for the supply of rice from May, 2021 to March, 2022 and in April, 2022 under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.

The Chief Minister also appealed to the union minister to release pending dues of Rs. 79.09 crore for rice distribution under the Non-NFSA (National Food Security Act) from June 2021 to April 2022 and extend the CMR (Custom Milling Rice) period by at least four months instead of one month to avoid hurdles in the supply.

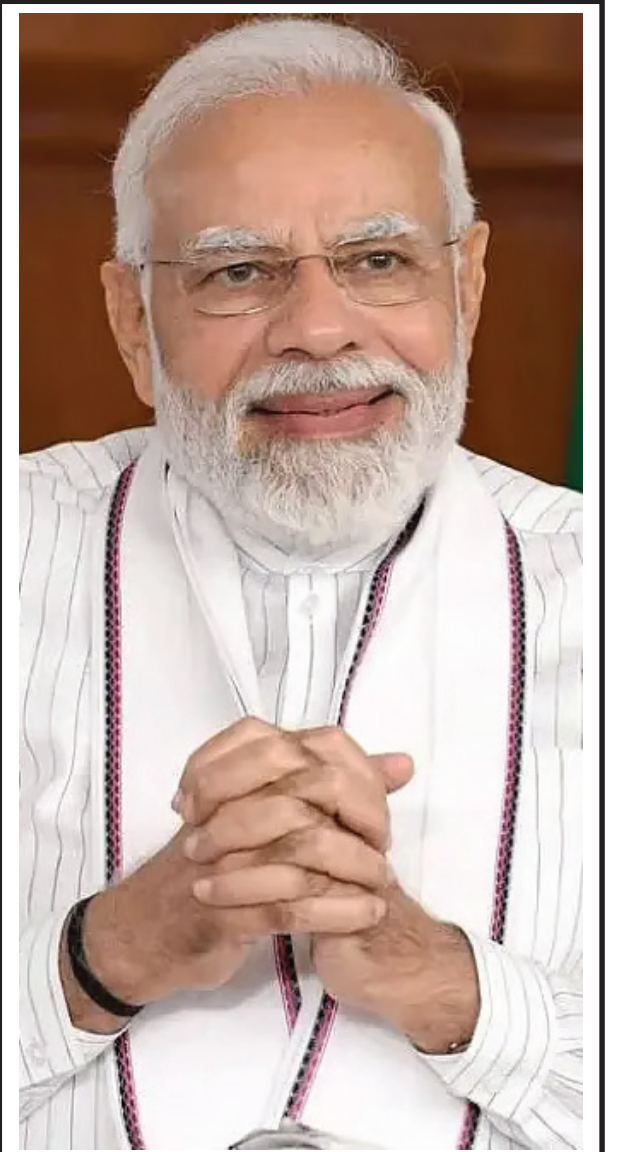
CS reviews arrangements for May 4 NEET exams

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, March 4 :Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari on Tuesday conducted a teleconference with district collectors, SPs and CPs and reviewed arrangements for the ensuing NEET Exam slated for May 4.

During the meeting, Shanthi Kumari stated that the state has a very good track record of conducting examinations and therefore arrangements have to be made to ensure that the exams are conducted in a foolproof manner.

She directed the collectors to identify government buildings with good infrastructure and adequate security arrangements. Government buildings such as Kendriya Vidyalayas, Government schools and colleges should be identified within the next few days.



PM Modi meets Princess Astri

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Princess Astrid of Belgium today and said he looks forward to the new bilateral partnership unlocking limitless opportunities in trade, technology, defence and agriculture. In a post on X, the PM said: "Pleased to meet HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium. Deeply appreciate her initiative to lead a 300-member Economic Mission to India. Look forward to unlocking limitless opportunities for our people through new partnerships in trade, technology, defence, agriculture, life sciences, innovation, skilling and academic exchanges."

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Supreme Court questions delay in deciding disqualification petitions against BRS MLAs

New Delhi, Mar 4 (UNI): The Supreme Court on Tuesday slammed the prolonged delay caused by the Assembly Speaker on the disqualification petitions against Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLAs who defected to the ruling Congress in Telangana, and questioned the impact of such delays on democratic principles.

A bench comprising Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih issued a formal notice to the respondents, including the Speaker, Assembly Secretary and Election Commission (ECI).

The Bench said, "Every matter can't be operation successful, patient dead...reasonable period (for deciding disqualification

pleas) should be end of the term!?"

In a democracy, this process should go on endlessly till the end of the term? What happens to democratic principles then?" Justice B.R. Gavai remarked in response to the Telangana Assembly Speaker's delay in adjudicating the petitions.

The bench was hearing the matter on Telangana Assembly Speaker's delay in adjudicating the petitions.

The Bench adjourned it to March 25 after the respondents, who had earlier stated they did not wish to file a reply and claimed they were unable to do so due to the absence of a "formal notice."

"When the matter was listed on January 31, 2025,

we directed it to be listed on February 10, 2025.

Senior Advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Shekhar Naphde appeared for respondent No. 3. Though not recorded in writing, we recall having asked Mr. Rohatgi whether the Speaker would specify a timeline for deciding the matter to avoid court intervention. Consequently, we listed it for February 20. On that date, Mr. Rohatgi informed us that he had instructions from the Secretary that no such statement could be made on behalf of the Speaker."

Justice Gavai further observed, "People are not interested only in getting the law decided; they are interested in how the decision affects [them]."

The observations came after BRS and its MLAs pointed out that the disqualification petitions against defected MLAs have been pending for over six months with no progress. The petitioners highlighted that one of the defected MLAs even contested the Lok Sabha election on a Congress ticket, while another was actively campaigning for the Congress party, and others were seen with the Telangana Chief Minister wearing Congress flags.

The petitioners contended that the Speaker's failure to act on the disqualification petitions amounted to a failure of "constitutional mandate."

"Today, when the matter is called, an objection is

raised by Dr. A.M. Singhvi and Mr. Rohatgi, stating that no formal notice was issued, preventing the respondents from filing a reply. While the objection is hyper-technical, we do not want any issue to arise later regarding principles of natural justice. Therefore, we issue a formal notice to the respondents."

During the hearing, Senior Advocate Aryama Sundaram, representing the petitioners, disputed the respondents' request for additional time to file a response, alleging it was a delaying tactic. He argued that the respondents had earlier stated their intention not to file a counter-affidavit, and nearly a year had passed without any

(Contd on page 3)

HC stays registration of FIR against ex-Sebi chief, 5 others in stock market fraud case

Mumbai, Mar 4 (UNI) The Bombay High Court on Tuesday stayed operation of order of a special court, directing the city police to register FIR (first information report) against former chairperson of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Madhabi Puri Buch, along with five others, for their alleged involvement in stock market fraud case, till four weeks.

A bench, headed by single judge Justice Shivkumar Dige, passed an order during the hearing of the plea moved by Buch and three current SEBI whole-time directors—Ashwani Bhatia, Ananth Narayan G and Kamlesh Chandra Varshney—as well as two BSE officials, managing director and CEO Sundararaman Ramamurthy, and former chairman and public interest director Pramod Agarwal.

The petitions sought quashing of the special court's order, which had instructed the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to register an FIR over alleged financial fraud linked to the 1994 listing of a company on the BSE. While granting stay on the lower court's order, the bench directed complainant Sapan Shrivastava (based upon whose complaint the special court issued directive) to file an affidavit in response to the petitions within four weeks' time. The bench in its order held that the special court had issued its order mechanically without examining the details or assigning specific roles to the accused.

Body shaming, derogatory comments hallmark of Congress : KTR

Hyderabad, March 4 (IANS) : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao said, on Tuesday, that body shaming, derogatory comments and delusional statements are a hallmark of Congress.

The former Telangana Minister reacted strongly to the comments made by Congress spokesperson Shama Mohamed about Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma.

"I don't see a reason why many are getting riled up over Congress spokesperson's comments on Rohit Sharma?! Body shaming, derogatory comments and delusional statements are a hallmark of Congress," Rama Rao posted on X.

He also apologised to Rohit Sharma. "I apologize as a fellow Indian for the vileness you had to endure

You are an absolute rockstar & no silly politician's opinion can tarnish your reputation," posted Rama Rao.

