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IN BRIEF

Court sentences man to two-yr RI for issuing threat call to PM and Yogi

Mumbai, Apr 3 (UNI) : A local court here on Thursday awarded to two years rigorous imprisonment to a 29-year-old man for making a hoax call to the Mumbai police control room warning of a "threat" to the lives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in 2023.

While convicting the accused the court rejected the defence plea that the accused is mentally unstable and observed that it is clear from the evidence given by the prosecution that the accused tried to disturb social harmony by placing the threats to the main control room.

The court found accused Kamran Khan, guilty under section 505 (2) (statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes) and 506 (2) (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

The court also noted that the accused is a habitual offender and had earlier made a similar call claiming threat to life of the Uttar Pradesh CM.

A complaint was filed at Azad Maidan police after a call was received in the Mumbai police's main control room on November 20, 2023.

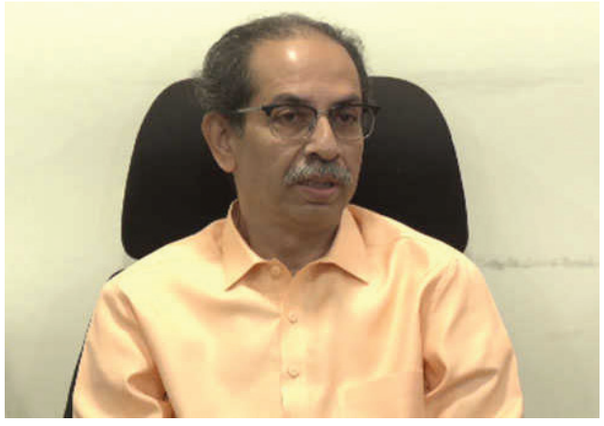
Kenyan woman arrested with drugs at Mumbai airport

Mumbai, April 3 (UNI) : The Customs officers at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai have arrested a Kenyan woman national and seized suspected cocaine / methaqualone weighing 1.78 Kg having illicit market value of around Rs 18 crore, officials said here on Thursday.

The passenger was arrested under the Provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act.

According to details, the woman had intended to take the drugs to Delhi, for which the suspect had consented to pay her one lakh Kenyan shillings (approximately Rs 66,000). However, prior to that, she was apprehended.

Sena voted against Waqf Bill to oppose govt "intention to grab land" : Uddhav Thackeray



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 3 : Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday said his party voted against the Waqf bill in Parliament to oppose the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Alliance government's "ploy" to "grab land and give it to its industrialist friends".

Addressing a press conference in Mumbai after the Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha, Sena president Thackery said, "The concern shown by the BJP and its allies during the discussion on the Waqf Amendment Bill would put Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah to shame."

"The BJP has won a third term at the Centre and things are going well, yet it is raking up Hindu-Muslim issues and if the aim is to appease Muslims, then who left Hindutva – BJP or us who opposed the bill? How can they blame us?" he remarked.

He said, "On one hand BJP leaders, including Union home minister Amit Shah, made speeches appeasing Muslims while advocating the Bill, while on the other they targeted those who voted against the Bill."

"We voted against it to oppose the hypocrisy of BJP and their intentions of land grabbing through this Bill," he said adding, "The BJP should remove colour green from its party flag if it dislikes Muslims."

Thackeray further said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should have informed the country about the economic challenges posed by US tariffs and steps being taken to mitigate it.

Dream of owning houses will be fulfilled under Bandra Smart City Project: Minister Adv. Shelar

Mumbai, April 3 (UNI) : A programme to distribute contract documents of new houses to the residents being rehabilitated under the Slum Rehabilitation Authority in Bandra East was held at the Mumbai Suburban District Collectorate.

House contract documents were distributed to 10 beneficiaries by state Minister Adv. Ashish Shelar.

Speaking on the occasion, he said: "It is necessary to preserve the human face while carrying out development works. Therefore, the dream of owning houses of many families in Gautam Nagar is being fulfilled under the 'Bandra Smart City Project' in Bandra East."

District Collector of Mumbai Suburban District Rajendra Kshirsagar, senior officers and employees were present on this occasion.

Adv. Shelar, also known as the Guardian Minister of Mumbai Suburban District, said that this project is being successfully completed with the cooperation of the Maharashtra Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Housing Minister and concerned officials. Efforts will be made to ensure that the residents enter their new homes before the Ganpati festival.

Saying that a decision has been taken to hand over 30.16 acres of land owned by the Public Works Department in Bandra East to the High Court, Guardian Minister Adv. Shelar said that the Slum Rehabilitation Authority has made available a total of 144 flats, including 77 flats of Omsai Cooperative Housing Society and 67 flats of Balaji Shop Keepers in Bandra East, after following up with the government.

JD(U) leader Qasim Ansari resigns from party over Waqf Bill

Patna, April 3 (UNI) : Senior JD(U) leader Qasim Ansari on Wednesday resigned from the party in protest against the support extended by JD(U) to ensure the passage of the Waqf Board Amendment Bill in Parliament.

Ansari in his letter to JD(U) President and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, expressed his deep anguish over the support extended by the party to the Narendra Modi government in passing of Waqf Board Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha. Several Muslim leaders and Muslim bodies had requested Chief Minister Kumar to stall the bill in Parliament using his political influence as it was against the interests of Muslim community, he pointed out.

" Despite repeated requests from Muslim leaders and Muslim bodies, Chief Minister Kumar did not yield and supported the bill, which made it easy for the Narendra Modi government to get the bill passed in parliament ", Ansari stated. The way senior JD(U) leader and Union Minister Lalan Singh supported the bill on the floor of the House was disturbing and frustrating for the Muslim community, he added. The Muslim community had confidence in Chief Minister Kumar that he was truly a secular, but he proved himself otherwise on the Waqf Bill, he noted.Earlier, several Muslim leaders and Muslim bodies, including All India Muslim Personal Law Board, had urged Chief Minister Kumar to use his political influence to stall the Waqf Board Amendment Bill in Parliament. It was frustrating for them that the Chief Minister preferred to accept the line of the BJP in supporting the Bill in the House, Muslim leaders pointed out.

Carefully examining implications of 27 pc Reciprocal Tariffs announced by US President: Govt

New Delhi, April 3 (UNI) : In a guarded response to the 27 per cent "Reciprocal Tariffs" announced by the US President Donald Trump, the Government on Thursday said it was examining the implications of the various measures/ announcements made by Trump earlier today.

The US President issued an Executive Order on Reciprocal Tariffs imposing additional ad-valorem duties ranging from 10% to 50% on imports from all trading partners. The baseline duty of 10% will be effective from April 05, 2025 and the remaining country specific additional ad-valorem duty will be effective from April 09, 2025. The additional duty on India as per the Executive Order is 27%, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in an official statement.

"The Department of Commerce is carefully examining the implications of the various measures / announcements made by the President of the USA. Keeping in view the vision of Viksit Bharat, the Department is engaged with all stakeholders, including Indian industry and exporters, taking feedback of their assessment of the tariffs and assessing the situation," the Ministry stated.The Department is also studying the opportunities that may arise due to this new development in the US trade policy.The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, and the President of USA, Donald Trump have announced on 13 February 2025 'Mission 500' – aiming to more than double the bilateral trade to USD 500 Billion by 2030.Accordingly, discussions are ongoing between Indian and US trade teams for the expeditious conclusion of a mutually beneficial, multi-sectoral Bilateral Trade Agreement.

These cover a wide range of issues of mutual interest including deepening supply chain integration. The ongoing talks are focused on enabling both nations to grow trade, investments and technology transfers. "We remain in touch with the Trump Administration on these issues and expect to take them forward in the coming days," the press communique added.

India values its Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership with the United States and is committed to working closely with the US to implement the India-US 'Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology' (COMPACT) for the 21st century to ensure that our trade ties remain a pillar of mutual prosperity and drive transformative change for the benefit of the people of India and the US.

Meanwhile the Indian stock market reacted negatively to the Reciprocal Tariffs as the BSE Sensex was slumped over 300 points during the intraday and NSE Nifty was also down by about 100 points.

Unseasonal rains, hailstorms lash Nashik district affecting onion, gram, wheat crops, vineyards

Nashik, April 3 (UNI) : Unseasonal rains accompanied by hailstorms lashed some parts of Nashik city and the district on Wednesday evening, affecting crops like wheat, onions, gram and vineyards, that were about to be harvested. Hailstorms occurred in Shinde Palse and Madsangvi areas. Heavy rains lashed Baglan, Trimbakeshwar and Mahiravani areas and some parts including Panchavati, Indiranagar, Cidco for half an hour to 15 minutes. According to weathermen, the weather changed completely in the last two days. There was a sprinkling of rain in Yeola and Manmad. However, after Wednesday evening, rains covered many parts of the district.Heavy rain accompanied by thunder occurred in the district. The sudden rains took citizens and farmers by surprise.Tehsildar Shobha Pujari informed that rain along with hailstorms occurred in Shinde Palse and Madsangvi areas. Baglan taluka was lashed by rain for half an hour. The onion crop was damaged.

Some hail fell in the Karanjali valley. Rains also lashed Trimbakeshwar and Mahiravni areas for the second consecutive day. A buffalo belonging to a farmer, Ramchandra Khetade, died after being struck by lightning at Dhondabar in Sinnar taluka.

Water accumulated in low-lying areas in the Nashik city and Nashik Road area.The farmers said that currently, wheat, onion and gram crops are being harvested. There is a possibility of crop diseases also spreading among the vegetables and onions.

The remaining orchards that were being harvested with the grape harvesting season about to end were hit by unseasonal rains. Grape growers are disappointed as the grass that is grown among the grape vines to keep the plants healthy has been destroyed. Nashik district has been experiencing unseasonal rains for the past two days. However, it was more intense on Wednesday than on Tuesday, and damaged the onion, gram and grape crops to a large extent.

Antapur, Taharabad, Jaykheda, Nampur and other areas of Baglan taluka were lashed by heavy rain for one to one-and-a-half hours on Wednesday evening. In these areas too, farmers expressed fear that the crops like onion, grapes, and pomegranates that are about to be harvested will be hit to a large extent.

PM Modi presented copy of Buddha's teachings in Pali .....

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed gratitude to Thailand's PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra for gifting him a copy of the Tipitaka in Pali. PM Modi announced that the Holy Relics found in Aravali, Gujarat in 1960 will be sent to Thailand for an exposition.In posts on X, the PM said: "A very special gesture!"I am grateful to Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra for giving me a copy of the Tipitaka in Pali. Pali is indeed a beautiful language, carrying within it the essence of Lord Buddha's teachings.

(See on page 2)

Canada says to fight US tariffs with countermeasures

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Wednesday that Canada will fight U.S. tariffs with countermeasures. The prime minister promised to act with purpose and force to counter U.S. President Donald Trump's auto tariffs and bring in support for impacted workers.

(See on page 5)

BPCL launches sports scholarship to empower young athletes

State run oil marketing company Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), on Thursday announced the launch of the BPCL Sports Scholarship Initiative to strengthen its commitment to developing national sports talent.

(See on page 7)

Will revive farmers' agitation, says Dallewal

Sanyukt Kisan Morcha leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal on Thursday said that the farmers' agitation would be revived and his organisaion would hold talks with the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha to decide the next course of action.Dallewal alleged that he along with other farmer leaders was detained by Punjab police. He said that he

(See on page 8)

Chief Executive Officer inspects the work of Panchayat Samiti Ambernath

(Standard Post Bureau)

Thane, April 3 : Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad Rohan Ghuge, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (S.P.) Avinash Phadtare, and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, (Gram.P.) Pramod Kale, paid a surprise visit to Panchayat Samiti, Ambernath on 01.04.2025 to inspect the work.

The inspection notes of the inspection of the documents conducted by the Chief Executive Officer for the period 2017-18, and 2022-23 were read and the inspection notes of the inspection of the documents conducted by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (S.P.) for the period 2018-19 were read and guidance was given. Instructions were given to immediately rectify the errors in this observation note and all the department heads under Panchayat Samiti, Ambernath were reviewed regarding the government schemes, and guidance and instructions were given regarding the implementation of government schemes.

Also, a detailed review was taken regarding the work to be done under the government's 100-day action plan program. Instructions were given to complete the work by April 14, 2025. Group Development Officer (U.S.) Pandit Kauru Rathod, all taluka-level department heads, all officers and employees of Panchayat Samiti, Ambernath were present at the time of reading the note.

After this, a visit was made to Newali Gram Panchayat and an on-site inspection was conducted regarding solid waste management and guidance was given. Also, a site inspection was conducted regarding solid waste management. Also, a visit was made to the under-construction house of Pandharinath Gajanan Mhatre, a beneficiary of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in Newali Gram Panchayat.

