

PACS now providing more than 20 types of services: Minister

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) : Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, on Sunday said Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) which previously offered only short-term agricultural loans, and earned merely about half a percent income, are now providing over 20 types of services and the new reforms will also increase their income.

Addressing the State Level Cooperative Conference in Bhopal, he said, "Today PACS have been allowed to provide services like Jan Aushadhi Kendra, water distribution, common service centres."

He said that more than 300 schemes are available to the people on PACS computers. One does not need to go out of the village to get railway tickets, electricity bills, water bills, birth and death certificates, all these facilities are now available in PACS.

Shah informed that many PACS have earned income from these services. PACS can now also become fertilizer dealers, start petrol pumps, distribute cooking gas and also manage the 'Har Ghar Nal' scheme.

The Minister said that since the formation of the Cooperation Ministry, there has been a significant change in the cooperative sector under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and now this sector is moving forward rapidly. He said the Ministry of Cooperation first worked on creating model by-laws for PACS and sent it to the state governments for approval. Today the whole of India has accepted these model by-laws. Expressing gratitude to the states for accepting the model by-laws, Shah said that this step has brought new life to the cooperative sector. Unless PACS is strengthened, the

(Contd on page 3)

Farmers in State to get 12 hours of free electricity by end of 2026: CM, Fadnavis



(Standard Post Bureau)

Wardha, April 13 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced on Sunday that by December 2026, 80 percent of farmers in the state will be provided with free electricity for 12 hours a day.

Speaking at inauguration and ground-breaking ceremony of various development works in Arvi of the district, he also announced that the

electricity bills of common citizens in the state will be reduced every year over next five years.

He said that heeding to the demand of farmers for 12 hours of electricity in a day for agriculture, the state government has taken various decisions in interest of farmers and started implementing them directly.

By December 2026, 80 percent of farmers in the state will get free electricity

for 12 hours a day, 365 days a year, he asserted.

Similarly, the state government has planned and started taking action to reduce electricity bills of consumers in the state every year from 2025 to 2030, he informed.

He also said that the middle class and poor families using up to 300 units of electricity will be provided free electricity by bringing them under solar energy.

The Chief Minister said that water and electricity will be provided for agriculture through irrigation projects like Lower Wardha Project, Vaddona-Pimpalkhuta in Wardha district and employment opportunities will be provided by setting up an MIDC at the node on the Samruddhi Highway

passing through the district.

Also, the state government will provide all possible help to implement the Lower Wardha project and the Vaddona-Pimpalkhuta lift irrigation project in this area in coming time, he said. Through these irrigation projects, free electricity along with abundant water will be available for agriculture in this area, he continued.

He further said that due to the Wainganga-Nalganga river linking project, some drought-affected areas in 10 districts of Vidarbha, including Wardha, will get water. Through this project, a new 550 km river will be created and a provision of Rs one lakh crore has been made for the purpose, he informed.

Praveen Pardeshi appointed as CEA to CM

Mumbai, April 13 (UNI) : The government has appointed Praveen Pardeshi, a former principal chief secretary, as chief

economic adviser to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis with the Minister of State (MoS)'s rank, with a responsibility to reshape the

state's economy. As per a government resolution (GR) issued late on Saturday, he will provide advice on policy matters and devise a

mechanism to use the state's financial capabilities. Pardeshi, a 1985 batch IAS officer, will lead the Department of Finance and Statistics.

BMC takes over tanker, borewell operations as Mumbai Water Tankers Association's strike continues

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 13 : The Brihanmumbai Municipal Commissioner (BMC) has taken over all operations of water tankers and borewells under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 following indefinite strike of Mumbai Water Tankers Association (MWTA), which supplies non-potable water in housing societies and other establishments in metropolis, official sources said here on Sunday. According to the sources, the BMC has designed a standard operating procedure (SOP) to supply water to housing societies and other entities.

A team at the BMC ward level in coordination with Mumbai Police and Transport commissioner will facilitate water supply through tankers.

It may be recalled that MWTA is on indefinite strike, protesting against the Central Ground Water Authority's (CGWA) directive mandating licences for groundwater extraction.

In a notice issued by the BMC, the private ring well and borewell owners were asked to stop supplying water to tankers and obtain a fresh licence from the CGWA till the BMC revokes its directive on groundwater extraction.

On April 11, the BMC had deferred the terms of its notification to the owners of borewells and ring well operators until June 15.

The decision to stay its notice until the next two months came along the heels of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' decision to find a resolution for the concerns flagged by the water tanker drivers across Mumbai amid burgeoning water crisis across the city.

However, the MWTA maintained that their strike is here to stay and will not be revoked, leaving the city mired with its ongoing water crisis.

As several pockets of the city reeled under a water crisis, Union Minister for Jal Shakti Ministry, C R Patil, also convened a meeting with the representatives of the MWTA as well as the CGWA authorities, wherein the grievances of the tanker owners were discussed.

Following the meeting, minister Patil directed the CGWA to streamline the process of obtaining NOCs (no-objection certificates) and making the facility more accessible.



Mann dares Bajwa to prove his '50 bombs in Punjab' claim ...

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday dared Leader of Opposition (LoP) Partap Singh Bajwa to prove his "50 bombs in Punjab" claim, even as the senior Congress leader said he would not reveal his source and asked the CM to wake up from his "Kumbhakarni sleep" and handle the "deteriorating" security situation in Punjab. Earlier, Mann, in a video message, questioned how could Bajwa claim that 50 bombs have been brought into the state and out of them 18 were used, and 32 remain to be exploded, when the state as well as Central Intelligence Agencies have no such information.

(See on page 2)

EAM Jaishankar meets Bavaria's Minister-President Markus



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today met with Markus Soeder, the Minister-President of the German free state of Bavaria, during which they discussed the contribution of Bavaria in strengthening Indo-German cooperation and the EU.

(See on page 3)

Two sites for constructing new NPP in Belarus being



Two sites are currently under consideration for the construction of a second nuclear power plant in Belarus, namely the additional unit of the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in Ostrovets and a new NPP in Mogilev region,

(See on page 5)

India opens first wheelchair ...




Nestled in the tranquil landscape of Melur near Siddalaghatta, about 50 km from Bengaluru, the Deuce Tennis Centre (DTC) is more than just a new facility for wheelchair tennis — it is a bold vision realised. A vision grounded in collaboration, inclusivity, and the ambition to build an evolving, accessible tennis ecosystem in India.

(See on page 7)




संविधानाचे अमृत महोत्सवी वर्ष



भारतीय संविधानाचे जनक
महामानव
भारतरत्न डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर
यांना जयंतीनिमित्त विनम्र अभिवादन!

भारतासह संपूर्ण जगालाही प्रेरणादायी ठरलेल्या
डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर यांच्या विचारांचा आणि कार्याचा वारसा जपत सर्वसमावेशक,
प्रगत आणि न्याययुक्त महाराष्ट्र घडविण्याचा संकल्प करूया.



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Tripura court sends 7 Bangladeshis to jail for 12 days

Agartala, April 13 (UNI) : A local court in Tripura on Sunday ordered 12-day jail remand for seven Bangladeshi nationals, who were arrested for illegally entering Indian territory by crossing the international border in Belonia.

According to police sources, the group entered India on Saturday night through the Amjad Nagar area, which is adjacent to Belonia town in South Tripura district.

"A team led by Belonia Sub-Divisional Police Officer Rishabh and Officer-in-Charge of Belonia Police Station, Shibu Ranjan Dey, intercepted a car at a naka checking point in the Manurmukh Tabla Chowmuhoni area. Upon checking the vehicle, seven Bangladeshi nationals were found and subsequently detained," a police official said.

During preliminary interrogation, all seven men confessed to being residents of Bangladesh. They also claimed that an unidentified individual had assisted them in crossing the border in exchange for money.

"We have registered a case against them and produced them before the court, seeking five days police remand for further investigation," the police added.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Robin Hossain (29), Mohammad Rafi (25), Amjad Hossain (27), Shahidur Jjaman (28), Fazzal (24), Rehan Mollah (21) and Gias Uddin (35).

Police also seized seven Android mobile phones, one keypad mobile, Rs 1.64 lakh in Indian currency, and 1,01,935 Bangladeshi Taka from their possession.



BSF personnel interact with locals as they guard in a violence-hit area at Jangipur, in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. Violence erupted in the area following protests over Waqf Act.

Governor greets people on Sangken, Ambedkar Jayanti

Itanagar, April 13 (UNI) : Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lieutenant General (retired) K T Parnaik has greeted the people of the State, particularly the Tai Khamti and Singpho communities, on the eve of Sangken and expressed hope that the festivity would bring peace, happiness and prosperity to every home and heart.

In his message here on Sunday, the Governor said that Sangken is more than just a celebration. "It is a time of spiritual renewal, where we cleanse our souls, strengthen our bonds, and welcome the New Year with hope and positivity. The ceremonial bathing of Lord Buddha's images and the tradition of sprinkling water remind us of the values of purity, goodwill, and togetherness," he said.

"May this festival of our Tai Khamti and Singpho brethren continue to foster unity, harmony, and mutual respect, inspiring us all to work towards collective progress and well-being," the Governor wished in his message. In a separate message, Governor Parnaik extended warm greetings to the people of the State on the eve of Ambedkar Jayanti that commemorates the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution.

He expressed hope that the day will further strengthen the nation's resolve to preserve, protect, and defend the constitutional ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. Dr Ambedkar was a towering intellectual, an eminent economist, a legal

luminary, and a social reformer who dedicated his life to building an inclusive and equitable society. A champion of the marginalized and a voice for the voiceless, he envisioned a nation where every individual is empowered with dignity, opportunity, and rights.

