

## IN BRIEF

### Sr journalist Surendra Modi commits suicide

Mumbai, April 14 (UNI) : Senior journalist Surendra Modi allegedly committed suicide by jumping from a residential building in south Mumbai on Monday.

Modi was unmarried and was staying alone. Police have registered an offence and investigation is going on.

Modi was a crime reporter and was widely known for his sharp, on-the-ground reporting and an exceptional network of sources.

He worked with Jammabhoomi, a Gujarati daily, for several decades and covered some of the city's most high-profile crime stories.

He was also actively associated with the Mumbai Crime Reporters' Association and served as the President of the Gujarati Patrakar Sangh.

### Lodha brothers dispute over trademark resolves

Mumbai, April 14 (UNI) : In a significant development, the Lodha brothers -- Abhishek Lodha of Macrotech Developers Ltd (MDL) and his younger brother Abhinandan Lodha, who heads House of Abhinandan Lodha (HoABL) – have amicably resolved their dispute over trademark.

They are sons of Mangalprabhat Lodha, who is a minister in the Devendra Fadnavis ministry in Maharashtra and the founder of Lodha Group which is into real estate.

This came after the Bombay High Court bench of Justice Arif S Doctor appointed former Supreme Court judge Justice R V Raveendran (retired) on January 31 as the mediator to resolve the dispute.

In a statement, the brothers said Macrotech Developers Ltd (MDL) is the owner of and has the exclusive right to use, the brand names 'Lodha' and 'Lodha Group'.

Abhinandan Lodha is the owner of and has the exclusive right to use the brand name 'House of Abhinandan Lodha' (HoABL).

"'Lodha Group' and 'House of Abhinandan Lodha' have no connection with each other. Both entities will communicate this widely," the statement added.

## CM unveils full-length statue of Dr Ambedkar in Mumbai



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 14 : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis unveiled the full-length statue of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar in the Wadala area of the city on Monday.

Speaking at a programme held for unveiling of Dr Ambedkar's statue in Korba Mithagar area of the Wadala (East), he recalled that Babasaheb Ambedkar was the one who firmly stated that Mumbai belongs to Maharashtra. Mumbai and Maharashtra are intertwined.

He stated that the creation of a united Maharashtra including Mumbai in the linguistic provincial structure was led by Dr Ambedkar's thoughts.

The Chief Minister further said that to highlight the unbreakable bond between Mumbai and Babasaheb, the state government is building a grand memorial at the Indu Mill.

The Constitution he gave is the best Constitution in the world, he noted and said that the country is running on the principles of the Constitution. This Constitution has paved the way for the country's superpower, said Fadnavis.

The Constitution has provided equal opportunities to everyone.

His foresight and depth of intellect are noticeable while creating the Constitution, he added.

### Salman Khan receives fresh death threat; FIR registered

Mumbai, April 14 (UNI) : Bollywood actor Salman Khan has received a fresh death threat on the WhatsApp number of the Mumbai police's traffic department helpline number.

The message claimed that they would kill the actor after entering his house and blow up his car with a bomb, official said here on Monday.

Mumbai Police of Worli police station have registered an offence and are investigating it now and trying to trace the origin of the threatening message.

The text message, received on the WhatsApp number of the Mumbai Traffic Police helpline, threatened to kill the actor in his home. The actor resides with his family at the Galaxy Apartments in Mumbai's Bandra.

Khan, who is on the radar of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, received the fifth such threat within two years.

Last year shots were fired at his house by shooters, associated with the Bishnoi gang, following which the actor's security was beefed up.



### 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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## PM gifts development projects worth Rs 10,000 Cr to people of Haryana

Yamunanagar, April 14 (UNI) : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the Architect of the Constitution Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated a host of development projects to the people of Haryana.

He laid the foundation stone for the third unit of 800 MW at Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant in Yamunanagar worth Rs 8,469 crore.

Additionally, he laid the foundation stone for a GOBARDHAN Plant in Yamunanagar worth Rs 90 crore and inaugurated the Rewari Bypass built at a cost of Rs 1,069 crore.

Union Minister for Housing, Urban Affairs and Power Manohar Lal, Union Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation Rao Inderjit Singh, Union Minister of State for Cooperation Krishan Pal, Haryana Cabinet Ministers, Anil Vij, Krishan Lal Panwar and Shyam Singh Rana were also present on this occasion.

The Ministry of Power, Government of India, has granted approval to Haryana Power Generation Corporation Limited (HPGCL) to set up the third unit of 800 MW at Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant in Yamunanagar.

