

IN BRIEF

Zeeshan Siddique receives death threat

Mumbai, April 21 (UNI) : Zeeshan Siddique, Nationalist Congress Party leader and son of former state minister Baba Siddique, who was shot dead last year, received an alleged death threat through an email, an official said here late on Monday night.

Bandra police station is presently recording his statement and in a process of registering FIR (first information report), officials said.

According to details, the email was purportedly from a 'D-company' member, who warned him that he would meet the same end as his late father, Baba Siddique, unless he paid Rs 10 crore.

While talking to media, Zeeshan has confirmed it and said that since the last three days, he has been receiving the similar extortion and death threat.

The sender had claimed to be a member of the Dawood company and warned him not to report this to police.

HC asks DGCA to provide facility for senior citizens at airports

Mumbai, April 21 (UNI) : In a significant ruling, the Bombay High Court on Monday strongly criticised the inadequate facilities for senior citizens and specially abled persons at airports across the country. It directed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), airport operators and airline companies to take preventive measures so that "no senior citizens, specially abled and ailing persons suffer for want of wheelchairs" at airports. The court said heavy penalties will be imposed on stakeholders concerned to avoid agony and trauma for such travellers and all required facilities should be provided by them to ensure that India leads the world by example.

The direction was given by a division bench, comprising Justices G S Kulkarni and Advait Sethna, during the hearing of two petitions -- one filed by a senior citizen and her daughter, and another by a 53-year-old man—highlighting the non-availability of wheelchairs and other necessary amenities at Mumbai International Airport.

CATHOLIC CHURCH HEAD POPE FRANCIS DIES AGED 88

Rome, April 21 (UNI) : Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church, has died aged 88 after serving as the head of the Vatican for 12 years. The Vatican announced his passing on Easter Monday, on its X (formerly Twitter) handle: "Pope Francis died on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at the age of 88 at his residence in the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta." Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Apostolic Chamber, said in a statement: "Dearest brothers and sisters, with deep sorrow I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis. At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father."

The pontiff had been afflicted by a series of health issues in recent years and was using a wheelchair for some of his recent public appearances. In February 2025, he was hospitalised with severe bronchitis and pneumonia in both lungs. The pope, who had part of a lung removed as a young man, had become increasingly frail over the years. He underwent two major intestinal surgeries in recent years: in 2021, to remove the left part of his colon; and again to treat an intestinal blockage in June



2023. His death has now set in motion the centuries-old process of electing a new Pope to spearhead the Catholic Church.

The first Latin American to hold the position, Pope Francis was elected in 2013 after the retirement of his predecessor, Benedict XVI retired. His death came a day after he wished "Happy Easter" to worshippers at the Vatican's St Peter's Square.

His passing was mourned by several world leaders, who expressed their condolences at his death

and paid heartfelt tributes.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on his X: "Deeply pained by the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. In this hour of grief and remembrance, my heartfelt condolences to the global Catholic community. Pope Francis will always be remembered as a beacon of compassion, humility and spiritual courage by millions across the world."

"From a young age, he devoted himself towards realising the ideals of Lord Christ. He diligently served

the poor and downtrodden. For those who were suffering, he ignited a spirit of hope."

Recalling his meeting with him in Italy, PM Modi added: "I fondly recall my meetings with him and was greatly inspired by his commitment to inclusive and all-round development. His affection for the people of India will always be cherished. May his soul find eternal peace in God's embrace." French President Emmanuel Macron expressed his grief and wrote: "From Buenos Aires to Rome, Pope Francis wanted the Church to bring joy and hope to the poorest. May it unite people with each other and with nature. May this hope continually resurrect beyond him."

He added: "My wife and I extend our thoughts to all Catholics, to the grieving world." US Vice President JD Vance, who met the pope just yesterday, said his heart "goes out to the millions of Christians all over the world who loved him".

"I was happy to see him yesterday, though he was obviously very ill. But I'll always remember him for the below homily he gave in the very early days of COVID. It was really quite beautiful. May God rest his soul."

Piyush Goyal launches The Bharat Project to create 1 Mn entrepreneurs

Mumbai, April 21 (UNI) : In a landmark step towards building an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem, Union minister Piyush Goyal on Monday launched The Bharat Project, a bold national initiative aimed at empowering 1 million entrepreneurs from Tier 2, Tier 3, and rural India.

The Bharat Project brings together the government, ecosystem enablers, creators, and communities to unlock grassroots potential and make access to entrepreneurial tools, education, and funding easier for everyone.

The Bharat Project is built on five key pillars: Co-Pilot for Entrepreneurs, Education & Upskilling, Bharat Ideathon, Bharat Sparks, and Shurukar. Together, they aim to support grassroots innovation, empower aspiring entrepreneurs, and build a thriving startup ecosystem across India.

Speaking at the launch, Goyal said, "India is on an irreversible path to becoming an economic powerhouse. From a \$4 trillion economy today, we are poised to grow 8x to \$30-35 trillion by 2047. It's a strategic roadmap built to support startups across sectors, empowering first-generation entrepreneurs, and a government-backed seed fund of ₹10,000 crore to democratize innovation."

He further added, "The launch of The Bharat Project is a bold step forward that brings together technology, mentorship, and funding to help entrepreneurs from every corner of the country rise. India's entrepreneurial ecosystem is not just evolving, it is becoming the engine of inclusive and sustained national growth. The goal is clear: empower youth, support startups, and make sure every aspiring entrepreneur has the ecosystem they need to start, scale, and succeed."

India announces three-day state mourning on passing away of Pope Francis

New Delhi, April 21 (UNI) : India today announced three-day State Mourning as a mark of respect on the passing away of Pope Francis, with the National Flag to be flown at Half Mast throughout the country and there will be no official entertainment.

In a late night statement, the government said:

"His Holiness Pope Francis, Supreme Pontiff of the Holy See passed away today, the 21st April, 2025."

"As a mark of respect, three-day State Mourning shall be observed throughout India, in the following manner:



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in US to attend IMF-World Bank meeting

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrived in the US on a five-day official visit during which she will attend the Spring Meetings of the IMF-World Bank. She will also participate in the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meetings besides bilateral meetings with many countries and organisations. She was welcomed on her arrival by Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra, and Srikar Reddy Koppula, Consul General of India in San Francisco.

(See on page 4)

Iran's FM to visit China for talks on ties, US negotiations



Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi will travel to China on Tuesday, during which he will discuss Iran's ongoing indirect negotiations with Washington, as well as Iran-China ties, with Chinese officials, Iran's Foreign Ministry announced Monday.

(See on page 5)

Ostapenko stuns Sabalenka to win Stuttgart Open



Jelena Ostapenko beat world number one Aryna Sabalenka to win the Stuttgart Open in stunning fashion on Monday. Ostapenko, who had failed to win in three previous meetings against Sabalenka, took the match 6-4 6-1, the BBC reported.

(See on page 7)

SC declines urgent plea for Prez rule in West Bengal



The Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass any immediate direction on a plea seeking imposition of President's rule and urgent deployment of paramilitary forces in West Bengal in view of communal and political violence allegedly triggered by the Waqf (Amendment) Act in Murshidabad.

(See on page 8)

Public sentiment in favour of Thackeray bros coming together: Raut

Mumbai, April 21 (UNI) Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said here on Monday that his party as well as Raj Thackeray-led MNS have repeatedly expressed their desire for the two sides to come together for the benefit of Maharashtra and Marathi 'manus' (Marathi people).

Raut said the public sentiment supported the reunion. He said that Uddhav and Raj should come together and take the reins of Maharashtra politics.

"This is the sentiment of Maharashtra. Both Thackerays have expressed the same sentiment and their respective positions," said Raut. "When major leaders present such positions, we should take them seriously and move forward," Raut added.

He criticized the Shiv Sena-Shinde group and the BJP for expressing doubts about such a reunion. "Maharashtra has always loved Thackerays.

Generations have changed, but this love has not diminished. That is why some people are afraid; it is making them nervous. We are looking at talks about the recent thaw between the two sides with a positive perspective," said Raut.

Raut said Uddhav has not said anything about recent developments. "We have decided that no matter what anyone says, we do not want to look into the past. Uddhav has said that we should take a step forward and ignore what happened in the past, Raut added.

NIA seeks punishment for all accused

Mumbai, April 21 (UNI) : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday sought conviction of all the accused persons, including ex-MP Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur (BJP), for their involvement in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case.

All the accused face charges of terrorism and murder along with relevant sections under Explosive Substance Act. The Special Public Prosecutor has filed

1,389 pages written arguments stating each fact and circumstance in detail and sought punishment for all the accused ranging from death penalty to life sentences. The special NIA court on Saturday concluded the trial and reserved the case of judgment. The Prosecution filed its final written arguments, with some citations marking the conclusion of the trial. Special judge A K Lahoti, presiding

over the case, has now adjourned the case to May eight for judgement. The Prosecution had examined 323 prosecution witnesses, of which 34 turned hostile. The case was initially probed by the Anti-Terror Squad (ATS), Maharashtra, before being transferred to NIA in 2011. The NIA, after taking over the case, filed a chargesheet in 2016. The accused in the case include Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit, Pragya Singh

Thakur, Sudhakar Diwedi, Major Ramesh Upadhyay (retired), Ajay Rahirkar, Sudhakar Dwivedi, Sudhakar Chaturvedi and Sameer Kulkarni, all of whom are out on bail.

Notably, on September 29, 2008, an explosive device strapped on a motorcycle exploded in sensitive Malegaon town of Nashik district, in which six people were killed and over 100 others injured.




EARTH DAY 2025


CELEBRATING THE GREEN JOURNEY OF INDIAN RAILWAYS

This Earth Day, Indian Railways proudly reaffirms its commitment to building a smarter, faster and cleaner transport ecosystem, one that not only drives progress but also sets an inspiring precedent for sustainable development. As one of the world’s largest rail networks, Indian Railways is transforming itself into an environmentally responsible force, focusing on sustainability at every turn of the wheel.

Powering Clean Mobility

A key milestone in this green transformation is the near-complete electrification of the broad-gauge network. With over 98% of the route (68,701 RKM) now electrified, Indian Railways has significantly reduced its dependence on fossil fuels, paving the way for cleaner, more energy-efficient journeys. The shift to electric traction not only cuts carbon emissions but also improves operational efficiency and lowers fuel costs. Since June 2015, Indian Railways has also championed green fuels by blending 5% bio-diesel in High-Speed Diesel (HSD) for diesel locomotives.







Solar-Powered Railways

In parallel, Indian Railways is harnessing solar power to energise its vast infrastructure. With 215.99 MW of rooftop solar capacity already commissioned, solar panels have been installed on station buildings, coach rooftops and various railway facilities. This clean energy revolution ensures that trains are running not just on time, but also on sunshine.

Conserving Water, Preserving Tomorrow

Water conservation is another priority. Railways have adopted eco-friendly practices such as rainwater harvesting systems at several stations and the deployment of over 70 Automatic Coach Washing Plants to reduce water usage. The water from these facilities is also recycled and reused for activities like gardening and coach cleaning, reinforcing the Railways’ motto that “every drop counts”.







Eco-Friendly Measures in Motion

Another key initiative includes transitioning to energy-efficient three-phase electric locomotives equipped with regenerative braking, the adoption of Head-On Generation (HOG) technology and the widespread use of LED lights in buildings and coaches. As of March 2025, all Railway stations, service buildings and residential quarters have been equipped with 100% LED lighting. Furthermore, lakhs of saplings are planted every year as part of afforestation efforts to enhance carbon sinks and offset emissions through reforestation and renewable energy projects.