"His birth anniversary serves as a reminder of our collective responsibility to uphold the values enshrined in our Constitution. Let us mark this occasion by reaffirming our commitment to the principles and values of Dr Ambedkar, Governor Parnaik appealed. "May Dr Ambedkar's enduring legacy continue to inspire us in our pursuit of social harmony, unity, and a truly Aatma Nirbhar Viksit Bharat," the Governor wished in his message.

Punjab counter intelligence police arrest two operatives of Brar-Bishnoi gang, foil terror plot

Chandigarh, April 13 (UNI) : In a major breakthrough, Counter Intelligence (CI) police, Ferozepur arrested two key operatives of a terror module run by Germany-based Gurpreet Singh alias Goldy Dhillon, a close associate of the Goldy Brar-Lawrence Bishnoi gang, and foiled plans of Pakistan's ISI to disturb peace and harmony in the region, said DGP Punjab Gaurav Yadav on Sunday.

He said that besides the arrests of the two operatives, Jagga Singh and Manjinder Singh, the counter intelligence police also recovered one 2.8 kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED) containing 1.6 kg RDX and one remote control.

He said preliminary investigations have revealed that the IED was intended for a targeted terror attack.

DGP Yadav also said that the NIA has declared a Rs 10 lakh reward on Goldy Dhillon.

An FIR has been registered at Police Station SSOC, Mohali under the Explosive Substances Act.

Infrastructural facilities improved remarkably under NDA regime in Bihar: Samrat

Patna, April 13 (UNI) : Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary on Sunday said infrastructural facilities have improved in all parts of the state under NDA regime. Chaudhary said that infrastructural facilities were negligible during Lalu Regime in Bihar and people were struggling for construction of even a bridge.

Infrastructural facilities like roads, bridges, buildings of schools, colleges and hospitals had improved remarkably since 2005 when NDA government was voted in power in Bihar, he added.

Deputy Chief Minister said that veteran freedom fighter Vanshi Chacha had immolated self, demanding for construction of a bridge over Bagmati river during Lalu-Rabri regime.

When NDA was voted to power in 2005, bridge over Bagmati river was constructed with initiative taken by the then Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi, he pointed out.

No one was required to commit suicide to exert pressure on government for construction of bridges under NDA regime as large number of bridges were already constructed while many others were being constructed, he said.

"During Lalu-Rabri regime of 15 years, not a single new medical college or university was opened", Chaudhary said, adding that Nitish-led NDA government had decided to construct 30 new medical colleges in Bihar.

Western Railway to run unreserved summer special train between udhna and Danapur

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, April 13 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the ongoing Summer vacation, Western Railway will run an unreserved Summer Special Train on Special fare between Udhna & Danapur.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek the details of the train are as under:

Train No. 09053/09054 Udhna – Danapur Unreserved Special [2 Trips] Train No. 09053 Udhna – Danapur Special will depart from Udhna on Monday, 14th April, 2025 at 06:45 hrs and will reach Danapur at 12:45 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09054 Danapur – Udhna Special will depart from Danapur on Tuesday, 15th April, 2025 at 16:10 hrs and will reach Udhna at 22:30 hrs, the next day.

Enroute this train will

halt at Chalthan, Bardoli, Nandurbar, Amalner, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar and Ara station in both directions.

This train comprising of Sleeper and Second Class coaches will be FULLY UNRESERVED. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Central Railway Rolls Out 14 Additional AC Local Services to Beat the Heat

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 13 : In a significant boost to passenger comfort, Central Railway is set to introduce 14 new air-conditioned local train services on the Main Line starting April 16, 2025. This enhancement will increase the total number of AC services on the Main Line from 66 to 80 on weekdays, offering a more comfortable travel experience to passengers during Mumbai's intense weather conditions.

The new AC services will replace existing non-AC services, maintaining the total suburban service count at 1,810 daily. These services will operate

Monday through Saturday, with corresponding services continuing to run with non-AC rakes on Sundays and designated holidays.

New AC Services Schedule:

UP Direction (Towards CSMT)

1. Kalyan 07:34 – CSMT 09:05
2. Badlapur 10:42 – CSMT 12:12
3. Thane 13:28 – CSMT 14:25
4. Thane 15:36 – CSMT 16:34
5. Thane 17:41 – CSMT 18:40
6. Thane 19:49 – CSMT 20:48

7. Badlapur 23:04 – Thane 23:59

DOWN Direction (From CSMT)

8. Vidyavihar 06:26 – Kalyan 07:25
9. CSMT 09:09 – Badlapur 10:32
10. CSMT 12:24 – Thane 13:20
11. CSMT 14:29 – Thane 15:25
12. CSMT 16:38 – Thane 17:35
13. CSMT 18:45 – Thane 19:42
14. CSMT 21:08 – Badlapur 22:56

Central Railway encourages passengers to take advantage of these services for a more pleasant journey.

Mann dares Bajwa to prove his '50 bombs in Punjab' claim; LoP asks CM to wake up from slumber

Chandigarh, April 13 (UNI) : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday dared Leader of Opposition (LoP) Partap Singh Bajwa to prove his "50 bombs in Punjab" claim, even as the senior Congress leader said he would not reveal his source and asked the CM to wake up from his "Kumbhakarni sleep" and handle the "deteriorating" security situation in Punjab. Earlier, Mann, in a video message, questioned how could Bajwa claim that 50 bombs have been brought into the state and out of them 18 were used, and 32 remain to be exploded, when the state as well as Central Intelligence Agencies have no such information.

Mann asked whether Bajwa's source of information was from

Pakistan? He said that Bajwa and his party Congress should come clean, adding that if the claim was intended to spread fear, then action would be taken against him.

Senior Punjab Police officials reached the Chandigarh residence of the LoP and questioned him about his claim.

After senior officials from Punjab Police counter intelligence wing questioned him, Bajwa told the media that he would not reveal his source.

Bajwa said that he was holding a constitutional post and in the past has been cabinet minister too, and he had sources in the state as well as the Central Agencies besides in the foreign ministry.

Bajwa said that his source asked him to be careful as the atmosphere

in Punjab was "becoming sensitive" because his (Bajwa's) own family was attacked during the terrorism period.

He claimed that he had cooperated with the police, maintaining that he would not reveal his source.

He said that by alerting about the bombs, he was only trying to assist the government, which was his duty as a Leader of Opposition.

Bajwa told Chief Minister Mann to wake up from "Kumbhakarni sleep" and handle the situation in Punjab which was "becoming out of control".

Notably, incidents of mild-intensity explosions have occurred in the recent past across Punjab, the last being outside former minister and Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) leader Manoranjan Kalia's house.

Creation of Khalsa Panth instilled spirit of courage, sacrifice in people: Saini

Chandigarh, April 13 (UNI) : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji instilled the spirit of living with courage and sacrifice in people by establishing the Khalsa Panth on April 13, 1699.

He gave a new direction to the society by combining bravery and heroic spirit with spiritual thinking.

Saini was speaking at Gurdwara Sadh Sangat, South City-I, Gurugram on the occasion of Vaisakhi today.

On this occasion, the

Chief Minister paid obeisance at the gurdwara and congratulated everyone on this auspicious day.

He said Vaisakhi is a very beautiful and colourful festival, which is celebrated with great enthusiasm in the whole of North India. The festival of Vaisakhi is known by different names in different states.

It holds great importance for farmers as it symbolises the joy of ripening of Kharif crop.

Saini said Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji established

Khalsa Panth in 1699 on the day of Vaisakhi to fight injustice and oppression. At that time, the country was ruled by the Mughals. They were inflicting severe atrocities on the people and they were being forced to convert. The society was divided on the basis of caste and religion. At that time, Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji performed such a miracle which no ordinary man could do.

He inspired people to make every kind of sacrifice to protect their religion and honour, he noted.

Chargsheet aimed at silencing me': MP

Srinagar, April 13 (UNI) : A day after Jammu & Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) filed a charge sheet against 22 individuals including sitting Member of Parliament Aga Ruhullah in an alleged land compensation fraud case, the National Conference leader termed it a "tactics" to "silence" him due to his opposition to the revocation of Article 370 and BJP policies.

The ACB on Saturday filed a chargesheet before the Special Anti-Corruption

Court in Srinagar against 22 accused, including sitting MP, two former Collectors of Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA), four retired public servants, and 16 beneficiaries, in a land compensation fraud case dating back to 2009.

MP Ruhulla said the land in question is in Bemina, Durbal, Dandusa, and was acquired by the government two decades ago. He claimed to be a third-generation heir to the land, originally belonging to his grandfather.

"I have no active or passive role in the negotiation, valuation, or any corruption. The custodian of the land was his uncle, who handled all related matters. They weren't even contacted by the ACB or police in 20 years until the chargesheet was filed," the MP said.

He linked the issue to broader political pressure, including what they describe as BJP's targeting of minorities and Muslims.

"I will not be bogged down by these childish acts," he said. Ruhullah

said this case has no substance and has been built on baseless grounds.

"It is an attempt to suppress my dissenting voice. This is a deliberate effort to intimidate me using agencies like the ACB. I suggest they also involve the NIA, so that real corrupt individuals can be exposed," he said.

He asserted that he would not be silenced.

"I will only become silent when the constitutional rights and dignity of J&K are restored," he added.

