

IN BRIEF

Special Deputy Collector killed in road accident

Kadapa, April 7 (UNI) : The Special Deputy Collector of HNS Unit 2 died when the car in which she was travelling collided with another car at Yerraguntla village in Sambepalli Mandal in Annamayya district on Monday.

Police said that the deceased Handrineeva Canal, Peleru Unit-2 Special Deputy Collector Ramadevi (55) was killed when the car in which she was travelling collided with another car. She was taken to the GGH in Rayachoti after the accident, where she was declared dead by the doctors. The accident took place when she was going to Rayachoti from Peleru to attend a grievances programme.

The deceased Deputy Collector Ramadevi was also working as Coordinator to the Annamayya district Collectorate grievances cell. She belonged to Kalyanadurgam in Anantapur district. Four employees of the Revenue Department were injured in the accident.

Annamayya district Collector Ch Sridhar, Joint Collector Adarsh Rajendran, DRO Madhusudhan Rao and RDO Srinivasulu visited the injured in the hospital.

Two Odisha-based firms donate Rs one crore to TTD-run trusts

Tirumala, April 7 (UNI) : Two Odisha-based firms donated Rs One crore to various Trusts run by TTD here on Monday.

Shivam Kandev Private Limited donated Rs. 20 lakhs each to SV Pranadana Trust, SV Gosamrakshana Trust, SVIMS Trust, and Rs 10 lakhs each to SV Sarva Shreyas Trust and SV Anna Prasadam Trust.

B a l a b h a d r a Developers Private Limited from the same state donated Rs. 10 lakhs each to SV Gosamrakshana Trust and SV Anna Prasadam Trust.

The representative of the companies, Y. R a g h a v e n d r a Vishwakarma, handed over the donation DDs to TTD Additional EO Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary through the MLA of Kadiri Kandikunta Venkata Prasad at the Ranga Nayakukula Mandapam in the Srivari Temple.

AP now No. 2 in GSDP growth, CM congratulates Fin Min

(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, April 7 : Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on Monday congratulated Finance Minister Payyavula Kesav and the officers of the Finance Department on the state climbing to the second position in the country in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth.

Expressing happiness that the State's economic growth was back on track within 10 months of the TDP-led alliance coming to power, the Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the senior officers of the Economic and Planning Departments. .

The Chief Minister congratulated the Principal Secretary (Finance) Piyush Kumar, and other senior officers who called on him at the Secretariat. Naidu gifted them Araku Coffee packets for the state's economic achievement.

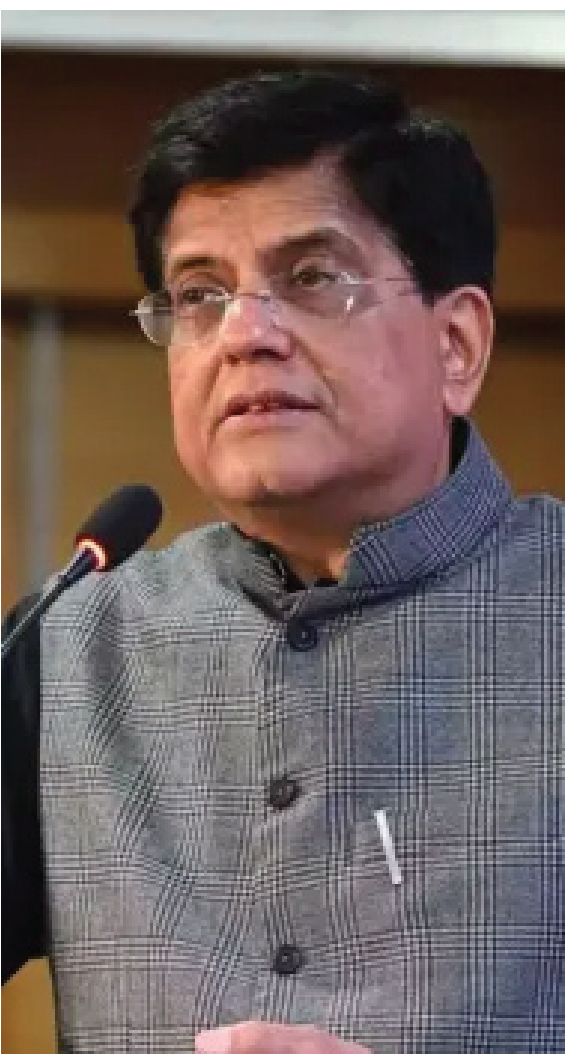
The Finance Minister is now on a district visit and so could not meet the CM.

