

IN BRIEF

2 infiltrators killed as Army foils bid along LoC in Uri

Srinagar, April 23 (UNI) :An infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Uri sector of north Kashmir's Baramulla district was foiled on Wednesday, resulting in the elimination of two terrorists, Army said.

The bid was foiled a day after the deadliest terror attack on civilians in J&K that left 25 tourists and a local dead at a meadow near the famous resort of Pahalgam in Anantnag district.

Army Srinagar based Chinara Corps said two to three unidentified terrorists attempted to infiltrate through the general area of Sarjeevan near Uri Nala. The attempt was detected and intercepted by alert troops guarding the LoC, leading to a firefight.

Army said that two infiltrators were killed in the heavy exchange of fire.

"...Large quantity of weapons, ammunition and other war-like stores have been recovered from the terrorists," Army said.

The counter infiltration operation is in progress, they added.

CM condemns terror attack in Pahalgam, urges strong action

Hyderabad, April 23 (UNI) :Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy strongly condemned the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a "heinous act" and asserting that such cowardly attacks will not shake the spirit or confidence of the Indian people.

In a statement issued on Tuesday night, the Chief Minister urged the Central Government to take stringent and decisive action against the terrorist groups responsible for the attack.

Expressing his deep sorrow, Revanth Reddy conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives.

He prayed for the souls of the deceased to rest in peace and extended his deepest sympathies to the bereaved families during this time of grief.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah pays his last respects to 26 people killed in the Pahalgam terror attack, in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

Terrorists will not be spared, says Amit Shah

Srinagar, April 23 (UNI) : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday assured the families of the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack and the entire nation that those responsible for the killing of innocent civilians "will not be spared."

A day after the deadly attack that has shaken the nation, Shah visited the Baisaran meadows near Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, where 25 tourists and a local resident were

gunned down in a brutal terror attack. Security officials briefed him at the site on the circumstances and progress of the ongoing operation, officials said.

Shah also met the grieving families of the victims, many of whom broke down in tears as they shared their harrowing experiences.

"Every Indian feels the pain of losing their loved ones in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. This sorrow cannot be expressed in

words. I assure all these families and the entire nation that these terrorists who killed innocent people will not be spared at all," Shah posted on X.

Later, he visited Government Medical College in Anantnag to meet and extend support to the injured tourists undergoing treatment.

Earlier in the day, Shah paid tributes to the deceased in Srinagar, calling the incident a "dastardly terror attack." "With a heavy heart,

paid last respects to the deceased of the Pahalgam terror attack. Bharat will not bend to terror. The culprits of this dastardly terror attack will not be spared," he wrote.

Hours after the attack on Tuesday afternoon, the Home Minister flew to Srinagar and chaired a high-level security review meeting, directing officials to intensify efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice. The Kashmir Valley observed a complete shutdown to protest the killing.

India comes down heavily on Pakistan, to shut down Attari, hold in abeyance Indus Waters Treaty, cut down mission staff

New Delhi, April 23 (UNI) :Coming down strongly on Pakistan following the dastardly terror attack in Pahalgam in which 26 tourists were killed, India today announced it is holding in abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty, and shutting down the land border check post of Attari. India also declared the Defence advisors in the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi as Persona Non Grata and asked them to leave.India is also cutting down the strength of the High Commissions -- of the Pakistan HC in New Delhi, and its own in Islamabad -- to 30 from the present 55 through further reductions, to be effected by May 1, 2025. The Cabinet Committee on Security,

which met in the evening under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was informed of the cross-border linkages of the Pahalgam terrorist attack and it was also noted that this attack came in the wake of the successful holding of elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and its steady progress towards economic growth and development.

Recognizing the seriousness of this terrorist attack, the CCS decided upon the following measures:

(i) The Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect, until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.

(ii) The Integrated Check Post Attari will be closed with immediate effect. Those who have crossed over with valid endorsements may return through that route before 01 May 2025.

(iii) Pakistani nationals will not be permitted to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) visas. Any SVES visas issued in the past to Pakistani nationals are deemed cancelled. Any Pakistani national currently in India under SVES visa has 48 hours to leave India.

(iv) The Defence/ Military, Naval and Air Advisors in the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi are declared Persona Non Grata. They have a week to leave India.India will be withdrawing its own Defence/Navy/Air Advisors

from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. These posts in the respective High Commissions are deemed annulled. Five support staff of the Service Advisors will also be withdrawn from both High Commissions.

(v) The overall strength of the High Commissions will be brought down to 30 from the present 55 through further reductions, to be effected by 01 May 2025.

The CCS reviewed the overall security situation and directed all forces to maintain high vigil.

It resolved that the perpetrators of the attack will be brought to justice and their sponsors held to account.As with the recent extradition of Tahawwur Rana, India will be unrelenting in the pursuit of

Hyderabad local body MLC polls witness 78.57 pc turnout; counting on April 25

Hyderabad, April 23 (UNI) : Voting for the Hyderabad Local Body Member of Legislative Council (MLC) elections began at 8am on Wednesday at the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) headquarters and concluded peacefully.

According to election officials, out of a total of 112 eligible voters, 88 cast their votes, marking a 78.57 per cent voter turnout. The voters included 66 corporators and 22 ex-officio members.

Following the boycott by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), corporators and ex-officio members from the Congress, BJP, and AIMIM participated in the election process.

The counting of votes is scheduled to begin at on April 25.

In this election, the total electorate comprises 81 corporators and 31 ex-officio members. The contesting candidates are Dr. Gautam Rao from the BJP and Mirza Riaz ul Hassan from the AIMIM.



Will get the mastermind of terror attack in Pahalgam

e terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday issued a stern warning, asserting that the government will not only reach those who have perpetrated this incident, but will also those who orchestrated it from behind the scenes as part of a conspiracy on the Indian soil. Delivering a memorial lecture on the Marshal of the Indian Air Force (IAF) Arjan Singh, Rajnath said, "On Tuesday, in Pahalgam, our country lost many innocent citizens in a cowardly attack by terrorists targeting religion. This inhuman act has plunged all of us into deep grief and pain".

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'Resign as minister or go to jail': SC to Senthil Balaji



In a dramatic turn during the ongoing money laundering case tied to the 2011 cash-for-jobs scam, the Supreme Court on Wednesday issued Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji an ultimatum, either continue as a minister or retain the bail granted to him.A special bench, comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih,

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Vatican reveals Pope Francis' final words before his



The Vatican has revealed the final words of Pope Francis, who passed away on April 21. The 88-year-old spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church had reportedly said that he was both "tired" and at the same time "content", and thanked his longtime aide Massimiliano Strappetti.

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MI thrash SRH to climb to 3rd spot in IPL table



Mumbai Indians produced a commanding all-round performance, led by pacer Trent Boult's incisive spell and a blistering batting display, to outclass Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets in a one-sided IPL clash at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Wednesday.

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CM returns from Japan tour with Rs 12,062 cr investment

Hyderabad, April 23 (UNI) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy returned to Hyderabad on Wednesday after completing a successful seven-day official tour of Japan, which secured investment commitments worth Rs 12,062 crore for Telangana.The Chief Minister, who embarked on the visit on April 16, led a delegation of senior officers to engage with key industrial leaders and investors in Japan. The trip focused on attracting investments in sectors such as manufacturing, electronics, and green energy.Upon his arrival at Shamshabad airport, CM Revanth Reddy was given a rousing welcome by Congress MPs, MLAs, advisors, Corporation Chairmen, and party workers.The enthusiastic reception highlighted the party's appreciation for the Chief Minister's efforts to bring global investment to the state.The government has hailed the tour as a major success, with the signed deals expected to generate employment and accelerate industrial growth in Telangana. Further details of the MoUs and sector-wise investment plans are expected to be released soon.

US VP JD Vance calls on PM Modi, says US ready to provide all assistance in joint fight against terror

New Delhi, April 23 (UNI) :US Vice President JD Vance today called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and strongly condemned the dastardly terror attack in Pahalgam and said the US is ready to provide all assistance in the joint fight against terrorism.

The MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal in a post on X said that PM Modi thanked Vice President Vance and President Donald

Trump for their messages of support and solidarity.

US President Donald Trump had called up PM Modi on Tuesday night to condemn the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 28 tourists were killed, and to offer all support.

"Vice President @VP @JDVance called Prime Minister @narendramodi and strongly condemned the dastardly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

"He conveyed his deepest condolences on the loss of lives and reiterated that the United States stands with the people of India in this difficult hour.

"He expressed that the United States is ready to provide all assistance in the joint fight against terrorism.

"PM thanked Vice President Vance and President Trump for their messages of support and solidarity."

Use Artificial Intelligence Tools to Make Public Relations Work More Effective: Brijesh Singh

PRSI Celebrated National Public Relations Day with Enthusiasm



(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, April 23 : Mumbai: In today’s technological era, artificial intelligence is becoming a powerful tool in the fields of management and communication. The field of public relations is built on trust. Technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and ChatGPT have brought significant changes. Tools such as AI, ChatGPT, Canva, etc., are available to us—what’s important is learning to use them properly. By using these

tools, public relations work can be done more efficiently and effectively. This was stated by Brijesh Singh, Principal Secretary and Director General of the Directorate General of Information and Public Relations.“ He was speaking as the chief guest on the occasion of National Public Relations Day, organized by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), Mumbai Division at the Press Club on the theme “Responsible Use of Artificial

Intelligence: The Role of Public Relations.” Other distinguished speakers present included Moqbil Ahmar, Executive Editor of The Economic Times; Mrs. Anita Srivastava, President of PRSI Mumbai division, Vice president Rajesh Parida, secretary Dr. Milind Awatade, Treasurer Amlan Mascarenhas, Prof. Daivata Patil from the Department of Communication at Mumbai University; various dignitaries from the fields of public relations and

journalism, as well as students from Mumbai University’s communication and journalism programs.“ Principal Secretary Brijesh Singh added, “Even though AI doesn’t understand human emotions, it is very efficient in sentiment analysis and compiling feedback. Technology is constantly evolving. Those who keep learning can survive. Today it’s AI, tomorrow it might be something else, but if you

maintain a learning and adaptive mindset, you won’t fall behind. Technologies like AI and ChatGPT have brought massive transformations. Tasks that earlier required human intellect are now being performed by machines—and often faster and with more precision. Instead of fearing this, we should learn and reinvent ourselves. Whether it’s translation, article writing, visual creation, report preparation, or creating social media posts in any language—AI can do it instantly.” Moqbil Ahmar, Executive Editor of The Economic Times, said, “A computer may replace a typewriter, but it works based on human commands. However, AI learns on its own and makes its own decisions. Around 60 countries across the world have developed national AI policies.” Mrs. Anita Srivastava delivered the program’s introduction. The event was anchored by Prof. Daivata Patil, and the vote of thanks was given by Dr. Milind Awatade.

