



People's Governance
with the blessings of Telangana Talli,
on its mission to create
one crore millionaire women

INDIRA Mahila Shakti

Wishing all the women in Telangana, a very
Happy Women's Day

8th March, 2025 at 6:00 PM | Venue: Parade Ground, Secunderabad.



Better Living Standards

- LPG Cylinder for just Rs.500
- Free electricity up to 200 units
- Rs. 10 Lakh worth accident insurance

Women as entrepreneurs

- 1000 MW solar power plants
- 5% plots in industrial parks
- One petrol bunk per district
- Indira Mahila Shakti Bazaar with 106 shops

Self employment

- 196 Indira Mahila Shakti canteens
- Making of student uniforms
- 22 Indira Mahila Shakti buildings
- Arranging Mee Seva centres

The ladder of opportunities

- Free rides in RTC buses
- Training for 40,000 members of the dairy cooperative
- Training in event management
- Partners in Amma Adarsha Pathashala Development

Economic Independence

- Rs. 1 lakh crore loan in 5 years for women groups
- Rs. 350 crore interest dispersed
- 600 RTC buses on lease

Celebrating Central Railway's Women achievers

(Standard Post Bureau)

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2025, Central Railway is proudly celebrating the outstanding contributions of its women workforce who have broken barriers and excelled in all the fields. These women have showcased exemplary dedication, resilience, and commitment to their roles, paving the way for future generations.

Over the years, women in Central Railway have taken on challenging roles across various domains, including locomotive pilots, track maintenance engineers, station masters, signal engineers, and ticket checking staff. Their achievements not only highlight their individual capabilities but also emphasize the organization's commitment to gender inclusivity and empowerment.

Among the many inspiring stories, we highlight a few remarkable achievers:

1). **Smt. Surekha Yadav** ; First woman driver in Asia is now instructor at Kalyan ; **Loco Pilot, Kalyan** ; Mrs. Surekha Shankar Yadav, Loco Pilot (Mail), Central Railway holds the distinguished title of being **Asia's First Woman Loco Pilot** and has been a trailblazer in the Indian Railways for over 36 years. Her illustrious career is marked by **dedication, excellence, and an unwavering commitment to safety**. She has had the privilege of piloting several prestigious trains, including the Vande Bharat Express, Deccan Queen and other prestigious trains across Central Railway showcasing her expertise and reliability in railway



operations.

With an indomitable spirit and a deep sense of responsibility, Surekha Yadav believes in fulfilling her duties with utmost dedication, adherence to safety regulations, and a steadfast commitment to passenger safety. Her journey has not only broken barriers but has also inspired countless women to pursue careers in the railway sector.

Awards & Recognitions:

- Jijau Puraskar (1998)
- Women Achievers Award (2001)
- Rashtriya Mahila Aayog Award (2001)
- S.B.I. Platinum Jubilee Year Celebrations (2003-2004)
- Sahyadri Hirkani Award (2004)
- Purna Puraskar (2005)
- General Manager's Award (2011)
- Women Achievers Award (2011)
- RWCC Best Woman Award (2013)
- 'First Ladies Award' from the Hon'ble President of India (2018)

Surekha Yadav's remarkable achievements continue to be a beacon of inspiration for many women, proving that determination, skill, and passion can overcome any challenge. Her legacy paves the way for future generations of women in Indian Railways and beyond.

2). **Smt. Sarika Sawant** ; Matunga Station on Mumbai division (**32 women staff**) is the first all women station in Indian Railways registered in **Limca Book of Records** in 2018. Central Railway launched this station as **'All Women Station'** in **July 2017** ; **Station Manager, Matunga** ; Sarika Sawant, Station Manager Matunga Station serving has been an integral part of Central Railway since March 2001, beginning her journey at Kurla Central Cabin, once known as the busiest cabin. Over the years, she has contributed her expertise at major stations like Kurla, Ghatkopar, and Dadar, and also briefly worked in the Train Management System (TMS).

Since September 2023, Sarika has been leading Matunga Station as its Station Manager. She takes immense pride in overseeing an all-women staff station, fondly known as the **"Pink Station."** This initiative stands



as a shining example of women's empowerment in the railway sector. Her leadership reflects dedication, resilience, and a commitment to inspiring change in the industry.

3). **Smt. Rekha Mishra** ; RPF Inspector serving at Central Railway has the distinction of **reuniting nearly 2000 runaway, missing and trafficked children** with their families ; **RPF Inspector, Central Railway** ; Rekha Mishra joined the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in 2014 as a Sub-Inspector at CSMT, Mumbai Division. She has been actively involved in the Mahila Shakti Team, working tirelessly for women's safety and child rescue. She has been instrumental in reuniting nearly 2,000 runaways, missing, and trafficked children. Her dedication has significantly contributed to enhancing the image of Railways through initiatives like the **Smart Saheli** group for women's safety, the **Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (ATHU)**, anti-touting cases, and cable-cut detection efforts. She has also led various awareness programs for women's and children's security. For her commendable service, she has received numerous prestigious awards, including: Nari



Shakti Puraskar (2018) for her contributions to women's and children's safety. FICCI Smart Policing Award (2018) for child rescue and smart policing. Mumbai Mirror Heroes Award and the title Masiha of Runaway Children. Recognizing her contribution a chapter was included in 10th std syllabus by Maharashtra State Government. A responsible, dedicated, and hardworking officer, Rekha Mishra has earned several media accolades for her exceptional governance and relentless efforts in public service.

4). **Ms. Manju Naresh** ; **CTI, Tejaswini Batch, Mumbai** ; Manju Naresh serves as a Chief Ticket Inspector (CTI) in the Mumbai Division of Central Railway. A dedicated and vigilant officer, she is a proud member of the **Tejaswini Batch**, an all-woman squad for detection of unauthorised travel. With a strong commitment to passenger safety and assistance, Manju has demonstrated exceptional service on multiple occasions. She has provided timely help to passengers in medical distress. Her quick thinking and compassionate approach have earned her the trust and appreciation of countless travellers. Beyond her professional duties, Manju firmly believes that women today are making remarkable strides in every field. She advocates for self-reliance as a key driver of progress, not just for individuals but for families, society, and the nation. Her journey is a testament to the dedication and resilience of women in the Indian Railways.

5). **Ms. Varsha P. Tayde** ; **CTI, Tejaswini Batch, Mumbai** ; Varsha Pradeep Tayade is a dedicated Ticket Travelling Inspector (TTI) in Central Railway, part of the **Tejaswini 3 Batch**. Primarily responsible for ticket checking in AC EMU and First-Class compartments, ensuring proper compliance and taking action against ticketless passengers. Her commitment and diligence have been recognised by multiple awards for outstanding performance. Additionally, she was accoladed for her swift response in rescuing lost children and ensuring their safe reunion with the family.

6). **Ms. Anupama Singh** ; **OHE Tower Wagon Mechanic, Kurla** ; Anupama Singh's journey as the only female Tower Wagon Mechanic in the Central Railway is a powerful testament to resilience and determination, currently



working in Kurla Depot. In a field traditionally dominated by men, she works alongside 45 male colleagues, proving her mettle through sheer hard work, resilience and expertise. Anupama's achievements go beyond technical expertise. She has become a mentor for junior staff and a beacon of inspiration for women aspiring to join technical roles in Indian Railways. Her story has sparked discussions on gender inclusivity, urging railway



authorities to open more opportunities for women in such fields. Balancing a demanding job with personal responsibilities, Anupama Singh embodies the spirit of perseverance and has paved the way for future generations



of women in railway.

7). **Ms. Chanda Kumari** ; **Pointswomen, Matunga** ; At All women 'Matunga Station', Chanda Kumari performs all key duties of a Pointsperson, including handling train movements, rectifying ACP (Abnormal Train Stoppage Process), attending to trespassing run-over incidents, and clamping operations. She ensures smooth shunting, assists in coupling and uncoupling operations, and helps in stabling trains in sidings. Her role is crucial in maintaining operational efficiency and passenger safety. She takes great pride in working at Matunga, India's first all-women staff station, known as the **'Pink Station'**, symbolizing **women's empowerment and strength**.

8). **Ms. Shalini Shetty** ; **Supervisor, Signal, Kalyan** ; Shalini Shetty an employee of Central Railway, working at Kalyan. Supervision of Stores Depot, Procurement of stock/Non stock items, maintaining accurate records of all incoming and outgoing goods, leading to efficient inventory management and less loss or waste and disposal of scrap periodically. Conducting regular internal audits and physical stock check to ensure proper stock levels



and compliance with regulations. Time to time pursue the demand, information, communication and correspondence with the purchase, user and company persons.

9). **Ms. Sneha Johnson** ; **Senior Section Engineer/Signal/GSU, Kalyan** ; Sneha Johnson is a Senior Section Engineer in Signal & Telecommunications (S&T) with



Indian Railways, working in GSU or Project. Her journey in the railway sector has been a transformative experience, witnessing the shift from an era where women were absent in S&T to a time where their presence is commonplace. With unwavering support from her seniors and team, she has evolved from being reserved to becoming bold and efficient in her role. A firm believer in independence, she aspires for every woman in the country to achieve self-reliance and success in their chosen paths.

10). **Dr. Vaishali Sonawane** ; **DMO, Kalyan** ; Dr. Vaishali Sonawane is a pathologist at the Divisional Railway



Hospital, Kalyan, where she leads the Pathology Department. Under her leadership, the lab has transitioned from semiautomatic to fully automatic machines, ensuring

greater efficiency and accuracy in diagnostic testing. She has also implemented stringent quality control measures at every stage to enhance result with precision. Recognizing the critical role of pathology in disease diagnosis and monitoring, she actively contributes to the well-being of railway employees through annual health check-up camps. These initiatives have led to the early detection of conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and cardiac diseases, significantly reducing morbidity and mortality rates. With her commitment to advanced diagnostics and preventive healthcare, she continues to play a vital role in improving medical services at the hospital.

11). **Ms. Shruti Joshi** ; **Sr. Physiotherapist, Kalyan** ; Ms. Shruti Joshi, Senior Physiotherapist, Divisional Railway Hospital, Kalyan with 25 years of experience specializes in preventive medicine, health promotion, treatment, and rehabilitation for railway beneficiaries of all ages. As a community health expert, she emphasizes preventive measures for railway employees, ensuring a healthy workforce. She actively conducts health check-up camps, health talks, and group health sessions across



Mumbai railway setups.

Recently, she initiated a women's health club to promote regular check-ups and workouts for issues like menopause, obesity, and joint pain. She also focuses on antenatal and postnatal physiotherapy to improve maternal health outcomes. For senior citizens, she advocates non-surgical and non-medicated management of musculoskeletal issues. She believes mental and physical health are deeply connected and that physiotherapy plays a crucial role in improving both employee productivity and overall quality of life.

