

## IN BRIEF

### Four killed as private bus collides with lorry

(Standard Post Bureau)

Eluru, Mar 6 : In all four people, including two women, were killed and 16 injured when a private travel bus collided with a lorry at Chodimella village here on Thursday.

Police said the private travel bus was going to Kakinada from Hyderabad. It collided with a lorry killing three passengers instantaneously. One more passenger died while being taken to hospital. Two of the deceased were women.

The driver of the bus was also among the dead. The injured were admitted to the GGH here. The deceased are yet to be identified, police said. Eluru district Collector K Vetri Selvi visited the injured in the GGH. The injured passengers told the media that the driver drove the bus at high speed which resulted in him losing control over the bus. After the accident, the bus overturned across the road. The bus was later removed from the road and the traffic on the busy Chennai-Kolkata was cleared.

### RINL clinches SPSB Inter-Steel Plants Badminton championship

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Mar 6 : The RINL Badminton Team emerged victorious in the Steel Plants Sports Board (SPSB) Inter-Steel Plants Badminton Championship 2024-25, by defeating Bokaro Steel Plant in the finals held at Durgapur Steel Plant on Wednesday.

Inter Steel Plants Badminton Championship 2024-25 was organized by the Durgapur Steel Plant at Durgapur from March 3 to 5, 2025 in which teams from 9 Steel Plants -- RINL-Visakhapatnam, DSP-Durgapur, BSP-Bhilai, VISL-Bhadravathi, BSL-Bokaro, SSP-Salem, RSP-Rourkela, ASP-Durgapur, ISP-Bumpur participated. P Murugesan, Executive Director (Project), Durgapur Steel Plant presented the Gold Medal and Winner Trophy to RINL Team. A.K. Saxena, CMD (Additional Charge), RINL congratulated the RINL team and sports officials for bringing laurels to RINL at the National level and described this victory as a testament to RINL's commitment to excellence in sports.

## Sitharaman launches New Credit Assessment Model for MSMEs



(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Mar 6 : Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State, Finance Pankaj Chaudhary launched the New Credit Assessment Model based on the scoring of digital footprints of MSMEs during the post-budget interaction here on Thursday.

The credit assessment

model for MSMEs based on digital footprints is expected to be a significant improvement over the traditional assessment of credit eligibility based only on asset or turnover criteria. It will also cover MSMEs without a formal accounting system.

It was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 that public sector banks (PSBs)

will build their in-house capability to assess MSMEs for credit, instead of relying on external assessment. PSBs will develop a new credit assessment model based on the scoring of digital footprints of MSMEs in the economy.

This credit assessment model will leverage the digitally fetched and verifiable data available in

the ecosystem and devise automated journeys for MSME loan appraisal using objective decisioning for all loan applications and model-based limit assessment for both Existing to Bank (ETB) and New to Bank (NTB) MSME borrowers.

The digital footprints used by the model may include name and PAN authentication using NSDL,

mobile and email verification using OTP, API fetch of GST data through service providers, bank statement analysis using an account aggregator, ITR upload and verification, API-enabled commercial and consumer bureau fetch, and due diligence using CICs, fraud checks, and hunter checks through APIs, among others.

The benefits to MSMEs by use of this model include submission of an application from anywhere through online mode, reduced paperwork and branch visits, instant in-principle sanction through digital mode, seamless processing of credit proposals, an end-to-end straight-through process (STP), reduced turnaround time (TAT), credit decisions based on objective data/transactional behaviour and credit history, no physical collateral securities for loans covered under CGTMSE, among others.

## Double engine govt working together to make Uttarakhand developed state: PM

New Delhi, Mar 06 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the double engine government is working together to make Uttarakhand a developed state.

Addressing a public function in Harsil, Uttarakhand, he expressed confidence that the tourism sector will witness rapid growth in the coming years, which will boost local employment opportunities.

The Prime Minister said, "Winter tourism is a significant step in this direction, aiding in harnessing Uttarakhand's economic potential".

Talking about this year's budget, he said, "Provision has been made to develop

50 tourist destinations. This will increase facilities for tourists and will also boost local employment."

He shared that before 2014, an average of 18 lakh pilgrims visited the Char Dham Yatra annually, which has now risen to approximately 50 lakh pilgrims each year.

The Prime Minister announced that this year's budget includes provisions to develop 50 tourist destinations, granting hotels at these locations the status of infrastructure.

"This initiative will enhance facilities for tourists and promote local employment opportunities," he said. Recounting the recent cabinet decision of

approving the Kedarnath Ropeway Project and the Hemkund Ropeway Project he noted that the Kedarnath Ropeway will reduce the travel time from 8-9 hours to approximately 30 minutes, making the journey more accessible, especially for the elderly and children.

Modi emphasized that thousands of crores of rupees will be invested in these ropeway projects.

Emphasising the government's efforts to ensure that border areas of Uttarakhand also benefit from tourism, the Prime Minister said, "villages once referred to as the 'last villages' are now being called the 'first villages' of the country". He

highlighted the launch of the Vibrant Village Program for their development, under which 10 villages from this region have been included. He added that the government has worked to ensure the erstwhile emptied villages of Mana and Jadung in 1962, have been restored. "As a result, the number of tourists visiting Uttarakhand has increased significantly over the past decade," he added.

During the visit, Narendra Modi participated in the Winter Tourism Program after flagging off a trek and bike rally at Harsil, Uttarakhand. He also performed pooja and darshan at the winter seat of Maa Ganga in Mukhwa.

## PM Modi has failed to fulfil his guarantee of cleaning Ganga: Mallikarjun Kharge

New Delhi, Mar 6 (UNI) Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of neglecting the Namami Gange project and failing to fulfil his "guarantee of cleaning Ganga". On his social media handle X, Kharge while citing a Parliament question alleged that despite nearly 11 years since the Namami Gange scheme was launched in 2014, Rs 42,500 crore allocated for the scheme, only Rs 19,271 crore had been spent as of December 2024, leaving 55 percent of the funds unused.

He questioned the government's "indifference" towards "Maa Ganga", despite repeated assurances. The Congress

President also criticized the lack of progress in sewage treatment, citing a November 2024 Rajya Sabha reply which showed that 38 percent of Namami Gange projects were still pending. While 82 percent of the total allocated funds were to be spent to build Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), but 39 percent of STPs are still not completed, and those that are completed are not even operational.

He highlighted the alarming pollution figures in key states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. Kharge said, in UP, "Seventy five percent of the drains that were supposed to go to STPs, their untreated sewage is directly going into Gangaji, with 3513.16 MLD sewage, being dumped into them. A staggering 97

percent of STPs are reportedly not following environmental rules".

The Congress President further said that in Bihar, 46 percent of STPs are not operational while the rest do not even meet faecal coliform levels. In West Bengal, 40 STPs are not functional and 95 percent do not meet the National Green Tribunal (NGT) norms while 76.16 do not comply with MoEF norms. He said, "The NGT, in November 2024, expressed disappointment over the deteriorating condition of the Ganga in Varanasi, Modi's Parliamentary Constituency. The tribunal, while reprimanding, even suggested that a board be installed on the river bank, stating that the Ganga water in the city is not safe for bathing". The Leader of Opposition in the

Rajya Sabha said that a "February 2025 report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) found faecal coliform levels to be much higher than the safe limit of 2,500 units/100 mL. It was 11,000 units/100 mL near Shastri Bridge in Prayagraj and 7,900 units/100 mL at Sangam". Kharge alleged that plastic pollution had surged by 25 percent between May and June 2024, which had further increased the pollution crisis. He alleged that in the name of Ganga Gram, the Modi government had only constructed toilets. Slamming the Modi government, the Congress Chief stated that the Ganga is not just a river but India's cultural and spiritual heritage, and accused the ruling dispensation of betraying its commitment to clean it.



### Govt stands with every needy person: Yogi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday held a 'Janata Darshan' on Gorakhnath Temple premises during which he listened to the concerns of around 250 people. The CM reassured the public that their issues would be resolved promptly and directed the officials to address them promptly. During the interaction, a woman sought financial assistance to treat a family member. In response, he advised her to obtain a treatment estimate, assuring the government would extend the necessary support.

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### Indian youth will pioneer innovation, research on ...



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday asserted that the dynamic and visionary youth of India will spearhead groundbreaking innovations and lead the charge in research across the world.

(See on page 4)

### West Ham get success to draw ...



Manchester City's hopes of playing Champions League football next season were dealt a blow by a late West Ham equaliser. Khadija Shaw thought she had sealed victory with a close-range finish after coming off the bench, but West Ham substitute Manuela Pavi clinched a well-deserved point for the hosts in the first minute of added time.

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### MoS Margherita receives top Barbados award on behalf of ...



In a ceremony held in Bridgetown, Barbados, Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita received the prestigious 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados' Award bestowed upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recognition of his strategic leadership and valuable assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic.

(See on page 8)



## Stock market extends gains for 2nd day; Sensex rallied 610 points

Mumbai/New Delhi, Mar 6 (UNI) India's benchmark indices continued the positive momentum and ended on a strong note as the BSE Sensex on Thursday added another gain of about 610 points at 74,340.09 mainly due to cooling of crude and potential negotiations on US tariffs improved global sentiments and fueled this rebound. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) rose 207.40 points at 22,544.70.

The selling off by the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued as they sold equities in the cash segment worth Rs 2895 crore while the Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities to the tune of Rs 3,370.6 crore in the trading session yesterday,

according to data available.

Though oscillation was seen during the day, the equity market remained strong for another day. The Sensex opened firm at 74,308.30, up 578 points. It rose 660 points during intraday to touch day's high of 74,390.80, before closing at 73,340.09, advancing 609.86 points from its previous close. The Nifty registered day's high at 22,556.45 and low at 22,245.85 points. The Mid-cap and small-cap indices rose by 0.65 per cent and 1.65 per cent respectively.

The stocks that climbed were Energy by 2.78 per cent, Metal by 2.64 per cent, Oil and Gas by 2.36 per cent, and Commodities by 1.65 per cent. In the 30-scrip BSE Sensex, shares of 25 shares advanced and

closed higher compared to their previous closing price, while shares of 5 companies declined and ended in red.

The gainers were Asian Paints by 4.70 per cent to Rs 2267.10, NTPC by 3.41 per cent to Rs 337.75, Reliance Industries by 2.96 per cent to Rs 1210.55 and Tata Steel by 2.87 per cent to Rs 150.35.

The losers during today's trade were Tech Mahindra by 2.31 per cent to Rs 1503.60, Kotak Bank by 0.90 per cent to Rs 1921.60, Zomato by 0.62 per cent to Rs 225.40 and Tata Motors by 0.19 per cent to Rs 639.75. Asian Market were seen as strong, as Strait Times was up by 0.48 per cent, Hang Seng by 3.18 per cent, Kospi by 0.70 per cent and Jakarta Composite by 1.41 per cent.

## NC demands unconditional apology from BJP leader for his remarks against 1931 Martyrs

Srinagar, Mar 6 (UNI) : National Conference (NC) on Thursday condemned the "uncouth remarks" made by Leader of the Opposition in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Kumar Sharma against 1931 martyrs and demanded an unconditional apology.

The NC stated that the supreme sacrifice of July 13, 1931 martyrs paved the way for democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

The NC leaders in a joint statement issued here demanded an unconditional apology

from Sunil Kumar Sharma of BJP and asked him to maintain decorum of the post he is holding.

The NC denounced the remarks and said, "the day has emblematic importance for the people of Jammu and Kashmir as it marked the launch of widespread people's agitation for the restoration of their due human rights."

The NC leaders demanded unconditional apology from Sunil Kumar Sharma and asked him to maintain decorum

of the post he is holding.

"The brave men who laid their lives on July 13, 1931 belonged to a generation of wisdom, and vision" the statement said, adding "It was them who saw in darkness and despair a vision for the forthcoming generations, they envisioned a society free from bondage, discrimination and oppression."