Govt. has made Aarogyasri ineffective: Ex-Minister

Srikakulam, April 7 (UNI) : Former Andhra Pradesh Minister and YSRCP Doctors' Wing State President Seediri Appalaraju on Monday lambasted the incumbent coalition government for crippling the Aarogyasri scheme within 10 months of coming to power.

Speaking in Palasa, he accused the government of stalling healthcare services statewide for three months by failing to clear Rs. 3,500 crore in pending bills, despite 26 appeals from the AP Specialty Hospitals Association (ASHA).

The inaction has led network hospitals to halt treatments, jeopardising free healthcare for the poor. He stated the Chief Minister deliberately weakened Aarogyasri, shifting it from a trust-based system to a premeditated hybrid insurance model involving private firms. He noted that even on World Health Day, no relief was offered, effectively dismantling a scheme launched by YS Rajasekhara Reddy two decades ago. He said the prior strike notice given by ASHA workers was ignored, underscoring the government's neglect of public health. In a press meet, Naidu briefly mentioned Aarogyasri, casually remarking that the Finance Secretary had "given up" on clearing dues, Appalaraju said. Contrasting this with YSRCP's tenure, he emphasised that quality education and healthcare are people's rights, now undermined by Chandrababu, reducing citizens to dependency. Hospital managements reported no access to the Chief Minister in 10 months. Since January 6, 2025, outpatient services, EHS, and cashless treatments under Aarogyasri have been suspended, a historic disruption.



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.

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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.

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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 @MOHFIJ Minister Dr. Ratu Atonio Rabici Lalabalavu this morning.

(See on page 8)

Rahul demands caste census, abrogation of 50 percent reservation limit



Congress leader and LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi speaks during the 'Samvidhan Suraksha Sammelan', in Patna on Monday.

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.

" Caste census is an exercise which must be carried out at the national level to know the exact condition of all those who lag in tasting the fruits of development, Gandhi said, and demanded that caste census be conducted to bring forward those who lag.

He also advocated for the immediate abrogation of the provision of a fifty percent upper limit for reservations in government services, saying it was a fake wall.

If Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not remove the fake wall of fifty percent reservation in government services, he would do it, thundered Gandhi.

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).

'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.

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 Bhitharwa 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 "vitated."

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.

The violence in Lilong is part of a broader wave of protests across Manipur's Muslim-dominated areas, including Kshatri Awang Leikai, Kairang Muslim, Kiyamgei Muslim, and Sora, where demonstrators

have condemned the bill as an assault on constitutional values and Muslim religious rights. The Meitei Pangal community, which constitutes about 8.4% of Manipur's population, has been particularly vocal in its opposition. Security has been bolstered across the Imphal Valley, with additional forces deployed to prevent further unrest.“

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, now an Act following President Droupadi Murmu's assent on Saturday, seeks to streamline the administration of Waqf properties—assets donated by Muslims for religious or charitable purposes—by enhancing transparency and coordination with local authorities. However, critics, including opposition leaders and Muslim groups, argue that provisions such as the inclusion of non-Muslims in Waqf boards and the centralization of property registration undermine the community's autonomy.

As Manipur grapples with this latest bout of unrest, the incident highlights the contentious fallout of the Waqf (Amendment) Act and its polarizing impact on India's Muslim communities, particularly in sensitive regions like Manipur. Authorities remain on high alert, with senior officials closely monitoring the situation to restore calm in the volatile Lilong constituency.“//

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.Kangra 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.

President Murmu, Portuguese President launch postage stamps marking 50 years of diplomatic ties

Lisbon/New Delhi, April 7 (UNI) : President Droupadi Murmu, who is on a two-day state visit to Portugal, on Monday held talks with President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and the two leaders also graced the launch of postage stamps commemorating 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The President's House said in posts on X:

“President Droupadi Murmu held extensive discussions with President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa of Portugal. The two leaders discussed various aspects of India-Portugal relations, as well as global and regional issues of

shared interest.“Both leaders agreed that the bilateral relationship is based on mutual trust, understanding and cooperation on important issues, including at the multilateral level. They agreed to further strengthen the long-standing ties in several areas including trade and investment, IT, renewable energy and connectivity.

“President Droupadi Murmu and President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa of Portugal graced the launch of postage stamps commemorating 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

“The stamps reflect the rich artistic and cultural

heritage of India and Portugal, and feature vibrant folk attire from both countries: Rajasthan's distinctive Kalbeliya costume, and the traditional Viana do Castelo dress from Portugal.”

The MEA spokesperson said on X: “Further strengthening our special relationship.

“President Droupadi Murmu @rashtrapatibhvn held productive talks with President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa of Portugal.