This project is an expansion of the existing plant that currently operates 2x300 MW units.

A total of 233 acres of land will be used for constructing the new unit. The project is targeted to be completed within 52 months, and commercial operations are expected to begin within 48 months, by March 2029.

With this new unit, Haryana's in-house power generation capacity will increase to 3,382 MW.

The Rewari Bypass project has been developed under the Bharatmala scheme on Hybrid Annuity Mode at a cost of Rs 1,069 crore.

This four-lane bypass has been constructed around Rewari city to reduce traffic congestion. The total length of the bypass is 14.4 km. It begins at the NH-352 junction and connects to NH-11 towards Narnaul.

This project is a significant step towards resolving traffic issues in Rewari city and enhancing connectivity to Narnaul.

A GOBARDHAN plant will be set up in Mukarampur, Yamunanagar, by the Municipal Corporation Yamunanagar-Jagadhri in collaboration with BPCL worth Rs 90 crore.

The plant will have an annual production capacity of 2,600 metric tons of compressed biogas.

The project is expected to be completed by May 2027.

The CBG plant will use agricultural residues, cattle dung, and municipal solid waste to generate biogas.

Approximately 45,000 metric tons of solid waste and 36,000 metric tons of cattle dung will be processed scientifically each year.

### Mumbai water tanker strike called off

Mumbai, Apr 14 (UNI) The Mumbai Water Tanker Association (MwTA) on Monday called off its indefinite strike, following a meeting with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani at his official residence in Malabar Hill in south Mumbai.

The strike, which began on April 10, protesting against the Central Ground Water Authority's (CGWA) directive mandating licenses for groundwater extraction, was called off today late evening after the BMC invoked the Disaster Management Act, 2005, which empowered the civic body to requisition all the private water tankers and borewells in Mumbai.

Civic officials said that while the administration assured support for the MwTA's demands, the body was also warned sternly against continuing the strike.

### Mehul Choksi's lawyer to move Belgium court for bail

Mumbai, April 14 (UNI) : Absconding diamond merchant and key accused in Punjab National Bank scam case Mehul Choksi, who was arrested in Belgium after India made an extradition request, will file a bail plea in the appropriate court of a European nation, his lawyer said here in Mumbai on Monday.

The accused is suffering from cancer and undergoing treatment, said Choksi's lawyer, Vijay Aggarwal.

"We are in the process of filing an appeal against his arrest in Belgium. Our appeal seeking his release on bail will mainly be on the ground that his medical condition is not stable, and he is undergoing treatment for cancer," he said.

### Govts should give up casteism and selfish politics: Mayawati

Lucknow, April 14 (UNI) : Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati on Monday called upon all governments to abandon casteist and narrow-minded politics and said that only by doing so the dream of Constitution maker Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar of a 'developed India' can be realised.

After paying tributes to Dr Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, Mayawati appealed to Dalits, tribals, backward classes, and other neglected people to join the BSP and become Ambedkarites.

She said that the only cure for the millions of sorrows of all Bahujans is to get the master key to power through their mutual unity and votes, and for this, all the tactics of the opponents will also have to be foiled.

She said that all governments should abandon casteist and narrow-minded politics and become constitutional Indians so that Dr Ambedkar's dream of creating a 'developed India' and an egalitarian India in the interest of the people and the country can be fulfilled on the ground.

The BSP supremo said that crores of Bahujans of the country are not getting the true benefits of life improvement like removal of poverty, unemployment, inflation, illiteracy, migration, and backwardness.

"In such a situation, how is it possible to establish the welfare state of the Constitution that is in favour of all?," she questioned.

She said that welfare of the people and the country is possible only through the policy and principle of BSP's egalitarian 'Sarvajan Hitaay and Sarvajan Sukhay', for which it is very important to get the master key of power.

Mayawati said that, like Congress, the condition of Dalits and backward classes is worse in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime too.

"Due to every kind of planned attack on the constitutional right of reservation of these classes, their condition is worsening instead of getting better due to a lack of employment. Selfish elements are dominant under the protection of casteist parties," she said.

She said that far from the interests and welfare of other religious minorities including Muslims, the constitutional guarantees of protection of their life, property and religion have also been put under threat, due to which instead of creating the much-needed and much-awaited environment of development in the country.



# 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

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 Gurdwara, 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 from states across the country like Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi participated and registered their presence and presented the problems of their respective areas. Advocate Mr. Sanobar Qureshi in his presidential address said that today our Qureshi community consists of 6.5 crore people in the whole country. Despite our such a large population, we are not provided any facilities by the central and state governments. The same status that has been given to farmers in the country should be given to the meat traders i.e. the Qureshi community because this community also provides livelihood in a halal way. In the modern era, the government should build



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 Ashiqueen

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.



