

IN BRIEF

IB officer posted in Hyderabad among victims of J-K terror attack

Hyderabad, April 22 (PTI) : An Intelligence Bureau employee posted in the city was killed in an attack by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, official sources said. Manish Ranjan from Bihar, working as Section Officer at the IB office in Hyderabad died in the terrorist attack, they said. He went on LTC (to Jammu and Kashmir) with his wife and two kids... they said. Ranjan's wife and children are safe, they added. Terrorists struck the picturesque Baisaran in Pahalgam which is the favourite hotspot of tourists from across the country, gunning down 26 people and injuring several others.

'Entire country stands united against terror': Sonia Gandhi on Pahalgam attack

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) : Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Sonia Gandhi said on Tuesday that the entire country stands united against the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Kashmir. "The entire country stands united against terror. We share a deep resolve to defeat these divisive and violent forces. We need to work to build the broad social consensus against terror that existed in the past," said the senior leader in a statement. She added that she is deeply saddened and devastated to learn of the dastardly terror attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam. "Resorting to violence is an act of cowardice and needs to be condemned in no uncertain terms," she said. Sonia Gandhi added that she understands the pain of families who have lost their loved ones and extended her deepest condolences to them. "I also pray for the complete and speedy recovery of those injured," she said. Sonia Gandhi said that it is imperative that the safety of the citizens is ensured and peace is restored in the region.

Notably, several tourists were reportedly killed and many others, including tourists & locals, were injured in a terror attack in Pahalgam hill station in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday, leading to the security forces launching a massive operation to hunt down the perpetrators.

16 killed in Pahalgam terror attack

Srinagar, April 22 (IANS) : At least 16 tourists, including two foreigners, were killed and 20 other tourists & locals injured in a terror attack in Pahalgam hill station in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday, even as Union Home Minister Amit Shah reached Srinagar to chair an urgent review meeting and security forces launched a massive operation to hunt down the perpetrators.

According to a list released by authorities, the 16 killed included one each from Nepal and the UAE, while there were two from Maharashtra and Karnataka each, one each from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Jammu and Kashmir. The remaining six's domicile was yet to be announced.

However, sources put the number of those killed in the terrorist attack at the Baisaran meadow around 2.30 pm, 6 km away from

Pahalgam town, at 26 at least amid fears the toll could rise further.

The injured have been shifted to hospitals, including some who were referred to Srinagar as they were reported to be in critical condition.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, accompanied by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who was in Delhi, arrived in Srinagar around 8.20 p.m. and was given a brief account of the terror incident by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the presence of the LG, the DGP and other senior officials.

The Home Minister then went to the Raj Bhavan to chair a high-level security meeting. He will also meet the injured tourists and locals at the hospital in Srinagar, where they are being treated, and will visit the terror attack site on Wednesday.

The news of the attack drew condemnation from

leaders all across India, cutting beyond party lines.

Locals in Pahalgam have taken out a candlelight march against the cowardly terror attack on tourists.

Officials had earlier said one tourist was killed and at least 12 other persons, including tourists & locals, were injured in a terror attack.

As per reports, a group of 5 to 6 terrorists wearing army fatigues came and fired at tourists in the Baisaran area, only reachable by a horse ride, as there is no motorable road to it.

In a chilling account, a tourist from Karnataka who lost her husband in the terrorist attack told Kannada media that both she and her 18-year-old son confronted the terrorist and pleaded to be killed alongside Manjunath. However, the terrorist reportedly told them he wouldn't harm them and instead instructed them to

inform Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the attack. The Prime Minister, who is currently on an official visit to Saudi Arabia, expressed deep anguish over the incident and assured that swift and decisive action would follow. "I strongly condemn the terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. All possible assistance is being provided to those affected," he posted on X.

In a stern warning to the perpetrators, he added, "Those behind this heinous act will be brought to justice... they will not be spared! Their evil agenda will never succeed. Our resolve to fight terrorism is unshakable and it will only grow stronger."

J&K LG Sinha said on X: "Anti-terror ops launched to neutralise

terrorists. Entire nation is angry & blood of our forces is boiling. I want to assure the nation that perpetrators of Pahalgam attack will have to pay a very heavy price for their heinous act. My heartfelt condolences to bereaved families". Northern Army commander, Lt Gen M.V. Suchendra Kumar, has left Delhi for Srinagar to review the situation with the field commanders.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo has reached Pahalgam ahead of the Union Home Minister's visit. A number of helplines have been set up in the control room in Anantnag for tourists and their families to know the welfare of their family members.

As soon as the news of the terror attack came, Prime Minister Modi had a telephonic conversation with the Union Home Minister and asked him to

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Ex-BRS MLA Ramesh booked for forgery

Hyderabad, April 22 (PTI) : The CID has registered a forgery case against BRS leader Chennamaneni Ramesh after the High Court declared him a German citizen in a ruling last year.

The case was registered against Ramesh on March 17 following a complaint by ruling Congress MLA Adi Srinivas. He was booked for forgery and under relevant sections of the IPC, Indian Passport Act 1967, The Foreigners Act 1946 and the Indian Citizenship Act 1955, police said on Tuesday.

The Telangana High Court had on December 9 last year imposed a fine of Rs 30 lakh on Ramesh for suppressing and misrepresenting facts related to his German citizenship. In the complaint to the CID, the Congress MLA Srinivas from Vemulawada, who had previously challenged Ramesh's Indian citizenship, had accused him of deceiving the central government, state government and the voters of Vemulawada constituency and sought appropriate action against him. Srinivas had alleged that Ramesh, without relinquishing his German citizenship, had obtained

Indian citizenship in 2009 by misrepresenting his details regarding his stay in India. He had also challenged Ramesh's election as MLA.

Ramesh has been involved in a prolonged legal battle over his citizenship. He had been elected to the assembly four times, including by-polls in 2009 and 2010.

Srinivas lost thrice to him before winning the 2023 election. While dismissing Ramesh's petition, the High Court upheld the Union Home Ministry's 2019 order revoking his Indian citizenship. The court observed that Ramesh, the former MLA from the Vemulawada constituency, is not 'stateless' as he holds a German passport.

The court had directed Ramesh to pay Rs 25 lakh out of the Rs 30 lakh fine to Srinivas and Rs 5 lakh to the Legal Services Authority of the High Court. Accordingly, his counsel on Monday handed over a cheque of Rs 25 lakh to the counsel of Srinivas.

The complainant said after obtaining the judgment copy from the High Court and consulting his legal team, he filed the complaint before the CID. Further investigation is on.

Girls outshine boys in Telangana Intermediate exams



(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, April 22 : Girls outperformed boys in the Telangana Intermediate public examinations, the results of which were announced on Tuesday.

The Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (BIE) declared the results of the Intermediate first year and second year (11th and 12th classes).

A total of 9.97 lakh students appeared in the examination held in March-April. The overall pass percentage for the first year was 66.89. The pass percentage among girls was 73.83 while it was only 57.83 percent among boys. A total of 4,88,430 students wrote the first-year exams. The overall pass percentage for the second year stood at 71.37. In the second year, too, girls outshone the boys. The

pass percentage among girls was 74.21 while only 57.31 per cent passed the exam. A total of 5,08,582 students had appeared in the second-year exams. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka announced the results in the presence of Ministers Ponnamparthi Prabhakar and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Education Secretary Yogita Rana, BIE Secretary Krishna Aditya and other officials. The Deputy CM congratulated the students who have passed the exams and their parents. He expressed his best wishes for the students for higher studies.

Bhatti Vikramarka said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who is on a visit to Japan, has asked him to convey his congratulations and best wishes to the students. The Deputy CM

said the state government was focusing on the education sector. He congratulated BIE officials for conducting the exams and completing the valuation of answer sheets in a foolproof manner.

Among districts, Medchal Malkajgiri district stood first with 77.21 pass percentage in the first year. Mahabubabad district had the lowest pass percentage of 48.43. In the second year, Mulugu district topped the list with 80.12 per cent. Kamareddy district finished at the bottom with pass percentage of 54.93 per cent. BIE Secretary Aditya said students may apply for re-verification and recounting within a week by paying a fee of Rs 600 and Rs 100, respectively. Advanced supplementary exams will be held from May 22.

CM and other leaders condemn Pahalgam terror attack

Hyderabad, April 22 (PTI) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy and several other leaders on Tuesday condemned the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir that left 26 people dead.

condemning the terror attack, Revanth Reddy said the inner strength and morale of Indians cannot be broken by such

incidents.

He urged the Centre to deal sternly with terror groups and conveyed condolences to the bereaved families.

Expressing deep anguish over the death of innocent civilians in the attack, Kishan Reddy said those responsible for the "cowardly and inhuman act of brutality" will not be spared. "My heartfelt

condolences to the bereaved families and I pray for the speedy recovery of those injured. The nation stands united against terrorism," he said on X. Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar said the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under the firm leadership of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is closely monitoring the situation

and will not spare those behind the attack.

"The perpetrators will face the harshest consequences," he said.

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi also condemned the Pahalgam terrorist attack and said its perpetrators deserve the strictest punishment in law.

"We stand with the victims of the attack & their families. My

condolences to the loved ones of the deceased & I pray for the swift and full recovery of those injured," he said on X.

Terrorists opened fire at a famed meadow near Kashmir's Pahalgam town on Tuesday afternoon, killing 26 people, mostly tourists, in what is the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019.



Centre aims to build socially responsible generation ...

The Central government want to build a socially sensitive, aware generation, and for this, every student need to participate in spreading awareness and responsibility, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday. He emphasised that the participation of the younger generation is crucial in creating a safer and cleaner India. "The Central government is making several efforts to reduce pollution and road mishaps in the capital. But to tackle these problems effectively, children like you need to show social responsibility and awareness,"

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1.42 lakh girl students received self-defense training in



Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Tuesday said that the foremost aim of the BJP government is to provide quality and proper education to the students and the infrastructure of around 123 schools would be developed along with the filling up of the vacancies of teaching and non-teaching staff.

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Kremlin says no concrete plans on discussing Ukraine's



: There are no specific plans for talks between Russia and Ukraine following Kiev's recent proposal to halt strikes by both sides against civilian infrastructure, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday.

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Raducanu happy with informal coaching set-up



Emma Raducanu has paused the search for a new full-time coach, saying she is happy to "keep things informal" as her part-time partnership with Mark Petchey continues. Raducanu brought Petchey - a well-known figure in British tennis circles and a former coach of Andy Murray - into her coaching team on a casual basis at last month's Miami Open.

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Central Railway Organizes Special Heritage Museum Tour for Cancer-Stricken Children on World Heritage Day Celebration

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 22 As part of World Heritage Day celebrations, Central Railway organized a heartwarming and memorable experience for 20 young warriors battling cancer at Tata Memorial Hospital by inviting them to the historic Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) Heritage Museum.

The event allowed the children to explore vintage artefacts, rare photographs, and the architectural marvel of CSMT an UNESCO World Heritage Site providing both education and inspiration through the lens of heritage. The event took place today on April 22, 2025 at the CSMT Heritage Museum, Mumbai. The inquisitive young visitors enthusiastically participated, asked numerous questions, and showed great interest in the railway's historical treasures.

This memorable event was organized by the Chief Public Relations Office of Central Railway to showcase its rich history and heritage to



children from Tata Memorial Hospital. “Dr. Swapnil Nila, Chief Public Relations Officer, Central Railway, along with Mr. P. D Patil, Senior

Public Relations Officer, Central Railway, Mr. Michael Manuel Raj, Public Relations Officer Central Railway and Mr. Nitin Rajgond Public

Relations Officer, Central Railway presented the children with memorabilia to commemorate their visit. They were joined by Mr. Santosh Sherwade, Deputy Administrative Officer (PR), and Mrs. Swati Mhatre, Public Relations Officer, who accompanied the children throughout the visit.

Central Railway is honored to have hosted these brave children and hopes this visit provided

them with an exciting and insightful experience. Events like this also underscore Central Railway's commitment to community engagement.