Two Naxalites sentenced to life imprisonment in 15-year-old murder case

Sonbhadra (UP), April 3 (UNI) :Two hardcore Naxalites were sentenced to life imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 20,000 each by a local court here on Thursday in a more than 15-year-old murder case in the Kon area of Sonbhadra district in Uttar Pradesh, prosecution sources said here.Prosecution sources said that on December 3, 2009, Ajay Kumar Paswan, a resident of Brahmori village, had reported at Kon police station that there was firing between two Naxalite groups in the inner forest over levy collection and division of money, in which one Naxalite was reported to have been killed.Prosecution sources said that the police recovered the body of Ramvriksh from the crime scene. "During the investigation, the names of hardcore Naxalite Munna Vishwakarma alias Vidrohi alias Ramvriksh and Ajit Kol alias Babbal came to fore," they said.Prosecution sources said that based on evidence available on record, the court of Additional Sessions Judge Jitendra Kumar Dwivedi convicted Naxalites Munna Vishwakarma and Ajit Kol and sentenced them to life imprisonment with a fine of Rs 20,000 each.

PM Modi presented copy of Buddha's teachings in Pali by Thailand PM Shinawatra

Bangkok/New Delhi, Apr 3 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed gratitude to Thailand's PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra for gifting him a copy of the Tipitaka in Pali. PM Modi announced that the Holy Relics found in Aravali, Gujarat in 1960 will be sent to Thailand for an exposition.In posts on X, the PM said:

"A very special gesture!

"I am grateful to Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra for giving me a copy of the Tipitaka in Pali. Pali is indeed a beautiful language, carrying within it the essence of Lord Buddha's teachings.

"As you are all aware, our Government had conferred the status of Classical Language on Pali last year. People from all over the world have appreciated this decision and it has also encouraged research as well as study on this language."

In his address after the bilateral talks, the PM said: "Prime Minister Shinawatra just gifted me a Tri-Pitaka. On behalf of India, the land of Buddha, I accept it with folded hands.

"Last year, the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha were sent from India to Thailand. It is a matter of great pleasure that more than four million devotees got the opportunity to pay their tributes."I am extremely happy to announce that the Holy Relics found in Aravali, Gujarat in 1960 will also be sent to Thailand for an exposition."

He also expressed gratitude for Thailand's gesture of releasing an iStamp on themes relating to the Ramayana.

"A timeless impression and graceful symbol of our shared cultural relations! The Thai Government has released an iStamp on themes relating to the Ramayana. The stamp depicts Ramakien mural paintings that were painted during the reign of King Rama I."

The MEA spokesperson said in a post on X:

"A gift of Lord Buddha's teachings of peace & wisdom."PM @ingshin presented PM @narendramodi with the holy scriptures- World Tipitaka in Pali at Government House today.

"This special Tipitaka was published by the Thai Government in 2016 to commemorate the reign of King Rama lX & Queen Sikirit."

The Tipitaka is a compilation of Lord Buddha's teachings with accurate pronunciation of the Pali Tipi?aka's over nine million syllables. The Thai government has presented it as a "Gift of Peace and Wisdom for All" from the Kingdom of Thailand to more than 30 countries.

Rajya Sabha takes up the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025

New Delhi, April 3 (UNI) :After getting approval from the Lok Sabha, Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday moved The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and The Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024 in the Rajya Sabha, to get its approval.The Bill is aimed at providing transparency in the management of the Waqf properties.

Home Minister Amit Shah and senior Ministers were present at the time of tabling the Bill in the upper house.After moving the Bill, Kiren Rijiju said that the Joint parliamentary Committee (JPC) had a thorough deliberation on the Bill.He appealed to Congress party and other Opposition parties to support the Waqf Amendment Bill 2025.

Rijiju stated that the new legislation will ensure representation from all Muslim sects -- Shia, Sunni, Bohra, Aghakhani (Ismaili) -- in the Waqf Board, along with members from backward classes, making it more inclusive.

He said that in the proposed Central Waqf Board, out of 22 members, a maximum of four will be non-Muslims, while at least two members will be women. Similarly, in the State Waqf Boards, which will have 11 members, not more than three will be non-Muslim.

The Minister said that the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025, will have a new and a beautiful name, which no body will have any objection, and it will be called as "UMEED" (Unified Waqf Management Empowerment Efficiency and Development) Bill.

Alleging that the UPA government engaged in "appeasement politics," Kiren Rijiju stated that just before the Model Code of Conduct came into effect for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the then Congress-led UPA government denotified 123 prime properties in the National Capital belonging to the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry and handed them over to the Delhi Waqf Board.

Kiren Rijiju said that the Muslim community is largely welcoming the bill, and despite some opposition, he invited critics to meet with Muslim delegations who have expressed strong support for the bill.

The Minister said that the Bill was drafted following wide discussions with various stakeholders across the country. He further mentioned that over 280 organisations provided suggestions, and more than one crore individuals submitted memorandums.

It may be mentioned that the landmark and controversial Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 was passed by the Lok Sabha late Wednesday night, with 288 members voting in its favour and 232 against it.

The legislation, which the government said seeks to improve the administration of Waqf properties and introduce technology-led management to create transparency, was passed by the Lower House of Parliament after an extensive debate which began at noon on Wednesday and went on till over 1 AM.

'Inculcate leadership quality, be part of India's development'

New Delhi, April 3 (UNI) :Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, on Thursday encouraged the youth of the country to inculcate leadership qualities and work towards the development of India.

He was speaking at the awards ceremony for the National Youth Awards (2021-22 & 2022-23) and the Vikasit Bharat Youth Parliament Awards, held at the GMC Balayogi Auditorium, Parliament Museum.During his address, Mandaviya emphasised the importance of leading with responsibility and contributing to national growth, regardless of the sector in which young people choose to work.

"I feel that to achieve something in life, there needs to be clarity, and that clarity will come from experience and practice," he said, highlighting the role of practical learning in shaping one's future.

He further stated, "Your creativity, your thoughts, and your lifestyle will contribute to nation-building. As responsible citizens, when you work as per the expectations of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who envisions creating one lakh young leaders, you will play a key role in shaping India's future."Looking towards the future, he expressed confidence that by the time India celebrates 100 years of independence in 2047, today's youth will be at the helm of the nation.

He envisioned that India, which is currently developing, will emerge as a fully developed nation by 2047, and asserted that even destiny would soon acknowledge this inevitable transformation.

He highlighted the invaluable contributions of young individuals whose vision and dedication set them apart. He emphasised that these awardees have always prioritized the nation's welfare, spoken about social service, and inspired hope through their actions.

Honouring such youth is a moment of pride for the platform, he added.

A total of 24 National Youth Awards were given in individual and organisations categories. While 11 awards were given for NYA 2021-22 in individual category, 13 awards were given for NYA 2022-23 which includes 12 awards in individual category and one award in Organization category.

Tewari seeks withdrawal of exorbitant hike in house tax

Chandigarh, Apr 3 (UNI) Senior Congress leader and Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari on Thursday demanded withdrawal of the exorbitant hike in the house tax and collector rates for registering property here.

Tewari noted that the whopping hike in the house tax rates and collector rates for the sale and purchase of property was apparently done to meet the municipal expenses of the city that is supposedly bankrupt .

He said the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation (CMC) should get 30 percent of the total grant the Union Territory gets out of the union budget according to the formula evolved by the Delhi Finance Commisson.

He said, this year Rs 6100 crore had been allocated to the UT. So, going by the calculation, the CMC should get between Rs 1700 to Rs 1800 crore to meet its various expenses. However, CMC gets only about Rs 570-580 crore, which is far less than the 30 percent recommended by the Delhi Finance Commission and the 15th Finance Commission for inter-Se devolution of resources between states and their respective Urban Local bodies.

Tewari said all the revenue generating departments are with the Chandigarh Administration while all departments which require substantial expenditure are with the CMC.

Asserting that the exorbitant hike must be withdrawn immediately, he said, it will put the residents of Chandigarh under extra financial burden, who are already reeling under financial strain due to high cost of living and rising prices of essential commodities.Moreover, he pointed out, most of the Chandigarh residents are working class people like employees or retired people, who cannot afford the additional burden that has been imposed on them by way of exorbitant house tax and extra collector rates.

SC Commission intervention resolves cheque bounce case against student's father

Chandigarh, Apr 3 (UNI) Following the intervention of Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission (PSSCC) Chairman Jasvir Singh Garhi, a college management has withdrawn its cheque bounce case against a student's father.

Garhi said here on Thursday that Ramanjit Singh, son of Balwinder Kumar from Janta Nagar (Dhuri), filed a complaint with the PSSCC on March 25, stating that Ramanjit had enrolled for BTech Civil Engineering at Gurukul Vidyapeeth Institute of Engineering and Technology (Banur), attending regularly through the third semester. However, due to his father's surgery, he was unable to take his fourth semester examinations.

As per the complaint, the college administration never issued any formal notification regarding his absence during the fourth semester yet continued to collect fees from Ramanjit Singh until 2018 (through the eighth semester).

Subsequently, Ramanjit Singh visited the campus multiple times in 2022 to retrieve his academic documents but was consistently denied access. When he approached Gurukul Director Manmohan Garg to collect his records, Ramanjit Singh was subjected to verbal abuse and threats.

The college management then initiated legal proceedings over a bounced cheque that Ramanjit's father had provided as security. Court proceedings commenced with a verdict expected on April two. Seeking justice, Ramanjit Singh appealed to the Commission for assistance.

SC upholds decision nullifying Bengal SSC teacher recruitment

New Delhi, Apr 3 (UNI)The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the cancellation of the selection process for school teachers in West Bengal, ruling that even untainted candidates could not retain their appointments as it violated Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

Delivering its judgment on the State of West Bengal's challenge to the Calcutta High Court's ruling, the Supreme Court declared the recruitment process of the State Level Selection Test-2016 (SLST) in West Bengal government-sponsored and aided schools null and void.The Bench, comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar, observed, "Manipulations and frauds on a large scale coupled with attempts to cover up have tainted the selection process beyond repair… the credibility and legitimacy of the selection are denuded."The Court upheld the Calcutta High Court's decision, reaffirming that appointments made through the tainted recruitment process could not be allowed to stand. The Bench stated, "We find no valid ground or reason to interfere with the directions of the High Court that services of tainted candidates must be terminated, and they will be required to refund any salaries they had received since the appointments are a result of fraud, which amounts to cheating. Therefore, we see no justification to alter this direction."Previously, the Court had classified the categories of the parties involved in matters related to the appointments of approximately 25,000 school teachers by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC).The State of West Bengal had challenged the Calcutta High Court's ruling, which declared the SLST-2016 recruitment process null and void and ordered the cancellation of all appointments made through it.On July 16, 2024, a Bench comprising then-Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala, and Justice Manoj Misra had ordered, "No counter affidavit has been filed till date.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/104/2025
Dated: 28.03.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Construction of ROB in Lieu of LC No. 56 at Km: 92/600-700 with 1x30m composite Girder and 3x20m PSC Girder (Bengaluru-Honnavara Highway) +4x20 m PSC Girder (Benchagere village) and RCC Retaining wall (Approach span) between Nittur - Gubbi Stations in Tumakuru - Arsikere (TK-ASK) Sections. (Composite Tender) **(Tender Ref. No: ROB-LC-56-TK-ASK)**	**Rs. 35,88,16,287/-**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 23.04.2025

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Engineer / Construction / Works / Bengaluru Cantt.

PUB/01/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Dy. CME/Works, for Chief Workshop Manager, N.E. Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites Open tender through online (E-Tendering) for the tender following work:- **S.No. 1. E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work: Tender No.: "01-GKP-MWS-2025-26"** "Strengthening of 2472 Nos. ICF Bogie frame in connection with bogie frame at Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur for 01 Year"; **Estimated Cost (in₹):** ₹28,45,494.48; **Earnest Money (in₹):** ₹56,900/-; **Cost of the Tender Forms:** Zero, **Period of Contract:** 12 Months; **Last date of tender submission:** 11:00 hrs., Date: 23.04.2025. **S.No. 2. E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work: Tender No.: "44-GKP-MWS-2024-25-1"** "Advanced mechanised cleaning and surface treatment of under gear of coaches (AC & Non AC) using special purpose machine in Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur"; **Estimated Cost (in₹):** ₹4,85,09,409.60; **Earnest Money (in₹):** ₹3,92,600/-; **Cost of the Tender Forms:** Zero, **Period of Contract:** 12 Months; **Last date of tender submission:** 11:00 hrs., Date: 24.04.2025. The details of above tender are also available on Indian Railway website **"http://www.ireps.gov.in"**

Dy. CME/Works, Gorakhpur

CPRO/Mech-02

DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAINS

Ulemas (Islamic scholars) during a protest against the Waqf (Amendment Bill) at Handiwala Masjid, in Mumbai.

Six solar power plants commissioned in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar zone to help farmers with irrigation

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Apr 3 (UNI) A solar power plant project - Mukhyamantri Saur Krishi Vahini Yojana 2.0 -- is being implemented in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar zone to provide uninterrupted and reliable power supply to farmers during the day for irrigation.

Under the scheme, six solar plants have been commissioned in the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar zone in the last month. This includes four projects in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district and two in Jalna district.

So far, 10 solar power plants have been implemented in the zone under this scheme, providing day time power supply to more than 13,000 agriculture pumps, according to the official media statement issued by Pawankumar Kachhot, Chief Engineer of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar zone on Thursday.

On the initiative of Chief Minister and Energy Minister Devendra Fadnavis, under the guidance of Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) Abha Shukla and Chairman and Managing Director of MSEDCL Lokesh Chandra, the Mukhyamantri Saur Krishi Vahini Yojana is being implemented in Maharashtra.

