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IN BRIEF

Man arrested at Mumbai Airport with 9.5 kg hydroponic weed

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : The Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of Airport Customs arrested a passenger at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai and seized 9.5 kilograms of hydroponic weed (cannabis) worth Rs 9.53 crore in the illicit market, officials said here on Monday.

The AIU officers had intercepted one passenger Kawaljit Singh, a resident of Amritsar, Punjab on the basis of profiling that he might be carrying some contraband items, after he arrived at CSMI Airport, Mumbai on Sunday from Bangkok.

During the search of his trolley bag, the Customs officers found stuffed 20 transparent packets containing greenish coloured dry leafy substance in it.

On testing the same, it showed positive result for hydroponic weed (cannabis), a substance covered under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Following this, he was arrested and was today produced in the court, which remanded him to police custody.

Mumbai Water Tankers Association to go on strike from April 10

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : The Mumbai Water Tankers Association (MWTA) on Monday announced plans to go on strike from April 10 in protest against the Central Ground Water Authority's (CGWA) directive mandating licences for groundwater extraction.

A Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) notice had asked the private ring well and borewell owners to stop supplying water to tankers and obtain a fresh licence from the CGWA.

Reacting to this MWTA Secretary Rajesh Thakur said that, "The requirement to obtain a mandatory licence from CGWA is extremely difficult due to the stringent conditions imposed. We are seriously considering launching a strike against this decision."

Ankur Sharma, spokesperson for the association, added, "We have started receiving notices from BMC ward offices since last week, along with well owners.

CM Fadnavis inaugurates Mumbai Police cyber laboratories

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 7 : Following the rise in cybercrime day-to-day, the Mumbai Police have set up a highly equipped cyber laboratory, which was inaugurated by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister, while talking to the media, said that I have inaugurated three highly equipped cyber labs to address the growing cases of cybercrime... Forensic vans, specialised vans to curb crimes against women, and interceptor vans to curb overspeeding on roads have also been prepared... Mumbai Police has set up a Women's Help Room in every police station, which will greatly help women.

According to an official release, five cyber laboratories are proposed in Mumbai city. Three of these laboratories have been operationalised. Through these laboratories, crimes of atrocities against women, especially through cyber, can be proven in a short period of time. Also, if data from any electronic device is deleted to hide the crime or destroy evidence, if a mobile is vandalised or tampered with, all the data from all such electronic devices will be 'recovered' with the help of modern computer systems. The laboratories are equipped with modern technology and are capable of the latest computer systems (software).

LPG price hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder

New Delhi, April 7 (IANS) : The price of LPG cylinders has been increased by Rs 50 per 14.2 kg cylinder for both subsidised and non-subsidised consumers with effect from April 8, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced on Monday.

The price increase applies to both Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries as well as other consumers.

"For PMUY beneficiaries, the price will rise from Rs 500 to Rs 550 per cylinder. For other consumers, it will increase from Rs 803 to Rs 853," the minister said.He added that the revision is subject to the periodic review that takes place every two to three weeks.On April 1, in a relief to people in the new financial year, oil marketing companies had reduced the price of commercial LPG cylinders. The price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder was cut by Rs 41. In the national capital, Delhi, the revised retail selling price now stands at Rs 1,762 per cylinder.India imports about 60 per cent of the domestic LPG consumed. Price of LPG in the country is linked to its price in the international market.The number of beneficiaries getting subsidised LPG under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) has gone up to 10.33 crore as on March 1 this year while the total number active domestic LPG consumers in India stands at 32.94 crore, according to information tabled in Parliament in the recently-concluded session.While the average international price of LPG rose by 63 per cent from US$ 385/MT in July 2023 to US$ 629/MT in February 2025, the effective price for PMUY consumers for domestic LPG was reduced by 44 per cent from Rs 903 in August 2023 to Rs 503 in February 2025, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi told the Lok Sabha in a written reply.The retail selling price of a 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder was, until now, Rs 803 in Delhi, while there was a subsidy of Rs 300 per cylinder to PMUY consumers. The price of 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinders had remained unchanged since August 2024.

'Black Monday' on bourses; Investors lose about Rs 12 lakh crore

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : Opening after a gap of two days, India's stock market on Monday witnessed a massive crash as the benchmark indices continue to reel under the disastrous impact of US President Donald Trump's 'reciprocal tariffs' announced on April 2.

The BSE Sensex dived by over 2226 points or 2.9 percent while the NIFTY saw a steep drop of over 742 points or 3.24 percent, resulting in the erosion of about Rs 12 lakh crore investors' wealth on a single.This is the worst fall of the indices in the last 10 months and came amidst the increasing negative sentiment regarding the stock markets because of Trump's decision to impose 26 percent tariffs on Indian imports announced on April 2, which will come into effect from April 9.Trump has also announced 25 percent tariffs on automobiles imported by the US.

Such landmark announcements by Trump have shaken not only India but the entire world, with share markets of all major economies witnessing steep fall. These include NIKKEI of Japan down by 7.83 per cent, Hang Seng by 13.22 per cent and similar was situation in other global market as well.

The Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued to sell in the cash segment as they sold equities worth Rs 3,484 crore and the Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) too sold equities to the tune of Rs 1,720 crore in the last trading session on Friday.

Commenting on the massive fall in the stock market today, Manish Jain, Chief Strategy Officer & Director, Mirae Asset Capital Markets said "Uncertainty is the key word here. Don't assume that you know…if we don't know we don't know... So we don't know what comes next and in which area from the US administration (as of now). Currently we are living in an uncertain world, hence traditional technical and fundamental parameters may not be the right model to look at current times unless the word uncertainty is removed from the investors mind.

"Am I comfortable with the valuations at these levels; the answer is YES. Would I take a bet right now, the answer is NO as the uncertainty is really very high. My systematic investment would continue but the lump sum investment would wait. I will get better opportunities in this volatile time," he added.

In the 30-share BSE Sensex, share prices of 29 companies closed in red except for one company that is Hindustan Unilever. All sectors were hit by the negative sentiments today.

Rahul demands caste census, abrogation of 50 percent reservation limit

Patna, April 7 (UNI) : Top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday demanded for national-level caste census and abrogation of the fifty percent upper limit of reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes(STs), Backwards and other deprived in government services.

Gandhi, while addressing a conference on " save the constitution " here, said that participation of people belonging to SCs, STs, Extremely Backward Classes(EBCs), Backward Classes(BCs), and other deprived classes in top private companies was negligible even though they were not visible in the list of beneficiaries of loans being given by banks for launching their ventures, he pointed out.

" All wealth of the country is in pockets of top ten to fifteen billionaire and corporate houses and none of them is from SCs, STs, EBCs, Backward Classes(BCs) and other deprived ", Congress leader pointed out and said that government of his party in Telangana had conducted caste census and these startling realities came to fore in its report.

Caste census was like a social X-ray and it did not create any trouble in the society as being advocated by those opposing it, he pointed out.

If X-ray was done to find out any ailment, but it did not harm the body at all, and the same was the case of social social X-ray with society, he stated while proving his point for caste census without creating any trouble.

Take coordinated action to root out drug trafficking : Minister

Sangli, April 7 (UNI) : District Guardian Minister, Chandrakant Patil, on Monday instructed all the departments concerned to take coordinated action regularly to root out the drug traffickers and make the district drug free.

Addressing seventh meeting of the Narcotics Task Force held at the Zilla Parishad office here, he said that due to continuous action by the law enforcement and public awareness campaign over last two months, the incidents of drugs-related crimes in the district have been curbed to an extent.

He directed all agencies to make efforts to make the Sangli district drug free.

Speaking at a joint

(Contd on page 3)

Under PM's leadership, significant progress achieved in tackling terrorism: HM, Amit Shah

Jammu, April 7 (UNI) : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, significant progress has been achieved in tackling terrorism and ending separatist ideology.

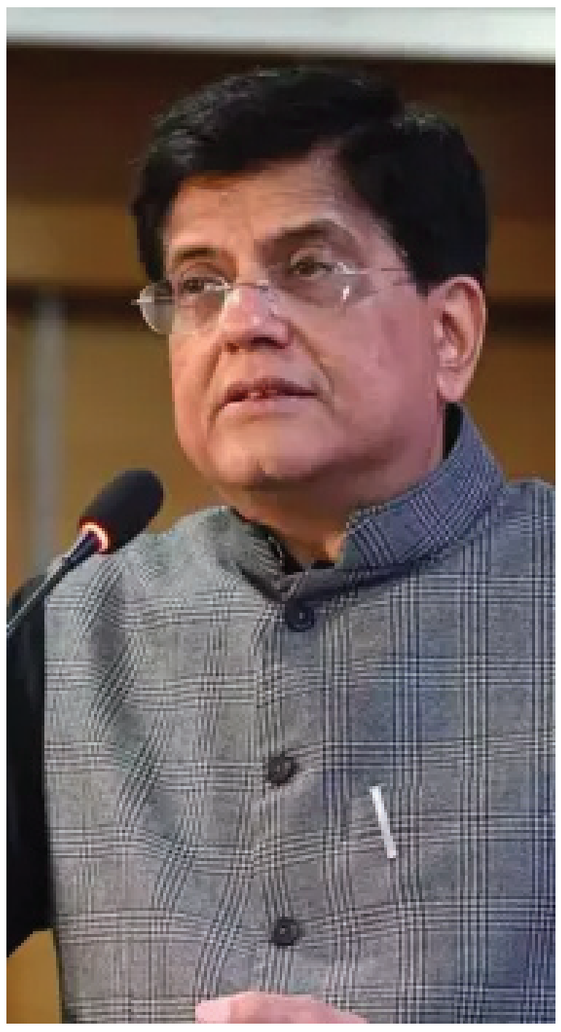
"Our mission is still not accomplished because terrorism has been curbed, but it has not been eliminated," Shah said after meeting the families of martyred policemen of Jammu and Kashmir here.

He also handed over appointment letters to nine nominees on compassionate grounds and paid tribute to the martyred police personnel and expressed gratitude to their families.

Addressing the families of the martyred police personnel, Shah said that for more than three and a half decades, Jammu and Kashmir has suffered the devastating effects of terrorism.He said, "We are proud of the sacrifice of our brave policemen who laid down their lives to protect our country, our homes and our future."

The Home Minister said entire India is proud of the brave policemen who sacrificed their lives to protect the country.

The Home Minister urged the J&K Government to take positive steps for the compassionate appointment of 12-year-old Yuvraj Singh, son of martyr SGCT Jaswant Singh, upon attaining adulthood (18 years of age).



India eager to work with countries following fair trade practices: Piyush Goyal

Amid escalating global tariff war following US President Donald Trump's announcement of "reciprocal tariff" on its trade partners including India, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said India was looking forward to working with countries which follow fair trade practices and offer equal opportunities to business. "We are a country that believes that bilaterally we can work together with countries which have fair trade practices," Goyal said at India Global Forum.

(See on page 2)

Australian opposition abandons election promise to ban ....

Australia's opposition party has abandoned its plan to end work-from-home arrangements for public servants and cut 41,000 bureaucracy jobs, in a major policy reversal ahead of the general elections. Peter Dutton, leader of the opposition Coalition, announced the policy shift on Monday,

(See on page 5)

Kalinga Super Cup 2025 fixtures...

The fixtures for the Kalinga Super Cup 2025 were announced on Monday.The tournament, which will be played in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from April 20 to May 3, will see participation from 16 clubs (13 from the Indian Super League and three from the I-League), in a single-elimination knock-out format.All matches will take place at the Kalinga Stadium.

(See on page 7)

Fiji's Health Minister Lalabalav calls on EAM Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met with visiting Fijian Health Minister Ratu Atonio Rabici Lalabalav and discussed the ongoing bilateral health and medical cooperation.In a post, the EAM said:"Pleased to meet @MOHFiji Minister Dr. Ratu Atonio Rabici Lalabalavu this morning.

(See on page 8)

Rahul participates in "pad yatra" of Cong in Bihar

Patna, April 7 (UNI) : Top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday participated in "Palayan Roko Naukari Do" pad yatra (March) in Begusarai to highlight the "failures" of Nitish Kumar government in providing jobs to youths of Bihar and checking migration to other states in search of their livelihood.Gandhi soon after his arrival at Patna airport from New Delhi left for Begusarai for participating in "Palayan Roko Naukari Do".He participated in Pad Yatra in Begusarai where thousands of Congress workers, mostly youths and senior party leaders, accompanied him.

A day before participating in Pad Yatra, Gandhi in a video message had exhorted youths to participate in Pad Yatra in large numbers. He had asked them to be part of Pad Yatra, wearing white T shirts.Senior Congress leaders including Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee(BPCC) Rajesh Ram, former BPCC Madan Mohan Jha and leaders of youth wing of the party participated in the Pad Yatra. Gandhi is also scheduled to participate in two programmes in Patna during the day.

