

## IN BRIEF

### DRI arrests two foreigners for gold smuggling at Mumbai airport

Mumbai, Mar 7 (UNI) : The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) Mumbai has arrested two foreigners for allegedly trying to smuggle foreign-origin gold worth nearly Rs 19 crore into India, officials said here on Friday.

The two passengers—Salem Abdulla Alshamshi, 33, a UAE national, and Alshamshi Abdullah Hmed, 38, from Oman—were nabbed when they were trying to smuggle gold by concealing it in a specially made customised waist belt.

DRI acted on specific intelligence and intercepted accused persons who arrived at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport from Dubai via an Emirates flight.

### Steps taken for women empowerment in Bihar: Nitish

Patna, Mar 7 (UNI) Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday said that a number of steps had been taken by his government for women's empowerment in the state.

Kumar, while congratulating women on the eve of International Women's Day, said that his government was totally committed to improving the condition of women in Bihar.

A number of steps were taken in the state for women's empowerment since his government was voted to power in 2005, he added.

"Bihar was the first state to make 50 percent reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institutions and local bodies," the Chief Minister said, adding that 35 per cent reservation was also given to women in police recruitment and other government services.

He called upon all stakeholders to rededicate themselves for women empowerment, so that development could get a new momentum in Bihar.

## PM inaugurates and launches projects worth Rs 2580 crore in Silvassa

Silvassa, Mar 7 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated and laid the foundation of various development works worth over Rs 2580 crore in Silvassa.

Located in Western India, Silvassa is the headquarters of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli district in the Union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated the 450-bedded NAMO Hospital

(Phase I), built at the cost of over Rs 460 crore, which will significantly strengthen healthcare services in the Union Territory. As per an official statement, the hospital will provide state-of-the-art medical care to the people in the region, especially the tribal communities.

Addressing the gathering, PM Modi said in recent years, modern healthcare services have expanded significantly in the region. "In 2023, I had the opportunity to

inaugurate NamO Medical College here. Along with this, a new hospital with a capacity of 450 beds has been added. The healthcare facilities in Silvassa will greatly benefit the tribal community in the region," Modi underscored.

Highlighting the significance of healthcare projects, as it coincides with Jan Aushadhi Diwas, the PM emphasised that Jan Aushadhi ensures affordable treatment.

"Under this initiative, the government is

providing quality hospitals, free treatment under Ayushman Bharat, and affordable medicines through Jan Aushadhi centres." The PM said, "More than 15,000 Jan Aushadhi centres across the country offer medicines at up to 80% lower prices. Around 40 Jan Aushadhi centres are benefiting the people of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu." He said the government aims to open 25,000 Jan Aushadhi centres nationwide in the

future. "Since the launch of this initiative, nearly Rs 6,500 crore worth of affordable medicines have been provided to the needy, saving over Rs 30,000 crore for the poor and middle class" he said.

Highlighting the progress made in the region since his government came to power in 2014, the PM said with the launch of the Mission Manufacturing initiative in the recent budget, the region is poised to benefit significantly.

## 1.5 crore consumers to be exempt from electricity bills: CM



(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai Mar 7 : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Friday that a scheme is being prepared in the state soon on the lines of the Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana and one and half crore consumers will be exempt from electricity bills.

Speaking at the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Fadnavis said 70 percent of electricity consumers will benefit from the scheme.

The Chief Minister, who was replying to the debate on the Governor's address in the House, said he started the Solar Agricultural Pump Scheme for those who asked for it. In eight years, 1 lakh

84 thousand pumps were installed in the state. In the last 1 year, 3.5 lakh pumps have been installed.

Fourteen lakh acres of land has come under irrigation due to 2 lakh 75 thousand agricultural pumps. "We are the number one in the country in the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana," he said.

1 lakh 30 thousand household consumers have been given the benefit of the Roof Solar Scheme by providing a subsidy of more than 1 thousand crores, he added.

"70 percent of our household consumers use zero to one hundred units of electricity, for them we are making a state plan. This will enable 70 percent of consumers to take advantage of the scheme and install solar panels on their homes," he added.