“Both leaders discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation in the field of trade & commerce, culture, tourism & people to people ties. They also engaged to

enhance partnership in new and upcoming areas including IT, renewable energy, green hydrogen, start-up, innovation and skilled mobility.”

Earlier in the day, President Murmu was warmly welcomed by President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, and accorded a Guard of Honour at the historic ‘Praca do Imperio’ in Lisbon.

Later, President Murmu visited the Church of Santa Maria and laid a wreath at the tomb of Luis Vaz de Camoes – the national poet of Portugal. She also visited the Monastery of Jerónimos – a masterpiece of 16th-century architecture in Portugal.

Opposition slams Omar Abdullah for welcoming Rijiju after Waqf Bill push

Srinagar, April 7 (UNI) : Opposition leaders in Kashmir on Monday slammed J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for according a welcome to Union Minister for Parliamentary and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju in Srinagar, despite that he introduced the controversial Waqf Bill in Parliament last week, which was subsequently passed by a majority vote.

Rijiju and Omar on Monday enjoyed a

morning walk together in the iconic Tulip Garden in Srinagar, nestled in the foothills of the Zabarwan range overlooking Dal Lake.

“A refreshing morning walk amid the vibrant hues of the Tulip Garden in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, with Hon'ble CM Shri @OmarAbdullah ji, and also glad to meet Dr Farooq Abdullah sahab. Nature at its finest & conversations filled with warmth & vision, a truly

special morning,” Rijiju posted on X, while sharing pictures and video of the walk alongside Omar.

However, this didn't go well with the Opposition leaders.

“What's left to say when the Chief Minister of India's only Muslim majority state gives a red carpet welcome to the BJP Minister who introduced the Waqf bill meant to disempower & debilitate Muslims? Stands in stark

contrast to Tamil Nadu CM, who showed spine by swiftly introducing a resolution against Waqf bill,” Peoples Democratic Party leader Iltija Mufti said on X.

Her party leader, Rafique Rather said that the people who should have been received with protests and black flags over the Waqf Bill were given a red carpet reception by those claiming to represent the sentiments of the people.

HC grants interim relief to Harikesh Meena, bars coercive action till April 9

Shimla, April 7 (UNI) : The Himachal Pradesh High Court on Monday granted interim relief to Harikesh Meena, who was booked for abetment to suicide case of Vimal Negi, Chief Engineer of Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited.

The matter was heard by Justice Virender Singh, who passed the interim order after taking the status report on record.

Senior Advocate N S Chandel, appeared on behalf of the applicant, and the state was represented by Rohit Sharma, Deputy Advocate General, along with Mohinder Zharaick and H S Rawat, Additional Advocates General.

Advocates Rajiv Raj, Vivekanand and Chaman Negi appeared for the complainant.

Court said in the order that state could not initiate any coercive steps against Meena until the next date.

The matter is now listed for further consideration on April nine.

Meena, along with Desh Raj (a senior HPPCL official), was booked by the state police after Negi, who had been missing since March 10 was found dead in Govind Sagar Lake, Bilaspur, on March 18.

The deceased's family alleged that workplace harassment led to his suicide. In same matter, the Supreme Court on April four allowed the interim bail to co-accused Desh Raj.

SC slams UP Police for converting civil suits into criminal cases

New Delhi, April 7 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on Uttar Pradesh Police on converting civil cases into criminal, saying it shows a complete breakdown of the rule of law in the state.

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna warned the state government of imposing damages if similar petitions are filed in the future.

The apex court stayed prosecution in a conversion case and directed state police chief Prashant Kumar and investigating officer to file a response within two weeks.

The case in question is related to a cheque bounce case and the police filed chargesheet after converting civil suit into a criminal case.

The petitioner approached the highest court of the country and alleged that the police took money for converting this issue into a criminal case.

The court said, "Everyday civil suits are being converted to criminal cases. It is absurd merely not giving money cannot be turned into an offence. It is strange and this is happening day in and day out in Uttar Pradesh".

'India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders will be equipped with technical support'

Jammu, April 7 (UNI) : Asserting that several experiments have been conducted to identify infiltration and to detect and destroy tunnels, using technology, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that in a few years, the security forces deployed on the entire India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh border will be fully equipped with technical assistance.

"The sacrifice, bravery, valour, and courage of our soldiers form the shield of India against enemies from across the border, and this is why the people of the country hold deep respect for the BSF," said Shah while interacting with the Border Security Force personnel deployed at the Border Outpost 'Vinay' in Kathua district during his Jammu and Kashmir visit.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Director of the Intelligence Bureau, and Director-General of the Border Security Force, along with several other dignitaries, were also present.

