

## IN BRIEF

### Construction worker dies after falling from fourth floor of building, case registered

Pune, April 15 (UNI) A 43-year-old construction worker died after falling from the fourth floor of the building here on Tuesday. A case has been registered against the construction contractor and three others by Kale Padal police station. The name of the deceased has identified Raju Sopan Avachar, resident of Adarsh ??Nagar, Urali Devachi, near here.

A case has been registered against three persons in this connection.

Police said construction of a building is underway behind the JSPM College in the Kale Padal area of ??Hadapsar. The deceased Avchar was working as a labourer. He lost his balance while working on the fourth floor and suffered a serious head injury, said police.

He was admitted to a nearby hospital for treatment but died during treatment, said police.

### Liquor worth Rs 43.20 lakh seized in Kolhapur, 2 held

Kolhapur, April 15 (UNI) The officials of State Excise Department (SED) Kolhapur division seized Indian made foreign liquor worth Rs 43.20 lakh from a truck at Aadur village in Karveer tehsil of the district while illegally being transported in Maharashtra from neighbouring Goa on Tuesday and arrested two people in this connection.

Acting on a tip off, a flying squad of SED swung into action and laid a trap at Aadur village and stopped a truck on suspicion.

During search of the vehicle, the team found total 750 boxes of IMFL made in Madhya Pradesh worth Rs 43.20 lakh, which were seized along with the truck, with a collective value of seizure worth Rs 56.30 lakh.

They arrested two people -- identified as Saidbhai Daud Khalifa and Vikram Mansing Bariya (both from Gujarat) -- in this connection, a press release said here.

## CM, Fadnavis inaugurates Water Management Action Fortnight



Mumbai, April 15 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday inaugurated the 'Water Management Action Fortnight', organised by the Water Resources Department, in the

presence of Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, at Mantralaya. The 'Water Management Action Fortnight' has been organised to increase water

literacy, emphasise importance of water conservation and implement sustainable water management measures, among people. Fadnavis appealed every Guardian Minister to

actively participate in the programmes of the Water Management Action Fortnight and get the work done. The Water Management Action Fortnight will be observed from April 15 to 30.

## ED files prosecution complaint against Sonia and Rahul Gandhi in National Herald Case

New Delhi, April 15 (UNI) : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday filed its prosecution report against Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and some other Congress leaders in a local court in the alleged money laundering case related to the National Herald. The complaint was submitted before Special Judge Vishal Gogne, who has scheduled the matter for the next hearing on April 25, 2025, to decide whether to take official notice of the charges. Along with Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, the chargesheet also names Congress leaders Sam Pitroda and Suman Dubey as accused.

The ED has acted under Sections 3 and 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which deal with the offence of money laundering and its punishment. The agency has alleged that Young Indian, a company reportedly controlled by the Gandhis, acquired assets of Associated Journals Limited

(AJL), the publisher of the now-defunct National Herald newspaper, at a significantly undervalued price.

Special Judge Gogne directed court staff to verify and register the complaint and ensure all supporting documents are properly paginated. He also instructed the ED to provide a readable soft copy of the complaint and annexures in OCR format by the next date of hearing.

The ED also informed the court that it would file a transfer application before the district judge, requesting that the case concerning the original offence (being investigated by the CBI) be moved to Judge Gogne's court.

This is in line with legal requirements that both the money laundering case and the related original offence be heard by the same court.

Rahul Gandhi is currently the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha while Sonia Gandhi is a member of the Rajya Sabha.

## SC to hear petitions against new Waqf law today

New Delhi, Apr 15 (UNI) A large number of petitions filed against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 are slated to be heard by the Supreme Court tomorrow.

Over a dozen petitions have been filed by various political leaders, parties and public figures, alleging that the new law enacted earlier this month is discriminatory towards the Muslim community and violates fundamental rights. Chief Justice of India Justice Sanjiv Khanna has assured that the batch of petitions concerning the Waqf Amendment Act will be taken up for hearing on April 16, 2025. Prominent among the petitioners are AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, actor-turned-politician and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam president Vijay, and the YSR Congress Party. The petitioners have argued that the amendments severely dilute the autonomy of Waqf institutions and give the government excessive control over Muslim endowments.

## Cabinet takes 7 major decisions

Mumbai, April 15 (UNI) : The Maharashtra government, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, took seven major decisions in the Cabinet meeting held here at Mantralaya on Tuesday.

The major decisions include partial waiver in property tax penalty, establishment of courts for compensation for death in custody of a prisoner, recovery of property tax arrears and land acquisition.

The decisions of a Civil Court, Junior Judicial Magistrate First Class Court will be established at Chikhholi-Ambernath, District Thane and posts approved accordingly.

The approval of the

policy for providing compensation in cases of death in custody of a prisoner as per the directions of the National Human Rights Commission.

The Cabinet also took decisions about approval of changes in the rules for transfer of immovable properties in Municipal Councils, Municipal Panchayats and Industrial Towns.

Decision to implement Abhay Yojana for partial waiver of penalty on property tax in Municipal Councils, Municipal Panchayats and Industrial Towns for tax collection

The approval of provisions for removal of Mayors of Municipal

## Twelve BJP leaders in touch with Shiv Sena (UBT), claims party leader

Mumbai, April 15 (UNI) : Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Anand Dubey claimed on Tuesday that some BJP leaders are in touch with the party leaders and they will join his party soon. He said, "More than 12 leaders of Maharashtra BJP are in touch with us due to dissatisfaction with the Mahayuti government. But currently our doors are closed for them." Dubey indicated that people will soon see a rout in BJP and a rebellion in the Mahayuti, he added.



## SP will be wiped out in 2027 assembly polls: Keshav Maurya

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Tuesday claimed that the Samajwadi Party (SP) will be wiped out in the Assembly elections 2027. Before leaving for Lucknow, the Deputy CM met party officials and workers at the Circuit House and advised them to strongly join the preparations for the upcoming district panchayat and assembly elections to be held in 2027.

(See on page 4)

## Defence Secy holds talks with Italian Defence Minister to ....



Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Tuesday called on Defence Minister of Italy Guido Crosetto in Rome, and both held productive discussions aimed at strengthening defence ties as a vital pillar of the strategic partnership between both countries.

( See on page 2)

## Alan Wilkins set to rejoin IPL after beating throat cancer



Renowned sports commentator Alan Wilkins, known for his insightful commentary on cricket, announced via social media that he will be heading to India to work on the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season.

(See on page 7)

## SC slams UP Govt over child trafficking; Orders Fast-Track ...



While criticising the Uttar Pradesh government's handling of child trafficking cases, the Supreme Court on Tuesday laid down stringent guidelines for the prevention and expedited trial of such offences across the country.

(See on page 8)

## ED questions Robert Vadra in alleged land grabbing case in Haryana

New Delhi, April 15 (UNI) : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday questioned businessman Robert Vadra, husband of Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra here, in an alleged land grabbing case in Haryana, official sources said.

Vadra, the brother-in-law of Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi

walked to the ED office from his residence along with his supporters, who raised slogans against the government.

Talking to reporters, he accused the government of misusing the agencies against him and said, "Whenever I talk about the issues of the people, about the minorities, about the incompetence of the

government or even if I think of joining politics, they use agencies against me".

"There is nothing new in the case. I have been summoned 15 times and have sat for more than 10 hours every time and have submitted 23,000 documents.

They are now again asking for all the 23,000 documents," Robert said.

