

16 killed in Pahalgam terror attack

Home Minister chairs security review meeting, security operations launched

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



Security personnel rush to the spot after terrorists attacked a group of tourists at Pahalgam, in Anantnag district, Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday.

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 take all suitable measures.

Pahalgam attack: PM Modi to cut short his Saudi visit, return home

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will cut short his visit to Saudi Arabia and return to the country in the wake of the terrorist attack in Kashmir's Pahalgam, sources said on Tuesday.

Sources said that the Prime Minister also skipped the official dinner hosted by Saudi Arabia and has decided to cut short his visit. They said that PM Modi will leave for India tonight, while he was originally scheduled to return on Wednesday night. The Prime Minister has also called for an urgent meeting of the government's topmost decision-making body - the Cabinet Committee on Security, over the Pahalgam crisis in Kashmir.

Earlier, PM Modi strongly condemned the terror attack in picturesque Pahalgam hill station, vowing that those responsible for the "heinous act" will be brought to justice.

"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," PM Modi 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."

Shortly after the incident, PM Modi held a telephonic conversation with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, directing him to ensure all necessary measures are taken. Following this, Shah announced he would travel to Srinagar to personally assess the situation and chair a high-level security review meeting.

"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," the Home Minister posted on X.

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.

As per reports, two to three terrorists wearing army fatigues came and fired at horse-riding tourists in the Baisaran area around 2.30 p.m. Baisaran is a small meadow 3 to 4 km from the Pahalgam market, and tourists take horses to reach the place as there is no motorable road to it.

Waqf Act to provide justice to poor, needy Muslims: Minister

Mumbai, April 22 (UNI) The Waqf (Amendment) Act has been made to remove the problems and challenges in the regulation and management of Waqf properties without violating anyone's rights, claimed Union Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference here, he further claimed that this law will ensure all poor and needy Muslims will get justice.

Rijiju clarified that he will not touch the registered waqf property or the waqf property declared through notification.

The main purpose of the Waqf (Amendment) Act is to increase the efficiency of the Waqf Board by removing loopholes in the previous law, he added.

We share grief of families': CM condemns Pahalgam cowardly attack

Mumbai, April 22 (IANS) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis strongly condemned the cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

He said that his government is in touch with the Jammu and Kashmir administration to get updates about tourists from the state injured in the attack.

Two tourists from Maharashtra have lost their lives in the attack.

In his post on X, he said: "My heartfelt condolences to those who lost their lives in this incident. We share the grief of their families and loved ones. I pray to God for the speedy recovery of those injured in this incident. We are in touch with senior officials of the Jammu and Kashmir administration. We also called up Vijay Kumar Bidri, the divisional commissioner of Kashmir, under whose jurisdiction Pahalgam falls,

and inquired about it. According to the information received so far, two tourists from Maharashtra have died, including Dilip Disle and Atul Mone. According to the information given by the local administration, two people from Maharashtra have been injured in this terrorist attack. One of them is Manik Patel from Panvel, and another is S. Bhalchandra Rao. Fortunately, the condition of both of them is stable."

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde also condemned the attack. In his post on X, he said: "May God rest the souls of the civilians who lost their lives in the cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. All the injured citizens are receiving proper treatment. Strict action will be taken against the terrorists responsible for this entire incident. Public

condemnation of this cowardly attack!"

Shiv Sena UBT leader and the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the state council Ambadas Danve said that the attack on tourists is outrageous.

"Terrorists took their lives, asking for religion. These terrorists must be crushed. But those who help them should also be rounded up and sent to jail. Tourists may have increased in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, but if they are not provided security, all these steps taken are in vain," he said.

NCP SP working president and MP Supriya Sule said, "Strongly condemn the unfortunate terrorist attack on tourists in #Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir. Heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones. Wishing a speedy recovery to the injured."

Hindi not compulsory but optional in classes 1 to 5 for now, says Minister

Mumbai, April 22 (IANS) Amid the raging controversy, the Maharashtra government, on Tuesday, took a u-turn on making Hindi a compulsory third language in classes 1 to 5 in English and Marathi schools from the academic year 2025-26.

After strong opposition and outrage from various stakeholders, the State Minister of School Education Dadaji Bhuse said that Hindi would not be made compulsory for now

but it will be optional in classes 1 to 5.

He also added that the decision on making Hindi language compulsory will be taken in due course of time after a due consultation process.

"For now, we will keep Hindi as an optional subject. We will take a decision regarding other subjects in due course of time. Those students who are interested in Hindi language will be taught Hindi along with Marathi and English. The

government decision in this regard will be issued as soon as possible," said Bhuse.

