

## IN BRIEF

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

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

### Tamil Nadu Deputy CM Udhaynidhi Stalin assures jobs for sportspersons

Chennai, April 22 (PTI) Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Tuesday said 100 more sportspersons, including 25 differently abled sportspersons, will be provided jobs in government departments and state-PSUs. Opportunity will be provided for them to work in the police department, like it was done last year, he said. Answering questions in the Assembly, Udhayanidhi said last year he had announced that 100 sports persons including differently abled sports persons would be provided job opportunities (under the 3 per cent reservation) and accordingly, 104 people were appointed in state PSUs and government departments. "Similarly, this year too, under the guidance of the chief minister, 100 more sportspersons will for sure be provided employment opportunities in state PSUs and government departments," he said. Also, the government has opened up the opportunity, under the 3 per cent reservation, for sportspersons to serve in the police department. Last year, (out of the 104 appointments), 11 were appointed as police constables. Now, the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu has invited applications for 32 sub inspector posts and soon applications will be invited for the posts of police constables.

## 16 killed in Pahalgam terror attack

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

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

However, sources put the number of those killed in the terrorist attack at the Baisaran meadow around 2.30 pm, 6 km away from Pahalgam town, at 26 at least amid fears the toll could rise further.

The injured have been shifted to hospitals, including some who were



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."

## Palaniswami alleges Rs 1,000 crore liquor scam in TN, accuses DMK govt of cover-up

Chennai, April 22 (IANS) Leader of Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly and AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Tuesday levelled serious corruption charges against the DMK government, alleging a Rs 1,000 crore scam linked to TASMAC, the state-run liquor retail network.

Addressing the media after staging a walkout from the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Palaniswami claimed that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had unearthed large-scale irregularities during its recent raids on TASMAC offices and its suppliers.

He accused the DMK government of attempting to suppress the findings and criticised Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and the Minister concerned for remaining silent on the issue.

"The government is trying to cover up the scam instead of coming clean. There has been no response from the Chief Minister or the Prohibition and Excise Minister. Why are they silent if they have nothing to hide?" Palaniswami asked. The AIADMK leader alleged that TASMAC outlets were charging Rs 10 extra per liquor bottle, resulting in an estimated illegal collection of Rs 15 crore daily. "If this continues unchecked, the annual figure touches Rs 5,400 crore," he said, adding that the state exchequer and the public were being cheated in broad daylight.

Palaniswami further said the DMK government was "afraid" of the ED's investigation and was not allowing a proper debate on the issue in the Assembly. "We were not allowed to raise this issue in the House. The Speaker refused to give me the floor to speak about the scam," he said. Following this, AIADMK legislators, led by Palaniswami, staged a walkout in protest.

The walkout occurred during discussions on the demand for grants for the departments of electricity, prohibition, and excise. AIADMK MLA Natham R. Viswanathan spoke first, and Palaniswami sought to raise the TASMAC issue immediately after, but was denied permission by Speaker M. Appavu.

Palaniswami also criticised the government over frequent power outages across the state. "Several areas are suffering from unannounced power cuts, affecting both domestic consumers and industrial units. The DMK government is failing to ensure uninterrupted supply," he said. He recalled that during the AIADMK regime, the state had ensured quality power supply, especially to farmers and industries. "Now, the situation has deteriorated, and people are bearing the brunt," he said.

## DMK govt is continuation of Justice Party, we are its successors, says TN CM

Chennai, April 22 (PTI) : The DMK rule was a continuation of the Justice Party (precursor to Dravidar Kazhagam) and he like so many other members in the party were its successor, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M K Stalin said on Tuesday.

Some people get flared up at the mention of the word 'successor' he said without naming anyone.

"We tell them emphatically that we are the successors and so is

Palanivel Thiaga Rajan (state Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services) the grandson of Sir Ponnambala Thiaga Rajan," Stalin said after launching the commemorative anthology "Dravida Araneriyaaalar Thamizhavel P T Rajan - Vazhve Varalaaru." The occasion marked the 133rd birth anniversary of P T Rajan who devoted his life to Tamil service, religious reform, and social upliftment. He was known for his unwavering

commitment to social justice.

