

Services Offered : Integrated Facility Management - Security Services, Housekeeping Services, Technical Services, Technology Services.**Contact Us :** Email : marketing@ansechr.com, Phone : 8698888000, Website : <https://www.ansechr.com/>**Our Head Office :** 110/1A & 110/2B, Ansec House, Tank Road, Yerwada, Pune, Maharashtra - 411006**INDIA UPDATE****Highlights of this week****Bengaluru, Karnataka**

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has created a synthetic human antibody that effectively neutralizes a potent neurotoxin found in highly toxic snakes like cobras and black mambas, offering significant potential for improved antivenom development. This breakthrough holds promise for enhancing treatments against venomous snakebites.
- Doctors in the city report a notable increase in upper respiratory tract infections, especially among children and the elderly, attributed to seasonal changes.

For more info on this news-<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/karnataka/bengaluru/seasonal-changes-community-activities-cause-spike-in-respiratory-infections-2908219>

Gujarat

- In Gir Somnath district, Gujarat, the police confiscated heroin valued at Rs 350 crore from a fishing boat near Veraval harbor, leading to the arrest of nine crew members. The substantial quantity of the psychotropic drug was discovered during a late-night raid on Thursday, 22 Feb 2024.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on February 22, 2024, inaugurated two new Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), Unit 3 and Unit 4, at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Surat district, Gujarat. Built by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) at a cost exceeding Rs 22,500 crore, these reactors, each with a capacity of 700 MW, are the largest indigenous PHWRs in the country.

Hyderabad, Telangana

- The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) approved a budget of Rs. 7,937 crore for the upcoming financial year of 2024-25 during its council session on Tuesday, February 20.
- Sixteen people sustained injuries in a clash between two communities near a village on the outskirts of the city. The dispute arose over road widening near a place of worship, with one community objecting to the expansion, claiming it encroached upon their place of worship. Arguments escalated into a clash involving stone-pelting on Tuesday night (20 Feb 2024)

Mumbai, Maharashtra

- On Wednesday 21 Feb 2024, 54 detonators were discovered on platform one of Kalyan Railway Station in Thane district, Maharashtra, prompting the immediate response of senior police officials to the scene.
- The BMC in Chandivali defies High Court orders, persisting with political hoardings on public spaces, prompting court distress over hazards and emphasizing the illegality of such usage.
- Following the Maharashtra government's decision to provide 10 percent reservation in education and government jobs, Shivba organization leader Manoj Jarange-Patil has decided to confront the government once again. The Maratha leader has declared a statewide agitation starting from February 24.

Pune, Maharashtra

- The presence of electricity poles in the middle of the road at Kad Nagar, Undri junction, poses a danger during peak traffic, prompting frustration among residents as requests for relocation have not been addressed by the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited since June 2.
- On 21 Feb 2024, The Bombay High Court, responding to a PIL by residents of Wakad, Baner, and Balewadi regarding water scarcity, has mandated a special joint committee, including municipal and divisional officials, to address the issue in Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad, and PMRDA areas. The PIL highlights severe shortages in various Pune districts, with housing societies spending substantial amounts on private water tankers, prompting calls to halt new constructions if existing residents cannot be adequately provided with water.
- The Pune Municipal Corporation is intensifying efforts to curb widespread garbage burning in the city, imposing fines totaling Rs. 9.42 lakh on 1,654 violators. While some ward offices, notably Nagar Road, have taken proactive measures with 480 operations and fines of Rs. 2.52 lakh, uneven enforcement is evident. Ward offices like Bibvewadi, Ghole Road, and Dhole Patil Road have taken stringent action against unauthorized garbage burning in public spaces, addressing environmental hazards and combating air pollution.

Upcoming News/Events**Bengaluru, Karnataka**

- The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is planning to undertake emergency maintenance work and installation of Unaccounted for Water (UfW) bulk flow meters from 6 am on February 27 to 6 am on February 28.

For more info on this news-<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/karnataka/bengaluru/water-disruption-in-parts-of-city-on-tuesday-wednesday-2908221>

- Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has invited bids from consulting agencies to assess the feasibility of expanding the metro network by 118 km; eligible companies must submit bids by March 27, with the contract expected to be awarded by the third quarter of 2024, and the feasibility study completion anticipated by late 2024 or early 2025.

For more info on this news-<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/building-a-safer-bengaluru-2908084>

Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch the Rs 1,200 crore redevelopment project of Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad on March 12, with plans to announce the commencement and related developments, including the closure of about 500 meters of Ashram Road.