The leaders said July 13 is the day of the assertion of Jammu & Kashmir's identity, rights of its people.

## Who is stopping you from getting POJK back? : J&K CM

Jammu, Mar 6 (UNI) Reacting to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's statement that Pakistan vacating Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) would resolve the Kashmir issue in its entirety, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that Kargil was an opportunity to get back the part of POJK but who is stopping the government now from getting it back?

"Who is stopping the Government of India from taking back the Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK)?" Abdullah questioned while speaking during the Motion of Thanks on Lieutenant Governor's address in the House in the ongoing Budget Session of the Legislative Assembly here. "Maharaja Hari Singh gave you a map of Jammu and Kashmir as inheritance and part of it is with Pakistan, Okay, fine and the Foreign Minister has said that we will get it back. Who has stopped you?"

Abdullah said. "We did not stop you. We always said bring it back if you want to," he said adding, "During the Kargil war, you had a chance to take POJK back, but you failed and if you could not make it at that time, you bring it now, who is stopping you? We are not objecting to it?" "But if you see the map of Jammu and Kashmir, one part is with Pakistan, but one part is also with China," said Abdullah while taking a dig at the Government of India. "Why doesn't the BJP government talk about taking back Jammu and Kashmir occupied by China? Why no mention is made anywhere on that part," he said, adding, "whenever you bring it back, do us a favour, bring back both the occupied parts." "Let's forget about the occupied parts, but you also divided the map of Maharaja Sahib into two parts. You separated Ladakh and claimed that the people of Ladakh wanted that. Did you ever ask them? People of Kargil

never supported this decision. Even those who celebrated August 5, 2019 and distributed sweets, at present realise that their conditions were much better in the erstwhile state," he asserted.

Maharaja in inheritance left State Subject Laws, where are those laws, he said adding, "What rights do you have on your lands and jobs. Himachal Pradesh is in much better condition with maximum percentage of local recruitment in factories, industries and hotels."

"We did not make any changes in Maharaja's laws in our tenure. Quote me a single example if we had changed the names of parks, roads, and other buildings," he said. However, targeting the BJP, Abdullah also said, "BJP members insulted the martyrs of July 13, 1931. 22 people sacrificed their lives for democracy. The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was established due to their sacrifice but BJP insulted them just because they were Muslims."

## Opp members demand for domicile policy in Bihar

Patna, March 6 (UNI) The opposition members demanded the Bihar government frame and implement a domicile policy to protect the interest of the youth of the state.

Reading his adjournment notice with the permission of the speaker Nand Kishore Yadav who had turned down the adjournment motions during the pre-lunch sitting on Thursday, RJD MLA Akhtarul Islam

Shaheen said due to want of a domicile policy, the people of Bihar were not getting proper opportunities resulting in unemployment and migration of youth from the state.

## Govt stands with every needy person: Yogi

Gorakhpur, Mar 6 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday held a 'Janata Darshan' on Gorakhnath Temple premises during which he listened to the concerns of around 250 people.

The CM reassured the public that their issues would be resolved promptly and directed the officials to address them promptly.

During the interaction, a woman sought financial assistance to treat a family member. In response, he advised her to obtain a treatment estimate, assuring the government would extend the necessary support.

Yogi handed over the applications to the officials, directing them to expedite the estimation process and forward it to the government for timely assistance.

Emphasising the government's commitment, he asserted that addressing public grievances remains a top priority and urged officials to act swiftly and diligently.

Besides, the CM shared a warm moment with children visiting the temple. He inquired about their studies and blessed them with wishes for a bright future, distributing chocolates and toffees as a gesture of affection.

## India protests heckling of EAM by Khalistanis during London visit

New Delhi, Mar 6 (UNI) : India today condemned the breach of security during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's London visit when a group of Khalistani separatists heckled him and tried to block his car. On Wednesday evening, EAM Jaishankar was heckled by a group of

Khalistani supporters who were shouting anti-India slogans when the minister was going for a programme in London. As the External Affairs Minister left the venue, one among the pro-Khalistani elements dashed in front of his car and tore the national flag of India, according to visuals on social

media. The pro-Khalistani elements were shouting slogans using mikes as the EAM arrived for his talk at Chatham House and remained at the venue when he left, with the local police standing by quietly. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said: "We have seen the footage of a

breach of security during the visit of EAM to the UK. "We condemn the provocative activities of this small group of separatists and extremists. "We deplore the misuse of democratic freedoms by such elements. "We expect the host government in such cases to fully live upto their diplomatic

obligations." In the past too, the London police have been quiet bystanders when Khalistani activists clambered on to the balcony of the Indian High Commission and attempted to replace the Indian national flag with the Khalistani flag. India had strongly protested the action.

## Odisha Governor welcomes Indian Navy's car rally expedition

Bhubaneswar, Mar 6 (UNI) Odisha Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati on Thursday welcomed the Indian Navy's Motor Car Rally Expedition at Raj Bhavan here.

The rally was flagged off from INS Netaji Subhas, Kolkata, on March 3.

Covering approximately 3,800 km, the expedition will travel from Kolkata to Chennai, proceed to Kanyakumari, and return to Chennai by March 21.

The initiative aims to enhance maritime awareness, engage with youth and civil society, and promote career opportunities in the Indian Navy, including the Agnipath Scheme.

As part of the journey, the rally team will visit schools and colleges to inspire young men and women to join the Indian Navy.

Additionally, it will promote the Centre's Naari Shakti initiative for women's empowerment.

The team will also interact with naval veterans and Veer Naris to update them on the latest welfare policies of the government and the Navy.

During an interaction at Raj Bhavan, Dr. Kambhampati praised the expedition for its objective of raising awareness and encouraging youth to serve the nation through the Indian Navy. He also shared his fond memories of the Navy and acknowledged its commitment to excellence and national security.

Expressing gratitude for the warm welcome, Lt. Cdr. Jubin John, a team member, highlighted that the rally will explore India's rich maritime heritage by visiting historical naval sites and ancient trade route locations along the coast.

The Governor later bid farewell to the team, waving them off with his best wishes for their journey ahead.

## HP marks 120 years since devastating Kangra earthquake

Shimla, Mar 6 (UNI) As Himachal Pradesh marks 120 years since the catastrophic Kangra earthquake of 1905, the shockwaves of the tragedy still resonate across the region. The earthquake, one of the deadliest in Indian history, measured between 7.8 and 7.9 in magnitude and left over 20,000 people dead, 53,000 domestic animals lost, and nearly 100,000 buildings reduced to rubble. The destruction of critical infrastructure, including the aqueduct network, led to prolonged suffering and massive economic losses.

"To honor the victims and reinforce disaster preparedness, the Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA) is organizing a large-scale Disaster Awareness Campaign across the state. This campaign aims to educate communities, particularly the youth, about earthquake preparedness and resilience-building measures.", a letter written by the additional Secretary Revenue and Disaster management Balwan Chand to all Head of Department said. The key events scheduled for the occasion include evacuation drills across government and

private institutions, a Citizen Solidarity March in all district headquarters, and awareness workshops in schools, universities, and healthcare institutions.

The highlight of the initiative is the ShakeOut Drill, which will see thousands participating in "Drop, Cover & Hold" exercises to simulate real-time earthquake response.

Additionally, Gram Sabha meetings throughout April will focus on earthquake-resistant construction practices, ensuring that local communities understand and adopt safer building techniques. The campaign also includes the dissemination of earthquake safety guidelines and hands-on training for students, teachers, and officials on emergency protocols.

In light of past disasters and growing seismic risks, the government has intensified its commitment to minimizing future losses. The State Emergency Response Plan has been revised to include strengthening infrastructure with mandatory earthquake-resistant building codes for new constructions, particularly in high-risk zones. Special training

programs for engineers, masons, and local builders are being conducted to promote disaster-resistant housing. The deployment of seismic monitoring stations across Himachal Pradesh will provide real-time alerts, while disaster preparedness will be integrated into school curricula with routine community drills. Additionally, following the 2023 monsoon-triggered landslides and flash floods that damaged over 13,000 homes, the government is focusing on climate-adaptive construction and stricter zoning laws to prevent unsafe development in landslide-prone areas.

While such workshops and drills are crucial, their real impact lies in execution during emergencies. Experts argue that sustained follow-up action is needed beyond annual events. For meaningful change, local authorities must enforce building regulations, ensure regular evacuation drills, and make emergency kits accessible to residents. With the painful memories of the 1905 disaster still etched in the region's history, the state's ongoing preparedness efforts aim to ensure that a future earthquake does not bring the same level of devastation.



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta along with senior officials from PWD, DDA, MCD, DUSIB, and others during a visit at Ward-55, Shalimar Bagh, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

## Govt launches New Credit Assessment Model for MSMEs

New Delhi, Mar 6 (UNI) The government on Thursday launched the New Credit Assessment Model based on the scoring of digital footprints of MSMEs wherein the Public sector banks (PSBs) will build their in-house capability to assess MSMEs for credit, instead of relying on external assessment. Launching the model at Vishakhapatnam, the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State, Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said PSBs will develop a new credit assessment model, as announced in the Budget, based on the scoring of digital footprints of MSMEs in the economy. This credit assessment model will leverage the digitally fetched and verifiable data available in the ecosystem and devise automated journeys for MSME Loan appraisal using objective decisioning for all loan applications and model-based limit assessment for both Existing to Bank (ETB) as well as New to Bank (NTB) MSME borrowers, Ministry of Finance said in a statement.

The digital footprints used by the model may include Name and Pan authentication using NSDL, Mobile and

email verification using OTP, API fetch of GST data through service providers, Bank Statement Analysis using account aggregator, ITR upload and verification, API enabled commercial and consumer bureau fetch and due diligence using CICs, fraud checks, Hunter checks through APIs, among others.

The benefits to MSMEs by use of this model includes submission of application from anywhere through online mode, reduced paperwork and Branch visit, instant in-principle sanction through digital mode, seamless processing of credit proposals, end to end straight through process (STP), reduced turnaround time (TAT), Credit decision based on objective data/ Transactional behaviour and credit history, no Physical collateral securities for loans covered under CGTMSE, among others.

The credit assessment model for MSMEs based on digital footprints is expected to be a significant improvement over the traditional assessment of credit eligibility based only on asset or turnover criteria. That will also cover MSMEs without a formal accounting system.



## 5kg ganja seized, eight peddlers arrested

Kakinada, Mar 6 (UNI) The Korangi police have arrested eight ganja peddlers and seized five kgs of ganja from their possession near here on Thursday.

On a tip-off, the police have conducted a raid on a hideout on the outskirts of Korangi, arrested eight ganja peddlers, and seized five kgs of ganja packed in small sachets, police said.

Korangi sub-inspector Satyanarayana Reddy, who conducted the raid, said the accused confessed that they were getting the ganja from the agency and selling the same packed in small sachets in Kajuluru, Thallarevu, and neighbouring areas. They were produced before the court and sent to remand, police added.

## Cadaver dogs from Kerala deployed to trace eight workers trapped in SLBC Tunnel site

Hyderabad, Mar 6 (UNI) Failing to achieve a breakthrough in the rescue operations at the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel site, where eight workers have been trapped since Feb 22, cadaver dogs from Kerala have been deployed to assist in the rescue mission.

Cadaver dogs, also known as Human Remains Detection Dogs (HRDDs), are specially trained search-and-rescue dogs that detect human remains. They use their highly sensitive sense of smell to locate decomposed bodies, bones, or other biological evidence, even if buried underground, submerged in water, or hidden in debris.

These dogs are commonly used in disaster response, crime investigations, and search operations for missing persons.

Their training enables them to differentiate between human and animal remains, making them invaluable in situations like tunnel accidents such as the one in the SLBC.