Shah said that over 26 initiatives related to technology are currently being tested, including anti-drone technology, tunnel identification technology, and electronic surveillance.

Shah paid tribute to the martyr Assistant Commandant Vinay Prasad of the Border Security Force, who made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty at the international border in Kathua district in 2019. Earlier, in 2021, Shah had visited the Makwal Border Post along the Jammu frontier.

The Home Minister inaugurated newly built facilities at the border, including 8 women barracks, high-mast lights, a G+1 tower, and a composite BOP, all constructed at a cost of

India, Uzbekistan need to deepen ties in digital technology, renewable energy: Om Birla

New Delhi, April 7 (UNI) : Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday said that India and Uzbekistan share timeless ties of history and heritage and emphasised the need to enhance these ties in emerging area like digital technology, artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and nuclear energy, alongside traditional sectors. Birla said this during his meeting with President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in Tashkent on the sidelines of the 150th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union, a Lok Sabha Secretariat said here. Underlining India's ancient democratic traditions, Birla mentioned that guided by the Constitution, India has continually expanded its democratic values and prioritised social inclusion. He further said that

₹47.22 crore. These initiatives have strengthened the security arrangements during the Border Security Force personnel's duties and have also improved their living conditions.

He appreciated the efforts of the BSF personnel and officers in monitoring the international border in the Jammu region.

During his interaction with the soldiers, Shah said that on visiting this place, one realises the difficult conditions under which the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel ensure the security of the country's borders.

He mentioned, "Despite extreme cold, heavy rainfall, or temperatures reaching 45 degrees Celsius, and regardless of the geographical or climatic challenges, our soldiers remain vigilant and dedicated to securing the borders with preparedness and alertness."

Shah said that the BSF has a glorious history when it comes to the country's security and mentioned that the entire nation knows that the BSF is our first line of defence, and the force has always performed this responsibility exceptionally well.

He further noted that in every war with Pakistan, the contribution of our BSF soldiers has been as significant as that of the Indian Army.

He added that two models of electronic surveillance systems have been developed for deployment on the border.

After their installation across the entire border, soldiers will find it much easier to receive information and respond immediately to any actions by the enemy, using technology.

Shah expressed confidence that some results from these tests could be achieved by next March, which would make it easier for the soldiers to fulfill their duties.

India has strengthened democracy at the grassroots level by ensuring 33 percent reservation for women in its local level governance.

He informed that by introducing the "Nari Shakti Vandan Act" as the first law in the new Parliament building, India not only reiterated its commitment to its democratic ethos but also ensured greater representation of women in state and central legislatures. Stressing on the elevation of Indo-Uzbek relationship to a strategic partnership and the addition of new dimensions in recent years, the Speaker underlined that both nations have strengthened cooperation in various areas like economy, defence, education and trade. He noted India is now one of Uzbekistan's 10 largest trade partners.

Low-pressure area forms over South Bay of Bengal: Met

Amaravati, April 7 (UNI) : A low-pressure area has been formed over the central parts of the South Bay of Bengal under the influence of an upper air cyclonic circulation over the southeast Bay of Bengal and its neighbourhood, according to the Meteorological Centre here.

In its daily weather report issued on Monday, the Met Centre stated that the low-pressure area was observed at 0830 hours, with the associated cyclonic circulation extending up to 5.8 km above mean sea level.

The system is likely to move northwestwards over the southwest Bay of Bengal until April 8, and subsequently, it is expected to track northwards over the west-central Bay of Bengal during the following 48 hours. Additionally, a trough extends from the cyclonic circulation over the southeast Bay of Bengal to South Tamil Nadu, across the southwest Bay of Bengal, up to 1.5 km above mean sea level. Meanwhile, the north-south trough from Marathwada to South Tamil Nadu via interior Karnataka and the upper air cyclonic circulation over South Interior Karnataka and its neighbourhood have become less marked.

The weather report forecasts thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds, with speeds ranging from 30 to 40 kmph, likely at isolated places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam over the next five days, and in Rayalaseema on April 10 and 11.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely to occur at isolated places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and Rayalaseema during the next seven days.

Rainfall was recorded at one or two places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and Rayalaseema during the past 24 hours. The highest maximum temperature of 39.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Kurnool in Rayalaseema on Sunday, the report added.

Birla also highlighted the importance of increasing Parliamentary cooperation between the two Parliaments to exchange ideas on mutual interests and strengthen people-to-people contacts. He proposed promoting parliamentary exchanges in order to help both countries' officials better understand each other's systems and best practices.