## Tejashwi meets Kharge and Rahul, discuss strengthening of alliance

New Delhi, April 15 (UNI) : Senior RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav met Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi here on Tuesday and discussed on strengthening their alliance and contesting the upcoming Assembly polls in Bihar unitedly with a goal of defeating the NDA.

Talking to media, Bihar Congress in-charge Krishna Allavaru said that Today's meeting was the beginning and on April 17 another

meeting will take place in Patna where both the parties will move forward forming a consensus and with a strong strategy. During the meeting Kharge said, "This time change is certain in Bihar. Today, we met the former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Tejashwi Yadav and discussed the strengthening of Mahagathbandhan". He said that in the upcoming election the leaders discussed to give the people of Bihar a strong, positive, just and welfare-oriented

option. The Congress President further said that the the alliance will work to free Bihar from BJP and its opportunistic alliance. "Youth, farmers, labourers, women, backward, and people of all other sections of the society want the Mahagathbandhan government in Bihar," Kharge said. Present in the meeting were Congress leader KC Venugopal, Bihar Congress in-charge Krishna Allavaru, Bihar State Congress President Rajesh Kumar, RJD leader Manoj Jha among other



# Grand Procession and Bike Rally in Khopoli on Mahatma Phule Jayanti



(Standard Post Bureau)

Khopoli, April 15 : On the occasion of the 198th birth anniversary of the great social reformer Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, a grand chariot procession and bike rally was

organized in Khopoli by the "Amcham Tharlay" organization and the Mahatma Phule Jayanti Utsav Committee. The rally began from Shilphata and concluded at the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar

Memorial. Key participants included Mohanji Avasarmal, Rajendra Phakke, Kuldeep Shende, Dinkar Bhujbal, Surekha Khedkar, Varsha More, Dattaji Masurkar, Kishor Pansare, Mohan Kedar,

Mahesh Kajale, and other prominent social activists. Speakers highlighted Mahatma Phule's invaluable contributions to social reform and emphasized the importance of spreading his message to the new generation.

## Defence Secy holds talks with Italian Defence Minister to boost defence cooperation

New Delhi, April 15 (UNI) : Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Tuesday called on Defence Minister of Italy Guido Crosetto in Rome, and both held productive discussions aimed at strengthening defence ties as a vital pillar of the strategic partnership between both countries.

During his two-day visit to Rome, Singh co-chaired the 11th India-Italy annual bilateral Joint Defence Committee meeting with his Italian counterpart, Secretary General of Defence Luisa Riccardi, a Defence Ministry statement said.

They discussed a wide range of defence, security and industrial cooperation issues including maritime

cooperation and information sharing arrangements between India and Italy with emphasis on Trans Regional Maritime Network. The situation in the Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean Region also came up during the discussions.

The Defence Secretary stressed on closer defence collaboration especially in technology and armament production, which is a priority area for India. He also brought out that the Government of India is proactively building an ecosystem for defence production and innovation within the country through conscious policy initiatives. India has

developed a vibrant innovation and industrial ecosystem.

In his keynote address during India-Italy Defence Industry Roundtable, Rajesh Kumar Singh shared his views on how the Indian defence industry has witnessed significant changes, particularly in the past few years through progressive reforms.

He said that these reforms have been marked by the creation of a conducive environment for the growth of the Indian Industry through transparency, predictability and Ease of Doing Business.

An MoU between Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)

and the Federation of Italian Companies for Aerospace, Defence and Security (AIAD) was also signed, marking a significant step toward fostering closer cooperation between the defence industries of both nations.

The Defence Secretary was accompanied by a high-level delegation, comprising senior officials from Service Headquarters, Department of Defence and Department of Defence Production. A substantial industry delegation from SIDM also accompanied the Defence Secretary to foster closer B2B connections between the Indian and Italian defence industries.

## SC seeks stakeholder suggestions for Amendments to 2013 Rules

New Delhi, April 15 (UNI) : The Supreme Court has initiated the process to amend the SC Rules, 2013 and has invited suggestions from stakeholders in the justice delivery system to ensure a comprehensive overhaul of existing procedures.

A circular issued by the top court and uploaded on its official website on Tuesday seeks feedback from all concerned parties.

The circular states that the Supreme Court Rules Amendment Committee is currently considering specific amendments to the 2013 Rules. In a bid to make this exercise inclusive and exhaustive, the Court has urged stakeholders to submit their views or suggestions pertaining to the Rules and/or the Handbook on Practice and Procedure and Office

Procedure, 2017.

Suggestions are to be sent via email only to the Committee at reg.admnmaterial@sci.nic.in by May 1, 2025. Submissions in hard copy form will not be entertained.

This move comes shortly after a significant judgment delivered by a bench comprising Justice Bela M. Trivedi and Justice S.C. Sharma, concerning the proper recording of advocates' appearances in court proceedings.

Emphasizing adherence to the existing Supreme Court Rules, 2013, the bench clarified that only those advocates physically present and arguing in court, namely Senior Advocates, Advocates-on-Record, or Advocates, will have their appearances recorded. Additionally, only one assisting Advocate or

Advocate-on-Record for each arguing counsel may be recorded, as per Form 30 prescribed under the SC Rules.

The Court noted that the integrity of the court's records must be preserved and cautioned against the casual or symbolic listing of names.

Reinforcing this stance, Justice B.R. Gavai recently expressed strong disapproval when the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) appeared unprepared during the final hearing of appeals in the Nithari Kand case involving the accused Surendra Koli. Justice Gavai observed that if appearances are merely for namesake, the bench may consider adopting the stricter approach which is advocated by the bench of Justice Trivedi.

## Ahead of PM Modi's J&K visit, Kashmir IGP chairs high-level security review meet

Srinagar, April 15 (UNI) : With Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to visit Jammu and Kashmir on April 19 to flag off the train from Katra to Srinagar, Inspector General of Police Kashmir V.K. Birdi on Tuesday chaired a high-level security review meeting to assess preparedness and ensure coordinated action among security agencies.

The meeting held at the Police Control Room, Kashmir was attended by senior officers from multiple forces.

A police spokesman said during the session, IGP Kashmir underscored the need for heightened vigilance given potential threats and directed officers to strengthen intelligence networks, secure vulnerable points, and maintain effective area domination.

He further emphasized intensified patrolling, enhanced visibility at key locations, and strict adherence to established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Highlighting the importance of synergy among all security and intelligence wings, IGP Kashmir called for robust inter-agency coordination and comprehensive emergency preparedness.

Concluding the meeting, he reiterated the need for unified and proactive efforts to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of high-profile events across UT.

## India to witness above normal rainfall during monsoon

New Delhi, April 15 (UNI) : India will witness "above-normal cumulative" rainfall this monsoon, except some areas over Northwest India, the India Meteorological Department said on Tuesday, ruling out the possibility of El Nino conditions during the entire season.

"India is likely to see above-normal rainfall in the four-month monsoon season (June to September) with cumulative rainfall estimated at 105 per cent of the long-period average of 87 cm," India Meteorological Department (IMD) chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra told a press conference here.

Forecast indicates that neutral El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are likely to continue during the monsoon season" he added.

"The southwest monsoon seasonal (June to September) rainfall over the country as a whole during 2025 is most likely to be above normal (>104% of the Long Period Average (LPA). Quantitatively, the seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be 105% of LPA with a model error of  $\pm 5\%$ ," said IMD in a press release.

IMD said it sees most parts of the country to receive normal to above normal monsoon, which falls in the range of 96-105% of the Long Period Average.