## NCP (AP) undertakes state-wide special public awareness campaign on Dr Ambedkar's birth anniversary

Mumbai, April 14 (UNI) : On occasion of the 134th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, NCP (AP) state president and MP Sunil Tatkare on Monday informed that the special public awareness campaign, 'We are Babasaheb's Paik', is being implemented across the state from today.

The objective of this campaign, which is being implemented under the concept and guidance of the party's national president and State Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Tatkare himself, is to convey the greatness of the values of human rights, equality, justice and fraternity given to the country by Dr Ambedkar to the people, to highlight the importance of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, and to effectively enlighten the new generation with his thoughts, he said.

Through this initiative, the Preamble of the Constitution and the letter written by Party president Pawar to the people of the state have been displayed together at all prominent places in various districts, cities, villages and hamlets of the state.

"We are implementing this initiative to convey the thoughts of Babasaheb and the Preamble of the Constitution based on his values ??to the people," he added.

## Governor inaugurates Fire Service Week in Mumbai Raj Bhavan

Mumbai, April 14 (UNI) : Governor C P Radhakrishnan on Monday inaugurated the state level Fire Service Week on occasion of the National Fire Service Day at Raj Bhavan here.

The Governor presented the President's Fire Service Medals for Meritorious Service to eight officers and firefighters of Mumbai Fire Brigade and those from Municipal Fire Services from across the State on the occasion.

Speaking on the

occasion, Governor Radhakrishnan said, "With rapid urbanisation, vertical growth of cities, and expanding industrial zones, the nature of emergencies has become more complex.

It is therefore necessary that we involve the private sector in the fire preparedness also.

"Fire service personnel today face a range of challenges—ranging from chemical fires and industrial accidents to natural disasters and even potential terrorist threats.

## Governor CP, CM, Deputy CMs pay tribute to Dr Babasaheb



(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, April 14 : Governor CP Radhakrishnan and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, deputy chief Ministers Eknath Shinde

and Ajit Pawar paid floral tributes to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar at Chaityabhoomi here on Monday on the occasion of his 134th birth anniversary. The 134th birth

anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is being celebrated today across the country.

On this occasion, processions, fireworks, electric lighting and

various social programs have been organized in the state.

Political leaders and followers of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar thronged at Mumbai's Chaityabhoomi.

fire."Drones and indoor drones provide a complete picture of the fire scene, which proves helpful in ensuring the safety of life and property.

We should also think in this direction. For a city like Mumbai, it is important to involve housing societies in creating fire awareness. It should be mandatory for all societies and industrial establishments to conduct fire audits at regular intervals.

"I appeal to the people to generously support the

Maharashtra Fire Services Personnel Welfare Association, which works for the welfare of firemen and their families," the Governor added.

Chief Fire Officer of Mumbai Fire Brigade Ravindra Ambulgekar, Deputy Chief Fire Officer Deepak Ghosh, Sub Officer Sunil Gaikawad and Leading Fireman Parag Dalvi were presented the Medals for Meritorious Fire Service by the Governor.The Governor also inaugurated the Fund

Collection drive for the Maharashtra Fire Service Welfare Fund and appealed people to contribute generously to the Fund.

The Fire Service Week, observed from April 14 to April 20, carries the theme: "Unite to Ignite: A Fire-Safe India".

The National Fire Service Day is observed on April 14 to commemorate all the brave firefighters who lost their lives during a ship explosion at the Bombay Dockyard in the year 1944.

## Governor, CM pay floral tribute to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar

Mumbai, Apr 14 (UNI) : On the occasion of 134th birth anniversary of the architect of the indian Constitution Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday paid floral tributes at Chaityabhoomi in Mumbai.Deputy CMs Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, legislative council chairperson Ram Shinde, state cabinet ministers Ashish Shelar and Sanjay Shirsat also paid homage to Ambedkar at Chaityabhoomi at Shivaji Park in central Mumbai.Earlier, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis in a recent X post said, "Millions of salutes to Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the great man who created the best constitution in the world and lit the lamp of justice and equality, on his birth anniversary!"