According to Special Chief Secretary (Disaster Management) Arvind Kumar, cadaver dogs from Kerala have been deployed at the SLBC site on Thursday to help identify individuals trapped in the tunnel. A high-level review meeting was conducted near the tunnel site by Arvind Kumar, along with Nagarkurnool District Collector Badavath Santosh, IIT experts, Singareni technical personnel, military officials, and NDRF teams on Thursday to discuss and strategise the ongoing rescue efforts.

During the day, Colonel Keerthi Pratap Singh, Secretary of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) from the Ministry of Home Affairs, visited the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel collapse site to take stock of the rescue efforts on Thursday.

Arvind Kumar briefed Singh on the situation within the tunnel and the ongoing rescue activities.



Lawyers stage a protest against the proposed Advocate Amendment Bill, in Shimla on Thursday.

## Coromandel Intl inaugurates second Sulphur manufacturing plant at its Vizag facility

(Standard Post Bureau) Visakhapatnam, Mar 6 : Coromandel International Limited, one of India's leading agri-solutions providers on Thursday announced that it has inaugurated the second Sulphur manufacturing plant at its Visakhapatnam facility in Andhra Pradesh.

Visakhapatnam site is the company's wholly backward integrated unit and produces approximately 12 LMT of complex fertilisers along with Phosphoric acid and Sulphuric acid.

The site also hosts a Sulphur Fertiliser plant with 25000 MT production capacity.

With the inauguration of this new plant, Sulphur

fertiliser capacity is doubled, ensuring a steady supply of high-quality bentonite Sulphur fertilisers to the farmers, the company said in a release here. The new plant is equipped with advanced German technology and capabilities to fortify Sulphur fertilisers with multiple micronutrients, addressing the evolving nutrient deficiencies in Indian soil.

Beyond production, this facility also sets the stage for research and development for introducing new Sulphur variants designed to meet the crop and geography specific needs of Indian agriculture. This expansion marks a significant step in

strengthening Coromandel's presence in the specialty nutrients market, reinforcing its commitment to Indian agriculture.

The event was graced by S Sankarasubramanian, Managing Director & CEO, Coromandel International Limited, Avinash Thakur, Business Head, Specialty Nutrient and Organic Fertilisers, and other senior team members. Sulphur is an essential nutrient for plant growth, playing a crucial role in protein synthesis, enzyme function, and overall crop productivity.

In India, Sulphur deficiency is a growing concern due to factors like intensive cropping, imbalanced fertiliser use,

and declining organic matter in soil. By increasing its Bentonite Sulphur capacity, Coromandel aims to provide Indian farmers with high-quality, affordable, and sustainable nutrient solutions to improve soil health and maximize yields.

Speaking at the inauguration, Sankarasubramanian, said "Over the next 4-5 years, this plant will play a crucial role in effectively meeting the growing demand for Bentonite Sulphur fertilisers across India.

This milestone aligns with our long-term vision of advancing agricultural growth through technology and farmer-focused initiatives."

## ECoR initiates safety fencing projects in various railway stations

(Standard Post Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 6 : East Coast Railway (ECoR) has initiated safety fencing projects in various railway sections across its jurisdiction.

A total of 2792 km of safety fencing works at a cost of Rs.865 crores along Railway Tracks over ECoR has been undertaken to enhance safety.

These works aim to ensure Safe Train Operations, Prevent Unauthorized Trespassing, and Restrict the Movement of Cattle and Wild Animals near Railway Tracks.

By implementing these measures, ECoR is reinforcing its commitment to providing a secure and

efficient railway network. Apart from this, Rs.207 Crores is under sanction for Track Safety Fencing Works between Titlagarh & Lakholi and between Balangir-Theruvali-Singapur Road Rail Sections.

ECoR sources said Rs.388.85 crores has been sanctioned for Track Safety Fencing Works for 1025.3 KMs stretch that includes 797.3 km in Bhadrak-Palasa & Khurda Road-Puri Rail Line Sections and 228 Km in Nergundi-Kerajang Rail Sections.

In the next phase, a proposal is in place for safety fencing in the Jakhapura-Kendujhargarh-Nayagarh Railway Section

and other sensitive locations over Khurda Road Railway Division.

Railway sources said Rs.288.045 crores has been sanctioned for Track Safety Fencing Works for 468.23 KMs stretch that include 124.15 km in Sarla Road-Bolangir Rail Line Section and 344.08 km in Jharsuguda Road-Sambalpur City-Kerajanga Rail Section out of total 830 Km stretch of Rail Line. The contract for this work is under finalization.

Apart from this, 188.89 km between Balangir-Theruvali-Singapur Road is under sanction and 172.781 Km is under proposed between Titlagarh & Lakholi.

An amount of Rs.187.19 Crore has been sanctioned for the 600 Km stretch Rail Line in Palasa-Visakhapatnam-Duvvada & Vizianagaram-Singapur Road Rail Sections.

Safety fencing will facilitate train operations at speeds of 130 kmph and beyond in multiple sections. This initiative will prevent unauthorized trespassing and restrict cattle and wild animal entry onto railway tracks.

It will also seal access at level crossings, ROBs, RUBs, and Bridges, ensuring smooth train movement and improved safety measures.

Work has already commenced on two pilot

## Cabinet approves SC classification draft bill, Future City, and major welfare initiatives

Hyderabad, Mar 6 (UNI) : The Telangana Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, held a crucial six-hour meeting, approving several key decisions, including the SC classification draft bill and the establishment of the Future City.

Announcing the decisions at the Secretariat on Thursday night, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy stated that the government has planned to develop a "Future City" across 30,000 acres between the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and Regional Ring Road (RRR), covering seven mandals and 54 villages along the Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailem Highway. A total of 90 posts have been sanctioned for the Future City project. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) area has also been expanded to 11 districts, 104 mandals, and 1,355 villages, with 332 new revenue villages to be created. In a major announcement for women's empowerment, the government aims to make one crore women crorepatris (millionaires) by bringing all women's groups under a single umbrella. The age criteria for membership have been revised, lowering the minimum age from 18 to 15 and extending the upper limit from 60 to 65.

## VIMUKTHI demands Justice, equality and Protection for Sex Workers

(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, Mar 6 : As the world commemorates International Women's Day on March 8th, the HELP and VIMUKTHI demanded justice for the sex workers in the state.

VIMUKTHI president Nandeti Apurwa here on Thursday said that in a country where women already struggle for basic dignity and respect, female sex workers face even greater obstacles.

"Seen as a challenge to societal norms, they are pushed to the margins and often denied recognition. Many Indian states have long ignored their existence, leaving their legal status shrouded in ambiguity. India's National AIDS Control Program remains the only government initiative making efforts to ensure their access to HIV services. However, many of their critical health needs—including mental health support, trauma care, protection from violence, and the fight against stigma—remain unaddressed," she lamented.

Apurwa asserted that they continue to lack protection for their fundamental social and legal rights. Sex workers in India continue to face systemic discrimination, violence, and social stigma

despite constitutional protections.

The Supreme Court of India (Budhadev Karmaskar Vs State of West Bengal, 2022) reaffirmed that consenting sex workers have the same fundamental rights as all citizens, yet they remain criminalized in practice, she recalled, adding that the law enforcement agencies continue to harass and victimize them, denying them dignity, justice, and access to social welfare.

Andhra Pradesh has the highest number of sex workers (1.33 lakh) in India, and the state has long been a hub for human trafficking. However, critical support systems—such as rehabilitation services, immediate relief, and victim compensation—are inaccessible to many survivors, leaving them vulnerable to re-trafficking and extreme poverty, she regretted.

"On International Women's Day, under the theme "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights-Equality-Empowerment": VIMUKTHI, a collective of sex workers and trafficking survivors, has called for urgent action to protect the rights of sex workers and ensure their access to justice, Community Based Rehabilitation, healthcare, education, and social security.

## Consumer forum imposes Rs.27.27 lakh penalty for charging Rs.27 more on 3 water bottles

Kakinada, Mar 6 (UNI) The Kakinada consumers forum on Thursday levied a penalty of Rs.27.27 lakh on a hotelier in Hyderabad for collecting Rs.27 more for three water bottles sold to a software engineer of Kovvada, a suburb of Kakinada city. Even though the Hotel Tulips Grand is located in Hyderabad, the consumer forum has taken up the complaint as the consumer Kusuma Kalyan hails from the Kakinada district.

Consumers forum Chairman Raghupathi and Member Susi issued the order on Thursday levying a heavy penalty of Rs.27.27 lakhs on the hotelier for collecting Rs.87 instead of Rs.60 for three water bottles at the rate of Rs.20 each.

The Consumer Forum levied the fine as the Hotel management did not respond to the notices served by the Consumer Forum.

## Airtel Payments Bank celebrates women Business Correspondents contribution to financial inclusion

Hyderabad, Mar 6 (UNI) On the occasion of International Women's Day, Airtel Payments Bank on Thursday celebrated the pivotal role women play in expanding financial access, particularly through the remarkable work of women business correspondents (BCs) who are bridging the gap between banking and underserved communities.

On the occasion, the Bank honored the outstanding women BCs from Telangana during a special event organized celebrating the upcoming International Women's Day at Hyderabad. The event was graced by Chiranjeevu Togarla, Retired IAS Officer, who inspired the BCs with his encouraging words and motivating presence. Over

the years, Airtel Payments Bank has been taking banking services to the deepest rural pockets with its largest banking network comprising over 500,000 neighbourhood-banking points.

These banking points are managed by BCs, who are trained and authorized to offer banking services.

In Telangana, the Bank works with close to 15,000 banking correspondents and over 3,000 of these correspondents are women.

Over 80 percent of these women BC are working in unbanked and underbanked locations of Telangana. The Bank values the vital role these women BCs play in driving financial inclusion across the country. These women BCs serve customers with

formal banking services including opening a bank account, cash withdrawals, money transfers, bill payments, buying insurance, and other financial services.

At the event, the Bank felicitated five women BCs who have outperformed and gone the extra mile to enable customers in their locality. The five exceptional women at event are - Dannina Veena Kumari, Arelli Navya, Bommidi Kavita, Vemulapally Sowjanya and Donthula Divya Sree.

Pinak Chakraborty, Chief Information Officer of Airtel Payments Bank, said, "Our women business correspondents play a critical role in delivering banking services in their

neighbourhood. Most of these business correspondent works in towns that previously had no or distant access to the nearest bank branch. I am proud to share that we

collaborate with over 100,000 women BCs across India.