All the projects with a total capacity of 16,000 MW will be completed by March 2026, and the state will be supplied with electricity generated entirely on solar energy for agriculture pumps.

Under this scheme, solar power generation plants are being set up at various places in the state and this is the world's largest decentralised solar power generation project.

For this, an independent agricultural power generation company has been established.

Under this scheme, solar power plants are being set up on land within a 5 km radius of the MSEDCL's substation. Government lands are being acquired on priority for setting up the projects.The electricity generated from this is being supplied to agricultural pumps in the area during the day through the feeders of MSEDCL substations, statement added.

One killed, 3 injured after CISF jawan crashes SUV into auto under influence of alcohol

Mumbai, Apr 3 (UNI) Police on Thursday arrested a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan for allegedly driving an SUV (sports utility vehicle) under influence of alcohol and crashing his vehicle into an autorickshaw on Western Express Highway, killing a woman passenger and seriously injuring her two daughters and auto driver.

The Vanrai police station arrested CISF jawan Dhondiram Yadav and booked him with culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The deceased woman, identified as Hazra Shaikh, a resident of Jogeshwari, was heading to Goregaon in early hours of Thursday with her two daughters Shaheen (22) and Shirin (17) in an autorickshaw after celebrating Eid at a relative's place in South Mumbai.

Shaikh's husband was sitting in another autorickshaw with their third and youngest daughter.

According to police, Yadav was driving a service vehicle on the south-bound stretch when he lost control of it and jumped over the divider to crash into the autorickshaw on the flyover in Goregaon East.

Joshi's Museum of Miniature Railways celebrates 27th anniversary, website to help train modelling enthusiasts

Pune, Apr 3 (UNI) City-based Joshi's Museum of Miniature Railways celebrated its 27th foundation day today, during which a special section of the museum website was unveiled which will help those who are looking to develop the hobby of train modelling.

Girish Chitale, Director of the Chitale Dairy of Bhilwadi in Sangli District, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Devavrat and Ravi Joshi from the Joshi's Museum of Miniature Railways were also present on the occasion.

Chitale unveiled the special section of the website of the museum. Equipment required for train modelling shall be made available through this special section of the website.

Joshi's Museum has developed a miniature static model of Pune Metro. It was also unveiled by Girish Chitale.

Speaking on the occasion Chitale said, "I have visited this museum about two decades ago, and equally enjoyed this show of miniature railways after so many years. This museum is a perfect blend of art and science. This museum provides information about various forms of railways in an entertaining way of a specially devised show having light and sound effects.

"Different types of railways are an important part of our day to day life and the modernization of Indian Railways is happening at a rapid pace; so all those who see this museum can relate in a much better way now."

Ravi Joshi of Joshi's Museum said, "On our last anniversary we created a static model of Vande Bharat."

WESTERN RAILWAY TO RUN SUMMER SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN BANDRA TERMINUS ⇌ BANARAS

TRAIN NO.	ORIGINATING STATION & DESTINATION	DATES OF SERVICES	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
09029	Bandra Terminus – Banaras (Unreserved Special)	10.04.25 to 26.06.25	04:30 hrs. (Thursday)	06:30 hrs. (Next Day)
09030	Banaras – Bandra Terminus (Unreserved Special)	11.04.25 to 27.06.25	09:30 hrs. (Friday)	12:15 hrs. (Next Day)

Halts: Borivali, Boisar, Vapi, Bhestan, Chalthan, Nandurbar, Bhusawal, Khandwa, Itarsi, Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Madanmahal, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Jn. and Gyanpur Road stations in both directions.

Composition: General Second Class coaches.

For detailed information regarding timings, halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

For detailed information regarding timings, halts, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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Bombay HC grants bail to 2 accused booked for 'murder' of MBBS student

Mumbai, April 3 (UNI) : The Bombay High Court on Thursday granted bail to Mithu Singh and co-accused Abdul Jabbar Ansari, booked for the alleged murder of MBBS student Sadiccha Sane in November 2021.

While granting bail to accused Mithu Singh, a lifeguard, the court noted that the case is purely based on circumstantial evidence and questioned the prosecution about the proof that the woman died, while there is still a possibility that she is still missing.The 18-month delay in the arrest of Singh was also questioned.

Sane, who was pursuing an MBBS from Grant Medical College, J J Hospital , left her house to appear for her third-year exam on November 29, 2021. However, the family has not heard from her since. The police claimed that she went to Bandra Bandstand, where she met Singh and stayed with him for a long time.It is suspected that Singh tried to get intimate with her against her will and could have killed her during a scuffle. Singh's lawyer, Harshman Chavan, had sought bail for him, arguing that he is falsely implicated in the case. It was contended that Sane's body has still not been found, and there is no evidence of Singh's connection with her disappearanc

Mumbai police bans flying drones, para gliders and hot air balloons for one month

Mumbai, Apr 4 (UNI) In a proactive measure to prevent potential sabotage attempts, the Mumbai Police on Thursday issued a prohibitory order, banning flying drones, remote-controlled microlight aircraft, para gliders and hot air balloons for the period of a month, to prevent any sabotage attempt.The order, issued under section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, will be in force from April 4 to May 5, an official said.According to the order, terrorists and anti-social elements might make use of drones, remote-controlled microlight aircraft, para gliders in their attacks and target VVIPs, endangering people's lives, as well as to destroy public property and cause law and order disturbances in the Mumbai Police Commissionerate area.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.
eT_COMML_PRSUTS_216

Name of work: COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR 216 NOS. OF UTS & PRS THIN CLIENTS OVER WALTAIR DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 02 (TWO) YEARS.

Approximate Value: ₹ 18,35,136/-, EMD: ₹36,700/-, Cost of tender document: ₹2,360/-.

Date & Time of closing of the Tender: at 1100 hrs. of 28.04.2025.

Complete information is available in website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Waltair

PR-3/Q/25-26

Man arrested for using obscene language, threatening lady police officer

Mumbai, Apr 3 (UNI) Police arrested a shopkeeper for obstructing police duties, misbehaving with a lady police officer, using obscene language and issuing death threats, officials said here on Thursday.The accused, identified as Mohammad Sharif Mohammad Salim Sheikh, also known as Guddu, runs a footwear business in Govandi area of the city suburb.

The incident occurred late on Sunday night around 11.15 pm near Ekvira Hotel Road in PMGP Colony of Mankhurd in Govandi, police said.

The complainant, a police officer, was on duty when the altercation took place.

A special police team was patrolling in the area when they noticed Mohammad Sharif running his shop during restricted time. When officers instructed him to close his shop, he refused and started arguing with them.

During the heated exchange, Sharif reportedly directed obscene remarks toward the woman officer and issued a threat, saying, "Many police officers like you have come and gone. Don't mess with me, or I will kill you."

Following this a case was registered and the accused was arrested, police said.

Three killed, 5 injured in road accident in Jalgaon

Jalgaon, Apr 3 (UNI) Three people, including a woman, from the district were killed on the spot and five others were seriously injured after a pick-up van they were travelling in dashed against the protection wall in Kannad Ghat.According to Chalisgaon Rural Police, the members of a Mali family, residents of Patondo village in Chalisgaon, along with their 20 relatives had gone by a pickup van to Shrirampur in Sambhajinagar district to fulfil their vow.

On their return journey to Chalisgaon, the driver of the van suddenly lost control on the wheel at a large bend near the foot of Kannada Ghat and the van crashed into a roadside guardrail on Wednesday night.

In this accident, Sarjabai Mali (65), Nana Damu Mali (58, both of Patonda, Chalisgaon), and Rahul Mahajan (35, of Gudhe, Bhadgaon) died on the spot.

All the injured have been admitted to private and rural hospitals in Chalisgaon.The Chalisgaon Rural Police has registered a case of accidental death in this regard.

Further investigation was on, sources added.

HC imposes cost of Rs 25,000 on Anil Ambani for seeking urgent hearing

Mumbai, Apr 3 (UNI) Bombay High Court imposed a cost of Rs. 25,000 on industrialist Anil Ambani for seeking an urgent hearing of his petition challenging the notice issued by the Income Tax Department in April 2022, a lawyer said here on Thursday.

A bench of Justices Mahesh S Sonak and Jitendra S Jain recently came down heavily during hearing on Ambani lawyer Gunjan Kakkad while noting that his lawyer moved praecipe or a written request for an urgent hearing to take up the matter urgently, even though the impugned notice was issued on April 12, 2022.

The bench said the facility to seek urgent circulation of the matter or hearing "cannot be invoked by creating such an artificial urgency." "Besides, the challenge is only to show cause notice… The Petitioner has moved the Court at the fag end when the assessment is likely to be time barred by March 31, 2025. Accordingly, we dismiss this praecipe with cost of Rs.25,000/- payable to Tata Memorial Hospital," the bench noted in its order.

The court asked Ambani to deposit the amount within two weeks time and adjourned the hearing for nex date.

Youth arrested for selling narcotic pills, injections in Ahilyanagar

Ahilyanagar, Apr 3 (UNI) : Police have arrested a youth who was selling narcotic pills and injections, and seized narcotic pills and injection medicine bottles as well as 16 mobile phones from him, in Shrirampur city, of Ahilyanagar district in Maharashtra.Additional Superintendent of Police Basavaraj Shivpuje, addressing a press conference on Wednesday evening, said the accused Matin Sheikh (19), a resident of Nehrunagar, Ward No. 1, Shrirampur, has been arrested.

Police are also searching for his brother Alex alias Mustakim Mehboob Sheikh and Khwaja Patel.

On Wednesday, Inspector Nitin Deshmukh received confidential information that Matin Sheikh of Shrirampur, was going to sell narcotic pills and injections in Ward No. 7, Shrirampur area. The police team laid a trap with a police officer and arrested the said person and searched him. During the search, bottles of drugs that are narcotics and harmful to the human body, were found in his possession.

Matin did not have any license to sell these injections and he did not have a receipt for such injections from any medical officer. Therefore, a case was registered against Matin Sheikh and his brother Alex alias Mustakim Mehboob Sheikh and Khwaja Patel, who supplied the said injections to him, at Shrirampur City Police Station under Sections 123, 925,210,278 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023.

The action was taken by Police Inspector Nitin Deshmukh, Saponi Ganesh Jadhav, under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Rakesh Ola, Additional Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Kalubarma, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Basavaraj Shivpuje and other police. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Ganesh Jadhav.

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

e-Tender Notice

Department	: Hydraulic Engineer/ Deputy Hydraulic Engineer (Maintenance)
Section	: Assistant Engineer (Maintenance) Water Works Eastern Suburb-I
Bid No	: 2025_MCGM_1166689_1
Subject	: "Supply of material required for maintenance work of water mains under EEWW (Const.) ES division."
Bid Start Date & Time	: 04-04-2025 from 11.00 A.M.
Bid End Date & Time	15-04-2025 till 16.00 P.M.
Web site	: https://mahatenders.gov.in
Contact Person : -	
A) Name	: Shri. Avinash M. Kolte, A.E.(M.) W.W.E.S.-1
B) Telephone	: 022 - 25153249/50
C) Mobile No.	: 9930260508
D) E-mail Id	: aewwmes.he@mcgm.gov.in

PRO/29/ADV/2025-26

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(Head Works) Water Works

Avoid self medication.

STANDARD POST

Govt capex, private investment to drive India's growth in FY 26

The Indian economy is expected to clock 6.5 per cent growth in 2025-26, driven by government investment in big infrastructure projects, and an acceleration in private investment during the year, according to the latest EY Economy Watch report.

The report highlights the importance of government expenditure on infrastructure expansion, which has a relatively larger multiplier, while pointing out that India is also likely to benefit from the expected lower global energy prices.

It is also expected that the RBI's policy interest rate may be lowered by another 50-75 basis points during the course of FY26. This may be facilitated by a lower trajectory of CPI inflation, which has already fallen below 4 per cent in February 2025. This has happened for the first time since August 2024. As a result, private investment may also start picking up, the report observed.

On the global front, the report observed that the OECD, in its Interim Economic Outlook, projected global growth to slow to 3.1 per cent in 2025 from 3.2 per cent in 2024, with growth in the US economy moderating to 2.2 per cent from 2.8 per cent. The likelihood of the US economy going into a short-term economic slowdown, if not an outright recession, is quite strong. This is likely due to the anticipated negative effect on aggregate demand of recent US government spending cuts and employee salary reductions. As cost-cutting measures take effect, particularly the expected fall in energy prices, both domestically within the US and globally, the US economy is likely to start to gradually improve.

The Indian economy has already been facing significant uncertainties on account of the global slowdown and supply chain disruptions. Their impact on India's export prospects may remain unpredictable until the mutual tariff levels settle down. A suitable policy for the Indian economy may be for the government to continue to rely on infrastructure expansion, the EY report observes.

EY India's Chief Policy Advisor, D.K. Srivastava, said India's changing demographic structure, with a rising working-age population, could drive a virtuous cycle of growth, employment, savings, and investment.

To capitalise on this, India may need to gradually increase spending on health, education, and infrastructure while ensuring adequate funding for low-income states through equalisation transfers.