## State to grow at 7.3pc in Fy 2024-25

Mumbai, Mar 7 (UNI) Maharashtra's economy is expected to grow at 7.3 per cent in the year 2024-25, according to the government's pre-Budget Economic Survey tabled in the Assembly Friday.

The survey, which was tabled by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in the Maharashtra Assembly, said the projected national rate is expected to grow at 6.5 per cent.

Maharashtra stands at fourth rank in terms of per capita income for the year 2023-24 with Telangana being the first. The Per Capita State Income for 2024-25 as per advance estimates is Rs 3,09,340 against Rs 2,78,681 as per first advance estimates for 2023-24. According to the Economic Survey, agriculture and allied activities are expected to grow at 8.7 per cent compared to 3.2 per cent last year. However, the industry will grow at 4.9 per cent during the current fiscal year against 6.2 per cent last year, and the services sector at 7.8 per cent during the current fiscal year against 8.3 per cent last year.

Maharashtra's debt stock for 2024-25 is estimated at Rs 7,82,991 crore against Rs 7,11,278 crore (RE). The debt of Rs 7,82,991 crore is 17.3 per cent of the gross state domestic product, which is well within the 25 per cent limit recommended by the Finance Commission.

As per the first revised estimates, the share of the state's nominal GSDP in All-India nominal GDP is highest (13.5 per cent) during 2023-24. The Per Capita State Income for 2024-25 is estimated at Rs 3,09,340 against Rs 2,78,681 for 2023-24. The Revenue receipts of the state are expected to be Rs 4,99,463 crore for 2024-25 (BE) as against Rs 4,86,116 crore for 2023-24 (RE). The tax and nontax revenue (including central grants) for 2024-25 (BE) are expected to be Rs 4,19,972 crore and Rs 79,491 crore, respectively. Actual revenue receipts during 2024-25 up to January were Rs 3,81,080 crore (76.3 per cent of BE).

The revenue expenditure of the state is expected to be Rs 5,19,514 crore as per 2024-25 (BE) as against Rs 5,05,647 crore in 2023-24 (RE). During 2024-25 up to January, the actual revenue expenditure was Rs 3,52,141 crore (67.8 per cent of BE). As per 2024-25 (BE), the share of capital receipts in total receipts and share of capital expenditure in total expenditure is expected to be 24.1 per cent and 22.4 per cent, respectively. As per 2024-25 (BE), the percentage of fiscal deficit to GSDP, revenue deficit to GSDP and debt stock to GSDP is expected to be 2.4 per cent, 0.4 per cent and 17.3 per cent, respectively. The total outlay for Annual Plan 2024-25 is Rs 1,92,000 crore, of which Rs 23,528 crore is for the District Annual Plan.

## 10 missing Indian construction workers rescued in Israel

Tel Aviv/New Delhi, Mar 7 (UNI) Ten missing Indian construction workers were rescued after being trapped in the Palestinian Authority of al-Zaayem for a month.

Israel's Population and Immigration Authority announced that the 10 Indian workers were rescued on Wednesday night.

The workers had been lured to the al-Zaayem town with promises of work.

However, upon their arrival, their passports were stolen. The thieves sought to use the stolen passports to enter Israel. And without their passports, the workers could not return to Israel, an Israeli website reported.

The workers were trapped for about a month

before their rescue. The IDF had previously identified the fraudulent use of the stolen passports and returned them to their rightful owners.

Following the rescue, the workers were moved to a safe location. The Indian Embassy said on X that the matter is under investigation. "Israeli authorities traced 10 missing Indian construction workers to West Bank & have brought them back to Israel.

"While the matter is still under investigation, the Embassy is in touch with the Israeli authorities & have requested to ensure their safety & well-being."

Earlier this month, a 47-year-old man from Kerala was shot dead at the Israel-

Jordan border while attempting to enter Israel illegally on February 10. He had come to Jordan on a three-month tourist visa.