The Maharashtra government was thereby forced to respond to criticism from opposition parties and regional leaders, who argued that making Hindi compulsory in classes 1 to 5 in English and Marathi schools threatened Marathi identity.

Minister Bhuse also said, "The state government in its notification issued on April 16 had said that Hindi

language would be mandatory in classes 1 to 5 in English and Marathi schools. The notification had clearly said that the Marathi language subject will remain the same. Marathi language will be given priority. English will be the second subject. Then the third subject will be Hindi language. The Central government has not made Hindi subject mandatory. The steering committee has accepted the third language Hindi subject.



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,"

(See on page 2)

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.

(See on page 4)

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.

(See on page 5)

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.

(See on page 7)

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



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.



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,

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-Hosapete Exp JCO from 22.04.2025 to 24.04.2025
- Train No. 11416 Hosapete-Solapur Exp JCO from 23.04.2025 to 25.04.2025

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

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.

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.

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**
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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 he 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 TKM **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.ireps.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/RSP/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 Sr D E N / D E N 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 Sr D E N / D E N 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.ireps.gov.in
2. Any further Communication/ Corrigendum shall be intimated through E-portal www.ireps.gov.in.
Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Guntur
E-Tender Notice No. 463/DRM/ W/GNT Dt 21.04.2025
The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below upto 15:30 hrs of 15.05.2025.
S.No.: 01 Tender ID: 2767 Sr D E N / D E N 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, VNU, KDGL, MRGA, JNPD, BMPP, NRDP, RMNP, VLG, TML, SRMR, RYGA, TPPI KADM, CTYL & 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.ireps.gov.in
2. Any further Communication/ Corrigendum shall be intimated through E-portal www.ireps.gov.in.
Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Guntur

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.ireps.gov.in.
2. Any further communication/ corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal www.ireps.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 & VNUJ-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.ireps.gov.in.
2. Any further communication/ corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/Guntur
E - Tender Notice No.GNT/SG/ 36/326, Dated: 21.04.2025
The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below up to 12:00 hrs of 14.05.2025.
ID No.: 326 Name of the work: Carrying out repairs to Signal & Telecom assets over ADSTE/NDL section (NDPU (ex)-NDL & SYM-NLPI (ex) sections) for a period of 12 months over Guntur Division. **Advised Tender Value (₹):** 1,12,59,952.75 **E.M.D/Bid-security (₹):** 2,06,300/- **Cost of Tender Document (₹):** NIL
1. Last date for online submission of E-bids is 14.05.2025 up to 12:00 hrs. For detailed information logon to our website at www.ireps.gov.in.
2. Any further communication/ corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/Guntur
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

CENTRAL RAILWAY
UPGRADATION/DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAPUR COACH CARE COMPLEX
e-Tender (OPEN TENDER) Notice No. CR03-CME-C-HQ-2025-SUR Dated: 18-04-2025 Chief Administrative Officer (Const.), Central Railway, 6th floor, New Administrative Building, D. N. Road, CSMT, Mumbai 400 001, for and on behalf of President of India, invites Open tenders through e-tendering on **IREPS website (e-tender portal): www.ireps.gov.in** (in Two Packet System), from reputed Contractors for the following work: **Name of Work:** Upgradation/Development of Solapur Coach Care Complex into Vande Bharat Train Maintenance cum Workshop Depot for Central Railway involving Civil works (Design and construction of Vande Bharat Shed, Extension of IOH Shed with gantry, Industrial flooring, two pits with drainage system, Two-Tier Catwalk Floor Level and Roof Level, Carriage Watering facilities for Pit Line with hydrants, G+2 Combined Stores Building with Toilet and bathroom facilities, Relocation of Electrical room, underground water sump, Overhead water Tank, provision of Bore wells, Laying of new pipeline, Boundary wall, Asphalted Approach Road, dismantling of fencing UCR Masonry and existing Office Building, Construction of Office for PMC & Office furniture and its furnishing, Supply of Vehicles, Drainage Works of all structures), **Mechanical works** (Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Machinery & Plant items and Tools), **Electrical (G) works** (General electrification work of Sheds, buildings etc), **Electrical (TRD) works** (Provision of Retractable OHE for Pit Line and related works) and **Signalling & Telecomunication works** (IT & Communication facilities its networking etc.) **Tender Value: Rs.79,83,10,030.35 Bid Security: Rs.41,41,600.00 Cost of Tender Form Not Applicable** (As per Clause No.3 at Page 4 of GCC APRIL 2022) **Validity of Offer:** 180 Days from the date of opening of tender. **Completion Period:** 18 (Eighteen) Months including monsoon. **Availability of Tender Documents:** Available on the website www.ireps.gov.in. **Date & Time of Submission & Opening of Tenders:** The e-tenders, duly completed in all respects, along with the requisite documents, should be uploaded electronically on the above mentioned website, up to 11.00 hrs. on 19.06.2025. The tender (Technical Bid only) will be opened online on 27.06.2025 after 16.00 hrs. **Joint Venture Firm:** Joint Venture (JV) firms will be allowed to participate in this tender. **Important Notes to Tenderers:** 1.The tendering will be solely through e-tendering only. All intending tenderers need to first register with IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. 2. Prospective tenderers are advised that before submitting their offer electronically, they should refer to the Tender details regarding terms and conditions, eligibility criteria, etc. 3.Tender documents & corrigendum issued from time to time are available on the website mentioned above. Changes, if any, would be posted on this website at least 15 days in advance of the opening of the tender. **Contact for any additional information/clarification:** ADME, Central Railway, Solapur (Field Unit), on any working day between 10.00 hours to 17.30 hours. **Note:** If there is any difference between the Hindi and English versions in any kind of words, terms, and conditions, etc., under the e-tender notice, then in that case, the English version of the e-tender notice will be considered final and will be applicable. **47**

अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखें

**BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

K.M.J. Phule Municipal General Hospital Vikhroli (E), Mumbai - 400 083.

No. HO/363/KMJP dated 22.04.2025

NOTICE
Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, K.M. J. Phule Municipal General Hospital, Vikhroli (MGC/ H/5810/ approval of the Municipal Commissioner dated March 20, 2025) and for 22 months (with a break of one day after 179 days) on temporary contract basis 1 Full time Registrar Assistant candidate is invited to take the above services from a local registered NGO (Mumbai Public Trustee System) in a sealed envelope.
Application form to interested NGO KMJ Phule Municipal Corporation General Hospital, Vikhroli (For 1 Full Time Registration Assistant Rs. 726/- plus Goods and Services Tax by receipt of cash or bank DD in the name of "Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation" at Municipal Civic Facility Center (CFC) from 23.04.2025 to 02.05.2025 between 11:00 AM to 05:00 PM (excluding GAC holidays and weekly holidays), from the list of eligible institutions. The Chief Medical Officer will allot the work to the institutes who are successful in the lottery process as per the terms and conditions.
Interested organizations should contact the administrative office of the said hospital between 11:00 am to 05:00 am for more details, application and will etc.
The last date for the organization to apply to the said hospital is 02.05.2025 till 01:00 PM. Documents received in the said case dt. It will be opened on 05.05.2025 at 11:00 AM.

Sd/-
Chief Medical Officer (I/C)
KMJ Phule Municipal Corporation General Hospital, Vikhroli (East)

PRO/194/ADV/2025-26
Avoid self medication.

Chhattisgarh bizman among those killed in J&K terror attack; CM, others express condolences

Raipur, April 23 (IANS) : A businessman from Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Dinesh Mirania, lost his life in the heinous terrorist attack at Pahalgam on Tuesday. He succumbed to bullet injuries while undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

Raipur Collector Gaurav Singh confirmed the heartbreaking news. Dinesh Mirania was on a leisure trip to Jammu and Kashmir with his wife and two children for a summer holiday. His Raipur residence now stands empty, as the family was in Jammu and Kashmir.

Relatives are gathering outside his home, and the district administration has deployed police at his residence to manage the situation. It is not clear from the local administration if his family is safe. Several persons, predominantly tourists, were killed in the terrorist attack at Baisaran, a serene meadow in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, on Tuesday. The remote location, accessible only on foot or on ponies, had drawn a group of visitors earlier that day, turning their peaceful outing into a heartbreaking catastrophe.

Expressing his deep condolences, Chhattisgarh

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai wrote on X, "It is with deep sorrow that we share the tragic news of Raipur businessman Dinesh Mirania's passing in the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time. Authorities have been directed to extend every possible support to the grieving family. Such acts of terrorism are beyond condemnation and deserve the strongest denunciation."

State Home Minister Vijay Sharma shared on social media that Dinesh Mirania was gravely injured in the attack. Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai promptly directed officials to extend all possible support to the Mirania family.

Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel also expressed his sorrow on X, condemning the attack as cowardly and lamenting "the loss of over 30 lives, as reported by the media."

Baghel further mentioned that a member of the Mirania family was among those injured. He extended wishes for the swift recovery of the wounded and prayed for the departed souls. He emphasised the nation's unity against such acts of terror, expressing confidence that the country's soldiers would deliver a fitting response.



Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah interacts with people affected by flood, in Ramban district, J&K.

In India, US has a friend: VP JD Vance

Jaipur, April 22 (IANS) US Vice President J.D. Vance said on Tuesday reflected on the economic challenges faced by manufacturing communities in the US in the last few years.

"Our manufacturing communities have been facing economic challenges for the last few years, and fair trade partnerships are equally important. In India, the US has a friend," said US Vice President J.D. Vance while addressing an event in Jaipur.

Vance said that he was sharing the story on the request of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then recounted the story of his upbringing in a once-thriving manufacturing town, which slowly and steadily witnessed the diluting of the middle class due to job losses and factories shutting down.

"I come from a long-standing manufacturing town called Middletown. It's not a massive city like Jaipur, but a decent town where people have made things for generations," he said. He added that people came down from

surrounding hills, from places like West Virginia, in search of manufacturing jobs, prosperity, and the American dream.

Vance also described his family's experience growing up in a working-class household.

"My parents and grandparents raised me in Middletown with values - to work hard, study hard, love God and my country, and to be a good. My grandfather's job provided a decent wage and a pension. By the time I came up, money was tight, but it was fine to make a good living for all of us," he said.

The VP added that generation saw the making of a great middle class, adding that by creating an economy around production, the leaders made many Middletowns.

"Governments in those times supported the labour force, and we struck good deals with national partners to sell goods made in the US," he said.

However, Vance also talked about the decline that followed.

"Later, other leaders abandoned the principles

that built our prosperity. They forgot the importance of building a productive industrial base. As a result, we saw consequences, factories left, jobs evaporated, and the economy of towns like mine suffered," he said.

"Middletown story is my story - millions of Americans lived this same experience. This story is my story, but it is hardly unusual in America. There were tens of millions of Americans who had woken up to what was happening in their nation, but I think they have woken up way before it's too late. We want to strike good deals with our friends, we want proud recognition of our heritage rather than self-loathing and fear," he said.

Vance emphasised that Americans are now aware of what went wrong and are committed to course-correction.

"Our President has been consistent on these issues for decades. America now has a government which has learnt from the mistakes of the past. Our President Trump cares deeply to ensure Americans have an

opportunity for good jobs. Today, I have come here with a simple message: we seek trade partners on the basis of fairness in their shared national interest," he said.

"We want trade deals that are fair and rooted in shared national interests. We want our heritage to be a source of pride, not self-loathing. Our President, Donald Trump, has been consistent on these issues for decades. He deeply cares about ensuring that Americans have access to good jobs and opportunities," he said.

He stressed the importance of building partnerships with nations that value workers and share common goals.

"Today, I bring a simple message: the U.S. seeks trade partners on the basis of fairness and mutual interest. We want relationships with countries that respect labour and are committed to building things alongside us," he said.

Concluding his remarks, Vance said: "We want partners who recognise the historic nature of the moment we are in - to reshape global trade into a system that is open, balanced, stable, and fair. Our partners don't need to be exactly like America, nor must governments do exactly the same way, but just have a common goal. I believe in India, we do, up economy and national security. That's why I'm so excited to be here today. In India, America has a friend, and we need to strengthen great bonds," he said.

Waqf Bill sparks protest against Bihar Minister in Kaimur

Patna, April 22 (IANS) The Waqf Amendment Bill has triggered widespread discontent among sections of the Muslim community in Bihar, with visible anger erupting in Bhabhua, the district headquarters of Kaimur, the native district of State Minority Welfare Minister Md. Zama Khan.

On Tuesday, during a protest march organised by members of the Muslim community against the recently enacted Waqf Bill, Minister Zama Khan found himself caught in the wave of resentment.

As the Minister's convoy approached Bhabhua city, it encountered the protest rally.

In an attempt to avoid confrontation, his vehicle reportedly took the wrong route, but protesters quickly identified and surrounded the convoy.

Chants of "Zama Khan Murdabad" echoed through the streets as protesters accused the Minister of failing to safeguard minority interests. Security personnel had to intervene swiftly, clearing the path and escorting the Minister away from the scene amid intense sloganeering.

Mohammad Hanif Khan, District President of AIMIM, voiced the protesters' concerns.