Repercussions on Trains Running on Solapur Division of Central Railway

(Standard Post Bureau)

Solapur, April 22 : Due to ongoing work by South Western Railway's Hubballi Division at Bagalkot the trains running on Solapur Division of Central Railway will have repercussions as following:

CANCELLED TRAINS

The following trains will remain cancelled as per details below:

- Train No. 56906 Hubballi-Solapur Passenger JCO from 21.04.2025 to 24.04.2025
- Train No. 56903 Solapur-Dharwad Passenger JCO from 22.04.2025 to 25.04.2025*
- Train No. 11415 Solapur-Hospapete Exp JCO from 22.04.2025 to 24.04.2025
- Train No. 11416 Hospapete-Solapur Exp JCO from 23.04.2025 to 25.04.2025

Passengers are requested to kindly note the repercussions and plan their travel accordingly.

Pinarayi Vijayan & LoP Satheesan condemn Pahalgam terror attack

Thiruvananthapuram, April 22 (IANS) : Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam in J&K's Anantnag district on Tuesday. A help desk has also been opened by the Non-Resident Keralaites Affairs Department, here and all those who wish to contact for information about Keralaites who are stuck in Kashmir. Vijayan took to his Facebook and said that it's shocking to know about the terror attack that has taken place in Pahalgam. "My hearts go out to the grieving families and those who are injured, wish them a speedy recovery. The need of the hour is to bring to book those behind this dastardly act, and all efforts should be there to tackle those engaged in terror activities," said Vijayan.

Satheesan said he is deeply shocked to hear the tragic news of the terror attack.

"This happened at a time when tourism is a big activity in Kashmir, and this is the outcome of a possible deep-rooted conspiracy. The Centre is duty-bound to ensure the safety of the country is taken care," said Satheesan, adding all those responsible behind this should be brought before the law.

The office of CM Vijayan has informed that a resident from Kochi was also among those who have lost their lives in the terror attack. 68-year-old Kochi resident Ramachandran, who, along with his wife and daughter, had reached Kashmir on Monday.

Four held in Gurugram for assaulting group of bike riders

Gurugram, April 22 : A team of the Gurugram police in Sector-37 police station has arrested all four accused persons allegedly involved in assaulting and abusing a group of bike riders on the Dwarka Expressway, police said.

The accused have been identified as Bhanu Sharma (33), Deepak Singh (24) and Rajat Singh (24), residents of Uttam Nagar, Delhi, and Pragya Sharma (23), a resident of Mohan Garden, Delhi.

Station House Officer (SHO) Shahid Ahmed of Sector-37 police station, along with his team, nabbed the accused from near Kherki Daula toll plaza on Tuesday, police said. "Initial police investigation revealed that the accused had come for a ride in an SUV. While riding on the road, there was some communication between the bike riders and the accused through some signals. Later, in a fit of rage, the accused committed the crime. Accused Bhanu runs a gym in Delhi. The accused, Deepak, is a trainer in the same gym. The accused Pragya works by taking a cricket ground on lease. Accused Rajat does not do any work at present. The accused are being questioned thoroughly," Sandeep Kumar, Gurugram police spokesperson, said. The videos of the incident went viral in which a man in a t-shirt and yellow shorts was seen destroying a sports bike in full public glare on the Dwarka Expressway.

In connection with the incident, a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) was registered against the suspects at the Sector-37 police station in

Gurugram on Sunday, police said.

Meanwhile, the complainant, Hardik Sharma, a resident of Gurugram's Sector-46, had told the police in his complaint that early Sunday morning, he went out for breakfast with friends, and he met his group of 11 friends near Cyber City (Ambience Area).

"We were riding slowly towards Manesar toll when a black Scorpio bearing number DL4CBE1750 started driving rashly and tried to disturb us around 7:20 a.m. on Sunday. We stopped on the side under Dwarka Expressway to let them go, but they stopped their SUV in front of us. There were four occupants inside the SUV, and they were very drunk and started hitting us and destroying the bikes," the complainant had told the police. The complainant also said the entire incident was recorded on videos, photos, etc. The accused tried to hit my friends, and when I tried to stop them, they hit me with an iron baseball bat on my head."

"I survived because of the helmet. After this, they broke my bike and trashed it fully when they saw a lot of people gathering. All of them set in their SUV and ran away and threatened men with dire consequences to my life," the complainant asserted.

"Somehow we secured our life from the accused. They all were drunk; two of them trashed us, and two others also came to their spot. We left the spot as they started destroying our expensive sports bike. They hit me with an iron baseball bat. I got a fracture in my hand.

Safety seminars adn counselling sessions organized by WR's Mumbai Central Division



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 22 : Western Railway's Mumbai Central Division organized a series of Safety Seminars and Counselling Sessions at various locations from 08th to 12th April 2025. The objective of these sessions was to enhance safety awareness among railway staff and to strengthen operational procedures.

According to press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, a series of safety seminars & counselling

sessions commenced from 8th April 2025 and was held across 6 locations of Mumbai Division viz Vasai Road, Mumbai Central Coaching Depot, Nandurbar, Surat, Valsad & Udhna. The seminar was basically targeted for the staff concerned with train operations & maintenance.

Mr Vineet Abhishek informed that the discussions for the seminar focused on a wide array of topics pertaining to engineering, electrical, Signal & Telecom, operating department etc.

The discussions were held on safe shunting operations, securing of stabled rolling stock, working of fire alarm system, procedures of LC closing, protection of work site, operation of OHE insulator, etc. A special session was also conducted by doctors from the Medical Department during these safety seminars. These sessions focused on precautionary health measures for conditions such as heat waves, safety tips for working in hot conditions,

importance of hydration, symptoms of heat exhaustion, and basic first aid. Additionally, Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) packets were distributed to staff to help them stay hydrated especially during the summer season.

This initiative highlights Western Railway's continued commitment to safety and reliability, by regularly educating and counselling its frontline staff on essential operational and health-related matters.

Centre aims to build socially responsible generation through road safety education: Gadkari

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) The Central government want to build a socially sensitive, aware generation, and for this, every student need to participate in spreading awareness and responsibility, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

He emphasised that the participation of the younger generation is crucial in creating a safer and cleaner India. "The Central government is making several efforts to reduce pollution and road mishaps in the capital. But

to tackle these problems effectively, children like you need to show social responsibility and awareness," Gadkari said while speaking at the launch of the road safety learning module 'Surakshit Safar' at Kendriya Vidyalaya 2 here.

"The future belongs to hydrogen. We should aim to become an energy-exporting country rather than an importer," he added.

"The younger generation's involvement is essential to building a safer and cleaner India," the Union Minister stressed, urging children to actively contribute to reducing

pollution and road accidents. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan also highlighted the importance of road safety, stating that the NCERT is working on a new curriculum and textbooks focused on road safety.

He said that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the Ministry of Education are increasing their efforts to spread awareness about road safety.

He added that the 30 crore students are the key to shaping a road-safe nation, and it's critical that they understand the fundamentals of road

safety. "Educational content on the topic will soon be prepared for students from Class 1 to Class 12," Pradhan said.

"As our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, believes, road safety is a crucial issue that needs to become a people's movement. We are working in line with his vision," he added.

SIAM Executive Director Prashant K. Banerjee, who also addressed the gathering, highlighted that road safety remains a major hurdle in India's development and called for a generational change to ensure lasting impact.

JD-U MLA claims Tejashwi Yadav is a big talker who criticises Nitish Kumar to become Bihar CM

Patna, April 22 (IANS) As Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, on Tuesday, targeted Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over the rising crime rate in the state, Gopal Mandal, a multiple-term JD-U MLA from Gopalpur in Bhagalpur district, said the RJD leader is a big talker who accuses the state government to become the Chief Minister of the state.

Taking to social media platform X on Monday, Yadav listed several recent criminal incidents from across Bihar, accusing the state government of failure to maintain law and order in the state.

JD-U MLA Mandal hit back at Tejashwi Yadav, saying: "Tejashwi is a big talker. He accuses the government just to become the Chief Minister. There's no flaw in the security system -- the police are doing their job."

On Monday, Tejashwi Yadav alleged that the law and order in Bihar is in shambles and claimed that the government's credibility has completely collapsed.

Taking a direct jibe at the state's political leadership, Yadav said, "Two useless Deputy Chief Ministers, Samrat

Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, are busy finding the castes of both the parties."

His comments come in the wake of Sunday night's incident in Laharpa village of Bhojpur where a minor dispute during a wedding turned violent, resulting in the murder of two individuals and leaving five others injured.

Referring to the state before 2005, Mandal added: "What was Bihar's condition before Nitish Kumar? People were fleeing Patna. IAS officers were dying by suicide. That was the jungle raj."

Amid the growing speculation around CM Nitish Kumar's son Nishant Kumar entering politics, Gopal Mandal confirmed: "Nishant's entry into politics is certain. If he doesn't step in, JD-U will collapse. No one else in the party has the stature to become CM."

Mandal compared Nishant Kumar's political debut to a cinematic hero's entrance.

"Just like in films -- first the shoes, then pyjamas, knees, watch, and sunglasses -- Nishant will enter in style. Even if he doesn't contest elections, he's the future leader."

Why job losers are insisting on publication of 'segregated' lists: CM Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata, April 22 (IANS) West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday afternoon questioned why teaching and non-teaching staff in the state-run schools, who lost jobs following a Supreme Court order, were now insisting on the publication of the lists segregating the "genuine" and "tainted" candidates.

She raised this question while speaking at an administrative review meeting at Midnapore in the West Midnapore district.

While she raised this question, candidates were protesting outside the WBSSC office at Salt Lake in Kolkata.

Why are you sitting amid this extreme heat? What purpose will the segregated lists of 'genuine' and 'tainted' candidates serve for you?" the Chief Minister questioned.

She also said: "It is for the state government and the court to consider who is 'genuine' and who is not." "What do you all have to do with the list? Why are you getting trapped in provocation? There is no requirement for the lists," the Chief Minister said.

Speaking on the

occasion, the Chief Minister said that some people in the state always "conspired" to ensure the termination of jobs by moving to court.

"They do not have any work, other than moving to the court and filing public interest litigations. We are providing jobs, and they are trying to terminate those jobs. There should always be a human face in politics," the Chief Minister said. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court upheld the order of the Calcutta High Court's division bench of Justice Debansu Basak and Justice Shabbar

Rashidi last year, cancelling WBSSC's entire panel for 2016 of 25,753 teaching and non-teaching jobs. The Apex Court also accepted the Calcutta High Court's observation that the entire panel had to be cancelled because of the state government and WBSSC's failure to segregate the "genuine" candidates from the "tainted" ones, who got jobs paying money. Thereafter, at a meeting of a delegation of "genuine" candidates with state Education Minister Bratya Basu, the state government assured the publication of the "segregated" list.

Pawan Khera condemns Pahalgam terror attack

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) : Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera strongly condemned the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, and called on the government to take immediate action.

In a video message shared on the social media platform X, Khera expressed his deep sorrow over the attack, stating that the entire nation was shocked by the heinous assault.

"The entire nation is stunned by this horrific attack on tourists in Jammu

and Kashmir. The Congress condemns this cowardly act of terrorism and extends its condolences to the families of the deceased," Khera said.He further added that the Congress party stands with the victims' families during this difficult time and wishes for a swift recovery for the injured.

Khera stressed the need for a collective national effort to tackle terrorism and called on the government to convene an all-party meeting to develop a unified strategy.

"We urge the

government to call an all-party meeting to devise a concrete strategy to combat terrorism. It is time to take a collective resolve to address this menace," he said.Describing the attack as one of the most cowardly in history, Khera highlighted the severity of the assault on tourists in the region."This is a very cowardly attack on tourists in Kashmir. There hasn't been such a large-scale attack on tourists in many years. Reports suggest that 27 to 28 tourists have been killed, and several others are injured.

Gaddar Telangana Film Awards to be presented on June 14

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, April 22 : The government said on Tuesday that the Gaddar Telangana Film Awards will be presented on June 14.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka told the curtain raiser ceremony here that the state government will promote both Telugu and Urdu films.