Pradesh across the country. He said that there is no politician in the Congress who has the morality to stand up to the BJP. The BJP leader claimed that every section of the society is frustrated and troubled by the Congress government in the state and that soon people would be out on the streets in protest.

He said the public has come to know that the Congress has woven a web of false guarantees for attaining power, in which an attempt was made to trap them, "but now the false web of the Sukhu government has

been torn, the public can throw the Sukhu government out of power anytime". Vipin Parmar told UNI that the 10 guarantees given by the Congress during the assembly elections "have evaporated", due to which the Congress party has been exposed.

He said that in the tenure of two-and-a-half years, the Congress government has not worked to implement any of the guarantees, and due to this the people of the state are now repenting.

Parmar said the Sukhu government has pushed

the state back by 20 years, and alleged that it has proved to be "the most useless government in the history of the country".

He said that after the formation of the government, in the first cabinet meeting 300 units of electricity were not given free and instead 125 units of electricity was stopped; the promised Rs 1,500 was not given to women between 18 and 60 years of age, 1.5 lakh posts were abolished without providing employment to the youth, the cow dung and milk and startup fund was not provided for the youth.

Union MoS leads Jai Bhim Padyatra in Mumbai, pays tribute to Dr Ambedkar

Mumbai, April 13 (UNI) : In the backdrop of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's birth anniversary on April 14, the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organised a 'Jai Bhim Padyatra' on Sunday as a tribute to Dr Ambedkar.

For the first time, this padyatra, which was held simultaneously in all the capital cities of major states across the country, became an important milestone of the national festival.

According to an official

media statement, the padyatra in Mumbai was led by Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Raksha Khadse.

More than 2000 volunteers of 'My Bharat' participated in this padyatra. The padyatra started from Nariman Point and ended at the statue of Dr. Ambedkar near the Mantralaya. This padyatra became a symbol of the values of social justice, equality and brotherhood, it said. Speaking on the occasion, Khadse said, "It

is very important for today's generation to know the thoughts of Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar. The contribution made by this great man to our country is invaluable. We are proud of the fact that he gave a new direction to the society. It is our duty to celebrate his birth anniversary, it is more important to implement and carry forward his thoughts in our lives."

On this occasion, National Youth Award winners, MLAs and youth were felicitated. During the

walk, activities like 'Shraddhanjali Kopre' presenting the inspiring thoughts of Dr. Ambedkar, cultural performances on the streets based on social justice, and 'Pratigya Bindu' made the atmosphere more inspiring.

The programme concluded with a mass cleanliness drive in the vicinity of Dr. Ambedkar's statue near the Mantralaya. This symbolic act was also carried out in various cities across the country, the statement added.

Babasaheb enabled the poor, deprived to fight for self-respect: Deputy CM

Mumbai, April 13 (UNI) : Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Sunday gratefully remembered the work and thoughts of the maker of the Indian constitution and said he gave the right to equality and enabled the poor and the deprived the strength to fight for their self-respect.

Paying tributes to Ambedkar on the eve of his birth anniversary, Pawar said, "Dr. Babasaheb fought a decisive battle against evil practices like ignorance, immorality, superstition, untouchability, caste discrimination in this country. It was only because of him that the people of this country got the right to live as human beings".

"He gave the right to equality and the strength to fight for self-respect to the poor, deprived, weak and neglected brothers and sisters in the society. His message of 'Learn, organise and struggle' benefited many generations of Bahujans," he said.

Sena UBT leader Sanjana Ghadi, husband join Sena Shinde group



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 13 : In a blow to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), party spokesperson Sanjana Ghadi, and her husband, former corporator Sanjay Ghadi, joined the

Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction on Sunday, ahead of the upcoming municipal elections.

Both of them were welcomed in the party by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Shiv Sena

chief Eknath Shinde and other senior leaders. Sanjana Ghadi, considered a key figure in Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena in Mumbai, is a former corporator and has held the post of deputy leader within the party.

On-duty RPF constable assaulted at Lonand station, one arrested

Pune, April 13 (UNI) : One person was arrested on Sunday for allegedly assaulting an on-duty Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable at Lonand railway station in Maharashtra.

Constable Jai Prakash, who was on duty at RPF Outpost Lonand, on Saturday night noticed a man sleeping in a drunken state near the ticket counter.

Upon advising him to return home, the individual became agitated, verbally abused the constable, and left the spot, said a Central Railway press release.

Within 10-15 minutes, the man returned to the station accompanied by his brother and their mother and assaulted him with a pipe and stick, besides raining blows and kicking him.

An injured and bleeding Jai Prakash was rushed to Siddhivinayak Hospital & Critical Care, Lonand. He is currently out of danger and under medical care, the release said.. A case was registered at the Government Railway Police (GRP), Miraj, while the drunken man was taken into custody.

Bengal police chief says Murshidabad situation under control

Kolkata, April 13 (UNI) : West Bengal Police Director General Rajeev Kumar, who travelled across the trouble-torn Murshidabad district on Sunday, said the situation in the district is under control.

Speaking to the media after his visit to Murshidabad—which has witnessed communal tension over the last three days resulting in three deaths, said, “"The situation in Murshidabad is completely under control. I would request everyone not to pay attention to rumours. Stay alert. If you

come across any information, inform the police."

The Director General (DG) arrived in Murshidabad on Sunday morning after reports of unrest surfaced in several parts of the district, including Shamsherganj, Suti, and Dhulian, amid protests demanding the repeal of the amended Waqf Act.

"Yesterday we arrested 71 people. Police are conducting route marches to instil confidence among the people. We request you to call the police whenever there is a problem," SP of Jangipur police district Ananda Roy said.

Autorickshaw driver arrested for molesting woman in Nashik

Nashik. April 13 (UNI) : The city police has registered a criminal case and arrested an autorickshaw driver for allegedly molesting a woman passenger waiting for a city bus on the busy road in city by making obscene gestures.

According to police, the

incident occurred in Bodhale Nagar area of Nashik, where the City Link bus suddenly breakdown on the road.

At the same time, some female passengers were standing on the side of the road when the rickshaw driver came there and started asking them where

they were going and made obscene gestures to a woman. The woman then lodged a complaint about this at the police station.

Based on her complaint, the city police registered the case and arrested the suspected rickshaw driver, Mizan Raza alias Malla Sadiq Sheikh.

PACS now providing more

(Contd from page 1)

three-tier cooperative structure cannot be strengthened.

Shah said, "In our Constitution, except for multi-state cooperatives, all cooperatives are a state subject. No initiative was ever taken to make laws according to the rapidly changing conditions in the country. Keeping in mind the geographical conditions, rainfall conditions, rural development, agricultural development and animal husbandry dimensions of each state, no thought was ever given at the national level."

No thought was ever given, because there was no Cooperation Ministry at the national level, he stressed.

was established with the objective of getting farmers a higher price for their organic produce.

He said that both these institutions will become bigger than Amul and other institutions in the next 20 years. A national cooperative institution named Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) has been formed for the conservation and promotion of India's sweet seeds and non-hybrid seeds.

He said that earlier only big farmers could do seed farming, but now even farmers with a landholding of 2.5 acres are being given an opportunity.

He claimed that three multi-state cooperatives created by the Modi government - NCEL, NCOL and BBSSL - are providing farmers a fair price for their produce, a platform for export and profits are reaching directly to their bank accounts.

also make such arrangements that cheese, curd, buttermilk, etc., are made from milk and sold and the farmer gets the profit." He said that in the coming days, Madhya Pradesh has to expand the primary dairy, increase milk collection, provide good fodder to the animals, and improve their breed so that every animal gives more milk. A processing unit is also to be set up to process the milk and sell it with more profit.

Shah said that Madhya Pradesh Cooperative Dairy Federation (MPCDF) will have to work on policy making and branding to ensure quality check and weekly payment to farmers. NDDB and MPCDF should work aggressively so that dairy reaches at least 50 percent villages and farmers benefit from it.

Following Saturday's Calcutta High Court order directing central forces to assist the state police in maintaining law and order in Murshidabad, five companies of central forces are currently deployed in the district.

Sources in the police said that the BSF – after their meeting with the DG – started route march in the affected areas of the district, accompanied by a large contingent of police personnel. BSF IG Karni Singh Shekhawat also reached Murshidabad on Sunday to oversee the situation.

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) : Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth, on Sunday emphasised on oneness and unity of purpose to overcome the vast maritime challenges and to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future.

He recalled the age-old relations between India and Africa and reiterated the principle of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across the Region) for further strengthening the bond with our friends in Africa, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Sanjay Seth and Minister of Defence and National Service of Tanzania Stergomena Lawrence Tax inaugurated the harbour phase of Indian Navy's maiden initiative of Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement exercise (AIKEYME) onboard 'INS Chennai' at Dar-es-Salaam.

AIKEYME, co-hosted by India and Tanzania, involves participation from Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa.

Seth stressed on the African proverb, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together," highlighting the need for enduring partnerships in maritime security. He expressed gratitude to Tanzania for hosting AIKEYME 25, marking a significant step towards long-term collaboration. The MoS also joined the digital inauguration of Weapons Training Simulator facility established at Arusha and inauguration of Defence Expo. In the Defence Expo, 22 companies from India are participating with their key products on display. Defence Minister of Tanzania thanked India for co-hosting the exercise and she termed it a strategic initiative to build strong maritime partnership. She also underscored the necessity of a collective approach to address challenges such as piracy and trafficking.

Stergomena Lawrence Tax reaffirmed Tanzania's commitment to hosting future editions of AIKEYME and detailed the collaborative framework for regional maritime security, emphasizing innovation and information sharing.