"To think Rohit Sharma needs fitness advice or sermons on achievements from a Congress spokesperson, is of course the cruel joke that gets passed off as politics!," added KTR, as the BRS leader is popularly known.

"Also! Do you know that a female Telangana Minister is appearing in court for her cheapest and most derogatory comments on film stars and families? Yes! This is their level of gutter politics!," wrote KTR.

He was referring to Endowment and Forest Minister Konda Surekha's comments blaming him for the divorce of actors Naga Chaitanya and Samantha Ruth Prabhu.

In October last year, KTR

filed a defamation suit against the Minister.

Popular actor Nagarjuna, who is the father of Naga Chaitanya, also filed a defamation case against her. Nagarjuna stated that Konda Surekha's remarks tarnished his family's reputation, which has been built over decades through their work in the film industry and social service initiatives.

Konda Surekha's comments made on October 2 evoked a strong reaction from Samantha, Naga Chaitanya, his family members, film personalities, and political leaders.

After Samantha issued a statement clarifying that her divorce was with mutual consent and amicable and urged the Minister not to trivialize her journey and to be responsible and respectful of individuals' privacy, Konda Surekha withdrew her comments.

'BJP's double engine' govts are proving to be curse for ...



The Congress on Tuesday alleged that under the 'BJP's double-engine governments', incidents of crimes against women have surged, while concrete action remains lacking. Addressing a press conference here, All India Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promises of protecting daughters are proving to be mere rhetoric.

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Steve Smith reveals why Australia headed to Dubai



To escape the "strict" security bubble in Pakistan, Australian captain Steve Smith decided to head to Dubai early that has allowed the players to loosen up and "chill" ahead of the Champions Trophy semi-final clash with India.

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Guyanese PM Mark Phillips discusses cooperation in



Visiting Guyanese Prime Minister Mark Phillips held a meeting with Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi today during which they discussed mutual collaboration in the renewable energy sector.

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Won't bow before corrupt officers: Punjab CM

Hoshiarpur, March 4 (UNI) Taking a tough stance against the agitating Tehsildars, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday said that the state government will not bow before "corrupt" officers, who are facing Police action for their "sins". The Chief Minister, who undertook a whirlwind tour to get the work of registration started at Kharar, Banur and Zirakpur tehsils, said the revenue officers had gone on mass leave in the wake of vigilance action against their corrupt officers.

He said the AAP government has zero tolerance against corruption but ironically by going on mass leave these officers are seeking license for corruption. Mann said such blackmailing will not be tolerated and severe action will be taken against the corrupt and haughty officers. He said their pressure tactics will not be tolerated at any cost and exemplary action will be taken against

them. The CM said the state government will recruit new Tehsildars and Revenue officers in the coming days, the agenda for which will be brought in the Cabinet.

He said the officers harass the common man on a daily basis but this will no longer be tolerated and the government will take strict action against them.

Mann said the officers who are going on mass leave should remember that after they return to work from their leave, when and where they will join will be decided by the people. He said the state government is ready with plan 'B' for tackling such "tantrums" and if needed powers of Tehsildars will be delegated to teachers and professors for smooth registration process.

He said the state government is committed to safeguarding the interests of the common man by all means and no one will be allowed to take them for granted.

PM Modi meets Princess Astrid

New Delhi, March 4 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Princess Astrid of Belgium today and said he looks forward to the new bilateral partnership unlocking limitless opportunities in trade, technology, defence and agriculture.

In a post on X, the PM said:

"Pleased to meet HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium. Deeply appreciate her initiative to lead a 300-member Economic Mission to India. Look forward to unlocking limitless opportunities for our people through new partnerships in trade, technology, defence, agriculture, life sciences, innovation, skilling and academic exchanges." The team comprised Princess Astrid, Foreign minister Maxime Prévot, Defence Minister Theo Francken, Flemish Minister-President Matthias Diependaele and Belgian ambassador Didier Vanderhasselt.

The meeting, originally scheduled for 30 minutes, ended up lasting an hour. A wide range of issues were discussed during the meeting, including labour

migration, pharmaceuticals, defence, diamonds, space exploration and green energy, a Belgian news portal said.

"We also wanted to make it clear that cooperation with India is not only B2B (business-to-business) but also G2G (government-to-government)," said Foreign Minister Prévot. "It is also a diplomatic mission. After all, India is the largest democracy in the world".

He also pointed out that the geopolitical landscape is evolving at a rapid pace. For this reason, it was agreed in the defence sector to set up a working group in India and Belgium to explore a structural framework for cooperation between the Belgian and Indian armed forces. Defence Minister Francken said he aims to have more clarity on this by the end of the year.

Flemish Minister-President Diependaele highlighted the strategic location of the port of Antwerp-Bruges and the significant investments Flanders is making in innovation. "With 3.6% of GDP devoted to research

and development, we are among the world leaders," he said.

On Monday, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar had met Princess Astrid who is leading an economic mission to India, and also held talks with the Belgium Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Maxime Prévot.

In posts on X, the EAM voiced confidence that the visit of the Belgium delegation will foster greater collaborations for stronger ties between India and Belgium and with the European Union.

On his bilateral talks with the Belgium DPM and FM, he wrote that the two sides held comprehensive discussions on advancing the bilateral partnership in trade, investment, clean energy, pharma, semiconductors, digital, and defence.

Belgium's Defence Minister Theo Francken, announced on Monday that a military attaché will be added to the Belgian Embassy in India following his meeting with his Indian counterpart, Rajnath Singh, in New Delhi.

This will be the first time

that the Belgian Embassy in India has a military attaché. "This region is very important, and China is becoming more aggressive," noted Francken. He emphasised the need for increased cooperation with India in defence matters. "Europe requires more weapons and ammunition, and we will look to India for this".

Belgian potato processor Agristo has set up a new production line for frozen French fries in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh. The pounds 80 million project was launched on Sunday during a visit by Princess Astrid of Belgium. Foreign Minister Maxime Prévot and Flemish Minister President Matthias Diependaele.

Princess Astrid was present to symbolically break ground as part of the economic mission she is leading.

Agristo has been active in India since 2019 through a joint venture with local company Masa. The partnership has improved potato yields and optimised supply chains. The expansion will double the factory's workforce from 150 to 300, a statement said.

SAD demands immediate release of farmer leaders arrested in pre-dawn swoop

Chandigarh, March 4 (UNI) : Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia on Tuesday demanded the immediate release of farmer leaders who had been arrested at the instance of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

The SAD also asked the Chief Minister to apologise to the leaders for threatening and misbehaving with them during an official meeting yesterday.

Expressing shock at the manner in which leaders of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), who had been invited for talks by the Chief Minister yesterday, were being treated, Majithia said "Mr Bhagwant Mann threatened the Kisan leaders with dire consequences when he was reminded of the promises he had made to farmers before assuming charge as chief minister in 2022".

He said this was followed up with raids and arrests of Kisan leaders in a pre-dawn swoop today in a bid to foil the March 5 agitation announced by them.

Reminding Mann about the promises made by him to farmers, the Akali leader said "Mann assured farmers

and farm labourers that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) would remodel farm policies to ensure no farm suicide occurred in the State. He also assured farmers that farm income would be doubled and that his government would implement the Swaminathan Report whether the centre did that or not. Farmers were also assured that every crop would be procured by the State on Minimum Support Price (MSP)".

Asserting that the Chief minister had reneged on each and every promise made to the farmers, Majithia said "when he was reminded of these promises he started threatening the farmers and walked out of the meeting rather than face them". Asserting that it was the democratic right of farmers to ask questions from the Chief Minister they had elected to power, he said "such an erratic and unstable behavior is unbecoming of a chief minister". He also requested AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal, now on a visit to Punjab to attend a Vipasana session, that Mann needed this treatment more than him and should be asked to attend the same to stabilize himself.

SC quashes rape case against Ex-Army Officer

New Delhi, Mar 4 (UNI) :The Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed all criminal proceedings in a rape case against former Indian Army officer Rakesh Walia, ruling that the complaint was "unbelievable" and constituted an "abuse of the process of law."

A bench comprising Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice K. Vinod Chandran noted that apart from the complainant's statements, no evidence was on record to substantiate the allegations.