With the curtain raiser ceremony, the jury evaluation process has formally commenced for the awards instituted by the state government in the name of revolutionary poet and balladeer Gaddar, who passed away in 2023.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy last year announced that Nandi awards for excellence in Telugu cinema will be revived and renamed after Gaddar.

The awards have been revived after a gap of 14 years.

The state government said that the awards are its commitment to recognise and promote cinematic excellence and celebrate Telangana's vibrant cultural identity, and support the creative community.

State Cinematography



Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Telangana Film Development Corporation (TGFD) Chairman Dil Raju, veteran actress Jayasudha, who heads the jury, were present at the curtain raiser ceremony.

The official entries and nominations comprising 76 film submissions and 1,172 individual applications were ceremoniously handed over to the jury chairperson to Jayasudha.

This symbolic handover marks the beginning of the jury's intensive review and selection process to identify and honour the

most outstanding cinematic contributions from Telangana across a wide array of categories, including feature films, documentaries, technical excellence, and special performances.

Gaddar Telangana Film Awards (GTFA) aims to honour and celebrate the cinematic brilliance of Telugu filmmakers and artists over the past decade.

The event marks the first official state-level film awards since the formation of Telangana, putting an end to the long pause since the last Nandi Awards were

presented in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh in 2011.

In August last year, the state government had formed a committee under the leadership of acclaimed filmmaker B.Narsing Rao to frame the guidelines for the awards.

Last month, the government asked the Telangana Film Development Corporation to host the grand event.

Applications were invited for films certified by the Censor Board in 2024, across 11 dynamic categories, including Feature Films (Telugu and

Urdu), National Integration Films, Children's Films, Environmental, Heritage and Historical Films, Debut Directors, Comprehensive Entertainers, Animation, VFX, Documentaries, Short Films Best Performances and Technical Excellence.


A total of 76 film submissions and 1,172 individual nominations were received.

The government through an order dated April 11, constituted a 15-member jury, chaired by Jayasudha to ensure a fair and distinguished selection process.

The ceremony will also feature the conferring of special lifetime achievement awards to legends of Indian cinema.

The ceremony will also see the presentation of awards like NTR National Film Award, Paidi Jairaj Film Award, B.N. Reddy Film Award, Nagi Reddy and Chakrapani Film Award, Kantha Rao Film Award and Raghupathi Venkaiah Film Award.

The awards will felicitate one outstanding Telugu film per year certified from 2014 to 2023, paying homage to a decade of cinematic milestones.



SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRRailwayIndia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender No.2x25-OHE-RDM-KZJ-14 Date: 21.04.2025

For and on behalf of the President of the Union of India, Chief Electrical Engineer (Projects), Secunderabad invites (online) e-tender for the following works:
S.No.: 01 Tender No.: 2X25-OHE-RDM-KZJ-14 Description of Work: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning for OHE up gradation of existing 1x25KV system to 2x25KV AT feeding system with feeder and earthing works in Ramagundam (RDM)-Kazipet(KZJ) section of Secunderabad Division under South Central Railway. Total 92 RKM/276 T.K.M **Approx. Value (₹):** 1213677025.90/- **Earnest Money should be pay through online (₹):** 6218400.00/- **Cost of Tender form in (₹):** Nil **Completion period:** 18 Months (Eighteen Months) **Place of tender opening:** Secunderabad
Closing of Tender through e-tender (online): Time 15.00 Hrs Date 10.06.2025
Opening of Tender through e-tender (online): Time 15.30 Hrs Date 10.06.2025
For further tender conditions / details and for submission of Tenders, please visit our website www.irops.gov.in
Note: Any modification to the tender documents / corrigendum / addendum if required will be posted on the above website.

Chief Electrical Engineer/ Projects/Secunderabad

Tender Notice No.: 04-GS-SC-II-25-OT Dated 21.04.2025
On behalf of the President of India, CAO/C/PSR/SCR-ENGINEERING/ SOUTH CENTRAL RLY, Secunderabad invites Open Tenders for the following works through e-procurement up to 15.00 hours of 14.05.2025.
Tender No.: 04-GS-SC-II-25-OT Name of the work: Hyderabad Division : Gati Shakti- Reconstruction of existing MBNR station building and Platform no.1 in connection with Doubling of line between MBNR-DHNE **Advised Value (₹):** 79613394.17 **EMD (₹):** 548100.00
Dy. Chief Engineer, Gati Shakti, Hyderabad

E-Tender Notice No. 462/DRM/ W/GNT Dt 21.04.2025
The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below upto 15:30 hrs of 14.05.2025.
S.No.: 01 Tender ID: 2765 S DEN/DEN Section: North Description of work: GNT Division: PGDP - NDKD Section:-Provision of boundary wall along the track for a speed of 130 KMPH and above for 7.56 Km boundary length. (Phase -II) **Approx value in (₹):** 75371478/- **EMD (₹):** 526900/-
S.No.: 02 Tender ID: 2766 S DEN/DEN Section: North Description of work: GNT Division: GNT - NDKD Section:-Provision of boundary wall along the track for a speed of 130 KMPH and above for 9.84 Km boundary length (Phase -11). **Approx value in (₹):** 97737741/- **EMD (₹):** 638700/-
1. Last date for online submission of E-bids is upto 15.30 hrs of 14.05.2025. For detailed information logon to website www.irops.gov.in
2. Any further Communication/ Corrigendum shall be intimated through E-portal www.irops.gov.in.
Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Guntur

E-Tender Notice No. 463/DRM/ W/GNT Dt 22.04.2025
The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below upto 15:30 hrs of 15.05.2025.
S.No.: 01 Tender ID: 2767 S DEN/DEN Section: North Description of work: SW-1. Repairs to drainage system, pumping and desilting at RUBs under the jurisdiction of DEN/North/GNT for a period of 12 months. SW-2. Supply of Drinking water to Railway Staff Quarters, Stations of NDKD, MCLA, PDGL, VNUP, KDGL, MRGA, JNPD, BMMP, NRDP, RMNP, VLG, CTYL, SRMR, RYGA, TPPI KADM, TMLU & VJA, LCs, Track Machines and Goods sheds under DEN/North/GNT section for a period of 12 Months. **Approx value in (₹):** 12464170/- **EMD (₹):** 212300/-
1. Last date for online submission of E-bids is upto 15.30 hrs of 15.05.2025. For detailed information logon to website www.irops.gov.in
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Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Guntur

(Contd from page 1)

take all suitable measures.

"Anguished by the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. My thoughts are with the family members of the deceased. Those involved in this dastardly act of terror will not be spared, and we will come down heavily on the perpetrators with the harshest consequences.

Briefed PM Shri @narendramodi Ji about the incident and held a meeting with the concerned officials via video conferencing. Will shortly leave for Srinagar to hold an urgent security review meeting with all the agencies", Amit Shah had said in a post on X.

Lt Governor Sinha expressed shock at the incident. "I strongly condemn the cowardly

terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam. I assure the people that those behind this despicable attack will not go unpunished. Spoke to the DGP & Security officials. Army and J&K Police teams have rushed to the area and launched search operations", the LG said on X."I'm shocked beyond belief. This attack on our visitors is an abomination. The perpetrators of this attack are animals, inhuman & worthy of contempt. No words of condemnation are enough. I send my sympathies to the families of the deceased. I've spoken to my colleague @sakinaitoo & she has moved to the hospital to oversee arrangements for the injured. I'll be flying back to Srinagar immediately. #Pahalgam", Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in a post on X.PDP President and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti strongly condemned "the cowardly attack on tourists in Pahalgam".

"Such violence is unacceptable and must be denounced. Historically, Kashmir has welcomed tourists warmly, making this rare incident deeply concerning. A thorough investigation is needed to bring the perpetrators to justice and examine potential security lapses. Ensuring visitor safety is paramount, and steps must be taken to prevent future attacks.

Our thoughts are with the victims and their families," she posted on X.

This is the biggest terror attack on tourists since separatist violence started in the 1990s. The terror attack comes when a booming tourist season is presently going on in the Valley. All hotels in Srinagar city, and the tourist resorts of Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg are fully occupied.

An unprecedented number of tourists are expected in J&K this year and official projections forecast a number of around two crores tourists would visit the UT this year.

Women take top two positions in Civil Services Exam 2024

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has declared the results of the Civil Services Examination, 2024. A total of 1,009 candidates have been recommended for appointment across various services, based on their performance and in accordance with the number of vacancies and the rules governing the examination.

According to the UPSC, of the 1,009 successful candidates, 335 belong to the General category, 109 to EWS, 318 to OBC, 160 to SC, and 87 to ST.

The Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination was held on June 16, 2024. Out of 9,92,599 applicants, 5,83,213 candidates appeared. Of these, 14,627 qualified for the Main (Written) Examination held in September 2024. Subsequently, 2,845 candidates were shortlisted for the Personality Test.

The final list is topped by Shakti Dubey, who secured the first rank with Political Science & International Relations as her optional subject. She holds a B.Sc. in Biochemistry from the University of Allahabad.

Harshita Goyal secured the second rank. A B.Com graduate from MS University of Baroda, she too had Political Science & International Relations as her optional subject.

Dongre Archit Parag stood third. He holds a B.Tech in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from VIT, Vellore, and opted for Philosophy as his optional subject. The top five candidates include three women and two men, and the top 25 comprise 11 women and 14 men. Their academic backgrounds span Engineering, Humanities, Science, Commerce, Medical Science, and Architecture, with degrees from premier institutions such as IITs, NITs, VIT, JNU, University of Delhi, and University of Allahabad. Optional subjects chosen by the top 25 include Anthropology, Commerce & Accountancy, Geography, Mathematics, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science & International Relations, Public Administration, Sociology, and Tamil Literature.

ED notice to Mahesh Babu in money laundering case linked to realty firms

Hyderabad, April 22 (IANS) : The Enforcement Directorate has summoned top Tollywood actor Mahesh Babu in a money laundering case linked to realty firms Surana Group and Sai Surya Developers.

The central agency has asked the actor to appear for an inquiry on April 27.

Mahesh Babu is the brand ambassador for the two firms and reportedly received over Rs 11 crore for appearing in their advertisements.

While Surana Group reportedly paid Rs 5.5 crore to the actor, he received Rs 5.9 crore from Sai Surya Developers for promotional activities.The ED is likely to investigate the remuneration paid to Mahesh Babu by the two firms.The ED notice to Mahesh Babu came less than a week after it conducted searches at the premises of the realty firms in Hyderabad.

The agency said that unaccounted cash transactions worth Rs 100 crore were unearthed and

Rs 74.5 lakh cash seized during searches in connection with an ongoing investigation against Sai Surya Developers and others.

The central agency conducted searches at four premises in Hyderabad and Secunderabad on April 17 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.The ED stated that it initiated investigation based on several FIRs registered by Telengana Police against Narendra Surana, Director of Bhagyanagar Properties Ltd., K. Sathish Chandra Gupta, Proprietor of Sai Surya Developers and others under various sections of IPC for defrauding and cheating gullible investors of their hard earned money in the name of advance for sale of plots involving huge amounts.

The ED investigation revealed that the accused orchestrated fraudulent schemes involving unauthorised land layouts,

selling the same plots to different customers, accepting payments without proper agreements, and false assurances of plot registrations.

"Their actions caused financial losses to numerous investors. By cheating the general public with predetermined and dishonest intention, they generated proceeds of crime which were diverted and laundered for wrongful gain to themselves and related entities," the agency said.

The ED searches resulted in the seizure of incriminating documents evidencing details of amounts collected by fraudulent means from various investors and unaccounted cash transactions worth around Rs 100 crore.

Unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 74.50 lakh was seized from the premises of Narendra Surana and Surana Group of companies, said the ED, adding that further investigation is in progress.

One Nation, One Election should be implemented soon: OP Rajbhar

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) President OP Rajbhar on Tuesday reiterated his strong support for the ‘One Nation, One Election’ bill, urging its swift implementation to streamline the country’s electoral process.