### CENTRAL RAILWAY SOLAPUR DIVISION E-TENDER NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. Tender No. : SUR/TD/T/2025/04 Name of Work: Electrical TRD portion of the work in connection with the proposed subway at km 1) 27/8-5/6 between Boribali-Malhan, 2) 30/0-1 between Jinti Road-Shigwan, 3) 32/2-3/4 between Washimbe-Parawadi, 4) 32/4/2-3 between Pophaj-Washimbe, 5) 37/0/2-3 between Kurduwadi-Dhavalas and 6) 439/6-7 between Pakni-Bale in Daund Solapur section. Estimated cost: ₹ 74,04,529.77 Bid Security: ₹ 1,48,100.00 Completion Period: 12 Months Validity of offer: 60 Days Date & time of tender closing on website: 31/03/2025 at 15:00 hrs. Sr. Divisional Elect. Engineer (TRD) [Apx-58] Central Railway, Solapur अनधिकृत का के तलान को पार करना रोकना अथवा

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

Notice No. eT-North-WAT-05-2025, Dt.: 27.02.2025 NAME OF THE WORK: REBUILDING OF BRIDGES BY PROVISION OF RCC BOXES IN THE PLACE OF EXISTING PIPE BRIDGES (BR. NO.620 AND 715) AND STONE SLAB BRIDGE (BR. NO.654) TO IMPROVE ORN RATING AND CONVERSION OF STONE STAB BRIDGES INTO RCC BOXES IN 2 NOS OF BRIDGES (BR. NO.768, 825) IN RAIPUR - VIZIANAGARAM LINE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/RAGVADGA OF WALTAIR DIVISION. Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 1,53,38,848.82, EMD: ₹ 2,26,700/- Completion Period of the Work : 12 (Twelve) Months. Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 25.03.2025. No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-1043/P/24-25 Waltair

AVIOM India Housing Finance Private Limited		
CIN : U65993DL2016PTC291377		
Worldmark 3, Unit 306A, 3rd Floor, Asset Area No. 7, Hospitality District, Delhi Aerocity, Near Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi-110037, Email: <a href="mailto:connect@aviom.in">connect@aviom.in</a>		
PUBLIC NOTICE		
Notice is hereby given that AVIOM India Housing Finance Private Limited, a Housing Finance Company is merging its Branch office as per following:-		
Old branch Address	New branch Address	
1st Floor, D.No.1-677, Raghavendra Nagar, Near Opp. Arts college, Adoni, Andhra Pradesh-518301	No.76-106-A5-3, 2nd Floor, SS Arcade, Guru Raghavendra Nagar, Ballery Chowrasta, Kurmool, Andhra Pradesh-518003	
Door No. 7-3-29, Ashok Nagar Bypass road, Near Pullayya Ramalayam Center, Amalapuram, Andhra Pradesh-533201	No.54-6-6/3, 2nd Floor, A V Apparao Road, Ward No-28, Above Syndicate bank, Opp. Sri Kodanda Ramalayam, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh-533103	
D No 6-934, 2nd Floor, Above Slate Bank Of India, Kalyandurgam Bypass Road, Azad Nagar, Revenue War No 6, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh-515001	No.76-106-A5-3, 2nd Floor, SS Arcade, Guru Raghavendra Nagar, Ballery Chowrasta, Kurmool, Andhra Pradesh-518003	
Door no. 8-5-22/3, 1st Floor, Venkata Narayana Street, Ontimamidi Center Gandhi Nagar Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh-533004	No.54-6-6/3, 2nd Floor, A V Apparao Road, Ward No-28, Above Syndicate bank, Opp. Sri Kodanda Ramalayam, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh-533103	
Door No 16-612, 2nd Floor, near TVS showroom, Nimmanapalli, Circle, Ghandi road, SR Jyothi Nilayam, Madhanapalli, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh-517325	No.76-106-A5-3, 2nd Floor, SS Arcade, Guru Raghavendra Nagar, Ballery Chowrasta, Kurmool, Andhra Pradesh-518003	
D No 3-1362, to 1364, 1364/1/2/3 2nd floor, K.S. Nilayam Gnadhi Road, Opp Big-C Mobiles, Proddatur, Andhra Pradesh-515380	No.76-106-A5-3, 2nd Floor, SS Arcade, Guru Raghavendra Nagar, Ballery Chowrasta, Kurmool, Andhra Pradesh-518003	
5-48, 1s floor, Peppappadu road, Ramalakshma Junction Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh-532001	8-12, 2 floor, Revenue Ward no 9, Siddanagar, Near RTC Complex Road, Vizianagaram-535001	

All concerned are requested to take note of the above notice Place : Andhra Pradesh For AVIOM India housing Finance Private Limited Date.: February 28, 2025 Authorised signatory



## STANDARD POST

## 90 pc of rural women entrepreneurs in India save a portion of their monthly income

A whopping 90 per cent of rural women entrepreneurs in India save a portion of their monthly income, according to a new report on Thursday, ahead of International Women's Day.

The report by DBS Bank India, in collaboration with Haqdarshak, is based on a survey of 411 women entrepreneurs across rural districts in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, with 402 being members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Of the 90 per cent, 57 per cent save less than 20 per cent of their monthly income, while 33 per cent save between 20 per cent and 50 per cent, said the report. About 5 per cent save more than 50 per cent of their income, while the remaining respondents are unsure about the portion of their income saved, suggesting a need for improved financial literacy and planning.

The report noted that 56 per cent of rural women entrepreneurs opt for bank deposits, 39 per cent participate in SHG savings programmes, and 18 per cent set aside cash without investing it in any instruments.

Fixed Deposits (FDs) and Recurring Deposits (RDs), as well as investments in gold, were found to be less common, with only 11 per cent and 5 per cent opting for these methods, respectively. Approximately 64 per cent reinvested their business profits into their enterprises, reflecting a strong orientation towards business expansion and growth.

"Our report offers valuable insights to inform programmes aimed at accelerating women's entrepreneurship and addressing growth barriers," said Azmat Habibulla, Managing Director and Head of Group Strategic Marketing and Communications at DBS Bank India.

"We aim to drive meaningful dialogue and build actionable solutions that bridge knowledge gaps, ensuring these women have improved access to social protection and financial services, ultimately fostering a more equitable economy," added Aniket Doegar, Co-Founder and CEO of Haqdarshak.

Noting a shift towards greater financial autonomy, the report stated that 18 per cent of rural women entrepreneurs make financial decisions independently, while 47 per cent make financial decisions jointly with their husbands.

About 24 per cent stated that their husbands make all financial decisions, and the remaining 11 per cent consult their immediate or extended family members.

This distribution highlights both progress and persistent traditional norms.

# Mizoram: An Emerging National Security Threat in India's Northeast

Imphal, March 6, (Waari Singbul Network) : The northeastern states of India have long been a complex tapestry of ethnic diversity, historical grievances, and geopolitical significance. Among them, Manipur and Mizoram—two states sharing borders with Myanmar—have recently drawn attention for their roles in the evolving security landscape of the region. While Manipur has been embroiled in ethnic violence since May 2023, grappling with internal strife between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, Mizoram has quietly emerged as a more insidious national security concern.

Manipur: A Visible Crisis Contained Within Borders

Manipur's challenges are stark and immediate. The ethnic violence that erupted in May 2023 has claimed over 258 lives and displaced more than 60,000 people, according to official figures as of November 2024. The conflict, rooted in tensions over land rights, affirmative action, and illegal immigration from Myanmar, has exposed deep ethnic fault lines between the valley-dwelling Meiteis and the hill-based Kuki-Zo tribes. The state's proximity to the Golden Triangle—a notorious drug-producing region spanning Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand—has also fueled a narco-economy, with poppy cultivation and drug trafficking exacerbating local instability. The Manipur government's "War on Drugs" has made strides in curbing this menace, reportedly reducing drug transit through the state to near negligible levels by late 2024, thanks to aggressive enforcement and central government support.

Yet, Manipur's crisis, while severe, remains largely an internal affair. The violence has not overtly spilled beyond its borders, and the central government's imposition of President's Rule in



February 2025 reflects a decisive effort to contain and address the situation. The state's security challenges, tied to ethnic rivalries and narcotics, are being met with a combination of military presence, administrative oversight, and diplomatic measures like border fencing along the Indo-Myanmar frontier. Mizoram's threats, though significant, are visible, localized, and—at least for now—manageable within India's federal framework.

Mizoram: A Quiet but Growing Menace

In contrast, Mizoram presents a subtler but potentially more dangerous threat to India's national security. Historically a conduit for cross-border trade and migration due to its 510-kilometer porous border with Myanmar, Mizoram has recently seen a dramatic spike in narcotics and explosives trafficking. The unrest in Manipur since 2023 has diverted drug routes from the Moreh-Sugnu axis in Manipur to the Zokhawthar-Kolasib axis in Mizoram, turning the latter into a preferred transit hub for heroin, methamphetamine, and cannabis originating from Myanmar. Data from 2023 indicates that Mizoram's security forces seized contraband worth over ₹78 crore in just over a month,

a sharp increase attributed to the shifting dynamics of the regional drug trade. Meanwhile, the state's Governor, in February 2025, highlighted the arrest of 600 drug traffickers and the seizure of 429 kilograms of narcotics in the current financial year alone—a testament to the scale of the problem.

More alarmingly, Mizoram has emerged as a smuggling hub for explosives. In 2024, Assam Rifles intercepted over 2,000 kilograms of explosives, 60,000 detonators, and 13,000 gelatine sticks, with seizures continuing into 2025 at an accelerated pace. These materials, often destined for anti-junta forces in Myanmar or insurgent groups in Bangladesh, underscore Mizoram's role as a logistical lifeline for regional instability. The porous border, combined with lax oversight of licensed explosives dealers, raises the specter of these weapons being redirected to Indian insurgent groups—a scenario Assam Rifles officers have repeatedly flagged as a "larger danger."

Zo State Advocacy: A Separatist Undercurrent

Compounding these material threats is Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma's vocal advocacy for a unified Zo state, an

aspiration that transcends India's national boundaries. The Zo people—encompassing the Mizo, Kuki, Zomi, and Chin communities across India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh—share ethnic and cultural ties that Lalduhoma has leveraged to push a narrative of reunification. In September 2024, speaking to the Kuki-Zo diaspora in the United States, he declared that the Zo people "do not accept boundaries between countries" and envisioned a future where they rise "under one leadership to achieve our destiny of nationhood." This rhetoric, echoed by his predecessor Zoramthanga during the Manipur crisis, directly challenges India's territorial integrity and has drawn sharp rebukes from Manipur's Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, who warned against interference in his state's affairs.

Lalduhoma's stance is not mere political posturing. It aligns with a broader, decades-long agenda speculated by some observers to carve out a "Kuki-Chin nation" from contiguous areas of Myanmar, India, and Bangladesh. This vision involves illegal immigration, land acquisition, and the establishment of autonomous zones—steps that could culminate in

separatism. Mizoram's hosting of over 12,500 displaced Kuki-Zo individuals from Manipur and 40,000 refugees from Myanmar and Bangladesh further fuels this narrative, creating a demographic and political base for Zo unification efforts.

The Pact of Pro-Democratic Outfits: A Tipping Point?

The recent signing of a pact by pro-democratic outfits in Mizoram, reported in February 27, 2025, marks a critical escalation. While details remain sparse, this agreement—purportedly involving armed rebel groups advocating for democratic reforms and fighting government forces in Myanmar—signals Mizoram's growing entanglement with anti-junta forces across the border.

Such alliances could legitimize Mizoram as a staging ground for transnational militancy, drawing parallels to the state's historical role during the Mizo insurgency of the 1960s and 1970s.

Unlike Manipur, where militant groups like the Kuki National Army operate within a domestic context, Mizoram's pact risks internationalizing its security challenges, potentially inviting foreign actors—such as China, which views India's Act East policy with

suspicion—into the fray. "Why Mizoram Outweighs Manipur as a Threat"

Manipur's crisis, while devastating, is a fire that burns brightly but within a confined space. Its ethnic violence and narco-issues are being addressed through direct intervention, and its leadership has reaffirmed its commitment to India's unity. Mizoram, however, is a slow-burning fuse with far-reaching implications. Its transformation into a narcotics and explosives hub not only undermines India's internal security but also strengthens destabilizing forces in a volatile region. The state's leadership, by championing Zo reunification, flirts with separatism at a time when India is fortifying its northeastern borders against external threats.

The central government's repositioning of the Protected Area Regime in December 2024, requiring foreigners to obtain permits to enter Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland, is a belated acknowledgment of these risks. Yet, it may not suffice. Mizoram's trajectory demands a more robust response: stricter border controls, enhanced intelligence operations, and a clear disavowal of separatist rhetoric from its leaders. Failure to act decisively could see Mizoram eclipse Manipur as the epicenter of India's northeastern security woes, threatening not just the region but the nation as a whole.

In conclusion, while Manipur wrestles with its demons, Mizoram's quiet metamorphosis into a narcotics-explosives hub and a potential separatist stronghold poses a deeper, more insidious challenge.

The stakes are high, and the time to confront this emerging threat is now—before the fuse burns down to its inevitable, explosive end.

## "Contemporary Business Practices in the Context of Viksit Bharat and SDGs" National Conference inaugurated at MANUU



(Standard Post Bureau)

The two day national conference "Contemporary Business Practices in the Context of Viksit Bharat and SDGs" was inaugurated today at the Department of Management and Commerce, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU).