# Former MLAs Sanjay Ghatge, Pandurang Barora join BJP



(By Rajesh Undi)

Thane, April 15 : Thousands of workers from Ubatha, Congress, Sharad Pawar and NCP have joined the Bharatiya Janata Party to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Developed India' and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' 'Developed Maharashtra' concept. BJP State President and Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule expressed confidence on Tuesday that the number of BJP members will increase by another 50 lakh due to the new members joining the BJP. Former Kagal MLA Sanjay Ghatge of the Ubatha group, former Shahapur MLA Pandurang Barora of the NCP Sharad Pawar group and senior Congress leader from Malegaon Prasad Baliram Hire, former Mayor of Shrirampur Sanjay Fund joined the party at the BJP state office. He was speaking on this occasion.

Mr. Bawankule and Executive President

Ravindra Chavan welcomed everyone. Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant Dada Patil, Water Resources Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, A. Seema Hiray, former Union Minister Kapil Patil, former MP Ranjitsinh Naik - Nimbalkar, State General Secretary Vijay Chaudhary, Media Department Head Navnath Ban, Ahilyanagar North District President Nitin Dinkar etc. were present. "On this occasion, Mr. Bawankule said that the party will get strength in Kolhapur and Thane districts due to the entry of former MLAs of Kagal and Shahapur. The party organization in Nashik district will be strengthened due to Prasad Baliram Hiray, who has a great political legacy, and thousands of workers who have joined BJP.

We have utmost respect for the late Baliram Hiray, who has competently held the post of Health and Education Minister and led the assembly constituency

for a long time, and we are happy about the entry of his son and other family members into BJP, said Mr. Bawankule. Mr. He said. He also mentioned that by working loyally for BJP, we will hoist the BJP flag in the entire

Nashik district. "Senior leader of Thane district Shivajibhau Deshmukh, Congress leader of Srirampur and former Deputy Mayor Srinivas Vihani along with 12 former corporators, President of Agri Kranti Sanghatana Shivaji Adhikari, Director of Thane District Central Cooperative Bank Indrajit Padwal, Former Chairman of Zilla Parishad Nikhil Barora, Former Mayor of Phaltan Dilipsinh Bhosale, Senior Journalist Ravindra Bedkihal, Tushar Gandhi, Prasad Hire's wife Mrs. Geetanjali Hire, Vice President of Nashik District Congress Bajirao Nikam, Ramrao Shewale, Rajendra Londhe, Ashfaq Sheikh, Sudhakar Bachkar are among those who have joined BJP.

## Cong calls ED chargesheet as "false", alleges political vendetta

New Delhi, April 15 (UNI) : The Congress on Tuesday dismissed the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) chargesheet against its party leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi as "false and fabricated" claiming it clearly reflects a "spirit of political vengeance".

Notably, the ED filed its prosecution report against Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and some other Congress leaders in a local court in the alleged money laundering case related to the National Herald.

Congress leader and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi through a video message on X said, "The proceedings which are going on regarding National Herald are not new, because when this case started, we had said that this is a very strange case."

He said that the case was initiated without any transfer of property or even a single rupee.

"A Section 8 non-profit company was established to oversee the old properties of National Herald, with Mrs Sonia Gandhi and others associated with it. This company is not permitted to distribute dividends or engage in commercial activities," he said.

He claimed that a "false and fabricated case" has been created as part of this ongoing sequence.

He further alleged that "the filing of the chargesheet is another step in this chain. Thee matter has been addressed through legal means from the very beginning."

Calling it as a "baseless and fabricated case", Singhvi said, "In the end, the court will deliver its clear judgment. It's evident that the case is being driven by political vendetta."

## Decline in campus selection in IITs and IIMs a matter of concern: Mayawati

Lucknow, April 15 (UNI) : Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati on Tuesday expressed concern over the decline in campus selection in the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and has advised the government to take concrete steps in the field of employment.

Taking to X, Mayawati wrote, "The news of the Parliamentary Committee expressing concern over the decline in campus selection in the country's 17 top central educational institutions including IIT, IIM and NIT, in the absence of permanent heads for a long time and in the ad-hoc system, raises many questions about the government's governance."

## AAP, Congress playing fixed match: Punjab BJP chief

Chandigarh, April 15 (UNI) : Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar alleged on Tuesday that AAP and Congress were playing a fixed match. In a video statement released on social media, he alleged that Partap Singh Bajwa, in his bid to become chief minister of the state at the fag-end of his career, was giving statements to garner cheap publicity and the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann was making statements for the sake of it. Claiming that everyone knows that there was no basis to the statement of Bajwa, Jakhar alleged that a drama was being created.

He said that the Union Home minister Amit Shah recently told the Parliament that though the law and order was a state subject,







STANDARD POST

India’s semiconductor industry likely to double revenue to \$108 bn by 2030

The Indian semiconductor industry's revenues are likely to double from \$54 billion to \$108 billion between 2025 to 2030, according to a report by financial services firm UBS.

The report expects India to gain amid the US-China tariff war that will put the communist giant at a disadvantage and see India emerging as a stronger alternative for global giants looking to set up supply chains.

The report sees strong growth ahead for the market, including a localisation opportunity, which is expected to generate \$13 billion in revenues in 2030.

UBS said this 15 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) estimate is faster than our forecast for the global semiconductor end market thanks to India's favourable demographics fuelling strong electronics demand (and in turn semiconductors), rising enterprise adoption of advanced semiconductors, and favourable government policies.

India accounts for only 0.1 per cent of global wafer capacity, around 1 per cent of annual equipment spending, and a 6.5 per cent semiconductor end-demand share, the report states.

According to the report, major tech companies are evaluating the relocation of their supply chains amid the ongoing tariff uncertainties triggered by the Donald Trump administration in the US.

A few companies have already embarked on their "China plus one" strategy by diversifying their final assembly locations beyond China, the report points out.India's tech advantage lies mostly in its vast talent pool in the software and services industry, whereas mainland China's dominance is in tech manufacturing.

In semiconductors, too, India has a unique advantage, with around 20 per cent of global chip designers working in the country for multinational corporations, the report points out.

Despite these uncertainties, the US and mainland China are the top end-markets. India, at 6.5 per cent, is a solid end market for global semiconductors, with \$54 billion in revenues in 2025, the report added.

Mizoram: An Emerging National Security Threat in India’s Northeast

Imphal, March 6, (Waari Singbul Network) : The northeastern states of India have long been a complex tapestry of ethnic diversity, historical grievances, and geopolitical significance. Among them, Manipur and Mizoram—two states sharing borders with Myanmar—have recently drawn attention for their roles in the evolving security landscape of the region. While Manipur has been embroiled in ethnic violence since May 2023, grappling with internal strife between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, Mizoram has quietly emerged as a more insidious national security concern.

Manipur: A Visible Crisis Contained Within Borders

Manipur's challenges are stark and immediate. The ethnic violence that erupted in May 2023 has claimed over 258 lives and displaced more than 60,000 people, according to official figures as of November 2024. The conflict, rooted in tensions over land rights, affirmative action, and illegal immigration from Myanmar, has exposed deep ethnic fault lines between the valley-dwelling Meiteis and the hill-based Kuki-Zo tribes. The state's proximity to the Golden Triangle—a notorious drug-producing region spanning Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand—has also fueled a narco-economy, with poppy cultivation and drug trafficking exacerbating local instability. The Manipur government's "War on Drugs" has made strides in curbing this menace, reportedly reducing drug transit through the state to near negligible levels by late 2024, thanks to aggressive enforcement and central government support.