Revolutionising Rail Hygiene

Cleanliness and hygiene also take centre stage through the introduction of bio-vacuum toilets in coaches. These toilets consume less water and eliminate the discharge of waste onto tracks, ensuring cleaner surroundings, safer maintenance and a healthier environment for both staff and passengers.



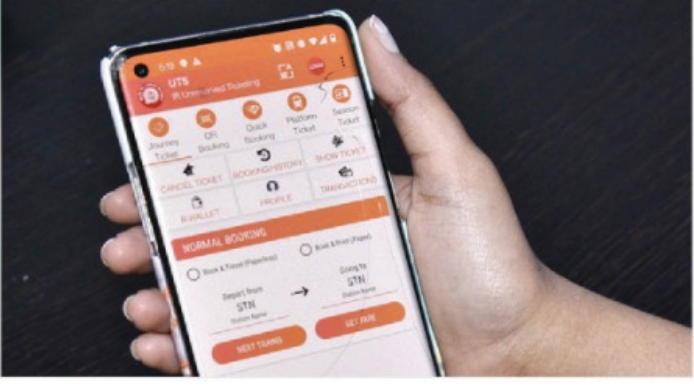



Driving Sustainability with DFCs

Freight operations remain a cornerstone of sustainability, with Rail freight generating up to 80% less CO2 and consuming 75-90% less energy compared to road transport. The Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) project alone is projected to cut emissions by 457 million tons of CO2 over 30 years, bolstering the green credentials of freight transport.

Tech Savvy & Greener Solutions

Digitalisation is also making a substantial impact. Through paperless ticketing via the IRCTC and UTS mobile apps, Indian Railways has saved millions of paper slips over the years, helping reduce deforestation while offering passengers a faster, smarter and more convenient way to travel.





Transforming Railways into a Global Green Leader

Indian Railways is reimagining infrastructure with sustainability at its core. From solar-powered station lighting to eco-friendly construction materials, green practices are being seamlessly woven into every layer of development. This transformation goes beyond environmental upgrades, it reflects a holistic vision to make Indian Railways a global leader in sustainable transportation. With every electrified route, solar installation and paperless ticket, the Railways is driving India toward a future that’s cleaner, greener and more responsible.

Week long children's film festival to begin April 24

(Standard Post Bureau)
Pune April 21 : Five historical films by young director Digpal Lanjekar will highlight the week-long 27th Children's Film Festival, scheduled to begin here on April 24.
Union Minister of State for Civil Transport Muralidhar Mohol will inaugurate the festival in the presence of Lanjekar, prominent industrialists Krishnakumar Goyal and Praveen Badhekar, Sunil Mahajan of Samvad, Pune, one of the organisers of the event, said/
Mahajan said the children's film festival here is the only one of its kind in Maharashtra.

Nashik collector Jalaj Sharma awarded with PM Civil Services Excellence Award 2023

Nashik, April 21 (UNI) : On occasion of Civil Services Day, Nashik district collector Jalaj Sharma was honoured with the 'Prime Minister's Civil Services Excellence Award 2023' in Delhi on Monday.
Sharma received this award in the 'Overall Development of Districts' category for his effective implementation of 12 flagship schemes of the central government and his remarkable contribution to the all-round development of Nashik district.
The Prime Minister's Civil Services Excellence Award 2023 consists of a trophy, a certificate and an incentive fund of Rs 20 lakh, which will be used for implementation of public welfare projects and schemes in Nashik district.
The award distribution programme was organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions at Vigyan Bhavan on occasion of the 17th Civil Services Day today, an official release said here.

Mumbai blast case: Cops told to probe clicking of accused photo while in custody

Mumbai, April 21 (UNI) : A special court has asked the Navi Mumbai police commissioner to probe a complaint by an accused in the Mumbai triple blast case alleging that a police team brought him and others from Talaja jail to the sessions court after taking his photographs while in judicial custody, a lawyer said on Monday.
Nadeem Akhtar, facing trial for the 2011 triple blasts in Mumbai, told the special court earlier this month that while he and others were being brought to court, two head constables from the police team began taking photos of the accused on his phone.
Akhtar has completed his LLB from University of Mumbai while in jail.



Members of Bharatiya Kisan Union (India) bang plates during a protest over rising inflation, outside Divisional Commissioner's office, in Meerut on Monday.

Sacked senior police inspector Abhay Kurandkar sentenced to life in murder of API Ashwini Bindre : Gore

Kolhapur/Raigad, April 21 (UNI) : A Panvel sessions court today sentenced to life imprisonment sacked senior police inspector Abhay Kurandkar in the murder case of Assistant Police Inspector Ashwini Bindre-Gore in 2016, and handed out seven years' imprisonment to two others, Kundan Bhandari and Mahesh Falnikar, who helped in disposed of the dead body by chopping it into pieces with a woodcutting machine.
In a packed court room today, judge K Paldewar announced his judgement

after hearing arguments from both lawyers -- public prosecutor Pradeep Gharat and defence lawyer Vishal Bhanushali
Earlier, judge Paldewar had convicted Kurundkar and two others Falnikar and Bhandari, and reserved his judgement after completing the hearing from both sides upto Apr 11. After hearing the statements of the Bindre family members including father Jaykumar Shinde, daughter Siddhi, husband Raju Gore on April 11, the judge again reserved his final judgement for April 21.

The sessions judge had expressed his severe anger at how a committee had recommended the accused Kurandkar's name for the President's Award.
The husband of Ashwini, Anand Gore was present in the court today.
The court acquitted the fourth accused Rajesh Patil.
API Ashwini Bindre-Gore, originally from Aalte village in Hatkanangale tehsil of Kolhapur district, was married to social worker Raju Gore. After she passed in the examinations,

she was posted in Pune and then Sangli, where she got acquainted with Kurandkar.
Later in a feud, Kurandkar murdered Ashwini on April 11, 2016. He later disposed of small pieces of her dead body with the help of Falnikar and Bhandari at Vasai Khadi. Police arrested Kurandkar on December 8, 2017 from Thane district.
Family members of Ashwini Bindre-Gore, relatives and villagers from her Aalte village of Kolhapur district were present in the court to hear the judgement.

Mumbai condoles Pope's passing away

Mumbai, April 21 (UNI) : The Archdiocese of Bombay has condoled the death of Pope Francis, who passed away at the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta.
In a joint statement, Archbishop John Rodrigues and Cardinal Oswald Gracias, who worked closely with the Pope during his papacy, recalled his contribution.
“Our hearts ache with grief as we bid farewell to our beloved Holy Father — Supreme Pontiff, Vicar of Christ, and successor of St. Peter. His departure leaves an immeasurable void in the Universal Church and in the hearts of India's faithful, who cherished his prophetic voice and tender compassion,” they said.
“Pope Francis, a shepherd of boundless mercy, lived the Gospel by walking alongside the marginalised,

advocating for peace, and tirelessly calling the Church to be a refuge of healing. He radiated hope for the poor, the displaced, and all who longed to feel Christ’s embrace.
“Even in his final days, he exemplified steadfast faith, returning to Casa Santa Marta after 38 days of hospitalisation for pneumonia — a battle rooted in lifelong respiratory challenges that began in his youth in Argentina,” they said. Archbishop John Rodrigues said: “Pope Francis taught us to find Christ in those the world overlooks. His humility, and dream of ‘a Church for the poor,’ and his courage to engage a wounded world transformed not only the Church but countless souls. While we mourn, we also give thanks for a legacy that will live on in every heart stirred by his example.”

Court awards life to sacked cop for involvement in woman officer murder case

Mumbai, April 21 (UNI) : A sessions court in neighbouring Panvel city on Monday awarded death penalty to dismissed cop Abhay Kurundkar for his involvement in the woman Police Inspector Ashwini Bidre murder case.
Additional Sessions Judge K.G. Paldewar last week convicted Kurundkar on multiple charges, including abduction, murder and destruction of evidence.
Special Public Prosecutor Pradeep Gharat said the case falls in the category of rarest in the rare

case, and hence the accused deserve death penalty. He also cited various Apex court and high court judgments justifying his arguments.
The court rejected his plea and awarded life sentence. Kurundkar’s lawyer Vishal Bhanushali opposed the prosecution plea and argued before that the death penalty cannot be given to him as the entire case is based on circumstantial evidence.
According to the prosecution case prime accused, Kurundkar, allegedly murdered

Ashwini Bidre at his residence in Mira Road. He was reportedly assisted in the crime by another accused Rajesh Patil, Kundan Bhandari, and Mahesh Phalnikar.
Kurundkar and slain cop Bidre were reportedly in a relationship. On the night of April 11, 2016, Kurundkar allegedly murdered Ashwini in Mira Road. He then allegedly dismembered her body using a wood-cutting machine and stored the pieces in a freezer.
The next day, the body parts were placed in a sack

and dumped into the Vasai creek. After Bidre went missing, a missing person complaint was filed at the Kalamboli Police Station on July 14, 2017.
When it was revealed that Kurundkar was involved in her disappearance, a kidnapping case was filed on January 31, 2017.
Posted with the Protection of Civil Rights Unit in Konkan Bhavan, Belapur, Lady officer Bidre, a resident of Roadpali in Kalamboli, was missing since 15 April 2016 and a missing case was

registered on 14 July 2016.
Rwix t h i s Kurundkar a n d o t h e r accused w e r e arrested and a t r i a l commenced against them.

Civic body fines Mum Restaurant for decorating tree with electric lights

Mumbai, April 21 (UNI) : The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) in the adjoining city has imposed a fine of Rs ten thousand on a Belapur-based restaurant for decorating trees with electric lights, officials said here on Monday.
According to details, Pawan Restaurant and Bar, located in Sector 3, was fined after a complaint was filed that the restaurant violates municipal environmental

regulations. The fine was imposed in accordance with Resolution No. 7461 dated January 27, passed by the NMMC Tree Authority, which prohibits harmful activities such as nailing advertisements onto trees or installing electric lighting. The Tree Authority has made it clear that any individual, organization, or business found damaging trees in this manner will be fined Rs 10,000 per tree.

MPCC chief criticises govt over water shortage in State

Mumbai, April 21 (UNI) : Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president Harshvardhan Sapkal on Monday took a swipe at the BJP-led central and the state governments over scarcity of water in the state.
Speaking to reporters here, he recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Jal Jeevan Mission with a lot of fanfare and said that clean drinking water would be available to every household in the country

by 2024. However, even after 2025, Maharashtra is still parched and thirsty, as corruption in this scheme is taking a toll on women who had to walk long distances for a pot of water, he said.
He alleged that the government makes big announcements, but there is no implementation in reality.
The MPCC chief recalled Modi constantly saying that every household has a tap and every tap has water. For this, the central and state

governments started the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme, but the Union Finance Ministry has made admission of corruption in this scheme.
Only officials and contractors have benefited from this scheme, he noted.
Now, the central government has cut the funds for this scheme by 47 percent, so work will not be done due to lack of funds. Due to this, the women's struggle for water will continue for next few years, he added.