Moreover, Birla appreciated the growing interest in Indian culture in Uzbekistan, particularly in music, dance, and yoga, as well as the increasing number of Indian students in Uzbek educational institutions. During the day, Birla and members of Indian delegation paid floral tributes at the bust of the former Prime Minister of India Lal Bahadur Shastri in Tashkent.

Support Our Students: Yarlagadda Appeals to Telugu CEOs in Canada

(By Ravi Kumar Boppna) Toronto, Canada, April 7 : Acharya Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad, National President of the Vishwa Hindi Parishad, former Rajya Sabha member, and Padma Bhushan awardee, has urged Telugu CEOs of various companies in Canada to support Telugu students facing challenges with scholarships and employment opportunities. In a meeting held on Monday at Banjara India Restaurant in Toronto, Yarlagadda highlighted the



difficulties Telugu students are experiencing due to recent changes in U.S.-Canada and Canada-India relations, particularly after Donald Trump became the U.S. President. He emphasized that many parents are worried about their children's future and called for collaboration with Telugu organizations in Canada to provide scholarships, part-time jobs, and permanent

employment for eligible students.

Prominent attendees at the meeting acknowledged the issue, stating that while 80% of Telugu students previously obtained work permits and jobs after graduation, the number has now dropped to just 20%. Many students are uncertain about their future and whether they should stay in Canada or return home. The company

representatives assured that they would extend all possible assistance. Yarlagadda's past role as India's cultural envoy in Canada helped establish strong connections with these organizations, facilitating productive discussions. During the event, he also honored Sharan Ghai, owner of Namaste Canada newspaper and a renowned Hindi literary figure, along

with Srikrishna Desikacharyulu, one of the first overseas Telugus to develop Telugu fonts, on behalf of the Vishwa Hindi Parishad.

Earlier in the day, Yarlagadda met with Surya Bezawada and Vishal Bezawada, prominent Telugu entrepreneurs running Liberty Tax, Canada's largest tax consultancy firm with offices in eight cities. He urged them to extend their support to Telugu students in Windsor and other cities. The meetings were organized by Rajesh Veerelsa, owner of Banjara India Restaurant, and Banukumar Pothakamuri, a senior executive at Marriott Hotels.

Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan to visit India, meet PM Modi, EAM Jaishankar

New Delhi, April 7 (UNI) : The Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of UAE Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum will be on a two-day visit to India from tomorrow. This would be Sheikh Hamdan's first official visit of to India as the Crown Prince of Dubai. He will be accompanied by several Ministers, senior government officials and a high-level business delegation. The visit is on the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On April 8, Prime Minister Modi will host a working lunch for the

Crown Prince, who will also hold meetings with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, a statement said. The visit also comes two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Colombo and his talks with the Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, during which the two sides signed a trilateral MoU with the UAE for turning Trincomalee into an energy hub. The visiting dignitary will proceed to Mumbai later tomorrow. During the visit, the Dubai Crown Prince will also participate in a business roundtable

with prominent business leaders from both sides.

The interaction is aimed to strengthen India-UAE economic and commercial cooperation across traditional and futuristic areas. Traditionally, Dubai has played an important role in India's commercial, cultural and people-to-people exchanges with the UAE. Majority of India's around 4.3 million diaspora in UAE reside and work in Dubai. The visit of the Crown Prince will further solidify the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and strengthen the multifaceted ties with Dubai, the statement added.

PM to give major gifts to Haryana on April 14 : Rana

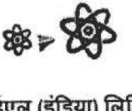

Chandigarh, April 7 (UNI) : Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

Minister, Shyam Singh Rana, said on Monday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give important gifts to people of the state on April 14, the occasion of Dr B R Ambedkar's birth anniversary.

On this day, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation

stone for an 800 MW thermal power unit in Yamunanagar and will

inaugurate a new airport and lay the foundation stone for a terminal in Hisar.



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.
Date: 01.04.2025

Sd/-
GM & Head, RED

CBC 48145/12/0001/2526

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.
Advised 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.
Advised 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 DESIGNATED 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.
Advised 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.
Advised 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.reps.gov.in
Note: The prospective bidders are advised to visit 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), PR-12/Q25-26 Waltair

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 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.

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

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.

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

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,

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 Newspan 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.

ensuring a level playing field," he added.

According to The Business Standard BD, the proposed draft also includes provisions to keep election campaigns on a 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Hyderabad-based CSIR institutes driving innovation in drug discovery, genetic diagnostics: Dr. Jitendra Singh

(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, April 7 :Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, commended the pivotal role played by Hyderabad-based CSIR institutes in advancing drug discovery, genetic diagnostics, and the development of cost-effective Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs).The Minister conducted a review meeting with the directors of three premier CSIR laboratories in Hyderabad recently to assess recent scientific contributions.