Yet, Manipur's crisis, while severe, remains largely an internal affair. The violence has not overtly spilled beyond its borders, and the central government's imposition of President's Rule in



February 2025 reflects a decisive effort to contain and address the situation. The state's security challenges, tied to ethnic rivalries and narcotics, are being met with a combination of military presence, administrative oversight, and diplomatic measures like border fencing along the Indo-Myanmar frontier. Manipur's threats, though significant, are visible, localized, and—at least for now—manageable within India's federal framework.

Mizoram: A Quiet but Growing Menace

In contrast, Mizoram presents a subtler but potentially more dangerous threat to India's national security. Historically a conduit for cross-border trade and migration due to its 510-kilometer porous border with Myanmar, Mizoram has recently seen a dramatic spike in narcotics and explosives trafficking. The unrest in Manipur since 2023 has diverted drug routes from the Moreh-Sugnu axis in Manipur to the Zokhawthar-Kolasib axis in Mizoram, turning the latter into a preferred transit hub for heroin, methamphetamine, and cannabis originating from Myanmar. Data from 2023 indicates that Mizoram's security forces seized contraband worth over ₹78 crore in just over a month,

a sharp increase attributed to the shifting dynamics of the regional drug trade. Meanwhile, the state's Governor, in February 2025, highlighted the arrest of 600 drug traffickers and the seizure of 429 kilograms of narcotics in the current financial year alone—a testament to the scale of the problem.

More alarmingly, Mizoram has emerged as a smuggling hub for explosives. In 2024, Assam Rifles intercepted over 2,000 kilograms of explosives, 60,000 detonators, and 13,000 gelatine sticks, with seizures continuing into 2025 at an accelerated pace. These materials, often destined for anti-junta forces in Myanmar or insurgent groups in Bangladesh, underscore Mizoram's role as a logistical lifeline for regional instability. The porous border, combined with lax oversight of licensed explosives dealers, raises the specter of these weapons being redirected to Indian insurgent groups—a scenario Assam Rifles officers have repeatedly flagged as a "larger danger."

Zo State Advocacy: A Separatist Undercurrent

Compounding these material threats is Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma's vocal advocacy for a unified Zo state, an

aspiration that transcends India's national boundaries. The Zo people—encompassing the Mizo, Kuki, Zomi, and Chin communities across India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh—share ethnic and cultural ties that Lalduhoma has leveraged to push a narrative of reunification. In September 2024, speaking to the Kuki-Zo diaspora in the United States, he declared that the Zo people "do not accept boundaries between countries" and envisioned a future where they rise "under one leadership to achieve our destiny of nationhood." This rhetoric, echoed by his predecessor Zoramthanga during the Manipur crisis, directly challenges India's territorial integrity and has drawn sharp rebukes from Manipur's Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, who warned against interference in his state's affairs.

Lalduhoma's stance is not mere political posturing. It aligns with a broader, decades-long agenda speculated by some observers to carve out a "Kuki-Chin nation" from contiguous areas of Myanmar, India, and Bangladesh. This vision involves illegal immigration, land acquisition, and the establishment of autonomous zones—steps that could culminate in

separatism. Mizoram's hosting of over 12,500 displaced Kuki-Zo individuals from Manipur and 40,000 refugees from Myanmar and Bangladesh further fuels this narrative, creating a demographic and political base for Zo unification efforts.

The Pact of Pro-Democratic Outfits: A Tipping Point?

The recent signing of a pact by pro-democratic outfits in Mizoram, reported in February 27, 2025, marks a critical escalation. While details remain sparse, this agreement—purportedly involving armed rebel groups advocating for democratic reforms and fighting government forces in Myanmar—signals Mizoram's growing entanglement with anti-junta forces across the border.

Such alliances could legitimize Mizoram as a staging ground for transnational militancy, drawing parallels to the state's historical role during the Mizo insurgency of the 1960s and 1970s.

Unlike Manipur, where militant groups like the Kuki National Army operate within a domestic context, Mizoram's pact risks internationalizing its security challenges, potentially inviting foreign actors—such as China, which views India's Act East policy with

suspicion—into the fray."

Why Mizoram Outweighs Manipur as a Threat"

Manipur's crisis, while devastating, is a fire that burns brightly but within a confined space. Its ethnic violence and narco-issues are being addressed through direct intervention, and its leadership has reaffirmed its commitment to India's unity. Mizoram, however, is a slow-burning fuse with far-reaching implications. Its transformation into a narcotics and explosives hub not only undermines India's internal security but also strengthens destabilizing forces in a volatile region. The state's leadership, by championing Zo reunification, flirts with separatism at a time when India is fortifying its northeastern borders against external threats.

The central government's reimposition of the Protected Area Regime in December 2024, requiring foreigners to obtain permits to enter Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland, is a belated acknowledgment of these risks. Yet, it may not suffice. Mizoram's trajectory demands a more robust response: stricter border controls, enhanced intelligence operations, and a clear disavowal of separatist rhetoric from its leaders. Failure to act decisively could see Mizoram eclipse Manipur as the epicenter of India's northeastern security woes, threatening not just the region but the nation as a whole."

In conclusion, while Manipur wrestles with its demons, Mizoram's quiet metamorphosis into a narcotics-explosives hub and a potential separatist stronghold poses a deeper, more insidious challenge.

The stakes are high, and the time to confront this emerging threat is now—before the fuse burns down to its inevitable, explosive end.

SP will be wiped out in 2027 assembly polls: Keshav Maurya

Prayagraj, April 15 (UNI) : Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Tuesday claimed that the Samajwadi Party (SP) will be wiped out in the Assembly elections 2027.

Before leaving for Lucknow, the Deputy CM met party officials and workers at the Circuit House and advised them to strongly join the preparations for the upcoming district panchayat and assembly elections to be held in 2027.

He said that SP chief Akhilesh is nervous due to the fear of his party being wiped out in the Assembly elections 2027. "Due to this, he is making a malicious attempt to break the social fabric by making baseless statements," he said.

Maurya said that the BJP is doing positive work very seriously on the mantra of 'Sabka Saath,

Sabka Vikas' under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whereas the SP always believes in 'development of its family with the support of some'. "The SP has never liked the development of the poor, backward, and Dalits," he claimed.

He said that it is certain that this policy of his (Akhilesh) will prove to be Bhasmasur for his party. "The historic public support received by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on Monday is also not being digested by the SP. It has lost its digestion. The fake PDA balloon of the SP has burst. Despite this bitter truth, it is still far away from the ground reality," he said.

In an attack on the Congress, the Deputy CM said that the history of politics is a witness that the

Congress itself has been punctured by doing the politics of Muslim appeasement for decades. "The truth is that there is no other way left for them except to drag themselves on the crutches of regional parties. Despite all this, their arrogance is as if the burden of the country is on them. Despite being in the opposition, their behaviour is like that of the ruling party," he said.

He said that the Congress, which believes in 'monarchy' under the shadow of the Gandhi family instead of democracy, has never been concerned about the Constitution. "The only change in its history is that now it has abandoned 'Gandhi's Khadi' and has started wearing 'T-shirts'. Its impact on the public is also ineffective because even after becoming an MP five times, Rahul Gandhi means impossible.