Paying rich tributes to P T Rajan, the Chief Minister said there was no end to the Justice Party. "I have said so in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and I reiterate that this government is an extension of the Justice Party," P Thiaga Rajan (12 April 1892 - 25 September 1974) was the first Minister of the Madras Presidency and was the last president of the Justice Party. The DMK is an off-shoot of the Dravidar Kazhagam.

## Minister S.M. Nasar, MLA Inigo Irudayaraj to represent Tamil Nadu at Pope Francis' funeral

Chennai, April 22 (IANS) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has deputed Minorities Welfare and Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Minister, S.M. Nasar, and MLA Inigo S. Irudayaraj to attend the funeral of Pope Francis in Vatican City, slated to be held on Saturday.

The two leaders will represent the Tamil Nadu government at the final farewell ceremony of the late pontiff. This decision follows the state Assembly passing a condolence resolution on Tuesday, paying homage to Pope Francis. In his condolence message, CM Stalin expressed profound grief over the Pope's demise and hailed his enduring legacy as a transformative figure in global religious and humanitarian circles.

"Pope Francis was a beacon of compassion and progressive values. His leadership redefined the Catholic Church, embracing inclusivity, humility, and social justice," the Chief Minister said. Stalin further noted that Pope Francis championed the cause of the poor and the marginalised, advocated for global peace and interfaith dialogue, and brought moral courage to the highest office of the Catholic Church. "His commitment to human dignity, environmental stewardship, and bridging religious divides earned him admiration far beyond the Catholic world," he said.

The Chief Minister also acknowledged the global outpouring of condolences that followed the Pope's passing, underscoring the

widespread reverence for his spiritual and humanitarian contributions. Pope Francis's funeral will be held at 8 a.m. (GMT) on Saturday at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome, a site of deep personal significance for the pontiff. The basilica, one of the four major papal basilicas, has been a central Marian shrine for over sixteen centuries. Pope Francis often prayed here, especially after returning from his numerous apostolic visits abroad. This will be the first papal burial at the Basilica since the 17th century, when Pope Clement IX was interred there. The basilica is also the final resting place of seven other popes, saints, including Matthew and Jerome, and Renaissance master Gian Lorenzo Bernini and his family.



### 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.

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### Kremlin says no concrete plans on discussing Ukraine's ....



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

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### Raducanu happy with informal coaching set-up



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

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

(Standard Post Bureau)

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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.

## Pinarayi Vijayan & LoP Satheesan condemn Pahalgam terror attack

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

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

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

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

## Four held in Gurugram for assaulting group of bike riders

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

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

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

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

Gurugram on Sunday, police said.

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

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

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

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

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



(Standard Post Bureau)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speaking on the

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

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

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



# Unprecedented turmoil in AP, says Jagan



Amaravati, April 22 (IANS) : Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y.S.Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday slammed the coalition

government in the state and claimed that the state is under unprecedented turmoil.

He lashed out at the government over the arrest of former Intelligence chief and senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer PSR Anjaneyulu and the questioning of YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy and others.

He termed the arrest and questioning of the MP in the liquor case as vindictive action by the TDP-led government.

Addressing the meeting of the Political Advisory Committee (PAC), the highest decision-making body of the party, he said that unprecedented and atrocious developments are taking place in the state under the TDP-led government.

He called for challenging and standing up to these happenings to check the deterioration of

various systems, which are under constant threat.

“The coalition government has been brazenly arresting people and foisting false cases to create an atmosphere of fear to subdue the opposing voice, but it’s time we stand up for the people and start questioning the state,” he said.

Jagan Mohan Reddy said that since a case of irregularities in liquor sales during the previous TDP rule was registered against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, he was trying to implicate YSRCP leaders in fabricated cases.