Profession and Passion working together

(By Ashok Shinde)

What do you do currently in the medical field, and how have you proven yourself for it?

I am a doctor at Lilavati Hospital, where I actively contribute to patient care and medical advancements. Along with my clinical responsibilities, I also play a role in hosting and organizing hospital events, bridging the gap between healthcare and effective communication. My dedication to patient well-being, my ability to counsel and ease patients' concerns, and my commitment to continuous learning have helped me establish my credibility in the field.

What activities do you do outside your professional circle while keeping yourself busy in the medical profession?

Outside of my medical career, I am a professional anchor, having hosted corporate events, weddings, festivals, and parties for the past six years. Additionally, I create health-related content as an influencer, aiming to educate people about wellness. I also dedicate time to community work and am an active team member of the VBC group, organizing events for the Jain community. Singing, dancing, and exploring new experiences keep me creatively engaged.

What extracurricular activities have you done so far?

I have been deeply involved in anchoring, public speaking, and event hosting, including hosting celebrity events during my college days. I also dedicate time to cooking, fitness, and spirituality, which keep me energized and focused. Cooking is like therapy for me, so I love to cook all types of cuisines and make jain food more palatable. I deeply believe in Jainism and I feel my trust in God help me grow and believe in me every day. My passion for communication, creativity, and community service continues to shape my journey.

Dr. Fenny Shah

While working as a doctor in a renowned Lilavati Hospital, Mumbai, Dr. Fenny Shah who pursued her passion in the field of art as a compere which is admirable. An interview and conversation with her about her achievement..

How do you balance your time for this? Your time management.

Managing multiple roles requires discipline and planning. I prioritize my hospital duties while setting aside time for anchoring, content creation, and personal interests. Having a structured routine, staying organized, and maintaining a positive mindset help me balance everything efficiently without compromising on any responsibility.

How do you get responses or cooperation from your office, relatives, and friends? Tell us about them and who gives you support.

I am fortunate to receive immense support from my family, colleagues, and friends. My hospital acknowledges my ability to manage my career alongside my passions. My parents, Rajesh Ravilal Shah and Mamta Rajesh Shah, have been my biggest pillars of strength—my father is a businessman in Bhuj, and my mother is an active social worker and a key office bearer in the Vagad Be Chovisi Yuvti Mandal Committee. My younger brother, Tirth Shah, who is currently pursuing a BSc in Microbiology from Mithibai College, has always encouraged me as well. Their unwavering belief in me has enabled me to pursue my dreams.

Would you like to pursue a career in this field other than the medical field, or would you like to pursue it only as a hobby?

Medicine is my primary profession, and I am deeply committed to it. However, anchoring, content creation, and public speaking have become integral parts of my life, and I enjoy pursuing them alongside my medical career. I believe both fields complement each other, allowing me to contribute to society in multiple ways.

What is the best thing you want to do from this interest? What is your goal for it?

Through my work in hosting and health content creation, I want to make a significant impact by spreading awareness about wellness, positivity, and lifestyle improvements. My goal is to expand my reach, educate people on healthcare, and create a platform where knowledge and inspiration go hand in hand. I aspire to flourish my skills across India and internationally in both business and career.

What is your goal in the medical field?

My goal is to continue growing in the medical profession while making healthcare more approachable through effective communication. I also aim to pursue further studies to enhance my expertise, ultimately contributing to better patient care and public health awareness.

What is your profile? Give brief information about your education and childhood.

I come from a small town, Bhuj, in Kutch, Gujarat. I completed my schooling at St. Xavier's School in Bhuj and later pursued my graduation from Parul University, Baroda. Parul University played a crucial role in shaping my personality, giving me ample opportunities, and believing in my potential—I even hosted most of the celebrity events there. After completing my graduation, I moved to Mumbai with the strong support and motivation of my parents.

I have always been passionate about personal growth, communication, and creativity.

My journey has been shaped by my hard work, curiosity, and the immense support of my family. In the future, I aspire to balance a successful career with a happy family life because, for me, family comes first.

Complete preparations on time for PM's proposed visit: Yogi

Varanasi, April 3 (UNI) :Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday emphasised the timely completion of all preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to his parliamentary constituency Varanasi.

During a review meeting with public representatives and officials at the Circuit House auditorium, the CM directed the officials to ensure that all projects scheduled for inauguration and foundation-laying by the PM are fully prepared. He took note of land subsidence incidents at Namo Ghat and directed officials to conduct a quality inspection and ensure immediate repairs.

He also directed them to develop a concrete action plan for the beautification of the Varuna Riverfront and complete the work without delay.

Yogi first visited Mehandi Ganj in Raja Talab, the proposed venue for PM Modi's public event. He emphasised the need for robust security and timely completion of all arrangements.

He said, "No visitor should face any inconvenience at the venue. Ensure proper drinking water, shade, mobile toilets and ORS packets."

In the meeting, Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma made a presentation on the preparations for the arrival of the PM. Along with this, information was also given about the development projects to be inaugurated and foundation stone laid by the PM.

Police Commissioner Mohit Agarwal gave information about the preparations of the police for the arrival of the PM. The CM was also informed about the progress of all the campaigns including cow smuggling, verification of illegal auto-e-rickshaw drivers, campaign against loudspeakers, CCTV campaign, Operation Chakravyuh, foot patrol, night patrol, implementation of three new laws, cyber crime.

Yogi directed the authorities to intensify foot patrols to prevent chain snatching, robbery and crimes against women. He emphasised the need for a complete crackdown on cow smuggling by targeting key offenders. Besides, he ordered swift action to curb incidents of love jihad and forced conversions while ensuring revenue disputes are resolved promptly based on merit.

He reviewed progress on projects at Harishchandra and Manikarnika ghats, stressing their completion before the monsoon. He suggested promoting the use of cow dung cakes for cremation and warned against unnecessary design changes in ongoing projects after DPR.

During the review, officials informed CM Yogi that under the Jal Jeevan Mission, tap water supply had reached 211 village panchayats in the district. He directed them to expedite the remaining work and ensure every household receives a water connection soon.

The CM expressed displeasure over the Chief Engineer of Jal Jeevan Mission for not providing proper information regarding the drinking water connection of houses and warned officials to come to the meeting with complete information in the future.He emphasised the need to identify a suitable location for the expansion of the National Forensic University campus. He also stressed the importance of running regular cleanliness drives in both urban and rural areas, ensuring public participation, and enforcing a complete ban on single-use plastic. "This should be conducted as a full-fledged campaign," he directed.

Nova IVF Fertility, Hyderabad Hosts Fertility conference, amidst concerns of falling fertility rate in the region

(Standard Post Bureau)

Nova IVF Fertility, India's first IVF chain to be incorporated with international protocols in Embryology and clinical processes, in collaboration with The Obstetric & Gynaecological Society Of Hyderabad organized a Fertility Conference in the hotel Taj Krishna, bringing together 500+ leading gynaecologists and fertility specialists to discuss the rising infertility trends in Telangana and the latest advancements in Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART).

Falling Fertility Rates in Telangana: A Growing Concern:

Telangana is witnessing a decline in fertility rates, a growing concern for health experts and policymakers. Factors such as lifestyle changes, late pregnancies, male infertility, and increased stress levels are contributing to the rising infertility rates among both men and women.

Male Infertility on the Rise:

Dr. Saroja Koppala, Fertility Specialist at Nova IVF Fertility Kukatpally, emphasized the increasing prevalence of male infertility, which is often overlooked. "We are seeing a significant decline in semen parameters, which could be linked to lifestyle factors like obesity, smoking, and alcohol consumption. Identifying reversible factors that can help men conceive naturally is crucial. When the male infertility condition is irreversible and cannot be corrected, men may require the support of Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART)," she said.

Dr. Saroja Koppala also highlighted an important concern, men over the age of 40 planning for children should be aware that age can impact sperm quality and affect the health of their offspring. Moreover, abnormal semen parameters may also indicate that there may be an underlying Co morbidities.

Shifting Trends in Infertility:

Dr. Hima Deepthi, Fertility Specialist at Nova IVF Fertility, Banjara Hills, highlighted the changing patterns in infertility cases. A decade ago, infertility was mostly linked to PCOS, endometriosis, and poor egg reserve. However, today we are seeing more couples delaying parenthood, with many women planning pregnancies in their late 30s and even early 40s,she noted.

One of the most notable shifts is the increasing awareness and demand for egg freezing. "We now receive 50-100 egg freezing queries a year, a number that was almost negligible just a few years ago. Many unmarried women in their early 30s are coming forward to understand more about egg freezing," Dr. Hima Deepthi added.

The fertility experts at the conference emphasized that fertility planning should not be left until later years. If couples wish to plan children at a later stage, they should consider freezing their eggs, sperm, or embryos to preserve their fertility options. They also urged both men and women to adopt healthier lifestyles, undergo fertility screening, and seek medical guidance sooner if they face difficulties in conceiving.

The event was graced by Chief guests, Honorary Treasurer at FIGO (International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics,)– Dr Shantha Kumari, Dr Manjula Rao, Secretary, OGSH(Obstetric & Gynaecological Society of Hyderabad (OGSH)). Other key fertility specialists at Nova IVF Fertility Hyderabad, who participated in the event were, Dr Durga Vytla, Banjara Hills and Dr Divya Reddy, LB Nagar.

Nova IVF Fertility remains committed to spreading awareness on reproductive health and providing access to cutting-edge fertility treatments. The Continuous medical education program in Hyderabad was a significant step in bringing together leading specialists to discuss the latest trends, challenges, and solutions in infertility care.

43 individuals face punishment for fatal coal mine accident in China's Heilongjiang

Harbin, April 3 (UNI) : A total of 43 individuals should be punished for their roles in a deadly coal mine accident and subsequent cover-up in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, an investigation report revealed Thursday.The accident occurred on Dec. 20, 2023, in the Kunyuan coal mine in the city of Jixi, leaving 12 dead and 13 others injured.

The accident resulted from illegal mining using improper equipment with damaged wires, which snapped under overload conditions while workers illegally rode cargo trains, according to the report released by the investigation team organized by the provincial government.

Following the accident, the mine operator deliberately concealed it, hid the victims' bodies, and destroyed evidence instead of reporting promptly. Emergency response was also mishandled, it added. The report revealed that judicial authorities as well as discipline inspection and supervision bodies have taken action against 14 individuals, while 29 others face recommended Party disciplinary or administrative penalties.

Magnitude 5.9 earthquake strikes Indonesia's North Maluku

Jakarta, April 3 (UNI) : An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale struck off Indonesia's eastern North Maluku province early Thursday, without triggering large waves, the country's Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency reported.

The agency initially recorded the magnitude at 6.0 before revising it.The quake occurred at 04:03 a.m. Jakarta time Thursday (2103 GMT), with the epicenter located 121 km southwest of Loloda sub-district in North Halmahera Regency, at a depth of 42 km beneath the seafloor.The tremors were recorded at intensity levels II to III on the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) scale in Ternate City and West Halmahera Regency. They were also felt in the neighboring province of North Sulawesi, where Manado and Bitung experienced shaking of similar intensity.

The agency did not issue a tsunami warning, as the earthquake did not have the potential to generate large waves.A 4.9-magnitude aftershock followed at 04:31 a.m.Indonesia, an archipelagic nation, is highly earthquake-prone due to its location along the seismically active "Pacific Ring of Fire."

Italian PM criticizes US decision to impose tariffs on EU

Rome, April 3 (UNI) : Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Wednesday night criticized U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to impose tariffs on the EU, calling it "a mistake that benefits no one."

She said that Italy will work to reach an agreement with the United States to prevent a trade war that could weaken the West in favor of other global players.

"We will do everything we can to reach an agreement with the United States to avert a trade war, which would inevitably weaken the West and strengthen other global actors," Meloni said.

"In any case, as always, we will act in the interests of Italy and its economy, while also coordinating with our European partners," she added.

Amid widespread opposition, Trump on Wednesday signed an executive order on the so-called "reciprocal tariffs," imposing a 10-percent "minimum baseline tariff" and higher rates on certain trading partners.

If the tariffs were imposed, the EU will face a 20-percent tariff, according to Trump's executive order.

Canada to respond to US import tariffs with countermeasures :PM

Ottawa, April 3 (UNI) : Canada will respond to US import tariffs with countermeasures, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said.

"We're gonna fight these tariffs with countermeasures," Carney told reporters.

The White House said in a statement on Wednesday the United States will impose a 10 percent tariff on all foreign imports starting April 5, with higher tariffs for countries with which the US has the the largest trade deficits starting April 9.

Israel's industry body warns of US tariffs' impact on trade

Jerusalem, April 3 (UNI) : The Manufacturers Association of Israel (MAI) on Thursday voiced concern over US President Donald Trump's decision to impose a 17 percent tariff on Israeli goods, calling it a "worrying step for Israeli exporters."

Trump announced the levies Wednesday as part of his "reciprocal tariffs" policy, though Israel had lifted all tariffs on US imports a day earlier.

Expressing surprise in a statement, the industry body said that 99 percent of US goods entering Israel were already tariff-free before the policy shift. It warned that the new policy could harm Israel's economic stability, deter foreign investment, and weaken Israeli companies' competitiveness in the US market.