Speaking as the chief guest, Dr. Mohammad Abdul Khuddus, Former Central Civil Servant, Ex-Director, State MSME, GoI, presented an overview of the Indian economy.

In his keynote address, Prof. S Sreenivasa Murthy, Director, Institute of Public Enterprises pointed out the role of the corporate sector in the field of business values, while highlighting the goal of sustainable development.

Padma Shri Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Vice-Chancellor, MANUU delivered the presidential address and also

released the souvenir of the conference. Prof. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Registrar MANUU highlighted the importance of achieving Sustainable Development Goals and Viksit Bharat.

Prof. Badiuddin Ahmed, Dean, School of Commerce and Business Management emphasized the need for economic stability in today's business activities and the modern business environment. Prof. Mohammed Abdul Azeem, Head of the Department delivered a welcome address.

Dr. Syed Khaja Safiuddin, Conference Convenor briefed about the aims and objectives of the conference. The Assistant Professors - Dr. Nissar Hussain convened the session and Dr. Md. Rashid Farooqi proposed vote of thanks.

## Indian youth will pioneer innovation, research on global stage: Om Birla

New Delhi, Mar 6 (UNI) Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday asserted that the dynamic and visionary youth of India will spearhead groundbreaking innovations and lead the charge in research across the world.

He also celebrated the unparalleled strength and resilience of Indian women, noting that women are at the forefront of India's growth and evolution, an official statement said. While addressing students at the Business Conclave hosted by Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University, here, Om Birla observed that women today are seizing vast opportunities and leading in diverse fields, and hoped that they will soon emerge as the true torchbearers of the nation's future. Reflecting on the significance of cultivating clarity of vision from an early age, the Lok Sabha Speaker emphasised the indispensable role of youth in propelling the nation's progress. He emphasised that it is the youth and women of India who will drive the transformative changes across the globe, shaping the future with their intellect and dedication. Drawing from his own personal journey, Birla nostalgically referred to student life as the "golden phase" in one's life, a time brimming with boundless opportunities and potential. He further underscored the importance of resilience, urging students not to allow the absence of resources to hinder their progress. Adversity is a stepping stone toward opportunity, the Lok Sabha Speaker remarked.



## Beauty

# The bride Looks lovely Face ..



Marriage is the most beautiful moment of life. How to stress about it .. now its supervision of the entire personality to lift such a way that the bloom ..

- Weddings are not worried. Start relaxing stay.
- Full sleep for good health. Good sleep not only for health, but is also beneficial to the skin.
- Pay a little attention to your diet. With breakfast - Be sure you have a glass of milk or juice Kesryukt. Take nutritious foods at breakfast. Avoid Flour and Jnkfud. At lunch, green vegetables, salad and lentils make sure. Eat a light meal at night.
- Drink plenty of water. At least eight of the day - must drink ten glasses of water. This skin is improving.
- If you go to a fitness center at home is not possible light - hearted exercise. Whether or jump rope again and again climb stairs - land. If you like the song playing in the room a bit - so you can dance.
- Hair Week two - three days to massage course. Or a mild herbal shampoo massage afterwards to wash the hair.
- To clean teeth, good morning



wish to consult a qualified beautician can. Note Do not use on the face unnecessary. Lest face comes off in pursuit of fairness.

- Night at the hands of a good cream to massage course. Keep a regular cleaning of the nails.
- - If the foot should say what is beautiful ... Morning or evening, half a lemon in warm water and add a little rose-water feet from the water, gently rub with cotton. May want to apply a herbal cream afterwards.
- - If you want a week - manicure and pedicure can twice.
- - Elbows, knees and ankles to take care of. Rub lemon on to the rose-water mixed into the soil cleanup may or Multani.
- - Improving the skin once a week to get it mashed papaya or banana sandalwood powder and rose water mixed well to massage.
- - Instead of plain water bath of rose leaves put in place for a while. Then the water bath. You can also use fiddle or jasmine flowers.

or evening. If you have any problems of any kind to teeth Dntrog consult specialist. So you have heard it all to enthrall teeth shining pearl. With teeth - with the daily cleaning of the tongue too well.

- - Face with hands - legs and neck, stomach and back care is essential. Clean the entire body by any domestic rouge. The glow on the face is required, as on other parts of the body.
- After cleansing facial massage cream to a good quality. If you

## Face masks you can Make at home

## Tips to soothe your tired Feet



By the end of the day, our feet often scream for some attention after all they are put through — long working hours, constantly being on the move, bad weather, ill-fitting footwear, wearing high heels, etc. Often the resulting foot pains and aches occur due to the imbalance of pressure on the feet. Also, many are unaware that tired legs affect your quality of sleep. Therefore, after a long, tiring day, it is a good idea to pamper your feet.

- Avoid wearing uncomfortable and tight pair of footwear, and get a pair that is more comfortable. Ill-

fitting footwear and wearing high heels for extended periods of time are some of the main reasons for pain in the feet.

- Get a pedicure at the salon at least once a month, especially if you suffer from cracked heels, cuts, etc. These are signs that say you need to care more for your feet.
- Get a reflexology foot massage done by professionals. Doing so will relax your feet and loosen the tension in them.
- After a long exhausting day, soak your feet in a tub of

warm water with some epsom salts for relief.

- Soothe your weary legs by massaging them with some anti-inflammatory cream.
- A fun way to ease the pain from aching feet is to roll a tennis ball or a rolling pin, or even a plastic cold drink bottle under your feet in a back and forth motion. Doing this will provide a good massage of sorts for the soles of your feet and tends to increase flexibility in joints and muscles. In fact it's a tip yoga instructors have shared with the who's who of Hollywood.

### Vinegar

It's not just a cooking ingredient, vinegar's use as a skin toner probably dates back to the time of Helen of Troy! For a glowing and gorgeous complexion, follow this small tip before you go off to bed: wash your face with one tablespoon of apple cider vinegar combined with two cups of water. It will cleanse and tighten your skin.

### Lemon

Lemon is a natural exfoliator and cleanser. For fresh-looking skin, try this: Mix some lemon juice with olive oil or sweet almond oil and apply it on your face every alternate day.

### Egg

Eggs make for great face packs. So, if you have dry skin, use an egg paste to moisturise. Separate the egg from the yolk and add a little lemon juice or honey to it. If you have oily skin, use only egg whites. If you are blessed with normal skin, use the entire egg. Keep the paste for 30 minutes and rinse it off.

Note: Do not use a face wash after rinsing it off.

### Milk

Want to look fresh without spending too much effort and money? Try this: Make a paste of milk and honey and apply it on your face. Make sure that

the paste is thick. Let it dry completely and then rinse with warm water. It will make your face fresh and rejuvenated.

### Yoghurt

One of the best ways to brighten your skin — and also remove tan — is by using a face pack that contains yoghurt. If you are looking for a quick fix to tighten the pores, apply plain yoghurt on your face. Keep it on for 20 minutes and wash it off. For a revitalizing mask, mix yoghurt with some orange juice and aloe vera. Leave the mixture on your face for five minutes before washing it off.

### Bananas

Who needs Botox when bananas can do the trick? Bananas moisturise your skin and leave it feeling and looking softer. Mash up a medium-sized ripe banana and smoothen it into a paste. Apply this gently on your face and neck. Keep it on for 10-20 minutes before you wash it off with cold water. If you want, add some honey and rose water to the mixture.

### Mayonnaise

Why waste money on expensive serums when you can get the same results using mayonnaise? Gently apply a teaspoon of eggless mayonnaise on your face and keep it on for 20 minutes. Let it dry; then wipe it off and rinse with cool water. This will keep your skin clean and smooth.

*We suggest some simple and natural remedies for your face*





## Minister Venkat Reddy inaugurates state guest house at Praja Bhavan

Hyderabad, Mar 6 (UNI) :Telangana Roads and Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy inaugurated the State Guest House on the premises of Praja Bhavan in Begumpet. The event was attended by State Transport Minister Ponnambhakhar, Chief Secretary Ms Shanthi Kumari, Telangana Government Advisor Harkara Venugopal, R&B Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, GAD Secretary Raghunandan Rao, Protocol Director Venkat Rao, R&B CE Rajeshwar Reddy, and other senior officials.

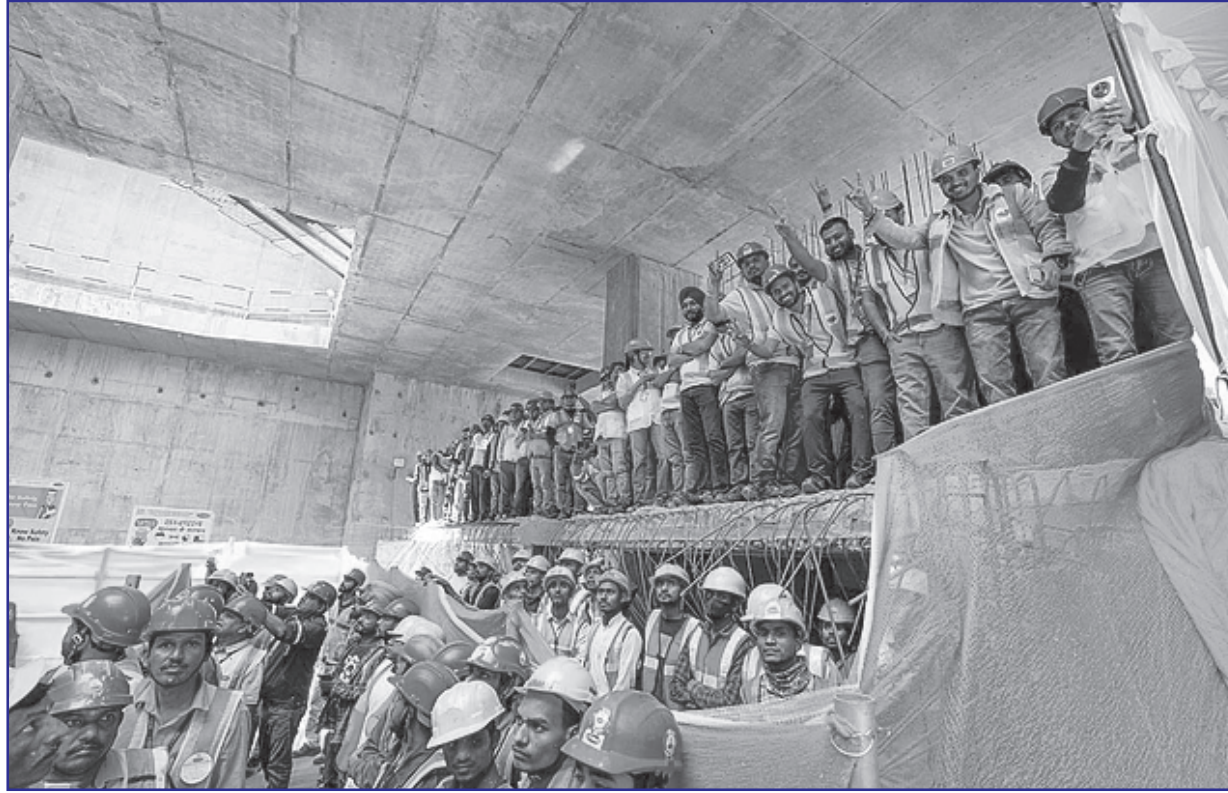
Speaking at the event, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy stated that the building, which previously served as the CM camp office during the Congress government, has been modernized and

converted into a fully-equipped State Guest House.

The facility has been renovated to offer a homely yet five-star hotel-like experience for visiting Central Government officials, dignitaries from other states, and international guests.

The Minister emphasised that the State Guest House would help reduce unnecessary expenditure on hotel accommodations, ensuring optimal use of public funds. He also highlighted that the facility was brought into use without any additional expenses, focusing on practicality and efficiency.

The newly inaugurated State Guest House stands as a symbol of Telangana's commitment to providing world-class hospitality to its esteemed visitors while ensuring responsible use of government resources.