The former chief minister alleged that the government is making all efforts to suppress issues of public interest, irregularities, corruption, and misgovernance from reaching the people

through diversion tactics, either by making arrests of high-profile people or by spreading false narratives on the party leadership.

He warned that if the government continues to act in this manner, the deterioration of all systems will further deepen, and anarchy will prevail.

“We have to rip apart the government’s ill intentions on various issues, including the allotment of land on a platter to companies of their choice with no proper checks and balances, besides giving contracts at inflated prices at their whims and fancies without following any procedure or prudence,” he said.

The YSRCP chief claimed that the state’s revenues are shrinking and wealth is being created for a select few. “All our welfare schemes have come to a grinding halt, while those

promised by the coalition have not taken off. The loans are mounting, which is an indication of financial indiscipline,” he said.

He asked the party leaders to stay connected with the cadres at the grassroots level and said that in the next three years, they must take up people’s issues in the intended manner and measure without any compromise.

Meanwhile, former minister Ambati Rambabu accused Chandrababu Naidu of playing diversion politics to shift public focus from the coalition government’s corrupt administration.

He stated that the arrests of former intelligence chief PSR Anjaneyulu and Raj Kasireddy, under the guise of a liquor scam, were orchestrated to distract from widespread irregularities of the coalition government.

## Over 3.41 lakh candidates applied for AP EAP CET : JNTUK VC

Kakinada April 22 (UNI) : JNTUK Vice chancellor Prof CSRK Prasad on Tuesday said that as many as 3,41,355 candidates had applied so far for the Andhra Pradesh Engineering, Agriculture and Pharmacy common entrance test (APEAP CET-2025).He said here that fool proof arrangements were being made for conducting the AP EAP CET online entrance test and advised the students who did not apply so far to avail the opportunity by paying the fee online without penalty upto April 24 through [website https://ets.apsche.ap.gov.in](https://ets.apsche.ap.gov.in).

The APEAP CET will be conducted in 46 centers throughout Andhra Pradesh and in two regional centers in Hyderabad –thus totaling 48 centers, he added.Giving out the details of those applied, the Vice Chancellor said that for Engineering stream 2,66,392 had applied while for the Agriculture and Pharmacy 74,172 applied and for both 791 applied.EAP CET Convenor Prof V V Subbarao said that on May 19 and 20, tests would be conducted in two sessions daily for agriculture and pharmacy streams.Similarly for the engineering stream, tests would be conducted from May 21 to May 27 daily.He said students can pay the examination fee upto May 1 with Rs 1,000 penalty, upto May 7 with Rs.2,000 penalty, upto May 12 with Rs.4,000 penalty and upto May 16 with Rs.10,000 penalty.

## Deliberations held on strengthening distribution utilities at 4th GoM meeting

Vijayawada, April 22 (UNI) : Focused Deliberations was held on strengthening distribution utilities and Advancing Energy Sustainability at the 4th meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Power Sector Reforms here on Tuesday.

The meeting was chaired by Union Minister of State for Power Shripad Yesso Naik and brought together Energy Ministers and senior officials from States including Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh.


Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Ravi Kumar noted that the state is championing forward-looking initiatives to enhance the viability, efficiency, and sustainability of the power sector, making it a fitting host for this high-profile national meeting.

Aravind Kumar Sharma, Energy Minister, UP, Heeralal Nagar, Energy Minister Rajasthan, Megahana Sakore Bordikar, MoS Energy Maharashtra and Ravi Kumar attended the meeting.

Shripad Yesso Naik highlighted the significance of coordinated reforms to address the financial and operational challenges faced by power distribution companies (DISCOMs).

He appreciated the Government of AP, Minister Ravi Kumar for their proactive efforts in hosting this important meeting. The Union Minister stressed the need for introducing regulatory reforms, restructuring liabilities, and leveraging emerging technologies like renewable integration, storage solutions, and artificial intelligence to ensure a resilient and future-ready power distribution system.The Union Minister emphasized that timely revision of cost-reflective tariffs, the strengthening of the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) with sufficient benches, and the mandatory implementation of Fuel and Power Purchase Cost Adjustments are essential steps to ensure fair pricing and financial stability.