"This worrying step could harm jobs in Israel and reduce activity in the American market," it added.

The association called the decision a setback in trade and investment relations and voiced hope that the move would be short-lived.

It pledged to work with Israel's finance and economy ministries to reverse the policy while exploring alternative strategies, including seeking new markets and engaging US decision-makers.

'Death toll from Myanmar earthquake rises to 3,085'

Beijing, April 3 (UNI) : The death toll from the earthquake in Myanmar has risen to 3,085, Xinhua reported, citing the information team of the country's State Administration Council.

A total of 4,715 were injured, and 341 people are missing, the report said.

A 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar on March 28, with tremors felt in Bangladesh, India, Laos, China and Thailand. The quake damaged underground oil pipelines, local authorities said the next day, adding that power lines had also been cut and oil tankers were arriving on the country's shores to ease fuel shortages. A number of countries, including Russia and Belarus, have been assisting Myanmar with relief efforts, including by sending rescue teams.

Previous reports put the death toll from the earthquake at 2,886.

Pak resumes deportation of Afghan nationals after Eid extension

Peshawar, April 3 (UNI) : Pakistani authorities have begun the second phase of deportation of Afghan refugees in the city of Peshawar, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, following the expiration of a government deadline for Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders to leave the country voluntarily.

While the government had set the deadline to March 31, refusing any extension calls from the international community, Islamabad had extended the deadline by two days.

"Although the deadline was March 31, the provincial government exte-nded it till April 2 keeping in view Eidul Fitr. Now, phase 2 will begin from (Thursday) and we have established camps, one each at Landi Kotal and Nasir Bagh Road," a senior official from Afghan Commi-ssionerate in Peshawar told Dawn.

The two-day Eid relaxation apparently caused some confusion amongst officials, with some sources suggesting a further extension.

Law enforcement authorities also confirmed an extension of the deadline, though an official in the country's interior ministry denied any such reports.

According to official statistics, a total of 69,494 families — including 473,397 individuals, of which 157,513 were men, 111,381 were women and 197,821 children — have been sent back to Afghanistan since September 2023.

The ongoing deportation process of Afghan nationals in Pakistan remains a highly controversial and contentious issue, as the UNHCR has called for better treatment of refugees by Pakistani authorities, while the Taliban has criticised Islamabad for its continued harassment and mistreatment of Afghan nationals, as many individuals with legal visas have been subject to forced deportations.The situation has further put a socio-economic burden on Afghanistan, as Kabul faces increasing difficulty in accommodating the new migrants due to lack of infrastructure, healthcare, basic housing, and employment amongst other problems, further exacerbating the deteriorating situation of the migrants.

WHO faces 2.5 bln USD funding gap as US announcing withdrawal

Geneva, April 3 (UNI) : The World Health Organization (WHO) is facing a budget gap of 1.9 billion U.S. dollars for 2026 and 2027, along with a 600-million-dollar deficit through 2025, according to media reports on Wednesday.

Health Policy Watch, a non-profit independent global health news outlet, reported that the 1.9-billion-dollar funding gap accounts for nearly 45 percent of its already slashed budget for the two-year period until 2027.

The report, citing WHO officials at a Tuesday meeting, said the United States owes WHO 260 million dollars in dues for 2024 and 2025. Raul Thomas, WHO's assistant director general of business operations, revealed at the meeting that the outgoing administration of U.S. President Joe Biden never paid the U.S. 2024 dues of 130 million dollars owed before leaving office.

Speaking to WHO staff via Zoom at the meeting, Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus forecasted staff reductions. "Starting with senior leadership, but will reflect all levels and regions," he was quoted as saying.

"Everything is on the table, including merging divisions, departments and units, and relocating functions," Tedros added.

Following the U.S. decision to withdraw from the WHO, the organization reduced its 2026-2027 budget from 5.3 billion dollars to 4.2 billion dollars.

WHO data showed that the U.S. share of the organization's regular budget for the 2024-2025 period was assessed at 22 percent, the highest among all members.

On Jan. 20, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order shortly after his inauguration to withdraw the country from the WHO, which will only take effect after a one-year noticeperiod.

Ecuador says US tariffs to hurt key exports

Quito, April 3 (UNI) : Ecuador's main export industry group warned Wednesday that new US tariffs will significantly affect the country's exports of agricultural goods, notably banana, shrimp and cocoa.

The Trump administration's plan to impose a 10 percent tariff on imports from over 180 countries starting April 5 threatens Ecuador's key exports, which currently enter the United States tariff-free, said the Ecuadorian Federation of Exporters (Fedexpor).

The group said the impact is compounded by Ecuador's lack of a trade agreement with the United States, which is a gap that leaves Ecuador at a competitive disadvantage compared to regional exporters with preferential access.

"The absence of a trade deal with the US puts Ecuadorian exports in a weaker position under this new tariff regime," it said in a statement.

Fedexpor and the Ecuadorian-American Chamber of Commerce said they have opened diplomatic and technical discussions with US trade officials to explore options to limit the damage.

Japan seriously concerned US reciprocal tariffs not in compliance with WTO rules

Tokyo, April 3 (UNI) : Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi on Thursday expressed "serious concern" about the US decision to impose reciprocal tariffs, questioning its compliance with World Trade Organization rules and a bilateral trade agreement.

At a press conference, he said that Tokyo has strongly urged Washington to retract its decision to slap a 24 percent levy on Japanese products as part of the reciprocal tariffs.

The US administration's tariff plan could have a "big negative impact" on the global economy and the multilateral trade system, Hayashi said.

Meanwhile, Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yoji Muto said he told US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick during an online meeting earlier in the day that the new tariff move is regrettable and will make it difficult for companies to invest in the U.S. market and hurt the US economy.

Muto added that Tokyo will continue to request exemptions from US tariffs.

Nepal seeking to cooperate with Russia in energy sector

Kathmandu, April 3 (UNI) : Nepalese Minister for Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation Deepak Khadka expressed hope for cooperation with Russia in the energy sector at a meeting with Russian Ambassador to Nepal Aleksei Novikov, Nepalese media reported.

Khadka noted Nepal's goal to generate 28,500 megawatts of electricity by 2035 and expressed hope for cooperation with Russia in achieving this goal, The Himalayan Times newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The minister invited Russian companies to invest in Nepal's power transmission infrastructure, energy storage, smart grids and green energy, the report added.Novikov, in turn, reportedly said that Russian business is interested in expanding investments in Nepal's energy and hydropower sectors. The ambassador also invited the minister to attend the Nevsky International Ecological Congress next month, the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in June and the Russian Energy Week in October.

China strongly opposes US tariffs, will take countermeasures - Commerce Ministry

Beijing, April 3 (UNI) : China strongly opposes the US tariffs and will take countermeasures to protect its rights and interests, the Chinese Commerce Ministry said on Thursday.

"China strongly opposes this and will take countermeasures to protect its rights and interests," the ministry said in a statement.

The new US tariffs ignore the balance of interests achieved over many years of multilateral trade negotiations, the statement read, adding that the measures are based on subjective unilateral assessments, which "does not comply with the rules of international trade and seriously damages the legitimate rights and interests of the parties involved."

"The Chinese side calls on the US to immediately lift unilateral tariff measures and properly resolve differences with trading partners through equal dialogue," the statement said.

On Wednesday, US President Donald Trump announced the introduction of reciprocal tariffs on imports from other countries. The base rate will be 10%, but as Trump noted, the US will charge approximately half of the tariffs that other countries impose on American goods. Later, the White House said that the US will impose a 10% tariff on all foreign imports on April 5, while higher tariffs for countries with the largest trade deficits will take effect on April 9.

Later, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that the new tariffs on Chinese imports are added to the previously existing measures and now reach 54%.

Canada says to fight US tariffs with countermeasures

Ottawa, April 3 (UNI) : Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Wednesday that Canada will fight U.S. tariffs with countermeasures.

The prime minister promised to act with purpose and force to counter U.S. President Donald Trump's auto tariffs and bring in support for impacted workers.

"In a crisis, it's important to come together and it's essential to act with purpose and with force," Carney said, adding that Canada's strategic sectors, like pharmaceuticals, lumber and semiconductors, are facing the U.S. potential threat.

Carney said that he will speak with provincial and territorial premiers Thursday morning and detailed countermeasures are expected to be announced then.

Canada escaped Trump's reciprocal global tariffs, but a 25 percent tariff on foreign-made cars and light trucks will come into effect at midnight. Duties on several Canadian goods, including non-compliant CUSMA (Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement) products, aluminum and steel, remain in place.Dan Kelly, president and CEO of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, said on the social platform X that U.S. tariffs on Canada are "as clear as mud."

"I can't believe the whole world is trying to learn where their economies are headed by straining to see a stupid chart held by the President," Kelly said.

According to a new survey by his organization, the widespread business disruption caused by U.S.-Canada tariffs is leading Canadian small business owners to shift their suppliers and investments to domestic and international markets other than the United States.

The survey found that a third of business owners have already shifted to suppliers or markets within Canada, 27 percent plan to increase their investment in Canada, and the other third intend to reduce efforts in the United States over the next six months.

Flavio Volpe, president of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association and a member of the Prime Minister's Council on Canada-U.S. Relations, said the auto tariff package will shut down the auto sector in the United States and Canada.

"Canadians sighing with relief for not being on this list should remember we still have border tariffs of 25 percent, auto tariffs of 25 percent and steel and aluminum tariffs of 25 percent. Like dodging a bullet into the path of a tank," Volpe said on his X account.Drew Dilkens, mayor of Windsor, the auto capital of Canada in the province of Ontario, said that with thousands and thousands of jobs at stake, he's worried about how hard his city could be hit.

Australian PM calls Trump's 10 pc tariffs completely 'unwarranted'

Canberra, April 3 (UNI) : Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called the 10% tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump on Canberra "completely unjustified."

"For Australia these tariffs are not unexpected, but let me be clear: they are totally unwarranted. President Trump refers to reciprocal tariffs. A reciprocal tariff would be zero, not 10%. The administration's tariffs have no basis in logic and are going against the basis of a two nations' partnership. This is not the act of a friend," Albanese said on Wednesday.

The prime minister also added that his government would not seek to introduce reciprocal tariffs.

On Wednesday, Trump announced the introduction of reciprocal tariffs on imports from other countries. The base rate will be 10%, but as Trump noted, the US will charge approximately half of the tariffs that other countries impose on American goods.

MMTYS gets Rs 100 crore budget

Chandigarh, April 3 (UNI) : Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Thursday gave approval for provisions of 'Mukhya Mantri Teerth Yatra Scheme' (MMTYS) under which senior citizens will be taken on a pilgrimage at the government's expense.

A spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said the government will bear the entire cost of the journey, including air-conditioned travel, comfortable accommodation, and meals. To make the pilgrimage memorable, the government will also present a special gift/ souvenirs to the travellers.

He said all citizens aged 50 years and above can avail from this scheme and it will be open to people of all castes, religions, income groups, and regions. Residents from both cities and villages of Punjab can benefit from the initiative.

The objective of this journey is to showcase the state's rich spiritual, religious, and cultural heritage by covering major religious sites.He also said that, throughout the journey, spiritual discourses and devotional singing (satsang and kirtan) will be organised. At the end of the pilgrimage, prasad will be distributed to all travellers.

A budget of Rs 100 crore has been allocated for this scheme, and if necessary, it will be further increased.

ISRO to set up space infrastructure in Assam

Guwahati, April 3 (UNI) : The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to establish key infrastructure for space-related activities in Assam, aimed at enhancing the safety of space assets and supporting India's weather advisory services.

"Shri Keshab Mahanta, Assam's Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management, IT, Science, Technology, and Climate Change, along with Dr V Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space, and Chairman, ISRO, undertook a reconnaissance visit to the proposed site for the project," ISRO said on X on Thursday.The multi-purpose facility will play a crucial role in bolstering India's space capabilities, while also serving as a centre for research and technological advancements, ISRO said.

"Shri Mahanta assured full cooperation from the state government and proposed the establishment of a space museum in the region to benefit students and the public," it added.Dr Narayanan welcomed the proposal and assured ISRO's support in the endeavour.

34 ST students from Tripura accused of submitting false IT certificate for scholarship

Agartala, April 3 (UNI) : Tripura Tribal Welfare department has issued show cause notices to 34 students for submitting false income tax certificate to avail scholarship and asked them to explain why FIRs should not be lodged against them for alleged forgery.

Show cause has given 15 days time to submit their responses after they were allegedly found to have applied for ST Post-Matric Scholarship for 2023-24 through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) using fake income certificates, said Director of Tripura Tribal Welfare Department Subhasish Das.

It has been revealed from the inquiries conducted by competent administrative authorities that 34 students had applied for ST Post-Matric Scholarship for 2023-24 through the NSP, uploading fake income certificates. The production of such fake income certificates to usurp scholarship grants constitutes misappropriation of public money, document forgery, and defrauding, Das stated.

"It amounts to a criminal offence; and therefore, the accused students are hereby asked to show cause as to why FIRs shall not be lodged against them for having submitted fake income certificates through the NSP with the motive of falsely establishing their claims for ST Post-Matric Scholarship", the notice reads.