These women, along with many others across departments, have displayed immense courage and dedication, balancing their professional responsibilities with personal commitments. Their testimonials, included in this special feature, narrate their journeys, challenges, and aspirations, serving as an inspiration for many.

International Women's Day 2025 celebrations begin with great enthusiasm at Ratlam



(Standard Post Bureau)

Ratlam, March 7 : Western Railway Ratlam Division has started the celebrations of International Women's Day 2025 with a series of useful and motivational programs aimed at honoring the contribution of women and promoting the spirit of inclusiveness and empowerment.

On March 07, 2025, a seminar was organized at the Officers Club located in the Ratlam Division Office premises, in which HDFC Bank personnel explained financial awareness as well as cyber fraud in detail to the officers and women employees present.

During this, it was also told how to avoid cyber fraud and what a person should do if he is subjected to cyber fraud.

After the seminar, a brief cultural program was performed by the women railway employees as well as games were played for entertainment.

On March 08, 2025, a discussion will be organized on the subject of health and women awareness at platform number 7 of Ratlam Railway Station.

Divisional Railway Manager Shri Ashwani Kumar, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer and Senior Divisional Finance Manager along with a large number of women railway employees were present in this program. Khemraj Meena "Public Relations Officer-Ratlam Division

IN BRIEF

India takes major step towards clean coal energy at IIT Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Mar 7 (UNI) : In a landmark move to advance clean coal technology and support India's energy transition, Coal India Limited and IIT Hyderabad have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the Centre of Excellence for Clean Coal Energy & Net Zero (CLEANZ).

The initiative is backed by a Rs 98 crore grant from Coal India Limited.

Union Minister of Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, emphasised the vital role of coal in India's energy security and economic growth. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting research in critical minerals and clean energy.

CLEANZ will focus on carbon capture, gasification, energy efficiency, and AI-driven innovations, aiming to develop sustainable solutions for coal-based energy. The Centre will also work towards financial self-sufficiency, ensuring long-term contributions to India's net-zero goals.

The MoU signing, held at IIT Hyderabad, located in CGO Towers, Kavadi, was attended by key officials, including P M Prasad (CMD, Coal India Ltd.), Murthy (Director, IIT Hyderabad), N Balaram Naik (CMD, SCCL), and Shruti Patil (Additional DG, PIB Hyderabad).

5,468 disputes settled in Lok Adalat

Patna, Mar 8 (UNI) A total of 5,468 disputes were settled in the Lok Adalat organised in justification of Patna district on Saturday.

District and Session Judge of Patna Civil Court Rupesh Dev, who is also president of district legal services authority and its secretary Nitin Tripathi monitored the whole process of settling disputes in 53 benches in Patna Sadar, Barh, Patna City, Danapur and Masaurhi. While 3031 cases pending in courts were settled whereas 2437 disputes were also settled before filing of cases in courts in this connection.

A total of 1443 cases relating to cheque bouncing while Rs 17.29 crores of loan was also recovered. Lok Adalats are regularly organised to provide on the spot judgement, giving much needed relief to litigants.

Govt convenes all-party MPs meeting to address pending issues with Centre



(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Mar 7: In a significant political move, the Telangana government has scheduled an all-party MPs meeting to discuss and resolve long-pending issues with the Central Government.

The meeting is set to take place at Praja Bhavan at 1100 hours on Saturday under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister

Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu (Finance and Planning Department).

The key objective of the meeting is to ensure that MPs raise the state's concerns effectively in Parliament and with the Centre. Various unresolved matters concerning the state's interests will be deliberated upon.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will be the

chief guest at the meeting.

Additionally, Union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, along with all MPs from the state, have been personally invited by Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Friday.

The discussions are expected to set the course for a stronger push at the Centre for the state's demands, an official statement said.

Coal sector plays a significant role in India's development: Kishan Reddy

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Mar 7 : Critical minerals play a strategic role in our economy, and IIT Hyderabad is conducting cutting-edge research in this field, said Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy here on Friday.

"Our Ministry will provide any necessary support in this field," Kishan Reddy said while addressing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Coal India Ltd (CIL), and IIT Hyderabad here to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) called the Centre of Clean Coal Energy & Net Zero (CLEANZ) at IIT Hyderabad.

Coal remains a cornerstone of our energy strategy, contributing to over half of our primary energy needs and serving as the backbone of our industries, he said over the

past decade, thermal power, primarily fueled by coal, has consistently accounted for more than 70 per cent of our total power generation.

The coal sector is vital for India's development, serving as a crucial energy source for the economy, providing significant employment opportunities, and enhancing energy security by meeting a large portion of electricity needs through domestic coal production, Kishan Reddy added.

In a significant step towards enhancing research capabilities in the coal and energy sector, IIT Hyderabad has announced the establishment of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Clean Coal Energy & Net Zero (CLEANZ), funded with an initial grant of Rs 98 crore from Coal India Ltd. This joint initiative underscores India's commitment to developing advanced clean coal

technologies and promoting the sustainable utilization of coal resources in alignment with its net-zero commitments.

The Ministry of Coal (MoC) has prioritized the development of research capabilities in the coal sector.

As part of this initiative, the National Centre for Coal and Energy Research (NaCCER) has been established at CMPDI in Ranchi. Following a collaborative meeting chaired by the Secretary of Coal, the strategic decision was made to partner with leading educational institutions like IITs to foster innovation and research in clean coal technologies.

P M Prasad, CMD, Coal India Ltd, Murthy, Director IIT Hyderabad, N Balaram Naik, CMD, SCCL, Shruti Patil, Additional Director General, PIB Hyderabad were present on the occasion.

Minister announces launch of 3,500 Indiramma Houses

Khammam, Mar 7 (UNI) : Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Friday announced that the state government will launch a program next week to provide 3,500 Indiramma houses across various constituencies. Speaking to the media at the Kusumanchi MLA camp office in the Paleru constituency, the minister stated that it has been 15 months since the Indiramma government came to power with the aim of serving the poor. Despite the financial mismanagement of the previous administration, which left the state in economic turmoil, the current government is committed to fulfilling every promise made to the people of Telangana during the elections. "We will ensure that all eligible beneficiaries receive ration cards, even though the state's financial situation remains challenging. The previous government created disorder in the name of development, but we are prioritizing both development and welfare by setting things right.

Govt clears Rs 10,000 cr in employee dues, promises regular payments

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, Mar 7 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu assured government employees that they no longer need to struggle for their pending dues.

Speaking at the government employees' JAC meeting at the Secretariat on Friday, he announced that the government has cleared Rs 10,000 crore worth of dues, including old and new pending bills. He stated that the previous administration had left Rs 5,000 crore in unpaid bills, which the current government has been settling over the past

People of Gujarat wants an alternative to BJP, not B-team: Rahul Gandhi

Ahmedabad, Mar 8 (UNI) : Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday called upon party workers to build up a relationship with the people of Gujarat, stressing that they were tired of the BJP's three-decade-long rule and were seeking an alternative.

"People of Gujarat want an alternative vision, not the B-team of the BJP", Gandhi said, while addressing party workers here. He said, the Congress can easily provide that alternative. Noting that, the Congress only needs to improve its vote share by five percent in Gujarat and there will be a "complete turnaround".

Stating that Gujarat gave great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the Congress and to the nation, the former Congress President said, "People of Gujarat were expecting the Congress to provide the same sort of leadership once again". Rahul said, he wanted to build up a relationship with the people of Gujarat including youth, farmers, labourers, small and medium businessmen and traders, who were looking towards Congress to provide an alternative vision, as the current "model" that is in place for about last three decades has completely failed.

He noted that the small and medium industry and trade were the backbone of Gujarat's economy. But, he

regretted that this section of the business and trade had been completely destroyed, while referring to the massive decline in the diamond, textile and ceramic industry. "Gujarat is stuck; it is looking for a way out. It does not see a way out", the Rae Bareilly MP observed, adding, "Gujarat wants to move forward". He made it clear that the people of Gujarat want an alternative and not a B-team of the BJP. The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha observed that the leadership of the party, including himself, right up to the district and block level needs to first build a relationship with the people of Gujarat, only then can the expectations of the people be fulfilled.

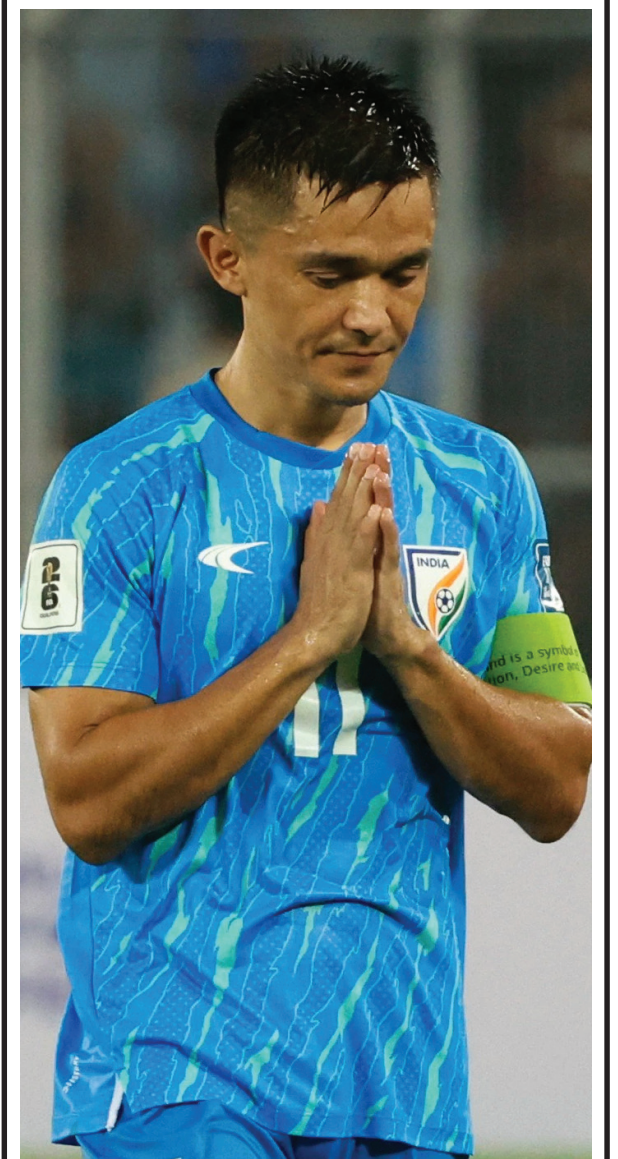
Asserting that Congress was in a perfect position to stage a comeback in Gujarat, he said, Opposition in Gujarat still commands 40 percent support. Gandhi said, the Congress needed to increase its vote share by five percent only.

