

IN BRIEF

Two children die of suffocation in locked car

Hyderabad, April 14 (UNI) : In a tragic incident, two children died of suffocation inside a parked car at Damaragidda in Chevella Mandal, Rangareddy district of Telangana, on Monday.

According to police reports, the deceased were identified as Thanmayashree (5) and Ahinayashree (4). The children had come to attend a relative's wedding and were playing inside a car when the doors automatically locked. Unnoticed by others, they remained trapped inside and eventually died of suffocation.

Worried family members began searching for the children after realising they had been missing for a long time.

They were eventually found unconscious inside the vehicle and rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead. Police have registered a case, and an investigation is underway.

Liquor industry urges Telangana Govt to clear Rs 3,100 cr dues, allow price hike

Hyderabad, April 14 (UNI) : The Indian liquor industry has appealed to the Telangana government to clear outstanding dues worth Rs 3,100 crore, citing severe liquidity and working capital challenges.

The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) and other industry bodies have written to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Excise Minister J Krishna Rao, stressing the urgent need for payment clearance and a price hike to offset rising production costs, a statement said on Monday.

Since late 2023, payments from the Telangana State Beverages Corporation Ltd (TSBCL) have been delayed beyond the 45-day credit period outlined in the Rate Contract Agreement (RCA), pushing the cumulative interest burden to over Rs 325 crore. Despite this, companies have maintained uninterrupted supply to the state.

CM launches Bhu Bharati portal on Ambedkar Jayanti, marks new era in land reforms



(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, April 14 : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday inaugurated the Bhu Bharati Portal at a state-level event held at Shilpakala Vedika, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr B R Ambedkar.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said, "On Ambedkar Jayanti, we are proud to dedicate the Bhu Bharati Act to the 69 lakh farmer families of Telangana." He recalled that many struggles in the state's history revolved around

land rights, notably citing the legacy of freedom fighter Komaram Bheem, who fought under the slogan "Jal, Jungle, Zameen." Highlighting the shortcomings of the previous Dharani portal, the CM said, "We studied the issue extensively and brought in the Bhu Bharati Act to provide a permanent solution to farmers' land-related grievances."

He criticised the previous administration for enacting hasty laws without proper consultation and for undermining the integrity of revenue officials. "This

government believes in the commitment and capability of our revenue staff. They are vital partners in delivering justice to farmers," he added. He likened the Bhu Bharati initiative to Aadhaar for land, stating, "Just as every person has Aadhaar, every plot will have Bhudhaar—a unique land identity with clearly defined boundaries." Initially, the portal will be rolled out on a pilot basis in three mandals, with plans for full implementation across the state from June 2. The

government has also invited public feedback to improve and fine-tune the system before statewide adoption.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu called April 14 a historic day for Telangana, stating that the Bhu Bharati Act will be a milestone in the state's legislative history. He strongly criticised the Dharani portal, calling it a "curse" for farmers and reiterating that it undermined their rights.

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy described the Telangana

Land Act, 2025 as a path-breaking reform ensuring legal clarity and security for landowners. He noted that while the 2020 Revenue Act—drafted behind closed doors by the previous government—caused widespread confusion, the new Act was prepared with transparency and public interest in mind.

As part of the initial rollout, four mandals in Khammam, Mahbubnagar, Mulugu, and Kamareddy districts have been selected. From April 17, district collectors will begin awareness campaigns in all mandals and resolve grievances within 15 days. In the next phase, starting early May, one mandal in each of the remaining 29 districts will be included.

The comprehensive law is expected to be finalised and fully enforced by June, incorporating feedback from all stakeholders. The Minister urged officials to prioritise poor, Dalit, and tribal communities while ensuring seamless implementation of the Bhu Bharati Act.

The event was attended by Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy, ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, government advisors, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, and several other senior officials.

CM leads tributes to BR Ambedkar on 134th birth anniversary

Hyderabad, April 14 (UNI) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday paid rich tributes to BR Ambedkar by garlanding his statue at Tank Bund on the occasion of the social reformer's 134th birth anniversary.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav, former Minister Motkupalli Narasimhulu, and several other dignitaries were also present at the event to honour the architect of the Indian Constitution. The leaders recalled Dr Ambedkar's immense contribution to the upliftment of marginalised communities and reaffirmed their commitment to his ideals of equality and social justice.

Kharge demands caste census alongside general census to assess social conditions

New Delhi, April 14 (UNI) : Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday emphasised the importance of conducting a caste census and demanded to be carried out alongside the general census, to accurately assess the true condition of different sections of the society.

In a video message, while paying his tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar on his 134th birth anniversary, Kharge said, "The central government is currently formulating plans based on data from the 2011 census, while there's still no clarity on when the 2021 census will take place".

While advocating for a caste census along with general census, the Congress President claimed

that such a census would reveal the actual condition of various social groups and also highlight the extent of their progress in terms of social justice - including areas like education, employment, housing, land ownership and others.

He said that in 1976, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi implemented the SC-ST Sub plan to ensure justice for these communities, but "unfortunately, the Modi government discontinued it in 2015". Claiming that there are no states except Tamil Nadu where reservation is secured, Kharge demanded, "reservations of states be included in Schedule 9 so that they can be secured by removing the ceiling of 50 percent". The Leader of

Kishan Reddy pays tributes to Ambedkar, slams Congress for historical neglect

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, April 14 : On the occasion of Dr B R Ambedkar's birth anniversary, Union Minister and Telangana BJP President G Kishan Reddy paid floral tributes to Ambedkar's portrait at the BJP state office and later led a bike rally to the Ambedkar statue at Tank Bund, where he garlanded the statue.

Speaking at the event,

Kishan Reddy extended greetings to the nation and announced that, following the BJP's national call, Ambedkar Jayanti will be celebrated across Telangana from April 14 to 22. He emphasised Ambedkar's enduring legacy in shaping Indian democracy and accused the Congress Party of repeatedly disrespecting Ambedkar, citing the imposition of Emergency,

denial of parliamentary honours, and opposition to reservations. "Ambedkar gave us a Constitution that ensures equality and justice.

The BJP is committed to realising his vision under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Reddy said.

The program saw the participation of several BJP leaders and party workers from across the state.

Akshayakalpa Organic clears 3,200 kg plastic waste from Peeran Cheruvu Lake

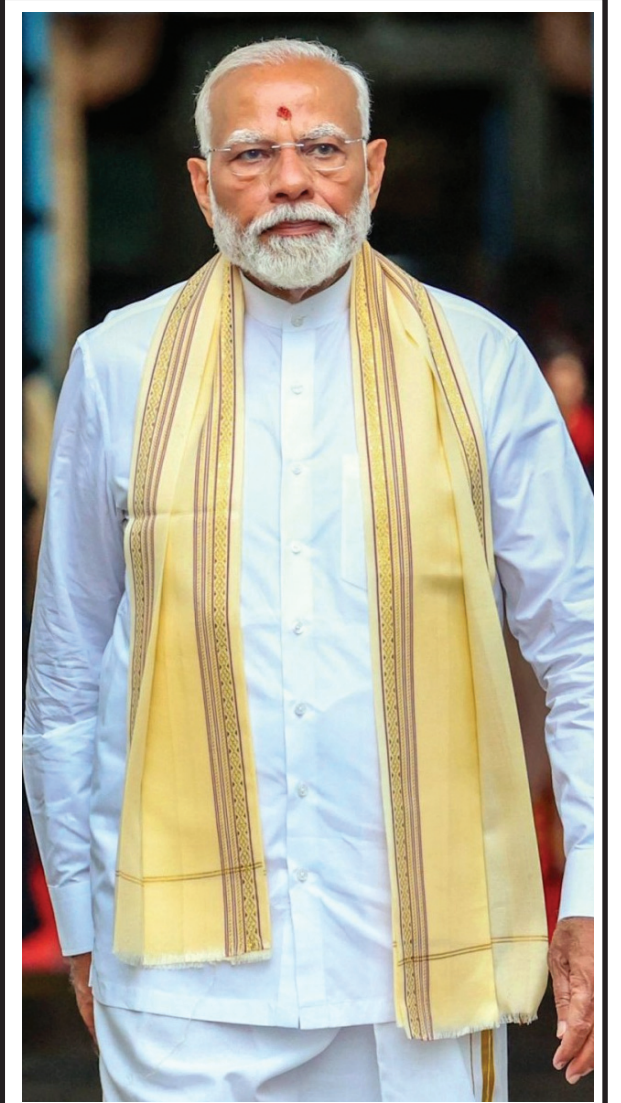
Hyderabad, April 14 (UNI) : In a significant stride toward environmental restoration, Akshayakalpa Organic has cleared over 3,200 kilograms of plastic waste from Peeran Cheruvu Lake, a 35-acre water body near PBEL City, through its monthly "Peeran Cheruvu Lake Clean-Up" initiative.

Launched in November 2024, the initiative has not only improved the lake's ecological health but also galvanized community participation, with volunteers from NGOs, GHMC, Hyderabad Cyclers Group, and PBEL City residents joining forces with Akshayakalpa's team.

The clean-up drive, held every second Sunday, has seen sustained efforts over five months, removing hundreds of kilograms of plastic in each session. The company emphasised that the project reflects its broader commitment to sustainability and community well-being, extending its ethos beyond organic farming to active environmental stewardship.

Akshayakalpa's Co-founder and CEO, Shashi Kumar, highlighted the campaign as a model of collective responsibility, urging more citizens and organizations to join in preserving natural ecosystems.