## Biography of legal stalwart Aashuutosh Srivastava unveiled

Pune, April 14 (UNI) : The grand unveiling of the biography, 'Aashuutosh Srivastava – The Legal Trailblazer", authored by renowned writer Dr Shabnam Asthana, took place at Hyatt Pune, marking a momentous occasion in the legal fraternity.The event was graced by celebrated

actress Padmini Kolhapure who was the chief guest for the function and several others were present.In her speech, Dr Shabnam Asthana emphasized that the book aims to inspire young lawyers, offering them invaluable insights into dedication and perseverance required to succeed in law.

## Guv calls for realising dream of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar

Mumbai, Apr 14 (UNI) Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan on Monday appealed public to make efforts to realise Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's dream of social transformation and a society based on social and economic equality. Speaking at a programme organised to mark 134th birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar at Chaityabhoomi, Dadar in central Mumbai, he said that Dr Ambedkar is honoured as the architect of the Constitution of India, a great social reformer and a patriot.He also praised Dr Ambedkar's contribution to democracy, social equality and gender equality.

The Governor further said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi considered the Constitution as his guide while taking oath as the Prime Minister.

Radhakrishnan also expressed his belief that the Dr Ambedkar Memorial to be built at Indu Mills compound will be a source of inspiration for future generations, he added.

## Cocaine worth Rs 7.85 Cr seized from foreign passenger at Mumbai Airport

Mumbai, April 14 (UNI) : Customs officials seized 785 grams of cocaine worth about Rs 7.85 crore at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai recently and a foreign passenger has been arrested in this regard, said an official media statement issued here on Monday.

A case has been registered in this regard.

On April nine, a foreign

passenger who had arrived in Mumbai by flight UR430 was stopped by Customs officials on suspicion.

During questioning, the passenger was found to be restless and anxious.

During sustained interrogation and medical examination, it was found that the passenger had swallowed a large number of yellow pills. The pills contained a white powdery substance suspected to be

cocaine.The Customs officials found the substance to be 785 grams of cocaine during a medical examination conducted on April 13. Its estimated street value is Rs 7.85 crore.

The passenger has been arrested under the NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) Act, 1985, and further investigation is underway, the statement added.

## Police detain youth from Gujarat for sending alleged death threats to actor Salman Khan

Mumbai, Apr 14 (UNI) The city police have detained a 26-year-old man from Vadodara, in Gujarat, for allegedly sending a death threat to Bollywood star Salman Khan via a WhatsApp message, sources said here on Monday.The accused, identified as Mayank Pandya, is currently being interrogated by a police team of Worli police station.

Sources further said that Pandya sent a threatening message to the Mumbai Traffic Police's WhatsApp helpline, stating, "We will enter your house and kill you," and also threatened to plant a bomb in Salman Khan's car.

While the message did not mention the Bishnoi gang by name, its tone was reportedly similar to previous threats received

by the actor.The actor resides with his family at Galaxy Apartments in

Mumbai's Bandra and is on the radar of Lawrance Bishnoi gang.

 <b>MAHA MUMBAI METRO OPERATION CORPORATION LIMITED</b> (A Government of Maharashtra PSU) 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, NaMTTRI Building, Adjoining New MMRDA Building, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051. Website: <a href="https://mahatenders.gov.in/www.mmmocl.co.in">https://mahatenders.gov.in/www.mmmocl.co.in</a>	
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Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation Limited (MMMOCL) invites Open e-Tenders from eligible Bidders for the following work:	
Procurement of Forms and Registers for a Period of 3 years for Commercial Division at Station of MMOCL.	
License Period	3 (Three) Years
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Bid Documents Download	From 15-April-2025 - 12:00 hours to 14-May-2025 - 17:00 hours.
Last date of Online Submission	14-May-2025 - 17:00 hours.
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Tenderers are requested to note that tender is being invited through e-procurement. Tender documents can be obtained online from Maha e-Tendering Portal: <a href="https://mahatenders.gov.in/">https://mahatenders.gov.in/</a> In case of any query/ clarifications, tenderers are requested to contact Mr. Prashant Visoriya, Manager (Commercial) at email: <a href="mailto:mgco@mmmocl.co.in">mgco@mmmocl.co.in</a>	
Date : 15.04.2025 Place: Mumbai	Sd/- Managing Director, MMMOCL

## Railway Police arrest Dhule resident for black marketing of e-tickets

(Standard Post Bureau)

Dhule, April 14 : The Railway Protection Force has taken action against a person from Dhule in Maharashtra who was black marketing railway e-tickets. A total of 299 e-tickets worth Rs 12,53,860 were seized from the suspect and a case has been registered against him under the Railway Act.