He also revealed the importance of simplifying and standardizing tariff orders and net metering provisions for rooftop solar systems, along with annual tariff revisions linked to inflation indices like WPI, to create a transparent and predictable business environment for utilities and consumers alike.Naik also stressed the importance of modern financial and policy frameworks to support the sector’s growth, and called for the development of clear GST policies for storage systems that allow input tax credits for utilities, along with a well-defined roadmap for expanding Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).He also advocated for financial relief measures such as reducing interest rates offered by REC and PFC, along with the waiver or reduction of prepayment penalties, to ease the debt burden on DISCOMs.

**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](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

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

For and on behalf of the President of the Union of India, Chief Electrical Engineer (Projects), Secunderabad invites (online) e-tender for the following works:  
**S.No.: 01 Tender No.: 2X25-OHE-RDM-KZJ-14 Description of work:** Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning for OHE up gradation of existing 1x25KV system to 2x25KV AT feeding system with feeder and earthing works in Ramagundam (RDM)-Kazipet(KZJ) section of Secunderabad Division under South Central Railway. Total 92 RKM/276 T K M **Approx. Value (₹):** 1213677025.90/- **Earnest Money should be pay through online (₹):** 6218400.00/- **Cost of Tender form in (₹): Nil** **Completion period:** 18 Months (Eighteen Months) **Place of tender opening:** Secunderabad  
**Closing of Tender through e-tender (online):** Time 15.00 Hrs Date 10.06.2025  
**Opening of Tender through e-tender (online):** Time 15.30 Hrs Date 10.06.2025  
For further tender conditions / details and for submission of Tenders, please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://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/CSP/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/ WGNT Dt 21.04.2025**  
The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below upto 15:30 hrs of 14.05.2025.  
**S.No.: 01 Tender ID: 2765 S R 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 7.66 Km boundary length. (Phase -II). **Approx value in (₹):** 75371478/- **EMD (₹):** 526900/-  
**S.No.: 02 Tender ID: 2766 S R 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](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
2. Any further Communication/ Corrigendum shall be intimated through E-portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
**Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Guntur**  
**E-Tender Notice No. 463/DRM/ WGNT 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 S R D E N / D E N Section: North Description of work:** SW-1. Repairs to drainage system, pumping and deslitting 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, VNRUP, KDGL, MRGA, JNPD, BMMP, RYDPA, RMNP, VLG, CTYL, SRMR, NRGA, TPPI KADM, TMLU & VJA, LCs, Track Machines and Goods sheds under DEN/North/GNT section for a period of 12 Months. **Approx value in (₹):** 12464170/- **EMD (₹):** 212300/-  
1. Last date for online submission of E-bids is upto 15.30 hrs of 15.05.2025. For detailed information logon to website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
2. Any further Communication/ Corrigendum shall be intimated through E-portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://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](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
2. Any further communication/ corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://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](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
2. Any further communication/ corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://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](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
2. Any further communication/ corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
**Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/Guntur A0533**  
**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](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)**

Vijayawada, April 22 (IANS) The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged liquor scam in Andhra Pradesh questioned Raj Kasireddy,

the main suspect in the case.The SIT officials questioned him on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday about the involvement of various individuals in the multi-crore scam case.

He was grilled on the basis of statements given by former Rajya Sabha member and YSRCP leader V. Vijaya Sai Reddy and Rajampet MP P.V. Midhun Reddy before the SIT.

Kasireddy was arrested by the SIT officials at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad on Monday and was brought here on Monday night.

He was questioned by the SIT officials during the night hours and again on Tuesday morning.The SIT officials have informed Kasireddy's parents about the arrest. He will be produced in a court later in the day.