PM Modi, Saudi Crown Prince MBS decide to create new Ministerial Committee on Defence Cooperation

Jeddah/New Delhi, April 23 (UNI) :The India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC), co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah on Tuesday evening, decided to create a new Ministerial Committee on Defence Cooperation under it. The second leaders meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) reviewed the work of the various committees, subcommittees and working groups under the SPC, which encompass political, defence, security, trade, investment, energy, technology, agriculture, culture and people-to-people ties. The discussions were followed by signing of the minutes by the two leaders, PM Modi and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. To reflect the deepening

of defence partnership over the past few years – including joint exercises, training programmes, and collaboration in defence industry, the Council decided to create a new Ministerial Committee on Defence Cooperation under the SPC, a statement said. To strengthen cultural and people-to-people ties, which has significant momentum in recent years, the Council decided to create a new Ministerial Committee on Tourism and Cultural Cooperation under the SPC. The four committees under the India-Saudi Arabia SPC shall now be as follows: (1) Political, Consular and Security Cooperation Committee. (2) Defence Cooperation Committee. (3) Economy, Energy, Investment and Technology Committee. (4) Tourism and Cultural Cooperation Committee.

The two leaders also held a meeting under Joint High Level Task Force on Investment (HLTFI), a mechanism which was agreed upon during the visit of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to India in September 2023. Building on the commitment of Saudi Arabia to invest USD 100 billion in India in multiple areas including energy, petrochemicals, infrastructure, technology, fintech, digital infrastructure, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing and health, the joint High-Level Task Force on Investment came to an understanding in multiple areas to rapidly promote such investment flows. Both sides agreed to collaborate on establishing two refineries in India. The progress made by HLTF in areas such as taxation is a major breakthrough for greater

investment cooperation in the future. The List of MoUs/Agreements signed during the meeting Tuesday between PM Modi and the Crown Prince were: *MoU between the Saudi Space Agency and the Department of Space of India on Cooperation in the field of Space Activities for Peaceful Purposes. *MoU between the Ministry of Health of Saudi Arabia and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India on Cooperation in the field of Health. *MoU between the Saudi Arabian Anti-Doping Committee (SAADC) and the National Anti-Doping Agency, India (NADA) on Cooperation in the field of Anti-Doping Education and Prevention. *Agreement between the Saudi Post Corporation (SPL) and the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications of India on Cooperation in Inward Surface Parcel.

Taliban regime in Kabul condemns Pahalgam attacks, expresses condolences

Kabul/New Delhi, April 23 (UNI) :The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan today condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and said such incidents undermine the efforts to ensure regional security and stability. In a post on X, Abdul Qahar Balkhi, spokesperson of the Afghan Taliban foreign ministry in Kabul, said: “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan categorically condemns the recent attack on tourists in the Pahalgam region of Jammu and Kashmir, and expresses our condolences to the bereaved families. “Such incidents undermine efforts to ensure regional security and stability.”

Will get the mastermind of terror attack in Pahalgam: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi, April 23 (UNI) : Strongly condemning the terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday issued a stern warning, asserting that the government will not only reach those who have perpetrated this incident, but will also those who orchestrated it from behind the scenes as part of a conspiracy on the Indian soil.Delivering a memorial lecture on the Marshal of the Indian Air Force (IAF) Arjan Singh, Rajnath said, “On Tuesday, in Pahalgam, our country lost many innocent citizens in a cowardly attack by terrorists targeting religion. This inhuman act has plunged all of us into deep grief and pain”. In the context of cross-border-supported terrorist incidents, Rajnath said “History is witness to the withering away of nations not due to the action of the adversary, but due to the result of their own misdeeds. I hope people across the border look at lessons of history more closely”.He expressed heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, adding, “In this hour of grief, I pray to God for the peace of the departed souls”.Reiterating the government's resolve, the Defence Minister stated, "India has a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism. Every citizen of India stands united against this cowardly act." He assured the nation that the government of India would take all necessary and appropriate measures in response to the attack. "From this platform, I assure my fellow countrymen that, in view of

this incident, the government of India will take every step that is necessary and appropriate. We will not only reach those who have perpetrated this act, but will also those who, operating from behind the scenes, have conspired to commit such nefarious acts on Indian soil," Singh said. He further emphasised the resilience of the nation, saying, "India is such an old civilization and such a vast country that it cannot be intimidated by any such terrorist activities. The people responsible for such acts will get a strong response in the near future." Rajnath Singh described the journey of IAF as an aspiring, inspirational, and transformational epic, which is not just about touching the sky, but also turning the dreams of national security into reality. He stated that, despite challenges, IAF has grown stronger post-independence, and is today contributing significantly to national security as a strong pillar.He emphasised that the government’s focus is on transforming the armed forces on the back of a self-reliant defence ecosystem. He reiterated the commitment towards establishing IAF as a dominant power in the region, stating that the journey towards Aatmanirbharta is a shared responsibility. Commitment, collaboration and unified vision is the need of the hour, he said. He added that India’s national security will get further strengthened if IAF is well-equipped and highly technology-oriented.

He also stressed that national security cannot be ensured through import dependency, and the government is working relentlessly towards achieving defence sovereignty. He stated that emphasis is being laid on manufacturing defence equipment within the country and the efforts of Ministry of Defence are yielding positive results. He termed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv, Light Utility Helicopter Prachand, Akash & BrahMos Air Defence weapons as shining examples of the capability of Indian designers, engineers and scientists.“Today, not only has there been unparalleled growth in defence manufacturing in the public sector, the private sector is also participating with great enthusiasm. As the field of defence production is becoming technology-oriented, the role of start-ups and MSMEs is also increasing rapidly. These are proving to be the backbone of defence innovation. In the times to come, the role of the private sector, start-ups and MSMEs in high-tech warfare is going to increase even more,” the Defence Minister said. Terming aero-engine development as a priority area of the government in view of the needs of IAF, Rajnath Singh stated that the effort is to make the engine in India on the model of co-development and co-production with full intellectual property rights. He added that special attention is being paid to the development of fifth generation fighter aircraft and LCA Mark-2.

Kharge and Rahul speak to Shah, Omar

New Delhi, April 23 (UNI) :Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi spoke with Home Minister Amit Shah and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah late Tuesday night emphasising the need for a firm and appropriate response to this cross-border terror attack. On his social media handle X, Kharge also urged the government to engage with all political parties regarding the incident and also take all efforts to ensure the safety of tourists in J&K."Late last night, spoke with Union Home Minister, Shri @AmitShah, J&K Chief Minister, Shri @OmarAbdullah, along with senior Congress leaders of @INCJammuKashmir about the despicable carnage in Pahalgam," Kharge said. He asserted that those behind the heinous terror attack must "not go unpunished and innocent victims must get

justice". "Unity in action, in the wake of adversity is the need of the hour. This cross-border terror attack should be responded with adequate and resolute reply," he stressed. "GOI must talk to all political parties to ensure security in Jammu and Kashmir and make every possible effort to ensure the safety of tourists in the state," he added. Meanwhile, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi also spoke to Amit Shah and Omar Abdullah and J&K PCC chief Tariq Karra about the gruesome attack.In a post on X, Gandhi said, "Spoke with HM Amit Shah, J&K CM Omar Abdullah, and J&K PCC President Tariq Karra about the horrific Pahalgam terror attack. Received an update on the situation". "The families of victims deserve justice and our fullest support," Gandhi added.

Congress calls emergency CWC meeting Thursday over Pahalgam terror attack

New Delhi, April 23 (UNI) :The Congress party has called an emergency Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Thursday at the AICC Office here in the wake of the deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that left 26 dead. According to a statement issued by party general secretary KC Venugopal, the meeting will be held at 11 am at the 24, Akbar Road office. Meanwhile, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in a statement on Wednesday said, “CWC shall meet tomorrow at 11 am in AICC Office, Delhi (24 Akbar Road) to discuss regarding the same. That is why I have pre-poned my programme, and I am leaving for Delhi”. Notably, the attack, which took place on Tuesday in the scenic Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam, left 25 tourists and one local resident dead.

Japan condemns Pahalgam attacks

New Delhi, April 23 (UNI) :Japan has strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attacks, with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya stressing that Japan is firmly committed to combatting terrorism in cooperation with India and the international community.Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba sent a message of condolences to Prime Minister Modi, in which he expressed shock and anger at the terror attack in which 28 people were killed. “Dear H.E. Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, “I cannot help but feel great shock and anger regarding the large number of casualties caused by the terrorist attack carried out yesterday in Kashmir.“I resolutely condemn such a vicious attack. On behalf of the Japanese government and people, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to those who lost their lives and their bereaved families, and express my heartfelt sympathy to those who were injured. “I express my heartfelt solidarity to the people of India in

the process of overcoming this difficult time. “Terrorism cannot be justified for any reason. Japan strongly condemns all forms of terrorism. Japan is firmly committed to com-batting terrorism in cooperation with India and the international community.” Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, in a message of condolences to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, said that terrorism cannot be justified for any reason: “I extend my sincere condolences to those

who lost their lives and their bereaved families in the terrorist attack carried out in Kashmir, on April 22nd. I would also like to express my deepest sympathy to those who were injured in the attack.”Terrorism cannot be justified for any reason. Japan strongly condemns all forms of terrorism. Japan is firmly committed to combatting terrorism in cooperation with India and the international community. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the friendly people of India.”

India closes Attari border, asks all Pakistani nationals to leave within 48 hours

New Delhi, April 23 (UNI) :In stringent steps against Pakistan in the backdrop of the Pahalgam terror attack, India on Wednesday declared the Defence/Military, Naval and Air Advisors in the Pakistani High Commission here as Persona Non Grata and gave them a week to leave the country. Briefing the media after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said India would be withdrawing its own

Defence/Navy/Air Advisors from the country’s High Commission in Islamabad, deeming these posts in the respective High Commissions as annulled. The CCS also decided to immediately close the Integrated Check Post at Attari and asked all Pakistani nationals in India to leave within 48 hours. Those Indians who have crossed over can return by May 1.Misri said no Pakistani national would be allowed to travel to India.