Her remarks firmly established that the relationship extends beyond military affairs, advocating for a broader regional cooperation.

Dignitaries present included the Chief of Defence Force, Tanzania People's Defence Force, the Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, and

the High Commissioner of India to Tanzania, reinforcing the importance of bilateral defence relationships. The event was punctuated by a parade of a 50-man guard and the stirring performance of the Indian Navy Band, embodying the spirit of maritime cooperation.

Sanjay Seth also briefly interacted with the crew of participating countries of the exercise and IOS SAGAR ship. He did a walkaround of INS Chennai. He gifted 15 sets of parachutes, books for NDC and a Tri-Services War Gaming Simulator to Tanzania as a token of strong bond and friendship between the two countries.

The exercise represents commitment of the participating countries to a free, open and secure Indian Ocean. A new chapter has been added today to the growing relations between India and Africa.

WESTERN RAILWAY
ELECTRICAL WORK

Sr.DEE/P/BCT, Mumbai Central, Mumbai 400008 invites **E-Tender No.: EL-81-30-140-WA-73(R)**, **Date: 09.04.2025. Work and Location:** Virar - Electrical (Power) work in connection with construction of 2.25 Lakh liter RCC OH water tank in lieu of old corroded MS Tank. **Approx. Cost of Work:** ₹ 15,39,371/- **EMD:** ₹ 30,800/- **Time & Date for Submission:** Till 05.05.2025, 15:00 hrs. **Time & Date for Opening:** On 05.05.2025 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in **0037**
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WESTERN RAILWAY
REPAIR WORK

Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg., Deptt., Mumbai Central - Mumbai - 400008, invites **Sr. No.:1. Tender Notice No.: BCT/25-26/14, Date: 11.04.2025. Work and Location:** Dahisar, Mira Road and Bhayandar (Railway station): Need Based Repairs on day-to-day basis by out sourcing for a period of 730 days. **Approx. cost of work:** ₹ 1,09,86,162.40, **EMD:** ₹ 2,04,900/- **Sr. No.:2. Tender Notice No.: BCT/25-26/15, Date: 11.04.2025. Work and Location:** (1) Vile Parle, Andheri, Jogeshwari and Jogeshwari (AT) Railway colonies: Need Based Repair on day to day basis by outsourcing for a period of 730 days. **Approx. cost of work:** ₹ 98,39,126.34. **EMD:** ₹ 1,96,800/- **Date & Time of Submission of both tenders:** Till 06.05.2025, 15:00 Hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of both tenders:** On 06.05.2025 at 15:30 Hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in **0042**
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Woman professor found dead at home with head wound in Nagpur

Mumbai, April 13 (UNI) : A 50-year-old woman professor, working as assistant professor in the physiotherapy department of the Government Medical College and Hospital, was found dead with a head wound in her house in Maharashtra's Nagpur city, police said on Sunday. The woman's body was discovered on Saturday night, an official said. According to details, the victim, Archana Anil Rahule, was residing alone in Ladikar Layout of Nagpur city as her husband, Anil Rahule, worked in Raipur (Chhattisgarh), and their son, a third-year medical student, was studying in Pune. Hudkeshwar police station has registered an offence and investigation is on.

WESTERN RAILWAY			
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT			
VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY			
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/20/2025 Date 09.04.2025			
S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
179	Pinion shaft for WAP-7 loco 20 teeth	185 Nos	5-May-2025
180	Set of harnessed cable	80 Set	5-May-2025
181	Cutting Chain Assembly complete with 7 Link sets in loose.	8 Set	6-May-2025
182	23 TEETH PINION FOR HITACHI TRACTION MOTOR.	159 Nos	7-May-2025
183	ALUMINIUM IMPELLER	175 Nos	9-May-2025
Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in 0038			
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Shah said that under the new by-laws, work was done to create Multi Purpose PACS (MPACS) by merging PACS, dairy cooperative societies and fishery cooperative societies. The central government has computerized all the PACS in the country at a cost of Rs 2,500 crore. Madhya Pradesh ranks first in the country in computerization of PACS. Now, the District Cooperative Banks and State Cooperative Banks are connected to NABARD due to computer network. Along with this, transparency has also come in the field of cooperation due to the arrangement of online audit. Shah said that three new national level cooperative societies have been formed. National Cooperative Export Limited (NCEL) was established to sell the farmers' produce in the global market and National Cooperative Organic Limited (NCOL)

Rape-accused undertail commits suicide in Taloja Jail

Mumbai, April 13 (UNI) : An undertail booked on the charges of kidnapping, rape, and murder of a 12-year-old girl in Kalyan, Maharashtra, allegedly died by suicide in Taloja jail early Sunday morning. According to the details, the accused, identified as Vishal Gawli, was lodged at Taloja jail in neighbouring New Mumbai city. He had allegedly hanged himself with a towel in the toilet around 3.30 am.

Some of the inmates informed about the incident to the jail authorities who told the local Khargar police.

The police confirmed the incident, stating that the accused took his own life inside the jail premises, leaving the police team "shocked".

His body has been sent to JJ Hospital for post-mortem examination, Further investigation is going on.

He said that farmers should get 100 percent benefit of their milk production, only then milk production will increase.

He said that the Modi government, in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh government, is committed to take every possible step for the welfare of the farmers of the state.

Shah said that now there is good governance in Madhya Pradesh. During the time of the opposition government, the cooperative sector had collapsed here. Now is the golden opportunity to revive the cooperative sector. The people of Madhya Pradesh should take advantage of this opportunity, he added.

STANDARD POST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Puneet Singhania, Director at Master Trust Group, said, "Nifty's key supports lie at 22,500 and 22,200, while resistance is seen near 23,050. In this uncertain environment, Nifty remains a sell-on-rise market. Traders should stay cautious and avoid aggressive long positions until volatility subsides and technical strength is confirmed."

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

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

Why sustainable startups are key to achieving global net-zero goals

(By IANS)

In a world where the climate change crisis and resource depletion threaten the world’s future, a new generation of businesses is rising to the challenge. These startups are not just chasing profit — they are driven by passion, fuelling innovation with sustainability to create solutions that protect the environment while taking the economic growth forward.

Whether through boosting the power of renewable energy, changing waste management with circular economy models, or developing cutting-edge green technologies, these businesses are writing new ways of what it means to be successful in the turbulent world.

Interestingly, business sustainability involves using present practices that fulfill current needs and preserve future people's ability to meet their requirements. The world's critical environmental problems demand startups to become catalysts of sustainable innovation.

Startups show both flexibility and readiness for adventure; thus, they function ahead in their mission to develop revolutionary solutions for environmental challenges. The main sectors where sustainable startups produce meaningful changes involve renewable energy, the circular economy, and green technology.

New businesses across these sectors focus on developing solutions that minimize resource usage while decreasing environmental impacts. Sustainable startups create the future direction of business by proving that operational success can co-exist with respect for nature and society to build an equitable and sustainable global economy.

The rise of Sustainable Startups

Corporate sustainability emerges as an essential business requirement because consumers, together with regulatory bodies and financial backers, now



focus on environmental preservation. Various important reasons push forward systemic changes toward environmentally friendly startups. People have become more aware of environmental issues, which drives them to seek products and services that reduce ecological impact.

People understand their effect on the environment better today and seek to support businesses that share their sustainability positions. Sustainable practices receive government backing through policies that reward companies doing their part to cut down emissions and waste quantities. The implemented environmental policies establish both a sustainable future perspective and equal competition standards for businesses dedicated to sustainability.

The growing interest of investors in ESG factors drives the expansion of sustainable startups. Sustainable business operations leading to long-term viability and possible future profits attract investment from the market.

The marketplace embraces startups like Tesla and Beyond Meat because they have achieved remarkable success in transforming the electric vehicle and plant-based food industries. The urban transportation sector sees significant carbon emission reductions from BluSmart Mobility, which operates as India's initial exclusive

electric ride-hailing provider. These organisations show the potential for sustainable innovation to create profitable business operations that drive the market towards environmental sustainability.

In 2024, the Indian startup ecosystem continued to embrace sustainability with notable investments and developments. The government has allocated Rs 35,000 crore through the Strategic Startups Fund to support sectors like electric vehicles and green energy solutions.

Key innovations driving sustainable startups

Startups focused on sustainability serve as the leading force of innovation by creating major advancements throughout different market segments. Companies in the renewable energy and clean tech space lead new technological developments in solar power and wind energy while improving battery storage methods. Through their operations, these businesses simultaneously enhance energy efficiency while supplying environmentally friendly energy solutions, which serve as vital elements in fighting climate change.

Startups like BluSmart Mobility, an electric ride-hailing provider, are working to reduce carbon emissions in urban transport. Meanwhile,

Saatvik Solar is expanding its solar cell manufacturing capabilities with plans for a 2 GW plant, while Varaha incentivises regenerative farming practices, contributing to CO2 sequestration.

The circular economy, together with waste reduction, has gained momentum through startup leadership from Loop and Plastic Bank. Such businesses convert ordinary waste products into practical resources to adopt circular economic principles. The combination of material reuse with advanced recycling innovations lets them develop environmentally beneficial solutions together with business development chances.

A sustainable transformation takes place within the fashion and consumer goods industry. Allbirds and Pangaia, together with other brands, lead industry standards through ethical sourcing habits while manufacturing goods from materials that disappear naturally. These firms seek to fulfill customer requirements for sustainable products, which leads to new industry standards.