The Indian national, identified as Ani Thomas Gabriel, was from Thiruvananthapuram's Thumba. He died of a bullet wound to the head, according to reports.

Another person from Kerala, Edison, a relative of Gabriel, was shot in his leg, and was sent back to India after getting treatment at a Jordanian hospital. According to reports, Gabriel and Edison were part of a four-member group attempting to cross the border from Jordan into Israel with the help of an agent.

## IT raid at Parle G office

Mumbai, Mar 7 (UNI) : The Income Tax (IT) Department conducted a raid on Parle Products Pvt Ltd, the manufacturer of Parle-G biscuits, at its Vile Parle facility in Mumbai on Friday.

According to the details, the company's offices & factories in Gujarat's Kutchh

are also being raided by the sleuths; however, the exact reason for the search has not yet been disclosed. Currently, the central agency's economic wing is scrutinising the company's financial documents, and the search is being led by the Foreign Assets Unit and the Investigation Wing of the

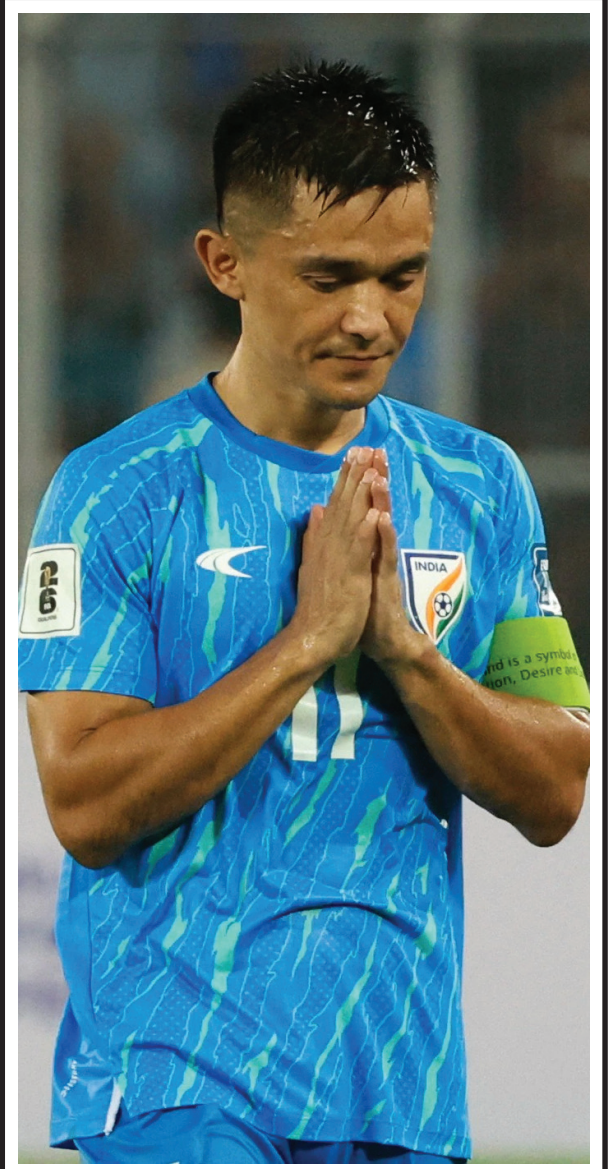
Income Tax Department.

Parle Products, established in 1929, is believed to have derived its name from the Vile Parle locality in Mumbai. In 1938, the company introduced biscuits under the brand name Parle-Gluco, which gained immense popularity.

## Opposition should not bring politics into public affairs of the people: Shinde

Mumbai Mar 7 (UNI) Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday urged the opposition to join the development journey without bringing politics into the affairs of the people. Responding to the discussion on the Governor's address in the Legislative Council, Shinde said the government wanted to develop the state at double the speed. "We want to provide welfare to the people of the state. The opposition should desist from bringing politics into the affairs of the people and join the development journey.

"During the last two and a half years of the Mahayuti, we have done such historic development works and implemented welfare schemes. Therefore, our responsibility has increased since the people elected us with a huge majority in the assembly elections," said Shinde.