Himachal Pradesh State Foundation Day celebrated in Maharashtra Raj Bhavan

Mumbai, April 21 (UNI) : State Governor C P Radhakrishnan on Monday presided over the Himachal Pradesh State Foundation Day celebration and witnessed the cultural presentation organised by Maharashtra Raj Bhavan here.
Impressed by excellent presentation of Pangi and Nati Dance from Himachal Pradesh by the students of BMC School and the Skill University, the Governor announced a prize of Rs one lakh each to the University and the Sangeet Kala Academy of BMC.
The Himachal Pradesh State Foundation Day was organised in association with Ratan Tata Maharashtra State Skill University and the Education Department of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. The programme was held as part of the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative of

Government of India.
Students of the Ganesh Baug Municipal English School Kurla and the Kamgar Nagar Municipal Hindi School joined by the students of the State Skill University presented a cultural programme showcasing the folk dances and songs representing the culture of Himachal Pradesh.
Secretary to the Governor Dr Prashant Narnavare delivered the welcome speech while Under Secretary Vikas Kulkarni proposed a vote of thanks. Former Deputy Chief Minister of Puducherry Pethaperumal Velayudham, Vice-Chancellor of Maharashtra State Skills University Dr Apoorva Palkar, Deputy Secretary to the Governor S Ramamoorthy, students of the Skills University and office-bearers of the Municipal Corporation’s Sangeet Kala Akademi were present.

NOTICE				
Shri Madukar Yashwant Salvi died on 28/04/2017 and Smt. Aparna Madhukar Salvi died on 08/03/2024 were the member of the Om Sai Prasad Co Op Housing Society Ltd. having address at 90 feet road, Ashok Kedare Chowk, Tembi Pada Road, Bhandup (West), Mumbai – 400 078. and holding flat / tenement no.C/102 in the building of the society				
The society hereby invites claims or objections from the hair or heirs or other claimants /objector or objectors to the transfer of the said shares and interest of the deceased member in the capital/ property of the society within a period of fourteen days from the publication of this notice, with copies of such documents and other proofs in the support of his/her/their claims/ objections for transfer of shares and interest of the deceased member in the capital/ property of the society, if the no claims/objections are received within the period prescribed above, the society shall be free to deal with the shares and interest of the deceased member in the capital/ property of the society in such manner as is provided under the byelaws of the society. The claims/ objections, if any, received by the society for transfer of shares and interest of the deceased member in the capital/property of the society shall be dealt with in the manner provided under the byelaws of the society. A copy of the registered byelaws of the society is available for inspection by the claimants/ objectors, in the office of the society/with the secretary of the society between 08.00 pm to 09.00 pm from the date of publication of the notice till the date of expiry of its period.				
For Om Sai Prasad Co-Op Housing Society Limited				
Place: Mumbai	Sd/-			
Date: 21-04-2025	(Secretary)			

CENTRAL RAILWAY				
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT				
E-Tender notice no. NIT/01/25/18 Dated 17-April-25				
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager, Central Railway invites e-tenders for supply of the following items:				
Sr no.	Tender no.	Description	Qty.	Due date
1	27251472	POH Maintenance Schedule kit	31 set	02-May-25
2	71255013B	EOT Crane Cap.5 Ton	02 Nos	02-May-25
3	50244015A	SEALED MAINTENANCE FREE VRLA BATTERY SET OF 60 CELLS 2V/300 AH EACH FOR SMPS BASED INTEGRATED POWER SUPPLY (IPS) SYSTEM	110 set	05-May-25
4	50243101	LED Signal Lamp for Main Colour Light Signal for Aspect Yellow	2403 nos	12-May-25
5	42253049	Non-asbestos based K type high friction brake blocks for EMUs	204743 nos	13-May-25
6	42253452	LOWER RUBBER WASHER	18418 Nos	13-May-25
7	43251148	BRUSHLESS ALTERNATOR OF 25 KW	41 nos	13-May-25
8	42251387	SET OF VALVES	1085 set	19-May-25
9	43251018	BRUSHLESS ALTERNATOR 25 KW	36 Nos	19-May-25
10	42251659	Air Brake Hose Coupling for Feed Pipe	8966 nos	26-May-25
11	42253474	Rubber Spring Plate	17556 nos	26-May-25
12	42241107	VERTICAL DAMPER FOR SECONDARY ARRANGEMENT TO ICF DRG NO. DMU/DPC5-0-503	1142 Nos	14-May-25
NOTE: All above mentioned tenders are e-tenders and all tenderers are requested to submit their bids on-line through the IREPS website at https://www.ireps.gov.in . For more details regarding the above mentioned tenders and other supply tenders please visit IREPS website.				
FOR PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER				
असुरक्षित तथा अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन के पास कार्य करना दंडनीय अपराध है 44				

WESTERN RAILWAY
ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
Sr.DEE/TRS/BL Electric Loco Shed, Valsad 396001 (Gujarat), invites E-Tender Notice No.: EL/TRS/BL/23-24/WO/10R3, Date: 15.04.2025.
Work & Location: Annual Maintenance Contract of Electric Loco Cab roof mounted air conditioners including replacement of spares during AMC for period of 2 years.
Approx cost of work: ₹ 34,60,139.23.
EMD: ₹ 69,200/-. **Date and time for submission:** Till 07.05.2025, 12:00 hours. **Date and time for opening:** On 07.05.2025 at 12:30 hours. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in 0070
Like us on : facebook.com/WesternRly

STANDARD POST

Pope Francis leaves behind unique legacy in Catholic world

Pope Francis, who passed away aged 88 today, was one of the Vatican’s most unique figures, with his papacy being marked by several unusual aspects.

He was the first Jesuit-Latin American, and non-European to hold the title in centuries, as well as being the first one to hold the title after the resignation, instead of his successor’s death in over 600 years - an unusual practice in the highly tradition-driven Vatican.

Though he did not radically alter Catholic practices, Francis surprised the global community with his comments on topics such as homosexuality, abortion, and the death penalty, being far less hardline than his predecessor Benedict XVI.

For the Catholic world, his papacy was one of the most interesting and unique ones, as many of his actions and remarks were removed from the strict traditions of the Vatican.

This includes him choosing Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome as his place of burial, making him the first one to not be interred underneath the St. Peter’s Basilica, opting for a simplistic burial.

Francis, who was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina, also took a more proactive stance on world affairs.

This includes his participating in a TED talk in 2017, his Focus on Mercy and Inclusion initiative which emphasised on forgiveness, reflecting his belief that the Church should be more welcoming and compassionate to all.

Because of him being very much at the centre of both a “progressive” and “conservative” approach, his papacy was looked on with a lot interest, earning criticism and praise from both sides. Due to his unorthodox approach, Francis was deemed too progressive and simultaneously far too conservative.

A defining feature of his papacy was marked by the issue of sex scandals by clerics that stretched to the very highest levels of the Catholic Church.

Deciding to change the narrative, in his 2019 meeting with clerics, new Vatican laws regarding sex abuse were introduced, and a mandate that every diocese set up a clear reporting process. Francis also abolished the top-level confidentiality of the "pontifical secret", which had shrouded the sex abuse scandal for a very long time.

Francis took a more lenient position on LGBTQ+ issues. He will be remembered for taking a gentler view of homosexuality. He maintained that being gay is “not a crime” and approved blessings for same-sex couples, but he also reiterated that homosexuality is a sin in the eyes of the Church.

Francis did not endorse marriage for priests, despite bishops’ requests for this. He also did not allow the possibility of women being ordained as deacons to address a shortage of ordained ministers. His discerning spirit saw there was too much division and no clear consensus for change.

He said women who had undergone an abortion should be “forgiven”. However, he described a Belgian abortion law as “homicidal” and initiated beatification for Belgian King Baudouin, who had abdicated his throne for a day rather than sign a law that decriminalised abortion in 1990.Francis was also openly critical of Germany’s controversial “Synodal Way” – a series of conferences with bishops and lay people – that advocated for positions contrary to Church teachings. Francis expressed concern on multiple occasions that this project was a threat to the unity of the Church.

At the same time, Francis was no stranger to controversy from the conservative side of the Church, receiving a lot of theological doubts from his fellow clerics.

He also adhered the lines of his predecessors, and acknowledged the role of climate change, and its destructive effects on the planet. He also emphasised on using a more scientific-empirical-evidence-based approach to address the situation, mixing theology with science, advocating for ‘ecological conversion’ so that humans could see nature as God-given gift.In conclusion, Francis’ papacy left behind a highly polarised Vatican, starkly divided on various issues, leaving behind both admirers and critics, and generated a lot of new questions for the Catholic world.

Epilepsy Surgery: An Overview

(Standard Post Bureau)
Epilepsy is a neurological disorder characterized by recurrent, unprovoked seizures. For many people, seizures can be controlled with medication, but for some, these medications are not effective. When epilepsy cannot be managed with drug therapy alone, epilepsy surgery may be considered as a treatment option. Epilepsy surgery aims to reduce or eliminate seizures by removing or altering the area of the brain where seizures originate.

Types of Epilepsy Surgery

There are several types of epilepsy surgery, and the approach depends on the nature and location of the seizure focus, as well as the patient’s overall health and seizure history.

- Resective Surgery: The most common type of surgery for epilepsy is resective surgery, where the brain tissue responsible for initiating seizures is surgically removed. The most well-known procedure is the lobectomy, which involves the removal of part of the brain. For example, in patients with temporal lobe epilepsy, the temporal lobe may be resected to stop seizures.
- Laser Ablation: Laser interstitial thermal therapy (LITT) is a less invasive technique than traditional resective surgery. It involves inserting a thin laser fiber into the brain through a small incision. The laser delivers focused heat to the seizure focus, causing it to shrink and stop seizures.
- Corpus



Dr Rohit Bansil, Associate Director- Neurosurgery & Neuro-spine, BLK-Max Super Specialty Hospital, New Delhi

Callosotomy: This procedure is generally used for patients who suffer from generalized seizures that affect both sides of the brain. A corpus callosotomy involves cutting the corpus callosum, which is the bundle of nerves connecting the two hemispheres of the brain. This limits the spread of seizure activity from one side to the other.

Hemispherectomy: In severe cases, where the seizures are uncontrollable and the affected hemisphere of the brain is not essential for motor or cognitive function, a hemispherectomy may be performed. This involves the removal or disconnection of one half of the brain to prevent seizures.

Responsive Neurostimulation (RNS): This is a more recent option for patients who are not candidates for resective

surgery. RNS involves implanting a device in the brain that detects seizure activity and sends electrical impulses to stop the seizure before it starts.

Candidates for Epilepsy Surgery

Not everyone with epilepsy is a candidate for surgery. Ideal candidates are those who have tried multiple medications without success and have well-defined, localized areas of the brain responsible for the seizures. Doctors typically use a variety of diagnostic techniques to assess whether surgery is a viable option. These include brain imaging (MRI, PET scans), electroencephalography (EEG), and functional brain mapping, which helps identify the areas of the brain that control critical functions such as movement, speech, and memory.

Benefits of Epilepsy Surgery

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in US to attend IMF-World Bank meeting

Washington/New Delhi, April 21 (UNI) : Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrived in the US on a five-day official visit during which she will attend the Spring Meetings of the IMF-World Bank.

She will also participate in the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meetings besides bilateral meetings with many countries and organisations.

She was welcomed on her arrival by Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra, and Srikar Reddy Koppula, Consul General of India in San Francisco.

“Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman is welcomed upon her arrival during her official visit to the USA by Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Ambassador of India to the United States of America, along with Dr. Srikar Reddy Koppula, Consul General of India in San Francisco in presence of Shri Ajay Seth, Finance Secretary, at San Francisco International Airport, today,” the Ministry of Finance posted on X.In the course of her two-day visit to San Francisco beginning April 20, the Union Finance Minister is to deliver a keynote address at the Hoover Institution at the

Stanford University, San Francisco, on ‘Laying the foundations of Viksit Bharat 2047’ followed by a fireside chat session.