With five successful drives completed, Akshayakalpa Organic continues its mission to revive Peeran Cheruvu Lake and foster a greener, cleaner future for Hyderabad, according to a statement on Monday.



Waqf Amendment Act necessary step to protect rights of ...

Amid the ongoing violent anti-Waqf Amendment Act protests in Murshidabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today that bringing in the amendment was necessary for the protection of the rights of Muslim women, Dalits and Adivasis. Speaking on the occasion of the foundation laying ceremony of the new terminal building in Hissar, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi lashed out at the previous Congress regimes, saying that the national party had, through the 'Waqf' act, handed over the lands of the poor, Dalits, Adivasis to the mafias.

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Take pledge for self-reliant India on Baba Saheb's birth ...



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath participated in the Foundation Day celebrations of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Lucknow, commemorating Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's 134th birth anniversary.

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South Korean ousted President Yoon attends 1st criminal trial



South Korea's ousted President Yoon Suk-yeol attended his first criminal trial on Monday on insurrection charges. Yoon, carried by a black vehicle, arrived at the Seoul Central District Court at around 9:48 a.m. local time (0048 GMT) and entered the courtroom via the court's underground parking lot in a bid to avoid public exposure, local media footage showed.

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Dhoni impressed with Rasheed's potential



Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni heaped praise on debutant Shaik Rasheed after CSK's crucial victory over Lucknow Super Giants here on Monday. Dhoni, while acknowledging the importance of the win, focused on the potential of the young batsman.

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J&K Assembly should have debated on Waqf Act: M.Y. Tarigami

Srinagar, April 14 (UNI) : CPI(M) Central Committee Member and legislator M Y Tarigami, on Monday said the discussion of the Waqf Amendment Act should have been allowed in the recently concluded J&K Assembly Session.

He alleged that the Waqf Amendment Act is an assault on the rights of Muslims.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, Tarigami accused the BJP-led government of singling out Muslim institutions under the guise of reform.

The CPI, he added, passed a resolution on the Waqf Amendment Act at the CPI Party Congress in Tamil Nadu, condemning the move as "unconstitutional and an attack on minority rights".

"In the resolution, the party said the new law,

which allows non-Muslims to intervene in Waqf matters, amounts to direct interference in the religious affairs of the Muslim community," Tarigami said.

He questioned why reforms are being directed solely at Muslim-managed Waqf properties, when many other institutions across communities could also be restructured.

"This is a clear violation of the constitutional right to manage one's religious institutions," he said.

Tarigami emphasized that Waqf, or Auqaf in Kashmir, is a centuries-old system wherein Muslim properties are dedicated to religious and community welfare.

He said that the new law erodes the autonomy of the Waqf Boards and grants external powers unwarranted influence.

CPI(M) leader said it was the rightful duty of legislators to raise questions about the Waqf Act in the J&K Assembly, emphasizing the growing public concern surrounding the issue.

"The people of the country and in Jammu and Kashmir are deeply worried about the implications of this Act. If there is no debate on such critical matters, what will happen? I said in the Assembly—and I repeat it today—that a debate should have been held," Tarigami stated.

He stressed that legislators are elected not merely to raise their hands in agreement or dissent, but to represent the voices of the people and fight for justice.

"We have not been elected to silently comply. We have been chosen to

speak up, to question, and to demand justice," he asserted.

The veteran lawmaker further accused the BJP of systematically undermining the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir since it assumed power.

The CPI(M) leader said that it was appropriate for legislators to ask questions on the Act in the Assembly.

"The people of the country and Jammu and Kashmir are concerned over the Act. If there is no debate, then what will happen? I have said in the Assembly that there should have been a debate, and I repeat it today," Tarigami said. He said they have been chosen by the people and not to only raise our hands and say yes or no. "We have been chosen by the people to speak up and to demand justice," he said.

Lokshahi Din observed on Monday : BNCMC



(Standard Post Bureau) Bhiwandi, April 14 : As per the circular of the General Administration Department, Government of Maharashtra, there are instructions to organize Lokshahi Din on the first Monday of every month.

Accordingly, Lokshahi Din was organized in Bhiwandi Nizampur City Municipal Corporation on 07.04.2025 under the chairmanship of Hon. Additional Commissioner (1).

A complaint was received during this

Lokshahi Din. Instructions were given to the concerned to resolve the complaint immediately.

On this occasion, Hon. Additional Commissioner (2) Shri. Vitthal D a k e , D e p u t y C o m m i s s i o n e r

(Headquarters) Shri. Rohidas Dorkulkar, Deputy Commissioner (Health) Shri. Vikram Darade, Deputy Commissioner (Tax) Shri. Balkrishna Kshirsagar and all Assistant Commissioners, Heads of Departments were present.

Khaira slams AAP govt for gagging opposition voices

Phagwara, April 14 (UNI) : Senior Congress leader and Bholath MLA, Sukhpal Singh Khaira, on Monday came down heavily on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, while strongly condemning the utterly false and frivolous FIR registered against Leader of

Opposition (LoP) Partap Singh Bajwa for merely highlighting the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

He stated, "this is not just an attack on an individual; it is a direct assault on our fundamental right to freedom of speech. In a democracy, the

opposition has every right and indeed, the duty to hold the government accountable. But in Punjab under Bhagwant Mann, anyone who dares speak the truth is branded a criminal." Khaira further said that AAP's vindictive politics and authoritarian mindset have transformed

Punjab into a police state, where democratic voices are silenced through intimidation and misuse of state machinery. "By resorting to such blatant political vendetta, Bhagwant Mann has only confirmed our allegations. Instead of answering tough questions about

governance, his government is unleashing the police on critics," he added. He warned that the opposition will not be cowed down by such oppressive tactics. "If speaking the truth is a crime in today's Punjab, then every conscientious citizen should be ready to face an FIR.

Guru fights for the society without fighting for himself : CM Devendra Fadnavis

Thane, Aug 14 (Jimaka):- Any guru fights for the society without fighting for himself, this ideal has been set before us. We have to work to pass this ideal on to the next generation, stated Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis today at a program organized at Gurmat Samagam Program, NMMC Maidan, near Gurudwara, Navi Mumbai. "On this occasion, Forest Minister Ganesh Naik, MLA Manda Tai Mhatre, MLA Prashant Thakur, Sanjeev Naik, Chief Minister Medical Assistance Party Chief Rameshwar Naik, Navi Mumbai Municipal Commissioner Kailash Shinde and other dignitaries were present.

On this occasion, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that it is my privilege to be present at the Gurmat Samagam program to seek Guruji's blessings. We all seek Guruji's blessings. The thoughts that reach us

through Guru Granth Sahib are not only for the welfare of the Sikh community but for the welfare of the entire human race, the Chief Minister said that the thoughts that Guru Nanak Dev Sahib conveyed to the entire country. Due to this, a large Nanakpanthi community emerged, in which along with the Sikh community, there is also the Sindhi Lamani Banjara Sikh community. We have to work on following the thoughts that Guru Nanak Dev Sahib put before us. He said that the tradition of the ten Gurus is very great. Our Gurus have not only given us thoughts, but have also given us the courage and strength to fight. The 350th anniversary of the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh is underway. He is still called "Hind ki Chadar". He fought to free Kashmiri Pandits from oppression. Guru Gobind Singh continued this legacy.

Shri. Fadnavis said that the Maharashtra government will join the Guru Purab festival. Various programs will be organized through the government. The story of the Guru will be conveyed to the common people. The Punjab Sahitya Academy has been reconstructed. This will help in conveying his thoughts to the common people. A committee of eleven people has been formed and communication is done through this committee. Information about the matters necessary for the society is communicated to the government through this committee. Refugees and places of worship will be given space. Just as madrasas are helped, the government will help institutions working in the field of education.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister was also specially felicitated by the organizers and dignitaries present

Quresh Conference successfully organizes Third National Convention" on a grand scale in Bidar

(Standard Post Bureau) Bidar, April 14 : A grand special meeting of the Quresh Conference Bidar "Third National Convention" was held on 12/April at SM Hangargi Function Hall opposite DCC Bank Bidar in Bidar under the chairmanship of Advocate Sanobar Qureshi. In this meeting, the fundamental rights of the Quresh community in the state of Karnataka and the atrocities being committed against their business community were discussed in detail.

In addition, the problems of the Quresh community in states across the country such as social, educational, economic and business situation were discussed and some suggestions have also been brought through which demands will be made to the government. In this third national conference, a total of 270 Qureshi community leaders



slaughterhouses.

Which are equipped with modern techniques. But the slaughterhouses in different regions of the country are being closed due to which the number of unemployed is increasing. The animal trade has also come to a complete standstill. This is contrary to the government's campaign to provide employment. This is being done under a conspiracy, the consequences of which are being borne. We need to think about this.

The government also needs to seriously consider this. He said that we need to create awareness among our community at the educational level. As special guests, Mr. Haji Afsar Qureshi, Jharkhand National Vice President Quresh Conference, Mr. Muhammad Ashiqeen

Qureshi, Delhi National Organizational General Secretary Quresh Conference, Mr. Sadiq Qureshi, Cuttack Maharashtra Vice President Quresh Conference, Mr. Haji Mukhtar Qureshi, Bombay National Secretary Quresh Conference, Mr. Abdul Qayyum Qureshi, Rajasthan National General Secretary Quresh Conference, Honorable Professor Moin Khalil Qureshi, Pune President of Women's Department Quresh Conference, Dr. Munira Qureshi, Pune Vice President of Women's Department Quresh Conference also addressed the convention and shed light on various issues of the Qureshi community and put forward useful suggestions and proposals that are urgently needed.