Pad Yatra was taken out from Bhitiharwa under the leadership of firebrand Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar. Pad Yatra will culminate in Patna on April 11. Congress is trying to connect itself with youths of Bihar for their support in state assembly elections to be held in October-November this year. Issues relating to Jobs for youths and their migration to other states for livelihood, were being raised vigorously in Bihar in election year.

In this image posted by @INCIndia via X, Congress leader and LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi during the 'Palayan Roko Naukri Do Yatra', in Begusarai on Monday.

Mamata assures she'll give back jobs to eligible candidates

Kolkata, April 7 (UNI) : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday assured that none of the eligible candidates would lose their jobs following the Supreme Court verdict that scrapped the appointments of nearly 26,000 teaching and non-teaching staff in government-run and aided schools.

Addressing a gathering of affected teachers at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Banerjee said the state government would provide alternative arrangements for eligible candidates within a specified timeframe.

"We will seek clarification from the court — what will those who are currently working do? Who will run the schools? No one, neither you nor I, has the right to let someone die of hunger," said the Chief Minister.

Banerjee said if the jobs are not retained, it is the government's responsibility to provide employment to those who are eligible.

"It is also the government's duty to ensure that these qualified teachers do not lose their jobs. We will take all necessary alternative steps — and make arrangements so that those who may not retain their current positions do not end up jobless. There will be no break in employment," she said.The Chief Minister had announced the Netaji In door Stadium meeting on April 3, shortly after the country's apex court invalidated the recruitment process, labelling it "vitiated."

Banerjee had then affirmed the state's commitment to exploring all legal avenues, including seeking a modification of the judgment, to protect the interests of the affected.

"While we are bound by the ruling of the Supreme Court, we are taking proactive steps to ensure the situation is handled with utmost care and fairness. We will explore all possible legal avenues, including seeking modifications of the judgment and other relief to provide justice to those who have been affected," the Chief Minister told the gathering at the stadium.

Raising her voice against the SC order, Banerjee said, "Do not think that we have accepted this [decision]. Our heart is also aching because of your (the affected teachers) grief.

It is because of this, they might put me in jail for saying this, but I don't care. We are supposed to stand by their (the affected teachers) side. We cannot deny the responsibility to restore their dignity and respect that they deserve," she said.

Taking a dig at the opposition and alleging a "larger conspiracy" to break the state's education system, the Chief Minister said, "The Supreme Court didn't cancel NEET (the all India medical entrance examination) and here with a single scratch of a pen they cancelled the entire selection process.

Govt hikes excise duty on diesel, petrol; No impact on retail prices

New Delhi, April 7 (UNI) : The government on Monday hiked excise duty by Rs 2 each on diesel and petrol but it will have no impact on retail prices for consumers.

The increase in excise duty was announced even as global crude prices remained in downward spiral touching $60 a barrel.

"PSU Oil Marketing Companies have informed that there will no increase in retail prices of petrol and diesel, subsequent to the increase effected in Excise Duty Rates today," Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said in a post on social media "X".

The excise duty has been hiked in case of Petrol to Rs 13 a litre and Diesel Rs 10 a litre, according to an official notification by the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, dated April 7, 2025.

Annual average retail selling prices (RSP) of petrol and diesel have significantly risen over the past ten years.

As per official data, average RSP of petrol and diesel in Delhi in 2024-25 (till January 30, 2025) stood at Rs 94.73 and Rs 87.63 respectively, significantly higher from 61.59 and Rs 47.01 in 2015-16.

The recent decline in global crude price could be attributed to ongoing tariff war and mounting pressure on some of the major economies.The Opposition Congress hit at the government saying that the price of crude oil has fallen to its lowest level in the last four years but consumers have been deprived of any relief.

India eager to work with countries following fair trade practices: Piyush Goyal

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : Amid escalating global tariff war following US President Donald Trump's announcement of "reciprocal tariff" on its trade partners including India, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said India was looking forward to working with countries which follow fair trade practices and offer equal opportunities to business.

"We are a country that believes that bilaterally we can work together with countries which have fair trade practices," Goyal said at India Global Forum.

He further said that Indian industry is very competent and can beat any competition in the world if everybody sticks to the rules of the game.

"I have no hesitation in saying that bilaterally we have a lot of elbow room in working with developed countries and countries where we find equal opportunities to do business," the Minister said.Goyal also took a swipe at the Congress-led UPA government for bulging trade deficit with China.Speaking to reporters, the Minister said that when Atal Bihari Vajpayee laid down the office in 2004, the India-China trade deficit was at a certain level, and in the 10 years of the UPA government it surged.

"We wonder what that MoU that was signed by Mr Rahul Gandhi in China with the Communist Party of China, after which tariffs were brought down very significantly on products which China massively dumped into India, which killed many of our Indian manufacturing ecosystem and made us dependent on China. The country is still today suffering from that 10 years of mismanagement of the economy," he said.

Mob Burns Down BJP Minority Morcha President's House

Imphal, April 7 (Waari Singbul Network): Tensions erupted in Manipur's Thoubal district late Sunday night as an angry mob vandalized and set ablaze the residence of Md Asker Ali, the president of the BJP Minority Morcha in Manipur, over his public support for the recently passed Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025. The violent incident, which took place around 9 PM in Lilong Sambru Makhong, a Muslim-majority area, has underscored the deep discontent among the state's Muslim community following the bill's passage in the Indian Parliament last week.

According to police reports, a crowd estimated at 7,000 to 8,000 individuals, armed with sticks, stones, and lathis, stormed Ali's home, first ransacking the property before setting it on fire. Security forces rushed to the scene, firing several rounds into the air to disperse the mob and bring the situation under control. No casualties were reported, but the house suffered extensive damage. The attack came hours after widespread protests swept through the Imphal Valley, with over 5,000 people rallying against the bill in Lilong and clashing with security personnel in areas like Irong Chesaba.

The unrest was triggered by a social media post Ali made on Saturday, in which he expressed support for the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, stating, "Do not do politics on Waqf Amendment Bill. Welcome Bill. We support WAB." The bill, passed by the Lok Sabha on Thursday and the Rajya Sabha in the early hours of Friday after heated debates, aims to reform the management of Waqf properties across India. It has been hailed by the BJP-led government as a step toward transparency and efficiency but has faced fierce opposition from Muslim organizations and political rivals, who argue it encroaches on minority rights and religious autonomy.

Facing a fierce backlash, Ali, a known loyalist of former Chief Minister N Biren Singh, issued a public apology on social media late Sunday night. In a video statement, he said, "My name is Mohmad Asker Ali from Lilong Sambrumakhong. I tender my sincere apology for sharing different videos on my Facebook account and making comments about my support for the passing of the Waqf Amendment Bill in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. I tender my apology to all my Muslim brethren and Meitei Pangal community for hurting their sentiment. I'm further adding that now I don't support the Bill and ask for its repeal immediately." The retraction marked a sharp U-turn from his earlier stance, reflecting the intensity of the public outrage.

"In response to the escalating violence, the Thoubal District Magistrate, A. Subhash Singh, imposed an indefinite curfew across the Lilong Assembly constituency on Monday under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. The order bans gatherings of five or more people and prohibits the carrying of firearms, swords, sticks, stones, or other lethal weapons. The magistrate cited a report from the Superintendent of Police, which highlighted the sensitive nature of the situation and the risk of further disturbances threatening public peace.

Two arrested under NDPS Act, contraband seized in Himachal

Dharamshala, April 7 (UNI) : Two persons were arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act after police recovered 194 grams of charas from their possession at Draman in Himachal Pradesh, police said here on Monday.

Kàngra district superintendent of police Shalini Agnihotri told UNI that police caught two persons identified as Rakesh Kumar, resident of Lehsui Tehsil Churah District Chamba and Nitish Thakur, resident of Padwan Tehsil Paddar District Mandi.

The two were picked up after the police found them moving suspiciously at Draman near HDFC Bank and recovered 194 gras of charas from their possession following a search.

The SSP said both the accused persons were arrested under section 20-61-85 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

The SSP said in this regard, a case had been registered at the Shahpur police station and the investigation was in progress.

WESTERN RAILWAY

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mumbai Central Division, Western Railway
Divisional Railway Manager, Commercial Department, NFR section, Mumbai Central - Mumbai - 400 008.

Work – Display of Advertisement through various NFR media over Mumbai Division.

Auction catalogue No.	Auction Start (All Lots)
MMCT-ADVTM25-3	22-04-25 14:00:00

Sr. No	Lot No.	Location / Area	Days	Close Date & time of e-Auction
1	**MSS-BCT-MMCT-PrKiosk-47-24-1**(Misc-Static-Services - Promotional Kiosk)	E-auction for contract of commercial advertisement through Promotional Kiosk / Product Display at stations/locations from Churchgate to Virar (29 stations) for a period of 3 year	**1096**	22-04-25 14:30:00
2	**MSS-BCT-MRU-MedStn-45-24-1**(Misc-Static-Services-Medical facilities at station)	Providing round the clock Medical Facilities through Emergency Medical Room at Matunga Road Railway Station for a period of 5 years.	**1826**	22-04-25 14:40:00

Auction catalogue No.	Auction Start (All Lots)
MMCT-ADVT-25-3	21-04-25 15:00:00

1	**ADVT- BCT- GMN- OSN- 382-24-1** (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Goregaon (GMN) station on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 15:30:00
2	**ADVT - BCT - DDR- OSN-375-24-1** (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Dadar (DDR) station on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years.	**1096**	21-04-25 15:40:00
3	**ADVT-BCT-BYR-OSN-387-24-1**(Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Bhayander (BYR) station on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 15:50:00
4	**ADVT-BCT- MMCT- OSN- 372-24-1** (Advertising On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Mumbai Central Local station (MMCT) on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years.	**1096**	21-04-25 16:00:00
5	**ADVT-BCT-PL-OSN-374-24-1** (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Lower Parel (PL) station on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 16:10:00
6	**ADVT-BCT-KILE-OSN-383-24-1**(Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Kandivali (KILE) on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 16:20:00
7	**ADVT-BCT-JOS-OSN-380-24-1** (Advertising- On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Jogeshwari (JOS) station on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 16:30:00
8	**ADVT-BCT-NIG-OSN-388-24-1**(Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Naigaon (NIG) station on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 16:40:00
9	**ADVT-BCT-DIC-OSN-385-24-1**(Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Dahisar (DIC) station on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 16:50:00
10	**ADVT-BCT-NSP-OSN-390-24-1**(Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Nalasopara (NSP) station on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 17:00:00
11	**ADVT-BCT-RMAR-OSN-381-24-1**(Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Ram Mandir (RMAR) station on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 17:10:00
12	**ADVT-BCT-BSR-OSN-389-24-1**(Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Vasai Road (BSR) station on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 17:20:00
13	**ADVT-BCT-GTR-OSN-371-24-1**(Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Grant Road (GTR) station, on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 17:30:00
14	**ADVT-BCT-MIRA-OSN-386-24-1**(Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Mira Road (MIRA) station on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 17:40:00
15	**ADVT-BCT-BVI-OSN-384-24-1**(Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Borivali (BVI) station on railings between tracks for a period of 3 years	**1096**	21-04-25 17:50:00

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website **(www.ireps.gov.in).** The lot wise details are available there in under the mentioned catalogue. **0015**

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आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड
IREL (India) Limited
(formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited)
Rare Earths Division, Kochi, Kerala, email :purchase-red@irel.co.in
CIN: U15100MH1950GOI008187
An ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Company

TENDER NOTICE

IREL (India) Limited, Rare Earths Division invites tender for the following item/job description:

Item/job description	Availability of tender in GEM Portal
Tank Level Monitoring system for HPRE and DM water tanks	07.04.2025 14.00 Hrs
Replacement of MSFRP and MS tanks	10.04.2025 14.00 Hrs

For details visit the following websites:
gem.gov.in, www.irel.co.in/tender-information https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp

Any corrigendum / extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only.

Sd/-
Date: 01.04.2025 GM & Head, RED

CBC 48145/12/0001/2526

CENTRAL RAILWAY

MODIFICATION IN WHEEL SET EARTHING EQUIPMENT

Name of Work : Modification work in Wheel Set Earthing Equipment (WSEE) to EDTS 101 under CAI No. ED/CAI/031. **Quantity :** As per Rate Schedule. **Date of Tender Closing/Opening & Time :** Up to 02/05/2025, 12:00 hrs. Tender details & Tender document is available on the website **www.ireps.gov.in** Tenders shall be accepted only in E-tendering format through the website.
E-Tender Notice No. RR/PR/WC/ 1996/2024-25/102 Sai/014

असुरक्षित तथा अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन के पास कार्य करना दंडनीय अपराध है

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of the Asstt. Commissioner 'H/W' Ward, 2nd Hasnabad Lane, Khar (W), Mumbai- 400 052.