Sitharaman will also interact with top CEOs from prominent fund management firms during a Roundtable meeting with investors, besides holding bilateral meetings with CEOs from top information technology (IT) firms based in San Francisco. Sitharaman will also participate in an event featuring Indian diaspora in San Francisco and interact with the Indian community settled there, a statement said.During her visit to Washington, from April 22-25, the Finance Minister will participate in the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the 2nd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governor (FMCBG) Meetings, Development Committee Plenary, IMFC Plenary, and Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (GSDR) meeting.On the sidelines of the Spring Meetings in Washington, she will hold bilateral meetings with her counterparts from several countries, including Argentina, Bahrain, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, and USA; besides meeting EU Commissioner for Financial Services; President, Asian

Development Bank (ADB); President, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB); United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Financial Health (UNSGSA); and First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

During her maiden visit to Peru from April 26-30, the Union Finance Minister will lead an Indian delegation of officials from the Ministry of Finance and business leaders, highlighting the strengthening bilateral economic and trade relations between the two nations.Beginning her visit in Lima, Finance Minister Sitharaman is expected to call on the President of Peru, Dina Boluarte, and Prime Minister Gustavo Adrianzén, besides holding bilateral meetings with the Peruvian Ministers of Finance and Economy; Defence; Energy and Mines; and also holding interaction with local public representatives.

In the course of her visit to Peru, the Union Finance Minister will chair the India-Peru Business Forum meeting with prominent business representatives in attendance from both India and Peru. She will also hold an interaction with the Indian investors and businesses currently operating in Peru, as well as the Indian Business delegation visiting Peru.

For many patients, epilepsy surgery can significantly improve their quality of life. The primary benefit is the potential for seizure freedom or at least a significant reduction in the frequency and severity of seizures. In some cases, seizures may be completely eliminated. Even if seizures are not completely eradicated, surgery may lead to a substantial reduction, making it easier for patients to live more independently and engage in activities they previously could not.

Risks and Considerations

As with any surgery, there are risks associated with epilepsy surgery. These include infection, bleeding, and neurological complications such as cognitive changes or weakness. The specific risks depend on the area of the brain being operated on. However, the overall risk of significant complications is relatively low, and advancements in surgical techniques have improved safety and outcomes.

In conclusion, epilepsy surgery offers hope to many individuals who have not responded to medications. By carefully selecting candidates and employing advanced surgical techniques, epilepsy surgery can provide lasting relief and significantly improve the lives of those affected by this challenging condition. However, it is important for patients to thoroughly discuss the risks and benefits with their healthcare team before proceeding with surgery.

People on responsible posts should avoid misleading comments: DGP Uttar Pradesh

Lucknow, April 21 (UNI) : Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh Prashant Kumar on Monday termed Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav's claims of caste-based postings in the police as completely false and a rumour.

The DGP has advised that people in responsible positions to avoid such misleading comments. He said that such information being spread on social media is baseless and to refute it, the police of the concerned districts have already released data.

He clarified that if any such false information is spread in the future, we will bring out the truth. "People in responsible positions should avoid making such comments," he said.Kumar said that the deployment of policemen has been done in all the districts of the state as per the standards set.In response to Akhilesh's claims, the Agra Police Commissionerate released data and said that 39 percent of the policemen deployed here are from Other Backward Class (OBC) and 18 percent from Scheduled Caste (SC) category, while the standard for OBC is only 27 percent.

Mainpuri police also revealed that 31 percent of the policemen in their

district are from OBC and 19 percent from SC category. On the other hand, Chitrakoot police said that out of their 12 police stations, three are headed by OBC, two by SC/ST and seven by other categories.

Similarly, Prayagraj police also responded to Akhilesh's post and called it false. Prayagraj police said that for the appointment of police station in-charge, qualified employees are selected on the basis of dedication, integrity, social harmony and sensitivity towards public grievances.

About 40 percent of the police station in-charges posted in Prayagraj are from OBC and SC/ST category. Appointment to these posts is done through a fair process.The DGP said that it is the duty of UP Police to refute false information and bring the truth in front of the public. He appealed to everyone to avoid spreading misleading information and not to raise unnecessary questions on the police system.

The controversy started when Akhilesh Yadav alleged caste discrimination in police postings, to which the UP police responded by exposing his misrepresentation with facts.

CCTV makers in MSMEs seek govt support to enforce STQC

New Delhi, April 21 (UNI) : The MSMEs manufacturing CCTVs have asked the government to give time and financial support to implement Stadarisation Test and Quality Certification (STQC) failing which over 1000 units will face immediate closure and loss of upto 4 lakh jobs across the country.

"With over 1,000 MSME factories at risk of closure, the livelihoods of more than 400,000 individuals are hanging in the balance. The current challenges — including rising production costs, supply chain disruptions and stringent compliance requirements — are exacerbated by the difficulties in meeting STQC standards without adequate technological support," the Federation of All India Information Technology Associations (FAIITA) said while seeking an urgent meeting with Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister for IT and I&B.To ensure the sustainability of MSME manufacturers in the CCTV sector, it is imperative that the government provides the necessary technological assistance, stated FAIITA. "Until these measures are put in place, we urge the government to keep the implementation of STQC protocols in abeyance for MSME manufacturers so they can continue operations without the undue burden

of compliance," it added.

Highlighting the "serious" challenges being faced by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and stakeholders in the CCTV manufacturing sector due to the recent enforcement of STQC requirements, the FAIITA supported the Government's vision of enhancing national security and promoting quality standards through initiatives such as Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

However, the sudden implementation of STQC compliance, without a structured transition framework, is proving to be disproportionately burdensome for MSMEs and may potentially undermine the very objectives it seeks to achieve, it said.

In letter written to Vaishnav, the FAIITA said the implementation of STQC, without government support, will pose a serious threat to the existence of te MSME-led manufacturing and employment in the CCTV manufacturing facilities. MSMEs have invested heavily in establishing local manufacturing capabilities. The abrupt enforcement of STQC norms without sufficient lead time or support jeopardizes these investments and risks the loss of lakhs of jobs across the country.

Immediate compliance requirements may force

smaller players out of the market, allowing only a few large companies to remain, leading to monopolization and

reduced innovation thereby defeatng the purpose.

The MSME-driven CCTV ecosystem supports a range of associated sectors, such as cabling, molding, packaging, and logistics. Disruption in MSME manufacturing will have a cascading effect on these industries, the association said adding there is a noticeable absence of centralized guidance, helplines, or support

frameworks to help MSMEs navigate the complex STQC processes, leading to costly delays and confusion.The association has sought "extension of compliance deadline" to allow sufficient time for MSMEs to meet the requirements in a sustainable manner.

"A stakeholder consultation meeting with MeitY officials to engage directly with MSMEs and collectively identify viable solutions to ensure a phased or tiered compliance approach to accommodate MSMEs of varying capacities and allow scalable implementation is the need of the hour," it said seeking reimbursement or financial support mechanisms to alleviate the significant costs involved in testing and certification.

Afghanistan launches polio vaccination campaign targeting over 11 mln children

Kabul, April 21 (UNI) : The Afghan interim government's Ministry of Public Health launched a nationwide campaign on Monday to give polio vaccination doses to 11.6 million children under five, the ministry said in a statement.

Running site-to-site from Monday to Thursday, the campaign will provide anti-polio drops to children across the country, said Sharafat Zaman Amarkhil, spokesperson for the ministry, adding that a supplementary dose of vitamin A will also be provided to children under five. In his message, Amarkhil urged tribal elders, religious scholars, and local residents to actively participate and fully cooperate with polio workers to implement the campaign properly.

SK's ousted president Yoon attends 2nd criminal trial hearing

Seoul, April 21 (UNI) : South Korea's ousted President Yoon Suk-yeol on Monday attended the second hearing of his criminal trial over insurrection charges. Yoon entered a courtroom of the Seoul Central District Court around 9:57 a.m. local time (0057 GMT) after arriving at the court through its underground parking lot. He was photographed and filmed in the defendant's seat by photographers and cameramen, who left the courtroom before the hearing was formally launched.

On April 4, the constitutional court upheld a motion by the parliament to impeach Yoon over his short-lived martial law imposition. With the court's decision, the conservative leader officially lost all presidential power.

Yoon declared an emergency martial law on the night of Dec. 3 last year, but it was revoked by the opposition-led National Assembly hours later.

The impeachment motion against Yoon was passed in the parliament on Dec. 14 last year.

Yoon was apprehended in the presidential office on Jan. 15 and was indicted under detention on Jan. 26 as a suspected ringleader of insurrection. If convicted of being the insurrection ringleader, Yoon could face the death penalty or life imprisonment. He was released on March 8 as the prosecution decided not to appeal against the court's release approval.

Putin orders gov't to consider creating national supercomputer center : Kremlin

Moscow, April 21 (UNI) : Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered the government to explore the possibility of creating a national supercomputer center that would be available for use by Russian researchers, the Kremlin said on Monday.

"The Russian government is hereby ordered ... to consider the issue of creating a national supercomputer center, taking into account previous orders and considering the possibility of giving Russian researchers access to its computing power, as well as the need to train personnel for this center," the Kremlin said in a statement.

A report on the matter should be prepared by July 15. Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin has been assigned to oversee the order's execution. The president's order comes following his participation in a plenary meeting of the Future Technologies Forum and a meeting with scientists on February 21.

Azerbaijan's president to visit China

Beijing, April 21 (UNI) : At the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev will pay a state visit to China from April 22 to 24, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson announced on Monday.

Noting that China and Azerbaijan are strategic partners, spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a regular press briefing that in recent years, under the personal attention and promotion of the two heads of state, China-Azerbaijan relations have maintained a good momentum of development. The political mutual trust between the two countries has been continuously consolidated, Belt and Road cooperation has achieved fruitful results, and international collaboration has been effective, Guo said.

During Aliyev's visit, President Xi Jinping will hold talks with him to draw up a new blueprint for the development of bilateral relations, Guo said. Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee Zhao Leji will meet with Aliyev, respectively, to have in-depth exchanges of views on cooperation in various fields. "It is believed that this visit will further deepen the China-Azerbaijan strategic partnership and bring more benefits to the two peoples," Guo said.

Wild fire engulfs Poland's Biebrza National Park

Warsaw, April 21 (UNI) : A major wildfire has engulfed approximately 400 hectares of Biebrza National Park in northeastern Poland, local authorities confirmed Monday morning.

The fire, which began Sunday afternoon at the border of Augustow and Monki counties in Podlaskie province, has spread rapidly despite ongoing firefighting efforts. Justyna Klusewicz, spokesperson for the Podlaskie Provincial Command of the State Fire Service, told the Polish Press Agency on Monday that roughly 180 firefighters, supported by forest services, park rangers and soldiers, are currently battling the blaze.



US Vice President J.D. Vance with Second Lady Usha Vance and their children visits Akshardham temple, in New Delh on Monday

Israel conducts over 200 strikes in Gaza within days, kills Islamic Jihad member

Jerusalem, April 21 (UNI) : Israel's military said on Monday that it carried out more than 200 airstrikes across the Gaza Strip over the past three days, killing a member of the Islamic Jihad movement.

The military said the strikes targeted militant infrastructure, militant cells, rocket launch and sniper positions, weapons depots and command centers.

It identified the killed fighter as Ahmad Mansour, who it said participated in the Hamas-led surprise

attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, and later directed rocket fire during the ongoing war. In Rafah's Shabura and Tel al-Sultan neighborhoods, Israeli troops dismantled "terrorist infrastructure" and uncovered a cache of grenades, ammunition and other military gear.

Along the recently constructed Morag Corridor, which bisects Rafah from Khan Younis and the rest of Gaza, troops located weapons, destroyed Hamas

infrastructure and killed several militants, the military said.