Hyderabad, Telangana

- Against the backdrop of rising hostility in the country, prominent Muslim religious and social organizations plan to organize a day-long Telangana state-level Muslim convention on March 3 in Hyderabad. The event aims to address the current challenges confronted by the Muslim community in India, with a specific focus on Telangana.
- Thunderstorms are expected in East Telangana from Feb 24-26, peaking on Feb 25, due to the convergence of Easterlies and moisture from the Bay of Bengal. Hyderabad may have isolated storms on Feb 25-26, offering relief from high temperatures, while eastern parts of Telangana are also likely to experience rainfall.
- City Police Commissioner Kothakota Sreenivasa Reddy has implemented restrictions on specific vehicle categories, including inter-district lorries and private buses, to alleviate traffic congestion in the city. Mandatory entry and exit times have been set, with heavy commercial vehicles barred from all 94 routes within the city.

Fore more info on this news-<https://www.siasat.com/hyderabad-police-enforce-strict-rules-to-ease-traffic-congestion-2980824/>

Mumbai, Maharashtra

- Starting from February 28, Central Railway (CR) will prohibit vehicular traffic on the Sion rail overbridge, a decision initially scheduled for January 19 but postponed following intervention by MP Rahul Shewale, who urged discussions with state government authorities to address potential local inconvenience.
- The Mumbai Coastal Road Project is close to completion, with BMC Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal indicating a potential inauguration date by late February or early March, pending final tests.
- The Mulund Traffic Division issues a traffic advisory for the Nahur Over Bridge in Mulund West, Mumbai, due to upcoming girder work by the Municipal Corporation S Ward, aiming to regulate vehicular movement in the area.

For more info on this news-<https://www.timesnownews.com/mumbai/mumbai-traffic-advisory-nahur-over-bridge-closure-in-mulund-for-girder-work->

- Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) declares a 10% water cut in specified areas of the H/West ward, encompassing Bandra and Khar West, from February 27 to March 11, due to ongoing rehabilitation work at the Pali Hill Reservoir.

Pune, Maharashtra

- Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) is set to trial a public-private partnership for constructing the ₹550 crore Inner Ring Road, covering sections from Solu to Nirgudi and Lohegaon to Charholi, using credit notes to assess feasibility and enhance accessibility in the Pune Metropolitan Region.
- Pune plans to establish a separate, child-friendly court building for POCSO cases to shield children from potential psychological impact during testimonies under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act.

GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

China

- As on 24 February 2024, China and the European Union recently held talks on progress and collaboration in several areas, including automobiles and raw materials, with China expressing a strong commitment to deepening mutually beneficial cooperation and achieving common development in the industrial sector, according to Xin Guobin, the vice minister of industry and information technology.
- China, on the sensitive 75th anniversary of its founding, aims to "contain" foreign interference and "resolutely combat" Taiwan's formal independence in 2024, as reported by state media. Despite Taiwan's recent election of Vice President Lai Ching-te as the next president, China rejects talks and emphasizes its claims on Taiwan as its territory, escalating political and military pressure.

Europe

- Russian drones targeted Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa for the second consecutive night on 21 Feb 2024, hitting a residential building and resulting in one fatality and three injuries, according to the regional governor. Over 24 hours, a total of six people died and 12 were injured in various regions of Ukraine. Odesa's regional governor, Oleh Kiper, reported the recovery of a man's body from under the rubble in the city, with three individuals hospitalized due to serious injuries.
- As of 23 Feb 2024, French farmers staged protests in Paris, warning President Emmanuel Macron of a challenging reception at a major farm show, expressing discontent over costs, red tape, and green regulations. The farmers, with dozens of tractors, joined wider European demonstrations seeking better income, reduced bureaucracy, and opposing unfair competition from cheap Ukrainian goods aiding Kyiv's war effort. The protests had earlier been suspended after Prime Minister Gabriel Attal promised new measures totaling 400 million euros (\$432.56 million).
- The United Arab Emirates and Kenya have concluded a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA), strengthening their bilateral trade ties. Kenya, East Africa's largest economy, engaged in these talks as part of the UAE's strategy to diversify its economy beyond oil. Non-oil trade between the two nations reached \$3.1 billion in 2023, experiencing a notable 26.4% increase from the previous year.

Middle East

- Egypt announced on Friday, 21 Feb 2024, that it had signed a deal with the United Arab Emirates to develop a significant stretch of its Mediterranean coast, expecting \$35 billion in investments over the next two months. The agreement with ADQ, one of Abu Dhabi's sovereign investment funds, focuses on the development of the Ras El Hekma peninsula. Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly mentioned that the project could ultimately attract up to \$150 billion in investments.
- Despite Israel's military campaign in Gaza following an attack by Hamas, its largest defense buyer, India, has not seen any impact on military exports. Israel has continued supplying military hardware to India, totaling \$2.9 billion over the last decade, including radars, surveillance and combat drones, and missiles. The conflict in Gaza, resulting in casualties, has not interfered with Israel's defense supplies to India.

Pakistan

- Ongoing political turmoil in Pakistan, post-elections, led to nationwide disruption of the social media platform X as reported by various sources and internet blockage tracker Netblocks.