According to the Railway Cyber Cell Pune, information was received that black marketing of railway reservation tickets was going on from the user ID of Dhule city 'Sayaji\_1'.

Accordingly, on the orders of Senior Divisional Security Commissioner Bhusawal, a team of Dhule outpost under the guidance of RPF Chalisgaon Inspector conducted a raid with the help of Dhule city police. In this, the accused Rajendra Sayaji Gangurde (age 38, resident of

Navjivan Nagar, Dhule) was taken into custody.

In his mobile check, 19 e-tickets for upcoming journeys and 280 for completed journeys were found, whose total value is Rs 12,53,000. These tickets were made through his mobile, which did not have any IRCTC agent license. During interrogation, he has also confessed to the crime.The police have seized all the tickets along with the mobile and two SIM cards.A case has been registered against the suspect at RPF Chalisgaon Police Station under Section 143 of the Railway Act 1989.

Since yesterday was Sunday, some tickets have not been blocked yet due to some technical problems. This process will be completed today, Monday (April 14). Assistant Sub-Inspector Rajendra Bhamre is investigating the case.

## Shiv Sena (UBT) to hold divisional camp in Nashik on April 16

Nashik, April 14 (UNI) : The Shiv Sena (UBT) will hold a divisional camp on April 16 at Manohar Garden Lawns in Govindnagar area of city ahead of local bodies elections.

Party president Uddhav Thackeray will guide the workers present in this camp.

The camp will be inaugurated by the party's youth leader and MLA Aaditya Thackeray.

Thackeray group MP Sanjay Raut, who is on a visit to Nashik to review preparations for this camp, interacted with media and commented on various issues.

He said, "Shiv Sena will hold a camp at Manohar Garden Lawns on April 16. This camp will be held throughout the day, and office-bearers and workers from all departments will come together for this camp.

There will also be discussions, brainstorming session and contemplation on many topics, and the camp will be inaugurated by Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray at 9.30 am. At 6.30 pm, Uddhav Thackeray will guide the workers."

He said that an unheard speech of Hindu Hruday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray will be shown in this camp.

Also, Leader of Opposition in the State Legislative Council Ambadas Danve, former MP Chandrakat Khaire and senior lawyer Asim Sarode will guide the office-bearers and workers, he informed.

Raut also responded to Minister Chandrakant Patil's dig at Thackeray's Shiv Sena, telling Patil he should not worry at all as they have many candidates.

### NATIONAL DOPE TESTING LABORATORY

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JLN Stadium Complex,  
East Gate No. 10, New Delhi - 110003

Advertisement No. 01/2025

Date: 12/04/2025

Subject : Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for filling up the posts of Technical Assistant in National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi through Direct Recruitment.

The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), Government of India, New Delhi invites applications from Indian citizens possessing the essential qualification and relevant work experience to fill the posts of Technical Assistant.

**Name of the Post :** Technical Assistant, **Number of Posts :** 09 (Nine) SC - 01 OBC(NC) - 02 EWS - 01 UR - 05, **Classification :** Group B, **Pay Matrix Level (as per 7th CPC) :** PML - 6 (Rs. 35400 - 112400/-), **Method of Recruitment :** By Direct Recruitment

2. For detailed advertisement regarding reservation of posts, mode of filling application, fee and other criteria, you may visit NDTL's website [www.ndtlindia.com](http://www.ndtlindia.com) as well as in National Career Service (NCS) Portal.

3. The last / closing date of online application will be 45 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Newspapers.

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NDTL



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.

FIIs continued their selling spree, offloading approximately Rs 20,911 crore from the cash segment. However, DIIs 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 DataProtection 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, eliminating the critical public interest safeguard that allowed transparency in matters of accountability.

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.

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. we 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 :Successfully 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, 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

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 development of the state

SP) Hyderabad District Handball Association members:

- Vice President 1) Sudhakar 2) Srinivas Reddy G (Advocate) 3) Venkatesh 4) Vamshi 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 Seversk 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.

## 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

**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 place it with paltry chunks of chicken. Some do it the vegetarian way.

In addition, at weddings, pots of biriyanis are served up with other Indian food items.

The descendants of Shah can't imagine Awadhi biriyani without aloo. At our house, it is still cooked in a clay with a good amount of potatoes and meat. They serve biriyani but they don't maintain the Aloo taste (mazza nahi aata) when you have before it," Mirza rued.

The amount of ghee (clarified butter) used in the recipe should be "ample" to properly cook it. Modern day versions do cut down on the fat, a fact Mirza accepted.