Quoting the example of Telangana where Congress increased its vote share by 22 percent, he said, if the party can increase that much vote share in Telangana, it can also increase five percent vote share in Gujarat and turn the tables. Rahul, earlier held detailed meetings with party leaders and workers including the district and block presidents to get their feedback.

Centre's new IT Act poses a threat to digital privacy of citizens : KTR

Hyderabad, Mar 7 (UNI) BRS Working President and former IT Minister K T Rama Rao (KTR) on Friday said that the Centre's new IT Act poses a serious threat to digital privacy of all citizens. Taking to 'X', KTR said that the new Income Tax Bill seeks to grant IT officials unchecked access to social media, emails, and online trading accounts under the guise of tax scrutiny. This unprecedented invasion of 'virtual digital spaces' could lead to harassment, misuse, and mass surveillance, he tweeted.

With financial data already subject to multiple reporting mechanisms, this draconian intrusion tramples on citizens' fundamental rights and digital privacy, he pointed out.



Sunil Chhetri returns to international football

In a major boost for Indian football, Sunil Chhetri has announced his return to international football, less than a year after bidding farewell to the national team. The decision comes at a crucial time as India prepares for key international fixtures, including the AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifiers. Chhetri, 40, had initially retired from international football on June 6, 2024, following a goalless draw against Kuwait in a FIFA World Cup qualifier at Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium.

(See on page 7)

Celebrating Central Railway's Women achievers



On the occasion of International Women's Day 2025, Central Railway is proudly celebrating the outstanding contributions of its women workforce who have broken barriers and excelled in all the fields. These women have showcased exemplary dedication, resilience, and commitment to their roles, paving the way for future generations. (See on page 2)

Atishi writes to Delhi CM on implementation of Rs 2500 ...



Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Atishi on Friday wrote a letter to Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta demanding the implementation of Rs 2,500 monthly aid to eligible women under the Mahila Samridhi Scheme, as promised by the BJP before the Assembly election. (See on page 5)

After rejuvenation of Kashi and Ayodhya, now it's Mathura's ...



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said that after the revitalisation of Kashi and Ayodhya, now its time for the development of Mathura and Braj Bhoomi. (See on page 4)

STANDARD POST

Indian researchers find effective way to synthesise hydrogen peroxide under sunlight

Researchers at the S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), have found an efficient, less energy-intensive, and environmentally friendly way to synthesise hydrogen peroxide -- a chemical that is crucial to the industry for disinfection, paper bleaching.

Hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) is a versatile oxidising agent that is widely used in environmental disinfection, chemical synthesis, paper bleaching, and fuel cells.

The team designed and prepared a series of covalent organic frameworks (COFs) having good water affinity through careful control of the hydrazone linkage density and studied their effect on the photocatalytic performance for H₂O₂ generation. COFs are a new class of porous and ordered polymers with modifiable catalytic sites and light-harvesting properties in the visible range. It has emerged as a promising photocatalysts.

Currently, the growth in the H₂O₂ market is driven by the increasing awareness of disinfection, the rise in the number of surgeries, and the prevalence of hospital-acquired infections. More than 95 per cent of H₂O₂ is produced industrially using the anthraquinone oxidation process -- which is very energy intensive, expensive, and produces many hazardous chemicals as by-products.

Scientists have therefore been looking for an environmentally friendly and economical strategy to produce H₂O₂ from renewable resources with minimal environmental impact.

The study observed that the hydrazone-linked COFs provide abundant docking sites for water and oxygen, thereby promoting water oxidation reaction (WOR) and oxygen reduction reaction (ORR) - two main pathways for photocatalytic H₂O₂ generation.

As a result, the hydrazone-linked COF exhibited exceptional photocatalytic H₂O₂ production without external sacrificial electron donors when irradiated with a 40 W blue LED.

Interestingly, "a significant amount of H₂O₂ was also produced under sunlight irradiation, which outperforms most organic photocatalysts under similar conditions, thus demonstrating a clean and sustainable pathway," said the team.

They showed that as-synthesized hydrazone-linked COFs can generate a significant amount of H₂O₂ using an aqueous benzyl alcohol solution (water: benzyl alcohol = 90:10).

The method also prevented the degradation of H₂O₂. The "strategy of using a mixture of water-benzyl alcohol solution will be helpful in developing a continuous flow reactor for the sustainable production of H₂O₂ and will reveal a laboratory-to-industry technology transfer for the benefit of mankind," noted the researchers.

Strengthening Economic and Social Independence Chandrababu Naidu's Vision for Women Empowerment

Encouraging Women in Education, Employment, and Leadership



Ravi Kumar Boppana

(By Ravi Kumar Boppana)

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has been a strong advocate for women's empowerment in Andhra Pradesh, introducing several initiatives aimed at creating equal opportunities in education, employment, and entrepreneurship. On International Women's Day 2025, his government reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that women have the resources and support needed to succeed in all sectors. From promoting work-from-home opportunities to supporting women-led startups, his administration is taking a multi-dimensional approach to uplift women across the state. "One of the most significant initiatives under his leadership is the Work from Home program for women in the Information Technology (IT) sector.

This initiative is designed to help women balance professional and personal responsibilities while continuing their careers in the growing tech industry. By encouraging flexible job opportunities, the government aims to increase women's workforce participation and make Andhra Pradesh a preferred destination for

is ensuring that women have access to funding, training, and digital tools to succeed in competitive industries. These efforts are expected to boost employment generation and contribute significantly to Andhra Pradesh's economic growth.

Education and skill development play a

encouraging more women to enter these fields. Additionally, skill development centers are being strengthened across the state, offering training in IT, artificial intelligence, healthcare, and financial services to help women secure high-paying jobs.

Ensuring women's safety and legal

increasing women's representation in law enforcement and governance, the government is creating a safer and more inclusive environment.

Chandrababu Naidu's administration is also focusing on increasing women's participation in governance and decision-making. More women are

empowerment, Chandrababu Naidu is ensuring that women in Andhra Pradesh have equal opportunities to excel in education, employment, business, and leadership. His progressive initiatives are expected to drive social and economic change, making Andhra Pradesh a model state for women's



female professionals in the IT sector.

Women entrepreneurship is another key area of focus, with the state extending financial assistance, mentorship programs, and startup incubators to help women establish and grow their businesses. From small enterprises in rural areas to high-tech startups, the government

crucial role in empowering women, and the government has introduced several programs to help women enhance their skills and employability. Special emphasis is being placed on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, with scholarships and career guidance programs

awareness is also a top priority for the administration. Efforts are being made to strengthen women's help centers and emergency helplines, providing immediate support in times of need. Awareness programs are being conducted across the state to educate women about their legal rights, workplace safety measures, and laws against harassment. By

being encouraged to take up leadership roles in local governance, administration, and politics, ensuring their voices are heard in policymaking. By providing opportunities in governance and public administration, the government is working toward long-term gender equality. With a strong commitment to women's

development and gender equality.

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

Celebrating Resilience and Leadership: Honoring Women at South Western Railway

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 7 : South 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 both the Headquarters and across all Divisions of SWR.

This year's theme for International Women's Day is "Accelerate Action for Gender Equality." It highlights the focused efforts to advance gender equality and empower women globally. At South Western Railway, this theme resonates deeply as we celebrate the women who are breaking barriers and contributing across all levels of the organization.

SWR is deeply committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all employees, regardless of gender, and fosters an environment free from gender discrimination. Whether it's women working in control rooms, managing railway stations, or serving in leadership positions, women at SWR are proving that there are no limits to what they can achieve. From field unit staff like Track Maintainers, Technicians, Loco Pilots and Sr. Section Engineers to senior administrative roles like Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs), women are contributing significantly to every facet of the organization. They



excel in key operational, technical, and administrative roles, demonstrating resilience, dedication, and excellence in improving the efficiency and safety of operations, while making significant contributions to the smooth functioning of SWR. "On 8th March, as part of the International Women's Day celebrations, the Bengaluru Division will operate Train No. 20624 KSR Bengaluru - Mysuru Malgudi Express with an all-women crew, departing Bengaluru at 13:50 hrs. Additionally, the Mysuru Division will run Train No. 12975 Mysuru - Jaipur

Express, departing Mysuru at 10:30 hrs. These trains will be entirely staffed by women, from the train crew to the onboard staff, symbolizing empowerment and gender equality in action. On the occasion of International Women's Day, various events were organized at the Headquarters to engage and empower women employees. These included sports activities such as Badminton, Throwball, and Chess for women. Additionally, Rangoli competitions, Mehendi and nail art, and fireless cooking were organized to celebrate the occasion.

displayed that emphasized women's empowerment and safety, a culinary display competition showcasing diverse cuisines, and a flower decoration competition that highlighted the creativity and talent of women employees. The Bengaluru, Hubballi, and Mysuru divisions also hosted several events in honor of International Women's Day, including sports activities such as Badminton, Throwball, and Chess for women. Additionally, Rangoli competitions, Mehendi and nail art, and fireless cooking were organized to celebrate the occasion.

After rejuvenation of Kashi and Ayodhya, now it's Mathura's turn: Yogi

Mathura (UP), Mar 7 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said that after the revitalisation of Kashi and Ayodhya, now it's time for the development of Mathura and Braj Bhoomi.

The CM inaugurated 'Rangotsav 2025' in Barsana, Mathura, during his one-day visit. On this occasion, he offered prayers at the Shri Ladli Ji Maharaj temple and commenced the festival of colours with the traditional Laddumar Holi and a floral celebration.

Speaking on the occasion, he described the land of Braj as a symbol of devotion and faith, enriching Sanatan culture for over 5,000 years, where the divine presence of Shri Radha and Shri Krishna is felt in every particle.

Yogi said that UP is blessed to be home to Kashi, Ayodhya, and Mathura, three sacred pilgrimage sites that stand as eternal symbols of Sanatan unity. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for establishing a new tradition of heritage preservation and development, evident in the grand success of the recently concluded Prayagraj Maha Kumbh.

He said that those who questioned Sanatan Dharma, spread misinformation, and attempted to distort its essence have received a resounding response from its devoted followers.

Describing Holi as a festival of unity and harmony, the CM said that while the Maha Kumbh conveys a message of unity to the world, Holi further strengthens it. He lauded the rich traditions of Sanatan Dharma, highlighting the world-famous Lathmar Holi and Laddumar Holi of Barsana as embodiments of this cultural legacy.

He announced that significant provisions have been made in this year's budget for the development of Braj Bhoomi, with projects worth crores linking Barsana to new growth opportunities. "A rope way service has been introduced in Barsana for the first time. After the successful completion of the Maha Kumbh, the focus has now shifted to the development of this sacred land, following the transformation of Kashi, Ayodhya, Prayagraj, and Maa Vindhyavasini Dham," he said.