"The Waqf Bill has just been implemented and we are strongly opposing it. Zama Khan, as Minority Welfare Minister, has not stood with the community. If he can't represent us, what's the use of his Ministry?" Khan said.

The incident reflects growing unease among minority groups over the Waqf Bill, with critics alleging that the legislation curtails the autonomy of Waqf properties and weakens community control. As tensions rise, all eyes are now on the state government's next steps -- and whether Minister Zama Khan will address the escalating dissent from within his own community.

Since the Waqf Amendment Bill passed in both Houses of the Parliament, at least 20 Muslim leaders of JD-U have publicly resigned from the party, citing betrayal of minority interests.

These include two-time MLA Master Muzahid Alam; M. Raju Nair, Former State Secretary; Shah Nawaz Malik, Minority Cell State Secretary; Nadeem Akhtar, Bettiah District Vice President; Md. Tabrez Siddiqui Ali, State General Secretary Minority Cell; Md. Dilshan Rain, Member from Bhojpur; Mohammad Qasim Ansari, Former Assembly candidate Dhaka, Motihari; Mohammad Feroz Khan, Nawada District Secretary; and others.

Lalu Prasad Yadav wants to turn Bihar into Bengal: Giriraj

Patna, April 22 (IANS) Union Textile Minister Giriraj Singh has launched a sharp attack on RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, alleging that he is attempting to turn Bihar into West Bengal, referencing what he claims is a deteriorating law and order situation under West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Speaking at a seminar and felicitation event on the occasion of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti held at Kali Mandir in Telghri village, under Kharik block of Bhagalpur's Navgachiya subdivision, Giriraj Singh said: "Mamata Banerjee has turned West Bengal into Bangladesh, and Lalu Prasad Yadav wants to do the same with Bihar. But we

will not let his plans succeed."

The minister's remarks came against the backdrop of recent political tension and his ongoing criticism of the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal, especially in relation to alleged violence and lawlessness.

Giriraj Singh further said, "The country is watching the situation in West Bengal. The people will give a befitting reply to Mamata Banerjee."

The BJP leaders are targeting Mamata Banerjee since she had refused to implement the Waqf (Amendment) Bill passed by both Houses of the Parliament, and approved by the President.



BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Kasturba Hospital

Subject - Providing labour & supporting staff at 70 labors through NGO for Kasturba Hospital on Contract Basis.

Advertisement

Kasturba Hospital has invited proposal from authorized Local NGO'S having providing experienced labour (Sweeper, peon, ayabai) & supporting staff in Hospital on contract basis for minimum 6 month. Interested NGO'S may submit application forms along with all necessary documents with application fees Rs. 16500 + 18% GST Rs. 2970 total Rs. 19470/- from Dt. 09.04.2025 to Dt. 24.04.2025 from 10:30 a.m to 03:00 p.m. on official working days excluding holiday on below mention address. This application forms will be opened as lottery system in the chamber on Medical Superintendent, Kasturba Hospital on 24.04.2025 at 04:00 PM.

Address - Medical Superintendent, Kasturba Hospital

Telephone No: 022-23027700

PRO/189/ADV/2025-26
Let's together and make Mumbai Malaria free.

Sd/- Medical Superintendent Kasturba Hospital

CENTRAL RAILWAY
NOTICE OF E-AUCTION

Mumbai Division, Central Railway has called for e-auction for leasing of below given assets on www.ireps.gov.in through e-auction leasing module. The interested bidders are required to get registered in e-auction leasing module and all necessary documents to be uploaded prior to the e-auction. For further details the interested bidders are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in to know the details of E-Auction mentioned below:

S. N.	Category	Sub-Category	Auction Start
1.	Advertisements	RDN-Digital and Non Digital	23.04.2025, 28.04.2025
		OOH	22.04.2025
2.	Other NFR	Promotional Kiosk	22.04.2025
3.	Pay & Parking	Parking - Mixed	28.04.2025
4.	Pay & Use	E-auction for toilets at stations	28.04.2025, 29.04.2025
5.	Parcel	E-auction for Parcel 6REARSLR, 34SLR, 29SLR	05.05.2025, 07.05.2025, 13.05.2025

Further Addendum /corrigendum, withdrawal of lot/catalogue, change in date, time extension, clarification etc. if any, in connection with the subject auctions, will only be uploaded in the website. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated.