"People don't know is after biriyani, the only thing is burhaani, a curd-based gravy sans spices, onion. Have biriyani and go for some burhaani, it's fine. Our forefathers had reasoned and had a etiquette for good health," Mirza said with

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

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.

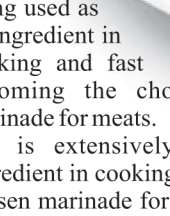
Deposed and exiled to the Metiabruz area of the city (then a suburb) after the British annexed his kingdom in 1856, Shah continued to maintain his love and patronage for the arts and cuisine, says Mirza, a great grandson of the nawab.

"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

# 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 crusted chicken with liquor jus, golgappas with tea shots or a masala chai mishti doi and sencha (Japanese green tea) jalebis, the 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 Vikram 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



cuis  
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preparati  
ons. "From  
being used in  
smoking the  
meats, dressing  
the salads with a  
tea and ginger  
vinaigrette to  
imparting colour to  
gravies with tea leaves,  
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 macaroons.


# How to make a healthy pasta dinner



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

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. But do not exclude cheese completely from pasta. Simply add cheese on top and 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 of 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 appetite.

# 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-

**Food**

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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 paner. 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.



# Nitish releases logo of Khelo India Youth Games, Bihar 2025



Patna, April 14 (UNI) : Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday released the logo of Khelo India Youth Games, Bihar 2025, beginning on May 4. Kumar released the logo of Khelo India Youth Games, Bihar 2025 in presence of Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Union Minister of State for Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse. Mandaviya released Subhankar (Mascot) of the event on the occasion. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Khelo India Youth Games here on May 4. Both Kumar and Mandaviya also released sports song and flagged off "torch march " (Mashal Yatra) of the event which will cover all 38 districts of Bihar. The Chief Minister while addressing the function organised on the occasion, said he was extremely happy that Khelo India Youth Games was being organised in Bihar. It would help in encouraging

youths of the state to participate in sports activities more and excel in arenas of their choice where they could perform at optimum level, he added. "A big sports event being organised in Bihar would further help in tapping sports potential of youths of the state", Kumar said adding that infrastructural facilities to promote sports activities among youths would be improved further in the state. Nitish said that his government was committed to ensure all facilities for youths of the state so that they could win medals in national and international events. Khelo India Youth Games Bihar 2025 beginning on May 4 in Patna will continue till May 15. A total of 8,500 players will participate in 28 games, being organised in Patna, Nalanda, Gaya, Bhagalpur and Begusarai districts of Bihar. Besides players, 1500 technical staff will also arrive in Bihar for organising the event successfully.

# Plan in pipeline to host NZ Sport Climbing Championship : MAJK

Jammu, April 14 (UNI) : Depending on the subject to availability of Sport Climbing Wall and allotment of the championship to the Association by Indian Mountaineering Foundation, the Mountaineering Association of Jammu and Kashmir (MAJK) on Monday said that plan is in the pipeline to host the North Zone Sports Climbing Championship here at Maulana Azad Stadium. The Mountaineering Association of Jammu and Kashmir has set an ambitious target of preparing at least three sport climbers of J&K for selection in the Indian Sport Climbing team for participation in next year's

20th Asian Games to be held at Aichi and Nagoya in Japan. Highlighting the details of the activities including calendar of activities for the year 2025-26, released here at a function, Ram Khajuria, senior Vice President of MAJK said that the activities to be undertaken by the Association and its affiliated District Mountaineering Associations and adventure clubs this year included prestigious multi peak Mountaineering Expedition in Ladakh in which the team would attempt five peaks. He also stated that it was a matter of pride for the Association that one of its climbers, Shivani Charak,

an international sport climber, has the unique distinction of being the first ever and the only female athlete of J&K to participate in any Asian Games during the last 78 years. Former Union Home Secretary, Anil Goswami, along with Ashwani Sharma, former Legislator, Padma Shri Prof Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha; Sumit Khajuria, Vice President; Shawetica Khajuria, General Secretary of MAJK were among those present on the occasion. Another important activity of the Association would be a UT-level Sport Climbing Championship for Visually challenged climbers at the Sport

Climbing Wall in October, 2025, he said adding that 16 District Sport Climbing Competitions will also be organized with a UT Championship besides participation in the Zonal and National competitions. Nine trekking expeditions, a specialized training camp for Shivani Charak under a National coach, four preparatory camps before participation of the UT team in the Zonal and National climbing competitions besides a camp for beginners shall also be conducted. "To spot the talent at the grass root level the Association aims to train about 1000 sport climbers by organizing coaching cum competitions for

school students throughout the year," he said. Meanwhile, releasing the calendar of activities, Goswami hoped that this year our climbers would bring more laurels to the UT in all the forthcoming Sport Climbing Competitions. Ashwani Sharma asked the Sports Council for early completion of the Sport Climbing Wall at MA Stadium, Jammu so that our climbers can undergo training and coaching at Jammu instead of outside J&K. He hoped that with the commissioning of the climbing wall at Jammu J&K was sure to become a formidable force at the national and international level.