United Kingdom

- As of 20 Feb 2024, Britain has unveiled a new set of sanctions against Russia, targeting over 50 individuals and entities in a move aimed at diminishing President Vladimir Putin's weapons arsenal and war chest. The announcement comes two days ahead of the second anniversary of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, aligning with a coordinated Western effort to curb the Russian economy.

United States

- The U.S. has imposed sanctions on Russia's leading tanker group, Sovcomflot, aiming to reduce Russia's oil revenues available for supporting the invasion of Ukraine. The sanctions include designating 14 crude oil tanker vessels as property linked to Sovcomflot, with general licenses allowing cargo offloading from these vessels and transactions with other Sovcomflot tankers for 45 days. The move is part of Western efforts to add costs to Russian crude oil shipping while ensuring the global petroleum flow.
- The Biden administration has warned Iran of a strong international response if the country provides ballistic missiles to Russia. This follows reports of Iran supplying powerful missiles to Moscow, indicating increased military cooperation between the two nations. While confirmation is awaited, the U.S. expresses concern based on Iranian statements, emphasizing the potential for a "swift and severe" reaction from the international community.
- As of 24 Feb 2024, Due to funding shortages, hundreds of migrants were left at a San Diego bus stop instead of a reception center, underscoring the challenges faced by the city in coping with the unprecedented influx.

Upcoming News/Events

China

- China is expected to persist with a gradual economic stimulation approach, with recent measures, including a benchmark mortgage rate cut, potentially insufficient to fully revive sentiment, according to market watchers, who anticipate a focus on addressing structural issues while avoiding major support measures.

Europe

- The Netherlands is set to sign a 10-year security deal with Ukraine, offering continuous military support, aid in reconstruction, and improvements to cyber defenses. The agreement aims to assist Ukraine in its ongoing resistance against Russia's invasion, with the Dutch Foreign Minister highlighting the importance of Western support for Ukraine's existence and the stability of the continent.
- Reforming judicial independence, Poland will unlock access to 137 billion euros (\$148 billion) in European Union funds, according to the EU executive head. The move, initiated by Prime Minister Donald Tusk's pro-European coalition, aims to provide an economic boost amid challenges from the Ukraine war and weakness in key trading partner Germany.

Middle East

- Yemen's Houthi rebels, aligned with Iran, claim responsibility for attacks on a UK cargo ship, drone assault on a US destroyer, and targeting Israel's Eilat with missiles. The Houthi leader vows increased ship attacks with new "submarine weapons" in response to Gaza, amid ongoing conflicts in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
- As of 21 Feb 2024, Egypt has signed a deal with the United Arab Emirates, particularly with ADQ, involving a \$35 billion investment to develop the Ras El Hekma peninsula on the Mediterranean coast. This agreement is anticipated to eventually attract up to \$150 billion in investments for Egypt, providing significant economic support.

Pakistan

- As of 24 Feb 2024, The Pakistan government, under the interim administration, has approved for the construction of its segment of the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline. The approval for the initial 80-km phase within Pakistan was given by the Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) shortly before the new government is set to take office following the election.
- Imran Khan, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former Prime Minister, confirmed on Friday, 21 Feb 2024, that he had written a letter to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), requesting an audit of the election results before approving any new loan for Islamabad.

United Kingdom

- Britain is set to allocate £245 million (\$311 million) in the next year to enhance Ukraine's artillery ammunition reserves, announced the defense ministry on the two-year anniversary of Russia's invasion. The move is crucial as Ukraine grapples with acute ammunition shortages and seeks increased military assistance from Western nations, with the United States, its largest donor, awaiting a congressional vote for potential further aid.
- Britain is poised to access the EU's intelligence on human trafficking criminal networks in a post-Brexit agreement with the European border protection agency, Frontex. The deal enables seamless exchange of information, tactics, official training, and joint efforts in adopting new technologies to combat illegal migration, highlighting strengthened cooperation between the UK and the EU.
- The UK's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is considering proposals to expand drone usage, allowing activities like delivering medical supplies and inspecting infrastructure beyond the visual line of sight. The suggested rules would permit drones to operate at low altitudes and near buildings, benefiting various sectors such as security, infrastructure surveying, medical supply delivery, and agriculture. The move aims to enhance drone applications and streamline operations for industries in the UK.

United States

- A U.S. lawmaker, Representative Mike Gallagher, expressed cautious optimism that a bill targeting Chinese biotech companies, including BGI Group and WuXi Aptec, may be more "narrowly tailored" but believes something could be passed this year, aiming to restrict their access to genetic information about Americans.
- The Biden administration issued a warning to Iran of a "swift and severe" international response if the country provided ballistic missiles to Russia. This comes after Reuters reported that Iran had shipped powerful weapons to Moscow. The White House spokesperson, John Kirby, emphasized the need for confirmation regarding the movement of missiles from Iran to Russia.
- On March 1, 33 leading Indian American nonprofit organizations will partake in India Giving Day, with the goal of raising funds for vital social welfare initiatives in India. The event aims to garner support and contributions for impactful programs through the active involvement of these organizations.

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