Additionally, it was found that the same complainant had filed eight other identical First Information Reports (FIRs) against different individuals across multiple police stations in Delhi, but later refused to cooperate with investigations. The Bench emphasised that this was a case where the Delhi High Court should have exercised its powers under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (now Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita) to quash the proceedings.

Since the High Court had dismissed Walia's plea for quashing the case, the Supreme Court set aside the order and terminated all proceedings. The apex court noted that "Apart from her statement in the FIR and her statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (now under Section 183 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023), there is no other evidence on record. However, what is most concerning before this Court is that the same respondent has filed nearly identical cases against at least eight other individuals (nine cases in total).

These FIRs, lodged in different police stations across Delhi, involve offenses under Sections 34, 328, 354, 354A, 354D, 376, 377, 506, and 509 of the IPC. Additionally, we have been informed that after lodging the FIR, the complainant has not cooperated with the investigation and has not appeared before this Court despite being served with notice," the Supreme Court observed.

The complainant had alleged that when she met the appellant regarding a modeling assignment, he offered her a cold drink laced with sedatives, after which he raped her. However, the appellant refuted these claims, stating that their meeting was related to services she offered for promoting his books. He asserted that he was an author of five books, some of which were bestsellers.

"Considering the nature of the case and the cumulative circumstances, we are of the opinion that the criminal case initiated against the appellant is nothing but an abuse of the process of law. This is precisely the kind of case where the High Court ought to have exercised its inherent powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. (now under Section 528 B.N.S.S.) and should have quashed the proceedings," the bench ruled.

UP has changed its perception regarding law and order: Yogi

Lucknow, March 4 (UNI) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday highlighted the remarkable transformation in Uttar Pradesh's law and order situation and said there was a time when the mafia held sway, chasing people while the police retreated and even saluted them.

Participating in the budget debate in the state assembly, the CM said, "However, the state's image has significantly changed, earning respect from people across the country and the world. UP, once avoided by investors, has now emerged as the nation's top investment destination."

Citing NCRB data, he detailed the substantial decline in crime rates between 2016 and 2024. "There has been a reduction of 77.43 percent in the case of loot, robbery cases dropped by 84.41 percent, murder cases by 41.01 percent, violence and arson by 66.40 percent, housebreaking by 5.12 percent and kidnappings for ransom by 54.72 percent," he said.

Yogi emphasised that the legacy of past governments, which allowed lawlessness to thrive, has been dismantled. "The 'One District, One Mafia' era is now a thing of the past, replaced by a secure and stable environment built through eight years of consistent efforts," he said.

He attributed this success to comprehensive police reforms, which included enhancing facilities, improving training, adopting technology, ensuring transparency, fostering public communication and modernising policing practices.

He recalled the previous state of affairs when criminals operated fearlessly and even High Court judges were not spared from mafia intimidation. "In contrast, today, those same mafias cower before the law," he said.

The CM said that while the administration must project authority, the mafia now fears the system in UP.

EAM in London, meets UK Home Secretary

London/New Delhi, March 4 (UNI) :External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is visiting the UK, held talks with British Home Secretary Yvette Cooper and with the Secretary of State for Business and Trade Johnathan Reynolds.

He posted on X about his meetings.

With the British Home Secretary, the two sides discussed joint efforts in tackling human trafficking and extremism. "A good meeting with Home Secretary @YvetteCooperMP today in London. We discussed the flow of talent, people to people exchanges, and joint efforts in tackling trafficking and extremism." With the UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade, the two sides discussed progress in the FTA talks. "Pleased to meet Secretary of State for @bizradegovuk @jreynoldsMP today in London.

"General Manager's Safety Award for 2 Staff of Solapur Division of Central Railway



(Stanard Post Bureau)

Solapur, March 4 :General Manager, Central Railway Shri Dharam Veer Meena felicitated 2 Central Railway staff from Solapur Division with Safety Awards in a function held at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai on 04.03.2025.

The awards were given in appreciation of their alertness during duty, their contribution in averting untoward incidents and ensuring safety in train operations during the previous months. The award consists of a medal, commendation certificate, a citation of exemplary safety work and cash of Rs 2000/-.

1. Shri Manish Raj, Deputy Station Manager,

Operating, Martur "On 14.01.2025, when the relay room's AC stabiliser caught fire, he informed all concerned and extinguished the fire with a fire extinguisher. Due to his alertness and prompt action, an untoward incident was averted.

2. Shri Kumar Aman Raj, Loco Pilot (Good), Electrical, Wadi "On 16.01.2025, while operating a goods train, he saw a tractor falling on the track. He applied emergency brakes and stopped the train before the collision. Due to his alertness and prompt action, an accident was averted.

The General Manager in his address congratulated the awardees and

complimented them for their alertness and dedication towards their duties. He said that such acts of alertness and bravery will motivate others to sincerely work towards the safety of passengers and avert loss of freight and railway property.

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Solapur Division, Dr. Sujeet Mishra appreciated the award winning employees.

Additional General Manager Shri Prateek Goswami, Principal Chief Safety Officer Shri Chandra Kishore Prasad, other Principal Heads of Departments and Senior Officers of Central Railway were present on the occasion.

Calling someone 'Miyan-Tiyan' or 'Pakistani' in poor taste doesn't constitute an offence: SC

New Delhi, Mar 4 (UNI) The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that addressing a person as "Miyan-Tiyan" or "Pakistani" in poor taste does not constitute an offence under Section 298 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) related to hurting religious sentiments.

Discharging an individual from the charge under Section 298 IPC (uttering words with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings), the Court stated, "The appellant is accused of hurting the religious feelings of the informant by calling him 'Miyan-Tiyan' and 'Pakistani.' Undoubtedly, the statements made are in poor taste. However, they do not amount to hurting the religious sentiments of the informant." A bench

comprising Justice B.V. Nagarathna and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma was hearing an appeal against a judgment of the Jharkhand High Court, which had refused to discharge the appellant from the case.

The FIR was lodged by an Urdu translator and acting clerk (Right to Information) at the Sub-Divisional Office, Chas.

The complainant alleged that when he visited the appellant to provide information related to an RTI application, the accused verbally abused him made references to his religion, and used criminal force to obstruct his official duties. Consequently, charges were framed against the appellant under Sections 353, 298, and 504 of the IPC. The Supreme Court, however, found that

the complaint did not establish the necessary ingredients for these offences. It observed that there was no evidence of assault or use of force by the appellant to warrant a charge under Section 353 IPC. Additionally, the Court held that the appellant could not be charged under Section 504 IPC, as there was no act on his part that could have provoked a breach of peace. Senior Advocate A. Siraajudeen, along with Advocates Arya Kumari, Divya Singhvi, Pardeep Gupta, Parinav Gupta, Mansi Gupta, and Vipin Gupta appeared for the Accused.

Standing Counsel Vishnu Sharma, along with Advocates Shiv Ram Sharma, Tulika Mukherjee, Venkat Narayan, and Beenu Sharma appeared for the State.

'AAP has betrayed Punjab farmers'

Chandigarh, March 4 (UNI) Accusing the Aam Aadmi Party government of failing to fulfill the promises made to Punjab's farmers, Bharatiya Janata Party's National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Tuesday questioned Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann about the TOP-UP on MSP for six crops that was pledged by his regime.

Asking why the scheme has not been implemented yet, he wondered about the existence of the modern high-

yielding seeds which were promised to Punjab's farmers. Chugh slammed the AAP government for "betraying farmers" by not fulfilling its promise of loan waivers even after being in power for 36 months.

Phagwara Congress MLA Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal has strongly condemned the arrests of farmer leaders by the Punjab police and said, "This action of the government is a gross violation of democracy and constitutional rights."

Telangana institute to train media professionals from five nations

Hyderabad, March 4 (UNI) : Dr MCR HRD Institute launched a two-week training programme on Media Management for 26 journalists from Guyana, Suriname, Tanzania, Nepal and Sri Lanka here on Tuesday.

The training programme has been sponsored by the ITEC Division of the Ministry of External Affairs and will end on March 15.

Addressing after inaugurating the training programme, Dr Shashank Goel, Director General of the Institute & Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Telangana, said that journalism and media relations are not merely professions.