# India bag four medals at Archery WC Stage 1

Auburndale (USA), April 14 (UNI) : India wrapped up their campaign at the Archery World Cup 2025 Stage 1 here with four medals, including a silver in the men's recurve team and a bronze from Dhiraj Bommadevara in the men's individual recurve, signalling a strong start to the international season. The Indian contingent finished fourth on the overall medals table, collecting one gold, one silver and two bronze medals. Hosts Mexico topped the tally with three golds, two silvers and a bronze, underlining their current dominance in the sport. India's most notable performance came in the men's recurve team event, where the experienced trio of Olympians Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Atanu Das fought their way to the final with a series of commanding wins. They began by defeating Brazil 6-2 in the opening round, before overcoming fourth-seeded Indonesia 6-2 in the quarterfinals and repeating the same scoreline against Spain in

the semifinals. However, in the final, the Indian trio were unable to breach the resilience of the Chinese team comprising Wang Yan, Li Zhongyuan and Kao Wenchao, falling 5-1 in a hard-fought contest. It was a silver medal finish for India, but the consistency shown by the seasoned campaigners bodes well for the rest of the season. Bommadevara, one of the standout performers of the week, added an individual bronze to his tally with a gritty comeback win over Spain's Andres Temino. Trailing 4-2 after three sets, Dhiraj held his nerve to win the final two sets and clinch the match 6-4. The bronze was a satisfying finish for the archer, who had earlier lost 7-1 in the semifinal to Germany's Florian Unruh — the Paris 2024 Olympic mixed team silver medallist. Enroute to the last four, Bommadevara had scored two high-quality wins — beating teammate Atanu Das 7-3 in the Round of 16 and then getting the better of France's Thomas

Chirault 6-4 in the quarterfinals. Chirault was a member of the Paris 2024 silver-medal-winning team. India's gold medal came in the compound mixed team event, where Rishabh Yadav and world No. 3 Jyothi Surekha Vennam put on a flawless show to emerge champions. The pair, who will represent India in the compound mixed event at the LA 2028 Olympics, were clinical throughout, underlining India's growing strength in the compound discipline. Rishabh Yadav also featured in India's men's compound team, alongside Abhishek Verma and reigning world champion Ojas Deotale. The trio added a bronze to India's tally in a close contest, showcasing depth and cohesion in the non-Olympic format. However, it was a disappointing outing for the Indian women's recurve archers. Four-time Olympian Deepika Kumari reached the quarterfinals in the individual category but was beaten 6-2 by USA's Casey Kaufhold, the Paris 2024 bronze medallist.

# Inaugural Calance Open to begin from April 15 in Delhi

New Delhi, April 14 (UNI) : Calance and the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) will be jointly staging the inaugural Calance Open at the Qutab Golf Course here from Tuesday. The tournament offers a total prize purse of Rs crore. The main event will be followed by the Pro-Am event on April 19. The tournament is returning after a gap of 15 years in which 126 players including 123 professionals are taking part. The event will be played in the stroke-play format consisting of four rounds of 18 holes each. The top 50 players and ties will make the cut after two rounds. The par for the course is 70. Professionals like Om Prakash Chouhan, Manu Gandas, Yuvraj Sandhu, Shaurya Binu, Aman Raj, Sachin Baisoya, Rashid Khan, Khalin Joshi, Udayan Mane, Shaurya Bhattacharya, Karandeep Kochhar and Chikkarangappa S, to name a few. The foreign challenge will be led by Czech Republic's Stepan Danek, Sri Lankans N Thangaraja and K Prabagaran, American Koichiro Sato, Italian Federico Zucchetti, Uganda's Joshua Seale, Bangladeshis Md Siddikur Rahman, Jamal Hossain, Badal Hossain, Md Akbar Hossain, Md Jakiruzzaman Jakir, Md Somrat Sikdar, Md Muaj and Md Razu as well as Nepal's Sukra Bahadur Rai and Subash Tamang. Besides Sachin Baisoya, Rashid Khan and Shaurya Bhattacharya, the other leading professionals from Delhi include Shamim Khan, Kshitij Naved Kaul, Chiragh Kumar, Harshjeet Singh Sethie, Arjun Prasad and Kapil Kumar, to name a few. Calance COO Rohan Govil will compete as an amateur at the tournament.