History which prevents progress, should remain history: Akhilesh

Lucknow, April 15 (UNI) : Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday without discussing the aggressive stand of Karni Sena over the objectionable comment of party MP Ramjilal Suman on Rana Sanga said that the history which prevents progress, which is an obstacle in social harmony, unity and brotherhood, should be allowed to remain history.

On being asked about the threat being given by the people of Karni Sena during a press conference held in the party office, Akhilesh said, "These are all Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) people. They are BJP troopers. The day the central government withdrew my NSG security, I came to know about their intentions. Those who themselves have NSG security are cowards. They should also withdraw their NSG security. We are not

going to be afraid."

On being asked about Rana Sanga, he said, "We are not against kings. Kings do not have any caste. A king was just a king. In history, all kings have made decisions according to the circumstances and conditions of the time. I have said on many occasions that whatever prevents history from moving forward, which is an obstacle to social harmony, unity, and brotherhood, should be allowed to remain history."

The SP chief said that anarchy is at its peak in the BJP government. "Anarchic elements are openly threatening to kill and shoot. Is this the rule of the Constitution and law?" he questioned.

He said that if the BJP had won 400 seats in the Lok Sabha elections, swords would have been used on the streets today. "The Constitution would

have ended," he said.

Akhilesh said that the BJP is spreading hatred in society. It is spreading poison. "The BJP raises new issues to divert attention from issues like farmers' problems, jobs, employment, inflation, and unemployment. The intention of the BJP is not to give justice and rights. It is against the reservation for PDA. We have been saying from the very first day that the BJP will not give reservations. Reservation is being tampered with in all recruitment," he said.

He said that the Uttar Pradesh government's claim of zero tolerance has become zero. "Health services have been ruined. Incidents of fire are happening in hospitals. There is corruption of all kinds. The poor are not getting treatment in hospitals and medical colleges.



# Beauty



## Beauty rituals from around the world

There is wisdom in those words. Beautiful skin, hair and nails do not have to be synonymous with lighter wallets and wasting hours on end. We bring you a compilation of some amazing beauty techniques from around the world. Not only are they intriguing, but also completely natural. From soothing a flaky scalp to getting lustrous skin, there's a way to have it all.

**Spanish circles**  
You surely must have tried cucumber slices to lighten dark circles around your eyes. And there's also a range of haemorrhoidal creams to treat under-eye circles. Weird as it sounds, it is supposed to work like a dream! Not brave enough to try it? Then follow Spanish women and use very thin potato slices over your eyes. Keep them on for ten minutes. You will notice that they actually lighten the skin reducing the blueness of the veins under your eyes.

**Kiss cellulite goodbye, the Brazilian way**  
Cellulite is every woman's despair and there seems to be no way to shooing it away. Here's a thing to learn from Brazilian women, who rub sand on their bodies. When it comes to cellulite, dry brushing is the best,

natural and probably, the only way to getting rid of them. So, use sand to kiss cellulite goodbye.

**Greek TLC for lips**  
Beauty regimens need not mean spending a bomb on products or devoting a lot of time to it (unless you are greatly inspired by Cleopatra). Some of the most easily available things straight off your kitchen shelves can be used for beautifying your self. Greek and Italian women use olive oil to sooth and repair chapped lips. It is the best treatment to heal dry and irritated skin. It also conditions skin and lips while making it glow beautifully.

**Chinese anti-ageing**  
Want skin that defies age-related problems? Sip on white tea like the Chinese do. It protects your skin from free radicals and you don't need to worry about Botox, fillers, collagen and the likes.

**Australian dandruff cure**  
Suffering from dandruff? Add a few drops of eucalyptus oil or tea tree oil to your shampoo and kiss those flakes goodbye. This is a foolproof trick from down under to getting rid of dandruff. Be careful with the essential oils though. Massage your scalp with a few drops to see the change.

**Scandinavian skincare**  
They aren't called the world's most beautiful women for nothing. Scandinavian



Do not dismiss your granny the next time she gives you an earful about the virtues of a good old champi.

women are credited with flawless skin and aging gracefully. Water plays an essential role in their skincare regime, drinking lots of spring water along with treating their face to it. Steaming your face while in the shower helps open the pores and unclog all the impurities lodged in them. You can also use a hot towel to cover your face for a few minutes for this purpose. Then splash

your face with ice cold water. Cold water closes the pores and tightens the skin. It also helps eliminate puffiness. **A good 20 splashes with cold water should do the trick.**

**Dominican way to stronger nails**  
So what is the secret to the super strong nails of women from the Dominican Republic? Garlic. It is the natural way to strengthen your nails

and to ward off vampires! Want sturdy nails? Chop fresh garlic pods and add them to a bottle of clear nail polish. Leave them in there for seven to eight days. Paint your nails with this concoction. Although it will smell initially, it is a small price to pay to getting rid of brittle nails.

## Home remedies to cure dry, Flaky skin



### Banana pack -

Mash one ripe or over ripe banana until it forms a paste and mix one teaspoon of honey with it. Apply a thick layer of this mixture on face and leave it on for 20-30 minutes. Wash it off with cold water and repeat the process twice a week to get moist fresh skin.

### Almond pack -

Grind soaked almonds to make a paste. Add some cold milk, lemon juice and besan (gram flour) to this mix and apply a thick layer on the face and other dry areas. Scrub it off once dry and wash face with lukewarm water.

### Yogurt pack -

Make a pack by mixing cold yogurt, lemon juice and honey and apply on face. Leave it on for 20 minutes and wash it off with cold water.

### Aloe Vera Gel -

Apply a generous amount of Aloe Vera gel all over the face and leave it on until it dries. Wash it off with cold water. This not only provides moisture to the skin but also prevents ageing and acne.

Dry skin is a horrible problem to have. People suffer from stretchy, white looking skin that may even crack and bleed. Not only that, dry skin causes itchiness and discomfort too. Here are a few home remedies you can use to solve the problem.

## Home remedies for hair-care in Monsoon

Hair care becomes a difficult and time-consuming job in the monsoon season. But it is also important for healthy hair to stay away from chemicals and outside treatments as much as possible. Well, here are some easy home remedies that can answer your tress woes -

For dry, frizzy hair, apply a paste of two bananas and honey and leave it for about an hour. This will help moisturize hair and keep it soft.

Apply lemon juice on your scalp for 15 minutes and then wash it off. This will ensure an oil-free scalp. Soak fenugreek (methi) seeds in water overnight. Strain the water the next day and use this water to



wash your hair. Methi is effective for many hair

problems like hairfall, dandruff and dryness. The rains and sweatiness due to the humid weather results in an itchy scalp. Add a spoon of vinegar to water and rinse your hair with this at the end after you shampoo it. This will help you get rid of the itchiness. Mix two spoons of curd

with an egg and apply it on

Here are some easy home remedies for the smooth and silky hair in monsoon.

your hair for 15-20 minutes. Use this mixture as a conditioner after you shampoo your hair. It will make your hair soft and shiny.

## Be scorching hot at parties this summer

With Mumbai summer refusing to bow out, we are left to deal with a rather long stint of heat and humidity. But are you letting it affect your social life, or rather, 'look'? Here are a few tips to keep in mind when stepping out for a party this summer...

### Keep it simple

Beauty consultant Manasi Bhakade states, "Always begin day makeup with a sunblock (at least SPF 30), followed by a light oil-free foundation or BB/CC cream. Shadow and mascara on your eyes and a nourishing lip tint later, you are good to face the day." According to senior makeup artist Sonie Sarwate, should choose makeup that blends well with the skin and doesn't feel heavy.