In northern Gaza, soldiers launched an airstrike on a building containing what was described as underground infrastructure and detected multiple militants. The army also reported dismantling Hamas sniper posts that had threatened its ground forces. At least eight people were killed in Israeli strikes on Monday and dozens wounded, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

Bangladesh 'locks' National ID card of former PM Sheikh Hasina, nine family members

Dhaka, April 21 (UNI) : Escalating its attacks against Sheikh Hasina and her family, the Bangladesh Election Commission's National Identity Registration Wing has blocked the National Identity cards of the former Prime Minister and nine of her family members.

The NIDs of the 10 listed individuals were locked through an official letter on April 16, signed by ASM Humayun Kabir, director general of the National Identity Registration Wing at the EC, The Daily Star reported.

The other individuals whose NID's have been locked include - Sajeeb

Ahmed Wazed (Sheikh Hasina's son and Awami League leader), Saima Wazed (her daughter), Rehana Siddiq (Sheikh Rehana, Hasina's younger sister), Tulip Rizwana Siddiq (Hasina's niece and UK MP; daughter of Rehana), Azmina Siddiq (Tulip's sister and Hasina's niece), Shaheen Siddiq (aunt of Tulip), Bushra Siddiq (Shaheen's UK-based daughter), Radwan Mujib Siddiq (Tulip's brother), and Tarique Ahmed Siddiq (was Hasina's security affairs advisor and is husband of Shaheen Siddiq).

Bangladesh Election Commission officials said

that locking an NID means its information can no longer be verified, corrected, or changed.

A locked NID is effectively unusable. However, it is still not clear whether there was a direct order from the Election Commission Secretariat.

In Bangladesh, the NID is a crucial document used for various essential services such as banking, voting, legal processes, utilities, telecommunication services etc.

Therefore, "locking" an NID has significant implications, essentially c o m p l e t e l y disenfranchising a citizen from all government services.

22 Sri Lankan soldiers injured in bus-lorry collision

Colombo, April 21 (UNI) : Twenty-two Sri Lankan soldiers were injured on Monday morning when the bus they were traveling in collided with a lorry in Gampaha District, located in the country's Western Province, police spokesman K.B. Manathunga said.

The official said that 20 of the injured soldiers were discharged from the hospital by Monday afternoon, while the bus driver and one soldier remained under medical treatment.

Manathunga added that the lorry driver has been taken into custody, and local police are continuing their investigation into the incident.

Rome, April 21 (UNI) : With the passing of Pope Francis, the Vatican is set to begin its elaborate rituals steeped in centuries of tradition, to mark the end of one papacy and begin the next. Pope Francis, who died today age 88, had led the Catholic Church for 12 years, beginning his tenure as the Pope in 2013 after the retirement of his predecessor Benedict XVI. Before the next Pope is anointed, a nine-day mourning period (called the Novendiales) follows the demise of the previous one. The Pope's body must also be displayed at St. Peter's Basilica for a public mourning, and a mass will take place on each day.

In accordance with ancient tradition, upon the pontiff's death his signet

ring - which acts as the seal for official papal documents is defaced or destroyed, signifying the end of his reign. Afterwards, the papal passages are sealed off until a successor is appointed. Until then, the College of Cardinals will take charge as the temporary charge. Cardinals from around the world must gather for the conclave in which Francis' successor is selected.

The process usually takes between two and three weeks, though it can stretch slightly beyond that if cardinals struggle to agree on a candidate.

Past popes were entombed in three coffins: one made out of cypress, one of zinc and one of elm, nested inside each other,

Yemen's Houthis claim fresh attacks at Israel, US aircraft carriers

Sanaa, April 21 (UNI) : Yemen's Houthi group said on Monday that it had launched fresh attacks at two Israeli targets and two US aircraft carriers, using drones and cruise missiles. "We launched a drone attack at a vital target in the city of Ashkelon and another drone attack at a military target in the city of Eilat," Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in the statement aired by Houthi-run al-Masirah TV.

He didn't identify the names of the targets in both cities in southern Israel.

"As part of confronting the American aggression ... we targeted the aircraft carrier Truman and its escorting warships in the northern Red Sea, using two cruise missiles and two drones," Sarea said, referring to the USS S Harry Truman.

"We also targeted the aircraft carrier Vinson (the USS Carl Vinson) and its escorting warships in the Arabian Sea, using three cruise missiles and four drones," he said.

Sarea reaffirmed that the group's attacks "will continue" against Israel and the U.S. naval forces in the region. According to the Houthi television, the attacks against Israel and the U.S. warships were carried out in the past 24 hours. The Israeli defence forces have yet to comment on the Houthi claim, nor the US military.

Meanwhile, the US airstrikes in Yemen have been continuing. Early in the day, the Houthi television said the death toll from US airstrikes on Sunday night against a popular market in the Shu'ub neighborhood in central Yemen's capital Sanaa rose to 12, with 30 other "civilians" wounded.

Also on Sunday night, the Houthi television reported other US airstrikes on several Houthi locations in the northern provinces of Al-Mahwit, Saada, and Marib. Tensions between the Houthi group and the US military have escalated since Washington resumed airstrikes on Houthi targets in Yemen on March 15 to deter the group from targeting Israel and U.S. warships.

Iran's FM to visit China for talks on ties, US negotiations

Tehran, April 21 (UNI) : Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi will travel to China on Tuesday, during which he will discuss Iran's ongoing indirect negotiations with Washington, as well as Iran-China ties, with Chinese officials, Iran's Foreign Ministry announced Monday.

"During the trip, which was planned in advance, we will hold consultations with Chinese officials on the process of our indirect talks with the United States and will inform them of the latest developments in this regard," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told reporters at a weekly press conference in Tehran.

He noted that the two sides would also discuss Iran's nuclear program, the removal of the US sanctions, as well as bilateral ties. Baghaei said China can play "a constructive and influential role" as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), describing China as Iran's "important friend and partner."

Iran and the United States held the second round of their indirect talks

on Tehran's nuclear program and removal of Washington's sanctions in the Italian capital Rome on Saturday with Oman's mediation. The first round took place in Muscat, Oman on April 12, and a third round is scheduled for the Omani capital again this coming Saturday.

The discussions, described as "constructive" by both sides, came in the wake of a letter sent by US President Donald Trump to Iran's leadership in early March, proposing talks on Tehran's nuclear program. Trump later warned of military action should Iran reject his offer for talks.

Iran signed a nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, with six major countries -- Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia, and the United States -- in July 2015, accepting restrictions on its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief. However, the United States withdrew from the deal in May 2018 and reinstated sanctions, prompting Iran to scale back some of its nuclear commitments. Efforts to revive the nuclear deal have not achieved substantial progress.

'Philippines' military drills with U.S. opposed by regional countries'

Beijing, April 21 (UNI) : The Philippines' decision to conduct the large-scale military drills with the United States has been detested and opposed by regional countries, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said here on Monday.

Spokesperson Guo Jiakun made the remarks in response to the annual military drills between the United States and the Philippines, which started on Monday. The exercise has come as Beijing and Manila are in a dispute over the South China Sea.

"With the world being hit by unilateralism, protectionism and bullying, countries in this region have been calling for greater solidarity, coordination, and joint efforts to keep the region stable and respond to challenges," noted Guo at a daily news briefing.

Against this backdrop, the Philippines chose to conduct the large-scale military drills with this country outside the region and brought in strategic and tactical weapons to the detriment of regional strategic stability and regional economic prospects, which puts them on the opposite side of regional countries, said Guo.

"This act has been detested and opposed by regional countries," he added.

Guo said that the Taiwan question is purely China's internal affair and is at the core of China's core interest.

With Pope Francis' passing, Catholic Church to begin rituals to anoint next Pontiff

but Francis dictated that he be buried in a single coffin, made of wood and zinc.

When Benedict XVI was buried, his coffin also contained coins minted during his reign, as well as a metal tube enclosing a rolled-up paper scroll, called a rogito — a 1,000-word document retelling his life and reign. Francis will likely be buried with his own rogito detailing his unique papacy. At the end of the Novendiales, a large funeral procession takes place around St. Peter's Basilica, and then he will be laid to rest. While past Popes have all been buried underneath the St. Peters Basilica, Pope Francis had opted for a more simplistic burial, picking the Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica in Rome, one of his favourite

and most-frequented churches, as his final resting place, making him the first pope in a century to be interred outside the Vatican. Two to three weeks after the pope's funeral, the College of Cardinals will convene in the Sistine Chapel to hold a conclave for electing a new Pope.

There are currently 252 Catholic cardinals, 138 of whom are eligible to vote for the new Pope. The others are over the age of 80, which means they cannot take part in the election, although they can join in the debate over who should be selected. Unlike in regular politics, candidates do not openly campaign for the position. Vatican watchers have deemed cardinals who have a good shot at becoming pope

'papabile', meaning "popeable". On the day of voting, the Sistine Chapel is physically sealed off and the cardinals, who have taken an oath of secrecy, are locked inside. Inside the Sistine Chapel, the conclave begins the elections with paper ballots passed out to each cardinal, who writes the name of their chosen candidate below the words "Eligo in Summum Pontificem" (Latin for "I elect as supreme pontiff"). When completed - each cardinal - in order of seniority - walks to the altar to ceremoniously place his folded ballot into a chalice. The votes are then counted, and the result is read to the cardinals. If a cardinal has received two-thirds of the vote, he becomes the new Pope.



Food&Kids

Healthy weekend drink: Cucumber Caiprioska

Unwind with a glass of chilled cucumber caiprioska. Generally, cocktails like Bloody Mary, Mojitos, Sex on the Beach or Tequila Sunrise can be fattening.



Even the most popular alcoholic beverage, beer is fattening. Chef Ashis Rout, Executive Chef at the Courtyard by Marriott, Gurgaon shares a recipe with us, which is not only tasty, but also low in calories.

Ingredients:

2 large cucumbers cut into chunks
60 ml vodka
15 ml of lemon juice
6 pieces of lemon chunks