Mr. Muhammad Nabi

Qureshi, President of Karnataka Province Quresh Conference, who is also the organizer of this third national convention, welcomed all the guests and expressed his happiness on their arrival. And said that the purpose of our gathering here is to think and develop the Quraish community and consider their various problems.

The purpose of this convention is to unite the Quresh community of all over India and eliminate the social evils prevalent in the community. Promote education and discuss ways to protect businesses. The issues we have discussed today can be resolved only if we all unite and continue to represent the governments in a strong manner. The important resolutions

brought in the third national convention are as follows.

1. The Karnataka government will be requested to ensure representation of the Quraish community at the state level.

"2. The Karnataka government should withdraw the Karnataka Beef Ban Act in January 2021 and implement the 1964 Act.

"3. In all states, the government should build modern slaughterhouses in every district on the land owned by the Municipal Corporation/Municipality at the district level so that employment can be provided to the people in any state.

"4. The central and state governments should form central and state meat boards and solve the problems of the people by creating a single window system.

"5. Provide protection to the 6.5 crore Quresh community in every sector, which is their democratic right. The Maharashtra government has currently made a MCOCA law on cow slaughter, demanding its withdrawal and a letter has also been written to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra in this regard. The Quraysh Conference felicitated and felicitated Mr. Majid Bilal, a well-known and prominent social worker of Bidar, for his social services, i.e., for burying more than three thousand bodies regardless of religion and caste even after COVID.

The arrangements, hospitality and services of Mr. Muhammad Nabi Qureshi were highly appreciated for the grand and successful organization of the third national convention of the Quresh Conference.

Take pledge for self-reliant India on Baba Saheb's birth anniversary: Yogi

Lucknow, April 14 (UNI) : Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath participated in the Foundation Day celebrations of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Lucknow, commemorating Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's 134th birth anniversary.

The event, held on the university campus, felicitated distinguished alumni for their exceptional contributions in business, entrepreneurship, and research. Addressing the gathering, the CM reflected on Baba Saheb's profound legacy, highlighting his famous assertion, 'From beginning to end, my identity should be as an Indian', which, he said, served as the foundation of his life and the guiding force behind the Indian Constitution.

He urged students to move forward firmly toward building a self-reliant India. He said that Baba Saheb's life, marked by struggle,

education and the pursuit of equality, continues to serve as an enduring source of inspiration.

"Despite facing poverty and social discrimination in his early years, Dr Ambedkar rose through extraordinary perseverance to become the country's first economist and the chief architect of India's Constitution," he said.

Yogi underlined how Baba Saheb's vision transformed India into a democratic power by granting equal voting rights to all citizens in 1952, an achievement that remains deeply relevant today. He said this was not merely a personal triumph but a historic step toward societal liberation.

Reflecting on the Amrit Mahotsav of the Constitution, he called it a remarkable journey that reinforces the balance between rights and responsibilities. He said rights protection is only

possible when duties are fulfilled with sincerity, a core principle enshrined in the Constitution. Citing the Upanishadic verse, 'Anu Bhadra: Kratavo Yantu Vishwatah' (Let noble thoughts come to us from all directions), the CM drew parallels with Baba Saheb's emphasis on education and holistic development aligned with Indian values. He recalled how Dr Ambedkar, through academic brilliance, earned multiple degrees including a BSc in Economics and gained expertise in several disciplines.

"With the support of a scholarship from Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad, he pursued higher studies abroad, laying the groundwork for a life dedicated to nation-building," he said. Speaking on India's ancient heritage, Yogi said that the country was once a global leader in knowledge, culture and prosperity.

CM expresses satisfaction over successful implementation of Prajavani

Hyderabad, April 14 (UNI) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed satisfaction over the successful implementation of the Prajavani program, a public grievance redressal initiative that has seen widespread participation since its launch.

In a review meeting held at the Secretariat here on Monday, the Chief Minister assessed the status of petitions submitted through Prajavani, which runs twice a week at Mahatma Jyotibha Phule Praja Bhavan.

Ministers Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Ponnab Prabhakar, Planning Commission Vice Chairman Chinna Reddy, Chief Secretary Shanthi Kumari, Prajavani Nodal Officer Divya, and senior officials from various departments participated.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that since December 2023, a total of 54,619 petitions were received, of which 68.4 per cent (37,384) have been resolved.

Special departmental desks and even a dedicated Pravasi Prajavani to address Gulf-related grievances have been set up. Ambulance services and spot resolutions for urgent petitions are also being provided for the convenience of citizens.

Reddy instructed officials to strengthen the system further by linking district-level Prajavani programs with the central dashboard at Praja Bhavan. He emphasised the need for real-time dashboard access, allowing him to monitor grievances and resolutions remotely, enabling quicker instructions to the concerned departments.

The CM also directed the creation of an online portal displaying application statuses and details of government schemes to ensure public transparency, while safeguarding citizens' personal data.

A committee of officers will be formed to draft necessary guidelines regarding information disclosure under prevailing laws.

He reiterated the government's commitment to efficient, transparent, and people-centric governance, stating that Prajavani is a direct bridge between citizens and the administration, an official release here said.

CM directs Collectors to prioritise Bhu Bharati, Indiramma Houses

Hyderabad, April 14 (UNI) : Chief Minister Revanth Reddy conducted a high-level review meeting with district collectors, emphasising strict accountability in the implementation of key welfare initiatives, including the Bhu Bharati scheme, Indiramma Houses, and drinking water supply.

In a message to the administrative machinery, the Chief Minister warned



A section of teachers rendered jobless by a recent Supreme Court verdict, before boarding a bus for Delhi to broaden their agitation beyond West Bengal, in Kolkata. The teachers plan to hold a sit-in at Jantar Mantar on Monday.

CM, Revanth directs immediate public consultation on draft Gig Workers' Bill

Hyderabad, April 14 (UNI) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed that the draft bill aimed at ensuring the safety and welfare of Gig workers be made available for public comment immediately.

He emphasised that the final version of the bill should be prepared only after incorporating suggestions and objections from the public.

The Chief Minister held a special meeting with Gig workers, union representatives, and senior officials from various departments at the Secretariat on Monday.

The Labour Department has drafted the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Bill, which aims to provide job security, insurance

coverage, and other rights for Gig workers. During the meeting, officials briefed the Chief Minister on the key provisions of the bill.

The Chief Minister suggested several revisions and additions to the draft.

He stressed the need for a law that prioritizes workers' safety while ensuring harmony between workers, companies, and aggregators. He instructed officials to upload the draft bill online without delay and to actively seek feedback from all stakeholders.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, the Chief Minister noted that nearly four lakh Gig workers are employed across sectors such as food

delivery, transportation, and package delivery in the state. He emphasized the importance of considering inputs from all sections of society.

He also instructed officials to complete the final review of the draft and prepare the final version by April 25, taking into account all public feedback. He added that the bill should be enacted on May 1 — International Workers' Day — and called for the timely completion of the legislative process.

Revanth Reddy reiterated his pre-election promise to enact legislation protecting Gig and platform workers. He noted that Telangana was the first state in the country to implement accident

insurance for Gig workers. On December 30, 2023, the government issued orders providing Rs 5 lakh in accident insurance coverage in the event of a Gig worker's death. He further stated that the upcoming law should serve as a national model for other states to follow.

Ministers Ponnab Prabhakar and Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Government Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, State Planning Commission Vice Chairman Chinna Reddy, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, and Special Chief Secretaries Ramakrishna Rao, Jayesh Ranjan, Sanjay Kumar, along with other senior officials, participated in the meeting, according to an official statement.

Thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds likely in Telangana in next 48 hours

Hyderabad, April 14 (UNI) : Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds with speeds ranging between 30-40 kmph are likely to occur at isolated places in Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Warangal, Hanamkonda, and Nagarkurnool districts of Telangana during the next 24 hours, according to the Meteorological Centre.

In its daily weather report issued on Monday, the Met Centre stated that the same situation is likely to prevail in Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal Malkajgiri, Vikarabad districts of the state on Tuesday.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely to occur at isolated places across Telangana over the next seven days.

Maximum temperatures in the state are expected to rise by 2-3 degrees Celsius during the next three days.

According to media reports, hailstorms occurred at isolated places in Bhadradi Kothagudem, Jangaon, Khammam, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mulugu, and Suryapet districts during the past 24 hours. Rain was also recorded at one or two places in the state during the same period.

FTCCI announces Annual Excellence Awards 2025, Entries invited in 21 categories

Hyderabad, April 14 (UNI) : The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), a 108-year-old institution and one of India's most dynamic regional chambers, on Monday announced the launch of its Annual Excellence Awards 2025.

Entries are now invited in 21 diverse categories, with the last date for submission set as May 10, 2025.

Instituted in 1974, the FTCCI Excellence Awards have been a beacon of recognition for outstanding contributions to industry, trade, and entrepreneurship in Telangana. Held uninterruptedly for over five decades, the awards are among the most prestigious in the state's business ecosystem.

This year, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is likely to present the awards at a grand ceremony here in June.

Speaking at a press conference at Federation House, FTCCI President Dr Suresh Kumar Singhal highlighted the chamber's long-standing legacy in celebrating excellence. "The awards recognize organizations that demonstrate quality, innovation, sustainable growth, and a strong contribution to the state's GDP," he said.