Yogi assured that there would be no limits to the development of Mathura, Barsana and Braj Bhoomi. He expressed his devotion to Shri Radharani Ji during Holi, pledging to work tirelessly for the region's progress. Referring to the recent change of government in Delhi, he reiterated the promise to rejuvenate the Yamuna River, ensuring it becomes as clean and uninterrupted as the Ganga.

ANVI Robotics team enters SLBC Tunnel to locate 8 trapped workers



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Mar 7 : A four-member ANVI Robotics team entered the Srisailem Left Bnk Canal (SLBC) Tunnel in Domalapeda of Nagarkurnool district in Telangana on Friday to search for the eight workers who were trapped since the tunnel collapse on February 22.

The robotics team is accompanied by a

professor from IIT Madras. Additionally, cadaver dogs have been deployed inside the tunnel to aid in locating the missing workers.

On Thursday, the team, along with the IIT Madras professor, conducted an inspection of the tunnel's surroundings. Based on their observations, the ANVI Robotics team from Hyderabad resumed operations using robotic

equipment today.

Disaster Management Secretary Arvind Kumar, stationed outside the tunnel, has been coordinating relief efforts and providing real-time support by receiving updates via mobile communication.

Upon receiving information about a battery issue inside the tunnel and the urgent need for a rose cutter, Arvind Kumar immediately arranged for a locomotive to transport the required equipment.

Relief operations have been intensified under the leadership of Arvind Kumar, along with Nagarkurnool District Collector Badawat Santosh and SP Vaibhav Gaikwad Raghunath, an official statement said.

Govt announces 2.5 pc DA hike for RTC employees

Hyderabad, Mar 7 (UNI) : In a major relief for Telangana RTC employees, the state government on Friday announced a 2.5 percent hike in Dearness Allowance (DA). Transport Minister Ponnambhakhar issued orders to this effect on Friday, stating that the increase would benefit around 30,000 RTC

CID arrests another accused in Rs 95 cr GBR Crypto fraud case

Hyderabad, Mar 7 (UNI) : The Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) has arrested another accused in connection with the Rs 95 crore GBR cryptocurrency fraud case. The accused, identified as Yeruva Sleeva Ravi Kumar Reddy, a resident of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, was taken into custody on March 6 and has been sent to judicial remand.

The case revolves around Kurrimela Ramesh Goud, the prime accused, who—along with his associates—allegedly created a fake website under the name GBR and lured innocent investors through a WhatsApp group, promising high returns on cryptocurrency investments.

A total of 44 victims, including complainant Arra Manoj Kumar from Karimnagar, transferred approximately Rs 95 crore to the accused and his family members.

However, the investors were never repaid, leading to a case being registered under sections 420, 120-B IPC, the Telangana Protection of Depositors and Financial Establishment Act-1999, and the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act-1978.

The prime accused, Kurrimela Ramesh Goud, was arrested earlier, and the investigation continues to gather further evidence and apprehend other suspects.

The probe is being conducted by DSP A. Sudhakar (EOW, Telangana CID) and his team under the direction of Shikha Goel, IPS, Director General of Police, CID, Telangana, according to a statement here on Friday.

employees. The move places an additional Rs. 3.6 crore burden on RTC every month.

In addition to the DA hike, the government also decided to clear long-pending DA arrears. The decision comes after RTC employees recently issued strike notices, demanding better pay and working conditions. Among the 22 demands submitted by the

workers, the DA hike was a key concern. With the latest announcement, the government hopes to address their grievances.

Minister Prabhakar directed RTC management to ensure immediate disbursement of the increased DA. Employee unions have long been pushing for this demand, citing financial difficulties faced by RTC workers due to stagnant

salaries. The decision has been welcomed by employees, who expressed relief and satisfaction at the government's response.

In another key initiative, the Telangana government is set to launch Indira Mahila Shakti buses on March 8, marking International Women's Day. In the first phase, 150 buses will be introduced on a rental

basis through Mandal Mahila Samaiyha Sanghas. An agreement has been reached to expand the fleet to 600 buses in subsequent phases. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will formally launch the initiative on Saturday. The project aims to empower women and enhance safe public transport options across the state.

BJP condemns Govt over salary cuts for sanitation workers

Hyderabad, Mar 7 (UNI) : Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, on Friday strongly criticised the Telangana government's approach towards outsourcing sanitation workers in municipalities, calling it highly unjust.

In a statement issued here on Friday, Sanjay emphasised the crucial role sanitation workers play in maintaining urban cleanliness. He praised their dedicated service, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and expressed disappointment that despite repeated appeals for wage hikes, their demands have been ignored.

Instead of increasing wages, the government has issued orders reducing the salaries of municipal drivers and work inspectors, a move that Sanjay condemned as deeply unfair. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly opposed this decision. Given the rising cost of essential commodities and living expenses, salary hikes are a standard practice. However, instead of ensuring better pay, the state government has imposed drastic salary cuts,

which Sanjay described as highly unjustifiable.

Until now, sanitary inspectors were receiving a monthly salary of Rs 22,000, which has now been reduced to Rs 16,600. Similarly, municipal drivers have also faced salary reductions. Sanjay questioned the rationale behind these pay cuts, calling them unfair and detrimental to workers' well-being.

Across the state, 30,955 outsourcing staff are currently working in municipalities. On June 11, 2021, an order was issued to increase the salaries of all contract and outsourcing employees by 30 percent.

However, in the past four years, there has been no further increase. Instead, the Congress government has imposed salary cuts of over 25 percent on nearly 3,000 sanitary inspectors and drivers, a move Sanjay described as irrational. He pointed out that the Congress party had promised to increase the salaries of outsourcing and contract employees upon coming to power but is now acting contrary to its commitment.

Additionally, Sanjay

noted that five pending Dearness Allowances (DAs) for state government employees and teachers have not been disbursed. He also accused the government of preventing employees from withdrawing their savings from the General Provident Fund (GPF) and delaying the disbursement of retirement benefits, causing undue hardship to retired employees.

Despite the clear message from the recent MLC elections, the Congress government has not altered its stance. The drastic salary cuts for outsourcing sanitary inspectors and municipal drivers, Sanjay argued, reflect the Congress party's disregard for employees, contract workers, and outsourcing staff. He warned that the people of Telangana are taking note of these actions.

The BJP has demanded that the state government immediately rectify this decision, restore the salaries of municipal drivers and sanitation work inspectors, and implement wage hikes for all outsourcing and contract employees working in municipalities across the state.

Women empowerment at core of BJP's vision: K Reddy on International Women's Day

Hyderabad, Mar 7 (UNI) : Telangana BJP President and Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G Kishan Reddy, emphasised the significance of women's empowerment during the International Women's Day celebrations at the BJP state office on Friday.

Extending his greetings to Shakti Swaroopins, or embodiments of strength, he highlighted India's unique cultural tradition of honoring women as powerful forces in society.

Addressing the gathering, Kishan Reddy underscored the crucial role women have played across various fields from ancient times to the present day. He credited the BJP Mahila Morcha for its active participation in elections and acknowledged the contribution of 5,000 women workers in his constituency, who played a vital role in his victory.

He also criticised previous governments for neglecting the rights of 12 crore Muslim women affected by Triple Talaq. Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, he praised the

abolition of the practice, ensuring justice for women, a step even many Islamic nations had not taken.

Kishan Reddy further highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the BJP government to uplift women, stating that programs like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' are not just slogans but impactful measures.

He credited the government for extending maternity leave to 26 weeks and fostering opportunities for women in startups and the IT sector, where many now earn top salaries.

He also lauded the Modi government's implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures, ensuring increased representation. In Telangana, this will translate to 40 seats for women in the upcoming elections. He noted that BJP has the highest number of women ministers, MPs, MLAs, and local body representatives.

Emphasising the need to preserve Indian family values, the Minister stressed the importance of maintaining the joint family system and criticised the

BRS government for neglecting women's representation since 2014.

He acknowledged the contributions of Swami Vivekananda, Babasaheb Ambedkar, and Jyotirao Phule in advocating for women's empowerment.

Additionally, he expressed pride in the Modi government's recognition of women from marginalised sections, as evidenced by the conferment of Padma Shri awards upon them for their achievements and contributions.

Criticising the Congress government in Telangana, Kishan Reddy accused it of failing to fulfill its promises despite being in power for 14 months.

He claimed that the government had neglected employment, job creation, and youth welfare, while only offering free bus services as a symbolic gesture.

He also highlighted the BJP's growing support among women, revealing that 90 per cent of votes in the MLC elections came from women teachers and graduates, reflecting their trust in the BJP's vision.

Women MLAs, ministers, and IAS officers still face gender inequality: Minister

Hyderabad, Mar 7 (UNI) : Panchayat Raj, Women and Child Welfare Minister Seethakka stated that women MLAs, ministers, and even IAS officers continue to face gender inequality in society.

Speaking as the chief guest at the workshop on the Women Empowerment Action Plan held at the National Institute for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises premises in Yousufguda on Friday, Seethakka emphasised the importance of gender equality in all fields.

Wishing all women a Happy International Women's Day, she said the occasion is being celebrated to ensure equal opportunities and wages for women across various sectors. She noted that the origins of Women's Day lie in the struggle to secure fair recognition and rewards for women's hard work. She stressed that from agriculture to the space sector, women should be given equal opportunities in all fields. True Women's Day celebrations, she remarked, are realised only when women's efforts receive fair recognition and compensation. Despite significant progress, discrimination against women persists, she said. Women MLAs, ministers, and even high-ranking IAS officers still face gender bias. Once limited to agriculture and industry, women now excel in numerous fields.

However, societal perceptions do not entirely evolved, and women continue to be looked down upon. She called for a review of women's progress and positions in every sector and emphasised the need to evaluate how

far the United Nations' gender equality goals have been achieved. Seethakka underscored the necessity of ensuring equality and equal opportunities for women, stating that true social progress can only be achieved when gender gaps are bridged.

While women may have certain physical challenges, they continue to overcome them and make significant strides in various sectors. She emphasised the need for policies that account for these challenges and support women's growth.

The Telangana government, she announced, has already initiated efforts in this direction and is forming a committee to draft the best possible policies in favour of women. Experts' suggestions and recommendations will be incorporated into the final policy.

Highlighting the role of women's associations, Seethakka said these groups not only provide economic protection but also ensure social security.

She stated that the government is prioritising women in key economic sectors and has allocated petrol pumps and RTC rental buses to women's groups. Additionally, solar power plants are being provided to encourage women entrepreneurs. The government has been actively supporting women's groups in business ventures and has already exceeded its annual targets for interest-free loans, providing Rs 22,000 crore in loan facilities against the initial target of Rs 20,000 crore.