Speaking to IANS, OP Rajbhar said: "Since independence, elections were originally held simultaneously across the country. Over time, due to changing circumstances, that pattern was disrupted. Today, there is an urgent need for ‘One Nation, One Election,’ and we fully support this

initiative. We want it to be implemented as soon as possible.”His remarks come on the same day as Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) Chairman PP Chaudhary announced that the committee’s nationwide consultations on the ‘One Nation, One Election’ proposal will begin from May 17, starting in Maharashtra. The visits will be followed by consultations in Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh, and Punjab.

Rajbhar further reacted to the deteriorating law and order situation in West Bengal over the Waqf (Amendment) Act, particularly in the context of alleged violence

against Hindus.

“It is the responsibility of the Chief Minister to maintain law and order in their state. She herself is a woman - if she is unable to control the situation, she should ask the Centre for help. If Banerjee fails to do so, then there is certainly a case for imposing President’s Rule. When law and order break down to this extent, Constitutional measures become necessary,” he stated.The minister further responded to recent allegations by Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav, who claimed that Uttar Pradesh under BJP rule had become the leading state in crimes against Dalits.

Dismissing the charges, Rajbhar said: “Akhilesh Yadav is spreading lies. During their tenure, the state was known for goonda raj. From police to lekhpal to gram sevak recruitment, every department was filled with bias. He talks about justice, yet his vote bank of 18 per cent Muslims received nothing.”

On Monday, Yadav had issued a statement alleging that BJP-ruled states such as Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, and Maharashtra account for the highest number of crimes against Dalits, especially women.

“The BJP government

is not just attacking reservation and personal freedoms, it is shielding power-protected strongmen who are now taking lives,” the SP chief said.

Referring to a recent incident, Yadav added, “The murder of a Dalit youth in Prayagraj for refusing to harvest wheat is horrifying and shows how deep-rooted caste oppression continues to be.”

He further alleged that the BJP is a party driven by authoritarian values and feudal thinking, where humiliation and violence against Dalits, backward classes, minorities, women, and tribals are embedded in its system.

E - Tender Notice No.GNT/SG/ 36/324, Dated:16.04.2025

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below up to 12:00 hrs of 09.05.2025.

ID No.: 324 Name of the work: Carrying out repairs to Signal & Telecom assets over DSTE/GNT section (KCC-GNT-NDPU & RAL-GNT-REM sections) for a period of 12 months over Guntur Division. **Advised Tender Value (₹):** 96,88,890.40 **E.M.D/Bid-security (₹):** 1,93,800/- **Cost of Tender Document (₹):** NIL

1. Last date for online submission of E-bids is **09.05.2025 up to 12:00 hrs.** For detailed information logon to our website at www.irops.gov.in.

2. Any further communication/ corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal www.irops.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/Guntur

E - Tender Notice No.GNT/SG/ 36/325, Dated: 17.04.2025

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below up to 12:00 hrs of 12.05.2025.

ID No.: 325 Name of the work: Carrying out repairs to Signal & Telecom assets over ADSTE/GNT section (REM(ex)-PGDP, PGRN-NLPI, NDKD-MCLA & VNUP-JNPD sections) for a period of 12 months over Guntur Division. **Advised Tender Value (₹):** 90,77,480.85 **E.M.D/Bid-security (₹):** 1,81,600/- **Cost of Tender Document (₹):** NIL

1. Last date for online submission of E-bids is **12.05.2025 up to 12:00 hrs.** For detailed information logon to our website at www.irops.gov.in.

2. Any further communication/ corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal www.irops.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/Guntur

E-Tender Notice No. 463/DRM/ W/GNT Dt 22.04.2025

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below upto 15:30 hrs of 15.05.2025.

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E-Tender Notice No. 463/DRM/ W/GNT Dt 22.04.2025

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below upto 15:30 hrs of 15.05.2025.

S.No.: 01 Tender ID: 2767 S DEN/DEN Section: North Description of work: SW-1. Repairs to drainage system, pumping and desilting at RUBs under the jurisdiction of DEN/North/GNT for a period of 12 months. SW-2. Supply of Drinking water to Railway Staff Quarters, Stations of NDKD, MCLA, PDGL, VNUP, KDGL, MRGA, JNPD, BMMP, NRDP, RMNP, VLG, CTYL, SRMR, RYGA, TPPI KADM, TMLU & VJA, LCs, Track Machines and Goods sheds under DEN/North/GNT section for a period of 12 Months. **Approx value in (₹):** 12464170/- **EMD (₹):** 212300/-
1. Last date for online submission of E-bids is upto 15.30 hrs of 15.05.2025. For detailed information logon to website www.irops.gov.in
2. Any further Communication/ Corrig

STANDARD POST

Can South Asia afford another wave of militancy in Bangladesh?

After the mass-uprising in Bangladesh and the fall of the Sheikh Hasina led government, a deeply troubling trend has emerged in Bangladesh that threatens not only its internal stability but also the fragile peace of the broader South Asian region. The sudden and controversial release of over 300 individuals accused or convicted in militancy-related cases is not a matter of domestic politics alone — it is a regional security crisis in the making.

At the heart of this crisis is the post-August 5, 2024 reality of Bangladesh, where the military-backed government led by Muhammad Yunus has taken control amid controversy, suspicion, and fear. While Yunus' rise was celebrated by some as a victory of civil society and global recognition, his government's recent actions — or rather inactions — paint a far more complicated and disturbing picture.

Since the coup, courts and political actors in Dhaka have quietly overseen the release of individuals affiliated with some of the deadliest militant outfits in South Asia — including Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HuJI), Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), and Hizb-ut-Tahrir. These groups have long been blacklisted not only by the Bangladeshi state but also by international counterterrorism frameworks.

Among those released are individuals convicted of murders, terror financing, bombings, and direct affiliations with transnational jihadist organisations. Some were involved in heinous crimes such as the 2016 Holey Artisan Bakery attack, which left 22 people dead, including foreign nationals. Others plotted assassinations of secular bloggers, academics, and activists in a period between 2013 to 2016 saw Bangladesh battling a wave of extremist violence.

The current regime claims that many of these cases were politically motivated by the previous Awami League government. While legal redress is every citizen's right, the sheer number, speed, and opacity surrounding these bail decisions have raised alarms among regional intelligence circles.

India, which shares a 4,096 km border with Bangladesh, cannot afford to take this lightly. Over the past decade, New Delhi has built a strong counter-terrorism partnership with Dhaka, leading to successful operations like the crackdown on JMB cells in West Bengal and Assam, the 2014 Burdwan blast probe, and real-time intelligence sharing to dismantle cross-border modules. The release of hundreds of ideologically-committed militants — many of whom retain digital access, sleeper network connections, and sympathisers — risks reviving dormant extremist cells not just in Bangladesh but also within India's vulnerable northeast. Already propaganda materials linked to groups like Hizb-ut-Tahrir and Al-Qaeda-centric Jamaatul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya (JAFHS) are re-emerging on encrypted platforms.

Indian states like West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura, which have historically been soft targets due to demographic complexity and porous terrain, could once again find themselves in the crosshairs.

The issue is not limited to India and Bangladesh alone. South Asia, as a region, is already fragile — torn by sectarian conflicts, refugee crises, climate displacement, and the growing shadow of geopolitical rivalries. The re-emergence of jihadi militancy in Bangladesh, a country once hailed for dismantling its extremist networks post-2016, could undermine regional cooperation frameworks such as BIMSTEC.

Worse still, it provides a fertile ground for global jihadist organizations like Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and even ISIS-inspired groups to find new recruits and sanctuaries. These actors are adept at exploiting political vacuums, social disillusionment, and government missteps.

A militant resurgence in Bangladesh would thus not remain confined within its borders — it could spill over into Myanmar's Rakhine state, India's northeast, and even further west towards Afghanistan and Pakistan, as part of the broader jihadist movement.

The current government and its supporters argue that many of these released individuals have repented. Some clerics and community leaders, including individuals like Mufti Jasim Uddin Rahmani, now claim to denounce violence. But deradicalization is not a speech — it's a process, often years long, requiring structured psychological support, education, and active monitoring.

Releasing dozens of individuals within weeks without proper vetting, rehabilitation, or public transparency suggests not reform, but recklessness. Worse, it reeks of political appeasement, especially if the current regime seeks to court Islamist groups as a counterbalance to the secular forces that once championed the anti-militancy stance.

What's equally alarming is the growing narrative from certain government figures that the entire militancy crisis was a fabrication of the previous regime. This is not only historically false — it is a slap in the face of victims, survivors, and the countless security personnel who laid down their lives to preserve the nation's peace.

DBS works miracle for young-onset patient of Parkinson's Disease

(Standard Post Bureau)

Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects the body movement. It has a gradual progression and usually starts with no symptoms or barely noticeable ones in either hand. Usually tremor in hands may be enough to justify the prevalence of Parkinson's but it can also be accompanied by stiffness or slowing down or reactive movements.

During the early stages, the face may show little or no expression, or arms may not swing when you walk, speech may become soft or slurred and the symptoms gets worse as the disease progresses. In such situations it is important to consult an experienced Neurosurgeon immediately.

How to identify the symptoms?

Depending upon the person the signs and symptoms may vary. Early signs may be mild and may go unnoticed. Symptoms often begin on one side of the body and usually remain worse on that side, even after symptoms begin to affect both sides.

Parkinson's signs and symptoms may include a tremor or shaking of a limb, slowed body movement, muscle stiffness restricting the range of motion, impaired posture and balance, loss of involuntary movements, speech or writing issues.

What causes PD?

In Parkinson's disease, certain nerve cells (neurons) in the brain gradually break down or die. Many of the symptoms are due to a loss of neurons that produce a chemical messenger in your brain called dopamine.

When dopamine levels decrease, it causes abnormal brain activity, leading to signs of Parkinson's disease.

The cause of Parkinson's disease is unknown, but several factors appear to play a role, including genetics, and environmental triggers like exposure to certain toxins.



Dr Rohit Bansil, Associate Director - Neuro Surgery & Neuro Spine, BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital, New Delhi

How to diagnose? It is best to get it tested from an experienced Neurosurgeon based on the medical history, physical examination and review of the sign and symptoms.	for diagnosing Parkinson's disease. Sometimes it takes time to diagnose Parkinson's disease. Doctors may recommend regular follow-up appointments with Neurosurgeons trained in movement disorders to evaluate your condition and symptoms over time and diagnose Parkinson's disease.
Imaging tests — such as MRI, ultrasound of the brain, SPECT and PET scans — may also be used to help rule out other disorders. Imaging tests aren't particularly helpful	How to treat it? In deep brain

stimulation (DBS), surgeons implant electrodes into a specific part of your brain. The electrodes are connected to a generator implanted in your chest near your collarbone that sends electrical pulses to your brain and may reduce your Parkinson's disease symptoms.

Deep brain stimulation is most often offered to people with advanced Parkinson's disease who have unstable medication responses. DBS can stabilize medication fluctuations, reduce or halt involuntary movements (dyskinesias), reduce tremor, reduce rigidity, and improve slowing of movement. DBS is effective in controlling erratic and fluctuating responses to medication for controlling dyskinesias that don't improve with medication adjustments.

However, DBS isn't helpful for problems that don't respond to medication therapy apart from tremor. A tremor may be controlled by DBS even if the tremor isn't very responsive to medication.

Why DBS is preferred over medications?

Medications are provided for temporary effect to subside the symptoms of PD. When a person is able to enjoy the effect of the medicine, it is known as on-phase and when it subside its known as off-phase. Over a period of time the effect of the medicines on the body tends to stop and hence the frequency of medicine intake increases. If a patient is prescribed to take the medicine thrice a day, then due to the loss of effect, they might need it more than 8 times a day. This affects their quality of life as they tend to get on and off that many times.

What DBS does is that it provides a constant effect to the patient for 24 hours.