The meeting was attended by Dr D Srinivasa Reddy, Director of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Dr Prakash Kumar, Director of CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), and Dr Vinay Nandicoori, Director of CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB).The session provided a



platform to showcase significant achievements and strategic research outcomes from each institution, an official statement said on Monday. Dr Srinivasa Reddy highlighted CSIR-IICT’s key initiatives in the pharmaceutical and chemical sectors, including the development of safer agrochemicals and novel industrial catalysts. He also showcased innovations such as compostable plastics in collaboration with

GreenWorksBio and Hydrazine Hydrate production with Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd (GACL). In sustainability, the institute’s Anaerobic Gas Lift Reactor (AGR) technology was noted for its efficiency in converting biodegradable waste into biogas and bio-manure. Dr Vinay Nandicoori shared CSIR-CCMB’s achievements in genetic research, notably being the first Indian institute to develop DNA fingerprinting technology.

He detailed the institute’s contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, including indigenous diagnostics and mRNA vaccine development. The institute’s efforts in addressing sickle cell anemia through affordable diagnostics, establishing a national rare disease registry, and nurturing over 160 biotech startups through its Atal Incubation Centre were also highlighted.In the field of earth sciences, Dr Prakash Kumar presented CSIR-

NGRI’s work in seismic hazard mapping and resource exploration. He emphasized the development of India’s first strain map for earthquake vulnerability and ongoing seismic profiling projects in central India. NGRI’s initiatives in geothermal energy, especially in Ladakh and Chhattisgarh, were recognized as critical for the nation’s clean energy goals.Dr Jitendra Singh praised the institutes for their contributions to national missions and scientific advancement under the patronage of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He underscored the importance of leveraging science and innovation for addressing societal challenges and achieving India’s vision of a self-reliant knowledge economy. The Minister also announced that Hyderabad-based CSIR labs will host the Startup Conclave 2025, providing a platform for emerging innovators in science and technology.

Governor participates in Sri Rama Samrajya Pattabhishekam at Bhadrachalam temple

Hyderabad, April 7 (UNI) :Governor Jishnu Dev Varma participated in the Sri Rama Samrajya Pattabhishekam at the Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple in Bhadrachalam on Monday.As part of the celestial coronation of Lord Sri Rama, the Governor offered Pattu Vastralu to the deity, in accordance with temple tradition. Expressing his spiritual elation, Sri Varma said he felt deeply blessed to witness the sacred ritual at such a historically and religiously significant shrine.He emphasised the timeless relevance of Lord Sri Rama’s ideals and called upon all to uphold the virtues of righteousness, compassion, and truthfulness exemplified by the Maryada Purushottam. Earlier in the day, the Governor had darshan of the presiding deities at the Bhadradri temple and offered special prayers. The temple priests, who performed the Pattabhishekam rituals with elaborate Vedic chanting and ceremonial grandeur, blessed the Governor through ashirvachanam and presented him with prasadam. The Minister for Agriculture, Sri Tummala Nageswararao, the Commissioner of Endowments, the District Collector and Superintendent of Police of Bhadradri Kothagudem, and senior temple authorities accompanied the Governor during the visit, a Raj Bhavan communique said.

Telangana prioritises green energy, infrastructure and education in talks with Singapore delegation: Dy CM

(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, April 7 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu stated that green energy, the Regional Ring Road, urban rejuvenation, and education are key priority sectors for the Telangana state government.He made the remarks during a meeting with a delegation led by Singapore Consul General Edgar Pang at the Dr B R Ambedkar Secretariat on Monday, an official statement said. Consul General Pang expressed Singapore’s interest in strengthening economic ties with Telangana and highlighted the eagerness of Singaporean companies to collaborate in these sectors. He sought the deputy CM’s support and cooperation in exploring joint opportunities.In response, the Deputy CM welcomed the prospect of working with Singaporean firms and said Telangana is keen to partner in the areas aligned with its development goals. He noted that under the

new green energy policy, the state is focusing on solar, hydro, and pumped storage power projects. Highlighting developments in the education sector, Bhatti Vikramarka informed the delegation about the construction of Young India Integrated Residential Schools in every constituency, being built to international standards. He said that Rs 6,000 crore has been allocated for the first phase, with each school set to be constructed on 25 acres of land. He described this as a flagship project of the government.The Deputy CM also pointed out that Telangana, being a city-centric state with numerous towns, is placing strong emphasis on urban development.The meeting was also attended by Singapore Political Consul Vaishnavi Vasudevan, the First Economic Secretary of the Singapore High Commission, the Deputy CM’s Special Secretary Krishna Bhaskar, and other officials.