### 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)



# 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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



## Special Gram Sabha across Maharashtra on International Women's Day: Minister Aditi

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Mar 7: Special Gram Sabhas will be organised in every Gram Panchayat across Maharashtra on March 8, International Women's Day, state Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare announced on Friday.

Tatkare said the primary objective of these special Gram Sabhas is to establish a widespread movement for women's rights, implement effective policies at the village level to enhance women's quality of life, and take concrete measures for their safety.

Tatkare urged local administration, NGOs, women's self-help groups, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, and citizens to take the initiative for



women's upliftment through these Gram Sabhas. Maharashtra has a historic tradition of fighting for women's safety, empowerment, and fundamental rights. Drawing inspiration from the works of Rajmata Jijabai, Punyashlok

Ahilyadevi Holkar, and Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule, the government is committed to ensuring justice and security for women in today's era.

The government is making efforts to implement various schemes for women and children effectively in

every village, she said. Through these special Gram Sabhas, extensive public awareness will be created to eradicate child marriages, oppressive widow practices, and unjust superstitions, as well as to increase the birth rate of girls, added Tatkare.

## Art is essential element for building enlightened society: J&K LG

Jammu, Mar 7 (UNI) Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that art is an essential element for building an enlightened society and helping the growth of citizens with value systems and creativity.

Inaugurating the third edition of Tawi Festival organised by Hari Tara Charitable Trust (HTCT) here at Amar Mahal Palace, Sinha extended felicitations to Dr. Karan Singh and everyone associated with the Trust for organizing the unique festival, and bringing together experts and practitioners from different fields to share and highlight new ideas in art, literature and history.

The event also marked the beginning of the Golden Jubilee celebration commemorating 50 years of

Amar Mahal Museum and Library.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the valuable contribution of artists and litterateurs in inspiring change in society and enriching the global knowledge platforms.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Art is the essential element for building an enlightened society and helping the growth of citizens with a value system and creativity. Art and Culture is as important for a prosperous and peaceful world as science and technology.

Science and Technology have provided new facilities and redefined the way human society works and lives. But modern instruments are incomplete without a vibrant tradition of art and

culture. "We need to have a fine balance between Technology and Arts. The role of new inventions of science and technology in making our civilization alive is incomparable. Therefore, I believe that society needs artists and spiritualists along with scientists," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated the commitment of the government, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to work with the resolve of 'Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi'.

He further emphasized the important role of artists and intelligentsia in promoting education based on local culture, moral values, and traditional knowledge.

"Society's economic development is powered by art and culture. For sustainable development,

we need more creative leaders. Our efforts to connect the young generation with our culture and values should be further deepened," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also shared the dedicated measures taken by the government to promote the rich diversity and uniqueness of the artistic, cultural, and linguistic heritage of Jammu Kashmir.

Dr. Karan Singh, former Union Minister and Chairman, Hari Tara Charitable Trust; Trustees and members of the Trust and various dignitaries including Vikramaditya Singh, Ajatshatru Singh, Dr Jyotsna Singh, Ritu Singh, Martand Singh; senior officials of Police and Civil administration and renowned artists were present.

## IFS officer jumps to death in Delhi, no suicide note found

New Delhi, Mar 7 (UNI): An Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer jumped to his death from a building in the Chanakyapuri area here on Friday, police said.

According to the Delhi Police, the victim has been identified as Jitendra Rawat.

The police said that no suicide note has been found from the spot.

It is being said that the IFS officer was upset for the last few days.

Police are investigating the case from various angles.

The Ministry of External Affairs in a statement on the death, said that it is providing all possible assistance to the family, and is in touch with the Delhi Police.

"The Ministry stands with the family in this hour of grief and difficulty," it said. "Further details are not being released bearing in mind the need to respect the family's privacy in this time of bereavement," it added.

## Atishi writes to Delhi CM on implementation of Rs 2500 monthly aid to eligible women

New Delhi, Mar 7 (UNI) 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.