It avoids dyskinesia that is it prevents the halting of involuntary movements. Moreover DBS doesn't allow tremor fluctuations as in case of medicines. Medicines tend to end the effect

A Place for Inspired Learning

(Standard Post Bureau)

As a first-year student at MS Engineering College in Bengaluru, I quickly realized that this campus is unlike any other. It's not just the academic rigor that makes this place special; it's the environment. From the moment I stepped onto the campus, I felt a sense of calm and inspiration that encouraged me to focus and think deeply—much like Shantiniketan, the university founded by Rabindranath Tagore. The lush greenery, the wide open spaces, and the fresh



air here are all part of what makes MS Engineering College a truly unique place to study. On my first morning, the sun was just rising, casting a golden glow over the campus. I walked through paths lined with tall trees and blooming flowers, listening to the sounds of birds singing in the distance.

The peaceful atmosphere was unlike any college campus I'd seen before. Most campuses I had visited were filled with concrete buildings and noise, but here, nature was seamlessly integrated into every corner. The green lawns, the well-kept gardens, and the tranquil walkways all made it clear that this place was designed to foster creativity and learning. I felt like I was walking through a living space, where education and nature

coexisted in perfect harmony, much like the ideals of Shantiniketan.

One of the things I love most about MS Engineering College is how much the campus values sustainability. From rainwater harvesting to solar panels, the college is dedicated to preserving the environment, and this commitment to eco-friendliness is reflected in the design of the campus itself.

It's clear that every detail, from the placement of the trees to the layout of the buildings, is meant to encourage reflection and peaceful learning. The environment here is not just a backdrop; it actively supports the process of education.

One particular memory were the lecture was about renewable energy, and I found myself completely



engaged. The cool breeze, the bright blue sky above, and the sounds of nature around me helped me focus in a way that I hadn't experienced in a traditional classroom. It was as if the natural world was amplifying the ideas we were learning about, making the subject feel even more relevant and inspiring. After class, I often find myself sitting in the campus garden, studying or simply reflecting.

The garden is a favorite spot for many students, and it's easy to see why. Under the shade of a large tree, I can immerse myself in my books, feeling the gentle rustle of leaves in the breeze.

The peacefulness of the place clears my mind and helps me concentrate. It's a perfect environment for studying, and I've come to appreciate how nature

can enhance my focus and creativity. As the semester has progressed, I've come to realize how much MS Engineering College reminds me of Shantiniketan, the place where Tagore believed education should be deeply connected to the natural world.

Here, I don't just feel like I'm learning from textbooks—I feel like I'm learning from the environment itself.

he open spaces, the green patches, and the sustainable design all make this campus a place where I can grow, not just as a student, but as a person. MS Engineering College has taught me that true learning happens when we are in tune with the world around us, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to study in such a peaceful, inspiring place.

1.42 lakh girl students received self-defense training in Tripura: CM Saha

Agartala, April 22 (IANS) Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Tuesday said that the foremost aim of the BJP government is to provide quality and proper education to the students and the infrastructure of around 123 schools would be developed along with the filling up of the vacancies of teaching and non-teaching staff.

After inaugurating the new building of Amtali Higher Secondary School, followed by the virtual inauguration of the new buildings of five other Higher Secondary Schools in West Tripura at a total cost of Rs 27.38 crore, the Chief Minister said that the state government has set up vending machines for sanitary napkins for girl students in 455 schools, spending over Rs 1.31 crores.

The government under the Rani Laxmibai Self Defence Training Program has provided self-defence training to 1.42 lakh girl students of 2,058 schools, said Saha, who also holds both school and higher education portfolios.

Referring to Tuesday's 'Earth Day', he said that Earth is the one and only planet where people live, and "to secure our Earth, we must put stress on flora and fauna." "We must be aware of the history of trees. PM Modi has always been appealing to everyone to protect nature, and now we understand the value of the environment. If our ecological balance is not maintained, then we will face many problems," he said. The Chief Minister said that to protect and nurture nature, the Union Ministry of Education has launched a QR code for flora, so that people and students can scan it from April 22 to 30 and be aware of trees.

"We must use technology. The way we used to provide teaching to students won't be helpful anymore, we must update. For our state government, education is the most prioritised sector. Without education, development and progress are not possible. Our government and education department are working for the overall development of education or else no country or state can progress," Saha observed.

He said that after 74 years since Independence, the National Education Policy 2020 was implemented. The government has been giving stress and opening digital education, including smart classes, the Chief Minister said, adding that the "Vande Bharat" online channel was started and 'Vidya Jyoti' Schools have been set up. He said that the main aim of the present BJP government is to implement various schemes and implement them properly and to provide quality and proper education to all students.

Saha announced that in the 2025–26 financial year, 30 more schools would be set up and said that the infrastructure of 67 schools under secondary education and 56 schools under elementary education would be developed. "We have taken the decision to fill up teaching and non-teaching staff," he added.

Airbus A330 catches fire at airport in US

Washington, April 22 (UNI) : A Delta Air Lines Airbus A330 caught fire at Orlando International Airport in the United States, over 200 people were evacuated, the Fox35 broadcaster reported on Monday, citing the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA). According to the FAA's data, the Airbus A330 was preparing to fly from Orlando to Atlanta with 282 passengers, 10 flight attendants and two pilots on board. People saw flames in the tailpipe of one of the engines as soon as the airplane started moving. After the evacuation, all the passengers were taken back to the terminal, Fox35 reported. The broadcaster also published a video of the incident. The passengers were escaping the aircraft via the emergency slides when fire rescue teams arrived and started extinguishing the fire. There have been no reports of anyone injured in the incident, Fox35 reported. The reasons for the incident have not been announced. Maintenance teams are trying to find the cause of the fire, Fox35 reported, citing Delta Air Lines.

Hamas expresses condolences over death of Pope Francis

Moscow, April 22 (UNI) : Palestinian movement Hamas expressed deep condolences over the death of Pope Francis. "The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) extends its deepest condolences and sincere sympathy to the global Catholic Church and to all Christians on the passing of Pope Francis, the Pope of the Vatican, who passed away after a life devoted to upholding human and religious values," Hamas said in a statement on Monday. The movement noted that Pope Francis played a prominent role in promoting the values ??of interfaith dialogue and called for mutual understanding and peace between peoples, rejecting hatred and racism. "He consistently opposed aggression and warfare, and was a prominent religious voice in denouncing war crimes and acts of genocide, including those committed against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip," the statement added. On Monday, the Holy See announced that Pope Francis died on Easter Monday at the age of 88 at his residence in the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta. Cardinal Kevin Joseph Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family, and Life, said that Pope Francis died at 5:35 GMT. The death was caused by a stroke and irreversible heart failure, Director of the Directorate of Health and Hygiene of the Vatican City State Andrea Arcangeli said. On March 23, Pope Francis was discharged from the hospital after five weeks of treatment for pneumonia. He was prescribed long-term therapy and two months of rest.

SKorea successfully launches 4th spy satellite into Orbit : Defense Ministry

Seoul, April 22 (UNI) : South Korea has successfully launched the fourth of its five military reconnaissance satellites from a US space base in Florida, the country's defense ministry said on Tuesday. The satellite was launched Monday from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The rocket placed the satellite into orbit 15 minutes after liftoff. The satellite later established contact with a ground station. "The successful launch of the fourth military reconnaissance satellite has further strengthened our armed forces' independent surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities," the ministry said in a statement. With the previous successful launches of three satellites, the South Korean military can now operate them as a group significantly reducing reconnaissance revisit time, the ministry added. "This enables more precise and timely detection of potential provocations by North Korea," the statement said. In December 2023, South Korea launched its first reconnaissance satellite, equipped with electro-optical and infrared sensors for high-resolution imagery. South Korea plans to launch its fifth satellite later this year. Once all five are operational, the country is expected to monitor North Korean territory every two hours.

Kremlin says no concrete plans on discussing Ukraine's ceasefire proposal

Moscow, April 22 (UNI) : There are no specific plans for talks between Russia and Ukraine following Kiev's recent proposal to halt strikes by both sides against civilian infrastructure, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday. He said that Russian President Vladimir Putin has confirmed his readiness to discuss the issue. But there were no specific details. Peskov pointed to nuances regarding the proposal, such as when civilian infrastructure could become a military target, citing the example of militants using a civilian facility for a meeting. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky proposed on Sunday to halt any strikes using long-range drones and missiles on civilian infrastructure for at least 30 days. However, Putin said Monday that Ukraine's proposal requires scrutiny, and the issue could potentially be discussed through bilateral dialogue.

Israeli army kills 25 Palestinians in Gaza attacks: Civil Defence

Gaza, April 22 (UNI) : At least 25 Palestinians were killed in a wave of Israeli attacks targeting several areas across the Gaza Strip overnight, the territory's Civil Defence said on Tuesday. Civil Defence spokesman Mahmoud Basal described it as "a particularly difficult night" for Gaza residents, citing a combination of air raids, artillery shelling, and gunfire from military helicopters. Nine people were killed in an Israeli airstrike targeting a residential building in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip. Two others were killed in a drone strike on Salah al-Din Street, northeast of Rafah, located in the far south of the enclave. In northern Gaza, nine were killed in two separate airstrikes on the Jabalia refugee camp. An additional five, including children, died when the Bakr family home was hit in the Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City. Eyewitnesses reported

continued Israeli bombardment across residential areas in Rafah, Khan Younis, and eastern Gaza. Strikes also targeted civil defence equipment, including machinery used in body recovery operations. The Jabalia municipality said that approximately 10 pieces of equipment, vehicles, and water tankers provided by international donors were destroyed during the attacks. It condemned the targeting of the vehicles, saying the destruction aimed to hinder humanitarian efforts and constituted a violation of international laws and conventions. The Israeli military has not yet commented on the incidents. According to Gaza-based health authorities on Tuesday, a total of 1,890 Palestinians have been killed since Israel resumed its offensive on March 18, bringing the total number of fatalities since the conflict began in October 2023 to 51,266, with 116,991 others wounded.

NASA, SpaceX launch resupply mission to space station



Los Angeles, April 22 (UNI) : NASA and SpaceX launched a new commercial resupply services mission to the International Space Station (ISS) on Monday. A SpaceX Dragon spacecraft lifted off at 4:15

Time. This mission will deliver a wide range of scientific research and technology demonstrations to the orbiting laboratory. Aboard the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft are experiments focused on vision-based navigation, spacecraft air quality, materials for drug and product manufacturing, and advancing plant growth with less reliance on photosynthesis, according to NASA. The launch marks NASA's 32nd commercial resupply mission carried out in partnership with SpaceX. Sydney, April 22 (UNI) : Urban heat islands, where city temperatures are higher than surrounding rural areas, are double-edged swords for residents, a new study said on Tuesday. Urban heat islands are often linked to increased heat-related deaths. However, they may also help reduce cold-related deaths, particularly in colder cities, according to the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), which is part of the research.

Israeli airstrike kills militant in Lebanon: Army

Jerusalem, April 22 (UNI) : Israel's military said on Tuesday it carried out an airstrike in Lebanon, killing a militant affiliated with Jamaa Islamiya, a group allied with Hamas and Hezbollah. In a statement, the military identified the target as Hussein Izzat Mohammad Atwi, who it said was involved in "planning and advancing terrorist activity from Lebanon into Israeli territory," and was working to attack Israeli forces along the northern border. According to the Israeli military, Atwi also took part in launching rockets, coordinating militant infrastructure, attempting cross-border infiltrations, and planning attacks against Israelis abroad. Lebanon's Public Health Emergency Operations Center said in a separate statement that the Israeli strike targeted a

vehicle in the town of Baawerta, in the Aley district, and resulted in one fatality, according to the state-run National News Agency. Israel has carried out dozens of strikes in Lebanon since a ceasefire with Hezbollah was agreed in November 2024, ending a 14-month cross-border fighting. The fighting was triggered by Israel's onslaught on Gaza following Hamas' surprise attack against Israel in October 2023. Researchers from China's Nanjing University analysed data from over 3,000 cities worldwide and found that in 2018, the decrease in cold-related deaths due to urban heat islands was 4.4 times greater than the rise in heat-related fatalities, said the study published in Nature Climate Change. In high-latitude cities like Moscow, the benefits were even more pronounced, which saw a reduction in cold-related deaths that was 11.5 times greater than those associated with heat, the study shows. The study also examined common heat mitigation strategies, such as increasing greenery and reflective surfaces. While these can reduce summer heat, they may also unintentionally increase winter mortality if applied without considering seasonal impacts, researchers said. Researchers stress the need for climate strategies that are tailored by region and season.