### Use concealers

Dr Geeta Oberoi, dermatologist, says, "Use mineral-based makeup and keep your base to a minimum. Rather than using heavy foundation, use concealers to get a flawless face."

### Do a double cleansing

Removing makeup is a must before you hit the sack. "Do a double cleansing procedure to unclog pores — a cleanser followed by medicated face wash," says Dr Oberoi. If you have oily skin, do not work your skin too much because it will end up making your skin more oily.

### Close pores

You must use an alcohol-free toner after every wash to close open pores.

### If you sweat a lot...

"Use lotions containing aluminium chlorohydrate. It works as an antiperspirant. However, in some cases, it can cause skin irritation. So, ask your dermatologist first," Dr

Oberoi explains.

### Use the right makeup

Dr Sama Rais, dermatologist and cosmetologist, advises using makeup that is 'non-comedogenic' or 'non-acnegenic' — it won't clog pores or cause pimples.

### Home remedies

Dr Poonam Wadhwani, cosmetic dermatologist, suggests, "Wear dark colours that hide sweat patches. For dark circles, try home remedies like applying cool tea bags on the eyes for 15 minutes or applying cucumber juice and potato juice."

### Get this look

- Use a concealer and then apply a hydrating base that matches your skin tone.  
- Use a light-brown or coral-toned blush.  
- Apply highlighter on your brow bone, cheeks and in the inner corner of your eyes.  
- A warm eye-shadow will enlarge and brighten your peepers.  
- Line your eyes with smudge-proof kohl.  
- Curl your lashes; apply a coat of mascara.  
- Now apply a bright lipstick.







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# MCA to rename Wankhede stands after Rohit, Wadekar, Pawar

Mumbai, April 15 (UNI) : In a historic move to honour India's cricketing icons, the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) on Tuesday approved a proposal to rename three stands at the Wankhede Stadium after skipper Rohit Sharma, former India captain Ajit Wadekar, and veteran administrator Sharad Pawar. The decision was taken at the MCA's Annual General Meeting (AGM), where the resolution — initially proposed by apex council member Milind Narvekar and seconded by Jitendra Awhad — received unanimous approval from the house.

"Three stands at Wankhede Stadium will be honoured after notable figures in Indian cricket. The Grand Stand Level 3 will be named the Shri Sharad Pawar Stand, Grand Stand Level 4 will become the Ajit Wadekar Stand, and Divecha Pavilion Level 3 will be designated as the Rohit Sharma Stand," an MCA statement said.

The AGM also passed a resolution to rename the match-day office at the MCA Pavilion as the MCA Office Lounge in memory of former MCA president Amol Kale, who passed away in 2024 at the age of 47.

"Today's decisions reflect our deep respect for the pillars of Mumbai cricket and our determination to build an even stronger future. These stands and this lounge shall forever echo the legacy of those who built Mumbai's cricketing spirit — brick by brick, run by run," MCA president Ajinkya Naik said. Rohit, who recently led India to back-to-back global titles — the ICC Champions Trophy and the T20 World Cup — holds a special bond with the Wankhede Stadium. As captain of the Mumbai Indians, he has guided the franchise to a record five IPL titles, earning him the adoration of fans who chant "Mumbai cha Raja" every time he takes the field. In 11 international appearances at the venue, Rohit has scored 402 runs at an average of 36, including a century and a fifty. His T20 numbers at the ground are even more prolific, with 2,543 runs to his name, including a century.

The AGM also greenlit a major financial resolution aimed at bolstering the city's cricketing infrastructure. The corpus for MCA-affiliated clubs has been raised to ₹75 crore, with a target of ₹100 crore in the coming years to strengthen grassroots development. With this move, Wankhede adds more legendary names to its storied structure, which already includes stands named after cricketing stalwarts such as Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Dilip Vengsarkar and Vijay Merchant.

# Pukhraj Singh, Tapendra Ghai, Honey Baisoya share first-round lead at inaugural Calance Open

New Delhi, April 15 (UNI) : Ludhiana's Pukhraj Singh Gill, Gurugram's Tapendra Ghai and Delhi's Honey Baisoya struck scores of six-under 64 to share the first-round lead at the Calance Open 2025 being played at the Qutab Golf Course here.

Five players were tied in fourth place at scores of five-under 65 at the Par-70 course which is playing host to a PGTI event after 15 years. The chasing pack at 65 included Chandigarh's Yuvraj Sandhu, who made birdies on his last four

holes, as well as Karandeep Kochhar, another Chandigarh golfer, along with Bangladesh's Badal Hossain, Delhi's Kapil Kumar and Kolkata's Shankar Das. Twenty-eight-year-old Pukhraj Singh Gill, who was also the first-round leader at last week's PGTI event in Ahmedabad, didn't have the best of starts on Tuesday after he made an early bogey on the 12th. However, Gill came back strong with birdies on the 15th and 16th to make the turn at one-under.

Pukhraj, searching for

# Alan Wilkins set to rejoin IPL after beating throat cancer

London, April 15 (UNI) Renowned sports commentator Alan Wilkins, known for his insightful commentary on cricket, announced via social media that he will be heading to India to work on the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season.

He expressed his joy and gratitude after being given the all-clear from throat cancer by Velindre Cancer Centre.

In a heartfelt message shared with his followers on Tuesday, Wilkins said, "Knowing that I am heading to India to work on the @IPL after being given the all-clear from throat cancer by @VelindreCS @VelindreTrust @Velindre makes me feel incredibly blessed. And 'young' again! Never Give Up."

The 62-year-old's resilience and positive outlook in the face of adversity have been widely praised by fans and colleagues alike. Wilkins has been an integral part of cricket broadcasting for decades, providing expert analysis and commentary for numerous international tournaments.

His return to the IPL marks a significant milestone in his recovery, and his message of hope continues to inspire many. The cricket community, along with his supporters, expressed overwhelming support for Wilkins as he embarks on this new chapter in his career.

# Chahal, Jansen, Arshdeep blast PBKS to unforgettable win

Chandigarh, April 15 (UNI) : In an electrifying night at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium, Punjab Kings (PBKS) pulled off one of the greatest comebacks in IPL history, stunning Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) by 16 runs in a low-scoring yet drama-laden thriller here on Tuesday.

From being pummelled early by Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Ajinkya Rahane, to scripting a scarcely believable turnaround through a dizzying collapse, Punjab bowlers stole the show — led by the guile of Yuzvendra Chahal, the pace and bounce of Marco Jansen, and the venom of Arshdeep Singh.

Pretty Zinta's radiant smile from the owners' box lit up the Chandigarh night as Jansen pierced the final nail in Kolkata's coffin — knocking over Andre Russell with a devilish short ball that took a thick inside-edge onto the stumps. As the stumps lit up, the spectators erupted, and Punjab players mobbed Jansen in euphoria. It was a moment of disbelief — and delirium.

Chasing a modest 152, KKR seemed to be cruising at 61/1 after 6 overs, thanks to a fluent opening burst by young Raghuvanshi. The 18-year-old Mumbaikar stamped his class with glorious drives and



confident flicks, racing to 37 off 28 balls. Rahane too chimed in with a classic six down the ground. By the end of the powerplay, Punjab looked out of ideas. Ricky Ponting wore a grim look in the dugout.