No.ACHW/19/GEN/AEM. dt.: 04-04-2025

QUOTATION NOTICE

Sealed quotation invites from the experienced contractors for hiring of 03 No.s 1000CC non AC vehicle for day to day use of A.E.(Maint) H/West Ward.

Blank Quotation Form along with terms and conditions can be purchased from H.C.(Exp.) at the above address from 08.04.2025 to 11.04.2024 at 11.00 am to 5.00 pm on payment of Rs.3630 + 18% GST.

EMD for above services Rs.15000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand only). The EMD is to be paid in cash on or before 11.04.2025.

The Quotation will be accepted upto 15.04.2025 till 1.00 pm and opened on same day at 3.00 p.m.

The Assistant Commissioner, H/West reserves the right to change or cancel any or all quotations without giving any reason.

PRO/56/ADV/2025-26 **Sd/- Asstt. Engg. (Maint). H/West.**

Avoid self medication.

Police personnel use water cannons to disperse Congress workers protesting against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan after his daughter Veena was named by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) in an alleged illegal payment case, in Kochi.

Efforts to double farmers' income with the help of Japanese technology: CM, Fadnavis

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : The government is trying to double the income of farmers with the help of Japanese technology, said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday.

Fadnavis was speaking to reporters after a delegation from the Japanese M2 Labo Institute met him.

He said that the government was bringing Japanese technology to the agricultural sector to help one billion people based on Artificial Intelligence(AI) technology. The Maharashtra government will work with the Japanese M2 Labo organisation on soil revitalization, creating model farms, and greenhouse technology. Farmers will be empowered by reducing malpractices in the marketing chain. Indian farmers will be educated and provided with employment in Japan, said Fadnavis.

The state government is taking various decisions for the development of the agricultural sector. Agriculture is being enriched using modern technology. AI-based technology is being used for the development of agriculture. A policy based on AI as been announced and Chief Minister Fadnavis also appealed to all to work together using Japanese and Maharashtra technology.M2 Labo Japan is Suzuki's agricultural arm and this is the first Suzuki organisation registered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Congress demands stop to ongoing loot by imposing unfair tax on petroleum products

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : The Congress in Maharashtra on Monday demanded that the central government should stop ongoing loot by imposing unfair 'jizia' tax and reduce the price of petrol to Rs 51 and diesel to Rs 41 per litre as prices of crude oil in the global market is continuously falling.

Talking to reporters here, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president Harshvardhan Sapkal explained how the prices of petrol and diesel can be reduced with statistics.

While the price of crude oil in the global market is continuously decreasing, the people of the country are not benefiting from it.

Today, when crude oil is at USD 65 per barrel in the international market, the price of petrol in the country is around Rs 109 and that of diesel is above Rs 93, he pointed.

The BJP government is looting the people by imposing unfair 'jizia' tax on fuel. If the price of crude oil and tax loot are reduced, it is possible to make petrol Rs 51 and diesel Rs 41 per litre, and the government should provide relief to the people, said Sapkal.

Also, the price of domestic gas cylinders has been increased by Rs 50 today, this is a government loot and it should be stopped immediately, he demanded.

Sapkal also demanded that the government should bring out a white paper on this black game of oil.

HC orders SIT probe into accused's custodial death

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : The Bombay High Court on Monday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Mumbai police to probe the custodial death of an accused in the Badlapur sexual assault case.A Bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Neela Gokhale passed an order while allowing the plea moved by the father of the 23-year-old deceased janitor seeking an SIT inquiry into his custodial death while claiming that his son was killed in a fake encounter case.The SIT investigation by a team headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police will be conducted under the supervision of Mumbai Joint Commissioner of Police Lakhmi Gautam, the Court further ordered."A constitutional court cannot ignore the state's failure to fulfill its obligations. Refusal to investigate a crime undermines the rule of law, erodes public faith in justice, and allows perpetrators to go unpunished.

Take coordinated action to root ...

(Contd from page 1)

programme held to review the state government's 100-day action plan and launch of various innovative initiatives of the Zilla Parishad for benefit of people, the Minister expressed satisfaction with development of three portals named Umed, Jatayu and Vardan in collaboration with Walchand College.

He asserted that it is necessary to provide a permanent market for the products made by women, which should be projected using social media and portals and under Umed, self-help groups should create any product that creates the identity of the district, he added.

Various programmes lined up on Ambedkar Jayanti in Maharashtra

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : A host of cultural programmes have been organized on the occasion of the 134th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar at Chaityabhoomi Dadar in Mumbai on April 14 and 15.According to the official media statement issued on Monday, the birth anniversary will be celebrated with great enthusiasm through greeting ceremonies, Bhimgeet, book stalls and special programmes at the Scout Guides Hall.

Sunil Ware, Managing Director of ARTI and Director General of BARTI, has appealed to the citizens to attend various programs by greeting Dr. Ambedkar.

The special week will conclude on April 14 with an equality rally on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti. Also, He has said that the birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar will be celebrated through various programs.

A grand gathering of the Indian Constitution Amrit Mahotsav Week has been organised at the BARTI office in Pune from today to 14 April on the occasion of the birth anniversary.

Various social, educational and health-related activities will be organized during this week. These include blood donation camps, health check-ups, educational and health guidance for students, tributes to Mahatma Phule and Dr. Ambedkar, recitation programs, rare photographs and book exhibitions, the statement added.

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Document No.	Bid No.2025_MCGM_1168069_1
Name of the Organization	Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation
Subject	The work of SITC of the 3KVA ups with battery backup and three year warranty in server rooms at annex building MHO.
Cost of E-Tender (Estimated Cost)	Item Rate Tender
Bid Security Deposit / EMD	Rs. 14,000.00
Secrutiny Fee	Rs.3,894/- (Rs 3,300.00/- + 18% GST)
Date of Issue and sale of tender	08-04-2025 at 09.00 Hrs
Last date & time for sale of tender & Receipt of Bid Security Deposit	19-04-2025 at16.00 Hrs.
Submission of Packet A,B & Packet C (Online)	19-04-2025 at 16.00 Hrs.
Pre-Bid Meeting	Not Applicable
Opening of Packet A	---
Opening of Packet B	21-04-2025 at 16.00 Hrs.
Opening of Packet C	24-04-2025 at 13.00 Hrs.
Address for communication	Office of Executive Engineer (HQ) Municipal Head Office, Old Building, Ground Floor, Mahapalika Marg, Mumbai - 400 001.
Venue for opening of bid	On line in Executive Engineer (HQ)'s office.

This tender document is not transferable. The BMC reserves the right to accept any of the application or reject any or all the application received for above subject without assigning any reason thereof.

PRO/67/ADV/2025-26

Keep the terraces clean, remove odd articles/junk/scrap.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (H.Q.)

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION

TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works.

Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Approximate Cost of the work	Earnest Money	Completion period of the work	Maintenance Period
05-2025-SrDENC	1-Upgradations of way side stations, service building and quarters in colonies JTRD, KVK, ARAG, DLGN in KWV MRJ section under ADEN/PVR 2-Special Track work in view of annual track inspection in KWV-MRJ section under ADEN/PVR in Solapur division	Rs. 4,57,57,002.07	Rs. 37,8,800.00	06 Months	12 Months
Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website.		30.04.2025 upto 15:00 hrs			
Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in		30.04.2025 at 15:30 hrs			

The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisonal Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur

SUN 62 असुरक्षित तथा अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन के पास कार्य करना दंडनीय अपराध है

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Notice No. eT-West-WAT-12-2025, Dt. 03.04.2025

Name of Work: EXECUTION OF BALANCE CIVIL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH HANDING OVER TO OPEN LINE BETWEEN DANTEWARA-KIRANDUL STATIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER-KIRANDUL ON KK-II LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Advertised Value: ₹ 2,35,44,545.48, EMD: ₹2,67,700/-.

(2) Notice No. eT-West-WAT-13-2025, Dt. 03.04.2025

Name of Work: EXECUTION OF LEFT OVER P-WAY WORKS I.E. SHALLOW SCREENING, LIFTING, PACKING, DE-STRESSING, WELDING AND OTHER WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE OF TRACK FOR SAFE AND SMOOTH MOVEMENT OF TRAINS FROM KM: 402.128-414-481 BETWEEN DANTEWARA TO KAMALUR STATIONS UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER-KIRANDUL ON KK-II LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Advertised Value: ₹ 64,54,359.70, EMD: ₹1,29,100/-

(3) Notice No. eT-West-WAT-14-2025, Dt. 03.04.2025

Name of Work: CRUSHING OF CONTRACTOR'S HARD STONE USING MECHANIZED CRUSHER TO 50 MM GAUGE OF 18,000 CUM AS PER CONFIRMING TO RAILWAY SPECIFICATIONS AND TRANSPORTING THE SAME TO NOMINATED LOCATIONS OF CHARAMULAKUSUMI DEPOT, UNLOADING AND STACKING ON LEVEL GROUND INCLUDING DRESSING OF GROUND AND LOADING THE SAME INTO ANY TYPE OF RAILWAY WAGONS, WITH CONTRACTOR'S OWN LOADING ARRANGEMENTS AT CHARAMULAKUSUMI DEPOT UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER-JAGDALPUR ON KK-II LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Advertised Value: ₹ 2,86,77,600/-, EMD: ₹2,93,400/-

(4) Notice No. eT-West-WAT-15-2025, Dt. 03.04.2025

Name of Work: WATER RE-CYCLING PLANT (SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT) AT JAGDALPUR RAILWAY STATION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SR. DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (WEST), EAST COAST RAILWAY, WALTAIR DIVISION.

Advertised Value: ₹ 1,03,79,179.85, EMD: ₹2,01,900/-

Completion Period of the work: **12 months** (for sl. no. 1, 2 & 4) & **8 months** (for sl. no. 3).

Tender closing date & time : at **1500 hrs**. of **25.04.2025** (for all tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), Waltair

PR-12/Q/25-26

भिवंडी निजामपूर शहर महानगरपालिका

बांधकाम विभाग, प्र.स.क्रं. १

ई–निवीदा सुचना क्रमांक ०२ सन २०२५/२६

(दुसरा कॉल)

(नागरी स्थानिक स्वराज्य संस्थाच्या परिक्षेत्रात अधिसुचित विशिष्ठ नागरी सेवा व सुविधेची कामे करणे २०२४–२५ अंतर्गत)

भिवंडी निजामपुर शहर महानगरपालिकेच्या बांधकाम विभागामार्फत खालील नमुद कामाचे निविदा फॉर्म दिनांक :– ०८/०४/२०२५ ते दि. :– १७/०४/२०२५ पर्यंत विक्रीस उपलब्ध आहे.

अनु. क्रं.	कामाचे नाव	अंदाजपत्रकिय रक्कम	निविदापत्राची किंमत (रु.)
१.	भिवंडी पूर्व मतदार संघातील भारतरत्न मौलाना अबुल कलाम आझाद रोड चे सुशोभिकरण करणे.	१९,९९,४३२/–	२३६०/–

वरील ऑनलाईन निविदा दि. १७/०४/२०२५ पर्यंत दुपारी ४.०० पर्यंत स्विकारण्यांत येतील. तसेच सदरची निविदा ही दि. २१/०४/२०२५ रोजी संध्या. ४.०१ अथवा कार्यालयीन कामकाजाच्या सोईप्रमाणे निविदा समिती समक्ष उघडण्यांत येईल. अधिक माहिती महानगरपालिकेच्या mahatenders.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावर प्राप्त होऊ शकेल अथवा नविन शासकिय इमारतीमधील ५ मजल्यावरील बांधकाम विभाग कार्यालयाशी संपर्क साधावा.

सही/–
(जमिल पटेल)
शहर अभियंता
भिवंडी निजामपूर शहर महानगरपालिका

AXIS BANK

Important Announcement

We are moving

Axis Bank's branch at Kashimira, Mira Road will move to a new location from 5th June 2025

Current address:

Axis Bank Ltd. Ground Floor, Shop no.2, The Corporate Lounge, Mira Bhayander Road, Kashimira, Mira Road E- 401107

New address:

Shop No.1, Ground Floor, Ramdev Ritu Heights, Vinay Nagar, Kashimira, Mira Road (E), Thane 401107

We look forward to welcoming you.

STANDARD POST

Women own 39.2 pc of all bank accounts in India, highest in rural areas

Women own 39.2 per cent of all bank accounts and contribute to 39.7 per cent of total deposits in India and their participation is highest in rural areas, where they make up 42.2 per cent of account holders, the government data showed .

There is rise in demat account over the years, indicating growing participation in the stock market.

From March 31, 2021, to November 30, 2024, the total number of demat accounts increased from 33.26 million to 143.02 million, marking more than a fourfold rise. Male account holders have consistently outnumbered female account holders, but female participation has also shown a growing trend.