Minister shares meal with beneficiary family, highlights Telangana’s rice subsidy plan

Siddipet, April 23 (UNI) :Telangana Backward Class (BC) and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, along with Siddipet district collector Manu Chowdhury and other officials, visited Koheda Mandal on Tuesday and shared lunch with the family of Talari Chandrayya, a beneficiary of the state's newly launched rice subsidy scheme.

The lunch was hosted at the reed hut residence of Talari Chandrayya and Mallavva, who had prepared a traditional meal for the visiting dignitaries.

The family expressed

their gratitude, stating that the rice subsidy scheme would bring significant relief and support to their household.

Minister Ponnam interacted with the family to understand their previous ration entitlements and how the new initiative is impacting their daily lives.

“We launched the rice distribution programme starting from Ugadi with the ambition that no citizen in Telangana should go hungry,” the Minister said.

He further announced that an Indiramma housing would be extended to the family, acknowledging their request during the visit.

“We are not just implementing one scheme, but a comprehensive package of welfare programs,” the Minister added.

Highlighting the state’s broader social initiatives, Ponnam Prabhakar spoke about new ration cards, 200 units of free electricity, free RTC bus travel for women, enhanced mess and cosmetic charges in Gurukul schools, recent job appointments, and a Rs 500 bonus for fine paddy. He emphasised that these efforts are aimed at ensuring dignity and support for every citizen.

“The fine rice scheme is

a historic decision. It is unique to Telangana and is not about political gain. If the Centre recognises its value and recommends it to other states, we will welcome that acknowledgement,” he stated.

“This is not about identifying who qualifies, but about how we can continue to serve our people better.”

Minister Ponnam reiterated that the Telangana government remains committed to justice and welfare for the marginalised and will continue introducing people-centric programs to uplift lives across the state.

Southern states join forces in Telangana to tackle cybercrime at regional DGsP coordination meet

Hyderabad, April 23 (UNI) : The Telangana Police on Wednesday hosted the Regional Quarterly Meeting of the Southern State DGsP Coordination Conference, bringing together senior police officials from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Puducherry to strengthen inter-state cooperation on cybercrime and cybersecurity.

Presided over by Jitender, DGP of Telangana, the conference focused on a range of cybercrime-related challenges including inter-state coordination, legal gaps, procedural delays, and the misuse of cryptocurrency.

Officials emphasised the need for international cooperation, coordination with banks and telecom providers, and public awareness to improve cyber resilience.

“It is essential for southern states to unite in tackling cybercrime and creating a safer digital ecosystem,” DGP Jitender noted.

Shikha Goel, Director of the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau, highlighted the role of AI and intelligence sharing in disrupting cybercriminal networks.

Rajesh Kumar, IPS, CEO of I4C, reaffirmed support for state-specific cyber initiatives, emphasising a unified national approach.

A key outcome of the meeting was the decision to establish a Regional Cyber Coordination Cell. This cell will facilitate real-time intelligence sharing, joint investigations, and faster resolution of cybercrime cases.

The meeting, attended in hybrid mode by top cybercrime officials from all participating states and union territories, set the tone for a collaborative future in combating the rising tide of digital threats, a statement from DGP office said.

ABC Fitness launches global innovation hub

Hyderabad, April 23 (UNI) : ABC Fitness, a global leader in fitness technology solutions, has launched its Innovation Hub in Hyderabad, marking a major expansion of its global operations.

The new centre will serve as a key driver for product innovation, AI-based solutions, and customer-centric technologies, a company statement said on Wednesday.

The company plans to hire 200 tech professionals in the first year, spanning software development, cloud, cybersecurity, data science, UI/UX, and more.

The hub will focus on AI-driven personalization, business intelligence, cloud-native platforms, and IoT integration to enhance gym operations and customer engagement globally.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy flays Pahalgam attack, calls for protests



Hyderabad, April 23 (UNI) :Union Minister and Telangana BJP president G Kishan Reddy strongly condemned the terror attack in J&K’s Pahalgam, describing it as a shameful act and a grim reminder of Pakistan’s continued attempts to disrupt peace in the region.

In a symbolic gesture of protest, the Minister paid tribute to the victims at the Ambedkar statue on Tank Bund on Wednesday, wearing black and holding the national flag in

solidarity. He expressed deep sorrow for the loss of innocent lives and said that the families of the victims would receive every support.

Speaking on the occasion, Kishan Reddy stated, “This incident is the result of Pakistan’s incompetent leadership. Pakistan is setting fire to peaceful Jammu and Kashmir. If they attempt to harm India, they will pay the price.”

Emphasising a strong stance against terrorism, the Minister declared that there would

be no leniency for those responsible.

Kishan Reddy also called upon citizens across Telangana to unite in protest. He urged people to organise demonstrations in every mandal and basti, encouraging communities to come together to show solidarity with the victims and condemn the attack.

“The entire community stands united against this heinous act,” he said, urging all to participate and express their condolences during the protests.

BC Commission condemns Kashmir terror attack, holds condolence meet for victims

Hyderabad, April 23 (UNI) : The Telangana Backward Classes (BC) Commission held a solemn condolence meeting at its office on Wednesday to pay tribute to the victims of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, which claimed the lives of 28 tourists.

The meeting was attended by BC Commission Chairman G Niranjan, members Rapolu Jayaprakash and Tirumalagiri Surender, Deputy Director U Srinivasa Rao, Special Officer G. Satish, and other commission staff. Participants lit candles and observed a two-minute silence to honor the memory of the victims.

During the event, a resolution was passed condemning the inhumane killing of innocent tourists, many of whom were shot in front of their families.

“The mental anguish of the bereaved, especially those who witnessed the brutality alongside their children and spouses, is unimaginable,” the resolution stated.

The Commission strongly urged the Central and State Governments to take stringent action to prevent such heinous acts in the future. It also appealed for comprehensive support to be extended to the affected families, including measures to secure the education and well-being of the victims’ children.

“We pray for the departed souls to rest in peace and for the grieving families to find strength in this time of deep sorrow,” the resolution concluded.

The BC Commission emphasised that unity, peace, and decisive action are essential in the face of such tragic and senseless violence.

3 forest staff hurt in attack by timber smuggler

Nandurbar, April 23 (UNI) : Three employees of a forest department were injured when a timber smuggler attacked them at an illegal timber factory in Waghdha village of Navapur taluka of Nandurbar district on Tuesday.

Forest department officials said based on a tip-off, the divisional forest officer vigilance, Nandurbar and the police jointly raided Rajendra Prabhakar Vasave alias Raju Band in the Wagdi forest area.

Three forest employees were injured when Vasave attacked the forest guards with an axe.

The police later

arrested the accused along with his three accomplices.

Teak, khair, sesame, ready-made furniture, machinery required for making furniture in large

quantities and illegally stored saw machines were found in the possession of the accused. The estimated value of the seized goods is Rs 50 lakh, officials said.

HP govt terminates irregular appointment of core faculty at HPSIRD

Shimla, April 23 (UNI) : The Himachal Pradesh government has declared the appointment and regularization of Manu Mahajan as core faculty at the Himachal Pradesh State Institute of Rural Development (HPSIRD) as “null and void”, citing non-fulfillment of eligibility criteria at the time of his appointment.

The notification, issued by the Department of Rural Development and signed by secretary Rajesh Sharma, IAS, comes in the wake of detailed inquiries prompted by complaints from Randhir Thakur, an ex-employee of HIPA/SIRD, and advocate Abhishek Daulta. The matter had also been examined by the Law Department and the Department of Personnel.

According to the government’s notification, inquiries and a legal review revealed that Mahajan did not meet the eligibility conditions when he was appointed as Core Faculty. Consequently, the appointment was deemed to have violated rules and guidelines issued by both the government of India and the state government.

The government clarified that multiple opportunities were provided to Mahajan to present his case, with hearings held on December 23, 2024, January 7, 2025, and January 17, 2025. However, his submissions were found untenable and unsupported by the records.

Interestingly, this development is closely linked to two ongoing cases in the Himachal Pradesh High Court filed by Randhir Thakur. In his petitions, Thakur has demanded regularization of his services, citing parity with Mahajan.

Amer Ali Khan meets AICC in-charge, suggests strengthening grassroots organisation and minority outreach

Hyderabad, April 23 (UNI) : Congress MLC Amer Ali Khan met AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, offering strategic suggestions to bolster the party's grassroots structure and enhance outreach among minority communities.

The meeting was part of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee’s (TPCC) broader restructuring initiative aimed at revitalising the party from the village to the district level.

During the interaction, Amer Ali Khan stressed the importance of engaging committed grassroots workers, particularly from minority communities, to ensure inclusive participation and representation within the party.

He emphasised that building an organisation reflective of Telangana’s

social and regional diversity was crucial for the Congress party’s growth.

Highlighting the state government's focus on minority welfare, Khan noted that a substantial budget of Rs 3,591 crore had been allocated for minority welfare in the current fiscal year.

He also drew attention to the unprecedented allocation of Rs 840 crore for self-employment schemes, describing it as a “game-changer” for the economic empowerment of minorities.

He urged party workers to proactively promote these schemes at the community level to ensure the benefits reach deserving youth and families.

Earlier in the day, Meenakshi Natarajan conducted a meeting with state-level observers, laying out a roadmap for a three-phase reorganisation

of the party.

TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud presided over the meeting and announced a schedule of district-level meetings from April 25 to 30, which will be followed by block and mandal-level sessions.

Key stakeholders including MPs, MLAs, MLCs, former candidates, and senior party functionaries will participate.

Amer Ali Khan lauded the TPCC’s systematic approach to restructuring and expressed confidence that a strong grassroots network would not only improve the party’s electoral performance but also enhance its ability to serve the people effectively.

He reiterated his commitment to the organisational revamp and pledged continued efforts to bridge the gap between the Congress and minority communities, a statement said.

Future Ready” – high-level meeting with teacher associations focuses on education reforms

Hyderabad, April 23 (UNI) : A high-level meeting titled “Telangana: Future Ready” was convened under the leadership of Dr Yogita Rana, Secretary, Department of Education, at Godavari Hall, SCERT, Hyderabad on Wednesday.

The session brought together senior education officials and representatives from various teacher associations to deliberate on strengthening government schools and boosting student enrollment.

Director of School Education, E V Narsimhareddy, presented key data on student performance and declining enrollment trends. Teacher associations proposed actionable reforms, including shifting the Badi Bata enrollment drive to May, introducing pre-primary classes, linking Anganwadis with schools, and strengthening teacher training and

inspection systems.