ACB catches ADE, TGSPDCL, accepting Rs 70,000 bribe in Nalgonda

Hyderabad, Mar 7 (UNI) : The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) sleuths on Thursday caught red-handed an Assistant Divisional Engineer (ADE) (Operations), TGSPDCL, Choutuppal, Nalgonda district, while accepting a Rs 70,000 bribe.

At 1300 hours on Thursday, the Accused Officer (AO), Gajula Shyam Prasad, was caught by the ACB, Nalgonda Unit, when he demanded and accepted the bribe from the complainant.

The bribe was taken to facilitate an official favour—to approve the inspection for the synchronization of a NET meter installed at M/s Accrete Pharmaceuticals, Thangadapally Village, Choutuppal Mandal, in the TGSPDCL portal through DE (Operations), Choutuppal—enabling the

complainant to process pending bills from Accrete Pharma Company.

According to an ACB statement released on Friday, the accused officer misused his official position and acted dishonestly in carrying out his public duty.

The bribe amount was recovered from the accused at his instance.

The accused officer was arrested and produced before the Second Additional Judge for SPE and ACB cases at Nampally, Hyderabad.

In another case, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) caught red-handed the Accused Officer (AO), Kandukuri Srinivas, Municipal Commissioner, Dharmapuri, Jagtial district, on Thursday at around 6:30 PM, while he demanded and accepted a bribe of ₹20,000 from the

complainant.

The bribe was taken in exchange for an official favour—processing and forwarding files related to the Engineering Section, including Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 (two files), Vanamahotsavam (one file), 15th Finance Commission Commercial Bill (one file).

The files were to be sent to the Additional Collector, Jagtial, for administrative sanction. Additionally, the bribe was linked to the clearance of the complainant's pending salary bills for 3.5 months—from September 2024 to December 2024—and forwarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the renewal of the complainant's services to the Director, Regional Center for Urban Environmental Studies, Osmania University, Hyderabad.

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Women investors surge 20 pc YoY in Indian crypto market

Hyderabad, Mar 7 (UNI) : Women investors have entered the Indian crypto market at an unprecedented pace, and participation surged 20 per cent year-on-year (January 2024 to January 2025), according to a report released by Giottus, a leading crypto exchange in the country.

Women now contribute to 15 per cent of the total trading volume, according to Giottus' latest analysis.

Women investors are seen to be favouring long-term investments and stable assets such as Bitcoin and Ethereum.

This signifies more than just increased representation—it is also indicative of a balanced, cautious investment approach in a traditionally volatile market, the report revealed.

This surge is driven by increased financial literacy, digital awareness, and the perception of crypto as a viable investment avenue.

Contrary to the perception of crypto as primarily youth-driven, the analysis notes the dominant role of those in the 36-50 age group. This segment contributes 32 per cent of total traders.

This demographic, characterised by higher disposable incomes and mature investment outlooks, complements the cautious trading style often adopted by women investors.

Women from smaller cities are also contributing to India's shifting crypto dynamics.

Women from tier-2 and tier-3 cities account for a major chunk of trading volumes, the report added.

Giottus anticipates the trend of rising female participation to continue.

CENTRAL RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice No.	
RR/PR/SNDP/125/22-23/16R2	
Name of Work:	Green Certification of Railway Stations Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 8,16,00,000 Earnest Money: Rs. 5,58,000 Cost of Tender Form: Nil
Completion period:	18 Months Date and time of closing of tender submission: 28/03/2025 upto 12.30 hrs. Bidding start date: 14/03/2025 Tenders shall be accepted only in E-tendering format through the website www.irps.gov.in. Tender document is available on the website.
Apex-831	ADEE/POH/SNDP
कार्यालय में विद्योत्तिक सामान के साथ यथा कर्ता दिनेय अर्पण है	

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE NO. WAT-TRD-94-24-25, Date: 28.02.2025	
NAME OF WORK WITH ITS LOCATION: REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING OUTLIVED CORRODED CANTILEVER ASSEMBLIES IN MAIN LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION PHASE-VI.	
Value of Tender :	₹ 1,04,93,990.32
E.M.D. :	₹ 2,02,500/-, Completion period of the work: 9 Months.
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 24.03.2025.	
Complete information available in website www.irps.gov.in	
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD),	Waltair
PR-1051/PP/24-25	

International Women's Day

Ensuring a Safe Train Journey for Women Travellers



By: Munawar Khurshheed
Inspector General, RPF
SEC Railway, Bilaspur (CG)

(Standard Post Bureau)

Introduction:
International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on the 8th of March every year, aligning with its global observance. Its roots in India trace back to the freedom struggle and early feminist movements led by figures like Sarojini Naidu and Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay. Post-independence, the Constitution granted women equal rights, but societal challenges like gender discrimination, domestic violence, workplace challenges, unsafe travel, traditional biases and narrow outlook persisted. The adoption of IWD in India gained momentum after the UN recognized it in 1975, becoming a platform to address women's issues. Women's Day in India highlights the need for gender equality and women's empowerment. Despite progress, issues like gender-based violence, unequal pay, low workforce participation, and limited access to education and healthcare persist. The day celebrates women's achievements while advocating for their rights and addressing systemic barriers.

Significance:
Women's Day in India is a time to honor women trailblazers who broke barriers in their fields. It also raises awareness about challenges faced by marginalized women, including rural, dalit, and tribal communities. The day encourages education, economic independence, and legal reforms, while challenging patriarchal norms. Campaigns, seminars, and social media trends like #BreakTheBias amplify the call for equality. **Women across the world, including in India, face numerous forms of inequity and challenges outside their homes. These issues are rooted in gender discrimination, patriarchal norms, and systemic barriers. Below are examples of inequities and problems faced by women in public spaces, workplaces, and society:**

Gender Pay Gap: Women often earn less than men for the same work. In India, the gender pay gap is around 20-30%, with women in informal sectors facing even greater disparities.

Limited Access to Education: Many girls, especially in rural areas, are denied education due to poverty, early marriage, or societal norms. This limits their opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Under-Representation in Leadership: Women are significantly underrepresented in leadership roles in politics,

corporate boards, and other decision-making positions. For example, only about 14% of Indian MPs are women.

Unequal Access to Healthcare: Women often face barriers to accessing healthcare, including lack of awareness, financial constraints, and societal stigma, especially regarding reproductive health.

Digital Divide: Women, particularly in rural areas, have less access to technology and the internet, limiting their opportunities for education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

Problems Faced by Women Outside their Homes

Harassment and Violence in Public Spaces: Women often face eve-teasing, cat-calling, stalking, and physical assault in public spaces like streets, public transport, and markets. Incidents of sexual harassment and rape remain a significant concern, with many cases going unreported due to fear or stigma.

Safety Concerns in Public Transport: Women face safety issues while using buses, trains, and auto-rickshaws, especially during late hours. Lack of adequate lighting and security exacerbates these problems.

Workplace Discrimination: Women often face gender bias, sexual harassment, and lack of opportunities for promotion in workplaces. The glass ceiling prevents many from reaching top positions. Maternity leave and childcare facilities are often inadequate, forcing many women to leave their jobs.

Lack of Access to Sanitation: Many women in rural and urban areas struggle with inadequate access to clean and safe public toilets, which affects their health and dignity.

Cultural and Social Restrictions: Societal norms often restrict women's mobility, clothing choices, and participation in public life. For example, women may be discouraged from traveling alone or working late hours.

Economic Exploitation: Women in informal sectors, such as domestic work, agriculture, and construction, often face low wages, long hours, and lack of legal protections.

Cyber Harassment: With the rise of technology, women increasingly face online harassment, including cyberbullying, doxing, and revenge porn.

Discrimination in Education and Sports: Girls are often discouraged from pursuing higher education or participating in sports, limiting their opportunities for growth and empowerment.

Train Travel for Women – Challenges & Issues
Traveling by train in India can be a challenging experience for women due to a combination of safety concerns, infrastructure issues, and societal attitudes. Below are some of the key problems faced by women while traveling

in trains in India:



1. **Safety and Security Concerns**

Harassment and Eve-Teasing: Women often face verbal harassment, catcalling, and unwanted attention from male passengers, especially in general compartments.

Physical Assault: Incidents of groping, touching, and even sexual assault are reported, particularly in crowded trains. Also, they are susceptible to injuries due to snatching of jewelries, valuables, handbags & purses etc.

Lack of Police Presence: Insufficient security personnel, especially female officers, makes it difficult to address safety concerns promptly.

Insufficient Lighting: Sometimes, dimly-lit coaches and stations, especially at night, increase the risk of harassment and theft.

2. **Inadequate Facilities for Women**

Lack of Clean Toilets: Dirty and poorly maintained toilets in trains are a major issue, particularly for women who need hygienic facilities.

Limited Women Coaches: While some trains have reserved coaches for women, these are often overcrowded, and not all trains provide this facility.

No Separate Queues: At stations, women often face difficulties due to the absence of separate queues or counters for ticket booking and boarding.

3. **Overcrowding and Lack of Privacy**

General Compartments: Women traveling in general compartments often face overcrowding, making it uncomfortable and unsafe.

Lack of Privacy: In sleeper and unreserved coaches, women may feel exposed due to the lack of privacy and the presence of male passengers.

4. **Long-Distance Travel Challenges**

Night Travel: Women traveling overnight often feel unsafe, especially in sleeper coaches where co-passengers may be strangers.

Luggage Safety: Managing luggage while traveling alone can be stressful, with the risk of theft or tampering.

Food and Water: Limited access to clean drinking water and hygienic food options can be a problem, especially for

the infants & small children, during long journeys.

5. **Delay in Emergency Support**

Delayed Response: In case of emergencies, such as harassment or medical issues, the response is often slow and not in real-time.

No Panic



Buttons: Most trains lack panic buttons or emergency alarms in women's coaches, making it difficult to seek immediate help.

6. **Cultural and Societal Issues**

Judgmental Attitudes: Women traveling alone or at night are often subjected to judgmental stares and unsolicited comments from fellow passengers.

Lack of Awareness: Many women are unaware of their rights or the mechanisms available to report harassment or seek help.

7. **Insecurity While Traveling Alone:**

Social Conditioning for Solo Travel: In countries like India, women are often advised not to travel alone, and this mentality makes them feel uncomfortable about traveling.

Many women prefer to travel with family instead of traveling alone because it is considered "safer" in society.

Hesitation to Ask for Help: When women travel alone and face difficulties (such as getting lost or getting stuck in an emergency), they may hesitate to ask for help because they often feel insecure or are suspicious of the intentions of the person offering assistance.