Startup companies within the agri-tech and food sustainability sectors deploy advanced technologies to transform how we produce food. Corporate entities Apeel Sciences and Plenty leverage advanced farming techniques, including

vertical systems and artificial meat cultivation with AI-based agricultural automation, to enhance both food safety and environmental sustainability. The advances optimise resource utilization while decreasing traditional agricultural environmental impact, creating a path toward sustainable development.

High investment and operational complexities

The installation of eco-friendly practices, together with their development, requires substantial startup funding, which creates a main hurdle for sustainable startups. New businesses desiring innovation within the fashion industry might face substantial barriers because of these startup expenditures. Among the most prominent obstacles sustainable startups encounter is the difficulty of expanding their sustainable operations because they need intricate supply chain systems that place technical hurdles above traditional industry standards.

Sustainable operations become more complex, thus requiring additional expenses during both operational phases and logistical coordination. Sustainable startups find themselves challenged by existing non-sustainable businesses that hold bigger resources and market dominance, thus blocking new entrants from successfully entering.

Sustainable startups have many opportunities available to them despite facing multiple obstacles. The government offers valuable funding and supportive measures for green projects to boost both financial backing and innovative development. A growing number of buyers want to buy products that provide both environmental and societal benefits because they understand the complete implications of their purchasing decisions.

The change in consumer preferences about sustainable purchasing opens multiple opportunities for startups to succeed in capturing new market segments. Modern technological

developments reduce the costs of sustainable solutions while making them more accessible to startups through more efficient implementation of innovative systems. Sustainable startups will shape the industry's sustainability transition because they have seized valuable market possibilities.

Across the globe, sustainable startups play an essential role in restructuring business operations by developing innovative solutions to current environmental difficulties. The innovative business leaders rely on advanced technologies to develop environmentally friendly, smart, and efficient systems within renewable energy, together with waste reduction technology. Fast industry growth in sustainable technology demonstrates why sustainable entrepreneurship needs urgent and powerful investment.

To fulfill global net-zero commitments, professionals must keep investing and innovating since these efforts form the backbone of sustainable progress. Support for sustainable products and investments in purposeful initiatives and supportive legislative frameworks come from customers and investors and policymakers, respectively.

Through collaborative efforts, these stakeholders have the power to strengthen the green startup movement, which enables sustainability to naturally blend with economic development and human welfare.

(The author is co-founder of InterNet, an initiative to improve the school internship system. He is a driven high school innovator with TED Talk on sustainability and award-winning projects like KinetiKick and InternNet. He has been recognized and duly awarded in national competitions like Young Innovators Program for pioneering tech-based and business-oriented solutions. He is also a gold medalist in Future Tech Olympiad)

EAM Jaishankar meets Bavaria's Minister-President Markus Soeder, discusses boosting cooperation

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today met with Markus Soeder, the Minister-President of the German free state of Bavaria, during which they discussed the contribution of Bavaria in strengthening Indo-German cooperation and the EU.

In a post on X, the EAM said:“A good meeting with Minister - President @Markus_Soeder of Bavaria in Delhi today.

“Discussed the contribution of Bavaria to strengthening India’s cooperation with Germany and the EU.

"Focused particularly on technology and talent flow."Also exchanged perspectives on European

developments, trans-Atlantic ties and the Indo-Pacific.”The Bavarian leader in a post said:“For cooperation and free trade: We are holding many political discussions in India.”India is of particular global importance in times of worldwide unstable trade relations and major customs chaos. We need stable relationships, long-term connections and new markets. To this end, I was in New Delhi for lunch with Foreign Minister

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar at the Prime Minister's residence and with India's Science Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh together with @fwhfreising

“We are committed to a comprehensive free trade

zone between Europa and India.

More Zusammenarbeit (collaboration) is needed, for example, in the area of Autos, armaments and Verteidigung (defence) as well as technology partnerships.

"We want to set up a fast lane for Indian specialists to recruit skilled workers. We will also work more closely together in the areas of business and #Wissenschaft (pursuit of knowledge).We are setting up a #Stipendium programm for students from India in Bavaria and for students from Bavaria in India. India already makes up the largest group of foreign students in the Free State. As a High tech location,

Bavaria is considered Germany's Space Valley. With the High-Tech Agenda, we attract top companies and start-ups from all over the world.”

Earlier, the Bavarian leader visited Rajghat and the Bangla Sahib Gurdwara.

In posts, on X, he said: “Mahatma Gandhi is the most famous Indian. Without fear and, above all, without violence, he fought for and won the independence of India. Raj Ghat is his cremation site in New Delhi. It is a very moving place of silence and remembrance. We were allowed to lay a wreath there. Throwing flower petals is an important ritual in India and is considered a sign of great respect. On

our trip to India, we also pay homage to the country, its people, and its culture.”

On visiting the gurdwara, he posted pictures of himself wearing the pagdi.

“Pure hospitality in India: In the Sikh temple, cooking and communal meals are carried out almost around the clock. Sometimes 100,000 people gather each day. Sharing and helping are integral parts of the Sikh religion. There is wealth in India, but also much poverty. Sikhs are there for everyone. "Pots" here in the temple are as big as tubs, and "wooden spoons" as big as spades. Steaming and sizzling are everywhere.”

Ahead of his India visit

he posted: “India is calling. For the first time in many years, a Bavarian MP is traveling to India. The invitation from Prime Minister @narendramodi is a great honor. India is one of the world's largest countries. We want to strengthen contacts, particularly in economy, education and research. This is not just about Bavaria, but also about Germany and Europe.“In the current customs chaos around the world, there should be new signals for liberalism. In the long term, a joint free trade zone would be good. In our partner region Karnataka Bavaria, as Germany's Space Valley, and Bangalore, as India's Silicon Valley, meet.

21 killed in Russian ballistic missile attack on Ukraine's Sumy

Kiev, April 13 (UNI) : At least 21 people were killed on Sunday morning in a Russian ballistic missile attack on the northeastern Ukrainian city of Sumy, Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office said in a statement.

The attack also left other 34 people injured, including five children, the statement added.

The Sumy Regional Military Administration said that two ballistic missiles launched by Russian forces struck the city center, damaging residential and non-residential buildings.

Rescue operations were still underway as of midday local time (0900 GMT).Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged the international community to deliver a "firm" response to the attack.

3 terrorists killed in NW Pakistan

Islamabad, April 13 (UNI) : Three terrorists were killed during an operation in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, police said on Sunday.The operation was conducted late Saturday night in the Lakki Marwat district on the reported presence of terrorists in the area, the KP Police said in a statement.

Police said security forces, assisted by local peace committees and the Counter Terrorism Department, effectively engaged the militants' hideout and, after an intense exchange of fire, killed the three terrorists.

The province has witnessed sporadic incidents of militant violence in recent months, and authorities have intensified operations to prevent terrorist activities.

130 families lose homes in western Mongolia due to strong winds, dust storms

Ulan Bator, April 13 (UNI) : At least 130 families lost their homes in the western Mongolian province of Govi-Altai due to strong winds and dust storms, the country's National Emergency Management Agency said Sunday.

Meanwhile, roofs of around 17 apartments were taken down in the dust storms that hit the province on Saturday, the agency said.

In addition, the dust storms disrupted power supply to some households, mainly in the western parts of the country, it added.

Mongolia has a harsh continental climate as strong winds, snow and dust storms are common in spring.

Climate change-related desertification is the main factor behind the increasing frequency of dust storms in Mongolia in recent years, according to the country's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

Around 77 percent of Mongolia's total territory has been affected by desertification and land degradation, according to official data.

Two sites for constructing new NPP in Belarus being considered: Russian FM

Moscow, April 13 (UNI) : Two sites are currently under consideration for the construction of a second nuclear power plant in Belarus, namely the additional unit of the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in Ostrovets and a new NPP in Mogilev region, Director of the Second Department of CIS Countries of the Russian Foreign Ministry Alexey Polishchuk told Sputnik in an interview out on Sunday.

"Now we are considering the options of constructing in Belarus either an additional, third, power unit of the already operating Belarusian NPP in Ostrovets or a new double-unit NPP in the Mogilev region," Polishchuk said.Additionally, Belarusian partners are interested in pursuing cooperation with Russia in the nuclear energy sector, Polishchuk said.

Iran says talks with U.S. "constructive"; further negotiations set for April 19

Tehran/Muscat, April 13 (UNI) : Iran and the United States will hold the second round of negotiations on April 19 after the two sides concluded their "indirect" talks on Saturday in the Omani capital of Muscat in a "constructive" atmosphere, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The two-and-a-half-hour talks between Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff centred on Tehran's nuclear issue and sanctions relief, said the ministry in a statement.

It added that the two sides agreed to continue the talks next week, noting that when leaving the negotiations venue, the heads of the two countries' delegations spoke for a few minutes in the presence of the Omani foreign minister.

In an address to reporters in Muscat following the talks, Araghchi said the first round of the talks was "constructive and held in a calm and very respectful atmosphere."

"No inappropriate language was used, and the two sides demonstrated their commitment to advancing the talks until the achievement of a mutually favourable agreement from an equal position," he added.The minister revealed that the second round of the talks "are scheduled to be held at the same level next Saturday, but the venue will probably not be here (Muscat)."

The two sides had decided to enter a general framework needed for an agreement in the next round, Araghchi said, noting that both sides favoured an agreement that would be reached as soon as possible.