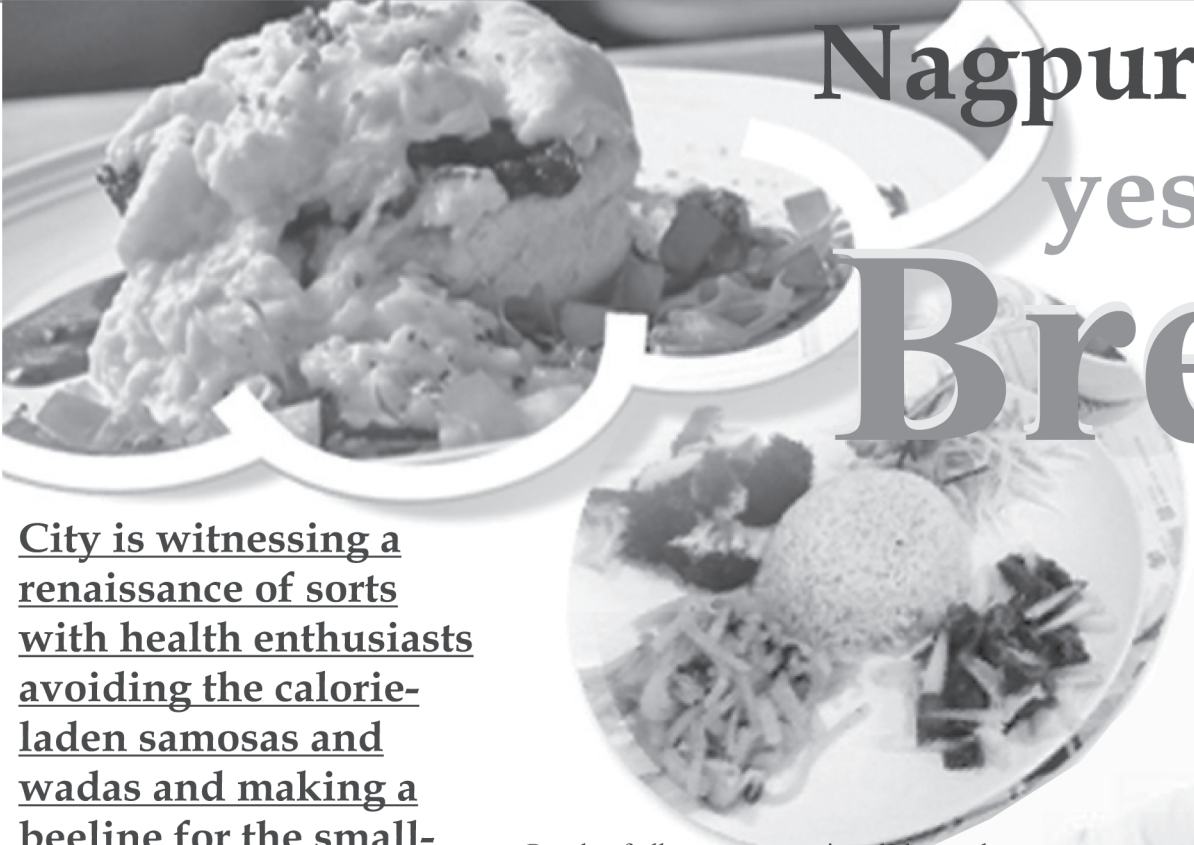
Method: - A glassfull of crushed ice, topped with lemonade.
- Add the cucumber, lemon chunks and mash them together. Then, add the vodka, lemon juice and fill it up with crushed ice, top it with lemonade.

What your coffee says about you

Merlo Coffee baristas has revealed that are able to figure out a customer's personality type just by the cup of coffee they order.



The company said that people who drink Cafe Latte tend to be a bit softer and can be more romantic than others and are probably still friends with their first crush, News.com.au reported. People, who drink Flat White, are straight-up types and could lack imagination. The Cappuccino lover doesn't really indulge in their coffee as much as they should; they are still a child at heart who love chocolate sprinkle on top. People drinking Macchiato are coffee-savvy young professional. They work and play fast. People whose choice of drink is Vienna are the one who like the finer things in life; they have high expectations, are demanding and a touch clingy. Hot Mocha ordering people are often drifters and find it hard to settle down. Hot Chocolate drinking people can be complete faux coffee-drinkers, posing as latte sippers. Tea drinkers are real, wholesome and deep-thinkers. They are usually early morning people and read books.



City is witnessing a renaissance of sorts with health enthusiasts avoiding the calorie-laden samosas and wadas and making a beeline for the small-time breakfast joints and juice centres, serving healthy breakfast near the gardens, joggers' streets and lake-side trails of Nagpur.

Fruity flavours There are many morning walkers, who prefer to stay away from the snacks early in the morning, so they go in for refreshing fruit shakes and juices. Dr Veena Talavia, who goes for a walk to the VNIT campus, is happy that there are quite a few options available there when it comes to fruit juices. "It has become a routine of sorts for my friends and I, post our morning walk. The number of juice centres has increased manifold in the past one year due to rise in the number of fitness enthusiasts these days.

People of all age groups enjoy shakes and juices of their choice. There are many cane juice centres too, which are crowded early in the morning," she said.

Vote for Veggies One can also relish a variety of vegetable juices near different jogging lanes. A kiosk at Dattatray Nagar, which serves aloe vera, bitter gourd and spinach juice, is crowded since six in the morning. Also, the wheat grass juice centres attract many fitness freaks, taking a walk around the Japanese Garden. Entrepreneur Bharat Goenka confessed that the vegetables juices are the biggest motivation for him to get up early. He said, "The juicewala outside the garden knows my vegetable juice combination, so the moment he sees me coming back from my rounds, he keeps the juice ready. Now I look forward to wake up early and come here for a walk."

Medicinal Neera Neera is a popular beverage, which has become an integral part of many fitness freaks' lives. Makeshift neera centres opposite G S College, at Zero Mile and the Gandhi Sagar Lake are favoured by many. This healthy drink has to be consumed before the sun rises lest it



becomes alcoholic. A marketing professional, Anil Dhurve, confessed, "I feel fitter and healthier as I take neera every day; so it has become a habit now. After this traditional drink, I relish the idlis and upma at the roadside South Indian eateries at Sadar and Dharampeth." Egg it on For those who swear by the health benefits of eggs, have become the regular patrons of the road-side kiosks specialising in eggy delights. Owner of one such food truck joint at Bajaj Nagar, Nahush Badge, said, "We have set up this joint specially for

the people who come for early morning walk in this area. Exotic dishes like egg tham jham and egg flip corn are favoured by the health conscious people." City businessman Atul Bangre, who religiously eats eggs post his running stint every day, said, "I get so tired after my exercise that I want to have something instant as well as healthy. So, I eat egg salad along with cheese chilla almost every alternate day. There's another joint at Abhyankar Nagar bus stand, which serves egg sandwiches in the morning hours, which are to die for; so I go there too on a regular basis."

Summer coolers with a Twist

Fancy a chilled soup or an ice cream sandwich? In this heat, as your appetite goes for a toss, why not try some summer special meals that will not only ensure you stay cool but also fill you up and have you feeling light and happy.

Say cool:

Be it some breezy rose sherbet, rejuvenating fresh juices, tall glasses of iced falooda or the humble nimbu pani — walk into one of our local cafes and enjoy a volley of unique cool mixes. So you find flavoured drinks like kiwi, strawberry and even plum lemonades and fruity buttermilk concoctions to chilled and wholesome pumpkin, cucumber and bell pepper soups and watermelon gazpachos. Says Reena Kakkar, owner of a cafe, "Lot of chilled fruit and vegetable soups are nutritious meals and perfect for summers." Play with your imagination and see the cool twist.

'Hot' ice:

The long lines at the street side gola walas laari are no joke! You really have to wait for your turn if you want to savour some tart kala khatta and kachi keri or that deliciously seasonal falsa and dadam gola. And this time, you can enjoy your golas with an amazing twist too! Some city youngsters have come up with unique gola flavours like gajar ka halwa, rosogulla and mango barfi too! Says Payal Vora, owner of a stall selling golas, "Amdavadis are not just foodies but adventurous with their tastes." For a city obsessed with chocolate, these gola walas have some choco-licious varieties too! Says Ekta Soni, another stall owner,



"Youngsters love stuff like chocolate cake gola, chocolate mousse and even chocolate pudding golas."

I scream ice cream:

It's the kind of weather when you feel like making a meal out of ice cream and that's probably what pioneered some Amdavadis to fuse your favourite ice cream flavours with your favourite snacks. The regulars at the Manek Chowk khau galli, would know of the

We all love our lemonades and ice creams on a hot summer day. As the mercury soars, Amdavadis are giving cool twists to your summer staples.

popular ice cream sandwich! A luscious chunk of ice cream sandwiched between two slices of white bread that is slathered with some delectable fruit jam! And when

talking of snacky fare, we even have dosa ice cream! Dosa rolled into a cone and served with a scoop of your favourite ice cream! Says Smith Raval, a regular icecream snacker, "You just need to have an open mind to try combos! I love the idea of a crisp dosa with black currant ice cream! Even the ice cream bhajiyas you get during winters are delicious! I also love eating my French fries dipped in a vanilla softy! It tastes awesome!"

Go bananas with so many options

Banana prices have hit a 10 year-low and it's time to satiate your cravings for this fruit, which not only tastes yummy, but is packed with the goodness of vitamin B6, vitamin C, potassium, dietary fibre, potassium, biotin and copper.

The best thing about this fruit is it can be eaten straight off the rack, or be used in scrumptious smoothies, desserts, halwa, fudge, fritters, cutlets, bonda, am, payasa, curry and what not. So what are you waiting for? Go grab a few dozens while the prices are in control. Bangalore Times lists some popular varieties available in the city and what you can do with them...

Variety name: YELAKKI

Can be used for: HALWA

FUDGE

1 Kg Rs 35

Recipe for halwa: Take three fully ripe bananas and mash them till they are smooth.

Fry some dry fruits in ghee and keep aside. In a pan, add bananas and water and keep stirring on a low flame. Add sugar and cook till the paste is thick. Now add ghee, cardamom powder and fried dried fruits. Once the mixture is lumpy, transfer it into a bowl and let it cool.

Variety name: ROBUSTA

Can be used for: BURFI FRITTERS SHAKE BONDA CUTLET

1 Kg Rs 24

Recipe for bonda: Mash three bananas with a fork. Mix the mash, one cup flour, approximately half cup sugar and two pinches of soda powder. Now, heat oil in a wok on medium flame. Drop in the banana mixture spoon by spoon, without overcrowding the vessel. Fry it till brown. Serve when hot.

Variety name: RED

Can be used for: SMOOTHIES, DESSERT, CHIPS, CHICKEN

1Kg Rs 75

Recipe for smoothie: Mix one cup of almond milk, one red banana and half cup of cooked oats in a blender. Your smoothie is ready! Garnish with almond pieces.



Botafogo stumbles in Brazil's Serie A



Rio De Janeiro, April 21 (UNI) : Facundo Torres and Jose Lopez scored on either side of halftime as leader Palmeiras moved two points clear at the top of Brazil's Serie A championship with a 2-1 win at Fortaleza.

Torres opened the scoring on the stroke of halftime by firing home from inside the six-yard box

after Fortaleza failed to deal with a Richard Rios free-kick from the left wing on Sunday.

Lopez doubled the advantage just after the interval when he ran onto Estevao's pass on the counterattack and slotted a low finish into the far corner.

The hosts rallied late, and Deyverson gave them

a glimmer of hope when he nodded in at the far post after Allanzinho's cross. But Palmeiras withstood a tense final 20 minutes to extend its league winning streak to four games.

Earlier, Argentine winger Tomas Cuello scored his first goal of the Serie A season as Atletico Mineiro secured a 1-0 home victory over reigning

champion Botafogo.

Cuello put his side ahead just after halftime by meeting a Gabriel Menino corner with a header at the far post. Botafogo suffered another blow just after the hour when David Ricardo was shown a straight red card for a bad tackle on veteran forward Hulk.

Atletico took control thereafter as the Rio outfit managed just two shots on goal en route to its second loss of the campaign. The result leaves Atletico Mineiro 16th with five points from as many matches, behind Botafogo on goal difference.

Elsewhere in Brazil's top flight on Sunday, Bragantino won 1-0 at home to Cruzeiro, Fluminense was held to a 1-1 home draw by Vitoria, Sao Paulo won 2-1 at home to Santos and Mirassol drew 2-2 at Juventude.

No rest in La Liga ahead of 33rd round of matches

Madrid, April 21 (UNI) : Teams in Spain have no time to draw breath as La Liga moves directly the 33rd round of matches this week to allow for next weekend's Copa del Rey final between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid to be a stand-alone fixture. League leader, FC Barcelona plays on Tuesday night at home to seventh place Mallorca, with the chance to again pile the pressure on a Real Madrid side that plays away to Getafe on Wednesday night.

The timing of the two matches has again caused controversy, with Barcelona getting 24 hours more to prepare for the Cup final, although it's probably a toss-up to decide whether Flick would rather his

players had 24 hours extra rest ahead of Tuesday or Saturday. Despite a miracle fightback from 3-1 down at home to Celta Vigo on Saturday, Barca looked flat for 65 minutes of the game after its Champions League tie away to Borussia Dortmund last Tuesday.