"They are indispensable pillars of all democratic societies, serve as the voice of the people, hold power to account, facilitate informed decision-making, and promote transparency in governance", he stated.

Dr Shashank Goel, stated that the media professionals from Guyana, Suriname, Tanzania, Nepal, and Sri Lanka find it extremely essential to keep their skill sets current and up-to-date to survive in the rapidly evolving media landscape.

"As these countries continue their journey of economic development and integration into the global community, free and responsible press has an important role to play in fostering democracy and

promoting socio-economic progress", he stated.

He noted that in the past, the traditional media, that is, Newspapers, Radio, and Television, from across the globe, held significant sway in public communications. However, he opined that the emergence of Social Media, with its huge speed and unprecedented access to global audience, has brought about a profound transformation in the world of media.

"In addition, Artificial Intelligence is revolutionizing the news industry. In this ever-changing media landscape, it is incumbent upon media professionals to uphold the principles of accuracy, impartiality, and ethical conduct in their pursuit of truth", he highlighted and called for the need to harness the power of both the traditional and the new media to connect with the citizens.

Dr Shashank said the wave of globalisation has transformed the world into a global village which underlines the need for the media professionals to broaden their vision, understand different issues in their right perspective, and try to find solutions to the problems by taking inputs from the global best practices.

On this occasion, he released the Course Manual.

Supreme Court questions delay in ...

(Contd from page 1)

progress in the case. Justice Gavai referenced the Supreme Court's ruling in Subhash Desai v. Principal Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, which held that the Speaker must decide disqualification petitions within a "reasonable period" but did not specify a timeframe. Sundaram, however, contended that the present case raised distinct issues not directly covered by Subhash Desai.

To ensure procedural clarity, the bench directed the respondents to submit their replies before the next hearing and scheduled the matter as the first item for hearing on March 25.

While some respondents waived formal notice, the Court instructed the Registrar General of the Telangana High Court to ensure service of notice to the remaining respondents. The Court also clarified that any pleadings from the respondents must be filed before the returnable date.

In a lighter exchange, Senior Advocate Dr. A.M. Singhvi quipped that he was well-suited to argue such cases as he had previously been a "victim"—a reference to his representation of petitioners seeking

disqualification of Uddhav Sena MLAs who defected to Shinde Sena. Justice Gavai humorously responded that the Court could discharge Singhvi from representing the respondents and instead appoint him as an Amicus.

The Supreme Court is currently hearing two petitions one filed by BRS and its MLAs challenging the Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker's delay in deciding disqualification petitions against seven MLAs who contested the 2023 Assembly election on a BRS ticket but later joined the Congress. The defected MLAs include Srinivas Reddy Parigi, Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, Kale Yadaiah, T. Prakash Goud, A. Gandhi, Gudem Mahipal Reddy, and M. Sanjay Kumar.

Another petition filed by Telangana MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy regarding the defection of three MLAs—Venkata Rao Tellam, Kadiyam Srihari, and Danam Nagender—from BRS to Congress.

In this case, the Supreme Court had earlier questioned the State Legislative Assembly on what would be a "reasonable period" for deciding disqualification pleas against defecting MLAs.

Govt urges Union Renewable Ministry to restore 4,000 MW solar power generation permit

Hyderabad, Mar 4 (UNI) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday urged Pralhad Joshi, who is also the Union Minister for Renewable Energy, to restore the 4,000 MW solar power generation permit granted to the state under the PM Kusum scheme earlier.

Reddy, who met the Union Minister in Delhi, said the state government was already promoting women self-help groups to become entrepreneurs in solar power generation.

He also said that the Centre had previously granted 4,000 MW permit to Telangana and later reduced it to 1,000 MW.

The Union Minister responded positively to the pleas made by Telangana CM in this regard.

South India will not lose Lok Sabha seats in delimitation, says MP Laxman

Hyderabad, March 4 (IANS) BJP MP K. Laxman said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given an assurance that South India will not lose a single Lok Sabha seat in the delimitation process.

The Rajya Sabha MP told media persons here that after the general census, delimitation of Parliamentary constituencies would be taken up and the reservation for women would be finalised.

Laxman said the population in Telugu states has come down compared to 2011.

Though population in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh has come down, the number of Parliamentary seats in these states will not come down.

The BJP leader pointed out that the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act proposed increasing the Assembly seats in Telangana to 153.

Laxman also denied that there was any talk of appointing a leader from South India as the National President of the BJP.

The MP said the party has already announced party presidents for 11 states and soon presidents for other states would also be appointed.

Laxman alleged that the government of Telangana was trying to mislead the Centre over the Regional Ring Road (RRR) and asked the Congress whether it was undertaking RRR for real estate business.

He accused the Congress of repeating the mistakes of the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government.

He alleged that BRS leaders tried to reap benefits with RRR alignment.

He said before coming to power Congress leaders had promised to rectify the mistakes of the BRS government but after coming to power they forgot the promises.



Delhi Assembly LoP Atishi and other AAP leaders protest demanding delivery of the first installment of Rs 2500 to women's accounts on March 8, the International Day for Women, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

AP man held for investment fraud to tune of Rs 14 Crore

Hyderabad, Mar 4 (UNI) : The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Cyberabad Police has arrested a man who allegedly cheated complainant and others to the tune of Rs 14 crore in the name of investment and good returns.

Based on a complaint A Jhansi, the accused Kandula Srinivasa Rao, native of Eluru, West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh, was arrested after registration of a case under sections 316 (2), 318 (4), 61

(2) of BNS and section 5 of the Telangana Protection of Depositors of Financial Establishment Act-1999 of EOW PS, Cyberabad, said K Prasad, Deputy Commissioner of Police, EOW, Cyberabad in a release here on Tuesday.

The 44-year-old accused person established several companies under the style of M/s Well Vision Group of companies and induced the customers / investors in the guise of investment /

deposits and huge monthly returns and cheated about 200 members and collected amount worth around Rs 14 Crore from them.

The accused ran his business from the office situated at Omkara Nilayam, Venkataramana Colony, KPHB Colony, Hyderabad.

The accused launched several attractive schemes offering high returns and cheated the innocent investors / depositors.

The investment schemes amount was in

range of Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000.

The accused persons gave MOU, Lease Deeds and post-dated cheques to victims as collateral security.

After collecting money from the victims, the accused paid monthly returns for few months only, later he failed to fulfil their promise and closed his company.

So far, 35 victims have approached the EOW, Cyberabad police station.

Conveyor belt becomes operational, fate of trapped workers still unknown

Hyderabad, March 4 (IANS) The rescue operation in the partially-collapsed Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district is expected to gather pace with the conveyor belt becoming operational on Tuesday. With the technical team successfully repairing the conveyor belt, the rescue teams will be able to expedite the movement of excavated silt and debris from the accident site where eight persons remained trapped for the last 11 days. The conveyor belt was broken when a portion of the tunnel's roof collapsed on February 22, trapping eight persons, including two engineers and two machine operators.

The accident occurred 14 kilometres inside the tunnel when the workers were engaged in digging works with the help of a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM).

The functioning of the conveyor belt plays a crucial role in expediting the movement of excavated debris, construction supplies, or other necessary materials within the tunnel, thereby it will be easier to trace missing workers, officials said.

The conveyor belt system is utilised to facilitate the smooth and efficient transportation of materials, ensuring uninterrupted progress in the tunnel's construction or maintenance work.

The fate of eight persons, hailing from Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, is still unknown as multiple teams, comprising 2 agencies of the Centre and the state government, continued the rescue operation

on the 11th day. The teams continued desilting and machine-cutting at the locations identified by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) after scanning the accident site through Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) two days ago. Disaster Management Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar, Nagarkurnool District Collector Badavath Santosh, and other officials were supervising the rescue operations. Officials have confirmed that the dewatering process is progressing swiftly.

The Army, the Navy, the NDRF, the SDRF, the HYDRAA, the Singareni Mines Rescue, the Fire Services, the South Central Railway, and other agencies were continuing the rescue operations.

Officials said advanced technology was being utilised under expert supervision to remove mud, sludge, and concrete debris from the tunnel.