Mohd Yunus attends Buddhist event, urges citizens to celebrate Pohela Boishakh as per their customs



Dhaka, April 13 (UNI) : Amid allegations of a rise in Islamic radicalism under the Interim Government, Chief Advisor Mohd Yunus attended a function at the International Buddhist Monastery in Dhaka today, and urged the people of Bangladesh to celebrate the Pohela Boisakh festivities tomorrow as per their traditional customs.

Chief Advisor Yunus laid the foundation stone of the Sampriti Bhaban at the International Buddhist Monastery in Dhaka as Chief Guest, at the function organised by the Bangladesh Buddhist Federation.

The ceremony was presided over by Deputy Sangharaja Venerable Shrimat Dharmapriya Mahathera, with Religious Affairs Advisor Dr AFM Khalid Hossain and Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs Advisor Supradip Chakma in attendance, along with others, according to The Daily Star.The CA later visited the main prayer hall and the monastery.In a message,

Yunus urged everyone to follow the Pohela Boishakh festivities in accordance with their traditional religious-cultural customs and beliefs, in a display of the country's diversity and spirit of unity."Tomorrow, Pahela Baishakh. It's one of the symbols of our harmony. Everyone will celebrate tomorrow (Pahela Baishakh) in their own way, following their own customs. Everyone will participate in this universal festival," he said in a nationwide address, according to The Daily Star."I have always said that despite our different beliefs, religions, and customs, we are all members of one family.

"The Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, various communities and the peoples of the hills and plains of this country - all together, the people of this country have diverse languages, cultures and traditions," he said.

Yunus' attending the Buddhist event comes as a welcome move for the religious minorities,

especially Hindus, of Bangladesh who have been facing targeted attacks by Islamic fundamentalists.

The Chakma people are predominantly located in the Chattogram Hill Tracts and have been adherents of Buddhism. Several instances of discrimination and violence against the Chakmas by Islamic radicals have been reported.

There have been allegations that Islamic extremism has been allowed to grow unchecked under the army-backed Interim Government led by CA Yunus, following ex-PM Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August 2024.

The upcoming Bangla New Year celebrations have not been without controversy, as Dhaka University renamed the annual 'Mongol Shobhajatra' ceremony, which marks the beginning of the Pohela Boishakh festivities, as 'Anondo Shobhajatra' under pressure from the radical Hefazat-e-Islam outfit, which called the term 'Mongol' part of a "Hindu ritual".

Only thing US administration would like to see extinct is endangered species list, says Secretary of Interior

Washington, April 13 (UNI) : After a genetic engineering firm claimed they have resurrected the long-extinct dire wolves species, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum from the new Trump administration said that what they would like to see go extinct is the list of endangered species.

Earlier this week, biotechnology and genetic engineering company Colossal Biosciences said it successfully created three dire wolf puppies.

Burman shared his thoughts on resurrecting other extinct animals — and is reconsidering the endangered species list.

The former North Dakota governor applauded the efforts of the gene-editing technology

on his X account and wrote: “The Department of the Interior is excited about the potential of 'de-extinction' technology and how it may serve broader purposes beyond the recovery of lost species, including strengthening biodiversity protection efforts and helping endangered or at-risk species,” according to People.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, there are over 1,300 species listed as endangered or threatened to become extinct in the US under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The new Secretary of the Interior wants to override the entire list and remove the species from the

list with the power of genetic engineering.

“The only thing we’d like to see go extinct is the need for an endangered species list to exist,” Burgum wrote in his post. “We need to continue improving recovery efforts to make that a reality, and the marvel of ‘de-extinction’ technology can help forge a future where populations are never at risk,” he added.

With the US administration fully backing the company’s ‘de-extinction’ program, Colossal Biosciences has said that it also aims to remove the red wolf from the list of critically endangered species through cloning, using the same technology it used to bring back the 10,000 year extinct dire wolf species from the grave.

Tensions simmer as Pak once again accuses Afghanistan of harboring terrorists

Kabul/Islamabad, April 13 (UNI) : As tensions continue to simmer between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has once again accused Kabul of harboring terrorists.“We have been reiterating that it remains an important bilateral relationship for Pakistan, we are neighbours bound by layers of history, culture, language. We have been

trying to improve relations; but the major roadblock, of course, remains the security situation and the sanctuaries enjoyed by terrorists,” Shafqat Ali Khan, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said in a statement to reporters, according to Tolo News.Previously, Mohammad Sadiq, Pakistan’s former special envoy for Afghanistan, had described the Tahreke-e-

Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as the primary stumbling block in the bilateral relations during a session in Islamabad, emphasising that this issue must be resolved. He warned that if not addressed, all agreements between the two countries could be cancelled.Islamabad has accused Kabul of harboring and supporting TTP terrorists, who use Afghan soil to carry out

Israel orders evacuation in S Gaza after intercepting rocket from strip

Jerusalem, April 13 (UNI) : The Israeli military issued evacuation orders on Sunday for parts of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, after it said a rocket was launched from the enclave toward southern Israel.The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement that its air force intercepted the rocket, which triggered air raid sirens in the Israeli village of Reim near the Gaza border. No casualties were reported.

Following the interception, residents in several neighborhoods of Khan Younis were instructed to evacuate and move west toward designated "humanitarian areas," the IDF said.

Israel resumed airstrikes and ground operations in Gaza on March 18, ending a two-month ceasefire. According to Gaza health authorities, at least 1,574 Palestinians have been killed and 4,115 wounded since the fighting resumed.

Nepal PM Oli mocks pro-monarchy supporters, says monkeys of Pashupatinath will make better ministers

Kathmandu, April 13 (UNI) : Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli in a strong attack against pro-monarchist forces in the country, said that it would be better to have monkeys of Pashupatinath temple take over the leadership, instead of appointing monarchists as prime ministers and presidents.

Speaking at a UML awareness rally in Jhapa, Oli strongly criticised the recent pro-monarchy protests in the country, referencing the Tinkune incident where protesters engaged in vandalism, arson, and looting.

Questioning their intentions, he said: “They

At least 10 killed in Israeli strikes on central Gaza's Deir al-Balah: civil defence

Gaza, April 13 (UNI) : At least 10 Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes on the central Gaza city of Deir al-Balah on Sunday, according to Gaza's Civil Defense.

Mahmoud Basal, a spokesperson for the Civil Defence, said seven people died in an Israeli strike on a civilian vehicle, six of them from the same family. Several others were wounded and taken to Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah, he said.

Eyewitnesses reported that an Israeli aircraft fired at least one missile at the vehicle, igniting it and causing multiple casualties.

The Israeli military has not issued a statement regarding the incident.

In a separate attack, Basal said an Israeli airstrike on the Deir al-Balah municipality building killed three more

Palestinians. The Israeli military confirmed the strike.

IDF spokesperson Avichay Adraee said in a statement that Israeli forces, in coordination with the Shin Bet security agency, had targeted a "Hamas command and control centre" operating from the area. He said a large number of Hamas operatives involved in attacks against Israeli soldiers and civilians were present at the site during the operation.

Meanwhile, Gaza's health authorities said on Sunday that 1,574 Palestinians have been killed and 4,115 wounded since Israel resumed its military operations in the enclave on March 18. They added that the total death toll since the conflict began on Oct. 7, 2023, has risen to 50,944, with 116,156 others injured.

after doing so, they aim to become the prime minister and ministers,” he said.

“Instead of them, it would be better to make the monkeys of Pashupatinath ministers.”

Recently, Nepal has seen a massive increase in pro-monarchy protests, owing to frustrations among the people, due to the corruption levels, misgovernance, political instability, as well as the desire by a section of the populace to have the country be declared a Hindu Rashtira due to recent demographic changes, caused by the advent of Islamic preachers and Christian missionaries.

Over 114 civilians killed in paramilitary forces attacks in W. Sudan: Local official

Khartoum, April 13 (UNI) : More than 114 civilians were killed in attacks by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on two displacement camps over the past two days in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur State in western Sudan, a local official announced on Saturday.

"More than 100 civilians were killed as a result of the brutal attack launched by the RSF militia on the Zamzam displacement camp yesterday (Friday), with dozens injured," Ibrahim Khatir, director general of North Darfur State's health authority, told Xinhua.

"Today (Saturday), 14 civilians were also killed due to another militia attack on the Abu Shouk displacement camp, with dozens more injured," he added.

Khatir revealed that among the dead

in the Zamzam camp were nine employees of Relief International, a non-governmental organization operating a field hospital in the camp.Emergency Room, a volunteer group, said in a statement that 40 civilians were killed and hundreds injured on Saturday as a result of heavy shelling by the RSF on the Abu Shouk camp.The RSF issued no immediate comment regarding the attacks.Since May 10, 2024, fierce fighting has been raging in El Fasher between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF.Sudan has been embroiled in a devastating conflict between the SAF and the RSF since mid-April 2023, which has claimed more than 29,600 lives, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data, a crisis monitoring group cited by the United Nations.

Afghanistan and Pakistan, said “These two countries are neighbours. They need to solve their problems through dialogue and avoid creating further hardship for the people living on both sides of the Durand Line.”

Relations between the two countries have become increasingly tense and hostile, as Kabul has repeatedly refused to recognise the Durand Line,

and its forces dismantle fences and infrastructure put up by the Pakistan Army on the border.This has resulted in frequent cross-border firings between the two countries. In addition, Afghanistan has repeatedly complained about Pakistan’s poor treatment of Pashtuns, and has been critical of Islamabad’s mass deportation of Afghan migrants living in the country.

Home & Garden



Home decorating ideas for busy people

Wish to revamp your abode, but don't have the time to do it? Make use of cutlery, crockery and candles to beautify your nest.