Indonesia's Semeru volcano erupts 4 times, ash columns reaches 800 meters

Jakarta, April 22 (UNI) : Semeru volcano in Indonesia's East Java province erupted four times on Tuesday, spewing gray ash up to 800 meters above its summit, according to the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG). "The initial eruption occurred at 5:55 a.m. local time, with an ash column reaching 800 meters to the north, followed by a second eruption at 6:30 a.m., with a 700-meter ash column headed northeast for 120 seconds," said Yadi Yuliandi, an officer at the Semeru Volcano Observation Post. The third explosion at 8:41 a.m. lasted 113 seconds, while the fourth, at 12:08 p.m., lasted 135 seconds and ejected ash up to 800 meters high. The

3,676-meter-high volcano, located on the boundary of Lumajang and Malang regencies, is now at the second level of danger. The PVMBG has recommended that the public avoid any operations within a 3 km and 8 km radius to the southeast of the summit, as well as avoid river courses that originate from Semeru's peak. Rather than viewing urban heat islands solely as a hazard, cities could leverage their warming effects during colder months, without compromising efforts to stay cool in the summer, said the study.

US stocks sink as Trump renews criticism of Powell

New York, Apr 22 (UNI) U.S. stocks stumbled Monday as renewed attacks by U.S. President Donald Trump on Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell added to concerns about the central bank's independence. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 971.82 points, or 2.48 percent, to 38,170.41. The S&P 500 sank 124.50 points, or 2.36 percent, to 5,158.2. The Nasdaq Composite Index shed 415.55 points, or 2.55 percent, to 15,870.9. All of the 11 primary S&P 500 sectors ended in red, with consumer discretionary and technology leading the laggards by going down 2.86 percent and 2.72 percent, respectively. Consumer staples posted the weakest decline, down 1.34 percent. The tech-heavy "Magnificent Seven" bore the brunt of the sell-off. Tesla plunged 5.75 percent, while Nvidia dropped 4.51 percent. Amazon, AMD, and Meta Platforms each shed around 3 percent, and Caterpillar slid 2.77 percent amid broader weakness in industrials. The pullback came after Trump Monday posted on Truth Social, calling Powell "Mr. Too Late, a major loser" and urging the Fed to cut interest rates immediately, warning of a looming economic slowdown. He also hinted again at the idea of Powell's "termination" - a notion White House economic advisor Kevin Hassett recently said was under review by Trump's team. "One of the things that is becoming very clear is the underlying tension between the Fed

and the administration," said Michael Green, chief strategist of Simplify Asset Management. "We are effectively in a replay of COVID. The uncertainty has meaningfully disrupted trade ... I think most people anticipate that there will be some form of stimulus that ultimately emerges to offset the effects of the tariff." Market participants were also discouraged by stalled trade talks, leaving investors with few catalysts to reverse last week's volatility.

Hamas delegation in Cairo for new Gaza truce plan, shows initial approval: Sources

Cairo/Gaza, April 22 (UNI) : A Hamas delegation led by its chief Khalil al-Hayya has arrived in Cairo to discuss a new Egyptian proposal for a long-term ceasefire with Israel in the Gaza Strip, an Egyptian source told Xinhua on Tuesday. "The Egyptian plan calls for a five- to seven-year truce, a full exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees, the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza, and a complete Israeli withdrawal from the enclave," the source said on condition of anonymity. The visit of Hamas' delegation followed the departure of an Israeli delegation that concluded talks in Cairo on Monday regarding the same proposal prepared by Egypt in coordination with Qatar. "While Israel continues to examine the proposal, Hamas has shown initial approval," the Egyptian source added. The Israeli side submitted conditions related to the categories of hostages to be released, prioritizing individuals with U.S. citizenship. The Israeli delegation left Cairo with the proposal to review it internally, while Hamas arrived to hold follow-up discussions with Egyptian mediators, according to the source. The talks have also addressed the contentious issue of disarmament, the

source said without elaborating. Meanwhile, a source from Gaza confirmed to Xinhua regarding the visit. It said Israel is seeking an agreement that would involve a "temporary cessation of military operations" in Gaza and the entry of humanitarian aid, in exchange for the release of several Israeli detainees held by Hamas. In response, Hamas has put forward a counterproposal calling for the "release of all Israeli detainees in exchange for a complete cessation of hostilities and a full end to the war in the Gaza Strip," according to the source. The position has reportedly been rejected by Israel, according to the Egyptian source. Israel ended a two-month ceasefire with Hamas in the Gaza Strip on March 18 and resumed deadly air and ground operations, amid a U.S.-backed plan to displace Gazans to neighboring countries, including Egypt and Jordan, a proposal both countries have strongly rejected. According to Gaza-based health authorities on Tuesday, a total of 1,890 Palestinians have been killed since Israel resumed its offensive on March 18, bringing the total number of fatalities since the conflict began in October 2023 to 51,266, with 116,991 others wounded.

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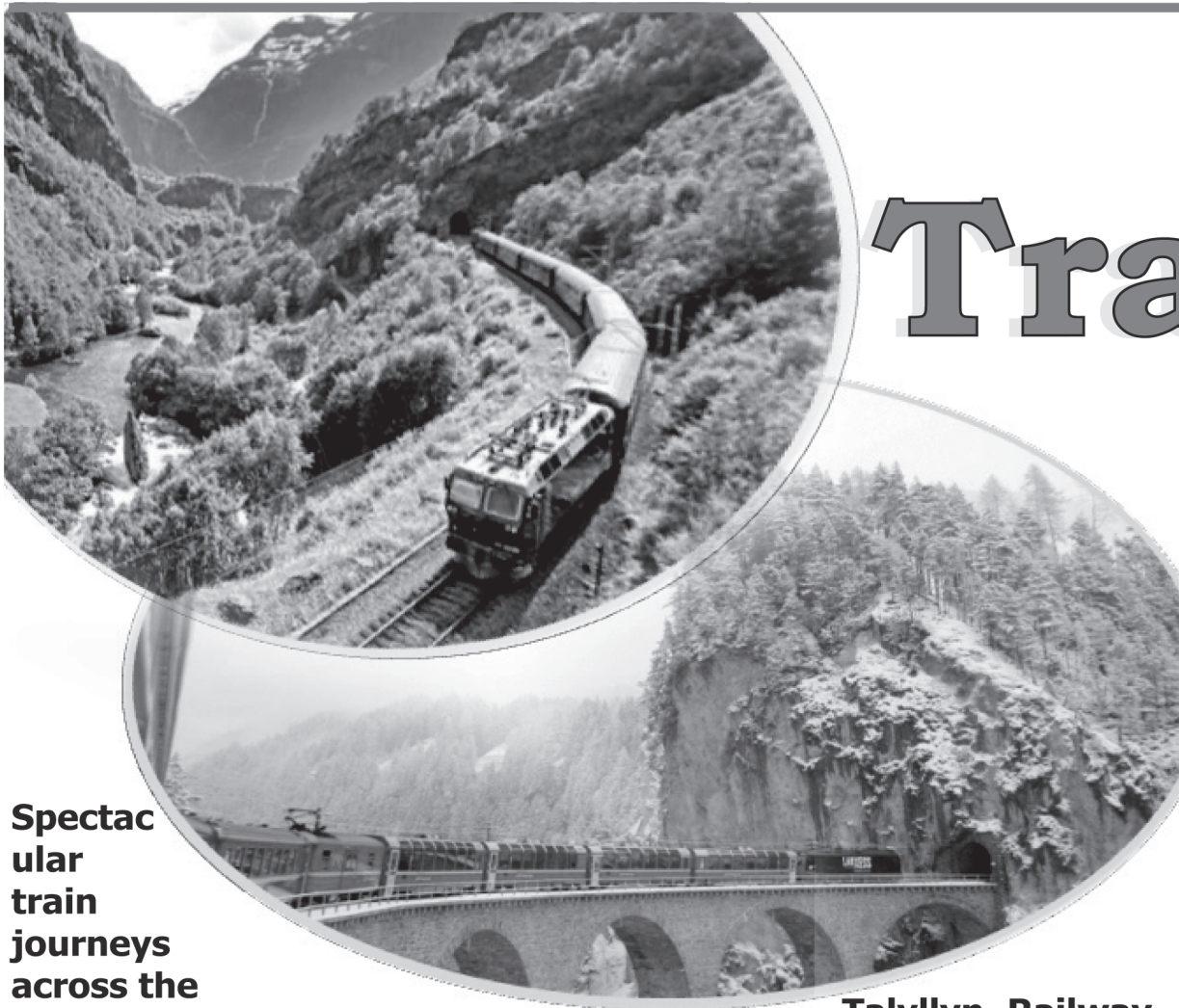
Israeli PM vows "forceful response" to Houthi attacks

Jerusalem, April 22 (UNI) : Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Israel would deliver a "forceful response" to repeated attacks by Yemen's Houthi forces. Netanyahu made the threat during a public speech in Tel Aviv, which he said addressed "the Houthis and all those who wish us harm," vowing that "any attack against Israel will not go unanswered. There will be a forceful response." The prime minister did not specify in what form the response would be made, but said Israel would not tolerate continued attacks on its territory. He also noted that the Houthis in Yemen, "who keep firing at Israel," have already taken "heavy blows from Israel and American allies." Yemen-based Houthi forces have launched dozens of long-range missiles and drones toward Israel and targeted Israeli-linked shipping in the Red Sea since the start of the Gaza war in October 2023, to show solidarity with Palestinians under Israeli bombardment. Both the Israeli military and a U.S.-led naval coalition stationed in the Red Sea have responded with several deadly airstrikes in Yemen, targeting Houthi-controlled areas and infrastructure to deter the group.

Death toll of suspected herders attacks in Nigeria rises to 72

Abuja, April 22 (UNI) : The death toll of recent attacks by suspected armed herders in Nigeria's central state of Benue has risen to 72, local authorities said on Monday. The deadly attacks happened in communities in the Ukum local government area of the state between Thursday and Friday night. Local authorities said on Saturday that at least 56 people were killed during the attacks. More victims were confirmed on Monday, as local security agencies and volunteers continued to comb nearby bushes, Isaac Uzaa, a government spokesman, told the media. Hyacinth Alia, governor of Benue, has earlier called for urgent action to be taken to halt the horrendous attacks that have continued to plague local communities in the state. Nigeria has witnessed a series of attacks by armed groups in recent months. There have also been recurring incidents of livestock rustling and armed banditry in the country.

Travel



Spectacular train journeys across the world

Travel the old-fashioned way and grab a front row seat to the world’s most spectacular landscapes. A train journey is the best way to explore a myriad of cultures and lands—an experience equalled by no other means of transport. Here are some exceptionally scenic and memorable train journeys.

Bernina Express, Switzerland

Relax behind huge panoramic windows and soak up the spectacular Alpine views. The Bernina Express connects northern and southern Europe and offers one of the most spectacular ways to cross the Alps. The route follows two World Heritage listed lines, the Albula and the Bernina, and sweeps through towering glaciers in Switzerland and the swaying palms in Italy.

Talylyn Railway, Wales

Steaming its way through the lush Fathew Valley, the Talylyn Railway is a historic narrow-gauge steam railway that’s set in the picturesque Mid Wales countryside. Staffed by volunteers, the train makes its way through the Dolgoch Falls, a route originally used to carry slate from the area’s many mines.