To prevent further water inflow into the SLBC tunnel from above and from both sides, as well as to drain out the already accumulated water, special machinery has been deployed to operate continuously, ensuring the rescue operations proceed without hindrance.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy during his visit to the tunnel on Sunday had suggested the use of robots in the tunnel. The authorities are still exploring the possibility.

The Chief Minister had said that experts have not come to a conclusion whether eight missing persons are alive or dead. He said it may take another 2-3 days for the rescue workers to come to a conclusion on the issue.

Cyient and American Data Solutions forge strategic partnership to revolutionize content management

Hyderabad, Mar 4 (UNI) Cyient, a global Intelligent Engineering Solutions company, and American Data Solutions (ADS), a leading provider of digital content management solutions, on Tuesday announced a strategic partnership aimed at transforming the way businesses manage, access, and utilize digital content.

This collaboration combines Cyient's deep engineering expertise and global reach with ADS' cutting-edge content management technologies, a release said here.

ADS' advanced content management

portfolio includes scalable architecture, a multi-purpose digital data viewer, and robust security features.

The partnership will redefine content creation, storage, retrieval, and distribution, enabling businesses to operate with greater efficiency and intelligence.

Sukamal Banerjee, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, of Cyient, said, "Our partnership with ADS brings together Cyient's engineering excellence and ADS' advanced digital solutions to deliver next-generation, scalable, and intelligent content management

systems."

"By harnessing AI, ML, and cloud computing, we will create adaptive solutions that evolve with business needs, enhancing efficiency and decision-making. We are excited to accelerate the adoption of ADS' innovative solutions, ensuring businesses across industries benefit from seamless, future-ready content management. This client-centric approach will empower organizations to streamline operations, improve content accessibility, and drive meaningful impact," he

added.

"This collaboration with Cyient is a significant milestone in our journey to reshape the content management landscape," said Ran Meriaz, Chief Executive Officer, ADS. "Cyient's global reach and engineering expertise perfectly complement our innovative digital solutions.

With this partnership, Cyient and ADS are set to drive the next wave of digital transformation, empowering businesses to optimize content strategies and achieve unprecedented growth.

35-year-old woman techie commits suicide

Hyderabad, Marc 4 (UNI) : A 35-year-old woman software employee on Tuesday allegedly committed suicide at her house in Raidurgam, outskirts of the city, police said. The techie, identified as Devika from Vikarabad district, who is working for a software firm in Hitech city, was found hanging from the ceiling fan in the bedroom, police said.

She is suspected to have committed suicide allegedly due to the harassment from her husband, who is also currently working in a software company.

The duo got married last August in Goa and moved into an apartment in Raidurgam. The body was shifted to a government hospital for autopsy.

"We did not find any suicide note from the crime spot but the family members filed a complaint alleging dowry harassment, following which a case has been booked and investigated," police said

Counting underway for Graduate constituency

Hyderabad, March 4 (UNI) : The counting of votes polled for the Karimnagar-Medak-Adilabad-Nizamabad MLC Graduates constituency on Feb 27, continued on the second day on Tuesday.

BJP candidate Anji Reddy is continuing in the lead in the counting of first-preference votes against Congress aspirant V Narender Reddy and BSP candidate Prasanna Harikrishna.

After completing the ballot papers separation process, election authorities started the counting of votes on Tuesday morning.

21,000 votes are being counted in each round by arranging 21 tables; 1,000 votes are being counted on each table.

About 2,52,100 votes including postal ballots were polled in the graduates' constituency elections held on February 27.

Of them, 28,000 were found invalid and 2,24,000 were valid.

Elections were held for three MLC seats in the state including one graduate constituency of Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar and two teacher constituencies --Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar, and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda -- on February 27 and counting started on March 3.

However, the two teachers' MLC seats results have been a mixed bag with BJP securing one and Progressive Recognised Teachers' Union (PRTU) claiming another on Monday.

The BJP contested all three seats, Congress only graduates' seat and BRS had opted out of the contest.

STANDARD POST

21 Indian startups raise over \$105 million in funding this week

About 21 Indian startups collectively raised approximately \$105.87 million this week, with securing funding across different stages.

Among them, three startups raised funds at the growth stage, while 16 early-stage startups attracted investments.

In the previous week, nearly 22 startups raised around \$184.4 million. On average, in the last eight weeks, startup funding has stood at approximately \$317.35 million per week, with around 28 deals taking place weekly.

In the growth-stage funding, B2B cross-border e-commerce startup Geniemode led the chart by raising \$50 million in a Series C round backed by Multiples Alternate Asset Management.

MOC Cancer Care & Research Centre secured \$18 million in a Series B round led by Elevation Capital, while a fintech unicorn raised \$12 million in debt from AK Capital Finance.

At the early stage, 16 startups collectively raised \$25.87 million. The largest early-stage funding went to Quick Clean, a professional linen management solutions provider, which secured \$5.7 million in a Series A round.

Other early-stage startups that attracted funding included content platform FanTV, EV ecosystem platform Vidyut, fintech startup Lorien Finance, and cross-border payments platform HiWiPay.

Startups like quick commerce player KiranaPro and gaming startup 1312 Interactive also raised funds but did not disclose the amount.

Bengaluru emerged as the top city for startup funding, with nine deals taking place, followed by Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, and other cities.

Among sectors, fintech led the funding race with four deals, followed by e-commerce, healthtech, spacetechnology, and gaming startups, which secured two deals each.

The week also saw key mergers and acquisitions. Veranda Learning acquired stakes in BB Virtuals and Navkar Digital to strengthen its commerce education segment. Flipkart's UPI app, Super.money, acquired fintech startup BharatX to expand its credit offerings.

Restoring the Sacred Shores: The Massive Cleanup Effort After Maha Kumbh 2025

From Devotion to Action: Ensuring a Cleaner and Greener Prayagraj



(By Ravi Kumar Boppana)

The Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj was an extraordinary spectacle of faith and devotion, bringing together an unprecedented 66.30 crore devotees to the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati. Over 45 days, this grand spiritual gathering not only reinforced the deep cultural and religious heritage of India but also showcased an exceptional commitment to cleanliness and environmental responsibility.

Setting a new benchmark in mass sanitation, the event earned a place in the Guinness World Records for the largest Ganga Cleaning Drive and Mass Cleaning Initiative. A record-breaking 329 and 19,000 individuals, respectively, participated in these efforts, demonstrating the power of collective action. Recognizing the dedication of the sanitation workers who worked tirelessly throughout the event, the Chief Minister announced

a salary hike of ₹16,000, effective from April 2025, along with a ₹10,000 bonus as a token of appreciation.

As the festival concluded, a new challenge emerged—the restoration of the city and the pristine condition of the Kumbh area. Given the scale of the event, cleaning the Maha Kumbh site required an equally

massive effort. To address this, the state government swiftly launched a 15-day intensive cleanliness drive aimed at restoring the Kumbh Mela area to its original purity. Thousands of sanitation workers, supported by dedicated volunteers, took on the enormous task of cleaning the riverbanks, roads, and temporary settlements.



While the grand

festivities have come to an end, the message of cleanliness and environmental responsibility continues to resonate. Officials and environmentalists have urged the public to uphold the sanctity of these sacred waters and maintain cleanliness in the region. A local official overseeing the cleanup campaign remarked, "The

Maha Kumbh may be over, but its message of cleanliness and reverence for our environment must continue. It is our collective duty to ensure that our rivers remain pure and free from pollution."

workers, security personnel, and local authorities. Acknowledging their hard work, the state government honored these "karmayogis" who played a crucial role in keeping the Kumbh area clean. Over 15,000 sanitation workers and 2,000 "Ganga Seva Doots" worked day and night to ensure the cleanliness of

the holy rivers and fairgrounds, reinforcing the commitment to a Swachh Kumbh. "The cleanup drive extended beyond waste collection. It involved a systematic approach to waste disposal, the dismantling of temporary structures, and the restoration of the area's ecological balance. Special efforts were made

to remove over 1.5 lakh portable toilets, transport collected waste to the Baswar plant in Naini for proper disposal, and systematically dismantle temporary pipelines and streetlights to return the site to its original state. Makeshift settlements, including tents and pandals set up for sages and pilgrims, were carefully removed,

allowing the natural beauty of the region to resurface. Even as the last devotees departed from the sacred city, the state government ensured that the spiritual essence of the Maha Kumbh reached those who could not attend in person. In a remarkable initiative, fire services and emergency departments were tasked

with transporting the holy water from the Triveni Sangam to all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh. Over five lakh liters of consecrated water were distributed, allowing devotees across the state to experience the blessings of the Maha Kumbh from their homes. This initiative also extended to prisons, where more than 90,000 inmates were given the opportunity to bathe in the sacred water—an unprecedented gesture in the history of the Kumbh. This effort exemplified the spirit of inclusivity, ensuring that faith transcended barriers and reached every individual, regardless of their circumstances.