Here we share some quick ways to spruce up your space:

- When it comes to a quick livening up of a living room, lighting helps. Add soft lighting devices like candles or votive to your living room. You can also place a few pillows on your sofa-set.
- Keep everything in your bedroom that makes you happy. Soft bed linens are a door to your blissful sleep. Place lamp shades for cozy lightings. Walls add dimensions to your room. Embellish them with your favourite colours and



loads of memories by hanging photo frames.

- Essentials of a good looking kitchen include cooking and serving tools. Don't hide your beautiful cutlery and crockery sets in cabinets. Rather, display them. Window in your kitchen is an ideal place. Make some shelves and display your collection. Plus, the light through the window will make it look beautiful.
- Adorn your dining table with details like coasters, a crystal vase filled with fresh flowers.
- Always make sure to keep things back at the place where you pick it up from. This will not create clutter, and obviously a neat and trimmed room is always good looking.

5 surprise cleaners for your home



Bread

Love to paint? Use white bread to dust an oil painting! Gently dab a slice of white bread over the surface to pick up dirt and grime.

Ketchup

Some tomato ketchup can be used to remove tarnish from copper and brass cookware. Squeeze the ketchup on a cloth and rub it on pots and pans. They should go back to their coppery colour in minutes. Rinse with warm water and dry with a towel.

Oatmeal

It is useful to scrub very dirty hands. Make a thick paste of oatmeal and water and rinse well.

Rice

Rice can be used to clean the inside of a vase or a thin-necked bottle. Fill three quarters of the vase with warm water and add a tablespoon of uncooked rice. Cup your hand over the opening, shake vigorously and rinse.

Tea

It can help in cleaning rusty garden tools. Brew a few pots of strong black tea. When cool, pour it into a bucket. Soak

What if we revealed some around-the-house staples that also moonlight as dirt-busting superstars? Here are five unexpected natural cleaners to help you with your kitchen woes:

the tools for a few hours. Wipe each one with a cloth. (Wear rubber gloves or your hands will be stained.)

Glycerin

If you want to remove dried wax drippings from candlesticks, a few drops of glycerin will be very helpful. Peel off as much wax as possible, then moisten a cotton ball with glycerin and rub until clean!

Club soda

A scuffed stainless-steel sink can be made to shine, with a little bit of club soda.

Cornstarch

If you've stained your favourite carpet with grease, here what you can do to prevent it from getting completely ruined. Pour cornstarch on the spots and let it sit for 15 to 30 minutes before vacuuming.

Rubbing alcohol

Erase permanent-marker stains from finished wood floors or solid-surface countertops, by pouring some rubbing alcohol on it.



Be smart when you Shop online

While online shopping has grown at an exponential rate in the past few years, industry experts say that it is still in its nascent stage when compared to Internet shopping abroad.

In India, shopping websites have multiplied so quickly that consumers are literally being spoiled for choice and it quite literally, is raining discounts. However, don't get carried away when you see all the supposedly 'great' offers that lure you. Make sure that you do your homework before making any impulsive buy. Here's what you need to keep in mind...

- Competition is hotting up and consumers are reaping the benefits. With hundreds of websites, prices inadvertently vary. So, if you're looking for something specific, go on multiple websites and compare the prices so that you get the best deal.
- If you're unsure about a new website, avoid paying by debit or credit card. Instead, opt for the cash on delivery option to be on the safe side.
- Before purchasing any item, it is always a smart idea to go through the exchange and returns policy so that you aren't stuck with something you don't want or something of an inferior quality. Go through the conditions of exchange properly. There are some items that can't be returned or exchanged, no matter

what.

- Sign up for newsletters on shopping websites. Members are always given something 'extra' for signing up. This can be discount vouchers, redeemable points or even prior information about a blowout sale.
- Grocery shopping has also become huge in Indian metros. However, avoid shopping for food on an empty stomach! You might just end up ordering more than what you actually need.
- A lot of shopping websites now have 'special sale days' where many items are sold at whopping discounts. Once you know the dates of the sale, make a list of the items you want so that you don't waste time browsing for them later. Once sale time begins (usually 8am), quickly buy your items before they get sold out or the server crashes.
- Unsure about a particular item? Read the reviews posted by users. That should give you a fair idea of whether it is worth buying or not.



9 household crises you can solve with

Salt

Turns out a simple dose of salt can solve a whole slew of home disasters, like cracked egg messes and spills. And not only are the fixes incredibly easy, but they're also usually cheaper than using other fancy cleaning products.

Here are a few of our favourite ways to let salt save the day.

Get sticky gunk off your iron

Turn your iron on high, and sprinkle a generous amount of salt onto a piece of wax paper. Move the hot iron over the paper, and watch the salt cause your gunk to fall right off.

Get rid of mildew

To banish mildew stains and smells from clothes or towels, make a paste from salt and lemon juice. Rub the paste on the stain, then let dry (ideally in the sun). Run clothes through the washing machine for good measure.

DIY dishwasher soap

If you find yourself in a pinch, make your own dishwasher detergent from salt, baking soda and regular dish soap. It works like a charm!

Clean a grime-covered sponge
Fill a container with 2 cups of water and a

quarter cup of salt. Leave your greasy, blackened sponge in the mixture overnight, then watch the grime fall right off.

Get rid of caked-on pan grease

Cover the greasy residue with a layer of salt, then add some water and wait 10 minutes. The solution will dissolve the grease, allowing you to easily wipe it away.

Clean a grimy wood cutting board

You shouldn't put wood cutting boards in the dishwasher, but you can disinfect them with hot water, salt and lemon juice.

Clean up a cracked egg

There's no need for wads of paper towels. Cover the mess with salt, and wait 10 to 15 minutes. The salt will turn the eggy goo into a crumbly sand that's easy to wipe up.

Clear up a red wine stain

Sprinkle salt on the fresh stain, and wait 5 minutes. Splash with cold water, and rub until the stain disappears.

Clear up a hair clog in the drain

Make a natural drain cleaning mix by mixing 1/4 cup of baking soda and 1/4 cup of salt. Remove as much hair from the drain as you can with your (gloved!) hands, and then pour the mixture down the drain. Follow with 1/2 cup of white vinegar, and let sit for 15 minutes. Rinse everything down with a pot of boiling water. Voila!



CSK look to rewrite 'chokers' narrative

Lucknow, April 13 (UNI) : Five-time champions Chennai Super Kings are enduring a nightmarish campaign, having suffered five consecutive defeats to slip to ninth in the standings, as they prepare to face an upbeat Lucknow Super Giants in the 30th match of the Indian Premier League at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium here on Monday. Once synonymous with consistency and late-season surges, CSK find themselves in unfamiliar territory. Their latest defeat, an 8-wicket drubbing at the hands of Kolkata Knight Riders, exposed their frailties in both departments. Batting first, CSK managed just 103/9, a target KKR hunted down with ease in 10.1 overs. The absence of injured captain Ruturaj Gaikwad has further compounded their woes, with the top order struggling and the bowling unit lacking bite.

Meanwhile, Lucknow have defied expectations, racking up four wins in six matches to occupy third place on the points table. They come into this game on the back of a composed six-wicket win against Gujarat Titans, chasing 181 with three balls to spare. Star batsman Nicholas Pooran led the charge with a 34-ball 61, ably supported by Aiden Markram, who struck 58 off 31.

Pooran has been in blistering form this season, topping the run charts with

349 runs at an astonishing strike rate of 215.43. Digvesh Rathi has been equally vital with the ball, proving hard to score off in the middle overs with his crafty variations. His economy rate of 7.70 across six matches stands out amid an otherwise expensive bowling attack.

For Chennai, Shivam Dube has been the lone bright spot in the middle order, scoring consistently under pressure. But the likes of Devon Conway, Rahul Tripathi and Vijay Shankar have failed to provide meaningful support. With the ball, Noor Ahmad has led the charts with 12 wickets, while Khaleel Ahmed has been effective with the new ball, but the spin duo of Jadeja and Ashwin have yet to make significant impact.

The Vajpayee Ekana surface has produced moderate scoring matches so far in the tournament, with an average first innings total of 166. However, chasing sides have won two of the three games played at the venue this season. The pitch tends to get slower as the match progresses, which may bring spinners into play. Fast bowlers are expected to rely on cutters and slower balls to keep batsmen in check. Given CSK's dwindling confidence and the home support for LSG, the momentum seems to favour the hosts. A return for Mitchell Marsh could further bolster their top order.

TNTA to host WTA 250 event in Oct to mark Centenary year

Chennai, April 13 (UNI) : The Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA) will be organising a WTA 250 tournament to mark its Centenary year at the SDAT Tennis stadium from October 27 to November 2. TNTA President and former Davis Cupper legendary Vijay Amritraj said considering the background of TNTA it is but appropriate that centenary year is celebrated in a befitting manner. In addition, the sports loving public here have been long awaiting to witness a top of the line event - a 250 level international event.

"[On this historic occasion, I am privileged to inform you that there is a very strong possibility of conducting a WTA 250 event in the week of October 27 at the SDAT Tennis Stadium", he said. The conduct of the

event at Chennai has passed the tests at various levels and is now awaiting the final approval of the board of WTA, he said, according to a TNTA release. While the State government has been very encouraging to support this major top class event with prize money of USD 300000 (appr 2.55 crores), more support and sponsorship will be required to bridge the gap to take care of various expenses to make it a successful and sensational event. "While we await the final approval I am confident that this support and sponsorship will be forthcoming", Vijay said.