Their reply, if any in defence, shall reach the undersigned in writing no later than the 16th April, 2025, failing which actions shall ensue against them ex parte, it stated, adding that among the accused students, 3 were from Gomati, 4 from Khowai, 8 from West Tripura, 13 from Sepahijala, 2 are from Dhalai, one each from North and Unakoti districts and two from South Tripura.

Odisha Congress to hold torch rallies at Blocks and District Headquarters demanding Justice for Women

Bhubaneswar, April 3 (UNI) : Odisha Congress will organize a torch rally in every block on April 15 and at district headquarters on April 21, demanding justice for women, Pradesh Congress President Bhakta Charan Das announced on Thursday.

Addressing the media here, Das accused the BJP government of being completely incapable of providing justice to women and their families, who, he alleged, have been subjected to oppression, rape, loot, abduction, and murder in Odisha.

He said both the BJD and BJP governments are deceiving the women of Odisha. The BJP government, he alleged, is disrespecting the women of Odisha and attempting to suppress the voice of the Congress party in the Odisha Assembly by force when raising concerns about women's safety in the state.

The Congress President said the BJP government in Odisha is tarnishing the state's reputation by remaining indifferent to the atrocities being committed against women.

"Instead of ensuring the safety of young girls, they are being pushed into darkness," he remarked.

Das stated that, in demand for justice for women, Congress has gheraoed the Chief Minister's residence, the District Collector's office, and even the Assembly.

Even on the occasion of Odisha Day, on April 1, Congress expressed its solidarity with helpless women by organizing a candlelight procession at railway stations and bus stands to highlight the plight of 60,000 missing women.

He slammed the BJP government for ignoring the demands of Congress MLAs in the Odisha Assembly for a house committee to probe the rising atrocities against women and ensure justice for them.

Das said the state government could have constituted a five-member ministerial committee or a task force of IAS or IPS officers instead of a house committee to address the rising crimes against women in the state.

He called upon women to remain vigilant against the atrocities being committed against them and warned that Congress would take to the streets if the government did not draft a special policy, law, or rule to curb crimes against women.

The party, Das said, will continue its agitation until the women of Odisha receive justice. He appealed to the mothers and sisters of villages to join the movement by lighting candles in their homes and communities to demand justice for the 60,000 missing women and victims of rape.

He said a torch rally will be held in every block and city on April 15, followed by another rally at district headquarters on April 21, demanding justice for women. The office of the District Magistrate will also be gheraoed.This will be followed by 10-km-long marches in 35 organizational districts of the Congress, the PCC Chief stated.

Governor constitutes all-party panel on railway connectivity

Shillong, April 3 (UNI) : Meghalaya Governor Chandrashekhar H. Vijayashankar has constituted an all-party committee to discuss matters related to railway connectivity in the State.

The all-party committees would comprise recognized and registered political parties and would be headed by the Chief Minister Conrad Sangma or by a Cabinet Minister.

Chief Secretary Donald Philips Wahlang said the term of reference of the Committee is to examine and find solutions, ways and means to bring about the introduction and construction of railways in Meghalaya.

He said the Committee will assess the cost-benefit analysis of introduction of railways in theState.

"The committee will seek the views of all stakeholders concerned and submit the recommendation to the state government," Wahlang said.

Political parties have been requested to depute two representatives. Moreover, government departments related to the matter shall be invited during deliberation to be held by the Committees.

Railways have been opposed in Meghalaya by various pressure groups, including the influential Khasi Students' Union , claiming it would encourage influx.

"Unless ILP (Inner Line Permit) is implemented in Meghalaya we at the KSU will continue to oppose tooth and nail against railway project in Khasi-Jaintia Hills region," KSU President, Lambokstar Marngar said, adding that the KSU will discuss railways only after the central government approves ILP for Meghalaya.

ILP is a special permit required by residents of other regions of the country to enter Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Manipur.

On December 19, 2019, the Meghalaya Assembly had unanimously adopted a resolution urging the central government to introduce the ILP regime into the state by including Meghalaya in the preamble of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873.

Several proposed railway projects in the Khasi-Jaintia Hills region of Meghalaya, including the goods train rail line project from Assam's Tetelia to Byrnihat area in Meghalaya's Ri-Bhoi district, the ambitious 108 km Byrnihat-Shillong rail network, has remained a non-starter.

Currently only Garo Hills in western part of Meghalaya has a rail network connecting Assam with Mendipathar in North Garo Hills district.

The Chief Minister had informed the Assembly recently that due to the opposition and stalled project the central government has asked for a refund of Rs. 209.37 crore that was sanctioned for land compensation for introducing the railway network in Khasi-Jaintia Hills.

Moreover, Sangma had said that the state government would like to "carry the people along in such an important decision" of laying a railway network in Khasi-Jaintia Hills region.

Noting that the state government "strongly feels" that there is a "need for the railways from the economic perspective of transportation," the Chief Minister said, railways would lead to more economic development allowing better prices of goods.

APP arrests 2,619, seizes contraband worth Rs 75 crore in 5 yrs

Itanagar, April 3 (UNI) : In its resolute fight against the narcotics menace, the Arunachal Pradesh Police (APP) has arrested 2,619 individuals (including 534 since launch of Operation Dawn in November 2023), and seized contraband worth Rs 75 crore over the past 5 years.

This crackdown is part of the state's intensified war against drugs, aimed at dismantling drug networks and ensuring a drug-free society.

"Since 2019, the sustained efforts of the Arunachal Pradesh Police in tackling drug-related crimes have resulted in the registration of 1,452 cases and the arrest of 2,619 individuals. A total of 18,600 kilograms of psychotropic substances valued at Rs 75 crores have been seized," a police spokesperson said on Thursday.

Additionally, law enforcement authorities have destroyed 56,654.69 acres of illicit opium poppy plantations and eradicated 1,723.271 acres of cannabis cultivation, dealing a major blow to the drug trade in the region, he said.

The officer further said that the ongoing fight against narcotics witnessed a significant boost with the launch of 'Operation Dawn' on 8th November 2023. Since its initiation, the operation has led to the registration of 354 cases, arrest of 534 individuals, and the seizure of 9,557 kilograms of narcotic substances, with an estimated market value of Rs 38 crore.

"The Arunachal Pradesh Police remains committed to its mission of making the state drug-free and crime-free with unwavering support from the government and the citizens," the spokesperson said, adding that authorities vowed to sustain their crackdown on drug cartels and strengthen enforcement efforts.

Odisha launches a dedicated website for Odia Pakhya celebration

Bhubaneswar, April 3 (UNI) : The Odisha government on Thursday launched a dedicated website https://odiapakhya.com for Odia Pakhya, which is being celebrated across the state from April 1 to April 14.

For the first time, Odia Pakhya is being observed from April 1 to 14 to honor the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Odisha.

As part of this initiative, a dedicated website has been launched to provide comprehensive information about the celebrations.

The website offers details about Odia Pakhya, including a schedule of events organized by the state government during this period.

Additionally, an interactive quiz has been introduced, featuring questions related to the Odia language, literature, history, culture, and eminent personalities of Odisha.

Participants can take the quiz and download a digital certificate upon completion. The platform also encourages people to actively participate in block- and district-level celebrations.

Participants can also upload selfies showcasing their involvement in the Odia Pakhya celebration directly on the website.

Beyond being just a celebration, Odia Pakhya is a movement aimed at reigniting passion for Odia culture and inspiring people to take active steps in promoting their language, literature, heritage, and traditions.

By embracing and promoting Odia culture, this initiative ensures that people remain connected to the deep-rooted traditions that define Odisha's unique cultural landscape.

Exotic animals worth Rs 1.3 crore seized

Aizawl, April 3 (UNI) : Mizoram's Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department, along with the Assam Rifles, seized a consignment of exotic animals worth approximately Rs 1.3 crore at Zokhawthar village on Wednesday. The animals were being smuggled from Myanmar, officials of the Champhai Forest Division said.

Among the seized animals were one albino Burmese python, 27 African spurred tortoises, and three Patagonian maras.Six people, including a Myanmar national, were arrested in connection with the smuggling.The officials identified the accused as Thawnsuangmuang of Khawmawi in Myanmar's Chin State and five others—Jessie Lalnunmawia, Biakzapianga, Lalzuitluangi, Denga, and Lalhmangaihthanga, all residents of Zokhawthar.

They were booked under relevant sections of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and produced before the Champhai Judicial District court, which remanded them to judicial custody and sent them to Champhai district jail the same day.Meanwhile, in a separate case, officials from the Wildlife Division of neighbouring Khawzawl district recently arrested Biakchungnunga of Khawzawl town for poaching a barking deer and a rufous-throated partridge on March 26. He was also charged under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and later produced before a district court in Champhai, which ordered his remand to Champhai district jail.Authorities have stepped up vigilance along Mizoram's border with Myanmar, as exotic wildlife smuggling has been on the rise in recent months.

Waqf Amendment Bill to manage and prevent misuse of properties: Jaiswal

Patna, April 3 (UNI) : BJP state President Dilip Jaiswal said that the Waqf Amendment Bill is for efficient management and prevention of misuse of properties.

Jaiswal told news persons here on Thursday that the poor and backward Muslims were not getting benefits of the Waqf properties and the income of the properties was also constantly declining due to mismanagement.

Referring to the Sachhar Committee report, he said that the committee had also stressed the need for efficient management of the Waqf properties. He said that once this bill becomes law, there will be financial transparency, and revenue will also increase, which will reduce dependence on government assistance.

Responding to the criticism of the Bill by the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, Tejaswi Yadav, Jaiswal shared a viral video of RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and said that Yadav himself had demanded a stringent law. The Modi government has now fulfilled the wish of Yadav." If his father's name was not there, no one would have known Tejaswi", he quipped, saying that Lalu Yadav is the foundation of Tejaswi's politics. Jaiswal also elaborated on the programmes the BJP would be observing on the occasion of its establishment day.

Five including BDO sentenced for abetting suicide

Patna, April 3 (UNI) : An Additional Session Judge Chhedi Ram sentenced five people, including the deceased's wife and his relative, a Block Development Officer (BDO), to three years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 10,000 each for abetting an Engineer Vishal Kumar Singh to commit suicide.

After hearing the case, the judge pronounced his verdict declaring the deceased's wife Preeti, father-in-law Dilip Kumar Singh, brother-in-law Priya Ranjan Kumar Singh, cousin Prashant Kumar, and Sanjay Kumar Singh guilty under Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code.

If the fine amount is not paid, the culprits will have to undergo a separate sentence of six months' imprisonment.

The in-laws of Vishal Kumar Singh mentally tortured him since he got married to Priti on November 26, 2011.

Sequeira fires Huracan past Corinthians in Copa Sudamericana

Rio De Janeiro, April 3 (UNI) : Leonardo Sequeira scored twice as Argentina's Huracan secured a 2-1 away win over Brazilian side Corinthians in their Copa Sudamericana group stage opener.

The visitor took the lead on Wednesday when Sequeira latched onto Leonardo Gil's set piece with a header into the bottom-left corner.

Midfielder Raniele put the host on level terms by nodding home following Andre Carrillo's corner. Sequeira restored Huracan's advantage with a low left-footed shot that left goalkeeper Matheus Donelli with no chance.

Corinthians controlled 71 percent of possession and completed more than twice as many passes as the Buenos Aires outfit but lacked incisiveness in the final third.

Meanwhile, Peru's Melgar recovered from a two-goal deficit to salvage a 3-3 home draw against Brazilian side Vasco da Gama.Former Liverpool and Barcelona playmaker Philippe Coutinho opened the scoring for Vasco with a long-range effort, but Gregorio Rodriguez equalized with a 39th-minute header.Argentine forward Pablo Vegetti appeared to give Vasco an insurmountable lead with goals either side of halftime, before Facundo Casto and Kenji Cabrera struck late to earn their team a valuable point.Also on Wednesday, America de Cali won 3-1 at Racing CM, Vitoria was held to a 1-1 home drawby Universidad Catolica, and Gremio prevailed 2-1 at Sportivo Luqueno.

T20 team captain Surya visits Ram Temple in Ayodhya

Ayodhya (UP), April 3 (UNI) : Captain of Indian T20 cricket team Suryakumar Yadav on Thursday visited the grand and divine temple of Lord Shri Ram in the city of Maryada Purushottam, Lord Shri Ram.

Suryakumar Yadav, along with his family, visited the famous Hanuman Garhi temple and then took the blessings of Ram Lalla seated in the divine and grand temple.The Chief Priest of the famous Hanuman Garhi Hemant Das was present with him.

On this occasion, the captain of the Indian T20 team said in an informal conversation that Ayodhya is developing very fast, and with the construction of the Ram temple, the surrounding districts are also developing. "The temple has been built very grandly," he said.

Director of the Intelligence Bureau of India. (IB) Tapan Deka also visited the famous Hanuman Garhi temple and Ram Lalla, seated in the Shri Ramjanmabhoomi complex. Ayodhya Range IG Praveen Kumar and Senior Superintendent of Police Raj Karan Nayyar were also present with him.