8. **Physical Problems During Travel:**

Menstrual-related Issues: While traveling, women may face discomfort during menstruation, especially if the journey is

long or if there are no clean facilities available along the way.

Health Problems: During travel, especially on long journeys, women may face exhaustion, dehydration, or other physical issues, and the lack of appropriate medical assistance can be an additional challenge in

such situations.

9. **Limited Access to Locations and Resources:**

Lack of Women-friendly Travel Options: In many places, women face a lack of safe and women-friendly travel options. For example, there may be a lack of special vehicles or spaces for female travellers or a shortage of transportation that prioritizes their safety.

Social and Cultural Barriers: During travel, women may face social and cultural restrictions. For instance, women may be restricted from entering certain religious sites or may be required to wear specific types of clothing at certain locations during their travels.

Initiatives by RPF for a Safe Journey for Women Travellers on Trains (Figures – Year 2024)

The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** conducts several operations and initiatives to ensure the safety and security of women passengers traveling by train in India. Some of the key operations specifically aimed at protecting women include:

1. **Meri Saheli Initiative**

Started in 2020 to provide safety to lone or vulnerable women travellers.

RPF personnel interact with female passengers, give safety tips, and keep a close watch throughout their journey.

Women traveling alone are identified at the

station and checked on periodically during the journey.

2. **Shakti, Durga & Devi Squads**

Special women-led teams patrolling railway premises to prevent crimes against women.

These squads handle cases of harassment, stalking, and eve-teasing.

3. **Operation NanheFarishte**

Though primarily aimed at rescuing missing and trafficked children, it also protects young girls from trafficking networks operating in trains and stations.

Helps rescue runaway or abandoned girls who are at risk of exploitation.

4. **Nirbhaya Fund Projects**

The **Nirbhaya Fund** (by the Indian government) is used for installing CCTV cameras, panic buttons, and improving helpline services in trains and railway stations.

9. **Operation JeevanRaksha**

The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has initiated **Operation JeevanRaksha** to enhance passenger safety across India's railway network. This operation focuses on preventing accidents during boarding and deboarding, particularly those involving passengers slipping between the platform and train. RPF personnel are trained to respond swiftly to such incidents, often risking their own lives to save others. For instance, in January 2025, RPF staff saved a passenger who lost balance while boarding a moving train. In January 2024 alone, RPF's vigilant actions under this operation saved the lives of 3384 passengers. These efforts underscore RPF's commitment to ensuring passenger safety and preventing tragic accidents on railway premises.

10. **Operation Mahila Suraksha**

Mission Mahila Suraksha is an initiative launched by the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** of Indian Railways to ensure the safety and security of women passengers during their train journeys. The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** in India has launched specific operations to curb unauthorized entry into reserved coaches for women passengers. These operations are aimed at ensuring the safety and comfort of women traveling by train, especially in reserved compartments such as the **Ladies Coaches** and **Reserved Women Coaches**.

11. **Operation Dignity**

The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has initiated **Operation Dignity** to assist individuals in distress within railway premises, focusing on the elderly, destitute, and those requiring care and protection. RPF personnel identify such individuals and collaborate with NGOs and rehabilitation centers to provide necessary support and shelter.

12. **Sensitization and Awareness Campaigns:**

Gender Sensitization Programs: Workshops and training sessions are being organized for RPF personnel to sensitize them about issues related to gender equality and women's rights.

Awareness Drives: Regular awareness campaigns are being conducted at railway stations to educate passengers on the safety measures and resources available for women, such as helplines.

Public Displays: Short videos are being played at major railway stations to make passengers aware about the modus operandi of offenders in crime against women and the safety measures to be taken while travelling.

13. **Role of Women Personnel in RPF**

Women in the police force and the Railway Protection Force (RPF) play a crucial role in maintaining law and order, ensuring public safety, and addressing gender-specific issues. Over the years, the representation of women in these forces has increased, but challenges remain. At present, the RPF has the highest representation of women in its ranks, over 9%, as compared to the other Central Forces. In the future, it is also likely to increase.

Recognition of Women Employee: Women RPF personnel are always honoured for their exceptional contributions in ensuring passenger safety, handling critical cases and participating in rescue operations. Good work & inspiring stories of women officers/staff are being highlighted and rewarded suitably to inspire others. RPF frequently organizes self-defence training sessions for women officers/staff to enhance their confidence and ability to protect themselves in situations of danger.



expectant mothers who go into labor while traveling. In 2024, RPF personnel assisted in 174 childbirths on trains and at railway stations. This operation underscores the RPF's commitment to passenger welfare, ensuring the safety and well-being of mothers and new-borns during rail travel.

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Awareness Drives: Regular awareness campaigns are being conducted at railway stations to educate passengers on the safety measures and resources available for women, such as helplines.

Public Displays: Short videos are being played at major railway stations to make passengers aware about the modus operandi of offenders in crime against women and the safety measures to be taken while travelling.

16. **Role of Women Personnel in RPF**

Women in the police force and the Railway Protection Force (RPF) play a crucial role in maintaining law and order, ensuring public safety, and addressing gender-specific issues. Over the years, the representation of women in these forces has increased, but challenges remain. At present, the RPF has the highest representation of women in its ranks, over 9%, as compared to the other Central Forces. In the future, it is also likely to increase.

Recognition of Women Employee: Women RPF personnel are always honoured for their exceptional contributions in ensuring passenger safety, handling critical cases and participating in rescue operations. Good work & inspiring stories of women officers/staff are being highlighted and rewarded suitably to inspire others. RPF frequently organizes self-defence training sessions for women officers/staff to enhance their confidence and ability to protect themselves in situations of danger.

17. **Operation Dignity**

The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has initiated **Operation Dignity** to assist individuals in distress within railway premises, focusing on the elderly, destitute, and those requiring care and protection. RPF personnel identify such individuals and collaborate with NGOs and rehabilitation centers to provide necessary support and shelter.

18. **Sensitization and Awareness Campaigns:**

Gender Sensitization Programs: Workshops and training sessions are being organized for RPF personnel to sensitize them about issues related to gender equality and women's rights.

Awareness Drives: Regular awareness campaigns are being conducted at railway stations to educate passengers on the safety measures and resources available for women, such as helplines.

New Zealand pacer Matt Henry faces a race against time to be fit for Champions Trophy final

Dubai, Mar 7 (UNI) : New Zealand's front-line pacer, Matt Henry, faces a challenge to be fit for the Champions Trophy final due to a shoulder injury sustained during the semi-final against South Africa in Lahore. Henry, who is currently the tournament's leading wicket-taker, injured his shoulder while taking a catch to dismiss Heinrich Klaasen at the boundary.

Despite the injury, he returned to bowl two overs later in the match after treatment and was also seen diving in the field after his comeback, sparking optimism on the extent of the injury. However, concerns over his fitness have emerged as the final approaches. While skipper Mitchell Santner remained

confident about Henry's availability immediately following the match on Wednesday, New Zealand head coach Gary Stead provided a more cautious update, revealing that Henry's fitness was still uncertain with less than 48 hours remaining before the final, an ICC report said.

"The positive is that he (Henry) managed to get back out there and bowl," Stead said.

"We've had some scans done, and we'll give him every chance to play in the final. However, at this stage, it's still a bit unclear," he said.

"He's obviously quite sore from landing on the point of his shoulder. Hopefully, he will be okay," Stead said. With 10 wickets

at an average of 16.70 across 4 innings in the tournament, Henry has embraced his role as a front-line pacer for New Zealand, including a five-wicket haul in the group-stage match against India in Dubai.

Should Henry be ruled out of the final, New Zealand have a ready replacement in right-arm seamer Jacob Duffy, who is part of the squad. Though Duffy has not featured in any of New Zealand's four matches so far in the tournament, he did play in the pre-tournament tri-series against Pakistan, where he claimed 1/48 in his seven overs. New Zealand will face India in the Champions Trophy final in Dubai on March 9, their first CT final since 2009.

Two Ugandan female players qualify for ITTF World Table Tennis Championship

Kampala, Mar 7 (UNI) : The Uganda Table Tennis Association (UTTA) has announced that two female players have qualified to play in the ITTF World Table Tennis Championship 2025 slated for May 17-25 in Doha, Qatar. Robert Jjagwe, President of the Association said on Friday that Jemimah Nakawala and Parvin Judith Nangonzi will be among the few African players featuring in the world event in Doha.

He made it clear that Nakawala qualified through the world ranking basis in doubles and Nangozi the women's singles.

"Due to the good support we gave our players to participate in several events last year, we have been able to qualify again for the prestigious World Table Tennis Championship," Jjagwe said. The UTTA president said the qualification of the two players further cements Uganda's steady rise back into International Table Tennis stardom and participation. "We last played in the World Table Tennis Championship 12 years ago," added Jjagwe.

Uganda's duo will rub shoulders with some of the top world players like China's Wang Yidi and Sun Yingsha, Satsuki Odo (Japan), Ayhika Mukherjee (India) and Orawang Paranang (India) among others. The ITTF World Table Tennis Championship will take place at the Lusail Sports Arena will have the men and women's singles and doubles, and the mixed doubles.

Raducanu stalking incident not a security failure

London, Mar 7 (UNI) : Emma Raducanu's experience of a stalker in Dubai should not be considered a security failure, says the chief executive of the Women's Tennis Association.

The Briton was left in tears after seeing a man who had followed her to four successive tournaments in the stands during her match against Karolina Muchova in February, the BBC reported. The man, who was removed from the stands and later given a restraining order by Dubai police, had given Raducanu a letter and asked for a photo in a coffee shop the previous day.

The 22-year-old told BBC Sport she believes the incident could have been dealt with better, although her anxiety about the

individual was not relayed to the WTA until the following day.

Portia Archer, who became the new WTA chief executive in June, described it as a "very unfortunate series of events". "The WTA has invested a great deal of resources into the safety and wellbeing of our players and it's a priority for the organisation," Archer told BBC Sport.

"I wouldn't call it a security failure at all. As soon as we became aware of the threat, we acted immediately. But we will look at ways to improve."

A number of players have spoken about the abuse they receive online, with Sloane Stephens saying she received more than 2,000 abusive messages after her US

Open loss in 2021. Stephanie Hilborne, the chief executive of the Women in Sport charity, spoke last month of the "need to stop inadvertently overexposing elite female athletes." Archer believes athletes should be free to share whatever they like on social media and not feel restricted by the risk of a "bad actor taking advantage of that".

"I think we delve into the wrong territory by somehow blaming it on an athlete for sharing information about themselves," Archer said.

"Players can use their judgement and decide how - and how much of themselves - they want to express. Doing so shouldn't be the reason that any sort of bad actor decides to take advantage of that."