Ramakanth Inani, Chair of the FTCCI Excellence Awards Committee and Past President, elaborated on the award categories, which include: Excellence in Industrial All-Round Performance (Large Industries & SMEs), Excellence in Agri-Based Industry, Excellence in Export Performance (Large Industries & SMEs), Excellence in CSR, Aerospace & Defence, and Pharma, Excellence in ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) Performance, Excellence in Tourism Promotion & Hospitality, Excellence in Marketing and Product Innovation, Excellence in Health Care and Research & Development, Excellence in Start-ups and Digital Tourism. The Individual awards include Excellence in Science & Engineering, Women Entrepreneurship, Social Entrepreneurship, Self-sustaining Effort by a Differently Aabled Person.

R Ravi Kumar, Senior Vice President of FTCCI, noted that the awards not only boost organizational morale but also elevate winners' reputations and encourage continuous improvement. Srinivasa Garimella, Committee Member and Chair of the Industrial Development Committee, announced that the entire application process has been digitised. Businesses based in Telangana can submit their entries through the official portal www.ftcciawards.in. A nominal entry fee is applicable. Entries will be evaluated by a distinguished Jury Panel including: Justice Challa Kodanda Ram, M. Gopal Krishna, IAS (Retd.), Ajay Mishra, IAS (Retd.), Sri B.P. Acharya, IAS (Retd.), Prof Uday B Desai, Founding Director, IIT Hyderabad

BRS demands "apology" from Cong for betraying Dalit community

Hyderabad, April 14 (UNI) : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Monday demanded that the Congress party, including its top leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi, issue a "public apology" to the people of Telangana for "deceiving" the Dalit community with unfulfilled promises. Addressing after paying heartfelt tributes by offering floral homage to Dr. Ambedkar's portrait on the occasion of his 135th Jayanthi at Telangana Bhavan, along with senior party leaders, KTR said,

"The Congress' much-hyped SC declaration, announced during the election campaign, has proven to be an empty gesture, with not a single commitment implemented."

KTR called out the Congress for its "betrayal", stating, "The SC Declaration has completely

failed, and the AICC leadership owes an explanation to the state's people for this grave injustice." The BRS leader specifically questioned the status of key promises made in the Chevella Declaration: "Where is the Rs. 12 lakh Dalit Bandhu scheme promised to empower Dalit families?"

What happened to the Rs. 6 lakh grant for Dalits to construct homes?

Why have pattas for assigned lands not been issued as pledged?

Where is the promised 28% share in contracts for Dalits and tribals?

What became of the financial incentives assured under the Vidyajyothi scheme for Dalits?" KTR accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of "orchestrating this fraud", emphasizing that the Congress brought in AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge to announce these promises because "nobody

trusts Revanth Reddy's words." "The people of Telangana believed Kharge's assurances and voted for Congress, only to be cheated. Kharge must answer for this betrayal," he added. Reflecting on the Congress's governance, KTR remarked that it feels like "voting once is a five-year punishment for Telangana's people."

He expressed regret that Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution did not include a recall mechanism to hold deceptive leaders accountable, adding, "If elections were held today, Congress would be swept away in a people's tsunami for its misdeeds."

KTR also praised Dr. Ambedkar's unparalleled contributions to India's Constitution, noting his foresight in addressing issues like delimitation and ensuring protections for marginalized communities.

He highlighted how Ambedkar's vision in

Article 3 facilitated the formation of states like Telangana by prioritizing people's aspirations over majoritarian politics. KTR recalled Ambedkar's words, "A state should have one language, but one language can have many states," emphasizing his progressive outlook.

The BRS leader welcomed the recent Supreme Court ruling clarifying the Governor's limited role, urging the court to similarly expedite action on complaints against MLAs who defected to Congress after winning on BRS tickets. "The Speaker must decide the fate of these MLAs sitting in Revanth Reddy's camp," he demanded. KTR contrasted BRS's commitment to Ambedkar's ideas with Congress' "neglect", citing transformative initiatives like Dalit Bandhu and Rythu Bandhu introduced under K. Chandrashekar Rao's leadership.

Prez, VC, PM Modi and other leaders pay flora tribute to BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary

New Delhi, April 14 (UNI) : President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and other dignitaries on Monday paid floral tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar on his 134th birth anniversary at Prerna Sthal in Parliament premises.

Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Piyush Goyal, Lok Sabha MP and Leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi, Congress parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, and other leaders paid flora

tributes. Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his post on X said, "On behalf of all the countrymen, I bow down to Bharat Ratna Pujya Babasaheb on his birth anniversary."

"It is due to his inspiration that the country is dedicatedly engaged in realizing the dream of social justice today. His principles and ideals will give strength and momentum to the creation of a self-reliant and developed India," he added. Ambedkar Jayanti is observed on 14 April to commemorate the memory of B. R. Ambedkar, Indian politician and social reformer.

STANDARD POST

Q4 results, inflation and global economic data key triggers for next week

The market outlook for next week will be guided by several global and domestic factors such as q4 results, inflation data and updates on tariffs.

Next week, companies like IRDAI, HDFC Life, Infosys, Tata Elxsi, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank will release their Q4 FY25 results.

In India, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for March will be released on April 15. This indicator will provide insights into wholesale inflation trends, which are crucial for understanding cost pressures at the production level and could have implications for the Reserve Bank of India's future rate decisions.

On the global front, from the US, key data will begin with the Industrial Production (YoY) numbers for March, scheduled for release on April 16. This data will offer a snapshot of the strength of the manufacturing sector and overall industrial activity.

Following that, on April 17, the Initial Jobless Claims report will be closely watched by investors and policymakers alike. As a leading indicator of the labour market's health, any unexpected uptick in claims could signal potential softness in employment, influencing the Federal Reserve's stance on interest rates.

China, too, will be in the spotlight on April 16 with a trio of critical economic indicators. The country will report its Q1 GDP growth (quarter-on-quarter), Industrial Production (YoY) for March, and the Unemployment Rate for March.

The stock market witnessed mixed trading during the trading session from April 7 to April 11. Nifty closed down 0.33 per cent at 22,828, and Sensex closed down 0.28 per cent at 75,157. The market witnessed huge volatility due to tariff concerns. Nifty reached a low of 21,743 during the week. However, it later witnessed a strong recovery.

Among sectoral indices, the realty sector emerged as the top laggard, while FMCG stocks outperformed.

FII's continued their selling spree, offloading approximately Rs 20,911 crore from the cash segment. However, DII's lent some support, with net inflows amounting to around Rs 21,955 crore.

Puneet Singhania, Director at Master Trust Group, said, "Nifty's key supports lie at 22,500 and 22,200, while resistance is seen near 23,050. In this uncertain environment, Nifty remains a sell-on-rise market."

Traders should stay cautious and avoid aggressive long positions until volatility subsides and technical strength is confirmed."

Bajaj Broking Research said, "Overall, the week of April 12 to April 19, 2025, is poised to be a crucial one for global markets."

With inflation, industrial activity, and employment data lined up across the world's largest economies, investors can expect increased volatility and sharper focus on central bank cues. These numbers will help shape expectations for future rate paths and economic resilience as we progress deeper into 2025."

IJU Demanding Withdrawal of Amendments to the RTI Act under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act

(By Sabina Inderjit, Indian Journalists Union)

The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) strongly condemns the amendments introduced to the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, through Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023. These changes, which alter Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, impose a blanket exemption on the disclosure of personal information in the larger public interest, the DPDP Act's amendments create a chilling effect on the ability of journalists to access critical information. In a statement, IJU President and former member of Press Council of India Geetarth Pathak and Secretary General and Vice President of International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Sabina Inderjit said

The IJU demands the immediate repeal of these regressive amendments to restore the RTI Act's role as a cornerstone of

democratic governance and press freedom.

The RTI Act has been an indispensable tool for journalists across India, empowering investigative reporting, exposing corruption, and ensuring public institutions remain answerable to citizens. By removing the provision that permitted disclosure of personal information in the larger public interest, the DPDP Act's amendments create a chilling effect on the ability of journalists to access critical information. In a statement, IJU President and former member of Press Council of India Geetarth Pathak and Secretary General and Vice President of International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Sabina Inderjit said

that this not only undermines the fundamental right to freedom of expression under Article 19(1)(a) but also stifles the press's role in holding power to account.

The IJU is particularly alarmed by the absence of exemptions for journalistic work under the DPDP Act and the establishment of a government-controlled Data Protection Board with sweeping powers to impose hefty penalties. Such provisions risk weaponizing data protection laws against media professionals, activists, and citizens seeking transparency. The amendments also contradict global best practices, where data

protection frameworks coexist with robust transparency laws to balance privacy and public interest

We stand in solidarity with civil society groups, RTI activists, and opposition leaders who have raised concerns about this assault on transparency. The IJU urges the Union Government to repeal Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act and engage in meaningful consultations with stakeholders to ensure that data protection laws strengthen, rather than weaken, democratic rights. The RTI Act must remain a beacon of accountability, and the press must be free to fulfill its duty without fear of reprisal.

Waqf Amendment Act necessary step to protect rights of Muslim women, Dalits: PM Modi

Hissar, April 14 (UNI) : Amid the ongoing violent anti-Waqf Amendment Act protests in Murshidabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today that bringing in the amendment was necessary for the protection of the rights of Muslim women, Dalits and Adivasis.

Speaking on the occasion of the foundation laying ceremony of the new terminal building in Hissar, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi lashed out at the previous Congress regimes, saying that the national party had, through the 'Waqf' act, handed over the lands of the poor, Dalits, Adivasis to the mafias.