The Maha Kumbh 2025 was not just a spiritual gathering but a testament to human resilience, responsibility, and the collective spirit of maintaining a cleaner and more sustainable environment. As devotees carry with them the memories of their sacred journey, the city of Prayagraj stands rejuvenated, ready to embrace the next chapter in its timeless history.

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

Safety Seminar organized at Technical Training Center of BLW under 54th National Safety Week

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 4: On the occasion of the inauguration of the 54th National Safety Week-2025 programme being celebrated from 04 to 10 March at Banaras Locomotive Workshop, Varanasi, a safety seminar "Safety and Health - Essential for Developed India" was organized at the Technical Training Center on 04 March. The Chief Guest of the program, General Manager Mr. Naresh Pal Singh was welcomed by Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Mr. Vivek Sheel by presenting a plant and putting a badge. On this occasion, Chief Guest, General Manager Mr. Naresh Pal Singh, in his lecture on the subject of safety, emphasized on ensuring 100 percent compliance of safety standards at the workplace, giving priority to safety and security.

Sharing his experiences with the aim of further strengthening safety, he said that safety is everyone's responsibility as well as one's own responsibility. In the program, the Chief Guest administered the safety



oath to the people present. In the program, Chief Safety Officer Mr. S.B. Patel presented the details of the safety related works done throughout the year in BLW through a Power Point presentation. On this occasion, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Mr. Vivek Sheel guided the employees by giving a lecture on safety.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Safety Awareness Week being celebrated at Banaras Locomotive Workshop, Varanasi, the artists of BLW Bharat Scouts and Guides, presented an impressive street play "Bar-Bar Batana Hai" under the direction of Mr. Amlsh Srivastava. The

artists depicted the small mistakes made during daily work in the workshop and the carelessness on the road very well. In this street play, Amit Kumar Srivastava, Ayushi Pandey, Aritra Rai, Nancy Singh, Shaurya Kumar, Anjali Dubey, Bhaskar Mishra, Jansi Singh, Anuj Singh and Mahima Kumari won the hearts of the audience with their excellent acting. The presentation manager was Mr. Sunil Kumar. The General Manager awarded a cash prize for the best performance of this realistic street play. "The program was conducted in a good manner and the vote of thanks was given by Safety Officer Mr. Anoop Singh

Vats. On this occasion, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Mr. Vivek Sheel, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Mr. Janardan Singh, Principal Chief Engineer Mr. Vinod Kumar Shukla, Principal Financial Advisor Mr. Muktesh Mittal, Principal Chief Medical Officer Mr. Devesh Kumar, Principal Chief Security Commissioner Mr. Nurul Hoda, Deputy General Manager Mr. Anuj Katiyar, Public Relations Officer and other officers and employees as well as Joint Secretary of Employees Council Mr. Shrikant Yadav and members Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Mr. Amit Kumar, Mr. Amit Yadav and Mr. Manish Singh etc. were present."

'BJP's double engine' govts are proving to be curse for daughters: alleges Congress

New Delhi, Mar 4 (UNI) The Congress on Tuesday alleged that under the 'BJP's double-engine governments', incidents of crimes against women have surged, while concrete action remains lacking.

Addressing a press conference here, All India Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promises of protecting daughters are proving to be mere rhetoric, raising questions about the government's commitment to women's security.

"BJP's 'double engine' governments in the country are proving to be a curse for daughters. Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, wherever you look, many heinous crimes have been committed against daughters and the police is remaining a mute spectator in these cases," she alleged.

A case of molestation of the daughter of a Union Minister and her friends has come to light in Maharashtra. After the FIR, it was revealed that the molester was a former BJP councilor, Lamba said. She said he has been seen in photographs with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and other senior BJP leaders. If the Union Minister himself is denied justice, he may have to step down from his position and join the fight for his daughter's cause, along with many others facing similar struggles. The All India Mahila Congress President said that on March 8, the International Women's Day will be celebrated, but what about the crimes being committed against daughters?

"In Pune, a 19-year-old girl was gang-raped at knifepoint, and a video of the incident was recorded, yet no action was taken. Meanwhile, Gujarat has witnessed 17,000 cases of crimes against women over the past nine years, with nearly 200 girls approaching the police every month in search of justice, she alleged.

In Gujarat, a BJP MLA was booked for the rape of a Dalit woman following the High Court's directive. This incident highlights how the police appear to side with the perpetrators rather than supporting the victims, Alka Lamba said. She further claimed that crimes against women are rampant in BJP-ruled states and that many of these incidents have connections to BJP members.

Relationships



How pets cool off in Summer

heat.

Doggie ice cream? It's pawisable!

Dogs need to have cold treats in summer as they get heated up really fast. These have to be all-natural and are just meant to cool them down. Says dog food maker Yadika Sharma, "Dogs can't have sugar, but you can sometimes give them an ice cube to play around with, just make sure the cube is of a size that they

The next time your dog looks at you, panting and with his tongue out, he's not asking for a pat on the head, he might be suffering a sunstroke. That's one of the key symptoms of the heat-based illness, say experts. "We get an increasing number of complaints about pets suffering from sunstroke," says veterinarian Dr Persis Ghiara.

"Pugs and boxers are more affected as they are more hyper. The more excitable a dog is, the more he is running around, pulling things, the more susceptible he is to the heat," she adds. Another huge reason for this is when pet owners go shopping and leave their pets in a car without the window rolled down, says vet Sunita

Spa-cial remedies

Dogs need skin care in summer just like humans do. Says animal care professional Gauri Keskar, "Dogs get rashes, hotspots etc and what helps the most is if you trim 50% of their hair. This makes them cooler and more comfortable. The other important thing is to give them anti-tick and flea baths. You also have soothing aroma baths — like cucumber-watermelon, mild olive and strawberry-apple. And to soothe the skin, there are

- Hose him with cool shower or let him stand in a tub of water.

- Put a cold compress on his head to lower the body temperature.

- Rush him to the vet who will administer an intravenous to hydrate him as well as (sometimes) an anti-histamine, so the animal does not go into shock.

Some quick solutions Dr Ghiara presents a few easy tips to help pets to battle the hot season...

1. If you have an air-conditioner at home,

From jumping into the pool, to getting some spa 'TLC' and licking on doggie ice-creams, animals are finding their own way to beat the heat



Patel. "I have had two to three cases like this already. Now, temperatures are touching 40 degrees and to leave dogs or even animals like cows, tied up outside in that heat, is hazardous for them." With the mercury set to rise even further, make sure you know how to help your pet cooled down the right way. There's a lot one can do, from exotic treatments at the spa, to simple techniques and even foods that can help them battle the

won't choke on. You can also make frozen yoghurt made with plain, low-fat yoghurt, in say, fresh strawberry and carrot chip. In addition, try making sorbets with just fresh fruit and ice and minus any dairy products and sugar. We've made ones with crushed watermelon and honey as well as banana, pineapple and even mango. These are set in an ice tray or made into bone and paw shapes; dogs love them."

meal or aloe-based (which is cooling) shampoos," she says.

Heat stroke symptoms in dogs

- Excessive panting, lethargy
- Suffocation
- Temperatures rising above 105 to 106 degrees farhenheit

What to do immediately:

- Put your dog in the bath tub.

keep it on for a few hours a day.

2. Dogs must have adequate water to drink. Keep a bowl filled with water in the room at all times. Your dog will sense the requirement of how much to drink and you can refill it accordingly. You may also add some ice to the bowl so the water is cooler.

3. Make sure the animal gets enough shade.

If you keep the dog in the verandah, make sure there is an enclosure or covered porch space.