The event will be publicised through the press, social media, WTA website worldwide and telecast in over 60 countries around the world, arguably the highest range of publicity for



Rajasthan Royals' captain Sanju Samson and Royal Challengers Bengaluru's captain Rajat Patidar at the toss before the start of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 cricket match between Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, at Sawai Mansingh Stadium, in Jaipur.

India opens first wheelchair tennis hub

Bengaluru, April 13 (UNI) : Nestled in the tranquil landscape of Melur near Siddalaghatta, about 50 km from Bengaluru, the Deuce Tennis Centre (DTC) is more than just a new facility for wheelchair tennis — it is a bold vision realised. A vision grounded in collaboration, inclusivity, and the ambition to build an evolving, accessible tennis ecosystem in India.

Inaugurated on Saturday, the DTC is the country's first Centre of Excellence for Wheelchair Tennis. But beyond its state-of-the-art infrastructure and specialised training for athletes with physical disabilities, it stands out for

its underlying ethos — fostering unity among all stakeholders in the tennis fraternity, with inclusivity and shared progress at its core.

At the heart of this initiative is Sunil Jain, entrepreneur and social advocate, whose vision, backed by Astha — a non-profit championing the rights of persons with disabilities — has now taken tangible form. For Jain, the goal is clear: to dismantle barriers in Indian tennis and create a platform where athletes, coaches, institutions, and corporates collaborate seamlessly.

"Right now, that kind of collective unity is missing," Jain told UNI in an

interaction. "We want to put tennis at the centre and let everyone involved come together around it."

The message extended well beyond infrastructure. It was about transforming the culture of tennis in India, making it more democratic, inclusive, and widely accessible. Jain acknowledged that while the inauguration was a milestone, the path ahead would be long and demanding.

"We are here to build more than a tennis facility," he said. "This programme aims to democratise tennis in India, to make it a sport everyone can be part of."

His words strike a chord, especially against

the backdrop of challenges faced by people with disabilities in India, where para-sports infrastructure has long been lacking. But Jain remains undeterred. The DTC, he believes, is just the beginning.

Wheelchair tennis remains one of the most underrepresented sports in India. Former Davis Cup player and wheelchair tennis advocate Srinath Pralhad underscored the neglect faced by para-athletes.

"In our country, the infrastructure to support wheelchair tennis is practically non-existent," he told UNI, drawing from personal experience. "It's a sport that has neither been

heard of nor taken seriously by federations or regional bodies."

For Srinath, DTC represents a significant turning point. "This is a great first step," he noted. "We need widespread participation. Only then can we move towards creating a robust ecosystem — with enough players, trained coaches, and institutional support."

His observations underscore a stark reality: while nations like the US and France have produced global wheelchair tennis champions, India is yet to build a comprehensive support system for such talent. The DTC is a determined effort to bridge

that gap.

The broader message behind the inauguration resonated clearly — the transformation of Indian tennis hinges on collaboration and inclusivity. The DTC is not merely a training ground, but a symbol of change. A space where physical and societal barriers are being dismantled.

The vision is simple yet profound: to create a tennis culture that is open, accessible, and empowering for all. As Jain aptly summed up, "This is just the beginning. The road ahead is long, but together, we can make tennis in India a sport that truly belongs to everyone."

Abhishek credits Yuvaraj, Suryakumar Yadav

Hyderabad, April 13 (UNI) : Abhishek Sharma credited cricketing stalwarts Yuvraj Singh and Suryakumar Yadav for helping him navigate a tough phase in his career, after a blistering knock earned him the Player of the Match award and powered Sunrisers Hyderabad to a much-needed win.

"Special mention to Yuvi paaji, I've been talking to him. And also thanks to Suryakumar Yadav – I've been in touch with him, and he has been there for me," said Abhishek, speaking emotionally after the game.

The young left-hander, who had been under pressure following a dip in form, turned the tide with a fluent and inventive innings that delighted the home spectators. "It's not easy for any player to go through that form," he said.

"Special mention to the team and captain – very simple message to the batsmen, although I was not doing well. Had a talk with Travis and it was a special day for both of us."

Abhishek experimented with his game to suit the surface, revealing he had tried out new shots. "I never play anything behind the wicket, but I was trying a few shots today because I wanted to invent some, given the size and the bounce on this wicket."

A particularly heartwarming moment came when he mentioned the presence of his family. "The whole team is waiting for my parents. They are very lucky for the team and the Orange Army."

Sports Council to nurture sports, players in untapped belts of J&K: Secretary Gul

Jammu, April 13 (UNI) : Seeking the cooperation of the sports associations to play a key role in reaching out to the masses, the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council is all set to nurture sports and players in the unexplored and untapped belts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Convening a meeting with the office bearers of all recognized Sports Associations here at Maulana Azad Stadium to finalize calendar and roadmap for sports for the year 2025-26, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, as per the members attended the meeting, on Sunday said that concerning the vision of the Jammu and Kashmir

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for the development of sports, the government will support all the initiatives in whichever manner it will be possible. Focussing on the rural and border belts, the Secretary said that the sporting activities will be extended to the far-flung, unexplored and tribal areas, adding, "We have to take sports to the untapped areas where there is no dearth of talent. We have to catch them young, nurture them under the guidance of professional coaches and mentors to make disciplines result-oriented."

Gul, however, appealed to the sports associations to play their role in making it possible, besides getting national leagues to be hosted in Jammu and Kashmir, for which

whatever help will be required to be extended in hosting national events, J&K Sports Council will not hesitate to do so.

Moreover, the members revealed that the Secretary also called upon the sports associations having factionalism to find a middle path and jointly come to a common platform so that the activities do not get hampered and the players do not get confused.

Meanwhile, she also asked the respective associations the national medallist from various disciplines who are entitled for the cash award, must put up their applications for the benefits, adding, "J&K government is also focussing on launching academies across the Jammu and Kashmir for which associations must come forward to accomplish the dream of making Jammu and Kashmir a hub of sports."

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister on March 7 allocated a capital expenditure of Rs 152.69 crore for 2025-26 for the sports sector, an increase of Rs36.91 crore from the revised allocation of 2024-25. "Jammu and Kashmir is poised to become a leading sports hub with ongoing investments in infrastructure and facilities. The establishment of 100 Khelo India Centres, development of sports complexes, and synthetic turfs in key stadia set the foundation for a vibrant sports ecosystem," Abdullah had said while presenting his first budget

in the UT Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Abdullah had said, "Our government is committed to transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a hub of sporting excellence by creating world-class infrastructure and opportunities for athletes," adding, "our Government will be establishing National Centres of Excellence for Water Sports at Dal Lake in Srinagar and Basohli in Jammu, providing state-of-the-art training facilities for water sports enthusiasts."

He also stated that special focus will be given to empowering coaches through capacity-building initiatives.

"Special emphasis will be placed on involving the rural and tribal population in games, fostering a culture of sports at the grassroots level," Abdullah had said adding that through these comprehensive initiatives, it is aimed to nurture talent, promote fitness, and position Jammu and Kashmir as a premier sporting destination in the country. The meeting,

chaired by the Secretary, J&K Sports Council, was attended by Presidents and General Secretaries of the respective associations, focused on finalizing the calendar of sports activities at the District, UT, and National levels for the year 2025-26. Gul emphasized the importance of making sports accessible to all potential athletes in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir. She further assured the Associations of full support from the Jammu and Kashmir Government aimed at transforming J&K into a vibrant sports hub.

The Secretary emphasized collaborative efforts and strategic planning to ensure the inclusive and sustained growth of sports in J&K.

The participating associations also shared their suggestions and proposals aimed at strengthening the grassroots and elite sports ecosystem with a mutual commitment to work in tandem for the promotion of sporting excellence and to provide greater opportunities for youth engagement through sports.

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MI pull off humdinger amid run-out frenzy

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) : Mumbai Indians (MI) held their nerve in a pulsating finish to defeat Delhi Capitals (DC) by 12 runs in their Indian Premier League (IPL) clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Sunday. In a game that swung like a pendulum, Delhi collapsed under pressure in the final overs, suffering three run-outs in quick succession to be bowled out for 193 in 19 overs while chasing 206.

Put in to bat by Delhi, who won the toss, MI's innings began with early setbacks. Opener Rohit Sharma (18) was dismissed in the fifth over, trapped leg-before by the accurate Viraj Nigam. Despite this early blow, MI's top order steadied the ship. Ryan Rickelton (41 off 25 balls) and Suryakumar Yadav (40 off 28 balls) stitched a brisk partnership, guiding MI past the 100-run mark by the 12th over.

However, Delhi clawed back into the contest through Kuldeep Yadav's crafty spell.

He dismissed Rickelton with a deceptive googly and then accounted for Suryakumar Yadav, caught smartly by Mitchell Starc at deep square leg. At 135/3 in the 14th over, MI looked vulnerable.

But Tilak Varma's knock (59 off 33 balls) and Naman Dhir's cameo of 38 not out off 17 lifted MI to a competitive 205/5, with 70 runs coming off the last five overs. Starc and Kuldeep were the pick of DC's bowlers, keeping things in check for large parts of the innings.

Delhi's chase began inauspiciously, losing Jake Fraser-McGurk off the very first ball to Chahar, caught tamely at cover. But from that point, Karun Nair unleashed a spectacular counterattack.



Kotha R.O.R Chattam - Raitulaku Chuttam

Architect of the Indian Constitution, Bharata Ratna

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
Birth Anniversary Wishes



Grand Inauguration



Date : 14th April, 2025 - Shilpa Kala Vedika, HITEC City, Madhapur



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