In a letter to Gupta, Atishi said, "I am writing this letter to you on behalf of lakhs of mothers and sisters of Delhi and I want to remind you that on January 31, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised the mothers and sisters of Delhi that after the

formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Delhi, the scheme of giving Rs 2500 per month will be passed in the first cabinet meeting and women will be given Rs 2500 per month."

She said Modi also said the money will start coming into women's accounts on that day.

He advised all the women to link their mobile numbers with their bank accounts so that when the money is received in their account, they can get information on their phones.

Atishi said that now only one day is left for

Women's Day. Women from all over Delhi are eagerly waiting for this day. They are hoping that the first instalment will start coming into their account from March 8, as promised by the BJP. The former Chief Minister said the money should be transferred to the accounts of the women of Delhi immediately to get their rights.

Every woman in Delhi is looking up to you, their hopes should not be shattered. I sincerely hope that tomorrow the mothers and sisters of Delhi will get a message on their mobiles that they will receive Rs 2500 in their accounts.

## No Admission without De-Addiction Affidavit: HPU

Shimla, Mar 7 (UNI) Students seeking admission to Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) would now be required to submit a self-sworn affidavit declaring that they are not involved in drug abuse.

The university administration has also decided to make parents

aware of the dangers of substance addiction through letters and emails.

"This decision was taken during the 35th court meeting of the university, where the issue of rising drug abuse among students was a key point of discussion," the university spokesperson informed UNI. University authorities

emphasised the need for collective efforts to maintain the institution's reputation and tackle the growing menace of substance abuse at the college level. It was also stressed that the new education policy should be implemented in a phased manner to ensure effective academic reforms.

## Unlike others, we don't ask for evidence from Chhatrapati's descendants: CM

Mumbai, Mar 7 (UNI): Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Friday took a dig at the Shiv Sena (UBT) group and said his party was unlike those who ask for evidence from the descendants of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

"We are not among those who ask for evidence from the descendants of Chhatrapati," said Fadnavis. It was mentioned that a few months ago, Shiv Sena UBT MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut had asked MP Udayanraje Bhosale to provide proof that he is a descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

## Women have great contributions in India's rich heritage: DyCM

Mumbai, Mar 7 (UNI) Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday hailed women for their immense contributions to the rich heritage of India and Maharashtra.

Addressing a special session of the Legislative Council on the eve of the International Women's Day, Shinde praised women's achievements and contributions and detailed the various initiatives of the government in the area of women empowerment.

He said Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was the ideal ruler of Swarajya, while Ahilya Devi Holkar was the best of women rulers.

## Former minister, other leaders quit UBT, join SS-Shinde

Mumbai Mar 7 (UNI) In a jolt to Shiv Sena-UBT, Former Maharashtra Minister Uttam Prakash Khandare, and a host of other leaders from Solapur district deserted the Uddhav Thackeray-led party and crossed over to the Shiv Sena-Shinde on Friday.

Former MLA Ratikant Patil, district chief Amar Patil, former district chief Sainath Abhangrao and other senior Shiv Sainiks joined the Shiv Sena block led by state Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde here.

However, Shiv Sena Thackeray group secretary Vinayak Raut sent a letter to the media accusing the former state minister Uttam Prakash Khandare and district chief Amar Patil of indulging in "anti-party activities" and expelled them from the party.

At the same time, both Khandare and Patil announced their resignation from the party. Patil's father, former MLA from Solapur South Ratikant Patil, and former district chief Sainath Abhangrao, a local senior leader who has been working in the Shiv Sena since 1978, also left the Shiv Sena Thackeray faction and joined the Shiv Sena Shinde.

## Court issues NBW against filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma in cheque bounce case

Mumbai, Mar 7 (UNI): A sessions court here issued a non-bailable warrant against filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma on his failure to remain present in the court while the court was hearing an appeal filed by him challenging the lower court order, which had awarded three months of imprisonment to him in a cheque bouncing case, a lawyer said on Friday.

The session court, while issuing a warrant, also rejected his plea seeking suspension of punishment awarded to him by the Judicial Magistrate (First Class) in Andheri, YP Pujari, on January 21, for

cheque bouncing under the provisions of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

He was sentenced to three months in jail and was also directed to pay Rs 3,72,219 to the complainant within three months.