Officials and workers look on during a breakthrough of TBM (Tunnel Boring Machine) at the Vasant Kunj TBM Project Site of the Delhi Metro, in New Delhi on Thursday.

## Malkajgiri railway station undergoing Rs 27.61 cr redevelopment under ABSS

Hyderabad, Mar 6 (UNI) The Malkajgiri Railway Station is undergoing a major redevelopment with an estimated cost of Rs. 27.61 crore under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS). The project, aimed at upgrading passenger facilities, is progressing rapidly, with 60 per cent of the work already completed and full completion targeted within this financial year. As part of the broader ABSS initiative, 40 railway stations across Telangana are being redeveloped at a cost of Rs. 2,737 crore to provide modern amenities and transform them into regional growth centres.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for these redevelopment projects in August 2023 and February 2024.

Malkajgiri Railway Station, a key suburban hub just 3 km from Secunderabad, sees a daily footfall of 2,500 passengers and generates annual earnings of Rs. 5.48 crore. The redevelopment includes a new station building façade, a 12-meter-wide foot overbridge with three lifts and escalators, improved platform surfaces, additional covered areas, upgraded waiting halls and restrooms, and dedicated facilities for Divyangjan passengers. Enhanced passenger amenities such as a spacious concourse, food stalls, and modern signage are also part of the project. Landscaping, traffic flow improvements, and artistic depictions of local culture will further enhance the station's aesthetics.

With 27 pairs of trains halting at Malkajgiri, the redevelopment aims to significantly boost commuter convenience and connectivity in the twin cities.

## SDPI workers booked in Mumbra for protesting without police nod

Thane, Mar 6 (PTI) A case was registered against members of Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) in Mumbra in Thane district for holding an unauthorised protest on March 4 outside a mosque, which affected traffic movement in the area, a police official said on Thursday.

The FIR was registered on Wednesday against 50 men and women, six of whom have been identified, the Mumbra police station official added. The mob was protesting outside DarulFalah Masjid against the arrest of SDPI national president MK Faizi, the official added.

## CM directs quick resolution of workers' claims; New EPFO Zonal office inaugurated

Hyderabad, Mar 6 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has instructed officials to resolve workers' claims within three days, Telangana BJP President and Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy announced on Thursday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the new EPFO Zonal Office in

Begumpet, attended by Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Reddy expressed gratitude to Modi and Mandaviya for their efforts in improving workers' welfare.

Reddy highlighted the government's commitment to implementing new policies for workers and thanked Mandaviya for

elevating Sanat Nagar ESI Labour Hospital to the top rank in the country. He welcomed the government's decision to provide assured benefits of ₹50,000 to workers and emphasised the need for more labour hospitals and EPFO offices in Telangana. He stated that proposals have been submitted to the Telangana

state government and urged for land allotment in areas like Ramagundam to facilitate these developments. Additionally, Reddy advocated for extending EPFO benefits to e-commerce and unorganised sector workers in Hyderabad, citing the sector's rapid growth. He appealed to both Prime Minister Modi

Hyderabad, Mar 6 (UNI) The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has busted a major cyber fraud operation running a fake call center in Patrika Nagar, Hi-Tech City, and arrested 63 individuals.

The operation, conducted by TGCSB, led to the arrest of 63 key suspects, with investigations ongoing to identify further links, she said the accused, working at 'Exito Solutions, a fake call center, impersonated customer care representatives of 'PayPal to deceive victims.

Using advanced software like EYEBEAM and X-LITE, they placed

fraudulent calls and sent phishing emails, specifically targeting PayPal customers based in the United States, falsely claiming that unauthorized transactions had been made on the victim's account, she said.

Victims were tricked into calling a fake "fraud prevention team" listed in the emails, where scammers pressured them into sharing sensitive banking details under the pretense of securing a refund or stopping fraudulent activity, she revealed.

In some cases, victims were convinced to transfer money to "safe accounts"

to prevent further unauthorized transactions, only to realize later that they had been scammed, she said.

These individuals were responsible for providing stolen customer data from PayPal and arranging mule bank accounts in the USA, which were used to receive fraudulently obtained money.

They have converted illicit funds into cryptocurrency, making the money untraceable.

The investigation has revealed that the entire network was controlled by Jadu Bhai alias La Bhai, and Rahul alias Pratik under the

## FTCCI to organise MSME Spark 2.0

Hyderabad, Mar 6 (UNI) The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) will organise MSME Spark 2.0—"From Local Roots to Global Heights" here on Friday. Union Minister for MSME Jitan Ram Manjhi will be the Chief Guest at the event while Telangana IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, will be the guest of honour, FTCCI said in a release here on Thursday. This event will bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and entrepreneurs to discuss innovation, digital transformation, and financial solutions for MSME growth.

Key sessions will focus during the event on India's MSME Landscape; Telangana MSME Policy, digital adoption, AI integration, cybersecurity, e-commerce optimization, and financial strategies such as alternative financing, project funding, and fintech integration.

A fireside chat with business leaders will offer insights into scaling startups into global businesses. FTCCI President Dr. Suresh Kumar Singhal said "MSME Spark 2.0 aims to equip businesses with tools to compete globally through innovation and collaboration." The event also provides networking and B2B opportunities with government agencies, investors, and industry experts.

## Police crackdown on Cyber Fraud Racket; 63 held at fake Call Center

Hyderabad, Mar 6 (UNI) The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has busted a major cyber fraud operation running a fake call center in Patrika Nagar, Hi-Tech City, and arrested 63 individuals.

They were targeting NRIs and US Citizens, she said.

Police identified the mastermind behind the racket as Kaivan Patel

Rupesh Kumar alias Jaddhu alias Jadu Bhai, a resident of Gujarat, who was operating the racket along with his elder brother, Vicky, who resides in Dubai, and Ajad, she said.

The operation, conducted by TGCSB, led to the arrest of 63 key suspects, with investigations ongoing to identify further links, she said the accused, working at 'Exito Solutions, a fake call center, impersonated customer care representatives of 'PayPal to deceive victims.

Using advanced software like EYEBEAM and X-LITE, they placed

fraudulent calls and sent phishing emails, specifically targeting PayPal customers based in the United States, falsely claiming that unauthorized transactions had been made on the victim's account, she said.

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These individuals were responsible for providing stolen customer data from PayPal and arranging mule bank accounts in the USA, which were used to receive fraudulently obtained money.

They have converted illicit funds into cryptocurrency, making the money untraceable.

The investigation has revealed that the entire network was controlled by Jadu Bhai alias La Bhai, and Rahul alias Pratik under the

supervision of Chanda Mansawani, resident of Hyderabad, the Managing Director of Exito Solutions.

The organization operated in coordination with team leaders Sanju, James, and Praveen, who specialized in manipulating victims into making fraudulent payments.

These individuals were recruited using social media platforms like LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook, with promises of ₹30,000 salaries for working in a "call center." However, once recruited, they were trained in deceptive tactics to commit cyber fraud.

During the raid, 52

mobile phones 63 Laptops, 27 ID Cards of Exito Solutions used in fraudulent activities, were seized, she informed.

Further investigation is underway to identify additional suspects, including Justin, a key recruiter, and Jadu Bhai, who managed the operations, she added.

TGCSB urged citizens to remain vigilant and avoid falling prey to such sophisticated cyber scams. Report suspicious activity immediately to the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) by calling 1930 or filing a complaint on www.cybercrime.gov.in,

## SaveLIFE Foundation enhances trauma care in Nizamabad to prevent avoidable fatalities

Nizamabad, Mar 6 (UNI) SaveLIFE Foundation, in partnership with Mercedes-Benz India Private Limited, is enhancing trauma care resources in this district as part of its Zero Fatality Corridor program.

This initiative, supported by Mercedes-Benz India Private Limited under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, focuses on transforming high-risk highways into safer corridors using advanced crash data analysis, community engagement, improved trauma care, and capacity building, the foundation said in a release here on Thursday.

As part of this initiative, a special event was organised at the Area Hospital in Armoor on Thursday, where advanced trauma care equipment was handed over to the facility.

The upgraded facility will provide essential life-saving interventions for trauma patients, reducing delays in medical assistance and preventing avoidable deaths before patients are transferred to higher medical centres.

The event was attended by Dr Ravi Kumar, Medical Superintendent, Area Hospital, Armoor; Dr Amruthram Reddy, Resident Medical Officer, Area Hospital, Armoor; Dr Shivshankar, Medical Superintendent, Area Hospital, Bheemgal; and representatives from SaveLIFE Foundation.

Speaking at the event, Dr Ravi Kumar, said, "The upgrade of emergency care services and equipment by SaveLIFE Foundation is a significant step towards improving the healthcare infrastructure in our district.

With enhanced response capabilities and state-of-the-art equipment, we are not only improving survival rates in critical situations but also empowering our healthcare professionals to provide better care to those in need. This collaboration strengthens our commitment to building a more resilient and responsive healthcare system."

The newly upgraded facility now offers vital trauma care, including resuscitation tools for airway management, respiratory support, shock prevention, hemorrhage control and orthopaedic surgical instruments for fracture management.

These upgrades will help stabilise patients before they are transferred to advanced medical centres for further treatment, minimising preventable deaths caused by delayed emergency medical responses.

Emphasising the importance of emergency care services in preventing road crash fatalities, Piyush Tewari, Founder and CEO of SaveLIFE Foundation, said, "Specialised emergency care services are crucial in reducing road crash fatalities.

Together with Mercedes-Benz India, we are ensuring quicker, more efficient responses, ultimately saving lives and making our roads safer for all."

and Minister Mandaviya to address this need. Expressing satisfaction over the new EPFO office and the expansion of its services, Reddy reiterated his gratitude to the central leadership for their continued focus on workers' welfare. Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya described

EPFO as a "temple" dedicated to serving workers and urged officials to enhance their problem-solving efforts. Inaugurating the new EPFO Zonal Office in Begumpet on Thursday, he emphasised the government's commitment to workers' welfare under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.



## Super Cup 2025 set for Bhubaneswar from April 21

Bhubaneswar, Mar 6 (UNI) The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has announced that the Super Cup 2025 will be played in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, commencing from April 21.

The tournament, featuring a knock-out format, will see 16 teams vying for the coveted title. The competition will include 13 clubs from the Indian Super League (ISL) and three from the I-League. A major highlight of the tournament is that the winners will secure a berth in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League 2 (ACL2) Playoffs, adding further significance to the competition.

The Super Cup, which was first held in 2018, has been dominated by ISL teams. Bengaluru FC clinched the inaugural title in 2018, followed by FC Goa in 2019, who defeated Chennaiyin FC in the final.

The tournament was not held between 2020 and 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic but returned in 2023 with Odisha FC emerging victorious over Bengaluru FC. In 2024, East Bengal FC lifted the trophy.

With all past four editions being won by ISL clubs, the 2025 edition promises to be an intense battle as teams vie for both the championship and the ACL2 qualification.

## Bilateral cricket between India-Pakistan depends on Indian Govt: Rajeev Shukla



Lahore, Mar 6 (UNI) Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Vice President Rajeev Shukla has reaffirmed that any decision regarding bilateral cricket between India and Pakistan remains in the hands of Indian government.

"When it comes to cricket between the two countries, it's very straightforward and clear that the decision rests with the Indian government. Our actions will align with the Indian government's decision," Shukla told reporters on the sidelines of the second semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy here on Wednesday.

Acknowledging Pakistan's efforts in hosting

an international tournament after a long gap, he added, "Pakistan is hosting an international tournament after quite a while, and it's great to see how well they've organized it."

Commenting on the highly anticipated India-Pakistan contests, Shukla noted that while fans from both nations eagerly await such matches, both the BCCI and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) maintain that these encounters should take place on home soil rather than a neutral venue.

"This has always been the BCCI's stance. There's also an ICC regulation that involves government approval, which is a crucial

factor. Countries would obviously want to host an India-Pakistan match, but the decision rests with the government."