The PM claimed that his government had made necessary amendments to the act so that no one could snatch land from an Adivasi. He added that the step (Waqf Amendment Act) was necessary for the protection of rights of Muslim women, Dalits and Adivasis.

His comments came as Murshidabad in West Bengal has seen three deaths due to widespread protests and arson over the Waqf Amendment Act, prompting the Centre to rush in added paramilitary forces to quell the situation.

The Prime Minister also lashed out against the Congress, and said the party has violated the spirit of the Constitution and insulted Dr BR Ambedkar.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Congress has time and again violated the spirit of the Constitution and insulted Dr Ambedkar. He said that it was the Congress which stopped Dr. Ambedkar from entering the Parliament on two occasions and his ideas were sidelined.

He accused the Congress of bringing in religion-based reservation to appease its vote bank, whereas Dr Ambedkar was against the same.

He said that the holy land of Haryana, associated with Lord Krishna and the Mahabharat period has been connected with the land of Rama, Ayodhya.

Modi, who also saw off the inaugural flight from Hissar to Ayodhya, said the new terminal building was not only about flight connectivity but a symbol of faith, culture and national unity.

The PM said that this was India, which started with the dream of enabling people wearing slippers to sit in an aeroplane, and that dream was now being fulfilled.

He said that cities like Hissar were connected with those religious and cultural places where it took days to reach.

"This initiative will boost pilgrimage, tourism, trade and investment," Modi asserted.

He said that the new terminal building would increase the passenger capacity. Initially flights to Ayodhya, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad and Jammu would operate and in future other cities will be added.

He said that the airport would serve 21 lakh passengers per annum. Modi said that till 2014, there were only 74 airports in the country but today it has crossed 150, adding that 500 new routes were operative under the Udan scheme and the connectivity of small cities has improved.

Earlier, Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini welcomed the PM traditionally and said that Hisar airport was a historic move in the direction of the state development of the state

Toddler Triumphs Over Rare Cancer After Treatment : Dr Madhu Devarasetty, Senior Oncology Surgeon Shares Details



(Standard Post Bureau) In a rare and challenging medical case, a two-year-old boy, unaware of the severity of his condition, was diagnosed with an advanced stage of Neuroblastoma, a rare form of cancer that affects only about eight in one million children. His parents, having exhausted options at several hospitals, brought him to KIMS Hospital, Secunderabad,

where a team led by Dr. Madhu Devarasetty, Senior Consultant Surgical Oncologist, successfully performed a complex surgery and saved the child's life.

Hailing from Lallaguda in Hyderabad, Rakshith was diagnosed with an aggressive form of Neuroblastoma, a cancer that originates in immature nerve tissue and typically affects children under the

age of five. In most cases, it begins in the adrenal glands (above the kidneys) but can also start in the nerve tissues of the neck, chest, or pelvis. In Rakshith's case, the tumor was involving the Inferior Vena Cava (IVC)—a major vein that carries deoxygenated blood from the lower body to the heart—and was also encasing his right kidney, making surgery highly complex.

"Initially, we tried chemotherapy, but the tumor showed suboptimal response. Surgery became inevitable. We were concerned that the kidney might need to be removed, but thanks to the collective expertise and efforts of our medical team, we managed to remove the tumor without affecting the kidney," said Dr. Madhu. He resected the part of the blood vessels i.e IVC and reconstructed it. The boy recovered swiftly and shifted to room next day.

Dr. Devarasetty emphasized the importance of experience and skill in handling such delicate children. "At KIMS, we are equipped with advanced facilities and a multi-disciplinary team of specialists, including critical care experts. This allows us to tackle even the most challenging pediatric oncology cases successfully. Our Pediatric Oncology department is well-prepared to face similar challenges in the future and is the destiny for health care excellence"

Successfully completion of Hyderabad District Handball Association elections

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, April 14 :Successful completion of Hyderabad district Handball Association elections for the period 2025 to 2029 Affiliated to HANDBALL FEDERATION OF INDIA (HFI)

1) TELANGANA HANDBALL ASSOCIATION (THA)

OBSERVER: B. LAXMAN GARU and assisted by C. THIRUMAL REDDY GARU (Joint Secretary, Telangana Handball Association)

2) TELANGANA OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION (TOA), OBSERVER: UMESH GARU (JOINT SECRETARY TELANGANA OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION)

3) SPORTS



AUTHORITY OF TELANGANA STATE. 4) RETURNING OFFICER: DEVENDER GARU Hyderabad District Handball Association

NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS
1) Honourable P R E S I D E N T : B.SUDHARSHAN REDDY GARU (RETIRED PD)OU.

Ex Principal of Ambedkar College Chikkadapally 10th St, Chikkadapally, Chikkadapally, Hyderabad - 500020
2) GENERAL

SECRETARY: S.R.SANJEEV KUMAR GARU
3) T R E A S U R E R : K.NARSIMHA GARU (RETIRED ADDITIONAL

SP) Hyderabad District Handball Association members:

- Vice President
1) Sudhakar
2) Srinivas Reddy G (Advocate)
3) Venkatesh
4) Vamsi Mohana
5) Rafiq Pasha (International Player)
Joint Secretary's
1) S.Siva Kumar (South Asian Ambassador)
2) Shyam Rao
3) Ratnakar
4) Gamana
Executive Members
1) Ganesh
2) Randheer
3) Akhila Reddy
4) Mounika Banuka
5) Ramya St. Anns
6) Ramya (Railway)
7) Bhagath lal
8) Rajkumar

3 students killed, in high school wall collapse in C. Tunisia

Tunis, April 14 (UNI) : Three students were killed and two others seriously injured when a wall collapsed at a high school in Mezzouna, a town in Tunisia's central Sidi Bouzid province, Tunisian National Radio reported on Sunday.

"The three victims, aged between 18 and 19, died instantly at the scene," Moez Triaa, spokesperson for the Civil Protection Department, told the radio. "Two other students sustained serious injuries and were rushed to the local hospital for treatment," Triaa added.

The incident has sparked public outrage in Mezzouna, prompting protests by the victims' families and local residents who are demanding an investigation and accountability for the incident.

1 soldier killed, in explosion of suspicious object in S. Lebanon

Beirut, April 14 (UNI) : A Lebanese soldier was killed and three others moderately injured on Monday following the explosion of a suspicious object in southern Lebanon, the Lebanese army's Directorate of Guidance said in a statement. It stated that the explosion occurred "while a specialized army unit was conducting an engineering sweep at a location in the Wadi Al-Aziya area south of Tyre city."

A Lebanese security source told Xinhua that the number of Lebanese army personnel killed since the start of the cross-border conflict between Lebanon and Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, has risen to 46. Meanwhile, the official National News Agency reported that "despite risks and threats from Israel, the surveying team assigned by the Council for South Lebanon continues its inspections of fully or partially destroyed buildings and land boundaries in the town of Naqoura and the village of Chamaa" in southern Lebanon.

"The team narrowly escaped a booby trap set by Israel inside a house in Chamaa," it said, adding that "an engineering team from the army is expected to arrive to inspect and dismantle the trap."

Despite a U.S.- and French-brokered ceasefire agreement effective since Nov. 27, 2024, Israeli forces have carried out intermittent strikes inside Lebanon, claiming that the operations target Hezbollah "threats." Some of the strikes have resulted in casualties, according to official Lebanese reports. Although the agreement stipulated the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, Israel has maintained a presence on five hilltops along the Lebanese border.

Russian Iskander-M Strike killed over 60 Ukrainian troops in Sumy: Defence Ministry

Moscow, April 14 (UNI) : Russian forces on Sunday hit the site of a meeting of Ukrainian command staff in the city of Sumy with Iskander cruise missiles, killing 60 servicepeople, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Monday.

"Yesterday, under the conditions of active counteraction of Ukrainian troops by foreign-made electronic warfare and air defence means, the Russian armed forces carried out a strike on the site of a meeting of the Sevsk tactical and operational command's leadership in Sumy using two Iskander-M operational-tactical complexes," the ministry said in a statement.

The Kiev regime continues to use civilians as a "living shield" by placing military facilities in heavily populated cities, the statement read. "The strike killed over 60 Ukrainian troops," the ministry added.

Israeli military says struck 35 sites in Gaza

Jerusalem, April 14 (UNI) : The Israeli military said Monday it launched a new wave of strikes across the Gaza Strip, hitting about 35 targets, while Gaza health authorities said the death toll from renewed Israeli attacks had reached 1,613.

Among the sites hit were a weapons manufacturing facility in southern Gaza and a launch site containing rocket launchers aimed at Israeli territory, the military said in a statement.

In northern Gaza, Israeli soldiers identified an "ambush" of militants several hundred meters from their position, opened fire, and eliminated the "terrorists" in coordination with the Israeli Air Force, the military added. It did not specify the location of the incident or the number of fatalities.

In southern Gaza's Rafah, where Israel has completed construction of a new "security zone" cutting off the city, Israeli troops destroyed a 20-meter-deep, several-hundred-meter-long tunnel route, the military said. The tunnel had been used as "a gathering place for Hamas terrorists" and connected several tunnel routes in the area, it said. Elsewhere in Gaza, Israeli troops located a Hamas weapons cache, including mortars, hand grenades, and explosives, according to the statement. Israel has blocked the entry of all humanitarian aid into Gaza since March 2. It then ended a two-month ceasefire with Hamas on March 18 and resumed deadly air and ground assaults on the enclave. The renewed Israeli attacks have so far killed 1,613 Palestinians and injured 4,233 others, Gaza health authorities said Monday, adding that the death toll in the enclave since the war began in October 2023 has risen to 50,983, with 116,274 injured.