A symbol of Sport for Development & Peace

Lausanne (Switzerland), April 3 (UNI) : Leading up to the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, which takes place on April 6, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) will spend the upcoming days celebrating hockey's place in promoting peace and development via a range of projects and initiatives.

The stories come from across the five hockey-playing continents, with today's story coming from Pan America.

On March 8, Venezuela's return to the Under-21 Pan American Challenge in Barbados, which ended in a stunning bronze medal finish, marked more than just a comeback—it was a testament to the transformative power of sport.After more than a decade away from junior competition, the nation's hockey players took the field not only to compete but to reignite a movement that extends far beyond the pitch.As the world celebrates the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, Venezuela's journey serves as an inspiring example of how sport fosters resilience, unity, and hope for future generations.Hockey in Venezuela has a deep-rooted history, tracing back to its international debut at the 1983 Pan American Games in Caracas. Over the decades, the sport expanded across the country, at one point thriving in 15 of Venezuela's 24 states. However, economic, and logistical challenges led to setbacks, limiting opportunities for young athletes. Yet, despite the obstacles, the passion for hockey never faded.For Venezuela, sport is more than competition—it is a tool for development, a bridge to greater aspirations. Currently, nearly a thousand players, from young beginners to experienced athletes, engage in hockey. This revival of the junior national team is a symbol of perseverance, proving that even after years of absence, a committed effort can rekindle national pride and sporting ambition.

Omar Bastardo, President of the Venezuelan Hockey Federation, acknowledges the significance of this milestone. "For us, it is a great opportunity to return to the international scene as a national team, given that we have not participated in any event since 2018, and we haven't competed in a junior event since 2012," he stated.

Stuttgart powers past Leipzig to reach German Cup final

Berlin, April 3 (UNI) : VfB Stuttgart will meet third-tier side Arminia Bielefeld in the German Cup final after a 3-1 victory over RB Leipzig.

The home team started strong and took the lead in the fifth minute on Wednesday when a poorly cleared corner kick fell to Angelo Stiller at the edge of the box.

The midfielder then unleashed a stunning volley that went under the crossbar. Ermedin Demirovic nearly doubled the lead shortly afterward, but his shot was saved by Leipzig goalkeeper Maarten Vandevoort.

Leipzig began to find its rhythm and created several opportunities, with Lois Openda and Xavi Simons testing Stuttgart goalkeeper Alexander Nubel, who remained solid throughout the first half to maintain his team's narrow lead.

Nick Woltemade capitalized on a defensive mix-up by David Raum, finishing with a low shot into the bottom corner to give Stuttgart a 2-0 lead in the 57th minute.

Leipzig responded quickly through Benjamin Sesko, who scored from close range after a scramble in the area to reduce the deficit five minutes later.

The game intensified as Leipzig pushed for an equalizer, but Stuttgart scored again to secure its place in the final. A 73rd-minute corner kick found Woltemade at the near post, and his flick-on was headed over the line by Jamie Leweling."We supported each other at the right moments and made the most of our chances," said Stuttgart head coach Sebastian Hoeness.

"I have to take my hat off to the team, especially after Leipzig pulled one back. They remained dangerous, but we held on until the end. Reaching the final in Berlin is a dream, now we want even more."

Resurgent Mumbai Indians face familiar foe

Lucknow, April 3 (UNI) : Mumbai Indians will enter the 16th IPL 2025 match against Lucknow Super Giants on Friday with renewed confidence after a dominant win over Kolkata Knight Riders. Their bowlers bundled KKR out for just 116, and Ryan Rickelton's unbeaten 62, along with Suryakumar Yadav's explosive 27 off nine balls, ensured a comfortable chase.

Debutant Ashwani Kumar impressed with a four-wicket haul, while Deepak Chahar and Trent Boult have been effective in the powerplay. With this resurgence, MI appears well-positioned to challenge LSG despite past head-to-head records.

Lucknow have held an upper hand against Mumbai in the IPL, winning five of their six encounters. However, MI's recent win over Kolkata has given them a much-needed boost.

Nicholas Pooran has been LSG's standout performer, amassing 189 runs in three matches at a strike rate of 220. His contribution will be crucial as LSG look to bounce back from a heavy eight-wicket defeat to Punjab Kings in their last home game.

Mitchell Marsh and Pooran have carried much of the batting load, and their failure often exposes the team's fragility. Captain Rishabh Pant's poor form remains a concern, while Ayush Badoni and Abdul Samad have shown promise in the lower order.

In the bowling department, Shardul Thakur has claimed six wickets in three matches but has been expensive, conceding at an economy rate of 10.22. The return of Akash Deep is expected to bolster the attack, while leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi will be keen to improve on his underwhelming returns so far.Mumbai bowling attack, led by Chahar and Boult, has been effective in the powerplay. Debutant Ashwani impressed with a four-wicket haul in the last game and could play a key role again. Mitchell Santner's experience in the middle overs will be vital, while young pacer Vignesh Puthur may be called upon for breakthroughs.

The Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium pitch is expected to be balanced, offering assistance to both batsmen and bowlers. Dew in the second innings could make chasing a preferred option. The highest successful chase at this venue in IPL history stands at 199-3, achieved by Rajasthan Royals against LSG last season.

With both teams searching for consistency, the contest is set to be a thrilling encounter. While LSG have dominated MI in the past, the visitors' recent resurgence makes them slight favourites heading into the match.

Umpires, match officials revealed for Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 Qualifier

Dubai, April 3 (UNI) : The umpires and match officials have been announced for this month's ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier.

The six-team tournament will take place in Pakistan between April 9-19, with two sides to earn their place at this year's ICC Women's Cricket World Cup as a result.

The panel will consist of 10 umpires and three match referees, with host nation Pakistan to be represented by on the umpiring panel by Faisal Khan Afridi and Saleema Imtiaz.

Last year Saleema became the first woman from Pakistan to join an ICC panel of umpires and she said at the time that she would inspire a new generation of umpires from the Asian country.

"This isn't just a win for me, it's a win for every aspiring female cricketer and umpire in Pakistan," Saleema said.

"I hope my success motivates countless women who dream of making their mark in the sport," she said.

Bangladesh also have two umpires on the panel in Masudur Rahman Mukul and Shatira Jakir Jesy, while Zimbabwe's Sarah Dambanevana will feature along with Donovan Koch, Babs Gcuma, Candace la Borde, Dedunu de Silva and Shaun Haig, according to an ICC media statement.

Ali Naqvi, Shandre Fritz and Trudy Anderson will be in place as match referees and ICC Senior Manager – Umpires and Referees, Sean Easey believes the tournament will provide the entire panel with an excellent opportunity to show their credentials."This is an exciting opportunity for our appointed match officials, overseeing this important tournament which is the last step for teams on the path to the World Cup," Easey said."Our officials are experienced and well prepared, and we look forward to seeing them participate in this event," she added.Referees: Ali Naqvi (Pakistan), Shandre Fritz (South Africa), Trudy Anderson (New Zealand).

Umpires: Babs Gcuma (South Africa), Candace la Borde (West Indies), Dedunu de Silva (Sri Lanka), Donovan Koch (Australia), Faisal Khan Afridi (Pakistan), Masudur Rahman Mukul (Bangladesh), Saleema Imtiaz (Pakistan), Sarah Dambanevana (Zimbabwe), Shathira Jakir Jesy (Bangladesh), Shaun Haig (New Zealand).

BPCL launches sports scholarship to empower young athletes

New Delhi, April 3 (UNI) : State run oil marketing company Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), on Thursday announced the launch of the BPCL Sports Scholarship Initiative to strengthen its commitment to developing national sports talent.This program offers financial support to promising young athletes, allowing them to concentrate on their training and competitive goals nationally and internationally.

The initiative is open to Indian athletes aged 13 to 25 across various sports, including Athletics, Badminton, Cricket, Hockey, Chess, Tennis, and more. Chosen participants will benefit from a monthly stipend, a sports kit, and coverage for tournament expenses, enabling them to enhance their skills without financial burdens.Scholarships will be granted in three distinct categories -- Budding Athlete Engagement (Ages 13-17); Junior Athlete Engagement (Ages 17-21); and Elite Athlete Engagement (Ages 21-25), BPCL said in a statement."At BPCL, we are committed to nurturing young sports talent and providing them with the necessary resources to excel.

Hockey India Senior Men National Championship set to feature new format in Jhansi

Jhansi (UP), April 3 (UNI) : The 15th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2025 is set to take place from April 4 to 15 at the Major Dhyan Chand Hockey Stadium in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.The tournament will be played in the same new Division-based format as the Senior Women National Championship was played in March.The domestic competition which will now also feature promotion and relegation battles, will see the 30 teams participating, divided into three Divisions: Division A, Division B, and Division C.

The Division A will be the highest Division as the teams will fight for the championship title. Division B will have teams competing for promotion to Division A next season while in Division C, the teams will fight for a spot in Division B for the next edition.Division A includes the top 12 teams in India based on their overall performances in the tournament over the years. Defending champions Hockey Association of Odisha and runners-up Hockey Haryana are also part of the Division A.

The teams are split into four pools in Division A:

Pool A: Hockey Association of Odisha, Hockey Punjab, Hockey Madhya Pradesh

Pool B: Hockey Haryana, Hockey Maharashtra, Hockey JharkhandPool C: Uttar Pradesh Hockey, Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu, Hockey Bengal

Pool D: Manipur Hockey, Hockey Karnataka, Le Puducherry Hockey

Each team will play every opponent once in their respective pools. This will be the only division featuring a knockout stage as the top two teams from each pool will advance to the Quarterfinals, scheduled for April 12, followed by the Semifinals on April 13, and the Final and 3rd/4th place match on April 15. The bottom two teams from Division A will be relegated to Division B for the next edition.

In Division B, 10 teams will compete for promotion to Division A. The teams are divided into two pools:

Pool A: Hockey Chandigarh, Goans Hockey, Telangana Hockey, Hockey Andhra Pradesh, Hockey Uttarakhand

Pool B: Delhi Hockey, Hockey Mizoram, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey, Kerala Hockey, Assam Hockey

The top two teams from Division B will earn promotion to Division A for the next season, while the bottom two will be relegated to Division C.

Eight teams in Division C will compete for promotion to Division B. The teams are divided in two pools:

Pool A: Hockey Raj, Hockey Arunachal, Hockey Jammu & Kashmir, Tripura Hockey

Pool B: Chhattisgarh Hockey, Hockey Himachal, Hockey Association of Bihar, Hockey Gujarat

Similarly, the teams in Division C will only play league matches, with the top two teams securing promotion to Division B.

The points system in all three divisions is the same. Each team will be awarded three points for a win, one point for a draw, and no points for a loss. In Division A, the league stage will be followed by the knockout rounds, while Divisions B and C will conclude with final standings determined by points won in the pool matches.Commenting on the tournament, Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey said, "The new format worked out really well during the senior women national championship and we are looking forward to see how it unfolds this time as well. With promotion and relegation at stake, I expect to see teams give it their all on the pitch and play some exceptional hockey."

Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh added, "This is a very crucial tournament for us in terms of scouting upcoming talent for the international tournaments coming ahead. Over the recent years, we have seen a brilliant level of hockey being played in domestic tournaments and I am sure the players will push themselves and grow a lot due to the tight competition.

Afghan teens chase football dreams despite challenges

Kabul, April 3 (UNI) : For many Afghan teenagers, football is more than just a game-it's a dream of changing their destiny.

The Afghanistan Football Federation recently hosted a one-day football festival at a stadium in Kabul to inspire young players to participate in the sport.

Despite cold and rainy weather, 14-year-old Usman Ghafari attended with enthusiasm and determination. He dreams of one day joining the Afghanistan national football team.

"Football plays an important role in my life. It keeps me away from negative influences, benefits my health, and makes me think about my future," Ghafari said.

"My dream is to represent Afghanistan in the World Cup."

He emphasized that sports create a positive environment for mental well-being and foster a sense of community among young athletes. Many Afghan children start playing football on dusty fields and face a difficult journey to reach greener pitches.Yaqoub, 13, has been playing football for three years. He considers Cristiano Ronaldo his role model and calls him a legendary player. As a school student, he was thrilled to attend the festival.

"I play football for my health and the future of my country. One day, I hope to make my nation proud," he said after an intense practice session."I tell my peers to never give up on their dreams. I have a strong will to play for the best football clubs in the world."

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R.N.I.No. : MAHENG/2014/59632
Cell : 9849881368
Email : standardpostmumbai@gmail.com

Western Railway to run two summer special trains

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 3 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand especially during the summer season, Western Railway has decided to run two Special Trains on Special Fare to various destinations.

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

1. Train No. 09029/ 09030 Bandra Terminus – Banaras Superfast Special (Unreserved) [24 trips]:

Train No. 09029 Bandra Terminus – Banaras Superfast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Thursday at 04.30 hrs and will reach Banaras at 06.30 hrs, the next day.

This train will run from 10th April to 26th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09030 Banaras – Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Banaras every Friday at 09.30 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 12.15 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 11th April to 27th June, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Boisar, Vapi, Bhestan, Chalthan, Nandurbar, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Madanmahal, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Jn. and Gyanpur Road stations in both directions.

This train comprises of General Second Class Coaches.