Flick also lost top scorer Robert Lewandowski to a muscle injury with the Polish striker missing Tuesday's game and almost certain to be unavailable for the Cup final.

Left back Alejandro Balde is also sidelined with a muscle problem and Flick will be crossing his fingers that nobody else is injured.

Ferran Torres will probably start against Mallorca, with Lamine Yamal back in the side and

Ronald Araujo and Eric Garcia probably starting in central defense to rest Inigo Martinez and Pau Cubarsi (although Garcia could also push into midfield).

Tuesday's second match sees Valencia host Espanyol in a meeting between two sides that have hit form at the right time to escape the relegation dogfight and a win for either would all-but assure their top-flight survival for another year.

Real Madrid visits Getafe on Wednesday night, while Athletic Club Bilbao is at home to Las Palmas, Celta hosts Villarreal and Alaves is at home to Real Sociedad in a Basque derby, with the remaining fixtures on Thursday.

Guardiola regards Villa game as final for Man City

London, April 21 (UNI) : Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola has issued a rallying cry to supporters ahead of his side's vital Premier League match at home to Aston Villa on Tuesday night.

City goes into the game fourth in the table with 58 points following Saturday's nervy 2-0 win away to Everton, but Villa sits just a point behind on 57, the same as Chelsea and Nottingham Forest (who plays Tottenham on Monday).

The Premier League is assured five Champions League places next season, but even so, someone is going to miss out on playing the competition and the important payday that it provides.

Speaking to the press on Monday, Guardiola was in no doubt over how important Tuesday's match is.

"Every point, every game counts," said Guardiola, who asked for the supporters to get behind his players.

"Sometimes we are sloppy, sometimes we are not playing well but it's now we need them - we need them desperately, to support us, to make noise and be there all

the time, because it's a final, absolutely it's a final for us," he said.

Guardiola also praised Aston Villa, who was unlucky to go out of the Champions League against Paris Saint Germain last week. "They are a contender to qualify for the Champions League. You see the game they played against my friend (PSG coach) Luis Enrique - wow, I was really, really impressed."

"They can play low block and play away, but when they decide to go, with the weapons they have, the speed they have, the set-pieces, they are incredibly well organized," he added.

There is another important match in the Premier League on Wednesday when Arsenal hosts Crystal Palace in a match that could see this season's title mathematically decided. Arsenal's 4-0 win away to Ipswich Town on Sunday meant Liverpool's title celebrations were put on ice, but if Arsenal loses on Wednesday, Liverpool will be Champions without needing to kick a ball in Sunday afternoon's visit to play Chelsea.

past fortnight. But with five matches left of Liverpool's season, Alexander-Arnold's future remains unresolved, the BBC reported. "Since I joined the club, he has been a fantastic player and there's a lot of good things that he will always be remembered for if he decides to leave," said Van Dijk. "Whatever may happen in the future for him, that's something he has to resolve with himself and the family." But he's a Liverpool player at this

point and he's important for our team." Second-half substitute Alexander-Arnold scored the only goal as Liverpool moved closer to a 20th league title with a 1-0 win against Leicester City on Sunday. The defender celebrated wildly, removing his shirt in front of the away fans. The meaning of Alexander-Arnold's celebration has been debated but Van Dijk says the Liverpool squad have had no inclination about the England player's

future. "At this point, we don't know as a group what's going to happen," added Van Dijk.

"He is already under a lot of pressure so there is no point for me to put him on the spot whatsoever."

Liverpool will be crowned champions if Arsenal fail to beat Crystal Palace on Wednesday. If Mikel Arteta's side win, the Reds will have the chance to clinch the title against Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield on Sunday.

Embrace sports & education, shun growing menace of drug abuse: Farooq urges youth

Jammu, April 21 (UNI) : Former chief minister and Jammu and Kashmir National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday encouraged the young participants to stay focused on sports and education and avoid the menace of drug addiction that is increasingly affecting the younger generation.

Speaking after inaugurating the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Tournament here at Maulana Azad Stadium, Dr Abdullah also appreciated the efforts of Provincial President of J&K Youth National Conference Tejinder Pal Singh Aman for his dedication and commitment to the anti-drug campaign.

The tournament is being held under the theme 'Say No to Drugs' and aims to channel the energy of the youth towards constructive and healthy activities.

The tournament is part of a broader campaign to combat drug abuse among the youth of the region.

In the opening match, Majid 313 faced off against Trikuta Cricket Club in a thrilling 20-over encounter that marked the commencement of the week-long tournament that will conclude on April 26.

Dr. Abdullah interacted with the players and appreciated their enthusiasm and spirit for the game.

Provincial President JKNC, Rattan Lal Gupta said there is a dire need to divert the energy of our youth towards sports, culture, and education.

MLA from Poonch Haveli, Ajaz Jan also said that such initiatives are essential in shaping a brighter future for the youth.

He emphasized that sports not only promote physical fitness but also instil discipline, teamwork, and a sense of purpose, which are vital in steering young minds away from drug addiction.

Pune juggler eyes Procam Slam at TCS World 10K in Bengaluru

Bengaluru, April 21 (UNI) : With over 30,000 participants expected to take part in the TCS World 10K here on April 27, one runner is set to turn heads — not for his speed, but for his extraordinary athletic act. Ketan Abhonkar, a mechanical engineer turned software professional from Pune and an accomplished endurance runner, will attempt to complete the 10K while juggling three balls — a rare and demanding pursuit known as juggling. Abhonkar's participation in the Bengaluru race carries added weight, as it marks the final leg of his bid to clinch the coveted Procam Slam — a title awarded to runners who successfully complete all four of India's premier distance races, organised by Procam International, within a

Gurbaz, Moeen return as KKR bowl at Eden Gardens

Kolkata, April 21 (UNI) : Kolkata Knight Riders handed returns to Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Moeen Ali as they won the toss and opted to bowl first against Gujarat Titans in their crucial IPL encounter at the Eden Gardens here on Monday. KKR captain Ajinkya Rahane said the changes were aimed at boosting the team's balance as they look to climb up from seventh on the points table. "This is generally a chasing ground. Slightly on the drier side, when we bowl, we'll get an idea how it's playing," Rahane said. "All the players are working really hard. We've made some errors but it's all about being positive."

Rahane expressed confidence in his middle-order despite recent inconsistencies. "I feel 5, 6, 7 sometimes is a tricky

position to bat, but when it works well, it really looks well," he noted.

GT skipper Shubman Gill, who was happy to bat first, said conditions were not likely to change much over the evening. "I don't think there'll be any dew. If we post a nice total, it should be a good match," he said. Gill praised the collective efforts of his bowling unit and singled out Rashid Khan's impact.

"Everyone has been contributing with wickets. The way our bowlers have been controlling the totals has been tremendous," Gill said. "The skill-set that Rashid brings along with his bowling and the energy he brings on the field — any captain would love to have him." With both teams hungry for momentum, the evening promises a high-stakes battle.

Valverde scores 93rd-minute stunner as Real beat Athletic Bilbao

Madrid, April 21 (UNI) : Federico Valverde's stunning stoppage-time strike kept Real Madrid in the La Liga title hunt as Carlo Ancelotti's side eventually overcame stubborn Athletic Bilbao at the Bernabeu.

Valverde crashed an emphatic half-volley into the top corner with the outside of his left foot three minutes into time added on to finally reward incessant second-half pressure from the hosts on Sunday.

It was his sixth league goal this season, but first since December against Sevilla.

Victory kept Real, who were without France striker Kylian Mbappe as he served a one-match ban following a red card in the 1-0 win at Alaves, four points behind leaders Barcelona with six games to go.

Barca had produced their own added-time drama on Saturday, coming from 3-1 down to beat Celta Vigo 4-3 thanks to Raphinha's 98th-minute penalty, the BBC reported. However, after a humbling week that saw the Champions League holders dumped out of this year's competition with a 5-1 aggregate defeat by Arsenal, Real kept alive their hopes of retaining their league title.

It appeared they would be frustrated by Bilbao and goalkeeper Unai Simon, who thwarted Eduardo Camavinga's rising drive and a Jude Bellingham header in a one-sided second half.

Real thought they had made the breakthrough with 11 minutes remaining but Vinicius Jr's classy curler was ruled out for a marginal offside against Endrick in the build-up.

It took a lengthy video assistant referee (VAR) delay to disallow the strike and, when the officials later deemed a clip on Bellingham in the area was not worth a review, it seemed another frustrating night was on the cards for the defending champions. But full-back Valverde, who had twice earlier gone within inches of breaking the deadlock, popped up late with his sublime strike to ease the pressure on Ancelotti, whose side next face Barcelona in the Copa del Rey final on Saturday.

single season." Juggling combines the physical stamina of distance running with the mental focus of juggling — it's incredibly challenging, but immensely fulfilling," said Abhonkar, who is believed to be India's first and only athlete to have completed full marathons while juggling continuously. Although juggling is practised in over 32 countries and boasts a global community of enthusiasts, it remains largely unfamiliar in India. Abhonkar's efforts have not only broken new ground in Indian endurance sports but have also attracted attention from the international juggling fraternity. A seasoned distance runner since 2015, Abhonkar discovered juggling during the pandemic. "It started by chance during a cricket game with my family. I

found I had a knack for it and began training on my own," he recalled. His first juggling race, a modest 5K, was met with curiosity and support. "I was nervous at first, unsure of how people would react. But the audience and fellow runners were incredibly encouraging," he said. Since then, Abhonkar has joggled his way through several major Indian road races, including the

Teams: Gujarat Titans (Playing XI): Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill(c), Jos Buttler(w), Sherfane Rutherford, Rahul Tewatia, Washington Sundar, Shahrukh Khan, Rashid Khan, Ravishrinivasan Sai Kishore, Prasad Krishna, Mohammed Siraj; Impact Subs: Ishant Sharma, Mahipal Lomror, Anuj Rawat, Karim Janat, Arshad Khan

Kolkata Knight Riders (Playing XI): Rahmanullah Gurbaz(w), Sunil Narine, Ajinkya Rahane(c), Venkatesh Iyer, Rinku Singh, Moeen Ali, Andre Russell, Ramandeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Vaibhav Arora, Varun Chakaravarthy; Impact Subs: Manish Pandey, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Rovman Powell, Luvnith Sisodia, Anukul Roy.

Ostapenko stuns Sabalenka to win Stuttgart Open

Stuttgart (Germany), April 21 (UNI) : Jelena Ostapenko beat world number one Aryna Sabalenka to win the Stuttgart Open in stunning fashion on Monday.

Ostapenko, who had failed to win in three previous meetings against Sabalenka, took the match 6-4 6-1, the BBC reported.

The Latvian set the tone with a break of serve in the opening game and kept the pressure on throughout.

Sabalenka was broken again in the first game of the second set before dropping serve on a further two occasions in an uncharacteristically error-strewn performance.

Ostapenko raced to victory in emphatic style by reeling off five games in a row. "I'm really happy today," Ostapenko said.

She said to her opponent: "It is great to share the court with you, you are such a great champion."

Ostapenko, 27, also beat world number two Iga Swiatek in the quarter-finals. It is her ninth WTA title and a first on clay since winning the French Open in 2017.

Alexander-Arnold will be remembered for good things: Van Dijk

London, April 21 (UNI) : Captain Virgil van Dijk says Trent Alexander-Arnold will "always be remembered for good things" at Liverpool even if he decides to leave as a free agent this summer.