Additional recommendations included spoken English programs, rational teacher distribution, improved school infrastructure, and stronger classroom engagement. The need to relieve teachers from non-academic duties and appoint temporary replacements during leave was also emphasised.

Dr Rana held direct consultations with the teacher representatives, reaffirming the department’s commitment to collaborative reform. The initiative was widely appreciated by all associations, who called for more frequent engagement of this nature.

Key education officials, including Ms A Sridevasena, IAS, Ms M. Hariitha, IAS, and Additional Directors from the department, were present, an official statement said.

those responsible, asserting that peace in Jammu and Kashmir must be protected and such attacks must never recur.

“The government must prioritise security and justice, ensuring such heinous crimes are never repeated. It is not just the people of India, but the entire world, that is watching,” said Wesley.

CPI(M) condemns Jammu terror attack, urges strong action and justice for victims

Hyderabad, April 23 (UNI) : The CPI(M) Telangana State Committee strongly condemned the inhuman terrorist attack that took place in Jammu and Kashmir, where 28 people, including tourists and civilians belonging to one religion, were brutally killed in indiscriminate firing by terrorists at a popular tourist destination.

Among

the victims was Manish Ranjan, an officer from the Hyderabad Intelligence Bureau, whose death has sent shockwaves across the nation. At least 20 others were injured in the massacre.

Expressing deep condolences to the bereaved families, CPI(M) State Secretary John Wesley on Wednesday urged the Central

Government to ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured and provide all necessary support to the families of the deceased.

The CPI(M) criticised the careless handling of the situation by the Centre and demanded a thorough investigation from all angles. The party called for the strictest punishment for

CENTRAL RAILWAY				
E-AUCTION NOTICE				
The Principal Chief Material Manager for and on behalf of the President of India, will hold e-Auction during the month of May-2025 for Sale of scrap as follows.				
Auction Conducting officers.	Auction Date & Day			Contact No.
Sr.DMM/NGP	08.05.2025 Thursday	20.05.2025 Tuesday	28.05.2025 Wednesday	7219612750
SR.DMM/BSL With MMR depot.	06.05.2025 Tuesday	15.05.2025 Thursday	26.05.2025 Monday	7219611751
Sr.DMM/PA	07.05.2025 Wednesday	19.05.2025 Monday	27.05.2025 Tuesday	7219613750
Sr.DMM/BB	05.05.2025 Monday	14.05.2025 Wednesday	22.05.2025 Thursday	8828119750
Sr.DMM/SUR	13.05.2025 Tuesday	21.05.2025 Wednesday	29.05.2025 Thursday	7219614750
DY.CMM[ETL]HQ For SMM(G)CRD	08.05.2025 Thursday	20.05.2025 Tuesday	28.05.2025 Wednesday	8828110761
DY.CMM(M)PR	07.05.2025 Wednesday	19.05.2025 Monday	27.05.2025 Tuesday	8828119755
DY.CMM(CWE)MTN	06.05.2025 Tuesday	15.05.2025 Thursday	26.05.2025 Monday	8828119770
DY.CMM[ETL]HQ For AMM/HBHR	08.05.2025 Thursday	20.05.2025 Tuesday	28.05.2025 Wednesday	8828110761
DY.CMM [ACL]BSL	05.05.2025 Monday	14.05.2025 Wednesday	22.05.2025 Thursday	7219611750
NOTE: a) In future publishing of e-Auction Programme in News paper will be discontinued and purchasers to link Central Railway IREPS website address- www.ireps.gov.in only. b) Supplementary Auction will be conducted on next working day from the original date & timing of Auction for eligible lots if required. Railway administration reserves the right to cancel any of the supplementary Auction on its own discretion. c) Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-auction. Railway also reserves the right to auction any lot of any depot/divisions in any subsequent auction in any suitable manner. Also unsold lots of any Depot/Division can be sold in subsequent auction of other Depot/Division of Central Railway. d) As per Govt. policy, where recycling of scrap material involves environment and pollution issues, such lots will be sold only to the authorized bidders having valid licenses issued by the Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB)/State Pollution Control Board(SPCB). e) e-Auction catalogue will be available on the website-www.ireps.gov.in. f) In case any assistance is required regarding e-Auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation etc., please contact respective Auction Conducting officers as above or Dy.CMM/Sales/HQ, mobile no. 8828110761, email address- dycmm.s.cstm@gmail.com or dycmms@ccr.railnet.gov.in For Principal Chief Materials Manager				
56 अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है				

STANDARD POST

Indian scientists develop optical sensing platform to detect cholesterol

A team of interdisciplinary researchers at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) in Guwahati, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has developed an optical sensing platform for cholesterol detection, based on silk fibre functionalised using phosphorene quantum dots.

A point-of-care (POC) device has been developed in the laboratory scale for detecting cholesterol using this, according to a Ministry of Science & Technology statement.

It can sense cholesterol in trace amounts, even below the preferred range. It can be an efficient tool for routine monitoring of cholesterol levels in the human body.

The platform developed for cholesterol detection can help identify early symptoms of diseases like atherosclerosis, venous thrombosis, cardiovascular diseases, heart disease, myocardial infarction, hypertension, and cancer.

The project, led by Neelotpal Sen Sarma, a retired professor; Dr Asis Bala, an Associate Professor; and Nasrin Sultana, a DST INSPIRE Senior Research Fellow incorporated the material – the silk fibre -- into a cellulose nitrate membrane to create an electrical sensing platform for cholesterol detection.

The synthesised sensors were highly sensitive as well as selective for cholesterol detection. Furthermore, the electrical sensing platform generates no e-waste, a key advantage of the fabricated device.

Both sensing platforms respond similarly to real-world media such as human blood serum, experimental rat blood serum, and milk. The work has been published in the “Nanoscale” Journal, published by Royal Society of Chemistry.

Detecting fatal diseases at their earliest symptoms is essential, as abnormal biochemical markers may sometimes accompany such disorders. Therefore, reliable point-of-care (POC) detection of biomarkers associated with these diseases is necessary for personalized health monitoring.

Cholesterol is an essential lipid in humans, produced by the liver. It is the precursor for vitamin D, bile acids, and steroid hormones. Cholesterol is necessary for animal tissues, blood, and nerve cells, and it is transported by blood in mammals.

There are two types of cholesterol: LDL (low-density lipoprotein), often referred to as 'bad' cholesterol because it can accumulate in the walls of arteries and contribute to severe diseases, and HDL (high-density lipoprotein), known as 'good' cholesterol.

Bombay YMCA at 150 (1875–2025): Empowering Communities, Transforming Lives

A Legacy of Service, Sport and Social Change Since 1875



(Standard Post Bureau)

From humble beginnings in 1875, the Bombay YMCA has journeyed through 150 remarkable years, transforming lives through faith, service, and an unwavering commitment to holistic development. Today, it stands not just as an institution, but as a living legacy of social reform, inclusive growth, and community empowerment.

A Legacy of Shelter and Support

Providing affordable, safe, and dignified accommodation to young working men has long been a cornerstone of the Bombay YMCA's mission. Today, hostels across its network continue to serve as sanctuaries for students, professionals, and aspirants navigating life in the city.

In 1972, the headquarters moved from Apollo Bunder to the YMCA International House at Mumbai Central—a vibrant space offering accommodation, training halls, and community programs, deepening YMCA's urban outreach.

Sharan: Shelter and Hope

Among YMCA's newer initiatives is Sharan, a 32-bed temporary shelter for women and children in Saki Naka, Andheri, launched in collaboration with the BMC. A haven for the vulnerable, Sharan has seen despair turn to dignity and hopelessness into healing.

Women like Ruma, who



(Standard Post Bureau)

came to Mumbai from Assam in pursuit of stardom, found security and sustenance here. Jyoti, mute and lost, was rehabilitated. Archana, once homeless, now works with the BMC and lives in a rental flat. Many others have reconciled with families, gained skills, and rebuilt their lives. Sharan offers food, healthcare, counselling, life skills and vocational training—giving what life hadn't: opportunity, resilience, and hope.

Uplifting Rural India: Kanhe Mission

Extending beyond Mumbai's borders, the Bombay YMCA Rural Mission at Kanhe near Lonavala offers vocational training to rural youth and women, transforming lives through skill-building and livelihood opportunities. The campus echoes with stories of empowerment and independence born from education and training.

A Quiet Revolution in

Sports

A pillar of the global YMCA movement is physical education—and Bombay YMCA is a proud torchbearer. In 1895, William George Morgan, a YMCA instructor in the USA, invented volleyball, reflecting the movement's deep engagement with sport as a tool for development.

In India, Bombay YMCA's journey began with tennis in 1883 at Apollo Bunder, followed by cricket and football, leading to the establishment of its first Athletic Club. In 1905, the first Annual Sports Meet hosted 23 events with 180 entries. By 1917, the YMCA was organizing All India Open Sports Championships, promoting the Olympic ideal in Western India. Even Today, the Annual Event continues as 'Bombay YMCA Annual Athletic Meet' draws around 4000 athletes from Maharashtra and Goa & the most sought after athletic meet in western India.



The Physical Education Department, often the pulse of industrial workers, channels the energy of the underprivileged into healthy pursuits—curbing social vices and offering recreation as rehabilitation. Over the decades, Bombay YMCA has produced national and international athletes in basketball, volleyball, football, wrestling, and table tennis.

This legacy continues with a steadfast commitment to sportsmanship, talent development, and building strong minds and bodies—a reflection of YMCA's belief in wholesome development.

A Living Legacy of Service

The Bombay YMCA's work goes beyond shelters and sports. Through balwadis, night study centres, family welfare programs, scholarships, career readiness, and disaster relief, it touches lives every day. At Camp Lakeside in Lonavla, over

10,000 campers annually benefit from leadership and outdoor learning in a serene setting.

Our programmes span intellectual, physical, and spiritual development, with initiatives in sports, education, disaster relief and community welfare. Our community projects include a balwadi, night study centre, boys and women's shelter, scholarships and family services, which are aimed at improving quality of life of individuals, communities and society" said Mr. Allen Kotian, General Secretary, Bombay YMCA

Mr. Noel Amanna, President, Bombay YMCA said "The Bombay YMCA's 150-year journey is a testament to the prayer, power of faith, dedicated service to the community. From its inception in 1875 to today, we have remained committed to wholesome development of youth, empowering families, fostering social change, building a more inclusive

and equitable society. As we celebrate this historic milestone, we rededicate ourselves to our mission—nurturing strong individuals, strong families, and strong communities. The sesquicentennial is not just a celebration of our past, commitment for the present and a promise for the future."