Shop fire leaves 8 dead in China

Kunming, April 14 (UNI) : Eight people have been confirmed dead after a fire broke out at a shop in southwest China's Yunnan Province early Saturday, local authorities said Monday. The fire started in a shop in Chenggong District in the provincial capital Kunming at around 2 a.m. Saturday. Firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control at 2:50 a.m.

Amid tariff war with US, Chinese President Xi visiting Vietnam to cement trade relations

Beijing/Hanoi, April 14 (UNI) : Amid its ongoing trade war with the United States, Chinese President Xi Jinping landed in Vietnam today in what is his first overseas trip of the year to cement trade relations with the neighbouring country, and forge stronger strategic ties with Southeast Asia.

"I look forward to using this visit as an opportunity to have an in-depth exchange of views with Vietnamese leaders on the overall, strategic and directional issues of relations between the two parties and the two countries, as well as international and regional issues of common concern," Xi said in prepared remarks soon after his arrival, according to South China Morning Post.

Landing in Hanoi, the Chinese President was greeted by senior officials of the Vietnam Politburo, including the Vietnamese President Luong Cuong.

For his trip, Xi was accompanied by Cai Qi, his chief of staff who ranks No 5 in the Chinese Politburo, as well as Public Security Minister Wang Xiaohong, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, according to the Chinese state news agency Xinhua. Defence Minister Dong Jun and Commerce Minister Wang Wentao



were also in the Chinese delegation, according to the Vietnam News Agency, as per SCP.

In a barb at the Trump administration over its tariffs, President Xi said "Our two countries should resolutely safeguard the multilateral trading system, stable global industrial and supply chains, and open and cooperative international environment."

Xi, who last visited Vietnam 18 months ago will later visit Cambodia and Malaysia, as part of China's quest to forge stronger ties with Southeast Asia to counter the effects of its trade war with the US.

The Chinese President's visit comes at a particularly crucial time, as several Southeast Asian nations such as Vietnam and Cambodia have been hit with particularly high tariffs, with the 90-day

respite only creating further anxiety among all the countries.

Vietnam, which is a major economic player right now, is facing a 46% tariff rate in its export duties to the US. The country is also a major maritime route for the shipping of Chinese goods to Washington.

In an article published on Monday in Nhan Dan, the official newspaper of Vietnam's Communist Party, Xi called for greater collaboration among developing countries to promote "an equal and orderly multipolar world".

"Together with the vast majority of countries of the Global South, we will defend the common interests of developing countries," Xi said in the article. "There are no winners in trade and tariff wars, and there is no way out of protectionism," he

added.

Xi also stressed the "common ideals, beliefs and extensive strategic interests" of the two nations, adding that "deep mutual political trust" had driven close interactions between Beijing and Hanoi across a range of areas, including border security, cross-border law enforcement, foreign policy and national defence.

"On many international and regional issues, China and Vietnam share similar positions and work closely together," Xi said.

In a separate piece published on Monday, General Secretary To Lam, Vietnam's leader and chairman of the ruling Communist Party, said his country would promote three rail links with China as the "highest priority" in strategic infrastructure cooperation with Beijing.

China issues blue alert for strong gales

Beijing, April 14 (UNI) : China's meteorological authorities on Monday evening issued a blue alert for strong gales that will sweep the country's northern regions and coastal areas.

From 8 p.m. Monday to 8 p.m. Tuesday, strong winds are forecast to hit parts of Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Gansu and Ningxia, with gusts reaching up to 24.4 meters per second, according to the National Meteorological Centre.

Parts of the Yellow Sea and the East China Sea will experience stronger gales during the same period,

with the fastest wind speeds likely to hit 28.4 meters per second, the centre said. It has warned ships of the dangers of sailing or operating in affected waters and urged relevant authorities to implement precautionary measures with a focus on fire prevention and transport safety.

Pedestrians and vehicles should not linger under or near tall buildings, billboards or trees, the centre has advised. China has a four-tier weather-warning system, with red representing the most severe warning, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

One dead, around 20 injured in multi-vehicle crash in eastern Sri Lanka

Colombo, April 14 (UNI) : One person was killed while around 20 others were injured when three vehicles collided with each other in Trincomalee district in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province on Monday, police said.

The accident involved a passenger bus, a lorry and a double cab. The driver of the bus died at the scene, while the injured were transported to nearby regional hospitals for treatment.

Police said the crash was caused by reckless driving on the part of the bus driver.

Road accidents are frequent in Sri Lanka, with buses often involved, official data showed.

A total of 592 Sri Lankans have died in 565 fatal road accidents as of April 2 this year, police said earlier, adding that April tends to record a higher number of fatal road accidents due to multiple nationwide celebrations.

Scientists discover 55 new species of Australian wishbone spiders

Sydney, April 14 (UNI) : A team of Australian scientists has discovered 55 new species of wishbone spiders in a major study exploring some of the country's more remote ecosystems, the University of Western Australia said on Monday.

The research focused on the "Aname" genus, a group of spiders known for their shiny bronze, gold, or silver hairs and deep silk-lined burrows.

Wishbone spiders are part of a larger group that includes tarantulas and trapdoor spiders.

Researchers believed there could be up to 300 species, making Aname one of the most diverse spider groups in the world. However, around 60 per cent of Aname species remain undescribed, with many living in remote or arid regions in Australia.

Jeremy Wilson, the lead researcher, spent more than two years studying these spiders. He worked across museums and research institutions, collecting specimens during field trips and analysing them in the lab.

"This work is just another contribution towards mapping the amazing richness of Australia's arachnid fauna," Wilson said.

The study also clarified the identities of 10 previously known species and added over 130 new DNA records, helping scientists map the relationships between different spiders in the group.

Netanyahu tells hostage family Israel in talks to free 10 captives

Jerusalem, April 14 (UNI) : Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the family of a hostage held in Gaza that Israel is negotiating a ceasefire proposal that could secure the release of 10 captives, a hostage family group said on Monday. The Tikva Forum, representing families of some hostages, said Netanyahu spoke by phone with Tzvika and Efrat Mor, parents of 23-year-old hostage Eitan Mor, and told

them there had been "progress" in talks to free 10 living hostages. Netanyahu's office confirmed the call, stating he had

"updated the family on the efforts to return the hostages and said that the efforts are ongoing even at this very moment," without elaborating. Meanwhile, Beirut-based Al Mayadeen TV reported on Monday, citing a senior Hamas official, that Israel's latest proposal includes a 45-day ceasefire, increased aid

deliveries to Gaza, and the release of nine hostages, including Israeli-American soldier Edan Alexander.

A second phase would involve negotiations on a permanent ceasefire, a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, disarming Hamas's military wing, and determining Gaza's post-war governance. The official said Hamas was still reviewing the plan.

Hamas has repeatedly said it will only free hostages as part of a deal

ending the war. Israel insists military pressure is vital to secure releases. According to Israeli figures, 59 hostages remain in Gaza out of the 251 people abducted during Hamas's Oct. 7 assault on southern Israel, which killed 1,200 people. Hamas released 33 hostages under a ceasefire agreement that took effect on Jan. 19. The truce collapsed on March 18 when Israel resumed its ground and air operations in Gaza, effectively halting

further prisoner exchanges.

Since the resumption of Israeli attacks in March, at least 1,613 Palestinians have been killed and 4,233 wounded, bringing the total number of Palestinians killed since the start of the conflict to 50,983, with 116,274 wounded, the health authorities in Gaza said on Monday.

Israeli strikes have left large parts of the Gaza Strip in ruins, with thousands of homes, hospitals, and infrastructure destroyed.

Palestinian, French presidents discuss escalating Gaza crisis, call for ceasefire

Ramallah, April 14 (UNI) : Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and French President Emmanuel Macron held a phone call on Monday to address the escalating situation in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian presidency said in a statement.

According to the Wafa news agency, Abbas stressed the urgent need for an immediate ceasefire, unrestricted humanitarian aid access, and a firm stance against any forced displacement of Palestinians from their land.

Israel has blocked all humanitarian aid from entering Gaza since March 2. On March 18, it ended a two-month ceasefire with Hamas and resumed intensive air and ground assaults on the enclave.

Gaza health authorities reported Monday that the renewed Israeli attacks have killed 1,613 Palestinians and wounded

4,233 others. Since the conflict began in October 2023, the total death toll in Gaza has reached 50,983, with 116,274 people injured. In the past 24 hours alone, Israeli airstrikes killed at least 38 people and injured 118 others, the authorities added. During their conversation, Abbas and Macron also emphasized the importance of enabling the Palestinian Authority to resume governance and security responsibilities in Gaza while pushing forward reconstruction efforts in line with the Arab Peace Initiative, according to Wafa. Abbas praised France's opposition to forced displacement and its support for a two-state solution based on international law and United Nations resolutions. He reiterated his rejection of any plans to displace Palestinians from Gaza or the West Bank, describing such actions as clear violations of international norms.

South Korean ousted President Yoon attends 1st criminal trial

Seoul, April 14 (UNI) : South Korea's ousted President Yoon Suk-yeol attended his first criminal trial on Monday on insurrection charges.

Yoon, carried by a black vehicle, arrived at the Seoul Central District Court at around 9:48 a.m. local time (0048 GMT) and entered the courtroom via the court's underground parking lot in a bid to avoid public exposure, local media footage showed.