2. Train No. 09033/ 09034 Udhna – Barauni Weekly Special [24 Trips]

Train No. 09033 Udhna – Barauni Special will depart from Udhna every Wednesday at 20.35 hrs, and will reach Barauni at 03.00 hrs, on Friday.

This Train will run from 09th April to 25th June, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09034 Barauni – Udhna Special will depart from Barauni every Friday at 05.30 hrs, and will reach Udhna at 16.30 hrs, the next day. This Train will run from 11th April, 2024 to 27th June, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Nandurbar, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Jabalpur, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt.Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patna, Bakhtiyarpur and Mokama stations in both directions.

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

The Booking for Train Nos. 09033 will open from 05 April, 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

Indian Railways Achieves a Significant milestone in Coach Production in FY 2024-25

7,134 coaches produced in FY 2024-25, an increase of 9%

(Standard Post Bureau)

New Delhi, April 3 : Indian Railways has achieved a significant milestone in the financial year 2024-25 by manufacturing 7,134 coaches, marking a 9% increase from the previous year's production of 6,541 coaches, with special emphasis onnon A/C coaches with production of 4,601 coaches,catering the needs of commonman. This rise reflects India's growing emphasis on modernizing Railway infrastructure to meet increasing passenger demand.

The Indian Railways has three coach manufacturing units in the country – Integral Coach Factory (ICF) at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Rail Coach Factory (RCF) at Kapurthala, Punjaband Modern Coach Factory (MCF) at Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh.

The Integral Coach Factory (ICF), the premier passenger coach producing unit of Indian Railways in Chennai, surpassed its previous production records for the year 2024-25, as it rolled out 3,007 coaches.

Growth in Domestic Manufacturing

Coach production in India has expanded substantially over the years. Between 2004 and 2014, Indian Railways manufactured less than 3,300 coaches on an average per year. However, from 2014 to 2024, production saw a major boost with production of 54,809 coaches with an average of 5,481 coaches per year, aligning with the push for improved connectivity and self-reliance in Railway manufacturing. The expansion is part of a broader effort to enhance domestic production capabilities, reduce dependence on imports and integrate advanced technology into Railway design.

Coach Manufacturing Unit	Location	Coaches Produced (2023-24)	Coaches Produced (2024-25)	Increase in Production
Integral Coach Factory (ICF)	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	**2,829**	**3,007**	**178**
Rail Coach Factory (RCF)	Kapurthala, Punjab	**1,901**	**2,102**	**201**
Modern Coach Factory (MCF)	Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh	**1,684**	**2,025**	**341**

Improving Passenger Experience and Connectivity

The record-breaking coach production aligns with the government's 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' vision, ensuring improved public transport services while also enabling domestic manufacturing. With more coaches being introduced, passengers can expect better facilities, enhanced safety features and increased capacity to accommodate growing demand.

Additionally, this achievement strengthens the 'Make in India initiative', reinforcing India's position as a key player in Railway manufacturing. By focusing on modern, energy-efficient and passenger-friendly coaches, Indian Railways is making significant strides toward building a more robust and future-ready transport network.

With ongoing efforts in Railway electrification, high-speed corridors and upgraded passenger services, the increased coach production will play a vital role in shaping the future of India's Rail transport system, ensuring greater efficiency, comfort and accessibility for millions of passengers.

Solapur Division of Central Railway Generates Revenue of Rs 837.29 Crore in FY 2024-25

(Standard Post Bureau)

Solapur, April 3 : The Solapur Division of Central Railway has achieved a significant milestone in the financial year 2024-25 by generating an impressive revenue of ? 837.29 crore. This remarkable performance underscores the division's commitment to enhancing passenger experience, optimising freight services and strengthening commercial initiatives.

The Solapur Division spans 728.53 route kilometres of the Indian Railways network, encompassing 65 stations and serving parts of Solapur, Pune, Sangli, Dharashiv and Latur districts in Maharashtra as well as parts of Kalaburagi district in Karnataka. The division's continued focus on operational efficiency and service excellence has yielded outstanding results across multiple revenue streams.

Key Revenue Highlights:

Passenger Revenue: The division recorded ?378.20 crore in passenger earnings, facilitating more than 1.84 crore passenger journeys.

Goods Revenue: With an extensive freight network, the division registered ?421.56 crore in freight earnings, demonstrating its pivotal role in economic and trade activities.

Other Coaching Revenue: Contributing ?30.67 crore, this segment includes earnings from Parcel, Luggage, Ticket Checking, Platform Fees, Clerkage, Demurrage charges on Parcel & Luggage, Debits etc.

Ticket Checking Revenue: Rs 11.83 crore

Parcel & Luggage Revenue: Rs 3.22 crore

Commercial Sundry Revenue: This category, comprising earnings from parking, publicity, catering and other commercial activities, added Rs 6.86 crore to the division's revenue:

Commercial Publicity Revenue: Rs 2.02 crore

Catering Revenue: Rs1.57 crore

Parking Revenue: Rs1.16 crore

The Solapur Division of Central Railway remains committed to enhance operational efficiency, passenger satisfaction and freight handling capabilities. With a customer-centric approach and sustained efforts towards modernisation, the Solapur Division looks forward to further achievements in the coming years.

Will revive farmers' agitation, says Dallewal

Chandigarh, April 3 (UNI) :Sanyukt Kisan Morcha leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal on Thursday said that the farmers' agitation would be revived and his organisaion would hold talks with the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha to decide the next course of action.

Dallewal alleged that he along with other farmer leaders was detained by Punjab police. He said that he

was forced to get medical aid and after his refusal, he was admitted to a private hospital.

The farmer leader said he had refused to take a drop of water until all the farmers were released and took a sip only after the release of farmers on March 29.He alleged that tractors-trolley of farmers were stolen from protest sites after agitating farmers were removed on March 19. On that day, soon after the farmer leaders' meeting with the Central as well as Punjab ministers at Chandigarh, Dallewal and KMM leader Sarvan Singh Pandher and other farmers were detained.Later, police also cleared the protest sites.

SKM and KMM were agitating at Khanauri and Shambhu borders since February 2024 after the Haryana government stopped them from going to New Delhi by sealing the borders.

Their demands include a law to guarantee minimum support price on their produce.

Operation of summer special train between Santragachi-Ajmer

(Standard Post Bureau)

Ratlam, April 3 : Keeping in mind the demand of passengers in trains during summer holidays, train number 08611/08612 Santragachi Ajmer Santragachi Special train will be operated between Santragachi to Ajmer with a stoppage at Chanderia station of Western Railway Ratlam Division, three trips in both directions.

Train number 08611 Santragachi Ajmer Special will run from Santragachi every Monday at 19.55 hrs from 07 to 21 April, 2025 and reach Ajmer Railway Station on Wednesday at 15.00 hrs via Chanderia of Ratlam Division (11.05/ 11.30, Wednesday). Similarly, in the return, train number 08612 Ajmer Santragachhi Special will depart from Ajmer every Thursday at 23.40 hrs from 10th to 24th April, 2025 and reach Santragachhi Railway Station on Saturday at 14.30 hrs via Chanderia (02.45/ 03.25, Friday) of Ratlam division.

This train has been provided stoppage in both directions at Kharagpur, Tata, Chandil, Muri, Ranchi, Lohardaga, Tori, Latehar, Barwadih, Daltonganj, Gadhwaroad, Renukut, Chopan, Singrauli, Bargawan, Sarai Village, Byohari, Khanna Banjari, Katni Mudwara, Damoh, Sagar, Bina Malkhedi, Ashok Nagar, Guna, Ruthiyai, Atru, Baran, Sogaria, Bundi, Mandalgarh, Chanderia, Bhilwara, Bijaynagar and Nasirabad stations. This train will run with two third AC, twelve sleeper, four general class and two SLR coaches.

For detailed information regarding stoppage, arrival/departure time and structure of trains, passengers can visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Delhi court dismisses defamation case filed against ex-CM Atishi Marlena, AAP MP Sanjay Singh

New Delhi, April 3 (UNI) :A court here on Thursday dismissed a defamation case filed against former Delhi chief minister Atishi Marlena and AAP MP Sanjay Singh.After hearing arguments of both sides, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) Paras Dalal said, "Since no prima facie offence has been made out from the complaint of facts, this court declines to take cognizance of the offence. File consigned to record room after due compliance."The complainant, Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit had filed a complaint under Section 223 BNSS for offence alleged under Section 356 read with 3(5) of BNS against the accused in the court.In the complaint, Sandeep Dikshit alleged that the two accused have made defamatory allegation during their press conference on December 26, 2024.

Take care of electrical safety while using a cooler Mahavitaran's appeal

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kalyan/Bhandup, April 3 : With the increase in temperature, the use of coolers has started on a large scale. However, if precautions are not taken, accidents are possible. For this, Mahavitaran has appealed to citizens to take precautions for electrical safety while using coolers.

Always use a three-pin plug for coolers. Before filling water in the cooler, turn off the power supply of the cooler and remove the plug so that the cooler has no connection with electricity. After filling the water, insert the plug pin and turn on the switch. After that, do not touch any part of the cooler. The connection and wiring of the cooler should be checked by an authorized craftsman. Check the earthing. If the earthing is proper, there is no leakage current. If water is coming from the pump, turn off the power supply and touch the cooler only after that. Never touch the cooler with wet hands."

Children should always be kept at a safe distance from the cooler and care should be taken to ensure that they do not play near the cooler. To prevent electric current from flowing through the iron exterior of the cooler, the cooler should be connected directly to the ground; so that if electric current flows through the iron exterior of the cooler, it does not get shocked. An electric circuit should be used that keeps the water pump in the cooler on for 5 minutes and off for 10 minutes. This also saves electricity.

If the wire connected to the cooler plug is broken or worn out, it should be replaced with another one. Often, due to the depth of the water, the water is not drawn even after starting the pump and the pump becomes air-locked. In such cases, priming is necessary.

CR to run additional 72 trips of Summer Special trains

1058 Summer Special trains including 278 unreserved trains till date

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 3 : Central Railway has announced 1058 Summer Special trains including 278 unreserved trains till date, in addition to its regular trains to clear the extra rush of passengers during the summer season.

Central Railway had earlier announced 986 services of Summer Special Trains and will now run an additional 72 services for the benefit of passengers."The details of additional 72 Summer Special trains are as under:

LTT Mumbai-Raxaul- LTT Mumbai Weekly Specials (24 Services)

05558 special will depart LTT Mumbai at 07.55 hrs on every Thursday from 10.04.2025 to 26.06.2025 and arrive Raxaul at 16.50 hrs next day.(12 Services)

05557 special will depart Raxaul at 19.15 hrs on Tuesday from 08.04.2025 to 24.06.2025 and arrive LTT Mumbai at 05.50 hrs on third day. (12 Services)

"Halts: Kalyan, Manmad, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Prayagraj Cheoki, Mirzapur, Pt.Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Bairgania.

Composition: Two AC-2Tier, Six AC-3Tier, 07 Sleeper Class, 4 General Second Class, 1 General Second Class cum Guard's Brake Van and 1 Generator Van.

LTT Mumbai-Saharsa- LTT Mumbai Weekly Specials (24 Trips)

05586 special will depart LTT Mumbai at 16.35 hrs on every Sunday from 13.04.2025 to 29.06.2025 and arrive Saharsa at 09.00 hrs on third day. (12 Services)

05585 special will depart Saharsa at 17.45 hrs on every Friday from 11.04.2025 to 27.06.2025 and arrive LTT Mumbai at 05.30 hrs on third day. (12 Services)

Halts: Kalyan, Manmad, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Prayagraj Cheoki, Pt.Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzzafarpur, Samastipur,Hasanpur Road, Khagaria, Mankar and Simri Bhaktiyarpur.

Composition: Two AC-2Tier, Six AC-3Tier, 07 Sleeper Class, 4 General Second Class, 1 General Second Class cum Guard's Brake Van and 1 Generator Van.

LTT Mumbai-Dhanbad - LTT Mumbai Weekly Specials (24 Trips)

03380 special will depart LTT Mumbai at 17:00 hrs on every Thrusday from 10.04.2025 to 26.06.2025 and arrive Dhanbad at 08.00 hrs on third day. (12 Services)

03379 special will depart Dhanbad at 23.00 hrs on every Tuesday from 08.04.2025 to 24.06.2025 and arrive LTT Mumbai at 14.15 hrs on third day. (12 Services)

Halts :- Kalyan Jn, Manmad Jn, Bhusaval Jn, Khandwa, Itarsi Jn, Pipariya, Madan Mahal, Katni South, Beohari, Bargawan, Singrauli, Chopan, Renukut, Garwa Road, Daltonganj, Latehar, Khalari, Patratu, Barka Kana, Bokaro Thermal, Chandrapura and Katrasgarh.

Composition: Five AC-2Tier, Ten AC-3Tier (Economy), Five AC-3Tier and 2 Generator Van.

Reservation: Bookings for Special train No. 05558, 05586 and 03380 on special charges will open on 05.04.2025 at all computerized reservation centers and on website www.irctc.co.in.

Tickets for Unreserved Coaches can be booked through UTS with normal charges for unreserved accommodation as applicable for superfast Mail / Exp trains.

For detailed timings and halts please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App.