Last month, Varma had moved the sessions court, Dindoshi, challenging the order of the conviction, claiming that the cheque doesn't bear his signature nor was it issued by him. With the appeal, Varma pleaded for suspension of the sentence and also asked for bail.

However, both his pleas were rejected by the

additional sessions judge AA Kulkarni as the filmmaker was not present before the court. Varma has been given the liberty to move the plea again after appearing before the court.

The case has now been adjourned to July 28 for execution of the warrant. The complaint of cheque bouncing was filed by a partnership firm, Shree, through one of its partners, Mahesh Chandra Mishra, in 2018 through his lawyers Rajesh Kumar Patel and Alok Singh.

The firm had provided a hard disk to Varma's firm in February-March 2018, for which the cheques bounced.

## Statewide women health screening campaign for cancer control: Abitkar

Mumbai, Mar 7 (UNI): On the occasion of World Cancer Day, a health check-up campaign is being conducted for 2.5 crore women in the state.

For this, 43,435 health check-up camps are being organised, and out of them, 1,252 camps have been conducted so far, Public Health Minister Prakash Abitkar informed on Friday in the Legislative Council.

Minister Abitkar was speaking while replying to a question raised by BJP member Chitra Wagh about measures to be taken on cervical and breast cancer, which are the most commonly diagnosed among women.

Opposition leader Ambadas Danve and members Uma Khapre, Manisha Kayande, and Pragya Satav participated in this discussion.

Demands were made for the distribution of free, good-quality sanitary pads to women, provision of clean toilets, provision of free vaccines, and awareness about cancer.

Stating that an important campaign is

being carried out for the health check-up of 2.5 crore women in the state, Health Minister Abitkar said that 21,48,435 women have been checked so far in the camps.

Among them, 65,667 women are suspected, and 892 women have been diagnosed with cancer. Further treatment is being provided to them. Mammography screening is going on everywhere. It is used for the early diagnosis of cancer. If diagnosed early, the treatment of this disease is very beneficial. Vaccination is being planned for girls in the age group of 9 to 14 years in the state, said Abitkar.

For this, the funds of the central and state governments will be used in coordination. This vaccination will be given free, especially to women and girls below the poverty line.

Health Minister Abitkar also said that since cancer control is important for the future of girls in the state, the government will take a positive decision in this regard, he added.

## World Audio-Visual and Entertainment summit in Mumbai

Mumbai, Mar 7 (UNI): The World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) will be organised in Maharashtra in association with the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the state Government from May 1-4, an official announced on Friday.

The summit at the JIO World Convention Centre, Mumbai, will bring together global media and entertainment entrepreneurs, policymakers and innovators from India and discuss 'Opportunities and Challenges for the Media and Entertainment Industry', Maharashtra Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik said in a press release.

Saunik directed that all the departments should

coordinate the planned preparations for the conference.

A meeting was organised by the Department of Industries regarding the organization of WAVES in the state secretariat Mantralaya. On the occasion, Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Joint Secretary Sanjeev Shankar and other top officials were present.

WESTERN RAILWAY	
MAINTENANCE WORK	
SR.CDO-MMCT invites Tender Notice No: CAMC-EVAC-VBE-KBI-2024 Date 04.03.2025 Work of location: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Vacuum Evacuation System, for the VBE Trainset No-226430 of MMCT Coaching Depot, for a period of 06 year. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹1,30,97,250.70 EMD: ₹2,15,500/- Date & Time of submission: till 02.04.2025, 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: On 02.04.2025 at 15.30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in. 1152	
Like us on: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly">facebook.com/WesternRly</a>	

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE NO. WAT-TRD-94-24-25, Date: 28.02.2025	
NAME OF WORK WITH ITS LOCATION: REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING OUTLINED CORRODED CANTILEVER ASSEMBLIES IN MAIN LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION PHASE-VI.	
Value of Tender: ₹ 1,04,93,990.32, EMD: ₹ 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.ireps.gov.in	
SR. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-1051/P/24-25	Waltair

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.ireps.gov.in. Tender document is available on the website.	
<a href="https://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>	ADEE/POH/SNDP
उत्तरदाता को विक्रेता के सामने के साथ वाता कर्ता के बिना अपना पत्र	



## 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 (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) 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 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 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 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 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 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 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 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 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 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> generation.