Michael Manuel Raj, Vice President, noted, "Our commitment extends beyond city landmarks into the quiet impact of grassroots initiatives—from shelter through Sharan to nurturing young minds and supporting families. These efforts reflect our core mission: to serve, and not to be served.

Sesquicentennial Celebration at NCPA

To mark 150 years of service, Bombay YMCA will host its Sesquicentennial Celebration on April 25, 2025, at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai. The Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, will grace the event as Chief Guest, alongside dignitaries from the global YMCA movement, national leaders, partners, and well-wishers.

The evening will feature cultural performances, tributes, and stories of transformation, celebrating the spirit of Bombay YMCA—an institution that, for 150 years, has turned faith into action, and service into strength.

Vidyamandir Classes Student Daksh Secures AIR 1 in JEE Main 2025, Tops the Nation

(Standard Post Bureau)

Daksh, a dedicated student of Vidyamandir Classes' 2-Year Classroom Program, has achieved All India Rank 1 in the JEE Main 2025, topping the country in one of the most competitive engineering entrance exams. Daksh's phenomenal accomplishment highlights not only his consistent hard work and academic excellence but also reflects the effectiveness of Vidyamandir Classes' tried and tested teaching methodologies, personalized mentorship, and unwavering commitment to our "student-first" philosophy. His journey is a shining example of how structured guidance, dedication, and focused learning can culminate in unparalleled success.

Expressing his happiness, Brij Mohan, IIT Delhi Alumnus, Co-Founder-Vidyamandir Classes, said, "We are immensely proud of Daksh and his stupendous achievement. His discipline, clarity of concepts, and trust in our pedagogy were key factors in his success. The fact is that question patterns are simple and straight in board examination and in the case of JEE & other competitive examinations questions are always twisted and tricky and we identified first that to succeed, students need to prepare themselves differently. The success of our students in JEE year after year bears testimony to the fact that our unique way of teaching has

succeeded in bringing the best in students. We are very proud of the achievements of our students and teachers. This is a proud moment for the entire VMC family." A student of the 2-Year Classroom Course, Daksh meticulously followed VMC's well-curated curriculum, benefitting from the institute's renowned faculty, personalized mentorship, and stress-free academic approach. Daksh's top rank is a testament to the high standards of academic support and result-oriented training that Vidyamandir Classes provides. As he now prepares for JEE Advanced, the entire VMC team wishes him the very best in continuing his journey of excellence.

'Resign as minister or go to jail': SC to Senthil Balaji

New Delhi, April 23 (UNI) :In a dramatic turn during the ongoing money laundering case tied to the 2011 cash-for-jobs scam, the Supreme Court on Wednesday issued Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji an ultimatum, either continue as a minister or retain the bail granted to him. A special bench, comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih, resumed hearing the Enforcement Directorate's challenge to Balaji's bail, which was granted in September 2024.

At the time of the bail order, the Court had taken into account that Balaji was no longer a minister, a factor central to its Article 21 analysis regarding prolonged incarceration.

However, with Balaji having resumed his

ministerial duties and now serving as the Minister for Electricity, Prohibition, and Excise, the Court expressed strong reservations.

"You are a minister! Look at the findings," the Bench observed, noting that categorical findings of settlements had been recorded against Balaji in earlier proceedings.

"We had granted bail on totally different grounds. If people are going to play with the process of law like this... we will record in our order that we made a mistake in ignoring the judgment findings against you," remarked Justice Oka.

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Balaji, argued that the findings were not directly against his client and highlighted the ED's filing of a supplementary

complaint adding 21 accused and 34 witnesses.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, also representing Balaji, suggested moving the trial outside the state, stating, "I'll never be able to influence anybody."

But the Court remained unmoved and said, "He had not been granted bail on merits. He had been granted bail on possible violation of Article 21," the Bench clarified. "What signal are we sending when you hold office of minister?"

In a firm but cautious stance, the Court did not cancel the bail but instead directed Balaji to make his choice clear at the next hearing scheduled for April 28. "We'll give you a choice: post or freedom," the Bench declared, placing the political future and legal liberty of Senthil Balaji in stark contrast.

Iran condemns fresh US sanctions amid indirect nuclear talks

Tehran, April 23 (UNI) : Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei on Wednesday strongly condemned US's fresh sanctions on a number of individuals and entities linked with the Iranian energy, oil and gas sectors, as well as people involved in the country's "peaceful" nuclear programme.

Baghaei made the remarks in a statement released by the ministry one day after the United States issued the new sanctions targeting individuals and entities for their role in exporting Iran's liquefied petroleum gas and crude oil to foreign markets.

Baghaei said the US policy of imposing sanctions on the Iranian nation was a "clear indication of the American policymakers' hostile approach towards Iran's people and disregard for the rule of law and human rights."

"The US administrations' structural dependence on imposing economic sanctions on developing countries as a tool of intimidation and political pressure violates the fundamental principles and regulations of the United Nations Charter and international law," he added.

He noted that imposing sanctions on Iran's different economic and trade sectors was a "bullying and illegal" move, which is in explicit contradiction with the US claim of favouring dialogue and negotiations and indicative of Washington's lack of goodwill and seriousness in that regard.

The fresh US sanctions came despite the ongoing Oman-mediated indirect talks between Iran and the United States. The first round was held in Muscat on April 12, and the second in Rome on Saturday. The third round is scheduled to take place in Oman this coming Saturday.

US VP JD Vance says Russia-Ukraine must reach a ceasefire or Washington will put out

Washington/Jaipur, April 23 (UNI) : United States Vice President JD Vance has warned that Russia and Ukraine must reach a ceasefire agreement or the US will step down from its mediation efforts.

According to CBS News, addressing reporters during his visit to Jaipur, India, the US VP said: "We've issued a very explicit proposal to both the Russians and the Ukrainians, and it's time for them to either say yes, or for the United States to walk away from this process."

"It's now time, I think, to take, if not the final step, one of the final steps, which is, at a broad level, the party saying we're going to stop the killing, we're going to freeze the territorial lines at some level close to where they are today," Vance added.

"Now, of course, that means the Ukrainians and the Russians are both going to have to give up some of the territory they currently own."

Vance's remarks came as senior officials from the US, France, the UK, Germany and Ukraine were holding talks in London aimed at securing a ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia, after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio pulled out of higher-level talks that had been scheduled earlier.

Ending the Russia-Ukraine war has been one of the key agendas of the Trump administration, which had earlier said that it will end the ongoing three-year-war in less than a week.

Despite President Trump's mediation efforts, no final solution has been reached by either party, as Kyiv has repeatedly refused to agree on Moscow's terms for bringing a ceasefire.

WFP warns of rising hunger, malnutrition in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, April 23 (UNI) : The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has warned over rising hunger and malnutrition in Ethiopia as humanitarian needs outpace resources.

"Hunger and malnutrition are on the rise in Ethiopia as ongoing conflict, regional instability, displacement, drought and economic shocks leave millions without sufficient nutritious food," the WFP said in a statement issued Tuesday.

Noting that its life-saving response has been "severely hampered" by critical funding shortfalls, the WFP said some 3.6 million of the most vulnerable are at "imminent risk of losing food assistance."

According to the UN agency, over 10 million people are facing hunger and malnutrition across Ethiopia, including 3 million people forced from their homes due to conflict and extreme weather.

Malnutrition rates are alarmingly high, with 4.4 million pregnant, breastfeeding women and children in need of treatment, it said.

The WFP also warned that poor rainfall, which is anticipated in southeastern Ethiopia through May, risks another drought in the country's Somali Region as families are still reeling from the 2020-2023 drought.

Highlighting that humanitarian needs in Ethiopia are rising due to conflict in neighbouring countries, the WFP said it has supported 800,000 refugees in Ethiopia, including 100,000 Sudanese refugees, while escalating insecurity in northeastern South Sudan could drive 10,000 more refugees across the border.

The WFP said it has delivered food and nutrition assistance to more than 3 million people in the first quarter of 2025, including displaced and severely food-insecure Ethiopians and refugees.

It also expressed concern over access challenges, as ongoing violence and insecurity, mainly in the Amhara region, are disrupting humanitarian operations, threatening its ability to reach over half a million vulnerable people in the region.



View of the back side of Santa Maria Maggiore Church, or the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, where Pope Francis will be buried on Saturday, in Rome, Italy.

Sri Lanka signed MoU on Defence Cooperation with India 'with responsibility': Cabinet spokesperson

Colombo, April 23 (UNI) : The Sri Lankan government signed the MoU on Defence Cooperation with India "with responsibility", and needs the consensus of New Delhi to disclose its contents, Cabinet Spokesman Nalinda Jayatissa has said. Jayatissa told this to reporters when asked about the contents of the MoU signed during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Colombo earlier this month.

The Defence pact was signed amid Indian

pressure to stop Chinese research vessels from berthing in Sri Lanka, with New Delhi maintaining they are a threat to the security of the Indian Ocean region, economynext reported.

“On certain contents, we need mutual agreement to disclose the information,” Cabinet Spokesman Jayatissa, also the Minister of Media and Health, told reporters at the post-Cabinet media briefing on Tuesday, in response to a query on whether the defence pact had banned

Chinese research vessels from coming to Sri Lankan waters.“In future, we will be submitting them to the parliament. It will take some time. Definitely in the future.”“These are only Memorandum of Understanding. We will disclose about them to the parliament in the future. If it is difficult to wait, some of the information could be requested through the Right to Information (RTI) Act.”Minister Jayatissa said the government has signed the MoUs "with responsibility".“They are

not decisions taken by politicians. Respective ministries, AG Departments, all the related institutions are consulted and it is discussed at length for months, and some were amended and some new clauses were added. Based on consensus after all this we have arrived at these MoUs,” he said.

“The next steps are going to be taken based on these MoUs. For some we need to establish mechanisms to implement the MoUs,” he added.

China unveils Shenzhou-20 crew for space station mission

Jiquan, April 23 (UNI) : Chinese astronauts Chen Dong, Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie will carry out the Shenzhou-20 crewed spaceflight mission, and Chen Dong will be the commander, the China Manned Space Agency announced at a press conference on Wednesday.