The number of male accounts rose from 26.59 million in 2021 to 115.31 million in 2024, while female accounts increased from 6.67 million to 27.71 million during the same period, according to the publication titled "Women and Men in India 2024: Selected Indicators and Data", released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)."Rising percentage of female-headed proprietary establishments across manufacturing, trade, and other services sectors over the years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 has been observed," according to the data.Over the years, there has been an increase in the number of startups recognised by DPIIT with at least one-woman director, reflecting a positive trend in female entrepreneurship. The total number of such startups rose from 1,943 in 2017 to 17,405 in 2024.

The total number of electors increased from 173.2 million in 1952 to 978 million in 2024, with a notable rise in female voter registration. Female voter turnout varied over the years, reaching 67.2 per cent in 2019 but slightly declining to 65.8 per cent in 2024. The gender gap in voting has narrowed, with female turnout surpassing male turnout in 2024.The primary and higher secondary levels have consistently high gender parity index (GPI), indicating strong female enrolment. Upper primary and elementary levels saw fluctuations but remained close to parity."The labour force participation rate (LPFR) in usual status for ages 15 years and above has improved from 49.8 per cent (2017-18) to 60.1 per cent (2023-24)," showed the data.

The new Pamban Bridge to Rameswaram brings technology and tradition together: PM Modi

(Standard Post Bureau)

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various rail and road projects worth over Rs 8,300 crore in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu today. Earlier, he inaugurated the new Pamban Rail Bridge - India's first vertical lift sea bridge and flagged off a train and a ship from the road bridge and witnessed the operation of the bridge. He also performed darshan and pooja at Ramanathaswamy temple at Rameswaram.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Shri Modi said that today marks the auspicious occasion of Shri Ram Navami. He said that earlier today, the divine rays of the sun adorned Ram Lalla with a grand tilak at the magnificent Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. "Lord Shri Ram's life and the inspiration of good governance from his reign serve as a significant foundation for nation-building", he said. Adding that Tamil Nadu's Sangam-era literature also mentions Lord Shri Ram, he extended heartfelt greetings to all citizens on the occasion of Shri Ram Navami from the sacred land of Rameshwaram.

"I feel blessed to have prayed at the Ramanathaswamy temple today", said Shri Modi, adding that on this special day, he had the opportunity to hand over development projects worth ?8,300 crore. He stressed that these rail and road projects will significantly boost connectivity in Tamil Nadu. He congratulated the people in Tamil Nadu for these transformative initiatives.

Noting that Rameswaram is the land of Bharat Ratna Dr. Kalam, whose life demonstrated how science and spirituality complement each other, the Prime Minister said, "the new Pamban bridge to Rameswaram symbolizes the union of technology and tradition". He emphasized that a town thousands of years old is now connected by a 21st-century engineering marvel. He expressed gratitude to the engineers and workers for their dedication and hard work. Shri Modi highlighted that this bridge is India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge, allowing big ships to sail underneath while enabling faster train travel. He mentioned flagging off a new train service and a ship earlier today and congratulated the people of Tamil Nadu for this remarkable project.

Underlining that the demand for this bridge had persisted for many decades, Shri Modi said that, with the blessings of the people, the privilege of completing this work was achieved. He emphasized that the Pamban bridge supports both Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Travel, positively impacting the lives of lakhs of people. The Prime Minister underscored that the new train service will enhance connectivity from Rameswaram to Chennai and other parts of the country. He added that this development will benefit trade and tourism in Tamil Nadu, while also creating new job and business opportunities for the youth.

"In the past 10 years, India has doubled the size of its economy", mentioned Shri Modi, highlighting that one of the key reasons for this rapid growth is the country's remarkable modern infrastructure. He stressed that in the last decade, the budget for infrastructure such as railways, roads, airports, ports, electricity, water, and gas pipelines has increased nearly sixfold. "Today, mega projects are progressing rapidly across the country", he exclaimed pointing out that in the North, the Chenab Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir, one of the world's tallest rail bridges, has been constructed. He added that in the West, Mumbai is now home to the country's longest sea bridge, the Atal Setu. He further added that in the East, the Bogibeel Bridge in Assam stands as a testament to progress, while in the South, the Pamban Bridge, one of the world's few vertical lift bridges, has been completed. The Prime Minister further highlighted that the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors are nearing completion. He emphasized that work is progressing rapidly on the country's first bullet train, while modern trains like Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat, and Namo Bharat are making the rail network more advanced.

Stressing that when every region of India connects with one another, the path to becoming a developed nation strengthens, Shri Modi said that this has been the case in every developed nation and region across the world. He emphasized that as every state in India connects, the full potential of the country is being realized. He noted that this connectivity is benefiting every region of the nation, including Tamil Nadu."Tamil Nadu plays a significant role in India's journey toward becoming a developed nation", exclaimed the Prime Minister, underscoring that as Tamil Nadu's potential grows, India's growth will accelerate further. He emphasized that over the past decade, the central government has allocated three times more funds for Tamil Nadu's development compared to the period before 2014. He noted that this increased funding has greatly contributed to Tamil Nadu's economic and industrial growth.

Underlining that infrastructure development in Tamil Nadu is a priority for the Government of India, Shri Modi highlighted that over the past decade, Tamil Nadu's railway budget has increased more than sevenfold. He added that before 2014, rail projects in Tamil Nadu received only ?900 crore annually, while this year, the railway budget for Tamil Nadu exceeds ?6,000 crore. He further highlighted that the Government of India is modernizing 77 railway stations in the state, including the Rameswaram station.

Pointing out the significant progress that has been made in the development of rural roads and highways over the last ten years, the Prime Minister highlighted that since 2014, with the support of the central government, 4,000 kilometers of roads have been constructed in Tamil Nadu, adding that the elevated corridor connecting Chennai Port will be another example of remarkable infrastructure. He further mentioned that today, foundation stones were laid and inaugurations were conducted for road projects worth approximately ?8,000 crore. He said that these projects will enhance connectivity across various districts of Tamil Nadu and also improve links with Andhra Pradesh.

The Prime Minister noted that modern public transport systems like the Chennai Metro are enhancing ease of travel in Tamil Nadu, emphasising that extensive infrastructure development leads to the creation of new jobs across various sectors.

Underscoring the record investments in social infrastructure in India during the last decade, Shri Modi expressed happiness that crores of families in Tamil Nadu have benefited from these initiatives. He highlighted that in the last 10 years, more than 4 crore pucca houses have been provided to poor families across the country, including over 12 lakh pucca houses built in Tamil Nadu under the PM Awas Yojana.

200-Year-Old St. James' Church in Thane Undergoes Restoration

(Standard Post Bureau)

Thane : The historic St. James' Church (CNI) in Thane, a 200-year-old landmark, is undergoing a significant restoration effort to preserve its structural integrity and heritage. As the old plaster is being removed, the original stonework of the church has been revealed, offering a glimpse into its rich past."

Built in the early 19th century, the church has stood the test of time but required urgent restoration to ensure its longevity. Over the years, weathering and external factors had damaged the structure, necessitating careful conservation efforts. The current restoration work involves not only exposing the original stone masonry but also applying new plaster to protect the building for the future."

"The old plaster had deteriorated, leading to moisture seepage and structural vulnerabilities. The new plastering work is designed to provide better protection while maintaining the historical character of the church," said a representative from the restoration team.

The restoration is being carried out in phases, covering the roof, bell tower, external façade, and interiors. With scaffolding surrounding the structure, skilled workers are carefully reinforcing the walls while ensuring that the church retains its original architectural charm.Local heritage enthusiasts and the church community have welcomed the restoration, recognizing the importance of preserving one of Thane's oldest churches. The project has received support from various quarters, and contributions are being sought to complete the work successfully.

"Once fully restored, St. James' Church will continue to serve as both a place of worship and a historical landmark, showcasing Thane's colonial-era architecture for future generations.

For those interested in supporting the restoration, the church committee encourages community participation and financial contributions.

Yoga Expert Dr. Asem Jayanti Devi Honored with Prestigious YOGA LAKSHMI PURASKARA Award

(Standard Post Bureau)

Renowned yoga expert Dr. Asem Jayanti Devi has been awarded the highly prestigious YOGA LAKSHMI PURASKARA at the YOGA SHAKTI SANGAMA 2025 event hosted at S-VYASA Yoga University in Bengaluru.

Dr. Jayanti, former Incharge of the Yoga Department at Maharshi Dayananda Saraswati University, Ajmer, was recognized for her exceptional contributions to yoga education and her relentless efforts in empowering youth through the transformative power of yoga.

Organized by the Indian Yoga Association (IYA), the award celebrates outstanding achievements in the field of yoga. With over 20 years of experience, Dr. Jayanti has become a respected authority on yoga practice and philosophy, leaving a strong impact on both academic and grassroots levels.

"This year's YOGA SHAKTI SANGAMA 2025, held alongside the International Conference on "Holistic Approach of Yoga for Women Empowerment," saw participation from thousands of yoga professionals, enthusiasts, and scholars from all corners of the country."

Dr. Jayanti's commitment to youth empowerment and holistic wellness through yoga has earned her accolades across India, and this award further cements her legacy in the field.

The IYA, known for promoting the global reach and scientific value of yoga, considers the YOGA LAKSHMI PURASKARA as one of its top honors—making this recognition a major milestone in Dr. Jayanti's inspiring journey.

3 killed in Israeli drone strikes on South Lebanon

Beirut, April 7 (UNI) : Three people were killed on Monday in two Israeli drone strikes on southern Lebanon, according to Lebanese sources.

In one strike targeting the Dardara road, "two Syrian nationals riding a motorcycle were killed, and a Lebanese citizen was injured," Lebanon's official National News Agency reported.

A Lebanese security source told Xinhua that two air-to-ground missiles were fired at a civilian Rapid-type vehicle and a motorcycle on the road.

The Syrian nationals were identified as Shawakh Mohammad Al-Taha and Hammoud Khalaf Al-Qash, and the Lebanese, critically injured, was identified as Alaa Nasser, the source said.

Another Israeli drone strike launched earlier in the day on the village of Taybeh killed one person, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

Since Nov. 27, 2024, a ceasefire agreement between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel has been in effect, putting an end to more than a year of hostilities triggered by the war in Gaza.

Despite the agreement, the Israeli military occasionally carries out strikes in Lebanon, claiming that the operations target Hezbollah "threats."

Syrian leader appoints new central bank governor

Damascus, April 7 (UNI) : Syria's leader Ahmed al-Sharaa on Monday appointed Abdelkader Husrieh as the country's new central bank governor, according to a decree published by state media.

The appointment was followed by an official swearing-in ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Damascus, marking the beginning of Husrieh's tenure at the helm of the war-torn nation's monetary institution.Husrieh, a Syrian economist with a background in public policy and reform, is best known for his work in financial consultation and international economic affairs.Husrieh holds a PhD in finance from Britain's Durham University, an executive MBA and bachelor's degree in business administration from the American University of Beirut, and a law degree from Damascus University. In 2012, Husrieh was elected chair of the Finance Commission of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

His appointment comes amid ongoing economic reforms under the new transitional government, which has pledged to stabilise the Syrian currency and restore confidence in state institutions following more than a decade of conflict and financial turmoil.

Kazakhstan, UK discuss energy and water cooperation in Asia

Almaty, April 7 (UNI) : Kazakh Energy Minister Yerlan Akkenzhenov met with British Ambassador to Kazakhstan Kathy Leach on Monday to discuss key areas of bilateral cooperation and shared priorities in the energy sector, according to the Kazakh government's press service.

During the meeting, the parties focused on issues related to the development of energy infrastructure and a sustainable energy transition in line with global climate goals. Special attention was given to the reliability of energy resource supplies and regional cooperation.Akkenzhenov noted that Kazakhstan and the UK have strong potential for joint work in green technologies and investments, which would benefit both nations.

The two sides further discussed the importance of regional cooperation on water and energy programs to support sustainable development in Central Asia.

General strike staged across West Bank against Israeli assaults on Gaza

Ramallah/Gaza, April 7 (UNI) : A general strike took place across the West Bank on Monday against ongoing Israeli assaults on the Gaza Strip.

Shops, markets, schools, universities, banks, and public offices have been closed, and transportation lines have been stopped due to the strike called by Palestinian factions.

In the central West Bank city of Ramallah, hundreds of Palestinians took to the streets to condemn the Israeli "crimes" in Gaza, waving the Palestinian flag and chanting slogans demanding an end to the Israeli assaults as they marched through the streets of the city center.The strike aims to condemn the Israeli assaults on the Palestinian enclave, which have "killed and destroyed Gaza, with American complicity and support," and to urge the international community to fulfill its obligations, Issam Bakr, coordinator of the Palestinian National and Islamic Forces in Ramallah, told Xinhua.