Rocky Mountaineer, Canada

Take in Canada’s great outdoors aboard the Rocky Mountaineer. Follow the route from Vancouver to Calgary and you’ll see pristine wilderness, glacial lakes and turbulent rivers. The best views are offered by the Gold Leaf car, where travellers sit in a glass-domed section on the top floor of the train.

TranzAlpine, New Zealand

From the garden city of Christchurch to the rugged wilds of Geymouth, the TranzAlpine crosses the South Island of New Zealand in 4.5 hours offering up views of forests and farmlands.

California Zephyr, USA

The longest rail journey in the USA is perhaps also its most beautiful, thanks to the California Zephyr. The train’s sightseer lounge has panoramic windows and revolving seats from where you can watch the train ascending over Denver past mountain lakes, pine forests and snow capped slopes.

Northern Belle, UK

Journey back into time, as you board the Northern Belle. Evoking the elegance and romance of the early 1930s the train itself is sight to experience. Travelling through Britain’s most beautiful scenery including castles and countryside, the Northern Belle offers various memorable day trips across Britain, each route as scenic as the first.

Trans-Siberian Railway, Russia

Russia’s Trans-Siberian Railway is the longest continuous rail line on earth, each run being an epic journey of almost 6000 miles. The route that connects Russia, Mongolia and China is breathtaking, with the train making its way through birch forests, brilliant blue lakes and finally crossing the arid expanse of the Gobi Desert ending in Beijing.

Denali Star, Alaska

The best way to see Alaska is by rail. Keep your eyes peeled

for wildlife—from moose to grizzlies—as you ride the flagship Denali Star across Alaska. Double-decker dome cars allow passengers to take in breathtaking sights, particularly the towering Mt. McKinley.

Hiram Bingham, Peru

This 1920’s style Pullman train winds past misty mountains in Peru towards the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu. The seven hour route links two of the top destinations in the country, Cusco and Machu Picchu, via a winding scenic journey through the Urumbamba River Valley.

The Ghan, Australia

There is no better way to get a perspective of the vastness of the Australian Outback than to book a passage on The Ghan. The three day journey covers 2000 miles and meanders through the lush lands and pastures surrounding Adelaide. The journey’s periodic stops are a great chance to get off the train and explore these landscapes through guided walks or helicopter rides.



Vedanthangal—India’s oldest Bird sanctuary



When I googled around a bit, I was surprised to find that it was the oldest bird sanctuary in India. More amazing was the fact that it was given the status of a bird sanctuary due to a petition by local villagers who were aghast at seeing British soldiers shooting at the birds way back in 1796—a salute to those early champions of environmental protection.

So it is by their efforts that Vedanthangal today is a flourishing bird sanctuary with migratory birds from the Northern hemisphere flying in during the winter months. It also happens to be one of the most concentrated bird sanctuaries—you will be surprised at the sheer number of birds at any given spot.

Anyway, since the distance was not too much we decided to go by bike. The traffic was sparse, so we cruised towards our destination, and



the scenery improved beyond Chengalpet, with small hillocks and winding roads. We reached our destination in just two short hours.

The sanctuary is basically a huge shallow lake with trees and mangroves dotting the landscape, and a small pathway running alongside. I have never seen so many birds in my life—there were thousands perched on trees and submerged in what looked like mangroves. Although I’m not very good with bird species, I did take lots of photographs and managed some good shots from the watch-towers and special platforms offering vantage views.

It was the Pongal weekend and I was getting bored with nothing much to do. Then DD suggested that we go to this place called Vedanthangal, around 75 km from Chennai.



Bhutan

the land of tranquillity

hutan: the land of tranquillity Often regarded as the happiest place on earth, Bhutan, nestled in the eastern Himalayas is literally a land lost in time. A melting pot of culture and tradition, Bhutan is dotted with colourful dzongs (small fortresses) and serene monasteries.

Thimphu

The capital of Bhutan—Thimphu—is the only capital in the world without any traffic lights. A peaceful city where traffic snarls are unheard of, Thimphu is also the seat of Bhutan’s very revered monarchy. The capital’s most popular tourist destination is National Memorial Chorten where locals congregate to pray.

ashichho Dzong

Situated to the north of Thimphu on the western bank of Wang Chu River, Trashi Chhoe Dzong blends seamlessly into the surrounding valley. Symbolising regal splendour the dzong was once home to the National Assembly and now houses the secretariat, the throne room, offices of the king and ministries of home affairs and finance.

National Memorial Chorten

This impressive chorten, crowned by its golden spire is located in the southern-central part of the city. Built in 1974 to honour the third king His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck (who is also known as the Father of Modern Bhutan), the chorten is a popular landmark in the city.

Dochu La Pass

Take in spectacular views of the Himalayan ranges at Dochu La Pass, which is a popular pit-stop 30 kilometres from Thimphu towards central Bhutan. Perched at an elevation of 3,100 metres, Dochu La Pass’s beauty is complemented by colourful Buddhist prayer flags fluttering in the wind and snow-capped trees standing tall in the surrounding valley.

Paro Valley

The Paro Valley, surrounded by the Himalayan range, encloses pretty Paro town. The town is home to many landmark attractions such as Taksang Monastery and the National museum visited by thousands of tourists each year. The 7,300-metre-high

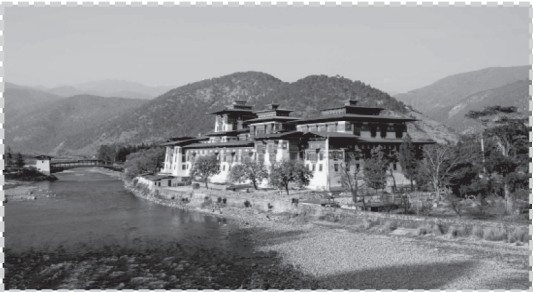
Mount Jomolhari visible at the northern end of the valley looms over the town. The glacial melt from this mountain forms the Pachu River flowing through the valley.

National Museum

Housed in a 17th century watchtower, the National Museum of Bhutan in Paro is home to numerous bronze statues, paintings and handicrafts that exhibit Bhutan’s history and cultural heritage of more than 1500 years. This major attraction possesses over 3,000 works of Bhutanese art.

Taksang Monastery

Built on a precipice 3,000 metres above the ground, the Taksang Monastery located in Paro Valley challenges trekkers through its winding path. But the tranquil sounds of the prayers and the continuous



chanting by the monks make the uphill climb worthwhile. Originally built in 1692, Taksang monastery (also referred to as Tiger’s nest) was rebuilt in 1998 after being destroyed in a massive fire.

Punakha Dzong

Punakha Dechen(also known as Punakha) is 590-foot long, 236-foot wide dzong which is mainly divided in three courtyards. Cut away from the cityscape, the dzong is situated in the peaceful Punakha valley, and is bordered by tall Jacarandas trees. Punakha Dzong hosts an annual festival (called Demoche) in the months of February / March, which is a major attraction amongst tourists. Even after being destroyed in fire and severe earthquakes over the years, Punakha dzong stands tall, restored in its original splendour, at the confluence of the Pho Chu and the Mo Chu rivers.

Bengaluru FC eye win, Mumbai City FC meet Chennaiyin FC



Bhubaneswar, April 22 (UNI) : After a day's break, the Kalinga Super Cup 2025 returns on Wednesday with a double-header featuring three Indian Super League (ISL) teams—all eyeing a spot in the final eight.

The day starts with ISL Cup runners-up Bengaluru FC taking on I-League runners-up Inter Kashi in the opening clash.

Later in the evening, Mumbai City FC and Chennaiyin FC will go head-to-head in what promises to be a high-octane showdown.

With knockout spots on the line, both fixtures are expected to bring plenty of intensity and drama. Here's what to expect from the two

crucial matchups.

Bengaluru FC enter the competition with an eye on the silverware after narrowly missing out on the ISL Cup. The Blues hold a slight edge in their head-to-head record against Inter Kashi, having registered one win and one draw in their two encounters.

Gerard Zaragoza's side finished third in the ISL with 38 points, secured through 11 wins and 5 draws. They also enjoyed a terrific run in the ISL playoffs—only to fall short in the final, where they were narrowly beaten in extra time. That heartbreak has left them hungry for redemption.

On the other hand, Inter

Kashi have been on a solid run themselves, finishing second in the I-League with 39 points from 22 matches, including 11 wins.

However, defensive frailties have plagued them lately, with the team failing to keep a clean sheet in their last six outings. A 3–1 win over Rajasthan United FC in their final league game offers some momentum, and they'll look to build on that as they take on the ISL heavyweights.

The later match sees Mumbai City FC take on Chennaiyin FC in a clash steeped in history, with the Islanders holding a clear head-to-head advantage, winning 15 encounters compared to Chennaiyin

FC's seven.

Interestingly, Mumbai City FC are currently on a remarkable 13-match unbeaten streak against Chennaiyin FC across all competitions, including a win and a draw in this season's ISL.

That said, Mumbai City FC's recent form has been shaky. They have managed just one win in their last six games and were handed a heavy 5–0 defeat by Bengaluru FC in their most recent outing. They finished the ISL season in sixth place with 36 points, recording nine wins and nine draws. Chennaiyin FC, meanwhile, endured a challenging season as well, finishing 11th with just 28 points. Their form has been inconsistent, though a morale-boosting 2–1 win over Punjab FC in their last match offered a glimmer of hope. With eight wins and four draws, they'll be looking to build on that momentum and pull off an upset against a formidable Mumbai side.

With the league campaign behind them, both teams will have a keen eye on the Kalinga Super Cup as an opportunity to end their season on a high.

Sinner does not deserve any hate: Draper

London, April 22 (UNI) : Britain's Jack Draper says Jannik Sinner does not "deserve any hate" as the world number one prepares for his comeback from a three-month doping ban.

Draper is a long-time friend of Sinner and spent several days practising with the Italian in Monte Carlo last week.

Sinner, 23, was banned from the sport in February after reaching a settlement with the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) over two positive drugs tests last year.

The three-time major champion is able to return to competitive action from May 5 and plans to make his comeback at the Italian Open in Rome. "When people ask about Jannik I tell the truth – I think he is a really genuine, nice person and on top of that he is an unbelievable player," Draper, 23, told BBC Sport and the Guardian in a joint interview at the Madrid Open. "In this situation I am sure he would have had absolutely zero idea of anything." That's the way life goes - sometimes there are mistakes."

Sinner had previously been cleared of any wrongdoing by an independent panel after testing positive for the banned substance clostebol in March 2024. It accepted he had been inadvertently contaminated by his physiotherapist, who was treating a cut on his hand with an over-the-counter spray that contained clostebol.

Sinner agreed a three-month ban with Wada to settle the case and not go to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

But the timing of the suspension - which meant Sinner did not miss a single Grand Slam tournament and will return in time for May's French Open - was criticised by some as being conveniently timed.

The agreement between the Italian's legal team and Wada prompted accusations of favouritism and led to some players questioning their faith in clean sport.

But Draper said: "In terms of how I feel about him as a person I think it is important for people to know and recognise the guy is kind-hearted and a good human being. "He doesn't deserve any of the hate he gets."

After losing early at the Monte Carlo Masters, world number six Draper went looking for practice partners on the clay and Sinner - who he has played doubles with in the past - was an obvious choice. "I knew Jannik was available and in Monte Carlo on the clay so we organised with his team to go out there for three or four days and train with him," Draper said. "If you're going to train with anyone it has got to be the best in the world, right?

McIlroy will have unfinished business at Portrush Open: Mark Darbon

London, April 22 (UNI) : Newly crowned Masters champion Rory McIlroy will have "unfinished business" when the Open Championship returns to Royal Portrush this summer, says R&A chief executive Mark Darbon.

Northern Irishman McIlroy, who won at Augusta National earlier this month to complete career Grand Slam, missed the cut when The Open

was held at the Dunluce Links for the first time in 68 years in 2019.

On Tuesday, Darbon announced that this year's championship, which takes place from July 17-20, will be the biggest sporting event held in Northern Ireland, with 278,000 fans expected on the Antrim coast links.