The Shenzhou-20 crewed spaceship is scheduled to be launched at 5:17 p.m. Thursday (Beijing Time) from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, said Lin Xiqiang, spokesperson of the agency.Chen Dong participated in the Shenzhou-11 and Shenzhou-14 space missions. He served as the commander of the Shenzhou-14 crew and will take on the mantle once again after a two-year interval. He will also become the first among China's second batch of

astronauts to carry out three spaceflight missions. Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie both come from the third batch of astronauts and will embark on their first spaceflight mission. Before being selected, Chen Zhongrui was an air force pilot, while Wang Jie was an engineer at the China Academy of Space Technology under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

Chen Dong described his crew as embodying a synergy of precision and rigor. Speaking to the press on Wednesday, he said the pilot brings sharp thinking and precise operational skills, while the engineer contributes a meticulous attitude and a solid theoretical foundation.

"I have full confidence in our team, and it is capable and resourceful. We collaborate effectively, with each member fulfilling their

role and handling responsibilities independently," he added.

The Shenzhou-20 astronauts will complete in-orbit rotation with the Shenzhou-19 crew and stay at the space station for approximately six months, according to Lin.The new crew will undertake a range of tasks, including space science experiments, application tests, extravehicular activities, and cargo handling. Their mission also involves installing protective devices against space debris, deploying and retrieving extravehicular payloads and equipment. They will also participate in science education, public outreach, and other onboard experimental activities.The Shenzhou-19 astronauts are scheduled to return to the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on April 29, Lin said.

World Bank lowers Bangladesh growth projection to 3.3pc in fiscal 2025

Dhaka, April 23 (UNI) : The World Bank has lowered Bangladesh's economic growth projection to 3.3% in the current fiscal, down from its January forecast of 4.1 percent due to the political uncertainty and persistent financial challenges facing the country.

In its latest South Asia Development Update, the World Bank also warned the 12-month average inflation in the country could hit 10 percent in FY25.

"This primarily reflects the disruptions arising from last summer's social unrest and political tensions. It also reflects the trade disruptions, the persistence of inflation, worsening bank health, governance challenges, and general uncertainty about the country's political future, all of which will contribute to an expected decline in investment," it said.

The World Bank's growth outlook for the current fiscal year stands out as the gloomiest among other recent forecasts.

This comes a day after the International Monetary Fund predicted 3.76 percent growth of Bangladesh's gross domestic product for the current fiscal year, and the Asian Development Bank's projection of 3.9%, according to The Daily Star. In its South Asia Development Update released today, the WB attributed the overall deceleration in the first three quarters of FY25 to a sharp decline in private and public investment.

It noted that political violence, curfews, and internet shutdowns severely disrupted economic activity in the first quarter. Private investment

growth is likely to remain constrained through the rest of the year due to global trade disruptions, high input and borrowing costs, and continued domestic policy uncertainty, it added. This comes as Bangladesh is already in a massive economic turmoil, due to rising inflation, lack of private sector investments due to the security situations, slow manufacturing, and disruptions in the country's textile sector – its financial mainstay.

However, it has anticipated a recovery in the fiscal year 2025-26, although growth has been downgraded to 4.9 percent, reflecting lower investor confidence and macroeconomic pressures.

The latest South Asia Development Update, Taxing Times, projects regional growth to slow to 5.8 percent in 2025—0.4 percentage points below October projections—before ticking up to 6.1 percent in 2026. This outlook is subject to heightened risks, including from a highly uncertain global landscape, combined with domestic vulnerabilities including constrained fiscal space.

“Multiple shocks over the past decade have left South Asian countries with limited buffers to withstand an increasingly challenging global environment,” said Martin Raiser, World Bank Vice President for South Asia. “The region needs targeted reforms to strengthen economic resilience and unlock faster growth and job creation. Now is the time to open to trade, modernize agricultural sectors, and boost private sector dynamism.”

2 Pak astronauts to receive spaceflight training in China

Beijing, April 23 (UNI) : China will select and train two Pakistani astronauts for space missions, with one slated to serve as a payload specialist on a future Chinese space station flight, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced on Wednesday.

The selected Pakistani astronaut will conduct scientific experiments designed by Pakistan while performing regular crew responsibilities when in orbit, CMSA spokesperson Lin Xiqiang told a press conference in Jiuquan in northwest China. The selection process for Pakistani astronauts is underway following the signing of a bilateral cooperation agreement in late February, Lin said.

The selection involves a three-round procedure that includes a preliminary selection phase in Pakistan, and secondary and final selection phases in China, Lin said. Lin noted that China is currently engaged in discussions with other nations regarding potential foreign astronaut participation in the country's future space station missions.

US, UK, France, Germany, Ukraine to discuss Ukrainian settlement in London

London, April 23 (UNI) : Representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Ukraine will meet in London on Wednesday to hold another round of talks on the settlement of the Ukraine conflict. The meeting will follow up negotiations between Europe, the US and Ukraine held in Paris last week.

Beauty



Beauty rituals from around the world

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

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

Spanish circles
You surely must have tried cucumber slices to lighten dark circles around your eyes. And there's also a range of haemorrhoidal creams to treat under-eye circles. Weird as it sounds, it is supposed to work like a dream! Not brave enough

to try it? Then follow Spanish women and use very thin potato slices over your eyes. Keep them on for ten minutes. You will notice that they actually lighten the skin reducing the blueness of the veins under your eyes.

Kiss cellulite goodbye, the Brazilian way
Cellulite is every woman's despair and there seems to be no way to shooing it away. Here's a thing to learn from Brazilian women, who rub sand on their bodies. When it comes to cellulite, dry brushing is the best, natural and probably, the only way to getting rid of them. So, use sand to kiss cellulite goodbye.

Greek TLC for lips

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

Chinese anti-ageing

Want skin that defies age-related problems? Sip on white tea like the

Chinese do. It protects your skin from free radicals and you don't need to worry about Botox, fillers, collagen and the likes.

Australian dandruff cure

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

Scandinavian skincare

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

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

puffiness. A good 20 splashes with cold water should do the trick.

Dominican way to stronger nails

So what is the secret to the super strong nails of women from the Dominican Republic? Garlic. It is the natural way to strengthen your nails and to ward off vampires! Want sturdy nails? Chop fresh garlic pods and add them to a bottle of clear nail polish. Leave them in there for seven to eight days. Paint your nails with this concoction. Although it will smell initially, it is a small price to pay to getting rid of brittle nails.

Be scorching hot at Parties this summer



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

Keep it simple

Beauty consultant Manasi Bhakade states, "Always begin day makeup with a sunblock (at least SPF 30), followed by a light oil-free foundation or BB/CC cream. Shadow and mascara on your eyes and a nourishing lip tint later, you are good to face the day." According to

senior makeup artiste Sonic Sarwate, one should choose makeup that blends well with the skin and doesn't feel heavy.

Use concealers

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

Do a double cleansing

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

Close pores

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

If you sweat a lot...

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

Use the right makeup

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

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

Get this look

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

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

For dry, frizzy hair, apply a paste of two bananas and honey and leave it for about an hour. This will help moisturize hair and keep it soft. Apply lemon juice on your scalp for 15 minutes and then wash it off. This will ensure an oil-free scalp. Soak fenugreek (methi) seeds in water overnight. Mix two spoons of curd



Home remedies for hair-care in Monsoon

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

Strain the water the next day and use this water to wash your hair. Methi is effective for many hair problems like hairfall, dandruff and dryness.

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

with an egg and apply it on your hair for 15-20 minutes. Use this mixture as a conditioner after you shampoo your hair. It will make your hair soft and shiny.

Home remedies to cure dry, Flaky skin

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



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

Banana pack -

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

Almond pack -

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

Yogurt pack -

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

Aloe Vera Gel -



MI thrash SRH to climb to 3rd spot in IPL table

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, April 23 : Mumbai Indians produced a commanding all-round performance, led by pacer Trent Boult's incisive spell and a blistering batting display, to outclass Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets in a one-sided IPL clash at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Wednesday.

Chasing a modest target of 144, Mumbai gunned down the total in just 15.4 overs, courtesy of a blistering partnership between Will Jacks and Rohit Sharma, followed by fireworks from Suryakumar Yadav.

Jacks, who looked in sublime touch, got MI off the blocks, hammering two boundaries and a six. He perished for 22, caught Abhinav Manohar off Zeeshan Ansari, but not before giving MI the early momentum.

Thereafter, it was the Rohit show. The India skipper, building on his recent form, struck a fluent 70 off 46 balls (8x4, 3x6). He reached his second successive half-century

with a wristy flick off Pat Cummins and continued to toy with the bowlers.

A reverse-heave off Harshal Patel, a vintage pull off Jaydev Unadkat, and a majestic slog-sweep off Ansari typified the range of strokes on display.

Rohit eventually fell to Eshan Malinga, chipping a yorker-tailing delivery to Abhishek Sharma at mid-wicket, but by then the damage had been done. Suryakumar Yadav (40* off 19 balls) took over, unfurling his trademark flicks, sweeps, and reverse cuts in a scintillating cameo.

He clubbed Malinga for a towering six over square leg and later dealt Ansari a pair of boundaries – the last of which was shelled at deep mid-wicket by Nitish Reddy, who complained of losing it in the lights. The dropped catch brought the match to a close, with Mumbai wrapping up the chase clinically in 15.4 overs.

Earlier, Trent Boult (4-0-28-4) was the standout performer with the ball, dismantling SRH's top and lower order after MI opted

to bowl. His scalps included Travis Head (0), Abhishek Sharma (8), Abhinav Manohar (43), and SRH skipper Pat Cummins (1), the last two coming in a dramatic final over.

Heinrich Klaasen (71 off 44) was the lone resistance in SRH camp, counterattacking with flair and power. He reverse-swept Jasprit Bumrah for six and punished Hardik Pandya with audacious smashes, but his dismissal – caught at deep square by Tilak Varma – marked Bumrah's 300th T20 scalp and SRH's last genuine hope. Deepak Chahar (4-0-12-2) was miserly, rattling the SRH top order early, while Mitchell Santner bowled economically. SRH never recovered from their poor start, and despite a 99-run stand between Klaasen and Abhinav, could only post 143/8. Mumbai's clinical performance, fuelled by top-order brilliance and Boult's incisive spell, propelled them to third place on the points table, a remarkable turnaround after losing four of their first five matches this season and winning last four.

Carson Fields set to shine: Home of Olympic Hockey for LA28

Carson (California), April 23 (UNI) : As the world counts down to the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028, the global hockey family is preparing to make an unforgettable mark in the City of Angels.

The spotlight will fall on Carson Fields, the official hockey venue for LA28, poised to deliver a unique and immersive Olympic experience for athletes, fans, and the global hockey community.