51

DRM(C) CSMT

अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखें

EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No.: eT-Central-WAT-10-2025, Dtd.: 12.04.2025

Name of Work: CONSTRUCTION OF 04 NOS OF LHS ON TRESS-PASSING LOCATIONS AT KM 121/9-10 BETWEEN GORAPUR-DARLIPUT STATIONS, AT KM 128/20-21 AT DARLIPUT STATIONS, AT KM 171/43-47 BETWEEN PALIBA-SUKU STATIONS AND AT KM 199/3-4 BETWEEN MANABAR-JARATI STATIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ADEN/KORAPUT ON KK LINE OF WALT AIR DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the work: ₹12,77,65,564.90
EMD: Rs. 7,88,800/- **Completion Period:** 12(Twelve) Months
Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. on 06.05.2025
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: www.ireps.gov.in.
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer (Central)
Waltair
PR-55/Q/25-26

brought together global talent in Electronic Dance Music (EDM) to celebrate innovation, creativity, and collaboration in music production and live performance.

Mark Ryan Syiemlieh (22) from Lummawbah in Meghalaya's Upper Shillong secured a spot in the top 10 of 'Resonate: The EDM Challenge'.

The top 10 finalists, including Syiemlieh, would now gear up to showcase their sound on the WAVES global stage in Mumbai. Syiemlieh holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from St. Anthony's College, Shillong and is currently based in Mumbai. His journey into music began early, fuelled by a deep passion for DJing and Music Production, with sounds blending beats of techno and uplifting vibes of trance and house. Sharing his excitement for the upcoming WAVE Summit, he said, "I wanted to say thank you to the organisers of the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit, hosted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, for selecting me as one of the top 10 finalists for the Resonate EDM challenge."

Being among the top 10 finalists is truly an honour, he said, "It is a moment of pride and a reflection of the effort I've dedicated to my journey as an artist. This opportunity and recognition mean a great deal to me as it reinforces my belief in the music I'm creating and encourages me to keep evolving creatively."

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION	
MAHATENDER PORTAL LINK	
Department	Chief Engineer (Sewerage Operation)
Division	Executive Engineer Mechanical (Sew.) W.S.
Tender Reference Number	2025_MCGM_1166678_1
Subject	Desilting of wet wells and bar screen chamber at Malvani pumping station and Inlet chamber and bar screen chamber area at Malad WWTF.
Sale of Tender	From : 23-04-2025 Time 11.00 Hours To : 29-04-2025 Time 04.00 Hours
Web site	https://mahatenders.gov.in Henceforth Any Corrigendum or Addendum will be published on BMC portal/Mahatender Portal Link site only.
Communicating Officer : A) Name	Shri. Krishna Patil
B) Telephone No	26368681
C) Mobile No.	9820048895
D) Email Address	eemechsws.so@mcgm.gov.in
PRO/183/ADV/2025-26 Avoid self medication.	
Sd/- E.E. Mech. (Sew.) W.S.	

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.

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. Researchers stress the need for climate strategies that are tailored by region and season. 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.