Kasireddy was taken into custody soon after he landed in Hyderabad from

Goa. The SIT served him four notices, but he had skipped questioning.

He had approached the High Court seeking anticipatory bail. After the court refused to give immediate relief and adjourned the hearing by a week, he released an audio message saying he would appear before the SIT on Tuesday.

However, hours later, the SIT arrested him at Hyderabad Airport and brought him to Vijayawada.

Kasireddy is suspected to have played a key role in the alleged illegal collection of nearly Rs 3,000 crore over five years.

Kasireddy, who served as IT advisor to the YSRCP government, denied his involvement in the case. Last week, the SIT conducted searches in the house and other properties of Kasireddy in Hyderabad. Kasireddy's father, Upender Reddy, had also appeared before the SIT for two days.The TDP-led

has been appointed as the investigation officer.

K a k i n a d a Superintendent of Police G. Bindu Madhav has directed Patil to submit a report to the Director General of Police (DGP) in two months.The SP has also asked the investigating officer to take the court’s permission, if required.


The development came a day after former IPS officer A. B. Venkateswara Rao called on the SP and demanded a thorough probe into the case.

Venkateswara Rao, who was suspended during YSRCP rule, recently launched a campaign titled ‘Jagan never again’, aimed at exposing the alleged misdeeds and injustices

NDA government constituted the SIT in November last year to investigate the allegations of irregularities and corruption in Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation Limited (APSBCL) under the YSRCP tenure.

The TDP leaders alleged that some YSRCP leaders had links with the liquor manufacturers, floated many local brands, conducted cash payments and made illegal money. The SIT reportedly identified the involvement of some political leaders, private persons and others in the scam.The investigating officers reportedly traced the money trail of kickbacks involving a sitting Lok Sabha member and a former Rajya Sabha member from YSRCP.Former MP Vijayasai Reddy, who resigned from YSRCP and also quit as MP in January, appeared before the SIT as a witness on April 18.

during Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy’s tenure.YSRCP leader and Kakinada MLC Ananta Uday Bhaskar, also known as Ananta Babu, had allegedly murdered his driver Veedhi Subrahmanyam, a Dalit, and dumped his body at his residence in 2022.After the TDP-led coalition government came to power last year, it started focusing on the reinvestigation of cases registered the YSRCP rule.Last week, the government appointed advocate Muppalla Subba Rao as special counsel to assist in the case.Ananta Babu had pushed the deceased during an argument, resulting in his fall and death on the night of May 19, 2022.

**JOINT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
(For the State of Goa and Union Territories)  
3rd & 4th Floor, Plot No. 55- 56,  
Udyog Vihar Phase- IV, Sector 18, Gurugram, Haryana 122015  
Email: [secv.jercuts@Prov.in](mailto:secv.jercuts@Prov.in), Website: [www.jercuts.gov.in](http://www.jercuts.gov.in), Phone No. 0124-4684705  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
(Petition No. 136/2025 & 137/2025)

Further to the Public Notice published on 03.04.2025, all interested person(s)/ Stakeholders of the UT of Puducherry are hereby informed that the Public Hearing shall be held on the following petitions admitted by the Commission:  
  
1. Petition No. 136/2025: Filing of the petition of Business Plan for MYT Control Period for FY 2025-26 to FY 2029-30 under Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (for the State of Goa & Union Territories) (Generation, Transmission and Distribution Multi Year Tariff) Regulations, 2024 issued by JERC under section 61, 62, 64 & 86 of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with relevant guidelines.  
  
2. Petition No. 137/2025: MYT Petition for PPCL Gas Power Station (32.5 MW) for the Control Period 2025-26 to 2029-30 along with Annual Performance Review for the FY 2024-25, Revision of Tariff for the period 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023 after the Provisional truing up exercise and Revision of Tariff for the Period 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2024 after the Provisional truing up exercise- Reg.  
  
The aforesaid Petition is available on the Commission's website, i.e., [www.jercuts.gov.in](http://www.jercuts.gov.in) and on the Petitioner's website, i.e. <https://ppclgov.in>.  
  