Protests against Israel have also been staged outside the West Bank by those in solidarity with the Palestinians, Bakr said. According to the Palestinian official news agency WAFA, such protests were organized in Tunisia, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

According to Gaza-based health authorities, 56 people were killed and 137 others injured in the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of fatalities and injuries to 1,391 and 3,434, respectively, since Israel ended the January ceasefire and resumed strikes across Gaza on March 18.The overall death toll in Gaza has reached 50,752, with 115,475 others injured since the very beginning of the Israeli military operations in the enclave on Oct. 7, 2023, the health authorities reported.

In addition, the Israeli strikes further strained Gaza's health system. According to a statement by Gaza health authorities on Monday, 37 percent of medicines and 59 percent of medical supplies are out of stock in the strip.

6 kids in ICU as E. coli infection spreads in Latvia

Riga, April 7 (UNI) : An outbreak of E. coli in Latvia has affected dozens, mostly children, with six currently in intensive care at the Children's Clinical University Hospital, local media reported Monday.

Since the outbreak began, 30 children have been hospitalised at the Children's Clinical University Hospital, 14 of whom have since recovered and been discharged, LETA news agency said, quoting the hospital representatives.In total, 57 E. coli cases have been confirmed in the country, including seven in adults.

The Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) said it is investigating multiple possible sources of the outbreak. Epidemiologists are working closely with affected schools, preschools, and general practitioners monitoring severe intestinal symptoms.

Early findings suggest at least two sources of infection. The Health Ministry reported that sequencing of patient samples shows multiple strains of the bacteria from different origins.The CDC is also coordinating with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to guide containment measures.

Australian opposition abandons election promise to ban work from home

Canberra, April 7 (UNI) : Australia's opposition party has abandoned its plan to end work-from-home arrangements for public servants and cut 41,000 bureaucracy jobs, in a major policy reversal ahead of the general elections.

Peter Dutton, leader of the opposition Coalition, announced the policy shift on Monday, admitting the party "made a mistake" and "got it wrong" with the plan that had proved unpopular with voters.

He said that a Coalition government will not change current flexible working arrangements, including work-from-home policies, for federal public servants.

Instead of cutting 41,000 public service jobs to reduce government spending, Dutton said that a Coalition government would reduce the public service workforce over five years through hiring freezes and not always replacing workers who retire or resign.

The governing Labor Party, led by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, had repeatedly described Dutton's plan to cut the public service workforce as "Trumpian" and warned it could leave welfare recipients and veterans waiting several months for payments to be processed.

Albanese said on Monday that the ability to work from home was beneficial for Australian families.

"Many parents work full-time, while making time for family. And with cost-of-living pressures, many families can't afford it any other way," he said.

"Peter Dutton and the Coalition want to end that flexibility, and it would have real consequences for Australian families."

Dutton's move to abandon the policy came after a major opinion poll published on Sunday night found that Labor is on track to win a second term in power at the May 3 election.According to the Newspoll survey published by News Corp Australia newspapers, Labor now leads the Coalition 52-48 on a two-party preferred basis.

If neither Labor nor the Coalition wins 76 seats in their own right at the election -- an eventuality known as a 'hung parliament' -- both parties will enter negotiations with minor parties and independents for their support to form a minority government.

Bangladesh Election Commission prepares draft of new electoral code of conduct

Dhaka, April 7 (UNI) : The Bangladesh Election Commission has prepared the draft of the electoral code of conduct, to ensure a level playing field for future elections. However, the draft was prepared without consultation with any political parties.

The draft committee conducted a meeting in the EC building's capital in Agargaon, after which the Election Commissioner Md Anwarul Islam Sarkar spoke to the press, apprising them of the developments.

"We will sit with various stakeholders on this later. The situation will guide us on what needs to be done," he said when asked whether political parties' opinions were taken regarding the election code of conduct, according to The Daily Star.The Election Commissioner added "The draft of the code of conduct is nearly finalised. Today's meeting was held to prepare the draft. We had a previous meeting on this as well. Once the draft is finalised, we will place it before the commission. If the commission approves, it will be published."

When asked about any significant changes made in the election code of conduct, EC Islam said "We have incorporated almost all the proposals of the Election Reform Commission into the draft."

Refraining from sharing any more details due to the draft having not yet been finalised, he said that the new guidelines were aimed at keeping election spending to a minimum while allowing campaigns to be conducted in an orderly manner.

"We want a code of conduct that reflects an attitude where all candidates can equally engage in campaigning, ensuring a level playing field," he added.

According to The Business Standard BD, the proposed draft also includes provisions to keep election campaigns on social media platforms under regulation.

It will contain strict punitive measures to ensure adherence to the code of conduct.

The current situation of elections in Bangladesh under Chief Advisor Mohammed Yunus' interim government is uncertain, as he had said that the elections could take place by either late 2025, or early 2026, there has been no clear plan on the issue.

The election issue and the lack of any plan has led to Yunus receiving a lot of backlash from his political allies, such as the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami-Bangladesh.

Yemen's Houthis say attacked military target in Tel Aviv, 2 U.S. warships in Red Sea

Sanaa, April 7 (UNI) : Yemen's Houthi group said on Monday it has launched a drone attack on a "military target" in Israel's Tel Aviv and fired cruise missiles at two U.S. warships in the Red Sea.

"We carried out an operation against a military target in Tel Aviv, using a Jaffa drone," Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in a televised statement aired by Houthi-run al-Masirah TV.

"Our naval and air forces also conducted a joint military operation targeting two U.S. destroyers in the Red Sea with several cruise missiles and drones," Sarea added.

He noted that the strikes on U.S. warships were "in response to the ongoing U.S. aggression and crimes against Yemeni people," referring to the latest U.S. airstrikes on a house in Sanaa Sunday night, which killed at least four people and wounded over 20 others, including 11 women and children.

Sarea stressed that the U.S. strikes would not deter the group from supporting the Palestinian people, vowing its operations would not cease until Israeli "aggression" against the Gaza Strip stops and the siege on it is lifted.

Tensions have escalated between the Houthi group and the United States since March 15, when the U.S. military resumed airstrikes on Houthi targets to prevent the group from attacking naval and commercial vessels in the Red Sea.

The Houthis repeatedly claim that their attacks are in retaliation for U.S. airstrikes on Yemen and aim to pressure the U.S.-backed Israel to stop its offensive on Gaza and allow aid into the besieged Palestinian enclave.

Three confirmed dead in Sunday's helicopter crash in Japan

Tokyo, April 7 (UNI) : Three people have been confirmed dead after a medical transport helicopter crashed off Nagasaki Prefecture in southwestern Japan on Sunday, local media reported.

The death of an 86-year-old female patient, one of six people on board, was confirmed on the day of the incident, while a 68-year-old male family member accompanying her and a 34-year-old male doctor were pronounced dead on Monday, Kyodo News reported, citing the coast guard.The emergency medical service helicopter took off from Tsushima Airport in Nagasaki Prefecture at 1.30 p.m. local time Sunday to transport a patient to a hospital in Fukuoka Prefecture. It was scheduled to arrive at 2.15 p.m. local time, but disappeared.

At about 5.05 p.m. local time, a coast guard boat found the missing helicopter floating upside down and rescued three people alive and conscious. The other three passengers were also retrieved but later confirmed dead, the report said.The helicopter is believed to have struck trouble when its tracker stopped moving around 1.43 p.m. local time, the report added.Local authorities took measures to prevent the helicopter from sinking and monitored it while working to determine the cause of the accident.

'At least 25 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza'

Gaza, April 7 (UNI) : At least 25 Palestinians were killed on Monday in Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip, local Civil Defence said.Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson for the Civil Defence in Gaza, said two Palestinians, including a journalist, were killed and nine other journalists injured when an Israeli airstrike targeted a press tent near the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, southern Gaza.

According to Basal, among the injured was journalist Hassan Aslih, who was in critical condition. In an earlier press statement, the Israeli army identified Aslih as a Hamas member who posed as a journalist, accusing him of participating in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack and disseminating footage of the assault on social media.

In response, Hamas condemned the strike in a statement, saying it aimed to "silence the media and obscure the reality on the ground in Gaza."

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Foreign Ministry denounced the attack as part of "a comprehensive war against the Palestinian people" and an effort to prevent the documentation of "ongoing crimes and violations against civilians".

Also on Monday, five people were killed in an Israeli drone strike on a food stall west of Khan Younis, according to the Civil Defence.

In a separate strike in Gaza City, one Palestinian was killed and several others injured when a vehicle was targeted on Al-Wahda Street, Basal said, adding that another 14 people were killed in Israeli air and artillery strikes on gatherings in the city and areas in northern Gaza.

Additionally, Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza, reported three deaths in an Israeli airstrike on a residential home.

The Israeli army has not commented on these incidents yet.

According to Gaza-based health authorities, 56 people were killed and 137 others injured in the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of fatalities and injuries to 1,391 and 3,434, respectively, since Israel ended the January ceasefire and resumed strikes across Gaza on March 18.

The overall death toll in Gaza has reached 50,752, with 115,475 others injured since the very beginning of the Israeli military operations in the enclave on Oct. 7, 2023, the health authorities reported.

Appoints new ambassador to China

Kiev, April 7 (UNI) : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has signed a decree to appoint Oleksandr Nechytailo as Ukraine's new ambassador to China, the presidential press service reported Monday.Nechytailo, 51, a veteran diplomat, will replace Pavlo Riabikin, who was appointed as Ukraine's ambassador to China in April 2023.

Iran seeks to negotiate only if U.S. proves it: President

Tehran, April 7 (UNI) : Iran seeks to negotiate only if the United States stops being "dishonorable" and proves that it also wants to negotiate, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said here recently.

Commenting on the possibility of indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States on the nuclear issue, Pezeshkian said Sunday night that Iran believes in negotiations, but not with one that is as "dishonorable" as the United States, which has placed Iran "under all-out pressure" and is threatening Iran every day, according to a statement published by Pezeshkian's office on Monday.

"We will negotiate with the entire world and do not want to fight with anybody. However, we will not acquiesce to being dishonored and will not negotiate at any price," he said. "They (the United States) should also prove they want to negotiate."

Iran does not want to make "unpeaceful" uses of its nuclear capabilities, he noted.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said here Monday that Iran is ready for any event to unfold and is militarily capable enough to stand against any "aggression or attack."

Answering a question about Iran's scenarios facing a potential U.S. attack, Baghaei said Iran will definitely give a "decisive, immediate, and all-out response" if threats against Iran were carried out.

He also called on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to fulfill its responsibilities regarding the constant threats uttered by the United States and Israel against Iran's "peaceful" nuclear facilities.The issue will be discussed during an upcoming visit by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi to Tehran, he added.

Relationships

4 ways to bring order to your Work life

To achieve professional success, you need to be organized. Now, don't lose heart. Being organized is not that difficult if you bring mindfulness to your working life. Here are four simple ways to bring order to your work life

Keep your digital life organized:

In the highly technological world we are living in, it's essential to bring order to your digital life. If you have a pile of e-mails, then dedicating some of your time to sort these bad boys out on a daily basis, just like your emails, won't hurt. Keeping your digital life organized means you don't unnecessarily browse the web for endless hours. Don't spend too much of time on social networking sites. In the end, all these virtual activities are unproductive and don't add anything to your working life.

Clutter free work desk:

A clutter free work desk goes a long way in making your work life organized. So, make sure that your work desk doesn't look like an earthquake ravaged zone. Clear papers/ files off your desk. Throw away things which are not needed. Keep a to-do list on your desk to give you a sense of purpose on a daily basis.

Prioritize:

Get it clear in your mind. What's more important? Prioritizing will help you focus on the most important thing and postpone things which don't garner immediate attention.

Focus:

You can't have an organized work life if you don't focus. Don't leave any task half way. When you start a task, take it to the logical end. Leaving unfinished business is the hallmark of a disorganized person.

Work-life balance - Enjoy the small Moments

Managing work-life balance: There is NO balance. It's extremes all the way. Either, I am working so single-mindedly that I cannot focus on the `life balance' aspect or I am relishing a particular moment of my life. At this moment, I am enjoying seeing my spectacular rose blooms -I planted 3,000 roses in the garden in February. It's important to enjoy the little things in life.

Like flowers, I enjoy the first warmth of spring, a cup of steaming tea and a great book. I manage my work and life even though I'm in four continents in a year - Asia, America, Europe and Africa.

Being a fit woman:

I manage my fitness regimen by doing yoga, walking, swimming and ayurvedic de-toxing. Sometimes, just laughing in the company of old friends is the best de-stressor.

Energy high and happiness:

Looking deeply and daily at the angelic faces of my three boys - Jad, Kais and Jai.

Risk take or a micro-planner:

I take risks and micro-plan my business. I am also a decision taker - for good or bad. I can handle it.