"I think he's probably got some unfinished

business here," Darbon told BBC Sport NI of McIlroy's chances.

"We're looking forward to a brilliant event."

Darbon, who was appointed R&A chief last summer, added: "We were excited enough as it was, having the Open Championship back here, but I think that [McIlroy's Masters win] is the icing on the cake and sets us up for a fantastic summer

of golf."

This year's Open, which will be the biggest held outside of St Andrews in Scotland, is expected to generate £213m of economic impact.

The 2019 tournament proved a memorable occasion as Ireland's Shane Lowry won his first major title.

When asked how this summer's Open can top

TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2025, raises over Rs 3.40 cr

Bengaluru, April 22 (UNI) : The 17th edition of the TCS World 10K Bengaluru has once again proven to be more than just a race — it's a celebration of community spirit, resilience, and generosity.

In a stirring display of unity, over INR 3.40 crores have been raised so far for over 75 NGOs, making this edition one of the most impactful in the event's storied history.

Organised by Procam International, and powered by aidbees – the social kindness platform, the event saw participation from over 35 companies and 250+ individual fundraisers.

Among them were tech firms like ASM Technologies, which emerged as the highest corporate fundraiser supporting GoSports Foundation, and social leaders like Youth For Seva, working tirelessly to transform education access for underprivileged children.

"This event isn't just about fitness — it's about compassion and impact," said Vivek Singh, Joint MD, Procam International. "Philanthropy is the heart of the TCS World 10K, and this year has been phenomenal."

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya will join thousands on race day, lending his support by running alongside participants to promote social causes. "This is more than a run — it's a city coming together to support what matters," he said.

Among the youngest heroes is nine-year-old Naysa Bhattacharjee, who along with Tia Bali raised Rs. 7 lakhs for the Neonates Foundation of India. Naysa, herself a NICU survivor, passionately advocates for neonatal care: "I don't feel different, I feel unique," she said. "Every baby deserves a chance."

Long-distance runner Sudhir Shetty is another standout, raising funds for the Veer Ratna Foundation to support Veer Naris — the widows of martyred soldiers. "Every rupee enables them to live with dignity," he shared.

The event has also seen remarkable grassroots involvement, with thousands from running groups like Jayanagar Jaguars contributing to causes such as women's sports, environmental protection, and child welfare.

With the race set for April 27, organisers expect donations to continue rising. As Zamrooda Khanday, CEO of aidbees, put it: "This city has once again shown that when it comes to giving back, Bengaluru leads the way."

2019, Darbon said: "I think we can. You look for certain things when staging an Open Championship.

"You want a brilliant links course to test the best golfers in the world, you want passionate fans and you want a location to tell stories about this wonderful championship and Royal Portrush delivers on all those things in spades."

Playing for my deceased father is my biggest motivation: Ajmina Kujur

Perth, April 22 (UNI) : The 23-year-old Ajmina Kujur could make her much-awaited senior India team debut soon as she has been included in their squad for the upcoming five-match tour against Australia. India are set to play two matches against Australia A on April 26 and 27, followed by three crucial encounters against the Australian senior team on May 1, 3, and 4 at the Perth Hockey Stadium.

Upon landing in Australia, Ajmina said, "I am grateful that they have given me a chance to play now so I have to give my 100%. Two years ago, I was in the senior team camp but I didn't make it into the team. Now that I have been given this chance, I am going to ensure I make the most of it."

Ajmina had been training in the senior national camp in SAI, Bengaluru, since March 23 in preparation for the tour.

About her experience training with the senior players, she stated, "Training with the seniors has been a wonderful experience. I am learning a lot and I am excited to play with them ahead. Everyone has enjoyed training with each other and now it is time for us to give it our best against Australia."

"The senior players are really helpful, especially Sushila di who has supported me a lot during the camp. She tells me every time I make a mistake and has taught me how to play to my strengths.

I also tend to think a lot when I make an error but the

senior players have helped me cope with it and I am a lot more confident now," she added. At the start of the year, Ajmina played a crucial role in the Hockey India League (Women) as she played all seven matches for runner-up JSW Soorma Hockey Club. Next, she played the 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2025 for Hockey Association of Odisha and although the team was knocked out in the pool stage of Division A, Ajmina gave a stand-out performance in the midfield.

When asked about the reason behind her good form, Ajmina replied, "I have been focusing on my fitness a lot more, which I think has really helped me improve my game."

Although this is the first time Ajmina will play for the Indian senior team in field hockey, she is no stranger to representing the country at the international stage. In 2024, Ajmina was part of India's Hockey5s team that reached the final of the FIH Women's Hockey5s World Cup. Although the team lost to the Netherlands 2-7 in the final, India had a tremendous campaign as they defeated Poland, Namibia, USA, New Zealand and South Africa in the lead-up to the final. Ajmina also contributed with three goals in the tournament.

Talking about her experience, Ajmina highlighted how beating the USA was her highlight of the competition since they had defeated the Indian Senior team before

in the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, which caused India to miss out on the Paris 2024 Olympics.

She said, "It was a special feeling to represent India at the Hockey5s World Cup. Although we

lost the final against the Netherlands, the team played really well. After beating the USA, our confidence level increased a lot because it felt like we made the senior team proud." Ajmina started playing hockey at the age of 11. Coming from Sundargarh district in Odisha which is famous for its rich hockey culture, the sport has always been a part of Ajmina's life. She was first introduced to hockey when she saw her father and brothers play in their village.

Ajmina's father was a huge supporter of her hockey, but unfortunately, he passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. Ajmina shared, "My father used to play and so did my brothers, so I watched them and my interest in the sport grew. Now that my father is not there, I am playing hockey for him, to make him proud. This is my biggest motivation."

Talking about her goals ahead, Ajmina stated, "The plan is to play well, at every opportunity I get during this tour in Australia so that I stay in the squad for the upcoming FIH Hockey Pro League matches. In terms of my game, since I am a midfielder, I am working harder on my passing and

I am trying to scan faster and play the ball quickly."

Raducanu happy with informal coaching set-up

London, April 22 (UNI) : Emma Raducanu has paused the search for a new full-time coach, saying she is happy to "keep things informal" as her part-time partnership with Mark Petchey continues.

Raducanu brought Petchey - a well-known figure in British tennis circles and a former coach of Andy Murray - into her coaching team on a casual basis at last month's Miami Open. Petchey was in the coaching box as the 22-year-old Briton reached the quarter-finals and produced her best tennis of the season, the BBC reported.

After Miami, Raducanu wanted Petchey to lead the team on a more regular basis, but committing time around his television broadcasting work has been a stumbling block. Raducanu, who is returning to competitive action this week at the Madrid Open after a month off, said Petchey will be "fitting" her around his other commitments at the WTA 1000 clay-court event. "I'm happy with the

set-up going forward right now - it's been working well," said the world number 49.

"I like him a lot and I've known him since before the US Open [victory in 2021] and it's nice to have familiar faces around."

Raducanu has not had a full-time coach since January, when Nick Cavaday stood down for health reasons, and ended a two-week trial with Vladimir Platenik on the eve of the Miami Open. She had previously worked with a wide range of coaches including Nigel Sears, Andrew Richardson - who was in charge during her run to the US Open title - Torben Beltz, Dmitry Tursunov and Sebastian Sachs. On Petchey, Raducanu added: "We're keeping things informal for now and it's been working. He's someone I've known for a long time and I do feel like I can trust him." For now there is no real thing set in stone but we're taking it week to week and he's helping me as much as he can alongside his current commitments."

HP Electricity Board volleyball team clinches gold

Shimla, April 22 (UNI) : Himachal Pradesh Electricity Board volleyball team has etched its name in the annals of sports history by clinching the gold medal at the 46th All India Electricity Sports Control Board Volleyball Championship held in Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

The championship, organized at Shivaji University Ground from April 17 to 19, witnessed a stellar performance by the HP team as they defeated Punjab in the final match in straight sets (3-0). Led by Captain Abhishek Soni, the team showcased exceptional coordination and skill throughout

the tournament. Key contributions came from standout players Suresh, Rohit and Nikhil. Suresh, a resident of Una, was adjudged as the Best Player of the Tournament. Coach

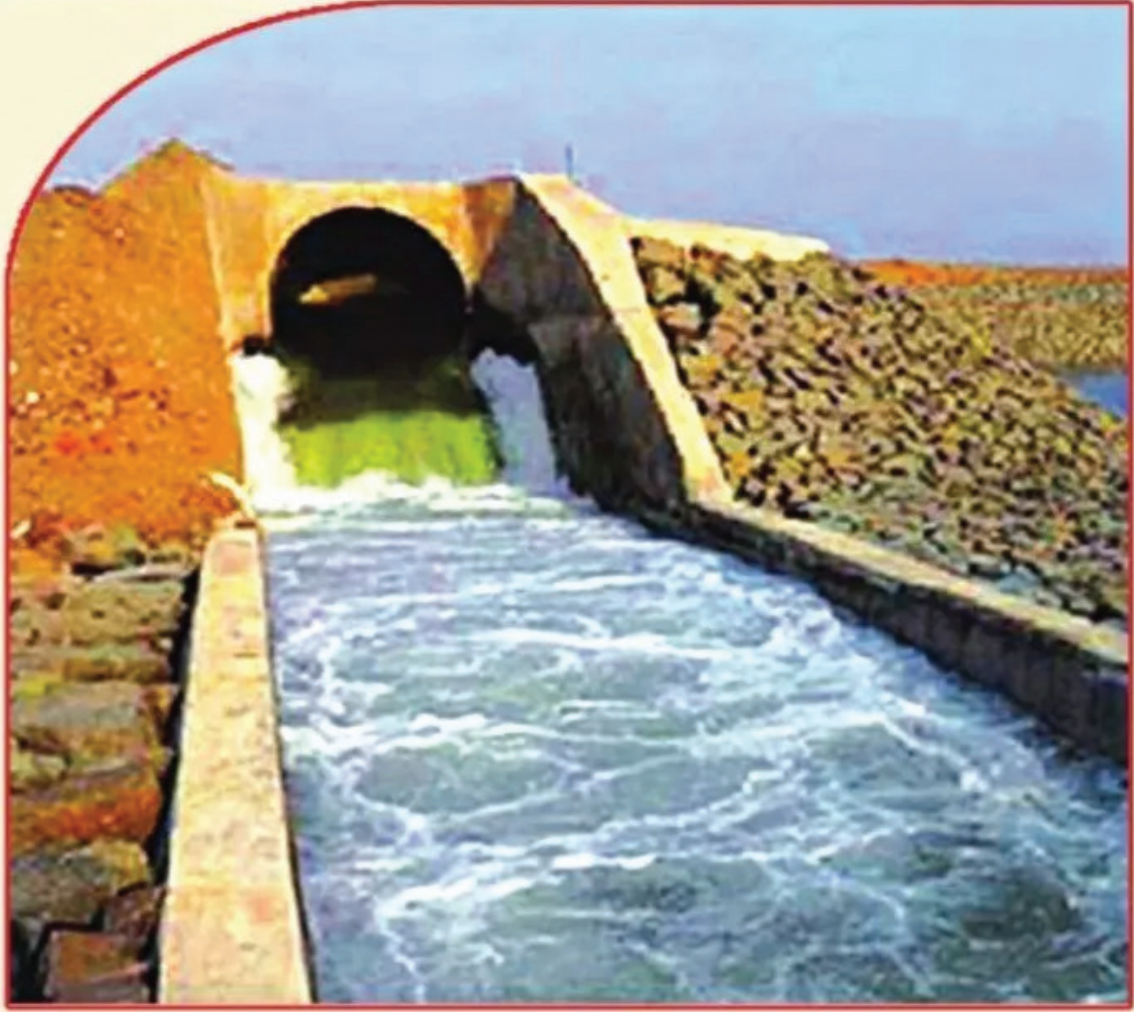
Satish Sharma, under whose expert guidance the team trained at the Indira Gandhi State Sports Complex in Shimla, expressed immense pride in the team's achievement.

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