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# Mohun Bagan SG sail past Classic FA in final to clinch RFDL title

Mumbai, April 14 (UNI) : Mohun Bagan Super Giant clinched the Reliance Foundation Development League (RFDL) 2024-25 title after sailing past Classic Football Academy 3-0 in the final, held at the Reliance Corporate Park here on Monday. Pasang Dorjee Tamang scored a magnificent hat-trick to hand the Mariners the triumph in the ultimate fixture. The Mariners asserted dominance right from the get-go as they overpowered Classic FA to keep hold of the ball possession in the opening minutes of the game. In the 8th minute, Tamang drew first blood when he smashed in one from the edge of the box to find the top right corner spectacularly. The opening goal gave Mohun Bagan more confidence to take the driver's seat in the game, and in no time, Tamang scored his second, capitalising on a mistake from the Classic FA defence to make it 2-0. Classic FA did have a chance to pull one back but were left heads-in-hands with lack of finishing touch in the final third. The second half started in a similar fashion with Mohun Bagan Super Giant dominating the proceedings, and Pasang Dorjee Tamang went on to find the back of the net once again, thereby completing his hat-trick. The Mariners' midfielder picked up on a loose ball and slotted it home to make it 3-0 and seal the deal for his side with a remarkable victory. The four semi-finalists of the 2024-25 season of RFDL all came from four different states - West Bengal, Manipur, Goa, and Jharkhand, showing remarkable depth and quality of the teams in action. Three of the four semi-finalists were the same as the last four in the Indian Super League 2024-25 season i.e. Mohun Bagan Super Giant, FC Goa, and Jamshedpur FC. The fourth semi-finalist Classic FA, is the only academy side to progress to the National Championship stage, ultimately also sealing their berth in the upcoming Premier League Next Generation Cup presented by Reliance Foundation along with the other three. The 2024-25 Indian football season, however, has been all about Mohun Bagan Super Giant's success across different levels. The Mariners' RFDL victory comes on the back of their senior team famously clinching the Indian Super League Double -- League Shield and Cup. Additionally, their U-15 side also claimed the trophy in the Reliance Foundation Youth Sports (RFYS) Kolkata region. In the third place playoff match earlier on the day, FC Goa edged Jamshedpur FC 1-0 to end their RFDL 2024-25 campaign on a positive note. Saish Gaunkar broke the deadlock for the Gaurs early in the 15th minute, following a low cross from the right flank by Gogocha Chungkham.

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# Dube after CSK halt losing streak

Lucknow, April 14 (UNI) : Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Monday broke their five-match losing streak with a crucial victory, sparking relief and renewed hope within the franchise and among its legions of fans. The win, achieved through a composed batting performance led by Shivam Dube and a disciplined bowling effort, comes as a much-needed respite after a series of uncharacteristic defeats. Speaking after the match, all-rounder Shivam Dube expressed the significance of the win, stating, "This means a lot, losing five games in a row that is not CSK." He lauded the performance of the CSK bowling unit, highlighting their disciplined effort in restricting the opposition. "Our bowlers bowled really well today," he acknowledged. Dube himself played a pivotal role in the victory, hitting an unbeaten 43 and guiding the team towards the target. Reflecting on his innings, he revealed his determined mindset. "Today I had wanted to stay till the end, and I had

this thought that I wanted to finish the game," he said. He explained his calculated approach during the innings, particularly after a few wickets fell in the middle overs. "I felt this is the time to take the game very deep after losing a few wickets in the middle," Dube elaborated. He clarified that his strategy wasn't solely about aggression. "It's not about the mindset, and it is about playing according to the situation, which is why instead of attacking, I felt taking the game deep was a better option." Dube also shed light on his batting plan against a disciplined bowling attack. "My plan was very simple, which is not to try and hit the ball very hard because the bowlers were executing very well." He was ably supported by veteran M S Dhoni, who provided the finishing touches in his trademark style. Looking ahead, Dube stressed the importance of carrying the positives from this victory into their subsequent matches, particularly their upcoming clash against rivals Mumbai Indians.

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(By Standard Post)

# GROWTH AND GRIT IN THE HIMALAYAS

## OVERCOMING TERRAIN CONSTRAINTS WITH USBRL



### 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, Basindhadhar, 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.



#### 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.