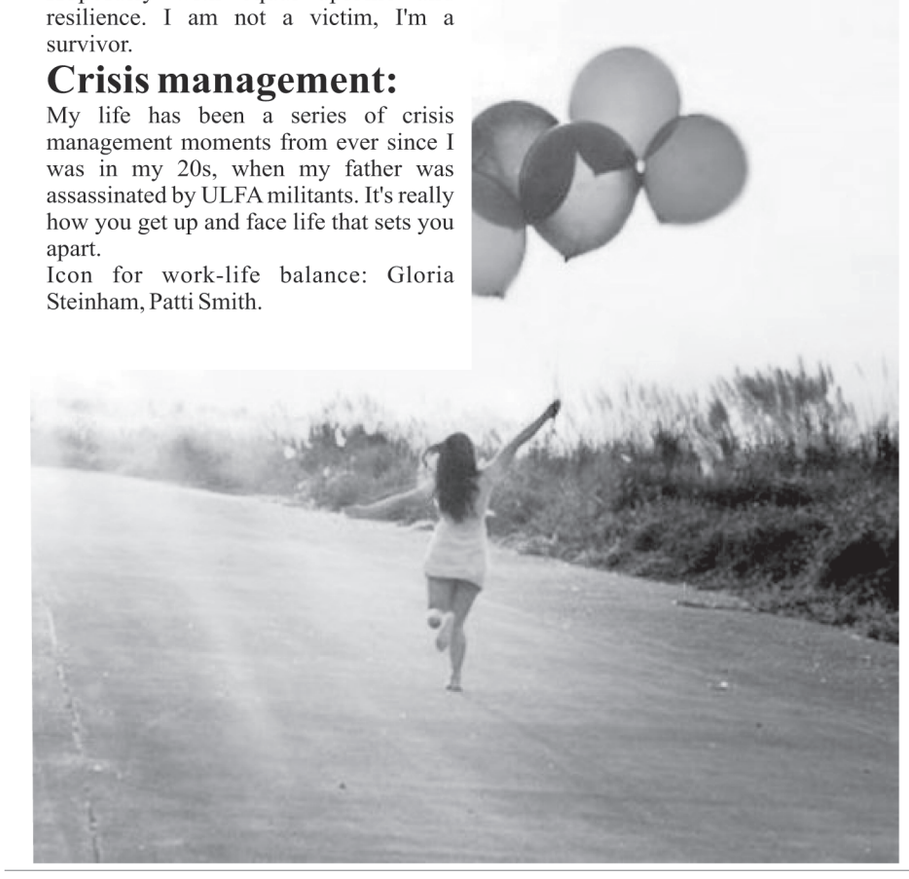
Handling failure and success:

Hopefully with equal aplomb and resilience. I am not a victim, I'm a survivor.

Crisis management:

My life has been a series of crisis management moments from ever since I was in my 20s, when my father was assassinated by ULFA militants. It's really how you get up and face life that sets you apart.

Icon for work-life balance: Gloria Steinham, Patti Smith.



Let your kids connect with Nature

Make some effort to make your child connect with nature and see what a difference it makes

Growing up in cities means staying away from nature. No wonder then children today are becoming disconnected from nature. It's so very essential to stay connected to nature for a holistic life. Never mind, even if you are living in an apartment. Make some effort to make your child connect with nature. Here are some ways to get it going.

Give planned activity a miss. When you go outdoors with your kids, let their imagination soar. And let them go for some unplanned activities. Let them discover the neighbourhood. Take them to the nearest garden, park or lake. Let them discover the names of the plants and flowers in the park.

Don't put pressure on them. Let them discover the landscape on their own. Children have a natural way to explore life around them. They have the ability to turn ordinary into extra-ordinary.

Create some landscape art. Make them write a story that has nature as a theme. Let them make a collage of nature photos.

Let them dance in the rain and play with mud. Let them have a feel of earth.

When they go outdoors (mountains, sea or even a park), let them collect pebbles, shells, leaves, twigs and the like.

Create a nature table and display all that they have collected. That will give them a sense of achievement and belonging.

Make kids grow veggies to encourage Healthy eating

One simple way to make children eat more healthy is to help them grow vegetables in the gardens, says a new research.

The researchers found that when garden grown vegetables were slipped into school salads, kids were over four times as likely to take a salad.

"This is a small study, but it suggests gardens can help children's diets," said lead author Brian Wansink from Cornell University.

This pilot study, conducted in the US, measured the change in vegetable selection and plate waste when school grown salad greens were incorporated in the cafeteria school lunch. The researchers measured the selections and plate waste of a total of 370 enrolled high school students over three separate days.

When the salad bar contained produce grown by students, the percentage of those who selected salads with their meals increased from two percent to 10 percent and on average, students ate two-thirds of their salads.

Overall, salad consumption for the entire student body increased from approximately five to 12 servings per day. This study implies the larger potential benefits of the school garden programmes.

"We see great promise with this research. The first hurdle in increasing vegetable consumption is simply getting kids to put them on their plate," co-author Drew Hanks from Ohio State University noted.

Kalinga Super Cup 2025 fixtures announced

New Delhi, April 7 (UNI) : The fixtures for the Kalinga Super Cup 2025 were announced on Monday.The tournament, which will be played in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from April 20 to May 3, will see participation from 16 clubs (13 from the Indian Super League and three from the I-League), in a single-elimination knock-out format.All matches will take place at the Kalinga Stadium.

The ISL teams were seeded for the round of 16 according to their final league position in the 2024-25 season. Three I-League teams confirmed their participation – Churchill Brothers FC Goa, Inter Kashi, and Gokulam Kerala FC. They will face the top three ISL teams (Mohun Bagan Super Giant, FC Goa and Bengaluru FC). These three match-ups will be decided by a draw on April 9.The round of 16 will be played on April 20, 21, 23 and 24, the quarter-finals on April 26 and 27, the semi-finals on April 30, and the final on May 3. If the scores are level at the end of 90 minutes in the round of 16, quarter-finals and semi-finals, there will be no extra time, and a penalty shoot-out will determine the winner. If the scores are level at the end of 90 minutes in the final, there will be extra time, followed by a penalty shoot-out to determine the champion.

The winners of the Kalinga Super Cup 2025 will qualify for the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Two Preliminary Round. East Bengal FC are the defending champions, having beaten Odisha FC in the 2024 final in Bhubaneswar. Odisha FC (2023), FC Goa (2019) and Bengaluru FC (2018) have been the past champions of the Super Cup.

Kalinga Super Cup 2025 Fixtures:

Round of 16 (seeds in bracket):

Sunday, April 20 (16:30) — Kerala Blasters FC (8) vs East Bengal FC (9)

Sunday, April 20 (20:00) — Mohun Bagan SG (1) vs I-League Club - TBC

Monday, April 21 (16:30) — FC Goa (2) vs I-League Club - TBC

Monday, April 21 (20:00) — Odisha FC (7) vs Punjab FC (10)

Wednesday, April 23 (16:30) — Bengaluru FC (3) vs I-League Club - TBC

Wednesday, April 23 (20:00) — Mumbai City FC (6) vs Chennaiyin FC (11)

Thursday, April 24 (16:30) — NorthEast United FC (4) vs Mohammedan Sporting Club (13)

Friday, April 24 (20:00) — Jamshedpur FC (5) vs Hyderabad FC (12)

Quarter-finals:

QF1 - Saturday, April 26 (16:30) — KBFC/EBFC vs MBSG/I-League

QF2 - Saturday, April 26 (20:00) — FCG/I-League vs OFC/PFC

QF3 - Sunday, April 27 (16:30) — BFC/I-League vs MCFC/CFC

QF4 - Sunday, April 27 (20:00) — NEUFC/MSC vs JFC/HFC

Semi-finals:

SF1 - Wednesday, April 30 (16:30) — Winner QF1 vs Winner QF2

SF2 - Wednesday, April 30 (20:00) — Winner QF3 vs Winner QF4

Final:

Saturday, May 3 (Time TBC) - Winner SF1 vs Winner SF2.

Bhuvi becomes highest wicket-taking IPL pacer

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : Royal Challengers Bengaluru veteran Bhuvneshwar Kumar etched his name in the history books by becoming the highest wicket-taking pacer in the Indian Premier League (IPL), overtaking former Chennai Super Kings star Dwayne Bravo during RCB's clash Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium here on Monday.The seasoned swing bowler now leads the all-time pacers' chart with 184 wickets from 179 matches, surpassing Bravo's tally of 183 wickets in 161 matches. Bhuvneshwar's consistency over the years and his ability to strike both with the new ball and at the death have made him a cornerstone of the RCB bowling attack. The elite list of top five wicket-taking pacers in IPL also features Sri Lankan legend Lasith Malinga (170 wickets in 122 matches), Jasprit Bumrah (165 wickets in 134 matches), and Umesh Yadav (144 wickets in 148 matches). Bhuvneshwar, who made his IPL debut in 2009, has been a two-time Purple Cap winner and played a pivotal role in SRH's title triumph in 2016. Known for his impeccable control and late swing, the 34-year-old continues to be a reliable spearhead for Hyderabad in the ongoing season. With the record now in his grasp, Bhuvneshwar has further solidified his legacy as one of the finest fast bowlers in IPL history.

FIH delegation to visit Los Angeles

Lausanne (Switzerland), April 7 (UNI) : The International Hockey Federation (FIH) and LA28 are strengthening their collaboration to deliver a world-class hockey experience at the 2028 Olympic Games.FIH President Tayyab Ikram recently met LA28 leaders in Athens to discuss the sport's roadmap.A key milestone is set for May 5 – 9 , as FIH will conduct its inspection visit to Los Angeles, evaluating the Hockey venue and operations alongside LA28 and USA Field Hockey, the FIH sources on Monday said.Hockey will take place at Carson Fields, a dynamic cluster also hosting Tennis, Rugby 7s, Cycling, and Archery offering synergy, fan engagement, and an exceptional athlete experience.

Virat Kohli joins 13,000 T20 club

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : Star Indian batsman Virat Kohli on Monday became the first Indian and only the fifth cricketer in the world to score 13,000 runs in Men's T20 cricket, reaching the milestone during his 386th innings.

The 36-year-old Kohli reached the milestone upon scoring his 17th run in the match against Mumbai Indians.With this, he entered an elite club of T20 run-scorers, led by West Indies great Chris Gayle, who sits atop the list with 14,562 runs in 381 innings.

Others ahead of Kohli in the all-time T20 run-scorers list include England's Alex Hales (13,610 in 474 innings), Pakistan's Shoaib Malik (13,557 in 487 innings), and West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard (13,537 in 594 innings).

Kohli's achievement is even more significant as he has become the second-fastest to reach the 13,000-run mark in terms of innings taken, behind only Gayle.

Known for his consistency and class across formats, Kohli continues to be a mainstay for Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL and remains one of the most dependable batters in world cricket.

G D Birla Badminton: Priya downs Namita in a thriller for title

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : Second seed Priya Ambekar, MCF had a fight on her hands against top seed Namita Mehta-Vijayakar, JVPG, Juhu but kept her composure in the decider to score an upset win in an entertaining match that went the distance and lift the women's 45 singles title in the G D Birla Memorial Masters Inter-Club Badminton Tournament, co-hosted by Bombay Gymkhana and promoted by Badminton Gurukul.

An easy 21-11 first game win for Namita was no indication of the fight to come from Priya, who won the second game 21-16 and then fought tooth and nail for every point in the decider and closed the match in her favour 22-20.

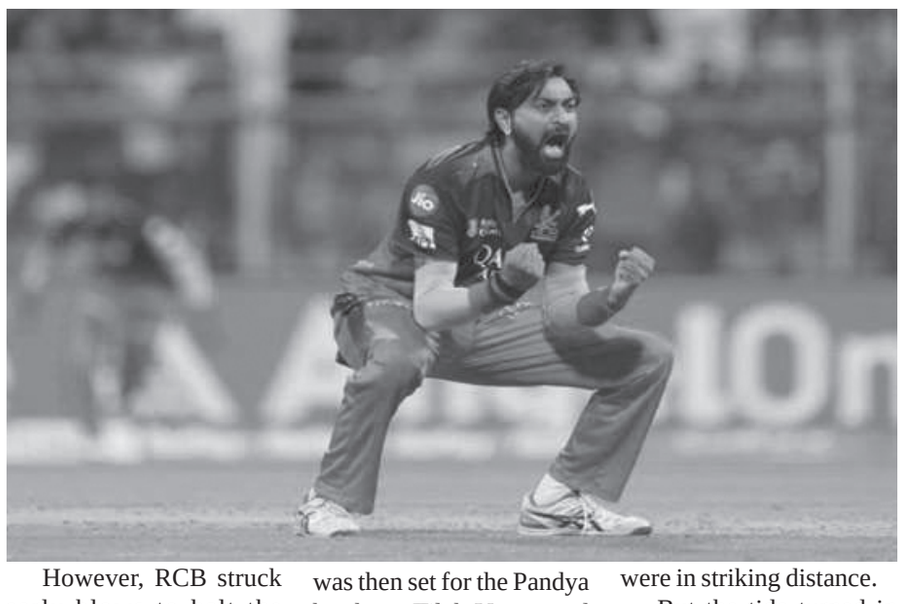
Glory eluded top seeds Ayaz Bilawala and Rajesh D'Souza of Bombay Gymkhana who were upset in the 110+ men's doubles final by Prashant Mukherjee and Vilas Kuvale, RTISC, Ulwe. Mukherjee and Kuvale prevailed 14-21, 21-19, 21-16.