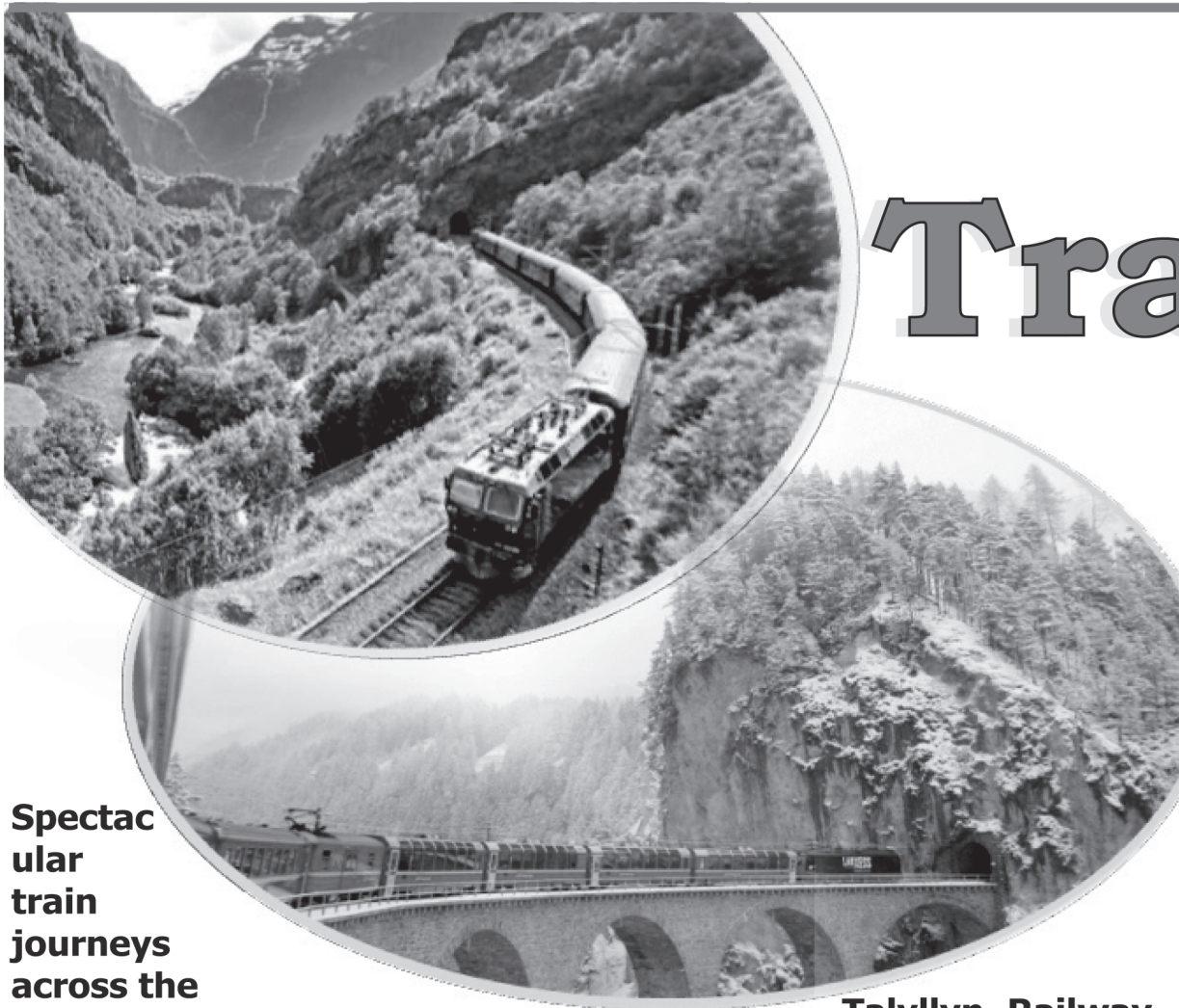
Israeli PM vows "forceful response" to Houthi attacks

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 Uzaan, 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, Trash 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

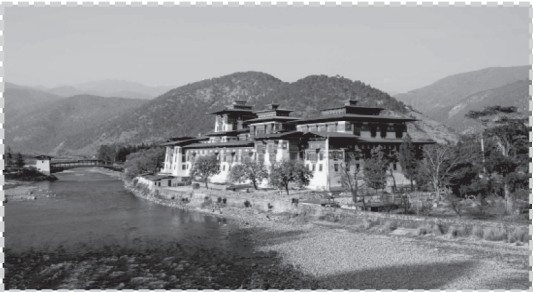
Mount Jomolhari visible at the northern end of the valley looms over the town. The glacial melt from this mountain forms the Pachu River flowing through the valley.

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

Punghthan 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.

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.”

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 itand 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.”

KKR launch ShahoshiRani to honour courageous women of India

Kolkata, April 22 (UNI) : Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), the reigning TATA IPL champions, successfully launched their #ShahoshiRani initiative on Tuesday alongside the 8th edition of Knight Golf at The Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC).

ShahoshiRani pays tribute to women demonstrating exceptional courage in challenging circumstances. This initiative integrates several impactful pillars: Play It Forward, Skill Up For Equality, and the Vidushee Programme, with beneficiaries from each celebrated at the event.

The initiative reflects KKR's dedication to creating social impact through sports and empowerment, aiming to amplify extraordinary women's voices while promoting inclusivity. By connecting #ShahoshiRani with Knight Golf, KKR united team management, players, and supporters for community engagement.

Venky Mysore, CEO of Kolkata Knight Riders said, "The #ShahoshiRani initiative exemplifies KKR's

values beyond cricket. By celebrating these remarkable women alongside Knight Golf, we're reinforcing our commitment to meaningful social change."

Binda Dey, CMO of Knight Riders Sports, added, "This initiative embodies the strength, hope, and resilience we witness in women daily. Through #ShahoshiRani and events like Knight Golf, we leverage sports and storytelling to generate meaningful community impact."