4. Let your dog take a dip in the pool if you have one. But pet pools are expensive and rare, so instead have a portable pool at home for it. You could give the dog a hand shower once a day, if say, the dog has been out for a long while. But my advice is that it is preferable to take it out for a walk before 7 or 8 am and after 6 in the evening.

Heat stroke in cats Cats cannot tolerate rising heat. Their breathing starts to become shallow and it can escalate into heatstroke. Cats pant or sweat through their foot pads so as to get rid of this excess heat. It is important to help a cat cool down or else the temperature can result in organ damage or even death.

Watch out for these signs:

- Restlessness and panting
- Sweaty paw pads
- Higher rectal temperature
- Redness of the tongue and mouth
- Vomiting

What to do immediately:

Says Dr Dipti Valavalkar, "It's important to keep cats out of the direct sunlight as much as possible. But in case the cat does suffer from heatstroke, keep it in an airconditioned or cooler environment. Put a wet cloth on it. You must also rush the animal to the vet who will see what is wrong, monitor the cat and administer the right medications to it."

Heard of paw booties?

As the hot tar road and pavement can hurt the dog's paws, you can get your pet dog booties. "These are good but they only protect the paws and cannot prevent heatstroke. Also, dogs may not be acceptable to wearing them," warns Dr Ghiara.

Innovative ways to make family time count

Here are ways to ensure that you bond better with your folks

Take classes together

Join yoga or aerobics classes offered for parents and kids together. If your little one is too young to participate, look for classes that help you burn calories with your baby by incorporating him into your yoga moves or just take them along with you for an evening walk, or jump into the pool for a swim and bond.

Holiday time

Getting away from the city, automatically, helps you switch off from the daily grind. Family holidays are great occasion for each member of the family to get relaxed. Only a peaceful environment can help them to forget the tensions and rejuvenate the mind and body to lead life actively and happily.

Happy eaters

Get the kids to accompany you to the market and let them pick their own fruits and vegetables. Involve them in the food preparation. This way, they are more likely to enjoy their meals and try new things. This would prevent you from stressing on what the little one's eating habits. Likewise, what toddlers munch on during snack time will have a lasting effect on their health down

the road. The period from birth to two years is a critical window for the promotion of optimal growth.

No desserts as rewards

The easiest way for parents to get their little ones to eat fruits and veggies is by bribing them with a candy post meal. However, this bribe can cost their health in the long run because it builds a greater aversion to foods like peas, bitter gourd and long gourd. Often, parents offer a food once, and if the child doesn't eat it, they never reintroduce it. The

key is to introduce (children) to new foods.

Family dinners

A 2000 survey found that the nine to 14-year-olds who ate dinner with their families frequently consumed more fruits and vegetables and less cola and fried foods. Their diets also had higher amounts of many nutrients, like calcium, iron, and fibre. While on the table, serve your child small portions. A study has also found that when children served themselves food, the portions were appropriate for their age, whereas when adults served them double portions, the children ate 25 per cent more. Kids who frequently eat with their families are less likely to get depressed or develop an eating disorder.

Be there fully

It doesn't help if you are just there physically at home, and mentally still occupied with your job. So, set aside a specific time when you check your mails and return calls, instead of doing so throughout the day. Once home from work, also tape a note to the telephone that says 'No!' to remind you not to spread yourself too thin.

Revive date plans

Happy parents make happy kids. So, it won't hurt to revive the dating game. Catch a film or head out for a cup of coffee, while your kids are asleep. Working out together is also a fun way of spending time with your partner.

Redo your room

Too often, family rooms are the centre of laziness in a home. Change things around. Get the room painted in brighter colours or replace the comfy sofa with a bean bag. Clear up the clutter to breathe in new energy into the room.

Make chores fun

Instead of assigning each family member a chore to do alone, turn chores into a game you can do together. Race to see how fast you can get the house cleaned, and then try to beat your old time the next week. Play music while you are doing laundry and enlist the kids to sing and dance while helping to fold and put clothes away.

Top 10 annoying office habits!

Overbearing, obsessively rude, noisy, and opinionated - there are so many things that can be found annoying in that one person in office. So, what actually are some of the 'universally' bad behaviours for office work? Here's a look at the top 10 annoying office habits...



1. Office drummers - There are lesser annoying office habits than the person who has to tap out a rhythm while waiting for their brain to submerge into the work they're assigned.

2. Foghorn phone voice - The breed of office worker who raises their tone several decibels as soon as they pick up the phone.

3. Pod pong - Well, these are those people who marinate themselves in perfumes overnight.

4. Key smashers - All offices have at least one person who appears to think that to make the little symbols on their keyboard appear on the screen, they need to exert the force of an atomic bomb through the ends of their digits.

5. Paid for nothing - In this case, an employee gets paid for standing out in the sunshine chatting to wheezy and addicted mates while the fresh-lunged members of the workforce are indoors putting their mind to work.

6. Snot funny - What is it with people, who riddled with pleurisy, the bubonic plague or cancer of the entire body, still

think it's a good idea to come in to work? The world really won't stop if that report doesn't get finished and the boss more likely regards you as a mug than a martyr. Your work mates, of course, will shower you with love for ruining their plans for the weekend and keeping their kids out of school.

7. Lucifer's lunch - Egg and mayonnaise sandwiches, tuna fishcakes, blue cheese with crackers, breakfast burritos with extra onion and chips with salt and vinegar - all food items which should be banned from the workplace, thanks to their smell.

8. Ringtone hell - This section includes all those people who play bits of their favourite heavy metal music collection from a speaker on their desk, via their mobile phone.

9. Space invaders - You distinctly remember hearing the boss bring your new work mate over to his or her work area and say, "This is your desk". The boss did not follow that up with the words, "but feel free to use your colleague's desk for overspill if there's not enough room for your inane gossip magazines and pictures of your 17 children".

10. Eau de underarm - There are fewer things more noxious than a damp-shirted male who, after working up a sweat running for the bus, is left to "mature" over a keyboard for eight hours.



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ECoR, DRM Lali Bohra and Jyotsna Bohra interact with Boxers at the Indian Railway Boxing Men's Coaching camp



(Standard Post Bureau) Visakhapatnam, Mar 4 : The Indian Railway Boxing Men's Coaching Camp, being held at the East Coast Railway Sports Association in Waltair, received a special visit from the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Waltair Division, East Coast Railway, Shri Lalit Bohra, and President of the East Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organisation, Waltair Smt. Jyotsna Bohra, today. The two dignitaries interacted with the boxing players who are undergoing intensive training as part of the ongoing coaching camp, which will conclude

of the facilities provided to the boxers, the training program in place, and the necessary support offered to the athletes. Both the dignitaries along with Sports officer Shri Praveen Bhati toured the venue and closely interacted with the players to understand their needs, feedback, and any additional requirements that could help improve their training experience.

Bohra expressed his admiration for the athletes' dedication and the efforts being made to ensure a high level of coaching and support. He assured the players that the East Coast

Railway is committed to promoting sports and will continue to provide all necessary facilities to nurture talent. The session also witnessed the inauguration of a boxing bout, where DRM Shri Lalit Bohra and Smt. Jyotsna Bohra took the opportunity to motivate the players and emphasize the importance of hard work, discipline, and perseverance in achieving success in the sport. General Secretary of



on 23rd March 2025.

During the visit, DRM Mr Lalit Bohra and Smt. Jyotsna Bohra were given a comprehensive overview

dedication and the efforts being made to ensure a high level of coaching and support. He assured the players that the East Coast

ECoRSA Waltair and Railway Boxing Coach Shri Reddy Srinivas and other sports personalities were there during the DRM visit.

Indian cricketer Shubman Gill is brand ambassador for MRF Tyres

Chennai, Mar 4 (UNI) : MRF Limited, which is who is amongst the top global tyre manufacturer, on Tuesday announced Indian Vice-captain Shubman Gill as its Brand Ambassador.

A company release here said MRF Limited, welcomed Shubman Gill, the Indian Team's Vice

Captain in the ICC Champions Cup as their Brand Ambassador.

Shubman Gill, who was recently announced as the No 1 ranked ODI batter in the ICC Men's

Player rankings, joins a group of elite cricketers who have been associated with the MRF name.