The Men's 45 singles semi-finals featured an upset win for Sachin Bharati, who got the better of second seed Gautam Lad 21-11, 16-21, 21-19. He will take on top seed Rajan Samant in the final, who cruised to a 21-12, 21-16 win over Prashant Shah.

Bombay Gym A and MIG Cricket Club kept their hopes alive in the Elite Cup of the Team Championships by entering the semi-finals with contrasting wins. While Bombay Gym blanked CCI 2-0, MIG Cricket Club had to beat back a challenge from MCA before winning 2-1.

Krunal cripples MI as RCB conquer Fortress Wankhede

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : A resurgent Royal Challengers Bangalore finally broke their 10-year Wankhede hoodoo on Monday night, scripting a 12-run win over Mumbai Indians in a thrilling, high-scoring IPL clash.



But more than the result, it was the sensational four-wicket haul from Krunal Pandya and clutch performances from Josh Hazlewood and Yash Dayal that stole the spotlight in a tense chase that saw MI fall agonisingly short despite a valiant blitz from their middle order.

Chasing a steep 221, MI's innings mirrored a classic T20 rollercoaster — fast starts, blistering boundaries, wickets in clumps, and the ever-present hope of a last-over miracle.

It all began with Rohit Sharma showing flashes of vintage form, whipping Bhuvneshwar Kumar for a six and two crisp boundaries inside the opening over.

Debutant Ryan Rickelton joined the fun, unfurling glorious drives and timing the ball sweetly to take 13 runs off Bhuvi's first. The pair quickly propelled MI to 31/0 by the end of the second over.

However, RCB struck early blows to halt the momentum. Yash Dayal cleaned up Rohit with a searing inswinger that crashed into leg stump (17 off 9), and Hazlewood pinned Rickelton LBW (17 off 10) after a successful review — the delivery jagging in just enough to catch him in front.

Suryakumar Yadav threatened to take the game away with his trademark flair, peppering the off-side with boundaries off Krunal and Hazlewood. But just when MI seemed to be stabilising, SKY was undone by a slower one from Dayal, holing out to Livingstone for 28 (26), leaving MI wobbling at 99/4 in the 12th over.The stage was then set for the Pandya brothers. Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya launched an onslaught, smashing 63 runs in just 25 balls between overs 13 to 17. Hardik, in particular, was unstoppable — smashing Hazlewood for two colossal sixes and a four in the 14th over, and Krunal for back-to-back sixes to bring up a 50-run stand in no time.

He raced to 42 off just 15 balls, threatening to single-handedly tilt the game MI's way.

At the other end, Tilak Varma brought up his first fifty of the season (56 off 29) with a series of sweeps and reverse-hits, including a six and a four off Suyash Sharma. With 41 needed off the final three overs, MI were in striking distance.

But the tide turned in the 18th over. Hazlewood produced the moment of the night, dismissing a rampaging Hardik with a yorker that was mistimed to deep mid-wicket — Livingstone taking a clean catch. MI's hopes flickered.

Still, the game hung in the balance with 19 needed off the final over. Krunal, brought back for the 20th, delivered under immense pressure.

He began by removing Mitchell Santner with a full, wide ball that Santner sliced to Tim David at long-off. Next ball, he dismissed Rahul Chahar thanks to a relay catch on the ropes between Phil Salt and Tim David.Naman Dhir raised faint MI hopes with a lucky edge for four, but was then caught by Yash Dayal at fine leg trying to scoop a low full-toss — Krunal sealing his four-wicket haul. He capped it off by rapping Bumrah on the pads with a ball drifting in, and RCB players erupted in joy as Wankhede fell silent.

Krunal's spell read 4-0-30-4, a career-best effort under lights and pressure.

A ferocious exhibition of strokeplay from skipper Rajat Patidar and veteran Virat Kohli propelled Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to a formidable 221 for 5 against Mumbai Indians (MI) in Match 20 of IPL 2025 at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday.

Opting to bowl first, MI struck early as Trent Boult removed Philip Salt for 4 in the first over.

However, Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal counter-attacked with a 91-run stand that firmly swung momentum in RCB's favour. Kohli, in vintage touch, unfurled a series of crisp strokes including a heave off Jasprit Bumrah for a 78-metre six.

He raised his half-century in just 29 balls with a slogsweep for an 80m six off Vignesh Puthur, finishing with 67 off 42 balls (8x4, 2x6).

EC of AIFF formed eight-member task force to discuss MRA

New Delhi, April 7 (UNI) : The All India Football Federation's Executive Committee met at the Football House on Monday, to discuss the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) proposal given to the federation by Football Sports Development Ltd.

AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey chaired the meeting, which was attended by Vice President NA Haris, Treasurer Kipa Ajay, Deputy Secretary General Satyanarayan M, along with members Arif

Ali, GP Palguna, Lalnghinglova Hmar, Menla Ethenpa, Mohan Lal, Neibou Sekhose, Syed Husnain Naqvi, Syed Imtiaz Hussain, Valanka Alemao, Vijay Bali, Thongam Tababi Devi, Pinky Bompal

Magar, Shabbir Ali, Bhaichung Bhutia, and Climax Lawrence.

The committee deliberated in detail about the MRA, and decided to form an eight-member task force to look into the MRA negotiations with FSDL. The task force will consist of the AIFF President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Finance Committee, and the Chairperson of the League Committee.

Arjuna awardee Subrata Paul, the Director of National Teams, submitted a report on India's 'AFC Asian Cup 2027' Final Round Qualifier against Bangladesh held on March 25, 2025 at Shillong.

The committee proposed a set of communications guidelines be set for all AIFF affairs, including national teams.

The house further proposed to appoint a spokesperson, who would be authorised to issue statements on behalf of the AIFF, the AIFF sources said.

Chaubey proposed that two renowned coaches – Bimal Ghosh and Armando Colaco – who were recently conferred with the Dronacharya Award, be nominated as advisors to the AIFF President.

Ghosh and Colaco, in coordination with Technical Director Syed Sabir Pasha, National Teams Director Subrata Paul, Technical Committee Chairperson IM Vijayan, Padmashree Awardee, and Deputy Chairperson Shabbir Ali, Major Dhyanchand Awardee, will support the chief coaches of

the men's and women's national teams across all age categories.

They will coordinate with the coaches on matters such as the requirement for the duration of camps, scouting, and exposure matches for the respective teams. The aforementioned task force will also submit a quarterly report on the same to the AIFF.

The Executive Committee suggested that a Normalisation Committee be formed that will expedite

the conduct of elections in the Jammu & Kashmir Football Association and the Tamil Nadu Football Association.

The committee proposed the formation of a four-member task force, consisting of DIG CISF Jitender Rana, IPS, Secretary, Services Sports Control Board, Varun Singh, Secretary, Railway Sports Promotion Board, Prem Chand Lochab, and Dronacharya awardee Bimal Ghosh, former coach of Air India.

South Africa name contracted squad

Cape Town, April 7 (UNI) : Cricket South Africa have handed out 18 national contracts and two hybrid contracts

The duration of the contracts will be from June 2025 till May 2026.

A notable name missing from the contracted players is Heinrich Klaasen, with CSA stating that discussions regarding his contract are still ongoing and that a final decision would be made in due course.

National contracts have been granted to 18 players including regulars like Temba Bavuma, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Lungi Ngidi, and Kagiso Rabada.

Furthermore, Lizaad Williams, Senuran Muthusamy, and Kwena Maphaka earned their first central contracts.

CSA also introduced 'hybrid contracts' with David Miller and Rassie van der Dussen receiving them – hybrid contracts allow for players to feature in specific agreed-upon bilateral tours and ICC events.Director of National Teams and High Performance Enoch Nkwe discussed the need for hybrid contracts for the upcoming season, an ICC report said."The hybrid contracts take into consideration the dynamic nature of modern-day cricket and will provide David and Rassie with the opportunity to contribute to the team during specific bilateral tours and ICC events," he stated.

Proteas Men's Contracted Squad 2025/26

Temba Bavuma, David Bedingham, Nandre Burger, Gerald Coetzee, Tony de Zorzi, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kwena Maphaka, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Senuran Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs, Kyle

S8UL to represent India at Pokemon Unite World Championship 2025

Mumbai, April 7 (UNI) : Leading Indian esports organization S8UL has officially qualified to represent India at the Pokémon World Championship 2025, scheduled to take place from August 15-17 in Anaheim, USA.

This marks the third time that S8UL has emerged as the champions of the Indian regional qualifiers for the Pokemon UNITE World Championship — a testament to their dominance and consistency at the national level.

The achievement follows S8UL's remarkable performance at the India qualifiers, where the team made an impressive comeback to win the championship title

The S8UL Pokemon UNITE roster comprises some of India's top talent in the title:

Manmohan 'AllMight' Singh (Captain)
Rahul Sharad "Kyurem" Lavhate
Deep "Snowyy" Patel
Adnan "Badshahh" Badshah
Rudra Narayan "ReX" Nayak
Aditya "Reapy" Bhujbal

S8UL's qualification comes on the back of a thrilling campaign in the Indian regional playoffs. The team suffered an early blow in the playoffs, losing their opening Upper Bracket Quarterfinal match 0-2 to True Rippers. Dropping to the Lower Bracket, they began their resurgence by defeatingTeam Dynamis 2-0, followed by an assertive performance against Autobotz in the Lower Bracket Quarterfinals.Their comeback arc peaked when they faced True Rippers again in the Lower Bracket Semifinals, this time coming out on top in a hard-fought and emotional victory. The momentum carried forward into a clinical win over QML in the Lower Bracket Finals, marking four consecutive knockout wins to earn their spot in the Grand Finals.

After an early setback in the playoffs, S8UL bounced back with unmatched determination, defeating Revenant Xspark in a well-contested Grand Final with scores of 2-0, 2-1. The victory not only secured S8UL the INR 12.85 lakh first prize but also earned them the prestigious opportunity to compete on the global stage.

Speaking on the achievement, team captain Manmohan 'AllMight' Singh said, "Representing India at the World Championship is a fantastic feeling. We knew we had the potential, it was about staying composed and focused after the initial round loss. This victory is a testament to our hard work, dedication, team strategy and communication. We're honored to represent the nation and will give it everything we've got in Anaheim."

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

WR's Mumbai Central Division achieves highest ever commercial Revenue in 2024 - 25

Crosses Rs.4400 Cr milestone in FY 2024-25

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 7 : Western Railway makes its best possible efforts to increase its revenue and continue to maintain its momentum. For the first time in the history of WR's Mumbai Central Division, the division achieved its highest ever commercial revenue in FY 2024-25. The Division achieved almost Rs.4485 Cr in commercial revenue and has registered its best ever revenue in many categories. Shri Ashok Kumar Misra – General Manager of Western Railway congratulated the team on achieving this milestone.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, the commercial performance of WR's Mumbai Central Division has been remarkable, achieving record-breaking revenues, operational efficiencies and significant digital advancements. The division recorded its best ever revenue figures in Commercial, Passenger, Suburban, Non-Suburban, PRS, AC EMU Passengers & Revenue, Freight, Parking and Catering categories.

The Division also saw the highest revenue in the Passenger Revenue, registering over Rs. 3782 Cr (Suburban and Non-Suburban), while also registering the best ever revenue in PRS segment. The popularity of the AC local trains is also reflected in its numbers. Due to the well planned services of AC local, 4.65 crore passengers travelled by AC locals in FY 2024-25, generating a revenue of approx. Rs. 215 Cr. Continuing in this direction, the Division also saw its highest ever revenue in Freight category (approx. Rs. 256 Cr). Mumbai Division also saw it's best ever revenue from Pay & Park contracts (Rs. 14 Cr), alongwith its contribution through catering stalls (more than Rs. 16 Cr).Mr Vineet further added that the Division has successfully enhanced passenger convenience through digital ticketing, PRS modernization and improved crowd management strategies. Additionally, infrastructure developments, new freight initiatives and station upgrades have strengthened the division's position as a leader in railway operations. All the efforts made by the Division in various fields have led to sustained growth in revenue.