Located just outside downtown Los Angeles, Carson Fields, which are adjacent to the world renowned venue that serves as the home of the LA Galaxy football team, will be transformed into a state-of-the-art hockey venue, equipped to host thrilling matches, vibrant fan activations, and moments that will shape the next chapter of Olympic hockey history.

“Carson Fields represents more than just a venue — it’s a symbol of hockey’s continued global rise and a key step in bringing our sport closer to new audiences,” said FIH President Tayyab Ikram. “With its close proximity to other

iconic Olympic events, outstanding sustainable infrastructure, and the energy of Los Angeles, Carson Fields will provide a stage worthy of the world’s best hockey athletes and teams, and inspire the next generation of hockey players across the Americas and beyond,” he said. Hockey will rub shoulders with other Olympic Sports in a venue cluster that will enhance cross-sport engagement, fan experiences and be bursting with energy and athletic excellence throughout The Games.

Plans are underway to feature community outreach programmes and hockey initiation clinics, which were a huge success during the Paris 2024 edition of the Olympic Games, along with sustainability-driven infrastructure, reinforcing hockey’s commitment to innovation and legacy. With Olympic qualification pathways around the corner and excitement building across continents, Carson Fields promises to be a centrepiece of LA28 — where hockey’s finest talents will chase gold, glory, and global admiration under the California sun.

Delhi Golf Club to host inaugural DP World India Championship from Oct 16-19

New Delhi, April 23 (UNI) : Apr 23 (UNI) DP World and the DP World Tour have launched the DP World India championship, a new \$4 million tournament – the largest prize fund ever offered for a DP

World Tour event in Delhi Golf Club from October 16-19 .

The 4-day tourney is co-sanctioned with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) and will be part of the ‘Back 9’ on the 2025 Race to Dubai, the second phase of the season following the ‘Global Swings’, a PGTI media statement said on Wednesday.

The DP World India championship underscored India’s growing influence as a destination for elite \\golf and as a strategic market for DP World. The announcement followed the success of the 2025 Hero Indian Open, won by Eugenio Chacarra, and

further boosts the Tour’s momentum in the region.

The tournament also marks the Tour’s return to Delhi Golf Club for the first time since 2016. As the Tour’s title partner since 2022, DP World has reaffirmed its commitment to golf with this new tournament.

" It complements its broader sporting footprint in India, which includes partnerships with the Delhi Capitals, and its grassroots programmes like the ‘second life’ container initiative and ‘Balls for Birdies’ campaign," the statement said.

Rizwan Soomar, CEO & Managing Director, Middle East, North Africa & India Subcontinent of DP World said: “As a long-term partner of the Tour, we are delighted to announce the formation of the DP World India Championship. We are committed to growing the game of golf in the

country and with our expertise, assets and global network, we are working to elevate the Tour in every way and drive positive community impact. The DP World India Championship reflects this commitment, ensuring that golf continues to evolve in exciting ways.”

Ben Cowen, DP World Tour Chief Tournament & Operations Officer, said: “We are delighted to extend our commitment to golf in India by establishing the new DP World India Championship alongside our valued partner DP World. DP World have been crucial to the development of this exciting new event, and we look forward to building on our shared vision to grow the game in the country. Our thanks also go to Delhi Golf Club for giving us the opportunity to return to such an iconic venue this October.”

Ancelotti says he loves his Real Madrid job

Madrid, April 23 (UNI) : Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti remains tight-lipped over his future at the club ahead of what could be a decisive week, with a La Liga game away to Getafe on Wednesday and the final of the Copa del Rey against FC Barcelona on Saturday.

The press has speculated the Italian will leave Real Madrid at the end of the season in the wake of last week's Champions League exit to Arsenal.

But speaking to the press, Ancelotti didn't seem like a man worried about his future.

"I love this job and I hope this can continue as long as possible, it ends one day, then I will be grateful and I'll take my hat off to this club. Nothing more," he said.

The coach admitted it had been a complicated season, "things could have been better and I have to take responsibility for some mistakes. But this is an evaluation we can make at the end of the season," commented Ancelotti, who implied the club was still supporting him.

"The club is aware that it's been a more complicated year than the last. And together we handle the difficulties. The honeymoon continues," commented the coach. "You see success very close, and it's normal for stress to increase, but stress is fuel for me; it doesn't bother me," he explained.

Ancelotti did admit he had not been involved in planning for next season, but explained that was not unusual. "Here, we've never thought about signings during the season. The club always thinks about signings at the end of the season," the Italian explained.

The coach also said that Kylian Mbappe and Ferland Mendy were back in training after their respective injuries, but said they wouldn't play on Wednesday to ensure they were fit for Saturday night.

Kapil Dev, President of the Professional Golf Tour of India, said, “The inaugural DP World India Championship is a landmark moment for Indian golf and a true reflection of India’s rising stature on the international golfing stage. We look forward to working jointly with our partners at the DP World Tour in making the event a grand success.”

"The tournament provides a great opportunity for our professionals to rub shoulders with some of the best players in the world and gain valuable international exposure. A world-class field vying for a record prize purse and playing at a top-notch international venue such as Delhi Golf Club makes for a spectacle for Indian golf fans. The event will greatly contribute to further popularising the sport in our country," he added.

Zimbabwe repeat 2018 heroics with thrilling Test win in Sylhet



Sylhet, April 23 (UNI) : Zimbabwe sealed a historic win against Bangladesh, marking their first Test victory over the Tigers since 2018 - coincidentally at the same venue here on Wednesday.

The win also marks Zimbabwe's first Test win in over four years, with the last one coming against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi in March 2021.

In a tense final innings chasing 174, Zimbabwe stuttered in the middle after a 95-run opening wicket stand but successfully chased down the target to secure a 1-0 lead in the series. On Day 1, Bangladesh won the toss and chose to bat first, but Zimbabwe's bowlers quickly put them under pressure by removing both openers within the first 10 overs. A 66-run third-wicket stand between skipper

Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mominul Haque provided some resistance and turned out to be the highest partnership of the innings.

However, the rest of the batting lineup crumbled, thanks to impressive three-wicket hauls from Blessing Muzarabani and Wellington Masakadza, along with two wickets each for Victor Nyauchi and Wessly Madhevere. As a result, Bangladesh were bowled out for a modest total of 191.

Zimbabwe's batters carried the momentum forward, putting Bangladesh under pressure with a solid display. Brian Bennett led the charge with a quickfire 57 off 64 balls, while veteran Sean Williams anchored the innings with a well-crafted 59 off 108 deliveries, an ICC report said. Despite a five-wicket haul from Mehidy Hasan

Miraz and a three-wicket effort from Nahid Rana, Zimbabwe managed to post a total of 273. Though not massive, it was enough to secure a healthy 82-run lead at the end of the first innings.

Despite an early wicket in their second innings, Bangladesh began strongly with the bat. Mominul Haque and Mahmudul Hasan Joy put together a solid 60-run stand for the first wicket, followed by a 65-run partnership between Haque and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto. Shanto played a composed knock of 60 off 105 balls, while Jaker Ali contributed a steady 58 off 111. Just as Zimbabwe seemed to be slipping, their bowlers turned the tide, taking the last five Bangladesh wickets for just 61 runs. Blessing Muzarabani was the standout performer,

claiming a brilliant six-wicket haul as Bangladesh were bundled out for 255.

Zimbabwe looked to be cruising towards victory with a strong start in the chase, with openers Ben Curran and Brian Bennett piling up 95 runs before losing their first. However, Bangladesh clawed their way back into the contest, thanks to Mehidy Hasan Miraz's five-wicket haul once again that turned the game in the hosts' favour.

Despite the pressure and a few nervy moments, Zimbabwe held their breath to edge past the finish line, sealing a thrilling three-wicket win. It marked their first Test victory over Bangladesh in seven years and the first in over four years against any side for Zimbabwe. The two sides are set to face off again in Chattogram, with the second Test beginning on April 28.

MI, SRH pay tribute to Pahalgam attack victims

Hyderabad, April 23 (UNI) : A solemn tribute marked the start of Match 41 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 on Wednesday, as players of Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad, along with match officials, observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the recent terrorist attack at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir.

Both teams assembled before the start of play at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, standing shoulder to shoulder in a show of solidarity with the bereaved families. As a mark of protest and respect, all players and umpires sported black armbands. The match was conducted without the usual celebratory elements such as cheerleaders and fireworks.

Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya expressed his condolences, stating, "I would like to firstly pass my condolences to the victims of the terrorist attack. We, as a team and a franchise, condemn any such attacks."

Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Pat Cummins echoed similar sentiments, saying, "It has been heartbreaking for us as well. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families." Security at the venue was significantly stepped up, with organisers ensuring the tribute proceeded in a dignified and orderly manner before the high-stakes encounter commenced.

Earlier, former India captain Virat Kohli took to social media to share his grief. In an Instagram post, he wrote, "Deeply saddened by the heinous attack in Pahalgam on innocent people. Heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. Praying for peace and strength to families of all those who lost their lives, and justice to be served for this cruel act." The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) also issued a statement via its official X handle, posting, "Standing in solidarity with the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. Prayers for the families who lost their loved ones in this gruesome attack."

The unified response from the cricketing community underscored the deep sorrow and national mourning following the tragic incident that shook the nation.

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during this heartbreaking time. Football has always been a force that unites, inspires, and heals. In these trying times, we hope that the spirit of togetherness and resilience will prevail over hatred and violence, the AIFF said in a statement. A minute's silence was observed before the Kalinga Super Cup 2025 round of 16 match between Bengaluru FC and Inter Kashi kicked off at the Kalinga Stadium, in Bhubaneswar, on Tuesday, in remembrance of the victims. Both teams wore black armbands in mourning.

Indian football mourns loss of lives in Pahalgam terrorist attack

New Delhi, April 23 (UNI) : The All India Football Federation (AIFF) expressed condolences to the victims of the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

On behalf of the entire Indian football fraternity, AIFF expresses its deepest condolences on the tragic loss of lives in the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

This senseless act of violence has taken away innocent lives and left families and communities shattered. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims

Ex-Brazil boss Tite takes break to preserve health

Rio De Janeiro, April 23 (UNI) : Former Brazil head coach Tite says he is taking an indefinite break from football to take care of his health. The 63-year-old managed Brazil between 2016 and 2022 and guided them to the Copa America title in 2019.

Tite, who was hospitalised last August because of a heart issue, was recently linked with the job at Corinthians - a club he has managed during three different spells.