Minister Adv Ashish Shelar appointed to the Board of Directors of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Big announcement by BCCI

Mumbai, March 7 : State Information Technology and Cultural Affairs Minister Adv Ashish Shelar and Congress leader Rajiv Shukla were today appointed as members to the Board of Directors of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). Maharashtra's son Shelar has received the great honor of joining the Asian Cricket Board.

The Asian Cricket Council, which was established to promote cricket in Asia, was led by India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka. Now this council includes members from a total of 30 countries including Afghanistan, UAE, Nepal, Oman, Malaysia, Japan, Iran, China.

This council is responsible for developing new players, training them,



training umpires, promoting Asian cricket and more than 13 international cricket tournaments like the

Under-19 Asia Cup, Women's Asia Cup, Men's Asia Cup etc. Due to this, the importance of this

council has increased at the international level. "The BCCI has announced the appointment of Adv Ashish Shelar to the board of directors of this council today. Ashish Shelar has previously worked as the vice-president, president of the Mumbai Cricket Association and treasurer of the BCCI. After being appointed as a minister in the Maharashtra state, he resigned from the post of BCCI treasurer as per the recommendations of the Lodha Committee."

Shelar, who grew up in a middle-class family, has a great love for cricket and a passion for players, and while working as the president of the Mumbai Cricket Association, he worked to ensure better facilities for players. "By

Thangaraja coasts to grand five-shot win after clinical final round performance

Ahmedabad, Mar 7 (UNI) : Sri Lankan golfer N Thangaraja coasted to a grand five-shot win after a clinical final round performance in the Ahmedabad Open played at the Kensville Golf & Country Club near here on Friday.

The 43-year-old Thangaraja (65-73-69-73), the third-round leader by five shots, capitalized on his comfortable overnight advantage with a clinical 73 as he totaled eight-under 280 for the week.

Thanga, who secured his fifth PGTI title and his first win since 2023, picked up the winning cheque worth Rs 15 lakh that propelled him from seventh to second position in the PGTI Order of Merit.

Mysuru's Yashas Chandra (72-70-70-73) also struck a last round of 73 to end the week as runner-up at a total of three-under 285.

Italy's Michele Ortolani (68-74-72-72) came in third at two-under 286 after he posted a fourth-round score of 72.

Ahmedabad's Varun Parikh (72) and Chandigarh's Harendra Gupta (75) finished tied fourth at one-under 287.

Thangaraja, who set the bar in round one before regaining his lead once again in round three, had a relatively quiet fourth day as he knocked in one birdie

and conceded two bogeys. Thanga made his only birdie of the day on the Par-5 sixth hole where he landed his chip within four feet of the pin.

The Colombo resident played a steady round as he didn't seem in any kind of trouble for most part of the day. Thanga dropped shots only towards the end on the 16th and 17th when he had already taken a daunting eight-shot lead and his victory was a foregone conclusion.

Thanga said, "I made a solid start and when the gap between myself and the rest continued to widen, I realized that I didn't need to do anything fancy. I then looked to play regulation golf trying to hit most fairways and greens. After the front-nine, I was quite confident of victory.

"I think my mastery over the low shot really helped me in the windy conditions this week. Even though it was not windy in round four, the performances of the first three rounds which featured a lot of low shots helped me lay the foundation for this win. It's good to have a win early in the season as it gives momentum for the rest of the year."

Yashas Chandra, who secured his fourth runner-up finish on the PGTI, capped the week with a round of 73 punctuated by four birdies, three bogeys and a double-bogey.

Yuva All Stars Championship: Yuva Mumbai, Jaipur Pink Cubs & Yuva Yoddhas secure big wins

Haridwar (Uttarakhand), Mar 7 (UNI) : The Yuva All Stars Championship continued at the Vandana Kataria Indoor Stadium on Friday with high-scoring one-sided affairs. In the first match of the day, UP Falcons edged past Chandigarh Chargers 26-25 in a closely fought encounter. The match was dominated by defenders, with Gaurav Bansal and Ayush Kumar securing four tackle points each for the Falcons. Despite a strong defensive effort from Ravi Tehlan (seven tackle points) and Sandeep Saini (five tackle points), the Chargers fell short by a single point.

Yuva Mumbai registered a comfortable 43-26 win over Vasco Vipers in the second match. Abhimanyu Raghuvanshi secured a Super 10, while defenders Chetan Choudhary (nine tackle points) and Lokesh Ghosliya (eight tackle points) played a key role in Mumbai's dominant victory. For Vasco Vipers, Sahil contributed 11 raid points and two tackle points but lacked support from the team.

Sunil Chhetri returns to international football

New Delhi, Mar 7 (UNI) : In a major boost for Indian football, Sunil Chhetri has announced his return to international football, less than a year after bidding farewell to the national team.

The decision comes at a crucial time as India prepares for key international fixtures, including the AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifiers.

Chhetri, 40, had initially retired from international football on June 6, 2024, following a goalless draw against Kuwait in a FIFA World Cup qualifier at Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium. His departure marked the end of an illustrious international career, during which he became India's all-time leading goal scorer and most-capped player, with 94 goals in 151 appearances.

Despite stepping away from international duty, Chhetri remained in peak form with Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League (ISL), where he scored 12 goals and provided two assists in the ongoing season. His stellar performances caught the attention of national team head coach Manolo Marquez, who persuaded him to reconsider his retirement in light of the challenges ahead.

"The qualification for the Asian Cup is very crucial for us. Given the importance of the tournament and the matches ahead, I discussed with Sunil Chhetri about making a comeback to strengthen the national team. He agreed, and so we have included him in the squad," Marquez stated.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) confirmed Chhetri's return on March 6, announcing his inclusion in the 26-member squad for the upcoming FIFA International Window. India is set to face the Maldives in a friendly match on March 19, followed by a crucial AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers Final Round match against Bangladesh on March 25 at Shillong's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Chhetri's return is expected to provide a significant morale boost to the squad, with fans and teammates welcoming the comeback of the 'captain, leader, legend.' As India pushes for a spot in the AFC Asian Cup 2027, his experience and leadership could prove invaluable on the international stage.

Ultimate Table Tennis launches Table Tennis Super League for Grassroots Development of TT

Mumbai, Mar 7 (UNI) : Table Tennis Super League (TTSL), an initiative by Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) to strengthen grassroots talent development and elevate state-level competition nationwide, will commence high-octane action with TTSL Maharashtra from April 3-6 at NSCI, here, featuring six franchise-backed teams and 36

chosen players from across the state, picked through an auction.

With a total prize pool of INR 6.25 lakh, including INR 3.5 lakh for the winner, the participating teams will feature six players from six categories, Under-13 Boys, Under-17 Boys, Under-17 Girls, Men's, Women's, and Veterans, providing a platform for the best paddlers from the state to

test themselves in a professional setting. TTSL Maharashtra will culminate on April 6 with the semi-finals, third-place match, and finals, setting the stage for an intense finale.

TTSL Maharashtra will feature six teams, including Century Warriors (Sanjay Mehta, Prakash Punjabi, Raman Iyer, Sandip Katiyar), Ping Panthers (Samir Raut, Nishad Naik),

PBG Pune Jaguars (Punit Balan), Mumbai Mozart (Ashish Shanker, Navin Ajwani), Phantom Stars (Antara Jaggi), and Bayside Spinners TTC (Kailash Nichani, Anil Bajaj).

The teams will have a player pool of 68 players to pick from and a bidding purse of INR 2,50,000 to use in the auction on March 8.

Commenting on TTSL, Vita Dani, Co-Promoter, UTT, said: "TTSL is another key cog in the machine for us to strengthen the foundation for table tennis in the country. The tournament comes back after 2019 to provide state-level players a competitive opportunity in front of home crowd and a pathway to higher levels of the sport. TTSL Maharashtra is a building block in this mission, and the aim is to take this across states."

UTT has played a key

Mohun Bagan Super Giant target sixth consecutive home clean sheet

Kolkata, Mar 7 (UNI) : Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) will be playing FC Goa at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in the Indian Super League (ISL) match on Saturday, at 7:30 pm IST.

The League Winners clash against the second-placed team in what promises to be a cracker of a contest, with both sides sealing their semi-finals spots courtesy of their top-two finish.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant and FC Goa have 53 and 48 points respectively from 23 games so far and this will be their last game of the league stage of the ISL.

MBSG have kept five consecutive clean sheets at home and a sixth

consecutive one will see them become the first team to scale that peak in a single season. The Gaurs are on a five-game-long winning streak, marking it to be a game of two incredibly in-form teams.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant have scored three or more goals in nine of their 23 league games this season. If they score at least three goals in this fixture, they will join FC Goa (2019-20) and Mumbai City FC (2022-23) as the only teams to achieve this milestone 10 times in a single season.

MBSG have made 137 shots on target in ISL 2024-25, the highest among all teams, and 22 more than FC Goa (115). Liston Colaco (31), Jamie Maclaren (19), and Manvir Singh (16) have

taken the most on-target attempts amongst the Mohun Bagan Super Giant squad this season.

FC Goa have conceded six goals via spot-kicks this season, the most by any team. Only Odisha FC (2019-20) and FC Goa (2022-23) have conceded more penalties in a single ISL season (seven each).

The Gaurs have kept the third-most clean sheets (8) in the competition, including three on the bounce coming into this encounter.

The two teams have played nine matches against each other, with FC Goa winning thrice and Mohun Bagan Super Giant emerging victorious five times. Only one match has produced a draw.

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High level meeting was held headed by Minister of railways Ashwini Vaisnaw



(Standard Post Bureau)

New Delhi, March 7 : Today a high level meeting was held headed by Minister of railways Shri Ashwini Vaisnaw on crowd control at stations. Following decision has been taken.

1. Permanent outside waiting areas at 60 stations:

During the festival season of 2024, waiting areas were created outside stations. These waiting areas were able to hold large crowds at Surat Udhna, Patna and New Delhi. Passengers were allowed only when the train came to the platform.

Similar arrangements were made during Mahakumbh at nine stations of Prayag area.

Based on the experience of these stations, we have decided to create permanent waiting areas outside stations at 60 stations across the country which periodically face heavy crowds.

Pilot projects have started at New Delhi, Anand Vihar, Varanasi, Ayodhya,

and Patna stations.

With this concept, the sudden crowd will be contained within the waiting area. Passengers will be allowed to go to platforms only when the trains arrive at the platform. This will decongest the stations.

2. Access control: Complete access control will be initiated at the 60 stations.

Passengers with confirmed reserve tickets will be given direct access to the platforms.

Passengers without a ticket or with a waiting list ticket will wait in the outside waiting area.

All unauthorised entry points will be sealed.