Shubman Gill's association was announced by MRF as a partnership that will extend across all future cricket tournaments.

This association is in addition to the ongoing relationship with India's star batsman Virat Kohli. Mr K M Mammen Chairman and Managing Director announcing this said "We are delighted to welcome Shubman to the MRF Family for a relationship that will endure like other cricketing greats who have been associated with our Organisation. Shubman plays a brand of cricket which is elegant and impactful, the leadership

skills he is displaying are inspiring in all formats of cricket."

"MRF is a brand synonymous with cricket's growth in India and stands for Quality, Performance and Excellence. A young cricketer like me has grown up watching cricketers create magic with the MRF bat. So, it's an absolute pleasure to be part of such a legacy. I believe MRF stands for resilience and grit on and off the field. My endeavour through this partnership would be to continue striving for innings that help India stay on the top always," said Shubman Gill.

Andy Murray to coach Djokovic

London, Mar 4 (UNI) : Andy Murray will reprise his coaching role with Novak Djokovic at the upcoming Indian Wells tournament and stay with the 24-time major champion for the Miami Open.

Djokovic (37) plans to compete at both ATP Masters events - played back-to-back and known as the 'Sunshine Double' - for the first time since 2019.

Murray's team said the 37-year-old Scot flew out to the United States on Monday, according to a BBC report.

The Indian Wells main draw starts later

this week, with the Miami Open following on March 19. Djokovic's last competitive outing was a first-round defeat by Italy's Matteo Berrettini at the Qatar Open on 18 February, when Murray was not present.

Djokovic began working with his long-time rival, who retired from playing in August, on a trial basis at January's Australian Open.

Djokovic reached the Melbourne semi-finals but was forced to retire from his match against Germany's Alexander Zverev with a hamstring injury.

J&K CM launches website for Khelo India Winter Games

Jammu, Mar 4 (UNI) : Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday launched the official website for Khelo India Winter Games 2025 (kwig2025.com) here at the Civil Secretariat.

The launch event was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Ministers Javed Ahmad Rana and Satish Sharma, and Gulmarg MLA Farooq Ahmad Shah. Also present were Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary GAD and Information M



Raju, Secretary Law, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Secretary J&K Sports Council and other officials, both in person

and virtually. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended his best wishes to the organizers and

inquired about the arrangements and finalization of dates for the event.

In her presentation,

Kohli compares CT semifinal knock to Pak game

Dubai, Mar 4 (UNI) Star Indian batsman Virat Kohli drew parallels between his composed innings in the Champions Trophy semifinal against Australia and his performance against Pakistan, emphasising the importance of partnerships and strike rotation in challenging conditions.

"It was pretty similar to the other day against Pakistan as well. For me, it is about understanding the basics and preparing my game accordingly—just rotating strike because, on this pitch, partnerships are the most important thing," Kohli said after his match-winning 84.

The former India captain highlighted his strategy of pacing the innings efficiently. "My only effort that day and today was to string in enough partnerships. The time that I got out, the plan was to get 20 more and try and finish it off in a couple of overs. Usually, that's the template I follow, but sometimes you can't execute what you want to."

Reflecting on the aspects of his knock that pleased him the most, Kohli pointed to his timing and composure at the crease. "I wasn't feeling desperate and felt happy knocking ones around. When, as a batsman, you start taking pride in taking singles into the gaps, that is when you know you are playing good cricket and are in for a big partnership."

The seasoned campaigner reiterated that his ability to rotate strike and stay composed played a crucial role in his both innings against Australia and Pakistan. "That was the most pleasing factor for me," he concluded.

India captain Rohit denies Dubai base gives his team edge over Australia

Dubai, Mar 4 (UNI) India captain Rohit Sharma has dismissed suggestions that his team has had an unfair advantage by being allowed to play all their Champions Trophy matches in Dubai.

India have spent the Champions Trophy in Dubai, whereas Australia have just flown in from Pakistan, but skipper Rohit Sharma says, 'this is not our home', according to a Cricket Australia report.

India refused to tour Pakistan for the tournament because of the strained

Odisha to develop Grassroots Sports Ecosystem : Suraj

Bhubaneswar, Mar 4 (UNI) : Master plan for the construction of block-level stadiums will be taken up for the development of the grassroots sports ecosystem in Odisha, Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj said.

A review meeting of the Sports and Youth Services Department held under the chairmanship of the Sports Minister here on Monday decided to focus on the master plan for construction of stadiums at the block level

in the state. The state government had already allocated Rs 4,124 crore for the construction of block-level stadiums across Odisha.

The initiative aims to nurture sporting talent in every village and block, ensuring a strong foundation for the state's sports ecosystem. Our primary focus is to enhance grassroots sports, nurture talent and provide quality training to the sportspersons, Sports Minister Suraj emphasized. To promote

grassroots-level sports, he said the CM Trophy competition has been introduced.

The Minister said Odisha's athletes have also performed well in this year's National Games and the state secured a position among the top 15 states in the country in National Games.

In addition to infrastructural development, Suraj directed the department officials to expedite all the projects and ensure their timely execution.

Steve Smith reveals why Australia headed to Dubai early that could prove Champions Trophy masterstroke

Dubai, Mar 4 (UNI) : To escape the "strict" security bubble in Pakistan, Australian captain Steve Smith decided to head to Dubai early that has allowed the players to loosen up and "chill" ahead of the Champions Trophy semi-final clash with India.

The Australians moved to Dubai across the weekend without knowing who their semi-final opponent would be, risking another flight back to Pakistan amidst an already hectic schedule, according to a News.com.au report.

But captain Smith said the need for some freedom helped steer them to the location where their opponents have played and trained for the entire tournament, an advantage that has sparked significant criticism.

Smith wasn't even asked about the Indian advantage in a pre-match press conference with little other than Indian media in

attendance but said team officials had "guessed right" and the extra days in Dubai, including a long conversation with the groundsman at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, could prove critical in exceeding early expectations and making another final.

"We guessed right in the end, ideal to be here and have a couple of days preparation. Had we stayed and waited for last night's result, we would have had to have flown here today and play tomorrow, not get a chance to train on the surface or get used to the conditions that we have at the academy," Smith said.

"And if we had to go back, we would have just got on the same plane back as New Zealand and had a day there before playing, so it made sense to us."

"We had a little reset and a chance to have a couple of days here outside of a pretty strict sort of

bubble. I suppose, in Pakistan with the security and stuff. It's been nice to just have a couple of days chill here, a bit of training. A couple of guys have played some golf and wandered around and done some stuff like that.

"We're well prepared for tomorrow now and looking forward to it."

Smith didn't give any selection secrets on who will replace injured Matt Short at the top of the order, with the potential for another spinner to come in.

The wicket for the semi-final is a used one and "certainly looks a dry surface", according to Smith, which will make combating India's spinners, and the use of his own slow bowlers, crucial.

"I think for us the game's probably won and lost how we play this spin, particularly in the middle overs, the way we get through there. It's going to be a challenge," he said.

differently.

"There are four or five surfaces that are being used and every surface has a different nature," the opener said ahead of Tuesday's semi-final against Australia.

"The pitches look the same, but when you play on it, it has played in a different way. So, you can't go thinking 'we played like this yesterday, and today we'll play like this'."

"We don't know which pitch is going to be played in the semi-final. But whatever happens, we have to adapt and see what is happening."

"This is not our home, this is Dubai. We don't play so many matches here. This is new for us too."

Nevertheless, that India's four-pronged spin unit claimed nine of the 10 New Zealand wickets on

Sunday while successfully defending 9-249 reflected the turn on offer in Dubai.

Varun Chakravarthy, India's fourth spinner, claimed 5-42 in his Champions Trophy debut leaving skipper Rohit with "a good headache".

Australia replaced injured opener Matthew Short with spin bowling all-rounder Cooper Connolly, but the onus will be on Adam Zampa to lead a spin attack that also features Glenn Maxwell and part-timers Marnus Labuschagne and Travis Head.

"I don't think I'm bowling quite at my best but I like to think the beauty about me, when I'm not quite at my best and not feeling that great out there, is my ability to still contribute and take those big wickets," Zampa said.

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