Telangana aims to produce 2 lakh AI engineers: Minister

Hyderabad, April 7 (UNI) :: IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced that the state government aims to produce two lakh AI engineers, positioning the state as a hub for emerging technologies. The minister made the statement during a courtesy meeting with a delegation from Singapore led by Consulate General Edgar Pang at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat on Monday.The delegation also included Consul Vaishnavi Vasudevan, First Secretary (Economic) Vivek Raghu Raman, and Enterprise Singapore Regional Director (India–South) Dennis Tom. Minister Sridhar Babu briefed the delegation on the initiatives being taken to establish Telangana as a global leader in advanced technologies. He highlighted plans for a "Future City" developed to

international standards and the establishment of a dedicated AI university to train the youth and create employment opportunities. He noted that Hyderabad is rapidly becoming a hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), with 70 centres across IT, hospitality, and other sectors launched in the past year alone.The minister emphasised efforts to decentralise industrial growth by encouraging investors to expand into cities like Warangal and Karimnagar, rather than concentrating solely in Hyderabad. He urged the delegation to inform industrialists about the opportunities available in Telangana.Minister Sridhar Babu also expressed the state’s willingness to collaborate with the Singapore government on technology, skill development, and other sectors, an official statement said.

Dy CM orders immediate withdrawal of cases against HCU students

Hyderabad, April 7 (UNI) :Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has directed police officials to immediately withdraw the cases registered against students of Hyderabad Central University (HCU). The decision was taken during a meeting held at the Dr B R Ambedkar Secretariat on Monday, following discussions with Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy—members of the sub-committee engaged with the HCU Teachers Association and civil society representatives. Emphasising the need for swift action, the Deputy CM specifically instructed officials to initiate the withdrawal of cases against two students currently in judicial remand.

Cong slams Waqf Bill as "unconstitutional", vows legal and public resistance

Hyderabad, April 7 (UNI) :The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has strongly condemned the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, calling it "unconstitutional and discriminatory".

Addressing media here on Monday, TPCC spokesperson Syed Nizamuddin said the Bill "threatens" religious autonomy and minority rights, and pledged that Congress would challenge it in the Supreme Court

and launch a grassroots campaign against it. He criticised the BJP-led Centre for pushing the Bill through Parliament without meaningful debate, and highlighted senior leader Sonia Gandhi’s late-night vote

against it as a symbol of Congress’s commitment. Nizamuddin argued that the Bill violates Article 26 of the Constitution by infringing on the rights of religious communities to manage their affairs.

Three held for illegal sale of steroids worth Rs 1.8 lakh

Hyderabad, April 7 (UNI) :The Hyderabad Police have arrested three individuals for illegally procuring and selling steroids worth Rs 1.8 lakh. Acting on credible information, the Commissioner’s Task Force, South West Zone team, along with Humayun Nagar Police, apprehended Mohd Nazeer (47), the main supplier and owner of a supplement store in Yakatpura; R. Sanjeev (28), a sub-supplier and supplement store owner in Gowlipura; and Imran Khan (40), an unemployed former gym trainer from Hakeempet, a police statement said on Monday. The trio was involved in the illegal sale of steroid injections, tablets, and capsules commonly used for bodybuilding, without valid medical prescriptions or licenses.Imran Khan was first caught near Soma Tailor, NMDC Road,

Mehdipatnam, while in possession of steroid vials. His confession led police to Sanjeev’s store, and later to Nazeer, from whom a large quantity of banned substances was seized.The confiscated material includes various growth hormone vials, capsules, and injectable steroids. Police noted that these substances are in high demand among youth seeking quick muscle gains, despite serious associated health risks.