The right-back is out of contract at the end of the season and has held talks with Real Madrid.

Van Dijk and forward Mohamed Salah ended speculation over their futures by signing fresh two-year deals during the

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Central Railway Women's Welfare Organization Celebrates Women's Day Award Function 2025



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 21 : Smt. Asha Meena, President, Central Railway Women's Welfare Organization (CRWWO), felicitated 14 Women Railway employees of Central Railway.

The Central Railway Women's Welfare Organization (CRWWO) celebrated the Women's

Day Award Function 2025 at the New Officers' Club, Nirmal Park, Byculla on 21.04.2025. The event aimed to recognize and felicitate the remarkable achievements and dedication of women employees across various divisions of Central Railway.

A total of 14 women employees were honoured

for their exemplary contributions. The awardees included 2 from Nagpur Division, 1 each from Pune, Solapur and Mumbai Divisions, 1 from Dr. B. A. M. Railway Hospital, Byculla, and 8 from Headquarters. The function witnessed the presence of Smt. Babita Pandey, Secretary CRWWO, Smt.

Teena Uppal Treasurer CRWWO along with other members of the organization.

This initiative by CRWWO is a testament to its ongoing efforts toward empowering women employees and acknowledging their pivotal role in the growth and success of Central Railways.

Trains Cancelled and Partially Cancelled : SWR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 21 : Due to Overhead Equipment (OHE) modification work between Gokak Road–Ghatprabha and Kudachi–Ugar Khurd railway lines, some train services will be cancelled and partially cancelled as detailed below.

Cancellation of Trains:

1. Train No. 07303 Belagavi–Miraj Special, journey commencing on April 21, 2025, will be cancelled.

2. Train No. 07304 Miraj–Belagavi Special, journey commencing on April 21, 2025, will be cancelled.

Partial Cancellation of Trains:

1. Train No. 07303 Belagavi–Miraj Special, journey commencing on April 22, 2025, will be partially cancelled between Kudachi–Miraj and will be short terminated at Kudachi.

2. Train No. 07304 Miraj–Belagavi Special, journey commencing on April 22, 2025, will be partially cancelled between Miraj–Kudachi and it will be originated from Kudachi instead of Miraj at its scheduled time.

3. Train No. 07301 Belagavi–Miraj Special, journey commencing on April 23 & 24, 2025, will be partially cancelled between Kudachi–Miraj and it will be short terminated at Kudachi.

4. Train No. 07302 Miraj–Belagavi Special, journey commencing on April 23 & 24, 2025, will be partially cancelled between Miraj–Kudachi and it will be originated from Kudachi instead of Miraj at its scheduled time."

BNCMC inspection of works before the Monsoon



(Standard Post Bureau)

Bhiwandi, April 21 : Inspection of the works in the department that started before the monsoon Dera Administrator and Commissioner Mr Anmol Sagar (B.P.S.) Development works are underway at various places in Bhiwandi city, and these ongoing development works were inspected by Administrator and

Commissioner Mr Anmol Sagar today on today

Notably, the Administrator and Commissioner inspected the CC roads that are underway at Tinbatti, Mandai, Hindustani Mansjid, Thana Road, Dhamankar Naka Road and other places through Bhiwandi MMRDA, PWD and also inspected the encroachments that have

been demolished earlier. Also inspected the drainage work being done at various places in the city. After inspecting all these, all the contractors and officers were instructed to complete all these works before the monsoon. On this occasion, City Engineer Mr. Jamil Patel, Additional City Engineer Mr. Sachin Naik, Ward Officer and other officers were present.

World Heritage Day 2025 celebrations at Mysuru Rail Museum: Prize winners of Poster-making, Drawing and Painting Competition

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mysuru, April 21 : The Mysuru Rail Museum, under the auspices of the South Western Railway (SWR), Mysuru Division, commemorated World Heritage Day 2025 today with a vibrant poster-making and drawing/painting competition. Aligned with this year's theme, "Disaster and Conflict-Resilient Heritage – Actions in Relation to Safeguarding Heritage, the event brought together young artists to showcase their creativity while

emphasizing the importance of preserving cultural legacy amidst global challenges.

Shri Mudit Mittal, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), South Western Railway, Mysuru Division, graced the occasion as the chief guest and distributed prizes to the competition winners. In his address, Shri Mittal lauded the participants for their exceptional artistic talent and urged them to nurture their passion for art

as they pursue higher aspirations. Your creativity is not just a skill but a powerful tool to inspire change. Keep this passion alive; it will guide you toward greater achievements in life," he remarked.

The event also featured speeches by senior railway officials, including Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer Shri Vishnu Gowda and Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Shri Kumar Digvijay.

The competition was held across three age

groups. The winners are as under:

Group A (6-9 years)
Mohammed Ghouse Mohiuddin, Kounain Amber, Ridhaan Sanil and Ipsita Vigeet (1st, 2nd, 2nd & 3rd respectively).

Group B (10-13 years)
Vedashree Wakinbe, Kanak Vinayak & Dhruvan MP (1st, 2nd & 3rd respectively).

Group C (14-17 years)
Pragathi K.H, Ksithi S & Romit Arya (1st, 2nd & 3rd respectively).

Kindly arrange to publish this press note as a news item.

BLW's Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar and Assistant Director Information and Public Relations Department Surendranath Pal were honored

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 21 : Varanasi Public Relations Society of India, Varanasi Chapter organized an honor ceremony and seminar on the occasion of National Public Relations Day at Dharendra Mahila PG College in Sundarpur. "For their excellent work in the field of public relations, BLW's Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar and Assistant Director, Department of Information and Public Relations, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Surendranath Pal were honoured with shawls and mementoes.

The programme began with lighting of lamps.

On this occasion, a seminar on the topic "Role of Public Relations in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" was also organised. Chief Guest, National Vice President, Shri Narendra Mehta shared his insightful



comments on the use of AI in organisations and ethical challenges. Also, expert lectures were delivered on the topic of inclusive and effective use of Artificial Intelligence by former Head of Department of Public Relations, Banaras Hindu University, Professor Anil Dave, Assistant Public Relations Officer, Banaras Hindu University, Dr Chandrashekhar and COO, Sunbeam Group of

Educational Institutions, Shri Sandeep Mukherjee. "Welcome and greetings were done by the Secretary of Public Relations Society of India, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Upadhyay.

The program was coordinated by Dr. Mamta Pandey, Head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Dharendra Mahila PG College and Mr. Harsh

Agarwal, Joint Secretary, PRSI.

On this occasion, mainly Associate Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication Department, Dr. Bala Lakhendra Ji, Mr. Manohar Lal, Mr. Gyanendra Upadhyay and Dr. Anshuman Rana, along with all others, presented their views. On this occasion, Secretary Shri Pradeep Kumar Upadhyay said, "PRSI is continuously making the National Public Relations Day lively and meaningful in collaboration with local partners across the country. Our aim is to increase transparency in the society and strengthen dialogue.

Mr. Mahesh Seth, Mr. Shashank Kumar and Mr. Devvrat Pathak of Public Relations Society of India, Varanasi Chapter played an important role in making the program successful.

SC declines urgent plea for Prez rule in West Bengal

New Delhi, April 21 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass any immediate direction on a plea seeking imposition of President's rule and urgent deployment of paramilitary forces in West Bengal in view of communal and political violence allegedly triggered by the Waqf (Amendment) Act in Murshidabad. The matter was mentioned for urgent listing before a bench comprising justices BR Gavai and Augustine George Masih. Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, appearing for the petitioner, sought the court's nod to file additional documents highlighting continued violence in the state and urged immediate implementation of Article 355 of the Constitution.

"There is a need for immediate deployment of paramilitary forces. The matter is listed for tomorrow. I have filed an additional application seeking the invocation of Article 355," Jain submitted. Reacting sharply, Justice Gavai asked, "You want us to issue a writ of mandamus to the President to impose President's rule? As it is, we are accused of intruding into legislative and executive domains."

The judge was referring to criticism faced by the top court in recent cases, including one where it directed the Governor and President to act within set timelines on state bills, sparking a larger debate on judicial overreach.

Appeal to electricity consumers to pay additional security deposit

(Standard Post Bureau)

Kalyan/Vasai/Palghar, April 21 : Electricity consumers in the Kalyan circle of Mahavitaran are being given a separate bill for paying additional security deposit along with their electricity bills for the month of April or May. The facility of paying the security deposit amount in maximum six equal monthly installments is available to the consumers. The message in this regard is mentioned on the security deposit bill. Mahavitaran has appealed to the electricity consumers to pay the additional amount of this security deposit.

As per Regulation 13.1 of the Electricity Supply Code 2021 of the Maharashtra State

Electricity Regulatory Commission, a security deposit is charged to electricity consumers. The security deposit is recalculated every year and accordingly, after the end of the financial year, the new security deposit amount is determined based on the average electricity consumption of the consumers in the previous one year. The Commission has made a provision to collect double the average monthly bill of electricity consumers if the security deposit is monthly and one and a half times the average quarterly bill if the security deposit is quarterly. Similarly, as per Regulation 13.11, the interest amount on the security deposit amount paid by the

consumer is adjusted through the electricity bill at the equivalent rate of the Reserve Bank of India rate and paid to the electricity consumers.

All the necessary information for the consumers has been provided in the separate bills of additional security deposit. Also, the facility is available on the website of Mahavitaran www.mahadiscom.in and through the mobile app of Mahavitaran for the payment of additional security deposit amount from home for low voltage electricity consumers. Mahavitaran has appealed to the electricity consumers to cooperate by paying the bill amount of additional security deposit.

Job Mela for Teachers at MANUU, 20 Selected

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, April 21 : The Job Mela for Teacher's was held at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) on 20th April 2025. The event was hosted by the Training and Placement Cell (TPC) of MANUU.

According to Dr. Mohd Yousuf Khan, Director, TCP, more than hundred candidates attended the job mela and 20 candidates got offer letters whereas 45 more were shortlisted. The event served as a crucial platform for aspiring educators, both undergraduate and postgraduate students, to secure employment with leading educational institutions.

The placement drive brought together a broad spectrum of teaching and administrative opportunities across primary, secondary, and higher education levels. Institutions offered vacancies in roles such as Assistant Professors, Lecturers, Primary and Secondary Teachers, Trained Graduate Teachers (TGTs) apart from administrative positions and specialized roles such as PYP Occupational Therapist, Special Educator, Speech Therapist, Arts Teacher, Academic Coordinator, and School Counselors, showcasing a holistic approach to education.

Reputed educational institutions participated in the event, including Hyderabad Institute of Excellence, Princess Durru Shehvar College of Education, Shaheen Group of Institutions, Focus High School, Meluha International School, Neo School Aizza and Zaamin High School.

New Office Bearers of MEWA elected

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, April 21 : Mr. Shaik Naveed has been elected as President of Maulana Azad National Urdu University's Employees Welfare Association's (MEWA). This is his fifth term and third in a row as President. The elections were held on April 16, 2025 and results were declared on last Thursday. According to Prof. Mohammed Abdul Azeem, Returning Officer, MEWA Elections 2025 other elected office bearers include Mr. Dharamjeet Kumar (Vice-President); Mr. Mohd Shawnavaz Ali Qureshi (General Secretary); Mr. M.A. Nawaz (Joint Secretary); Mr. Syed Ghouse (Secretary); Mr. Syed Yousuf Razvi (Organizing Secretary) and; Mr. Razzak Shareef (Treasurer)., Mr. Mohd. Javed, Mr. Md. Asif and Mr. M A Khayyum Baba are elected as the members.