But what followed was sheer madness. Enter Chahal and the wily leggie turned the game on its head with a spell that will be remembered for ages. His first victim was Rahane, trapped lbw, albeit with some help from umpire Saidharshan Kumar and Rahane's own reluctance to review. The ball had pitched marginally outside off, but Rahane walked off shaking his head.

Then came Angkrish's dismissal — a tossed-up

# Mirabai Chanu elected IWLF Athletes Commission chairperson

New Delhi, April 15 (UNI) : In a significant development for Indian weightlifting, Olympic medalist Mirabai Chanu has been elected as the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF).

Expressing her gratitude, Chanu thanked the IWLF for entrusting her with the prestigious role. "I express my immense gratitude to the Indian Weightlifting Federation for electing me as the Chairperson of the Athletes Commission of the federation. I am extremely grateful to Sahdev Yadav Sir for showcasing faith in me. I also thank the committee members for unanimously voting for me," she stated. Chanu, who has been a prominent figure in Indian sports, further added, "The opportunity to represent and uphold the voice of fellow weightlifters is a matter of great pride for me." She also acknowledged the support she has received over the years from her coach, Vijay, saying, "I also wish to thank my coach Vijay Sir, for their constant support and guidance." Pledging to take her new responsibilities seriously, Chanu emphasised her commitment to advocating for the athletes' viewpoints. "I will work towards spreading the athletes' voice and viewpoints across all key channels to ensure we can continue to dedicatedly focus on the sport without being distracted by external factors," she affirmed.

delivery drawing the youngster into a false shot. He looked to loft inside out, only to skew it off the outside edge to Xavier Bartlett at backward point. Chahal pumped his fist. Punjab had hope.

The double blow that followed was surreal — Rinku Singh was done in by drift, dip and sharp turn as Josh Inglis stumped him beautifully, and the very next ball Ramandeep Singh was dismissed via an unfortunate deflection off his own forearm. Chahal was on a hat-trick and Chandigarh had erupted. From 61/1, KKR had collapsed to 76/6.

While Chahal (4/17) turned the middle overs into a minefield, Jansen returned

to wipe out the tail. Harshit Rana was castled via a thick inside edge. Then, with KKR needing 17 off 28 balls and just Russell standing in the way, Jansen bowled the delivery of the match — a short ball wide outside off that Russell attempted to pull, only for it to crash into the stumps via a thick inside-edge.

If that wasn't enough, Arshdeep Singh produced a classic Test-match style short ball to remove Vaibhav Arora, who gloved one behind to Inglis. The Punjab fans went berserk — a wicket- maiden at that stage sealed the script.

Bartlett was exceptional with the new ball, removing Quinton de Kock (2) and then seeing misfields turn

# Namibia to host Junior Africa hockey qualifiers

Lausanne (Switzerland), April 15 (UNI) : The best junior men's and women's hockey teams from Africa will compete in Windhoek, Namibia in the Junior Africa Cup 2025 from April 18 to 25, with the final three men's and women's spots up for grabs in the upcoming FIH Junior Hockey World Cups 2025, to be played in India (men's) and Chile (women's), with an expanded competition format that will feature 24 teams in each competition for the very first time.

In the men's competition, it will be Egypt, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe scrapping for the three spots available from Africa in the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup India 2025. The teams have been split into two pools, with Pool A comprising Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria and South Africa, while it'll be Egypt, Zambia and Zimbabwe competing in Pool B. Following the pool stages where each team plays the others in their pool once, the top two teams in both pools will qualify for the semi-finals.

The winning teams in the semi-finals will qualify not just for the final, but also gain entry into the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup India 2025. The losing semi-finalists will then play in the bronze medal match with the winner becoming the final entrant to the World Cup.

The FIH Junior Hockey Men's World Cup 2025 will be played in Chennai and Madurai, India. As hosts India have already qualified for the competition. Belgium, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Austria and Switzerland have qualified from Europe.

and Zimbabwe competing for the final three spots available in the FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup Chile 2025.

The six teams have been split into two pools of three teams each, with Pool A comprising Namibia, South Africa and Uganda, while it'll be Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe competing in Pool B. Following the pool stages where each team plays the others in their pool once, the top two teams in both pools will qualify for the semi-finals.

Similar to the men's competition, the winning semi-finalists will qualify for the finals as well as the FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup Chile 2025 and the losing semi-finalists will play in the bronze medal match with the winner becoming the final entrant to the World Cup.

The FIH Junior Hockey Men's World Cup 2025 will be played in Chennai and Madurai, India. As hosts India have already qualified for the competition. Belgium, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Austria and Switzerland have qualified from Europe.

into opportunities for boundaries. But his two-wicket burst in the powerplay gave PBKS a sniff. Suryansh Shedge (4) and Shashank Singh (18), despite their fielding lapses, contributed key runs. Glenn Maxwell chipped in late with a handy cameo, and those extra 10-15 runs proved gold.

From needing 91 off 84 balls with 8 wickets in hand to being bowled out for 135 — KKR's unraveling was spectacular. Chandrakant Pandit, KKR's head coach, wore a haunted look as he watched from the dugout. The collapse was psychological as much as it was tactical. The pitch held up, but Punjab's self-belief shone brighter.

# Parth Jindal injured due to firecracker bursting during ISL final: BFC

Bengaluru, April 15 (UNI) : Bengaluru Football Club (BFC) owner Parth Jindal sustained burns and bruises after a live firecracker was hurled into the stands occupied by the club's supporters during the Indian Super League (ISL) Final against Mohun Bagan Super Giant in Kolkata on Saturday.

In a strongly worded statement issued on Tuesday, BFC condemned the incident as a "reckless and cowardly" attack by a section of home fans and revealed that one supporter suffered an eye injury that required medical attention, while several others were also injured.

"Bengaluru Football Club strongly condemns the reckless and cowardly

attack on our travelling supporters by a section of the home fans, where a live firecracker was hurled into the stands during the Indian Super League Final against Mohun Bagan Super Giant, in Kolkata, on Saturday.

The incident resulted in a BFC supporter sustaining an injury to the eye that required treatment, while other supporters, including club owner Parth Jindal, suffered burns and bruises," BFC stated.

The club has also lodged a formal complaint with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), urging that strict and exemplary action be taken.

# Bihar to host Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025

New Delhi, April 15 (UNI) : The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has confirmed that the Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will take place at Rajgir in Bihar, from June 1 to 10. This will be the second time Bihar will host the prestigious tournament, with the first edition held in 2012 at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna. Kabaddi, one of the oldest and most traditional Indian sports, has a rich history of over 4000 years. The sport was showcased as an exhibition event at the Berlin 1936 Olympics, marking a significant moment in its global recognition.

The Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will be organised by the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) in collaboration with the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI). A total of 14 teams, including participants from Africa and Latin America, will compete in this 10-day tournament. The confirmed teams include India, Iran, Bangladesh, Netherlands, Japan, Poland, Uganda, Kenya, Hungary, Thailand, Nepal, Germany, and Argentina.

The inaugural Women's Kabaddi World Cup saw 16 teams compete, with 31 matches played over four days. The tournament followed a round-robin format before the knockout stage, and the format for the upcoming 2025 edition is yet to be confirmed. India, the defending champions, will be looking to retain their title after defeating Iran 25-19 in the final of the inaugural edition. Japan and Thailand shared the third position after both lost in the semifinals.