“When we were ideating for this campaign, we realised KKR’s ‘Korbo, Lorbo, Jeetbo’ philosophy isn’t limited to cricket, but applies brilliantly outside the field as well. And when we heard the inspiring stories of these young girls and women, their bravery and never-give-up attitude stood out. If KKR’s men are ‘Knights’ in the game, these girls and women are the true ‘Queens’ in real life. Thus, the idea of Shahoshi Rani (Brave Queen) was born,” revealed Ram Cobain, Chief Creative Officer, Mullen Lintas

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?

business at Portrush Open: Mark Darbon

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."

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.

McIlroy will have unfinished business at Portrush Open

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."

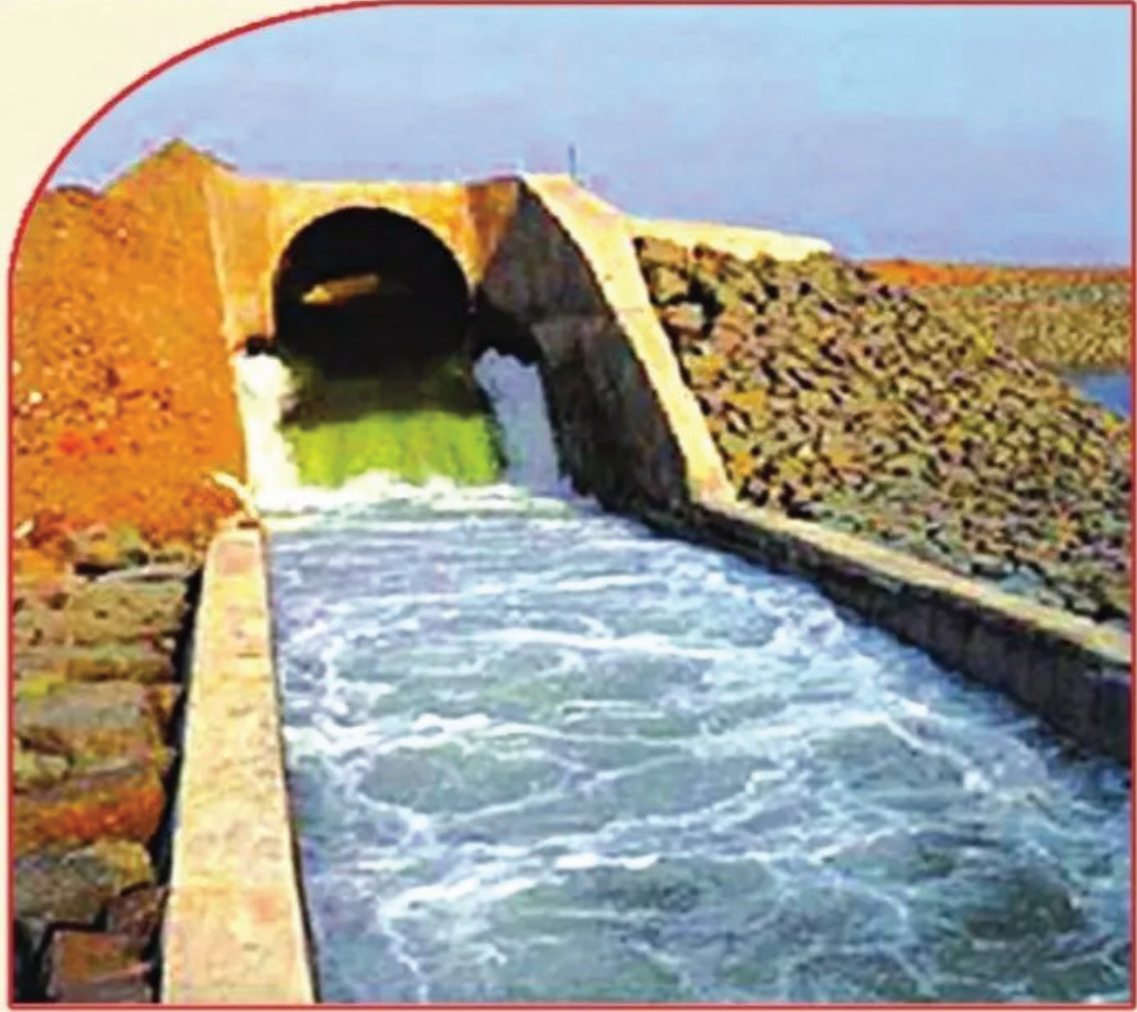
This year's Open, which will be the biggest held outside of St Andrews in Scotland, is expected to generate £213m of economic impact.

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

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