As a result, the hydrazone-linked COF exhibited exceptional photocatalytic H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> production without external sacrificial electron donors when irradiated with a 40 W blue LED.

Interestingly, "a significant amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 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 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> using an aqueous benzyl alcohol solution (water: benzyl alcohol = 90:10).

The method also prevented the degradation of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. 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 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 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 events like Badminton and Throwball to promote physical wellness and team spirit among the women staff. In addition, a Rangoli competition was held where vibrant designs were

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.



# 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Cyberbullying:** 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:



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

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.



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.

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.

instance, in 2024, the RPF rescued 4047 people, including 1607 women, under this initiative. In a recent case, the RPF team at St. Thomas Mount rescued a woman in need and ensured her safety by handing her over to appropriate authorities. These efforts underscore the RPF's commitment to ensuring the safety and dignity of vulnerable individuals in railway areas.

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**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.



## 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 to 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."

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 Kirangan (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-final 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.

role of a catalyst over the years to fuel Indian table tennis by supporting domestic competitions across all age categories—from zonals to the interstate and the national championship—and brought world-class table tennis to India with the domestic table tennis league, which will soon host its sixth edition.

UTT has also partnered with stakeholders to bring top-tier international tournaments, like the WTT Star Contender Chennai 2025, to India which will witness some of the world's best paddlers compete and create new benchmarks for the growth of Indian table tennis.

With the TTSL, UTT will expand a similar competitive and excellence platform to the state level, highlighting emerging players and creating a pathway for the future.

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Editor: Mohammed Shafi

R.N.I.No. : MAHENG/2014/59632

Cell : 9849881368

Email : standardpostmumbai@gmail.com



## 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.

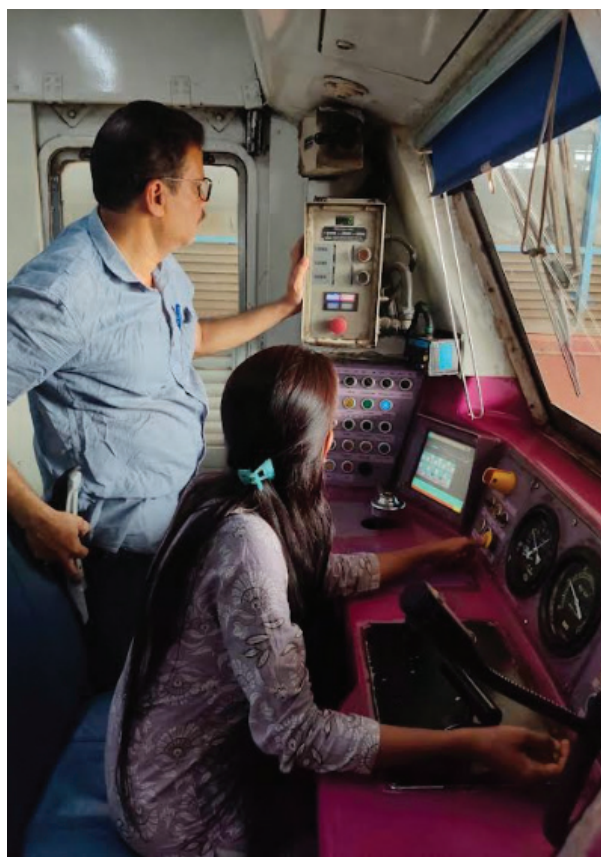
Enroute, this train will halt at Chalthan, Bardoli, Nandurbar, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Pipariya Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna, Bakhtiyarpur, Mokama, Barauni, Samastipur, Darbhanga and Madhubani station in both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