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## Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar’s Birth Anniversary Celebrated on Central Railway

(Standard Post Bureau)  
Mumbai, April 15 : Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary was celebrated on Central Railway at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai on 15.4.2025. “Shri Dharam Veer Meena, General Manager, Central Railway garlanded the photo of Dr. Ambedkar and paid homage to the Chief Architect of the Indian Constitution and a pioneer of Social Justice. Shri Meena elucidated the contribution of Bharat

Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar’s timeless legacy of equality, knowledge, justice and his pivotal role in shaping modern India. He also reaffirmed Central Railway’s commitment in upholding the values of equality, inclusivity and social justice envisioned by him. “Principal Heads of Departments, Divisional Railway Manager, Mumbai Division, Officers and Staff of Central Railway also paid their homage to Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

## Ensure Water Arrangements and Fire Safety Precautions, In view of the ensuing Summer Season : Arun Kumar Jain, GM, SCR



(Standard Post Bureau)  
Hyderabad, April 15 : Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway held a detailed meeting on measures to be undertaken in view of the ensuing summer season and safety of train operations today i.e., 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad. Shri Neeraj Agrawal, Additional General Manager, SCR participated in the meeting along with Principal Heads of Departments. Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of all the six divisions viz., Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur, Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Nanded

Divisions joined the review meeting through video conference. Mr Arun Kumar Jain advised all the divisions to take up necessary measures to ensure watering of train coaches adequately on high priority basis in view of summer season. He instructed the officials, no train should be left without or insufficient water from the train watering stations. He also advised to put a dedicated team of staff for ensuring of water filling and monitoring of water related issues. He instructed the officials to ensure proper maintenance of watering

system like pumps / piping system etc. and to check the availability of water sources well in advance to overcome any lapses in emergency. He also instructed that to coordinate with NGOs to provide support to ensure sufficient water supply to all the passengers in enroute stations. He suggested the officials to coordinate with State Governments / District authorities for water supply if needed. The General Manager instructed to observe all fire safety precautions including fire safety audits, maintenance of equipment etc to prevent any fire incidents in trains / railway premises during

## MANUU pays rich tributes to Prof. Najmus Saher

(Standard Post Bureau)  
Hyderabad, April 15 : Maulana Azad National Urdu University paid rich tributes to departed colleague Prof. Najmus Saher, Professor (Education), Centre for Distance & Online Education, who passed away on April 11, 2025. She is survived by a husband and three sons. Prof. Najmus Saher joined MANUU on 08-10-2004 as Associate Professor and was promoted to Professor on 08-10-2019.

Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Vice Chancellor expressed deep condolences to bereaved family members in a condolence meeting held today and read out the condolence resolution on behalf of the University. The Vice-Chancellor recalled the valuable services of Prof. Najmus Saher and said she will always be remembered by MANUU for her good deeds and dedicated works. Prof. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Registrar while speaking said that Prof. Najmus Saher used to work with sincerity and she even attended the office last day of her life. Prof. Razaullah Khan, Director, CDOE while recalling her commitment towards work said Prof. Najmus Saher was a hardworking teacher and her services towards education are unforgettable. Prof. Siddiqui Mohd. Mahmood, Prof. Shugufta Shaheen, Prof. P.F. Rahman, Prof. M. Vanaja and Dr. Shabana Kesar also spoke and expressed deep condolences on her sudden demise. Dr. Mohd. Mustafa Ali, PRO I/c convened the programme.

## Western Railway Observes the Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar



Mr Ashok Kumar Misra - General Manager, Western Railway paying floral tribute & lighting the memorial candle on the occasion of birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in a ceremony held at WR Headquarters at Churchgate.

(Standard Post Bureau)  
Mumbai, April 15 : Western Railway solemnly observed the 134th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at its Headquarters in Churchgate, Mumbai. The commemorative event was held under the esteemed leadership of Shri Ashok Kumar Misra, General

Manager of Western Railway, who presided over the ceremony. The occasion was graced by the presence of Principal Heads of Departments, representatives of recognized Trade Unions, members of SC/ST and OBC Associations, as well as

railway staff. All Divisions and units of Western Railway also celebrated the day. To mark the tribute, General Manager Shri Misra offered floral respects and lit the memorial candle to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. In his address, Shri Misra paid profound homage to the principal architect of the

Indian Constitution, acknowledging his unparalleled contributions to its framing. He further reflected upon Dr. Ambedkar’s pivotal role in the upliftment of marginalized communities and his enduring legacy in the advancement of Indian society and nation-building.

## Solapur Division of Central Railway Celebrates 134th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar with Reverence and Enthusiasm

(Standard Post Bureau)  
Solapur, April 15 : Solapur Division of Central Railway on the occasion of the 134th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, organised a solemn commemorative programme on 15th April 2025 at the DRM’s Office, Solapur. The event was held to honour the legacy and immense contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar—principal architect of the Indian Constitution.

The programme commenced with a floral tribute to Dr. Ambedkar’s portrait by Divisional Railway Manager, Dr. Sujeet Mishra and Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Shri Anshumali Kumar. A collective Buddha Vandana was performed as a mark of respect and reverence.

Representatives from recognised unions and associations shared insights into Dr. Ambedkar’s inspiring life journey, his relentless struggle for equality, and the profound impact of his work on Indian society. In his address, DRM Dr. Sujeet Mishra spoke about the enduring relevance of Dr. Ambedkar’s vision and tireless efforts towards



creating a just and equitable society.

As part of the celebrations, an essay competition on the topic “Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Architect of Social Justice in India” was held on 11th April 2025. The following winners of the competition were also felicitated with cash prizes and a commendation certificate.

- First Prize – Smt. Rajani L. Yemul, Assistant (C&W)  
- Second Prize – Ms. Nainal P. Dongare, Assistant (C&W)  
- Third Prize – Shri Devendra Singh Rajput, Pointsman ‘B’

The event was attended by all branch officers, staff, and office bearers of recognised unions and associations.

The program was efficiently coordinated by Smt. Shilpa Dheple, Chief Welfare Inspector of the Personnel Department.

Solapur Division takes pride in commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and remains committed to promoting the values of equality, justice and fraternity that he stood for.

## SC slams UP Govt over child trafficking; Orders Fast-Track trials across India

New Delhi, April 15 (UNI) : While criticising the Uttar Pradesh government’s handling of child trafficking cases, the Supreme Court on Tuesday laid down stringent guidelines for the prevention and expedited trial of such offences across the country.

A bench comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan directed that all High Courts call for the status of pending child trafficking cases from trial courts and

issue directions to ensure that trials are concluded within six months.

The top court also mandated that such cases be heard on a day-to-day basis to prevent delays in justice. The court’s strong observations came while hearing a case involving a trafficked newborn who was allegedly sold to a couple in Uttar Pradesh for Rs 4 lakh. The couple reportedly desired a male child and knowingly accepted the stolen baby.

While cancelling the

anticipatory bail granted to the accused, the Supreme Court criticized the Allahabad High Court and the Uttar Pradesh police for their lax approach.

“This is a case of cancellation of anticipatory bail, but we delved into the larger issue of child trafficking,” Justice Pardiwala remarked. Referring to a 2023 study entrusted by the NHRC to the Bhartiya Institute of Development, he added, “A detailed report was submitted with several

recommendations, which we have incorporated into our judgment.” He further noted, “We were about to conclude the judgment when a Newspaper (The Times of India) published a report titled ‘Stolen at birth and sold for lakhs’. We have reproduced the entire article in our verdict.”

The bench was particularly critical of how the High Court dealt with the bail applications. “The High Court dealt with the matter callously, leading to many accused absconding.