During the first formal hearing, Yoon reportedly

denied his insurrection charges and defended himself by testifying in the courtroom for about 80 minutes. The second hearing was scheduled for April 21. On April 4, the constitutional court upheld a motion by parliament to impeach Yoon over his short-lived martial law imposition. With the court's decision, the conservative leader officially lost all presidential power, becoming the country's second elected president to be forcibly removed from

power. Yoon declared an emergency martial law on the night of Dec. 3, 2024, but it was revoked by the opposition-led National Assembly hours later. The impeachment motion against Yoon was passed in parliament on Dec. 14, 2024. Yoon was apprehended in the presidential office on Jan. 15 and was indicted under detention on Jan. 26 as a suspected ringleader of insurrection, becoming the country's first sitting president to be arrested and prosecuted.

Heavy rains flood DR Congo capital, killing over 70

Kinshasa, April 14 (UNI) : Heavy rains and flooding have struck several provinces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with the capital Kinshasa among the hardest hit, the Ministry of Health announced on Monday. According to the latest data, 11 health zones in Kinshasa have been impacted, with more than 5,000 people displaced. At least 72 people have died, and 170 others have been injured due to torrential rains and resulting floods.

Tanganyika and South Kivu provinces, in the eastern part of the country, have also reported significant damage, with local

authorities working to assess the full extent of the humanitarian needs. Emergency shelters and care centers have been established in Kinshasa's stadiums. However, with the Stade des Martyrs, the country's biggest sports stadium, already hosting over 4,500 people, authorities have initiated a decongestion plan to transfer displaced residents to other venues.

The health ministry reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening multi-sectoral coordination and ensuring swift, targeted, and coordinated responses to both health and humanitarian emergencies.

Food&Kids



Learn about the Awadhi Biryani etiquette...

Of the more than 10 varieties of biriyani (slow-cooked rice and meat in spices) available in India, Kolkata favours and has widely adopted the cousin from Awadh, what is now central Uttar Pradesh. It is also referred to as Lucknawi biriyani.

Deposed and exiled to the Metiabruz area of the city (then a suburb) after the British annexed his kingdom in 1856, Shah continued to maintain his love and patronage for the arts and cuisine, says Mirza, a great grandson of the nawab.

"He ensured the royal chefs maintained the same

standards of cooking and followed the secret recipes to the core. A lot of experimenting was done in the royal kitchen. While dining, etiquette was kept in mind. Khaane ki tehzeeb hoti hai (There is a proper method to consuming food) and biriyani is a complete meal in itself," Mirza told IANS during the recent Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival.

One such golden rule was that nothing should be tasted before or after biriyani, to get the maximum hit of flavours, courtesy a combination of spices, saffron and

potatoes. "Awadhi biriyani that evolved in Kolkata in the 19th century differs from others because it contains boiled potatoes (aloo) along with the rice and gosht (mutton). Zaffraan (saffron) hona zaroori hai (It is necessary to add saffron)," stressed Mirza, president of Kolkata's Oudh Royal Family Association. Biriyani is believed to have entered India from Persia (Iran) via Afghanistan. The earliest evidence of the dish

The next time you go for the Indian spread at a wedding, stick to the Awadhi food etiquette - nothing before and nothing after biriyani - says Sahebzada Wasif Mirza, a direct descendant of Wajid Ali Shah, the last nawab of Awadh, credited for introducing the cuisine to what is now West Bengal.

hark back to the Mughal era.

The Awadhi counterpart is known to be one of the oldest forms of biriyani and is made in the Dum Pukht style - cooking over slow fire in sealed containers.

Mirza said usually the potatoes and meat are partially cooked, layered and then left to sit in with rice. The spice mix for the meat marinade is not revealed to outsiders.

Then, there is a long-drawn heated debate on the potato conundrum - to add it or to exclude it.

Scores of restaurants and 'biriyani-houses' in the city offer their own versions. Some serve scented rice generously laden with browned potatoes while others exclude the tuber and replace it with paltry chunks of chicken. Some do it the vegetarian way.

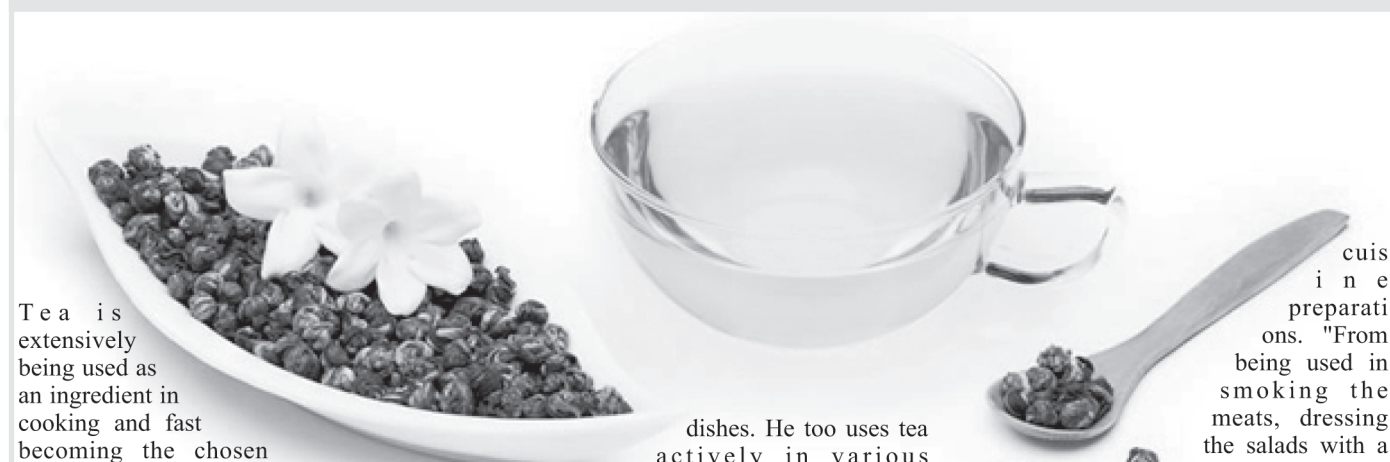
In addition, at weddings, pots of biriyani are queued up with other Indian food items.

"We (the descendants of Shah) can't imagine Awadhi biriyani without aloo. At our house, it is still cooked in the same way with a good amount of potatoes and meat. At weddings, they serve biriyani but they don't maintain the order. This kills the taste (mazza nahi aata) when you have other dishes before it," Mirza rued.

Though the amount of ghee (clarified butter) used in the cooking process should be "ample" to properly cook it through, modern day versions do cut down on the fat, a fact that the septuagenarian Mirza accepted.

"What many people don't know is after biriyani, the only thing allowed is burhaani, a curd-based gravy sans spices, to ease digestion. Have biriyani and go for some burhaani, you will be fine. Our forefathers had reasoned and established etiquette for good health," Mirza said with pride.

The art of cooking with tea



Tea is extensively being used as an ingredient in cooking and fast becoming the chosen marinade for meats.

Tea is extensively being used as an ingredient in cooking and fast becoming the chosen marinade for meats. From green tea for chicken or turkey to Chinese tea variants for marinating fish to soaking lamb or pork in regular Assam tea, chefs are looking at humble chai as more than a mere cuppa. Not only do the leaves impart a distinct flavour but tea works as a great meat tenderizer due to its tannins.

Elaborating on the growing preference of tea in cooking, chef Nishant Choubey of Dusit Devarana reveals tea works very well as an infusion and is easy to be used for various

dishes. He too uses tea actively in various preparations. "Organic tea possibilities are endless," he says. Nishant also clears the air for those who would avoid using tea for its overpowering taste. Some of his palate cleansers are tea based sorbets with most popular being lavender flowers and lemongrass tea sorbet and Oolong tea and lemongrass sorbet.

Chef Vikram Khatri of Guppy by Ai says tea smoked chicken or duck breast is among the most common dishes on menus today. He says tea is extensively being used in Asian

it is being actively looked at as an ingredient," says Vikram. Usage of tea isn't foreign to our cooking either. Chef Manish Mehrotra of Indian Accent says pindi chhole sold at every dhaba are the best example of extensive use of tea in cooking. He reveals every cook uses tea bags during preparation to give a distinct colour and taste to chhole. The quirky usages of tea that Manish has noticed are desserts masala chai brulee, fondue and tea macarons.

How to make a healthy pasta dinner



preparing a pasta dish involves a generous use of cheese, oil, meat and not to forget, pasta is made from refined flour? This definitely throws your weight loss diet plan out the window. But you can indulge your taste buds by eating if you incorporate certain healthy ingredients. How to make your pasta healthy:

- Firstly opt for whole wheat pasta.
- The biggest devil in your pasta is the cheese. While preparing do not add cheese to the pasta since you are going to add cheese even before serving.
- Non vegetarian pasta is loaded with meat, but it is less sinful if it is lean meat. Make

sure to use lean meat rich in protein to cut down your cholesterol levels.

- Balance non vegetarian ingredients with veggies in the pasta or as a side dish. Deep frying the vegetables does not count as healthy.

- Sauce: No pasta is complete without sauce. Most prefer the creamy buttery white sauce, but that will just add kilos to your existing weight. What you need is a good and homemade tomato sauce or marinara/Napoli sauce that is made of tomato, garlic, herbs, onions and seafood.
- Add fresh ingredients

than processed and canned food. These tips are guaranteed to make your pasta healthy. After all, healthy meal equals to healthy body, bon appetit.