Interested persons may give their objections/suggestions/comments on the above Petition, in person/ registered post addressed to- The Secretary, JERC (For the State of Goa & UTs) 3rd & 4th Floor, Plot No. 55-56, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Sector 18, Gurugram, Haryana- 122015 or through e-mail at [mail id-secy.jercuts@gov.in](mailto:mail-id-secy.jercuts@gov.in) on or before 25.04.2025 with a copy to the Managing Director, Puducherry Power Corporation Limited (PPCL) No.10, II Cross Street, Jawahar Nagar, Boomiyannpet, Puducherry- 605005, (Email: [ppclpdy@gmail.com](mailto:ppclpdy@gmail.com)).  
  
The Commission shall conduct the public hearing on the above-mentioned Petition as per the schedule given below:  

S. No.	Date/Day	Time	Mode
1	25th April, 2025 (Friday)	11:30 AM	Video Conferencing

  
The persons who intend to participate in the public hearing may intimate their mobile number and e-mail ID to the Secretary, JERC on the above-mentioned email-id so that link for participation in the video conference on due date & time can be sent to them timely.  

(SD Sharma)  
Secretary (I/c), JERC

**CBC 34124/12/0005/2526**



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.

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

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.

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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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

## 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

## Israeli PM vows "forceful response" to Houthi attacks

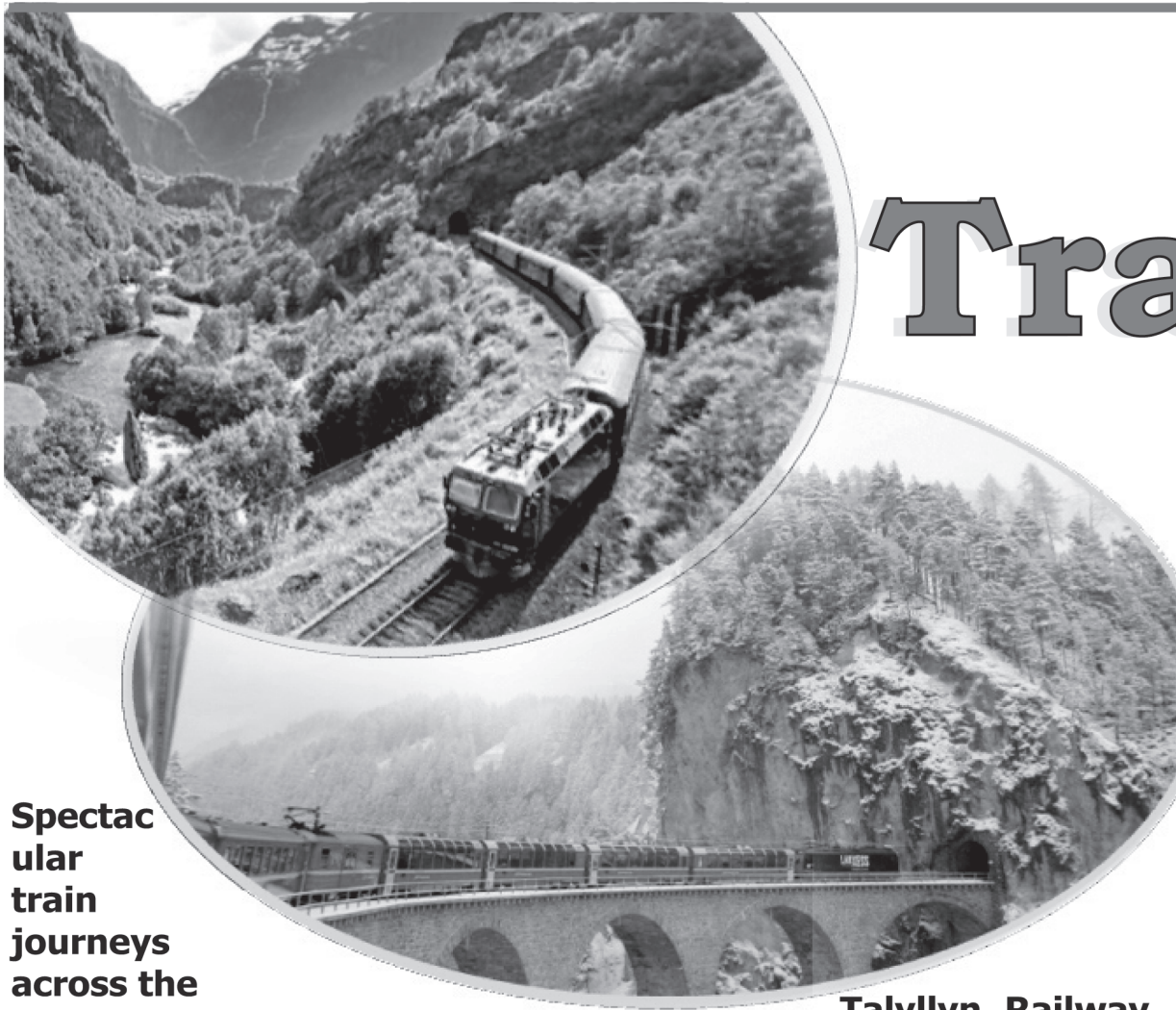
Jerusalem, April 22 (UNI) : Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Israel would deliver a "forceful response" to repeated attacks by Yemen's Houthi forces. Netanyahu made the threat during a public speech in Tel Aviv, which he said addressed "the Houthis and all those who wish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