On bail from Delhi, Kejriwal and Sisodia seeking employment in Punjab: BJP

Chandigarh, April 7 (UNI) : National General Secretary of the BJP Tarun Chugh on Monday condemned what he called “blatant misuse” of public funds by the AAP government in Punjab to promote the state ruling party’s top guns and “political discards of Delhi” Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia in the state.Taking strong exception to the so-called “Sikhya Kranti” programme, Chugh said that if media reports are to be believed, "a deeply troubling scandal" is unfolding, with over Rs 20 crore being spent on inauguration plaques featuring Kejriwal and Sisodia, and on ceremonies across more than 10,000 schools for already completed or minor renovation works. Chugh stated, “It is shocking and shameful that instead of focusing on meaningful improvements to Punjab’s crumbling education infrastructure, the AAP government is indulging in self-glorification and publicity stunts. Installing over 25,000 plaques, sometimes four in a single school, bearing the names of the Chief Minister, Education Minister, and AAP MLAs, is nothing but an exercise in political vanity funded by taxpayer money.” Spending Rs 5,000 per plaque, money that could have been used for teaching aids or basic school infrastructure, is a "gross misuse" of public resources. he said. Chugh said teachers and students have rightly questioned the logic and necessity of such expenditures when essential facilities are still lacking.Chugh said the entire drive is nothing short of a “name-plate scam,” designed to promote AAP leaders who have been on bail, rather than serve the interests of Punjab’s children.He further demanded a high-level audit and investigation into the Rs 20 crore spent on plaques and called for an immediate halt to the installation spree.Chugh also demanded an apology from CM Bhagwant Mann and Education Minister Harjot Bains for “misusing” public funds. He urged the authorities to redirect these funds toward actual educational development, such as providing books, building classrooms, and ensuring functional toilets.

Telangana a role model in uplifting underprivileged: Seethakka at national meet

Dehradun/Hyderabad, April 7 (UNI) :Telangana stands as a role model in the upliftment of the underprivileged, declared Dr Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Women & Child Welfare. She emphasised that the Telangana government is committed to spending every penny towards achieving social justice. Speaking at the Chintan Shivir held in Dehradun on Monday, chaired by Union Minister for Social Justice Dr Veerendra Kumar, Seethakka highlighted the various welfare and empowerment initiatives being undertaken by the Telangana government. She detailed schemes targeted at the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the transgender community, and appealed for the Centre’s cooperation in further strengthening these efforts.Seethakka underlined that social justice means ensuring equal opportunities for all sections in social, economic, and political spheres. She proudly noted that the Telangana Assembly recently passed two historic bills — the long-pending SC classification bill and another increasing population-based reservations for Backward Classes to 42 per cent in education, employment, and political representation. “These bills are a major milestone in our journey toward inclusive development,” she said, adding that Telangana is the only state providing rice to the poor through the Public Distribution System. She listed several other welfare measures, including Rs. 500 gas cylinders, free electricity up to 200 units, and free bus travel for women, all designed to reduce the financial burden on the underprivileged. She further stated, “Dalits, Adivasis, women, the elderly, disabled, and transgenders have historically faced injustice. The Constitution compels us to correct these wrongs and build an inclusive society. Our government’s focus is not on charity but on empowerment.” Quoting former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Seethakka remarked that real development is not just about infrastructure but about raising living standards and moral values.She added that Telangana is implementing numerous schemes to promote self-respect among the disabled, including self-employment for 25,000 youth under Rajiv Yuva Vikasam with a budget of Rs. 300 crore, and population-based allocations under the Indiramma Indla Yojana. She reported that Rs.

3,056.94 crore was spent last year for pensions benefiting 32.69 lakh elderly persons, and free medical treatment up to Rs. 10 lakh is being provided under Rajiv Aarogyasri. Legal assistance is also extended to senior citizens facing familial disputes.For the welfare of the transgender community, Maitri Clinics have been set up in every district, 44 trans persons appointed as traffic assistants, and 72 individuals supported with Rs. 2 lakh in employment subsidies.Minister Seethakka reiterated Telangana’s firm commitment to ensuring dignity, equality, and social justice for all.She was accompanied at the event by Anitha Ramachandran, Secretary, Women and Child Welfare Department, and Shailaja, Joint Director, Department of Empowerment of Elderly, Disabled, and Transgenders, an official statement said.

DGP stresses public trust, quality investigations, and women empowerment

Hyderabad, April 7 (UNI) :Director General of Police (DGP) Dr Jitender emphasised the need to strengthen public trust through visible policing and consistent community engagement.The DGP chaired the half-yearly crime review meeting on Monday at the DGP Office in HyderabadHe called upon officers to deliver service with integrity and urged women officers to take an active role in spreading awareness on women’s self-development and empowerment. Highlighting the importance of quality

investigations to ensure justice, Dr. Jitender directed officers to effectively use the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) to enhance investigation and conviction rates. He also sensitised officials to differentiate clearly between civil and financial disputes while being empathetic towards victims.During the meeting, DG CID Smt. Shikha Goel presented a comprehensive crime analysis, noting a 4.9 percent overall decline in crime in the second half of 2024 compared to the first half.

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 jaggling 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

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 Bangalore (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 defeating Team 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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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– N a r a n g i – S M V T 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 18,000 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 Raipur Central -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 Tokhan Sahu, 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.