Pasta has increased our eating choice whether at home or at the restaurant. Everyone wants to eat Indianised pasta and want to know how to prepare it at home. But what happens when you are on a weight loss diet? Should you still eat pasta especially since

Restaurant review

That Place

That Place, started in Vadodara, has opened its branch in Ahmedabad. The menu covers cuisine from Europe, the Americas and European colonies, besides a few Asian dishes.

Decor

That Place has been judiciously designed to use relatively limited space to seat about 65 patrons though seating at some side tables are a bit cramped. With maroon and cream tapestries, and black lamps, complimented by colourful pictures, the general look and feel of the restaurant is suitable for both casual and formal dining.

Food

That Place has an interesting menu of signature dishes that are mostly variations of popular food items. The nachos for example come with mozzarella cheese instead of melted cheddar, and with options for layers like spicy salsa, beans, jalapenos and sour cream or cheese sauce, salsa, jalapenos, olives and sundried tomato, while non-

vegetarians can ask for layers of their excellent roast chicken or minced lamb/mutton, though the freshness of house-made tortilla chips is lacking in this restaurant that mostly uses readymade packaged chips.

Similarly, the cheese fondue variations include spicy paprika, jalepeno or oregano-and-cracked pepper, with assorted veggies, bread and fried potatoes for dipping into the melted three cheese in the pot. Non-vegetarians can order a side dish of chicken, ham and chicken sausage for dipping. If you are not looking at sharing plates, other house special appetizers include African style pussion potatoes, baked mushrooms with goat cheese, pesto and onions, jacket baby potato and mini Turkish pide. They also offer caesar salad and BBQ chicken salad, which are quite good.

For those who like chicken, the spicy Portuguese chicken (with peri peri chilly sauce), Jamaican jerk chicken and the African chicken (a youngish chicken which comes with an excellent tamarind

sauce and yogurt dip) are must haves, as also the traditional roast or barbecue chicken. The lamb steak, however, is a bit chewy, though the rosemary flavoured gravy and mash potatoes are quite nice. The very British bangers and mash here are made with chicken sausages. For vegetarians, they also have a cottage cheese steak which is garlic butter glazed paneer. If you like Italian food, the pizzas, pasta platters and risottos are fairly good. The mushroom and spinach risotto is one of their best vegetarian dishes while cheese lovers may like the baked risotto. The desserts like mango mousse and blueberry cheese cakes are pretty nice, and the apple-and-cinnamon pie is well-made but can be messy to eat if you plan to share dessert.



Plus and minus

Since That Place has fairly long opening hours, it is good place to drop in for good burgers with tea, coffee or even a substantial late-afternoon meal if you have missed lunch. For a robust one dish meal, their roast, grill and barbecue dishes are good specially as they offer African or Caribbean items that are not available elsewhere in the city. However, the popular Mexican, Italian and Mediterranean food does not rise above the average that you get in most other restaurants.

(By Standard Post)

GROWTH AND GRIT IN THE HIMALAYAS

OVERCOMING TERRAIN CONSTRAINTS WITH USBRL



Anil Kumar Khandelwal
Ex-Member Infra,
Railway Board

BRIEF HISTORY AND TIME LINE

Linking Kashmir with Indian Railway network is centuries old dreams. The first idea for building a narrow gauge rail link to the Kashmir Valley was mooted over a century ago, when foundation stone laid for Jammu – Srinagar rail link by Maharaja Pratap Singh on 1st March 1892, later in 1898 by Maharaja Ranbir Singh. Four viable routes were found to link Punjab with Srinagar and the Kashmir Valley, the Banihal route from Jammu, the Poonch route via the Jhelum Valley, the Panjar route from Rawalpindi also via the Jhelum Valley and the Abbottabad route from Kalako Serai though Hazara in the upper Jhelum Valley. Detailed surveys were conducted for a mix of meter and broad gauge tracks. However, the inhospitable climate, the tricky terrain, restricted resources and history confined this idea to survey reports and drawing boards. In 1905 the British also revisited the idea and Maharaja Pratap Singh agreed to the line between Jammu and Srinagar via Reasi following the Moghul road. This plan envisaged a narrow gauge track to cross the Pir Panjal range, but the project remained a dream only. The project was considered several times after independence also, but it was only in the year 1981 sanction was given for the Jammu-Udhampur Rail link project. In 1994-95, the final Rail link between Udhampur– Srinagar–Baramulla (USBRL) was sanctioned and in the year 2002, the central government declared this Railway line a National Project.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Employment generation:

Direct employment by Railways for land loser: Government has issued a policy for appointment of member of land losers, whose more than 75% land acquired by Railways. Against this policy, government jobs for 804 No. eligible beneficiaries were given by Railways.

Indirect employment through executing agencies: In this project, 14069 No. employment was given by project executing agencies during construction period. Among which 65% employment given to locals of J&K.

More than 525 lacs man days of employment have been generated on this project.

Skilled development for local artisan:

All the works on USBRL project whether, tunneling, bridge works, electrification, track laying, electro-mechanical works are highly specialized and executed through state-of-the-art technology and methods. Tremendous skill development of the local artisans and workers were resulted and now these workers are successfully working as trained skilled workers on other precious projects of the country.

Accessibility:

The project sites were highly inaccessible and militancy intensified during the period of inception. With the inception of this project, construction of access road commenced in these remote locations. USBRL has constructed more than 215 km approach roads to provide access for tunnel and bridges sites. The construction of these approach roads are very challenging in itself due conditions, treacherous terrain, unstable Himalayan geology and law & order issues. to difficult climatic With a view to accelerate progress of construction of Approach road up to most remote part of project, i.e Sawalkote, airlift of heavy construction machineries using army helicopters from Jammu airport was done. A table top helipad was constructed by leveling a 100 m x 40m stretch of land near Surukote village in between Dugga and Sawalkote using mere hand tools. MI-26 Helicopters was used for heli-lifting of heavy construction machines, sorties had been conducted and 226 MT load was air lifted to Surukot. With the completion of these approach roads, the connectivity of large number of surrounding villages such as Guni, Paikhad, Gran, BatalGala, Bakkal, Kauri, Dugga, Surukot, Sawalkot, Basindhadar, Ind, Baralla, Sangaldan, Talwa, Dharam, Kholi, Megdar, Sumbar, Urnihal, Siran, Kundan, Khari, Hingni, Arpinchala, Tatnihal, Chaplain, Bankoot etc. to name a few in Jammu & Kashmir have drastically improved. It has ensured connectivity to about 70 villages consisting of about 1.5 lacs population. Earlier, the access to these villages was primarily through footpaths or by boat to some extent. Locals would walk along slippery slopes and rock ridges of the hardest, torn terrain to reach to township having roads and means of transport to travel to district headquarters and other places. These villages were cut off from civilization due to lack of roads. It would be worthwhile to witness the changing landscape of commercial activities in these villages with the opening of market places, repair workshop, roadside local restaurants (dhabas) etc. it has opened up new avenues and vistas of opportunities to remotely located population. These remote villages and towns, which were bereft of even the most basic facilities, are becoming centre of learning and commercial activities.



MI 26 Helicopter transporting a Dumper from Jammu to Surukote in October 2010, a remote location between Reasi and Sangaldan



Heli-lifting of Excavator to Surukot on 31.10.2010

Enhanced Connectivity, and Improved Transportation:

The USBRL project provides faster and more reliable transport options, reducing travel time significantly. This improved connectivity benefits both people and goods, enabling better movement between remote and urban areas. The railway line connects key pilgrimage sites like Shri Amarnath Cave temple, Hazratbal shrine, Charar-e-Sharif etc. and beautiful picturesque Kashmir valley, attracting more devotees and tourists to the region. This boosts the tourism industry, leading to increased business for local hotels, restaurants, and other services.

Economic Growth:

Boost to Local Businesses: With improved access to national markets, local businesses, especially those involved in agriculture, handicrafts, and local products, can now reach larger markets, driving sales and revenue growth.

Industrial Development: The rail link facilitates the transportation of raw materials and finished goods, encouraging the establishment of new industries, particularly in manufacturing, agriculture, and technology sectors. This could lead to the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the region.

Boost to Agriculture and Trade: The railway network will help in the smooth transportation of Kashmir's agricultural products like saffron, apples, and handicrafts to other regions, boosting trade and exports of agricultural products.

Access to National and International Markets: Farmers and local businesses will be able to sell their products beyond the region, giving them access to larger markets and promoting economic diversity in the region.

Social Integration and Cohesion

The railway line will connect different communities, promoting social integration and cohesion across regions. People from various parts of Jammu & Kashmir, as well as other states, will be able to interact more frequently, fostering a sense of unity. With improved transportation, cultural exchange will increase, bringing people together to share experiences, traditions, and resources, contributing to greater cultural understanding and tolerance.

National Security and Strategic Importance

The railway will also contribute to national security by facilitating quicker mobilization of resources, including military supplies, and improving strategic movement within the region. This strengthens the overall security infrastructure and creates a sense of stability, which is essential for sustained socio-economic development.

Environmental Benefits

The introduction of an electrified railway line reduces dependence on road transport, which is more carbon-intensive. It provides an environmentally friendly mode of transportation, contributing to a reduction in the region's overall carbon footprint.

The construction of the new railway line in the USBRL project will significantly impact the socio-economic development of Jammu & Kashmir. It will improve infrastructure, generate employment, boost trade, and enhance connectivity, leading to long-term economic prosperity. Additionally, it will contribute to greater social integration, better access to essential services, and overall improved living standards for the people of the region. This multi-faceted development ensures that the USBRL project plays a crucial role in transforming the socio-economic landscape of Jammu & Kashmir.