## Death toll of suspected herders attacks in Nigeria rises to 72

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



Travel



Spectacular train journeys across the world

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

Bernina Express, Switzerland

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

Talylyn Railway, Wales

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

Rocky Mountaineer, Canada

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

TranzAlpine, New Zealand

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

California Zephyr, USA

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

Northern Belle, UK

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

Trans-Siberian Railway, Russia

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

Denali Star, Alaska

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

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

Hiram Bingham, Peru

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

The Ghan, Australia

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



Vedanthangal—India’s oldest Bird sanctuary



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

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

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



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

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

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



Bhutan

the land of tranquillity

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

Thimphu

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

ashichho Dzong

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

National Memorial Chorten

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

Dochu La Pass

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

Paro Valley

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

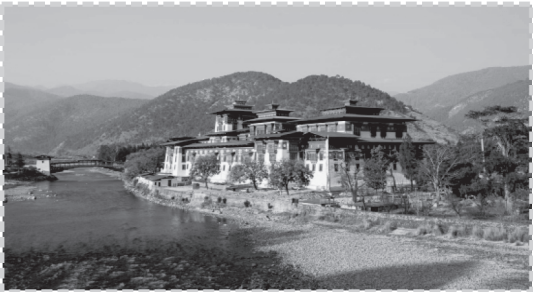
Mount Jomolhari visible at the northern end of the valley looms over the town. The glacial melt from this mountain forms the Pachu River flowing through the valley.

National Museum

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

Taksang Monastery

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



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

Punakha Dzong

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



# Bengaluru FC eye win, Mumbai City FC meet Chennaiyin FC



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

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

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

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

crucial matchups.

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

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

On the other hand, Inter

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

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

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

FC's seven.

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

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

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

## Sinner does not deserve any hate: Draper

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## McIlroy will have unfinished business at Portrush Open: Mark Darbon

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

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

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

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

"I think he's probably got some unfinished

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

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

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

of golf."

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

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

When asked how this summer's Open can top

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Raducanu happy with informal coaching set-up

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HP Electricity Board volleyball team clinches gold

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

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

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

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

Printed by R. Srinivasan,  
Published and Owned by Mohammed Shafi

Printed at Global Graphics,  
H.No.60, Thennan Salai Road,  
Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Puducherry - 605013 and  
Published from # H.No.156, First Floor,  
Thiruvalluvar Salai, Pillaitthottam,  
Puducherry - 605013.