He further elaborated, "We present our perspective to the government, but the final call is made after considering various factors. It's ultimately their decision."

Addressing concerns over India playing all its matches at a single venue, Shukla dismissed suggestions of an unfair advantage. "The ICC's decision clearly stated that India's matches would be held in Dubai, while the rest would take place in Pakistan. So, the issue of fairness doesn't come into

play here. The Indian doesn't rely on pitch conditions and even in Dubai, the tracks are different. The players rely on their strengths, not the pitch conditions."

On the venue for the final, he remarked, "If Australia had won yesterday, then yes. But since they lost, the final has to be in Dubai."

Regarding the scheduling of the Asia Cup, Shukla assured that everything would proceed as planned.

"As per the current arrangement, things will proceed as expected. I had attended the Asia Cup as well, and both Roger Binny and Jay Shah have been fully supportive throughout."

## N Thangaraja pulls ahead into imposing five-shot lead in round three

Ahmedabad, Mar 6 (UNI) Sri Lanka's N Thangaraja found his way back to the top of the leaderboard and made his good putting form count as he pulled ahead into an imposing five-shot lead in round three in the Ahmedabad Open being played at the Kensville Golf & Country Club near here on Thursday.

The 43-year-old Thangaraja (65-73-69), the round one leader who had slipped to second place, one behind the lead on day two, struck a solid three-under 69 to regain his lead and move his total to nine-under 207 thus opening up a huge gap over the rest of the field. Thangaraja, now the hot favourite, will be searching for his fifth PGTI title and his first win since 2023 come Friday.

Thandigarh's Harendra Gupta (70-67-75), the halfway leader, carded a 75 in the penultimate round to drop down to tied second place at four-under 212.

Mysuru's Yashas Chandra (72-70-70), the only player to have not returned an over-par score in the tournament so far, came up with a second straight 70 to gain one spot and join Gupta in tied second position.

Ahmedabad's Varun Parikh (69) was in tied fifth place at one-under 215.

Former PGTI Order of Merit winner Manu Gandas of Gurugram carded the day's best score of 67 to be placed tied 10th at two-over 218.

N Thangaraja, who had a poor day with the putter in round two, produced a contrasting third round having turned around his putting form.

Thanga made four birdies all of which came as a result of conversions from six feet. He dropped a lone bogey.

Yashas Chandra made three birdies and a bogey during his round of 70 while Harendra Gupta conceded three bogeys during his 75.

## West Ham get success to draw with Man City

London, Mar 6 (UNI) : Manchester City's hopes of playing Champions League football next season were dealt a blow by a late West Ham equaliser.

Khadija Shaw thought she had sealed victory with a close-range finish after coming off the bench, but West Ham substitute Manuela Pavi clinched a well-deserved point for the hosts in the first minute of added time.

The draw meant City remain fourth in the Women's Super League table, but third-placed Arsenal have a point advantage and game in hand, the BBC reported.

Gareth Taylor made six changes to his side, but they struggled to get going as West Ham stifled their opponent's build-up play and created the better chances in the first half.

The visitors struggled to cope with West Ham's pressing and only a brilliant Ayaka Yamashita save denied Seraina Piubel, after Jill Roord was dispossessed in midfield, before she denied the home side's Swiss striker twice more following City turnovers.

West Ham began the second half much as they ended the first, but the introduction of striker Shaw on the hour mark sparked City into life.

The WSL's leading goalscorer this season forced Kinga Szemik into a smart save with her first touch, before attempting an audacious overhead kick moments later.

City debutant Laura Wienroither crashed a close-range effort against the crossbar after Shaw proved a nuisance at a set-piece, before the Jamaican striker gave City an 80th-minute lead after Mary Fowler's deep cross was flicked on by fellow substitute Vivianne Miedema. But ninth-placed West Ham's spirited performance was rewarded in the final moments when Pavi gathered the ball on the left of the box and curled a strike into the bottom far corner.

City now turn their attention to a FA Women's Cup quarter-final meeting with Aston Villa on Sunday, while West Ham are not in action until they host Tottenham on 23 March.

## Women's Boxing Nationals from March 21

New Delhi, Mar 6 (UNI) The 8th Elite Women's National Boxing Championship, set to be held at Gautam Buddha University in Greater Noida from March 21 to 27, will serve as a key event in India's Olympic preparation cycle, providing a crucial platform for identifying and grooming future champions.

Organised in association with the Uttar Pradesh Boxing Association, the championship will be conducted under the competition guidelines of World Boxing and the Boxing Federation of India (BFI). The event will feature around 300 top women boxers from across the country.

The competition is open to boxers born between January 1, 1984, and December 31, 2005. Each state unit can field a maximum of 10 boxers. The deadline for entry by numbers is March 10, while final name confirmation must be completed by March 15.

The championship will officially begin with the arrival of participants on March 20, followed by the draw and technical meeting. The opening rounds will take place from March 21 to 24, leading up to the quarter-finals on March 25, semi-finals on March 26, and the grand finale on March 27. As the first

national-level event in the new Olympic preparation cycle, the championship will play a pivotal role in shaping India's future boxing stars. It will provide a competitive platform for elite boxers and contribute to the selection and development of athletes for international competitions over the next three years.

The matches will follow a three-round format, with each round lasting three minutes and a one-minute rest interval. The ten-point must-scoring system will be used in accordance with the World Boxing Technical & Competition Rules. Additionally, daily weigh-ins will be conducted for the boxers.

More than 100 coaches and support staff will be present at the event, alongside 60 technical officials who will oversee the smooth conduct of the competition.

The Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) enters the tournament as the defending champion, having secured five gold medals, one silver, and two bronze medals in the previous edition. Haryana, which finished second last time, bagged seven medals, including three golds, three silvers, and one bronze. With the stakes high and India's top boxing talents in action, the championship promises to be a thrilling contest, paving the way for future champions.

## Angad Bir Singh shines on senior team debut

Bhubaneswar, Mar 6 (UNI) : Angad Bir Singh became an overnight sensation after scoring a stunning 'double jalebi' goal during a shootout for the Vedanta Kalinga Lancers against Tamil Nadu Dragons in the recently concluded Hero Hockey India League.

His extraordinary feat came against Ireland in the world's best goalkeepers, David Harte, earning him widespread acclaim and a call-up to the Indian Senior Men's Team for the FIH Pro League 2024/25.

Making his Senior Team debut against Ireland in Bhubaneswar, the 22-year-old forward reflected on the momentous occasion. "I

was absolutely thrilled before the match. It felt like the culmination of everything I had worked for," Angad said. He recalled the pre-match announcement by Chief Coach Craig Fulton, which heightened his anticipation. "When the coach announced my debut in front of the team, it felt like something special was about to happen. That moment filled me with excitement." The young forward, who previously secured Gold at the 2022 Sultan of Johor Cup, Bronze at the 2023 edition, and another Gold at the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023, admitted to initial nerves but quickly settled into his rhythm. "For the

first minute or so, I was a bit cautious, trying not to make any mistakes. But then I told myself, 'This is just another game. Play your game, be confident.' And after that, I was fully in the flow." Angad expressed gratitude for the support from senior players, including Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, and Sanjay. "They were incredible, always encouraging me to play without pressure. Manpreet and Hardik were by my side throughout the match, and Sanjay, who plays right half, helped me stay grounded," he said.

Praising Fulton's approach, he highlighted how the coach's calm and

supportive demeanour eased his transition. "Before the match, Fulton told me, 'Just play your game and enjoy this moment. Don't worry about mistakes, I've got your back.' That really stuck with me." On the difference between junior and senior hockey, Angad remarked, "There's a huge difference. At the junior level, it's more about the basics. But in senior hockey, everything is tactical. The game is faster and much more strategic, so I'm constantly learning and adapting."

Looking ahead, he is determined to improve with every game and has set his sights on the biggest prize in world hockey. "The

ultimate dream is to win Gold at the Olympics. Watching our team win Bronze medals in Tokyo and Paris was incredible, but now I want to be part of the squad that goes all the way and brings home the Gold medal." Angad's debut was also a proud moment for his family. "It was a dream come true for my father to see me play in the Indian team. My entire family and relatives gathered to watch my debut match together, and their pride and joy made the moment even more special for me." As Angad Bir Singh embarks on his journey with the Senior Team, his meteoric rise signals a promising future for Indian hockey.

## AIMJ President Maulana Razvi's remarks on Shami sparks row

### AIMJ President Maulana Razvi's remarks on Shami sparks row

Lucknow, Mar 6 (UNI) : All India Muslim Jamaat (AIMJ) President Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Bareilvi on Thursday sparked controversy by criticising India cricketer Mohammed Shami for drinking water during a match while fasting in the holy month of Ramadan.

Maulana Shahabuddin stated, "Roza is compulsory. A healthy person not observing it is a big crime. Shami drank water during a match, sending a wrong message. He will have to answer to God."

Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahli countered, "The Quran allows travellers and the unwell to skip Roza. Shami is travelling, so it is his choice. No one should question him." Maulana Khalid also stated that fasting is a personal matter between an individual and God, and no religious leader has the authority to interfere. He added that Shami was fulfilling his national duty, which Islam permits, and accused Maulana Razvi of creating unnecessary controversy.

Shami's cousin, Dr Mumtaz from Amroha, said it was unfair to target the cricketer when many Pakistani players also choose not to fast while playing. He urged Shami to ignore the controversy and prepare for the March 9 final match. His childhood coach, Badaruddin Siddiqui, defended Shami, asserting that representing the nation takes precedence over personal matters. He appealed to the public to stand by the India team and not let such debates distract from the game.

## Proteas captain vows to learn from semi-final heartbreak

Lahore, Mar 6 (UNI) Disappointed South Africa captain Temba Bavuma didn't shy away from revealing how his side will learn from their semi-final's mistakes at the ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

South Africa's ICC silverware drought won't be ending just yet, after another promising tournament ends with the team falling agonisingly short of glory.

It's a trend the Proteas are bravely trying to confront head on, demonstrated by their captain Temba Bavuma's willingness to reveal exactly what they need to work on for when they're next in a position to strike.

It comes as New Zealand claimed their Champions Trophy semi-final match-up with South Africa by 50 runs in Lahore. It was the Proteas' only defeat of the tournament, according to an ICC media release. "It's just those

moments," Bavuma explained post-game.

"Just being a little bit more decisive in those moments (was what went wrong), not giving the opposition a chance to get back into the game. Be ruthless and really go for the game."

"So, I think for me, personally, we'll obviously have a chat as a team and see what the other guys think. But just taking care of those key moments in the game."

Bavuma also took personal accountability, after he was unable to turn a solid innings into a big one – a problem a couple of the Kiwi top-order batters didn't have, after both Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson scored centuries at better than a run-a-ball. "From a batting point of view, we just weren't able to (build) those partnerships," he continued. "There were one or two partnerships there,

but I think (we) probably needed either myself or Rassie van der Dussen to go on and emulate what (New Zealand's) top four batters did. A little bit of a soft dismissal from my (perspective)."

"Ideally, (we) would've wanted both of us to keep going, at least to the 30th over, we know how destructive our middle order can be. (But) unfortunately we weren't able to set that foundation for them. That just left a little too much for our middle order to do in the end." (New Zealand's total of 362/6) was always going to require someone to play well, and we had David (Miller) that did that, but we probably needed someone else as well."

South Africa coach Rob Walter agreed with Bavuma's assessment, pointing to how the middle overs of each team's batting innings proved to be the difference in the

contest. "We just lost a few key wickets in the middle," Walter told the media post-game. "If we managed to maintain a strong partnership there, I think it would have been a pretty tight finish. Yes, we could bemoan our execution a little bit, certainly you'll never question the effort of the guys, and we sort of threw whatever we could at them but unfortunately, we couldn't break that partnership, which really set them up to push towards the end."

Walter also agreed with the Kiwis' decision to bat first on the Lahore deck, which proved to be a strong batting wicket. South Africa also had every intention to set the total, as New Zealand opted to. Asked directly, Walter said, "yeah, we would have batted first."