But local media reported that, external the coach suffered an anxiety attack on the night before

he was to fly to Sao Paulo to sign for the club, the BBC reported. "I realised that there are times when you have to understand that, as a human being, I can be vulnerable and admitting that will certainly make me stronger," Tite said in a statement posted on his son Matheus Bachi's Instagram. "I am passionate about what I do and I'll continue to be so, but after talking to my family and observing the signals my body was giving off, I decided that the best thing to do now is to take a break from my career to look after myself for as long as it takes.

Revision in Halts timings of a few Western Railway trains

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 23 : The halt/timings of a few trains originating over Western Railway jurisdiction has been revised. Details of the same are as below:

1. Change in halt of Train No. 09075/09076 Mumbai Central – Kathgodam Special

The halt of Train No. 09075/09076 Mumbai Central – Kathgodam Special has been changed from Udhna to Surat station with immediate effect. Train No. 09075 Mumbai Central – Kathgodam Special will

now arrive/depart from Surat at 14:33/14:38 hrs. Similarly, Train No. 09076 Kathgodam – Mumbai Central Special will now arrive/depart from Surat at 16:40/16:45 hrs.

2. Revision in timings of Train No. 09036 Bikaner – Bandra Terminus Special w.e.f. 1st May, 2025.

The timings of Train No. 09036 Bikaner – Bandra Terminus Special has been revised to arrive/depart Surat station at 05:12/05:15 hrs instead of 05:15/05:20 hrs

3. Revision in timings of Train No. 07718 Hisar –

Kacheguda Special w.e.f. 24th April, 2025.

The timings of Train No. 07718 Hisar – Kacheguda Special has been revised at Udhna & Nandurbar stations. This train will arrive/depart Udhna station at 22:30/22:35 hrs instead of 23:30/23:35 hrs. Similarly, this train will arrive/depart Nandurbar station at 02:15/02:25 hrs instead of 02:45/02:55 hrs.

For detailed information and halt timings of intermediate stations, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Central Railway Run Summer Special Trains between Lokmanya Tilak Terminus - Sultanpur

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 23 : Central Railway has announced 1264 Summer Special trains, in addition to its regular trains to clear the extra rush of passengers during the summer season and will now run additional 16 summer special train for the convenience of passengers travelling from LTT Mumbai to Sultanpur.

Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Mumbai - Sultanpur – Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Mumbai (weekly) Special

04211 special will depart Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 16.35 hrs on every Tuesday from 06.05.2025 to 24.06.2025 and arrive Sultanpur at 23:00 hrs on next day (08 Services)

04212 special will depart Sultanpur at 04:00 hrs on every Mondays from 05.05.2025 to 23.06.2025 and arrive Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 14:00 hrs on next day. (08 Services)

Halts:- Thane, Kalyan, Nasik road, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi Jn, Rani Kampalpati, Bina,

Virangana Lakshmi Bai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur central and Lucknow.

Composition: 15 General Sleeper Coach, 3 General coach, 2 Luggage cum Guard's Brake Vans.

Reservation: Bookings for Special train No. 04211 on special charges will open on 25.04.2025 at all computerized reservation centers and on website www.irctc.co.in.

For detailed timings and halts please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App.

Redevelopment of Bagalkot Railway Station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme : SWR



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 23 : The redevelopment work at Bagalkot Railway Station is progressing swiftly under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, which aims to enhance passenger amenities and give a modern facelift to station infrastructure. Indian Railways has identified 61 railway stations in Karnataka for redevelopment under this scheme, with the goal of modernising and upgrading facilities across the state at an estimated cost of 2000 Cr. Bagalkot station, under the Hubballi Division, is among these being redeveloped, with a total estimated investment of approximately Rs16.06 crore—is in its final stages. Significant enhancements have been made to improve the passenger experience.

These include the construction of a new station building, development of the circulating area with separate entry and exit gates, and designated parking zones for autos,



two-wheelers, and four-wheelers.

Additional features include porches for easy boarding and alighting, an upgraded entry hall, and separate waiting rooms for men and women.

A lift at Platform 1 is completed and undergoing testing, while installation of the lift at Platform 2 is in progress. Escalator commissioning is also underway. The station building's façade has been modernized, and platform upgrades include a completed canopy on Platform 1 and new shelters on Platform 2.

Other improvements

include new toilet blocks, water booths with Divyangjan-friendly facilities, enhanced signage, coach indication boards, better seating, and a 12-meter-wide foot overbridge (FOB), which has been fully erected. Staircase sheeting work is currently in progress.

The Amrit Bharat Station redevelopment initiative is expected to boost tourism, improve connectivity, and contribute to the socio-economic development of the region by creating employment opportunities and offering cleaner, more modern railway stations

A Model Facility for Ensuring Safe Working Conditions of Running Staff at Dornakal Running Room : SCR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, April 23 : Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway organized a guided tour to elaborate media on the facilities and amenities being provided to Loco Pilots, Assistant Loco Pilots and Train Managers(Running Staff) at the Crew Booking Lobby & Running Room, Dornakal Jn Railway Station today i.e. 23rd April, 2025.;

Shri Gopalakrishnan, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operations), Shri Kosuru Chaitanya, Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRSO/SC, Shri Dinakar Praneeth, Sr. Divisional Engineer, Shri Charan Naik, Divisional Commercial Manager.

Salient Features Loco Pilots, Train Managers, and Assistant Loco Pilots are the frontline staff of Indian Railways, playing a crucial role in the safe and punctual running of trains. Their jobs demand constant vigilance and

No pomp show, PM's visit to Bihar will be simple : Lalan

Patna, April 23 (UNI) : Union Minister Rajeev Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh on Wednesday declared that PM Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Bihar on Thursday would be simple in view of terror attack in Pahalgam of Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh told media persons here that PM's visit to Bihar on Thursday would be very simple without any pomp show. No function would be organised to welcome PM Modi and he would just come to address the meeting in Madhubani, being organised on the occasion of " Panchayati Raj Day ", he added.

" After addressing the meeting, PM will return to New Delhi immediately", Union Minister said adding that no memento would be given to PM or any other leader on the dais. No garlanding of anyone would be done, neither open jeep short road show jointly by PM Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar would be staged, as was done in Bhagalpur during earlier visit of PM, he added.

Singh dismissed all speculations over possibility of cancellation of PM's visit to Bihar, in view of terror attack in Pahalgam of Jammu and Kashmir. Government of India would take all required measures to curb terrorism, he asserted.

Patna, April 23 (UNI) : CPI (ML) on Wednesday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had let down people of Bihar by making a series of false promises one after the other, in the last 11 years of his tenure.

Senior CPI(ML) leader Dheerendra Jha said here that Modi had promised special package of Rs 1.25 lakh crores for Bihar during the assembly



mental alertness. To ensure these high standards are maintained, Indian Railways has a structured system that allows crew members to rest adequately before being assigned to another duty.

Unlike road drivers, railway crew operate within defined working "beats" and are required to take rest at designated running rooms after completing a trip and

before returning to their home station. Adequate rest is not just a necessity—it is a safety imperative.

A Flagship Facility in South Central Railway One such exemplary facility is the Dornakal Running Room, located at Dornakal Junction, under the Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway.

This 52-bedded running room is among

the largest in the division and serves as a vital rest facility for the over 75 running staff who use it daily.

Key Features:

- Air-Conditioned Rooms: Two-bedded air-conditioned rooms ensure individual comfort, reducing disturbances during crew changeovers.
- Separate Female Accommodation: Dedicated lodging ensures safety and

comfort for female crew members.

- Wellness Facilities: Includes a yoga room, recreation and reading room, and a well-maintained garden, all contributing to the crew's mental and physical well-being.

- Nutritious Homely Meals: Meals are tailored to local tastes and nutritional needs, with FSSAI certification and regular health checks for kitchen and housekeeping staff to ensure hygiene and food safety.

- Digital Management: A digital token-based Running Room Management System has been implemented to streamline crew check-in and check-out processes.

- Enhanced Security: CCTV-based surveillance ensures round-the-clock safety.

- Certified Quality: The facility is IMS ISO 9001-certified, underscoring a commitment to quality and standardization.

Solapur Division's TTI Aditya Giram Awarded Maharashtra's Highest Sports Honour : CR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Solapur, April 23 : The Solapur Division of Central Railway's Travelling Ticket Inspector (TTI) Shri Aditya Giram has been conferred with Maharashtra's Highest Sports Honour, the prestigious Shiv Chhatrapati Krida Puraskar by the Government of Maharashtra for his exceptional achievements in the water sport of diving.

The award was presented by the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, during the Shiv Chhatrapati State Sports Awards Ceremony held at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi, Pune. The accolade comprises a memento adorned with the iconic Shiv Chhatrapati headgear and a cash prize of ₹3 lakh.

Shri Aditya Giram has consistently demonstrated excellence and dedication in his sport, being an All India Railway medalist for eight consecutive years, and earning medals at the national level for both Central Railway and Indian Railways. His achievements reached international recognition when he represented India at the FINA Grand Prix 2019 in Singapore.

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Solapur Dr Sujeet Mishra, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Sr DCM) Shri Yogesh Patil and Sports Officer of Solapur Division



Shri Aditya Tripathy have extended their heartfelt congratulations to Shri Aditya Giram on this momentous

accomplishment and wished him even greater success in all his future endeavors. Aditya's unwavering commitment

and outstanding performance continues to bring honour to Solapur Division and Central Railway.

PM Modi let down people of Bihar : alleges CPI(ML)

election held in 2015. Not a single penny was given to Bihar against special package, as promised by PM, he pointed out.

"Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been demanding special status for the state since long but despite NDA remaining in power at the Centre and in Bihar, this genuine demand has not been fulfilled by Narendra Modi government so far", Jha

said, adding that for the sake of power, Kumar had forgotten to raise the special status demand with new vigour and strength.

Patna University, one of the oldest university in country was not granted the status of Central University by Narendra Modi government, he lamented.

"Makhana Board proposed by Narendra

Modi government will not serve any purpose in ameliorating conditions of farmers as those associated with Makhana are only 0.01 percent of total farmers of the state ", the CPI(ML) leader said and added that agro based industries like sugar mills and jute mills were closed since seventies, aggravating the condition of farmers in north Bihar particularly in Mithila

region. North Bihar had virtually no agro based industry and the areas had been frequently ravaged by floods which made the conditions of farmers pathetic, he added.

"Prime Minister should address the issues of public interests in Bihar during his rally in Madhubani on Thursday, rather than getting indulged in yet another political gimmick", Jha suggested.