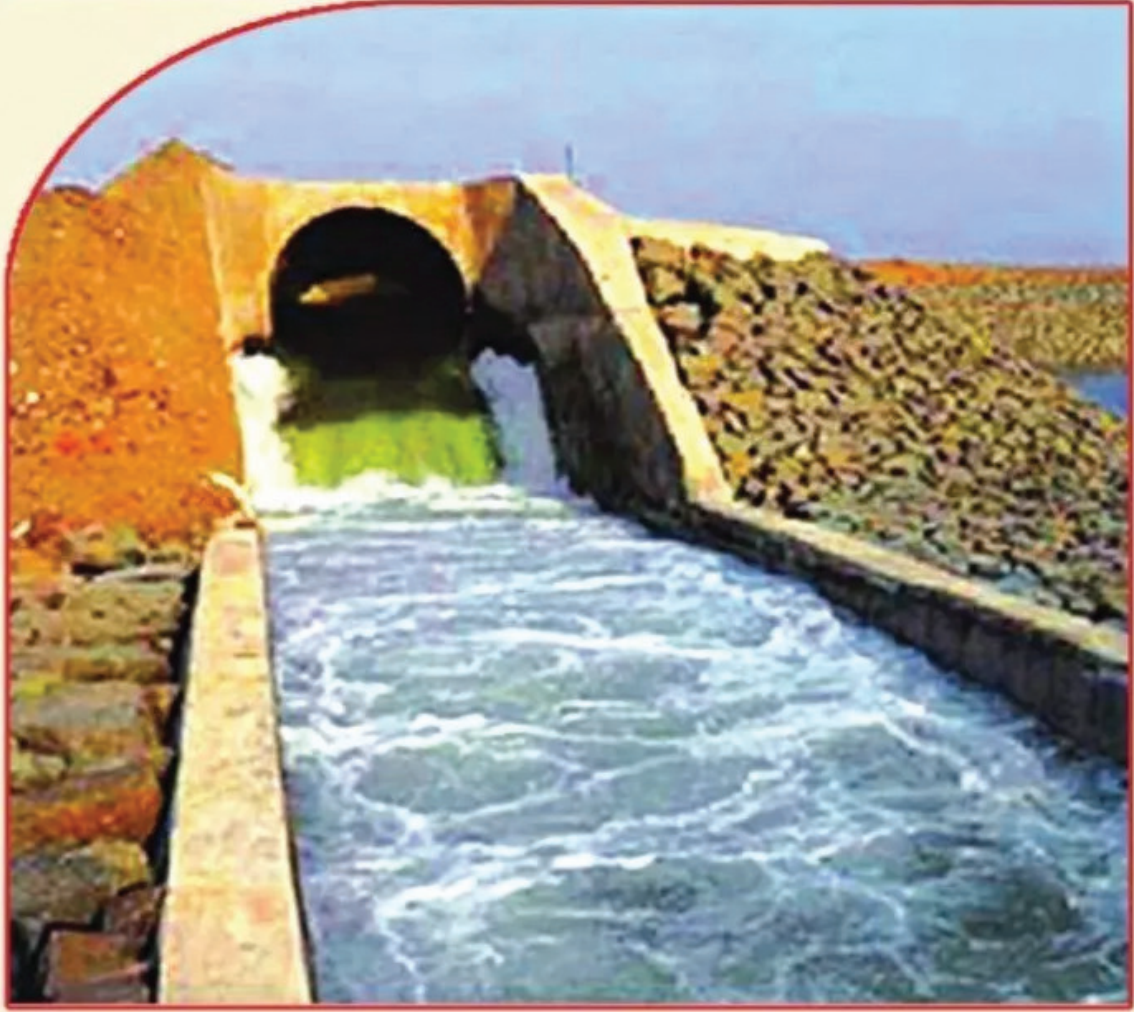
Editor: Mohammed Shafi

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