Riwayat Decorated With Sugandha Rao paintings

(Standard Post Bureau)

New Delhi, April 7 : A unique and spectacular evening of Sufi music, ghazal, dance, painting and classical singing RIwayat Organised at Sri Sathya Sai Auditorium. Its objective is to promote the tradition of classical music, dance and arts to make it accessible to every citizen. Sugandha Rao, born in 1998, New Delhi in a cross-cultured Indian family.

She immerses herself in the complexities of gender-related topics, utilising her feminist perspectives and experiences , growing up in a progressive environment, where gender equality was valued and encouraged. Her work is influenced and driven by the desire to tell stories, questioning and challenging societal norms..

Through continuous sketching and observation, Sugandha explores the complexities of gender identity, translating her findings into visual narratives. Her process involves in-depth research and engagement with various mediums to express her insights effectively, aiming to spark meaningful conversations and to promote empathy and understanding. Sugandha holds MFA from Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan and BFA from College of Art, New Delhi. Her artwork has been showcased in Abir First Take 2024, AIFACS, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi and others. She has been a part of art residency by Kerala Lalitkala Academy, Hampi Art Labs, BPEI and rendered workshop at Karigarshala, Bhuj. She has been awarded at AIFACS, scholarships from Kala Bhavan and COA and SSVAD.

Summer special trains from Vasco to Muzaffarpur & Bengaluru to Narangi : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 7 :South Western Railway will run summer special trains between Vasco Da Gama and Muzaffarpur for 9 trips, and between SMVT Bengaluru and Narangi for 4 trips to cater to the extra rush of passengers during the summer season. The details of the train services are as follows:

1. Train Nos. 07311/ 07312 Vasco-Da-Gama – Muzaffarpur – Vasco-Da-Gama Special Express (9 trips):

Train No. 07311 will depart from Vasco Da Gama every Monday from April 7 to June 2, 2025, at 16:00 hrs and will reach Muzaffarpur at 12:30 hrs on Wednesday.

In the return direction, Train No. 07312 will depart from Muzaffarpur every Thursday from April 10 to June 5, 2025, at 14:45 hrs and will arrive at Vasco Da Gama at 14:55 hrs on Saturday.

Enroute, the train will halt at Madgaon, Thivim, Sawantwadi Road, Ratnagiri, Chiplun, Roha, Panvel, Kalyan, Manmad, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, and Hajipur stations in both directions.

The train will consist of 20 Coaches including: 1-AC Two Tier, 5-AC Three Tier, 12-Sleeper Class and 1-Luggage/Generator/Brake Van and 1-SLRD.

2. Train Nos. 06559/ 06560 SMVT Bengaluru–Narangi–SMVT Bengaluru Special Express (4 trips):

Train No. 06559 will depart from SMVT Bengaluru every Tuesday from April 8 to 29, 2025, at 23:40 hrs and will reach Narangi at 05:00 hrs on Friday.In the return direction, Train No. 06560 will depart from Narangi every Saturday from April 12 to May 3, 2025, at 05:30 hrs and will arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 09:45 hrs on Monday.Enroute, the train will halt at Krishnarajapuram, Bangarapet, Jolarpettai, Katpadi, Renigunta, Gudur, Ongole, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry, Duvvada, Kottavalasa, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Road, Palasa, Brahmapur, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Baleshwar, Kharagpur, Dankuni, Bolpur (Shantiniketan), Rampur Hat, New Farakka, Malda Town, Barsoi, Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, New Cooch Behar, New Alipurduar, New Bongaigaon, Barpeta Road, Rangiya and Kamakhya stations in both directions.

Some trains affected due to block in Khurda Road Division

(Standard Post Bureau)

Ratlam, April 7 : Some trains passing through Western Railway Ratlam Division will run via diverted route due to proposed block at Meramandali Railway Station for commissioning of 3rd/4th line in Meramandali-Hindole Road section of East Coast Railway Khurda Road Division. Details of trains running on diverted route are as follows:-

Train No. 20917 Indore Puri Express leaving from Indore on 15th and 22nd April, 2025 will run via diverted route via Khurda Road-Vijayanagaram-Titilagarh-Bilhar Ghat-Sambalpur-Jhasarguda Road-Ib."

Train No. 20918 Puri Indore Express leaving from Puri on 17th & 24th April, 2025 will run via diverted route via Ib-Jhasarguda Road-Sambalpur-Bilhar Ghat-Titilagarh-Vijayanagaram-Khurda Road."

Train No. 22909 Valsad Puri Express leaving from Valsad on 17th April, 2025 will run via diverted route via Bhubaneswar-Jakhpura-Jaroli-Rourkela-Jhasarguda-Ib.

Train No. 22910 Puri Valsad Express leaving from Puri on 20th April, 2025 will run via diverted route via Ib-Jhasarguda-Rourkela-Jaroli-Jakhpura-Bhubaneswar.

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

Fiji's Health Minister Lalabalav calls on EAM Jaishankar

New Delhi, April 7 (UNI) : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met with visiting Fijian Health Minister Ratu Atonio Rabici Lalabalav and discussed the ongoing bilateral health and medical cooperation.In a post, the EAM said:

"Pleased to meet @MOHFiji Minister Dr. Ratu Atonio Rabici Lalabalavu this morning.

"Discussed our ongoing health and medical cooperation, an important pillar of our long-standing partnership."

The visit of the Fijian Health Minister comes as Fiji has reported a shortage of IV fluids to treat dengue patients.The Fijian Health Ministry said it is responding to concerns raised about current global shortage of IV fluids which is expected to continue through 2025 amid supply constraints.It said that intravenous fluids are not out of stock in the country.

The Fiji Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Services had received 3,000 units of saline solution last week and another 4,200 units is yet to be cleared by the Fiji Procurement Office.

The Ministry said it is optimistic that the current supply of IV fluids is sufficient to meet the surge in dengue fever cases.

CR has announced 1198 Summer Special trains including 284 unreserved trains till date

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 7 : Central Railway has announced 1198 Summer Special trains including 284 unreserved trains till date, in addition to its regular trains to clear the extra rush of passengers during the summer season.

Central Railway had earlier announced 1156 services of Summer Special Trains and will now run an additional 42 AC services for the benefit of passengers.

LTT Mumbai-Karmali-LTT Mumbai AC Weekly Specials (14 Services)

01051 special will depart LTT Mumbai at 22.15 hrs on every Friday from 11.04.2025 to 23.05.2025 and arrive Karmali at 12.00 hrs next day. (7 Services)

01052 special will depart Karmali at 14.30 hrs on Saturday from 12.04.2025 to 24.05.2025 and arrive LTT Mumbai at 04.05 hrs on next day. (7 Services)

Halts: Thane, Panvel, Pen, Roha, Mangaon, Veer, Khed, Chiplun, Sangameshwar Road, Ratnagiri, Adavali, Vilavade, Rajapur Road, Vaibhavwadi Road, Nandgaon Road, Kankavali, Sindhudurg, Kudal, Sawantwadi Road and Thivim.

Composition: Eight AC-2Tier, Ten AC-3Tier and 2 Generator Van.

Pune – Nagpur – Pune AC Weekly Specials (14 Services)

01439 special will depart Pune at 19.55 hrs on every Saturday from 12.04.2025 to 24.05.2025 and arrive Nagpur at 14.45 hrs next day. (7 Services)

01440 special will depart Nagpur at 16.15 hrs on Sunday from 13.04.2025 to 25.05.2025 and arrive Pune at 07.20 hrs on next day. (7 Services)

Halts: Daund Chord Line, Ahmednagar, Kopergaon, Manmad, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Malkapur, Shegaon, Akola, Badnera and Wardha

Composition: Eight AC-2Tier, Ten AC-3Tier and 2 Generator Van.

Pune – Hazrat Nizam-Ud-Din – Pune AC Weekly Specials (14 Services)

01441 special will depart Pune at 17.30 hrs on every Tuesday from 15.04.2025 to 27.05.2025 and arrive Hazrat Nizam-Ud-Din at 18.10 hrs next day. (7 Services)

01442 special will depart Hazrat Nizam-Ud-Din at 22.20 hrs on Wednesday from 16.04.2025 to 28.05.2025 and arrive Pune at 23.55 hrs on next day. (7 Services)

Halts: Lonavala, Kalyan, Bhiwandi Road, Kaman Road, Vasai Road, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Vadodara, Ratlam, Nagda jn, Dakaniya talav, Bhawani Mandi, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Mathura Junction and Palwal

Composition: Eight AC-2Tier, Ten AC-3Tier and 2 Generator Van.

Reservation: Bookings for Special train No. 01051, 01439, 01440 and 01441 on special charges will open on 08.04.2025 at all computerized reservation centers and on website www.irctc.co.in.

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

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

Cabinet Approves Kharsia–Parmalkasa Railway Project with Record Budget Allocation of 8,741 Crore

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 7 : In a move to strengthen and modernise the Railway infrastructure in Chhattisgarh, the Union Cabinet has approved the Kharsia–Parmalkasa railway project with a massive budget allocation of 8,741 Crore. This transformative initiative is set to revolutionise Rail connectivity across the state, ensuring faster, safer and more efficient transport for passengers and goods alike.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Chhattisgarh has witnessed a historic 22x increase in Railway budget allocations — from a mere ¹ 300 Crore under previous governments to over ¹ 8,000 Crore. This exponential growth in investment marks a decisive step towards building a Viksit Bharat.

Project Highlights :

Total Route Length: 278 km

Total Track Length (Including Doubling/ Tripling): 615 km

Major Infrastructure Components:

48 Major Bridges

349 Minor Bridges

14 Road Over Bridges (ROBs)

184 Underpasses

5 Rail Flyovers

Employment Impact: Generation of 2 Crore man days

Environmental Impact: Estimated diesel savings of 22 Crore litres, promoting sustainability

This ambitious project will not only improve regional connectivity, particularly benefiting remote villages, but also facilitate high-speed rail traffic. It will open up new markets for local products, ensuring faster access to national distribution networks.

National-Level Infrastructure Push in Chhattisgarh:

Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw lauded the project as a monumental leap for Chhattisgarh, stating: "This is not just about tracks and trains—this is about connecting people, creating jobs, boosting trade and empowering Chhattisgarh to reach its true potential."

He also highlighted key railway initiatives in the state:

Line Doubling, Tripling, and Quadrupling – Spanning 1,125 km

Station Redevelopment - 32 Stations under transformation

With total investments crossing ¹ 47,000 Crore in the state's Railway sector, Chhattisgarh is now outpacing international benchmarks, surpassing even the Railway network of Dubai, UAE.

Other significant projects include the third line between Rajnandgaon and Nagpur, the fourth line between Jharsuguda and Bilaspur. The broad gauge conversion of the RaipurCentral -Dhamtari-Abhanpur-Rajim route. Sufficient funds have been allocated for forth rail line between Rajnandgaon and Dongargarh, as well as for the Jagdalpur-Koraput doubling, new lines from Dharamjaygarh to Korba and doubling from Anuppur to Ambikapur.

Further, acknowledging the significant allocation and Railway progress, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Vishnu Dev Sahay extended heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, stating: "From better village access to world-class stations, every district is feeling the change and connected."

The Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri TokhanSahu, expressed happiness over the approval of this project for the state of Chhattisgarh and, on behalf of all the residents of Chhattisgarh, extended his gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Central Government.

The Kharsia–Naya Raipur-Parmalkasa Railway project and associated developments mark a new dawn for Chhattisgarh's Railway landscape. This line will provide direct connectivity to new areas such as Baloda Bazar. This will cater existing industries in the region and create possibilities for setting up of new industrial units including cement plants. This will be essential route for transportation of commodities such as agriculture products, fertilizer, coal, iron ore, steel, cement, limestone etc.

With sustainability, employment, connectivity, and innovation at its core, the state is on track to become a model for modern rail development in India. Railways in Chhattisgarh are reaching new heights. This is not just infrastructure -it's the spirit of Viksit Bharat in motion.

Congress slams Modi govt's 'silence' on market crash amid US tariff war

New Delhi, April 7 (UNI) : Expressing concern over the stock market crash following US President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs, the Congress party on Monday questioned the Modi government's "conspicuous silence" on addressing the fallout of the ongoing trade war.

In a video message on X, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said, "Indian stock markets opened at the lowest level since Covid happened in 2020."

She said, "Within the first five minutes, 19 lakh crore worth of market cap had been eroded. Helpless investors have nowhere to turn to Mr Modi and Mr Shah, who were openly advocating and giving stock market tips, are mum".

She claimed that the tariff imposed by President Trump on India will devastate the country's economy and job creation.

She said, "Countries all over the world, including China, EU, France, Spain, Britain, Brazil, Canada and Australia, have spoken against this tariff and have even promised help for their industries and companies that will be at the receiving end of the tariff imposed. But no such word of assurance, no word of protest from the Indian government."

"Mr. Modi, staying conspicuously silent is no longer an option," she added.