The toss proved pivotal, allowing the Black Caps to mount serious scoreboard pressure on the Proteas.

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## WR commences International Women's day 2025 celebrations with Great fervour and Enthusiasm



Women's Day Celebration at HQ office, Churchgate

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, March 6 : Western Railway has commenced the celebrations for International Women's Day 2025 with a series of engaging and inspiring events aimed at honoring the contributions of women and fostering a spirit of inclusivity and empowerment at Headquarter as well as at all Divisions and Workshops of WR.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of

Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, the Women's Day celebrations started over WR on 6th March, 2025 with an event titled "Dil Se" ('Straight from the Heart'), featuring poetry and storytelling sessions by women officers and staff. This was followed by karaoke music which was well received by the attendees. A Health Awareness session was also conducted by Dr. Jyothi Inba who motivated the women to take care of their health. The event was held at Western Railway

Headquarters, Churchgate. The celebrations will continue on other days with Fun Fair featuring exciting games, DJ music, etc. A Wellness Program promoting physical and mental well-being of women will be held on 8th March 2025. The session will be conducted by Smt. Kavita Bhadke alongwith Dr. Jancy Shekhar of Jagjivan Ram Hospital, Mumbai Central.

Mr Vineet further added that, the celebrations will culminate on 10th March, 2025, featuring a Cultural

Program. Shri Ashok Kumar Misra, General Manager of WR will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Smt. Kshama Misra, President of Western Railway Women Welfare Organization will be the Guest of Honour. Western Railway takes immense pride in celebrating the achievements of women and reaffirms its commitment to fostering gender equality and empowerment. All women employees are encouraged to participate and to make these events a grand success.

## MoS Margherita receives top Barbados award on behalf of PM Modi for valuable help during Covid

Bridgetown/New Delhi, Mar 6 (UNI) In a ceremony held in Bridgetown, Barbados, Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita received the prestigious 'Honorary Order of Barbados' Award bestowed upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recognition of his strategic leadership and valuable assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The award announcement was made by Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley, S.C., M.P., during a meeting with Prime Minister Modi on November 20, 2024, held on the sidelines of the 2nd India-CARICOM Leaders' Summit in Georgetown, Guyana.

Prime Minister Mottley acknowledged the vital role played by Prime Minister Modi in strengthening international cooperation and support during the unprecedented situation during COVID19 pandemic, a statement said.

## ECoR, DRM Waltair Lalit Bohra inspects Waltair marshalling Yard



(Standard Post Bureau) Visakhapatnam, March 6 : Mr Lalit Bohra, the Divisional Railway Manager of Waltair, today conducted inspection of the Marshalling Yard, an important hub for goods transportation in the Waltair Division. During his visit, he reviewed several important aspects of the yard, including the Reception Yard, Dispatch Yard, and Ore Exchange Yard, all of which play an integral role in the smooth and efficient movement of goods.

Accompanied by senior railway officials, Shri Lalit Bohra began the inspection from the Reception Yard,

followed by a visit to the Dispatch Yard and Ore Exchange Yard. These yards are central to the Marshalling Yard, which is the heart of the goods transportation network in the region. DRM focused on ensuring that the operational systems, infrastructure, and safety measures in place were up to the highest standards.

Following the yard inspections, Shri Lalit Bohra, DRM moved on to inspect the Electronic Interlocking Cabin of the Reception & Dispatch Yard, to review the traffic operations related to the port side, which play a vital role in managing the

movement of trains and goods efficiently and safely.

During his inspection, DRM interacted with the staff working at various points in the Marshalling Yard. He engaged with the staff to have firsthand feedback on their working skills, challenges, and gathered valuable feedback on the day-to-day operations. DRM also reviewed the technological advancements implemented in the yard, particularly in the field of electronic interlocking systems, which have significantly contributed to the safety and operational efficiency of the yard's operations.

## Western Railway to run 7 more pairs of Holi and Summer Special Trains

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, March 6 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the Holi festival & Summer season, Western Railway will run 7 more pairs of Special Train on Special fare to various destinations.

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

1. Train No. 09189/09190 Mumbai Central-Katihar (Weekly) Special [08 Trips]  
Train No. 09189 Mumbai Central - Katihar Special will depart from Mumbai Central every Saturday at 11.00 hrs and will reach Katihar at 07.30 hrs, on Monday. This train will run from 8th March to 29th March, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09190 Katihar - Mumbai Central Special will depart from Katihar every Tuesday at 00.15 hrs, and arrive Mumbai Central at 18.40 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 11th March to 1st April, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Udhna, Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Ujjain, Sant Hirdaram Nagar, Vidisha, Bina, Virangana Lakshimbai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn, Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria and Naugachia station in both directions.

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

2. Train No. 04714/04713 Bandra Terminus -

Bikaner (Weekly) Special [08 Trips]  
Train No. 04714 Bandra Terminus - Bikaner Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Friday at 16.00 hrs and reach Bikaner at 14.30 hrs the next day. This train will run from 7th to 28th March, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 04713 Bikaner - Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Bikaner every Thursday at 15.00 hrs and arrive Bandra Terminus at 13.40 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 6th to 27th March, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Udhna, Vadodara, Anand, Nadiad, Sabarmati, Mahesana, Bhildi, Raniwara, Marwar, Bhinmal, Modran, Jalor, Mokalsar, Samdari, Luni, Jodhpur, Merta Road, Nagaur and Nokha station in both directions.

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

3. Train No. 04828/04827 Bandra Terminus - Bhagat Ki Kothi (Weekly) Special [08 Trips]  
Train No. 04828

Bandra Terminus - Bhagat Ki Kothi Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Sunday at 10.30 hrs and will reach Bhagat Ki Kothi at 04.30 hrs the next day. This train will run from 9th to 30th March, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 04827 Bhagat Ki Kothi - Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Bhagat Ki Kothi every Saturday at 11.30 hrs and arrive Bandra Terminus at 07.25 hrs the next day. This train will run from 8th to 29th March 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Udhna, Bharuch,

Vadodara, Sabarmati, Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Pindwara, Jawai Bandh, Falna, Rani, Marwar, Pali Marwar & Luni station in both directions.

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

4. Train No. 04826/04825 Bandra Terminus - Jodhpur Superfast (Weekly) Special [6 Trips]  
Train No. 04826

Bandra Terminus - Jodhpur Superfast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Tuesday at 11.15 hrs and will reach Jodhpur at 04.00 hrs the next day. This train will run from 11th to 25th March, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 04825 Jodhpur - Bandra Terminus Superfast Special will depart from Jodhpur every Monday at 17.00 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 09.30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 10th to 24th March, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Udhna, Bharuch, Vadodara, Sabarmati, Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Pindwara Jawai Bandh, Falna, Rani, Marwar, Pali Marwar & Luni station in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class Coaches.

5. Train No. 03418/03417 Udhna - Malda Town (Weekly) Special Train [4 Trips]  
Train No. 03418 Udhna

- Malda Town Special will depart from Udhna on Tuesday & Monday at 12.30 hrs & will reach Malda Town at 02.55 hrs the third day. This train will run on 18th & 24th March, 2025. Similarly,

Train No. 03417 Malda Town - Udhna Special will depart from Malda Town on Sunday & Saturday at 12.20 hrs & will reach Udhna at 00.45 hrs the third day. This train will run on 16th & 22nd March, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Chalthan, Vyara, Navapur, Nandurbar, Dondaicha, Amalner, Bhusaval, Itarsi, Pipariya, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheeki, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patna, Bakhtiyarpur, Kiul, Abhaipur, Jamalpur, Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Kahalgaon, Sahibganj, Barharwa and New Farakka station in both directions.

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

6. Train No. 09417/09418 Ahmedabad - Danapur Special (Weekly) [08 Trips]  
Train No. 09417

Ahmedabad - Danapur Special will depart Ahmedabad every Monday at 09.10 hrs & will reach Danapur at 20.30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 10th to 31st March, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09418 Danapur - Ahmedabad Special will depart from Danapur every Tuesday at 23.50 hrs & will reach Ahmedabad at 12.15 hrs, on Thursday. This train will run from 11th March to 01st April, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Nadiad, Chhayapuri, Ratlam, Dakaniya Talav, Gangapur City, Hindaun City, Bharatpur, Mathura, Kasganj, Farrukhabad, Kanpur Central, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn, Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar and Ara station in

both directions.

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

7. Train No. 09425/09426 Sabarmati - Haridwar (Bi-Weekly) Special [14 Trips]  
Train No. 09425

Sabarmati - Haridwar Special will depart from Sabarmati every Thursday & Sunday at 17.20 hrs and reach Haridwar at 17.00 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 9th to 30th March, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09426 Haridwar - Sabarmati Special will depart from Haridwar every Friday & Monday at 21.00 hrs and reach Sabarmati at 22.30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 10th to 31st March, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Pindwara, Falna, Marwar, Beawar, Ajmer, Kishangarh, Jaipur, Gandhinagar Jaipur, Bandikui, Alwar, Rewari, Gurgaon, Delhi Cantt, Delhi, Ghaziabad, Meerut City, Muzaffarnagar and Roorkee station in both directions.

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

The booking for Train No. 04714 is open & for Train Nos. 09189, 09417, 09425 & 03418 will open from 7th March, 2025, while for Train Nos. 04828 & 04826 will open from 8th March, 2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. The above trains will run as Special Train on Special Fare. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

## Joint Managing Director Dilip Jagdale's felicitation on the occasion of Lineman Day

### Lineman holds the rope of the state's progress!

(Standard Post Bureau) Kalyan/Bhandup, March 6 : Janmitra i.e. lineman is a very important element in the system of Mahavitaran. Janmitra of Mahavitaran provides uninterrupted service for smooth power supply to the customers in very difficult conditions like heat, wind, rain, natural and man-made disasters and many other occasions. In fact, the axis of the state's progress is in their hands, said Shri. Dilip Jagdale, Joint Managing Director of Konkan Regional Division of Gaurgodgar Mahavitaran.

He was speaking at the main program of Lineman Day organized for the third consecutive year on Tuesday (March 4) in Kalyan Circle to express gratitude towards the lineman who is the backbone of the power distribution system. Chief Engineer of Kalyan Circle Chandramani Mishra, Superintendent Engineers Deepak Patil, Dilip Bhole, Mohan Kaloge were prominently present on the platform. Mr. Jagdale said that the public needs to follow the three principles of safety, self-respect and service in their daily work. They should increase the respect of the uniform through their work. Since training helps a lot in avoiding possible future dangers, they should



actively participate in the training organized from time to time. He appealed to the public to prioritize safety at work by keeping their future generations in mind. At the beginning of the program, tributes were paid to the electricity workers who sacrificed their lives while performing their duties. Also, the 'Linewoman' statue erected in the premises of the small training center was unveiled by the dignitaries. Lineman Day was celebrated with enthusiasm by organizing bike and cycle rallies, blood donation camps, etc. at various departments and

sub-departments under Kalyan and Bhandup Circles. 48 blood bottles were collected in the blood donation camp organized by the Kalyan East Department.

Janamitra was honored at a program organized in Kolshet Sub-Division in the presence of Sunil Kakade, Chief Engineer of Bhandup Circle. Experts provided guidance on stress-free living as well as diet and health. Meanwhile, at the Eternity Sub-Center under Thane Circle, guidance on financial planning was organized by Superintendent Engineer Jitendra Phule of the head office.

## 3 killed, 6 injured in a road accident

Chandigarh, Mar 6 (UNI) Three persons including two NRIs were killed, and six others were injured in a road accident in Batala of Punjab involving two cars

and a tractor carrying Parali, police sources said on Thursday. Police said that the incident occurred late Wednesday night. A car hit by the tractor collided with another car. Police said

that the victims were identified as Surjeet Singh, Rajesh (NRI brothers-in-law) and Karan Kumar. The injured have been admitted to a nearby hospital.