3. Wider foot-over-bridges (FOB):

Two new designs of 12 metre wide (40 feet) and 6 metre wide (20 feet) standard FOB have been developed. These wide FOBs with ramps were very effective in crowd management during Mahakumbh. These new standard wide FOBs will be installed in all the stations.

4. Cameras: Cameras helped crowd

management in a big way during Mahakumbh. A large number of cameras will be installed in all stations and adjoining areas for close monitoring.

5. War rooms:

War rooms at large stations will be developed. Officers of all departments will work in the war room during crowd situations.

6. New generation communication equipment:

Latest design digital communication equipment like walkie-talkies, announcement systems, calling systems will be installed on all heavy crowd stations.

7. New design ID card:

All staff and service persons will be given a new design ID card so that only authorised persons can enter the station.

8. New design uniform for staff:

All staff members will be given new design uniforms so that they can be easily identified during a crisis situation.

9. Upgradation of station director post:

All major stations will have a senior officer as station director. All other departments will report to the station director.

Station director will get financial empowerment so that he can take on-the-spot decisions for improving the station.

10. Sale of tickets as per capacity:

Station Director will be empowered to control the sale of tickets as per capacity of the station and the available trains.

Special Traffic and Power Blocks for launching of ROB girder (Phase-I): CR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 7 : Central Railway will operate special traffic and power blocks for launching of ROB girder (Phase-I) at Kasara station on 08.03.2025(Saturday) & 09.3.2025(Sunday) as follows:

The First block will be on 08.03.2025(Saturday) from 11.40 hrs to 12.10 hrs on Up and Dn North East lines within Kasara station limits.

The Second & Third blocks will be on 09.03.2025(Sunday) from 11.40 hrs to 12.10 hrs and from 16.00 hrs to 16.25 hrs respectively on Up and Dn North East lines within Kasara station limits.

Short Termination / Origination of suburban trains due to the block

Kasara local (N-11) leaving CSMT at 09.34 hrs on 08.03.2025(Saturday) & 09.3.2025(Sunday) will be short terminated at Asangaon. "Kasara local (N-19) leaving CSMT at 13.10 hrs on 09.3.2025(Sunday) will be short terminated at Kalyan.

Local for CSMT (N-16) scheduled to leave Kasara at 11.10 hrs on 08.03.2025(Saturday) & 09.3.2025(Sunday) will short originate from Asangaon. "Local for CSMT (N-26) scheduled to leave Kasara at 16.16 hrs on 09.3.2025(Sunday) will short originate from Kalyan.

These maintenance mega blocks are essential for infrastructure upkeep and safety. Passengers are requested to bear with the Railway Administration for the inconvenience caused.

Western Railway to Run Holi and Summer special trains between Udhna and Jaynagar

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 7 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during this Holi season, Western Railway has decided to run Special Train on Special Fare between Udhna and Jaynagar stations.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek the details of the special train is as under:

Train No. 09031/09032 Udhna - Jaynagar Weekly Special [34 Trips]

Train No. 09031 Udhna - Jaynagar Special will depart from Udhna every Sunday at 11.25 hrs and will reach Jaynagar at 21.30 the next day. This train will run from 9th March to 29th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09032 Jaynagar - Udhna Special will depart from Jaynagar

every Monday at 23.00 hrs and will reach Udhna at 14.30 hrs on Wednesday. This train will run from 10th March to 30th June, 2025.

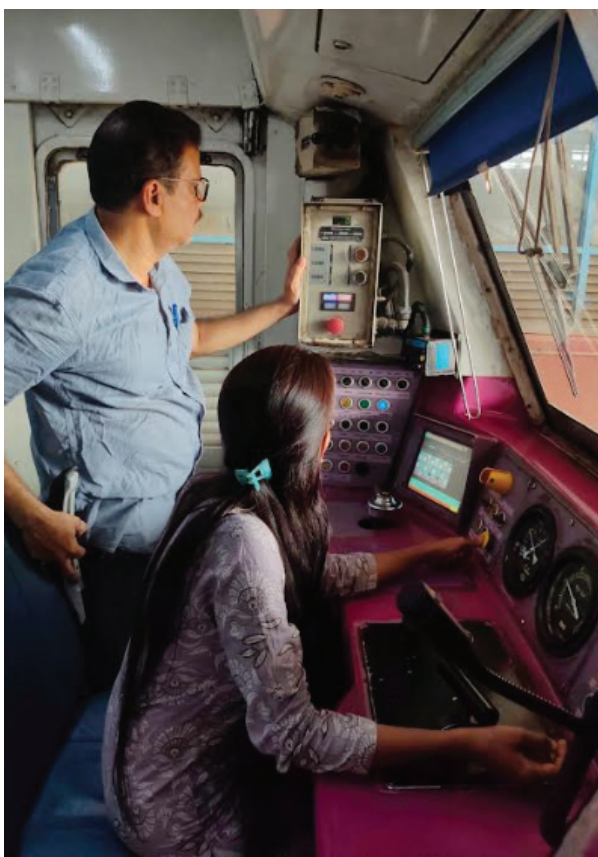
Enroute, this train will halt at Chalthan, Bardoli, Nandurbar, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Pipariya Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna, Bakhtiyarpur, Mokama, Barauni, Samastipur, Darbhanga and Madhubani station in both directions.

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

The Booking for Train No. 09031 will open from 8th March, 2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Western Railway's International Women's Day Special

Empowered & Inspiring: Shivangi Soni, an Engineer Redefining Success at EMU Carshed



(Standard Post Bureau)

On International Women's Day, we celebrate the achievements of women who are not only excelling in their fields but are also breaking barriers and setting inspiring examples for future generations. The theme for this International Women's Day is "Accelerate Action". One such remarkable story is of Smt. Shivangi Soni, a Senior Section Engineer at the EMU Carshed in Virar, Western Railway. With her dedication, hard work, and remarkable technical expertise, Shivangi is an exceptional example of a woman who is making

Station redevelopment work at Surat station progressing ahead at a rapid pace : WR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 7 : Temporary Shift in Terminal of trains Originating/Terminating from Surat station extended further upto 31st March, 2025

Surat station is undergoing complete transformation & is being developed into world class station. Presently, the concourse work in connection with the Surat Station Redevelopment on Platform No. 2 & 3 (Phase-II) is in progress. In view of this, the block which was initially planned upto 08th March, 2025 has now been further extended upto 31st March, 2025. Accordingly, the change in terminal of few trains originating/ departing from Surat railway station which was temporarily shifted to Udhna has been further extended and will continue. Similarly, some of the MEMU/Passenger trains being short terminated/ originating from Udhna, Bhestan and Navsari stations has also been extended upto 31st March, 2025.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, the change of terminal shall provide operational flexibility, reduce congestion at Surat station, allow augmenting and upgradation of passenger services and enable faster execution of the ongoing infrastructural project in Surat.



relentless drive have allowed her to rise to a leadership role in this environment. After completing her degree, Shivangi's commitment to her work led her to the prestigious position of Junior Engineer at the EMU Carshed in Virar, a key operational unit for Western Railway. The responsibility she holds is immense, given the complexity and critical nature of the systems she oversees.

Managing Complex Systems with Precision

Shivangi's role involves ensuring that the Automatic Warning System (AWS), an essential safety mechanism in trains, functions without error, providing real-time alerts to train operators to prevent accidents. She also manages the Passenger Announcement and Information System (PAPIS), ensuring passengers remain informed about the latest updates related to train schedules

and safety information. Additionally, Shivangi ensures the CCTV surveillance system is maintained and operational, guaranteeing the security of both passengers and staff aboard the trains.

Her knowledge and expertise in handling these systems reflect her deep technical understanding and ability to manage the operations of highly sophisticated engineering solutions. Shivangi has become a vital link in ensuring the EMU rakes run smoothly, safely, and efficiently. Her work not only helps in the smooth functioning of the trains but also serves as a source of inspiration for other aspiring engineers, particularly women, who look to break barriers and pursue careers in technical fields.

Breaking Barriers and Inspiring Future Generations

Her journey is an example of what's possible when women in the field of

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) rise to the challenges they face head-on. In a profession where women are often underrepresented, she stands as a beacon of inspiration, showing that with hard work, dedication, and a clear vision, anything is possible. Her ability to balance the demands of a highly technical and critical role with her responsibilities as a leader reflects her remarkable versatility and capability.

On International Women's Day, Shivangi's story serves as an encouragement to all women aspiring to work in fields traditionally dominated by men, especially in engineering and technology.

Her success is proof that gender should never be a barrier to success and that with determination, women can make profound impacts in any industry, including railways.

International Women's Day 2025 WR organises fun and Fair and health Awareness programme

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 7 : 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, as part of the ongoing International



Women's Day Celebration at HQ office, Churchgate.

Women's Day Celebration 2025, a health awareness programme was organized at Western Railway's HQ office on 07th March, 2025 featuring motivational sessions by women officers and staff. This was followed by a vibrant Fun & Fair event with exciting

games and DJ music in which all those present participated whole heartedly & enthusiastically. More such celebrations will be held across other days upto 10th March, 2025 with activities such as Yoga, wellness program, cultural programme,

etc. 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 being encouraged to participate and to make these events a grand success.

Matunga Station, CR : A Landmark in Women's Empowerment on Indian Railways

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, March 7 : In a remarkable initiative that blends women's empowerment with efficiency in public service, Matunga Station on Central Railway has set a historic milestone as the first-ever fully women-staffed station in the country. This pioneering effort by Central Railway was launched in July 2017. In recognition of this groundbreaking achievement, Matunga Station earned a spot in the Limca Book of Records 2018 as a fully managed station by women.

Matunga's transformation into an all-women station is an exemplary model of empowerment and inclusion. A team of 32 women staff members, including 16 booking clerks, 9 ticket checkers, 6



operating staff, RPF (Railway Protection Force) personnel, pointsmen and safai karmacharis, now manage every aspect of the station's operation. This includes crucial responsibilities such as handling ticketing, ensuring safety, managing operations, and

maintaining the station etc. The initiative not only empowers women but also fosters an environment where they have the autonomy to make decisions, enhancing their personal and professional well-being while contributing to the station's smooth functioning. The

team works under the leadership of Mrs. Sarika Sawant, the station manager, who has been a trailblazer herself. Sawant has demonstrated exemplary dedication and leadership in managing the station, ensuring efficiency and operational excellence.

Smt. Manali Patil is the Chief Ticket Inspector, and her team of lady ticket-checking staff ensures that all passengers at the station abide by rules and regulations. Their diligent efforts contribute significantly to maintaining discipline and order, reinforcing the commitment to providing a safe and smooth travel experience for commuters. Since the all-women team took charge, the station's operations have been running smoothly, yielding positive and encouraging results.